

nature net

naturekenya.org

April 2018



Golfers play to raise funds for Mt. Kenya forest restoration



By J. Mwacharo

The 2018 edition of "Lungs for Kenya" charity golf tournament brought together 124 golfers to raise money for a good cause: restoration of Mt. Kenya forest, Kenya's largest water tower. The event, which took place on 23 March 2018 at the Karen Country Club, raised 2.5 million shillings to plant trees in Mt. Kenya.

Unlike previous editions, this year's tournament was a full day event. The tournament comprised of two tee-off times: in the morning and at noon.

Vivo Energy Kenya was the tournament's main sponsors for the sixth year running. Speaking during the presentation of trophies Vivo Energy Kenya managing director Joe Muganda announced that his company would sponsor the event in 2019.

"We will sponsor the event next year and possibly see if we can do a little bit more," said Mr. Muganda.

Other sponsors included Nedbank, NIC Capital, Lake

Turkana Wind Power, Commercial Bank of Africa, Knight Frank, Syngenta, Williamson Tea, REA Vipingo, Prime Bank, Delta Airlines, D.T Dobie, Platinum Credit, SGA Security, Water Sector Trust Fund and GlaxoSmithKline. Air Kenya, Angama Mara, Safarilink, Loisaba Conservancy, Hemingways Watamu, Silverstone Air, Andrew Kamiti and Peter Blackwell donated auction items. Karen Country Club, Matbronze Wildlife Art, Serena Hotels, Island Camp Lake Baringo, Salma Watt, Daphne Butler and Alex Duncanson donated raffle prizes. Farmer's Choice supported in providing lunch for the golfers while Coca Cola provided drinking water.

Nature Kenya Executive Director Dr. Paul Matiku thanked sponsors for supporting the tournament urging them to help Nature Kenya reach out to more corporates. Dr. Matiku also thanked golfers for turning out in numbers for the tournament.

Jane Wambui emerged overall winner while Eunice Koome and Peter Kiguru were the lady winner and man winners respectively. The team title went to the Nedