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## Climate Change COP26 Highlights

Significant progress was made on several fronts at the COP26 climate summit in Glasgow last month, such as shifting away from fossil fuels, tackling methane emissions, and protecting nature and biodiversity. However, the world still has a long way to go in the years ahead. Here are some highlights on progress made and areas that still need some work.

### 1. Public funding and private financing must connect

Financial institutions representing trillions of dollars have committed to tackling climate change but getting that money to the right place remains a major challenge. The vast majority of private sector climate financing today goes to developed countries and proven technologies, even though early-stage technologies and developing markets will need some of the biggest investments to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit).

### 2. Governing carbon markets

Countries reached a deal on Article 6 of the Paris Agreement, which will govern international carbon markets and ensure emissions reductions are not double-counted among countries. The agreement could also foster growth in voluntary carbon markets where companies buy carbon credits to help meet their net-zero goals.

### 3. More than 100 countries pledge to end deforestation

Pledges to preserve or restore nature as part of addressing climate change garnered more attention at COP26 than in past years, particularly on the issue of stopping deforestation. More than 100 countries, including Kenya, Brazil, China, Russia and the US pledged to end deforestation by 2030. And more than

30 financial institutions with more than \$8.7 trillion in assets under management committed to phasing out deforestation from their commodity portfolios by 2025.

### 4. Climate commitments require more accountability

We saw progress at COP26 in terms of government agreements and private sector pledges. However, there is a need to strengthen accountability. For example, nearly 200 nations agreed to "phase down" coal-fired power plants and most fossil fuel subsidies. These nations also pledged to set more ambitious emission reduction targets just a year from now, instead of in a handful of years when the next set of country pledges are due. But countries need to follow through on those commitments with related policies and programs, and companies and investors need consistent standards for tracking progress toward those pledges.

### 5. A focus on buildings' carbon intensity

While much of the focus at COP26 was on moving away from fossil fuels, emissions from the construction sector remain a key challenge yet to be fully addressed at the government and private-sector levels. Existing buildings and new construction are the source of nearly 40% of global energy-related carbon emissions and use up half of all extracted materials, according to the World Green Building Council, a U.S. nonprofit group. But knowing whether COP26 helped move the needle on this issue will likely become clearer in the coming years as governments move to decarbonize across all aspects of their economy.

Source: <https://www.spglobal.com/>

## Insecticides recommended for withdrawal in the Kenyan market



Pesticide application at a farm.

PHOTO: www.pixabay.com

A recent expert study recommends the immediate banning of the pesticides listed below, that are harmful to human health and the environment.

The study was presented by: Biodiversity and Biosafety Association of Kenya (BIBA-K), Kenya Organic Agriculture Network (KOAN), Resources Oriented Development Initiatives (RODI) and Route to Food Initiative (RTFI).

**Carbofuran** is banned in the United States of America and Europe. Also 'technically' banned in Kenya but still available. It is widely used to control insects on a wide variety of crops. Carbofuran is one of the most used insecticide in illegal and intentional poisoning of wildlife, including vultures, in East Africa. Listed as a highly hazardous product.

The following chemicals are recommended for immediate withdrawal:

**Acephate** is used to control of armyworm on maize. Highly toxic to humans, mammals, birds and honeybees. Sold in eight products in Kenya. Listed as a highly hazardous product.

**Bifenthrin** is used to control of aphids, whiteflies, thrips, caterpillars,

Contd. in pg. 3

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# ACTION

## Happy festive season!

Wishing our members, partners and supporters Happy Holidays and all the best in the year to come! As we welcome with some relief the reduction of Covid 19 prevalence in Kenya, we also are very concerned about the discovery of a new variant of concern—omicron. We encourage all of us to take utmost caution.

In December 2021:

1. The Nature Kenya Sales and Membership office will be open to members on weekdays, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. until (and including) December 23. Please wear masks, sanitize and keep social distance.
2. The office closes for the festive season at 5 p.m. on 23rd December 2021 and reopens at 8 a.m. on 3rd January 2022.
3. Online membership functions continue: membership can be renewed online <http://naturekenya.org/support/membership/> or via M-pesa. Books, honey, etc. may be purchased online or with M-Pesa (Paybill 100300, account "books" or "honey") and collected from the membership office any time between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. until December 23.
4. Members will continue to receive an electronic version of the Nature Net. A hard copy Nature Net can be posted or collected from the office by request to [nkmembership@naturekenya.org](mailto:nkmembership@naturekenya.org) or telephone 0726 134029.
5. Wednesday Morning Bird walks and Third Sunday bird walks continue. See back page for details.
6. The Nature Kenya conservation office remains closed. Physical conservation meetings in Nairobi and other Covid hotspots to be avoided unless absolutely critical.
7. The EANHS/NMK Library is open to the public till mid December. Museum galleries and sites are open to the public under Ministry of Health guidelines.

Nature Kenya's conservation efforts continued locally and nationally:

### Species and Sites

The survival of the Kilifi (Clarke's) Weaver in the unprotected Dakatcha Woodland, in Kilifi County, is in the hands of the local land owners. With support from partners, Nature Kenya has secured 1,800 acres through land purchase of Kilifi (Clarke's) Weaver breeding and foraging habitat. In November 2021, Nature Kenya received support to purchase an additional 1,435 acres to bring the total to 3,235 acres. If you wish to donate Ksh.10,000 to buy an acre for the Kilifi (Clarke's)

Weaver, please contact us through tel: +254 780 149200 or e-mail [office@naturekenya.org](mailto:office@naturekenya.org)

Human-wildlife conflict is on the rise, mainly due to prolonged drought leading to reduced availability of food for both domestic and wild animals. In November 2021, Nature Kenya together with partners responded to two wildlife poisoning incidents that claimed 18 White-backed Vultures, 13 Rüppell's Vultures and 7 migratory Steppe Eagles. Timely response rescued one Steppe Eagle, one-Lappet-faced Vulture and three White-backed Vultures. These birds are undergoing treatment through the Kenya Birds of Prey Trust.

Nature Kenya and partners, including National Museums of Kenya, Kenya Wildlife Service, Kenya Forest Service and National Environment Management Authority, jointly monitor Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs). The year 2020 Status and Trends report is out and can be viewed through the link <https://bit.ly/3d2UN6y>. Overall, The STATE of KBAs in Kenya has remained more or less STABLE; The PRESSURE has continued to MOUNT; and Conservation RESPONSE is declining.



**A Sabaki community forest guard receives a certificate after graduating.** PHOTO COURTESY OF NK

### Habitat Restoration

Climate change impacts are being felt all over the world. Although the climate change convention in November 2021 during COP26 agreed to stop forest degradation by 2030, the short rains tree planting season does not look good. In Mt. Kenya forest, patchy rainfall has been recorded. As this is not enough for full scale restoration, Nature Kenya and Community Forest Associations (Castle CFA, Naro moru CFA, Chehe CFA and Kieni CFA) plan to plant only 50,000 trees. The restoration targets of Kenya Breweries, Coca Cola and Safaricom is a wait and see situation, hoping for better rains in December 2021. In Tana River Delta and Taita Hills Forest, however, local communities are not stopping at that. They have continued to harvest and store a variety indigenous tree seeds, having gained capacity through training by KEFRI and KFS. These seeds will be planted when the skies open with rains, wherever that time might be.

### Local empowerment

In Tana River Delta, 234 local community representatives were trained and made aware

of their roles and rights in terms of services they ought to receive from relevant government offices. Community Forest Associations, Water Resource Users Associations, Beach Management Units and farmer producer cooperatives have the contact details of government offices and officials. Through the training, they established communication channels with these officers, which will enhance their ability to engage and positively influence local action and policy process.



**Beekeepers from Tana River Delta on a learning visit at ICIPE.** PHOTO BY ADAM DIBA

### Advocacy and Awareness

The Tana River County Government full Cabinet meeting chaired by the Governor approved the establishment of the Tana Delta Green Heart Sustainable Development Committee. They also approved the Tana Delta Land Use Plan. With these decisions, the events of the past where wrong projects claimed more land than available might be avoided, giving biodiversity and other nature services a chance to thrive.

In Yala Swamp near Lake Victoria, Nature Kenya continued to voice concerns over the proposed allocation of 6,700 Ha to Lake Agro Kenya Limited for sugar cane and other crop cultivation. The land allocation has been temporarily halted pending a petition filed by concerned residents.

### Livelihoods Improvement

Local communities are badly hit by a changing climate. Nature Kenya's efforts to enhance ecosystem-based adaptation and increase resilience to climate change is hampered by failed rains. Even drought resistant, fast growing seed varieties may not grow. Honey production and butterfly farming in Arabuko-Sokoke Forest continues, but level of production is low. Hungry people are turning to nature for survival and site conservation continues to be challenging. With your support, we can empower more communities across Kenya to be resilient.

For clarifications or to report your observations on species and sites, kindly contact us through email: [office@naturekenya.org](mailto:office@naturekenya.org) or telephone: 020 3537568, 0780 149200, 0751 624312, 0771 343138

**Dr Paul Matiku,**

*Executive Director, Nature Kenya – the East Africa Natural History Society*

For updates visit  
[www.naturekenya.org](http://www.naturekenya.org)

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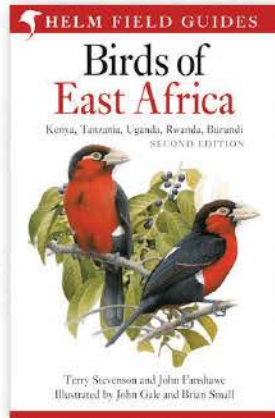


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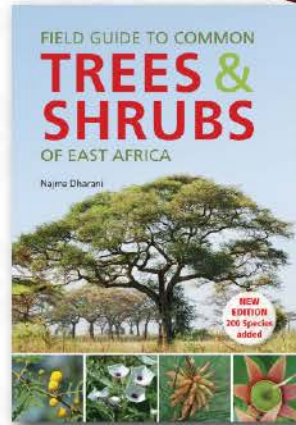
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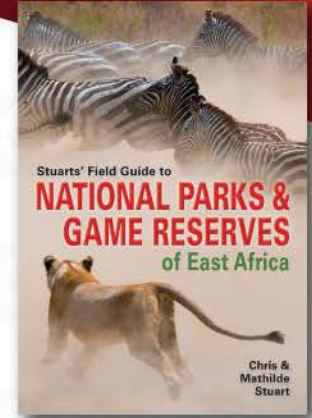
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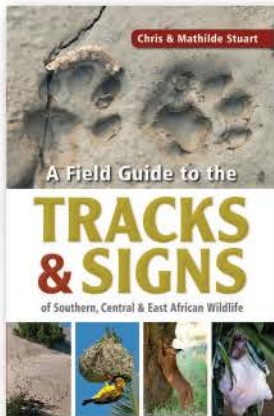
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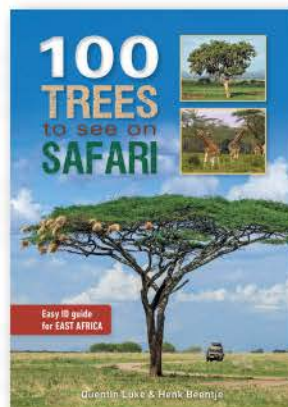
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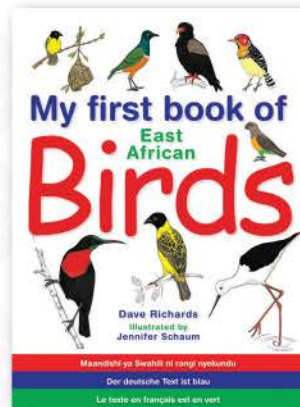
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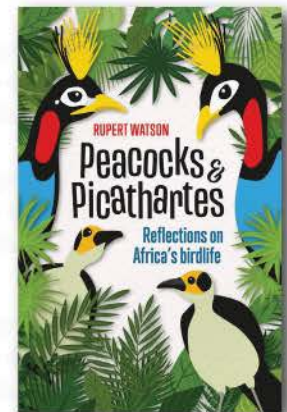
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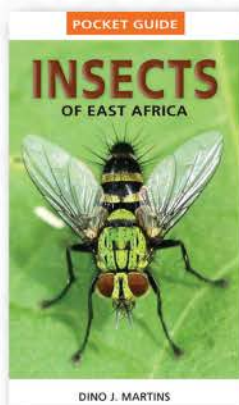
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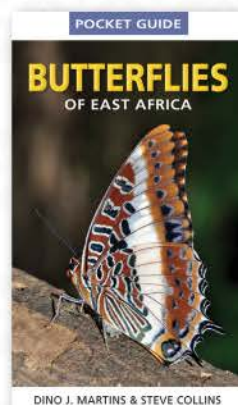
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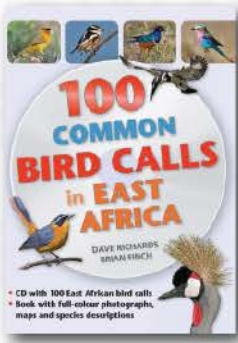
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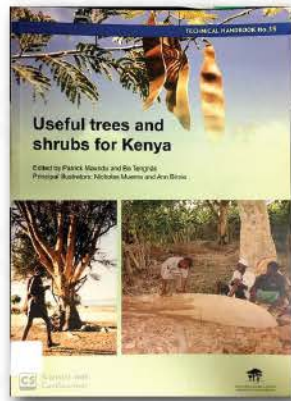
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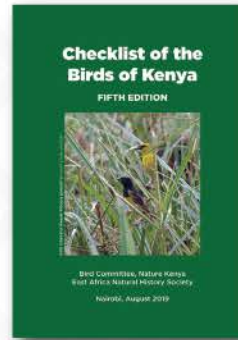
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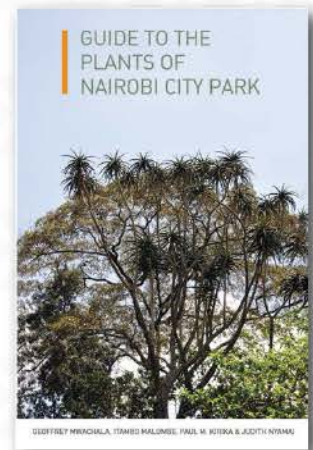
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**Items can also be purchased online at <https://www.naturekenya.org/shop>**

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leaf miners, spider mites, bollworms and diamond back moth on french beans, snow peas, citrus, barley, tomatoes and onions. Listed as a highly hazardous product.

**Dichlorvos** is registered in Kenya in only one product to control mites, aphids, thrips on coffee. Listed as a highly hazardous product.

**Carbaryl** is an obsolete insecticide. In Kenya it is registered in only two products to control aphids on citrus, grapes and tomatoes. Listed as a highly hazardous product.

**Chlorpyrifos (CPS)** is registered in 25 products. It is not allowed to be applied on vegetables. It is only registered for control of various insect pests on barley, maize, wheat and pineapples. Despite this, it is one of the most used pesticides by farmers in Kirinyaga and Murang'a on kale, maize, tomatoes, melon, avocado, sweet potatoes, cabbage, rice and coffee. Listed as a highly hazardous product.

**Permethrin** is a contact insecticide. It is registered in three products to control maize stalkborer and other insects in stored grains. Listed as a highly hazardous product.

**Dimethoate** is an insecticide registered in 13 products to control various insect pests on coffee, potatoes, tobacco and cotton. Although it is not registered for foliar spray in vegetables and fruits, some farmers in Kenya are using it on cabbage, maize and tomatoes. Listed as a highly hazardous product.

**Omethoate** is a systemic insecticide and acaricide, available as a soluble concentrate. It is the breakdown product of dimethoate but also sold in one product in Kenya. Listed as a highly hazardous product.

**Imidacloprid** is an insecticide registered in 42 products to control a variety of insect pests on various crops. Farmers use it regularly on a wide range of crops, including coffee, cabbage, kale, maize, tomatoes, French beans, chillies, sweet potatoes, coriander, melon, spinach and beans. Listed as a highly hazardous product.

**Thiacloprid** is an insecticide registered in one product to control sucking and chewing insect pests on chillies, eggplant, tomatoes and onions.

**Malathion** is a broad-spectrum insecticide. It is registered in 13 products to control a wide range of sucking and chewing insects on various crops. Farmers are using malathion on cabbage, maize, kale, tomatoes, avocados, sweet potatoes, cucumber, rice, beans and melons.

**Pymetrozine** is an insecticide, registered in two products to control aphids, white flies and thrips in cabbage, kale and beans.

The following chemicals are recommended for phased withdrawal:

**Abamectin** is an insecticide used to control of red spider mites, leaf miners, thrips, aphids on tomatoes, cabbages, french beans, broccoli, snow peas, potatoes and chillies. Sold in 38 products in Kenya. Listed as a highly hazardous product.

**Deltamethrin** is an insecticide and veterinary treatment that is approved for use in the EU, Australia and the US. In Kenya, it is registered in 10 products to control a wide range of pests on a wide range of crops including french beans, barley, wheat, maize, citrus, onions, tomatoes, cabbages, peas, broccoli, cucumber and pepper. Listed as a highly hazardous product.

**Gamma-Cyhalothrin** is a broad-spectrum insecticide and is registered in one product to control sucking insects on french beans. However, Lambda-Cyhalothrin is registered in many more products and is regularly used by farmers. Listed as a highly hazardous product.

**Fenitrothion** is an insecticide that is registered in four products to control sucking and chewing pests on maize and wheat, mainly on stored grains. However, some farmers in Kenya also apply it to control pests on tomatoes, mangoes, sweet potatoes, rice, coffee, kale and maize. Listed as a highly hazardous product.

**Oxydemeton-methyl** Also known as, methylmercaptophos oxide, it is registered in two products to control a variety of sucking and chewing insect pests on citrus, wheat, potatoes, maize and barley.

**Source: Scientific Report on Pesticides in the Kenyan Market [https://routetofood.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/Scientific-Report-on-Pesticides-in-the-Kenyan-Market-Report\\_Final-1.pdf](https://routetofood.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/Scientific-Report-on-Pesticides-in-the-Kenyan-Market-Report_Final-1.pdf)**

## A comet for the holidays?

BY FLEUR NG'WENO

Comet Leonard (C/2021 A1) is traveling from the far reaches of the solar system; it was discovered by astronomer Greg Leonard early this year. On its elliptical orbit around the sun, it will pass nearest to Earth on Jamhuri Day, 12 December, and nearest the sun on 3 January 2022. Will we see it? Astronomers are not sure, but think that through binoculars it will be visible as a blurry, hazy spot of light.

Comets are balls of ice and dust. They travel fast, but because they are so far, we don't see them moving. As they approach the sun, some of the ice melts, forming a "tail" of reflected light.

The first twelve days of December, Comet Leonard will be low in the northeast before dawn, towards the bright orange star Arcturus. From mid-December it will be low in the western sky after sunset. Look for the comet near the planet Venus from 15 to 17 December, and below Saturn on the 19th. Later in December, look towards the "basket" shape in Sagittarius.

Keep updated through the internet: earthsky.org, Skyandtelescope.com, In-the-sky.org, Weekly Bright Comets, C/2021 A1 (Leonard) Twitter, Visual Comets, Southern Comets Homepage.

### Geminids Meteor Shower

In mid-December, the Earth travels through an area of dust and rocks in space. Some of these particles may fall into the earth's atmosphere and burn up. We call them meteors or "shooting stars" (although they are not stars). Look for the Geminids meteor shower on a dark, clear night between midnight and dawn from Dec 7 to 17, especially early on the 14th.

### Planets, Dec 2021

Brilliant Venus, golden Saturn and bright Jupiter form a line of bright lights between the sunset and the zenith. The waxing crescent moon is near Venus (and the star Nunki in the "basket") on Dec.6. The moon is between Venus and Saturn on the 7th, near Saturn on the 8th and near Jupiter on the 9th.

From mid-December, the little planet Mercury is also in the western sky above the sunset. Mercury is near the star Nunki on Dec 20 to 22, and near Venus on the 28th and 29th.

Mars rises in the eastern sky before dawn. The "red planet" is near the red star Antares ("anti-Ares" or "anti-Mars") at month's end. The waning crescent moon is near Mars on Dec 3 and near Mars and Antares on Dec 30-31.

### December stars

The constellation of Orion, the Hunter or Warrior, rises due east on December evenings, climbing higher each night. Look for three bright stars in a row, with four bright stars like a box around them.

North (left) of Orion, the stars of the Hyades cluster form a shape like the letter V. The reddish star Aldebaran is at the open end of the "V". Further north, several bright stars are grouped close together – the Pleiades or Seven Sisters of Greek myths. With binoculars, you can see more stars and a glowing blue haze. The moon is near the Pleiades on December 16, near Aldebaran on the 17th.

As the year ends, Sirius, the brightest star we can see at night, rises southeast of Orion. Canopus, the second brightest star, appears further to the south. The star Fomalhaut is high in the southwest, and below Fomalhaut the bright star Achernar is still prominent in the south.

### Moon, Dec 2021

Dec 4 – new moon. Dec 11 – first quarter. Dec 19 – full moon. Dec 27 – last quarter. 🌑

## Get a FREE copy of our 2022 BIRD CALENDAR

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## Birding Updates

**Wednesday Morning Birdwalks** and **Sunday Birdwatch** are on! In December, participants will meet at the designated venue. Please observe Covid-19 protocols: No sharing of binoculars and guidebooks and no pooled transport. Masks are a must and you may carry your own sanitizer.

**Wednesday 1st December, 2021** - Karura Forest. Meet at the Limuru Road entrance, Gate A, at 8:30 am. We will then proceed to Amani parking. Thanks to Friends of Karura Forest for welcoming the birdwalk.

**Wednesday 8th December, 2021** - Museum Grounds/Michuki Memorial Park. Meet at 8 am in the open space in front of the entrance to the museum galleries, near the Fisheries gate.

**Wednesday 15th December, 2021** - Paradise Lost. Meet at Paradise Lost Main Gate at 8:30 am. Directions: Turn right at Kencom Apartments just after Kasarini Primary School. It's about 500m to the main gate. Thanks to the management for welcoming the birdwalk.

**Wednesday 22nd December, 2021** - Arboretum. Meet at 8:30 am at the main entrance off State House Road. There is an entrance fee of Ksh. 65 per person payable via Mpesa.

**Wednesday 29th December, 2021** - Museum Grounds/Michuki Memorial Park. Meet at 8 am in the open space in front of the entrance to the museum galleries, near the Fisheries gate.

**December 19th Sunday Bird Watch – Ngong Road Forest Sanctuary.** Meet at 8:30 am at the Main Gate. (There's a Sanctuary fee of Ksh. 100 for citizens.) Directions: Coming from the city centre, take Ngong Road towards Karen. After Jamhuri Sports Ground take the first left turn (before the Commonwealth Cemetery). It's 500m to the Sanctuary main gate. It is a day trip; please bring water and lunch.

If you have questions, please write <news@naturekenya.org> or phone 0780-149200.

**Mombasa Birdwalks** are held the 3rd Saturday of each month. To check meeting time and place, check Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/FFJMombasa/> Or contact: Taibali Hamzali <thamzali@gmail.com> / 0733-980540 or Kelvin Mazera <klvrna@yahoo.com> / 0720-928783

Send your birding records to: Kenya Bird Map <http://kenya.birdmap.africa/>

If you have questions re KBM, write to <kenyabirdmap@naturekenya.org>

Stay updated with the birding scene in Kenya by signing in to the new **Kenyabirdsnet** platform on Google Groups at: <https://groups.google.com/d/forum/kenyabirdsnet> After signing in you will be able to post your records at: <kenyabirdsnet@googlegroups.com>

### Online birding:

- Wings Over Kenya Facebook page
- Ndege Wetu (blog series on the birds of Kenya) <http://www.shotsbyshema.com/category/ndege-wetu/>
- "The Safari Naturalist" on Youtube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCajjLtyL9G6mJ20Ajw1RLxA>
- "The Safari Naturalist" blog website: <https://www.thesafarinaturalist.com/virtual-birding-tours/>
- BirdLife International and eBird

## ADVERTISER'S FEATURE



The Gogoni-Gazi CFA tree nursery. PHOTO COURTESY OF BASE TITANIUM

## Mining with Nature - Working with the Community in Forest Management

The value of engaging local communities in conservation has intensified during this time of climate change. Resilience and mitigation strategies to address the impacts of unpredictable weather and natural disasters for both people and wildlife require collaborations at the landscape level and beyond. Vulnerable people living adjacent to the forest are deeply dependent on the natural forest resource for their livelihoods and therefore stand to lose the most.

In 2014, Base Titanium (a company mining heavy minerals in Kwale County) collaborated with the Kenya Forest Service (KFS) and initiated community empowerment projects within neighbouring Gogoni Forest.

One of their critical undertakings is the propagation of indigenous trees to help with maintaining biodiversity and mitigating climate change. Combining the rich local knowledge with conservation and field training equips community groups with hands-on tree propagating experience. Once propagation knowledge is passed on, the community takes over.

Another project is the propagation of bamboo, which plays a vital role

in protecting soils and watershed areas. The increased bamboo production by communities around the forest reduces pressure on natural resources.

Similarly, vetiver grass is suitable for erosion and sediment control because of its ability to slow runoff, giving rainfall a better chance of soaking into the soil. Gogoni-Gazi community Forest Association (CFA), through Base Titanium support, is among the leading community groups in vetiver supply within the coastal region.

In 2019, through Base Titanium assistance, the Gogoni-Gazi CFA acquired butterfly rearing permits from the Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS). The CFA then acquired skills in food plants identification and trapping techniques. The pupae are exported to international butterfly houses in Europe and America.

Lastly, to strengthen livelihoods, the communities surrounding Base Titanium have been introduced to beekeeping. Communities now understand how bees improve pollination and thus increase crop yield. Support includes the provision of beehives, beekeeping clothes and honey harvesting equipment. 🐝

# Happy Holidays

## Yes! Start my NatureKenya membership

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- Enter business number **100300**
- Enter account number (**put your lapsed membership number or write new member**)
- Enter the amount, enter your PIN
- Confirm details & press OK

For details on associated groups such as Youth Committee, Succulenta, and Friends of Nairobi Arboretum, City Park or Arabuko-Sokoke Forest, contact [office@naturekenya.org](mailto:office@naturekenya.org)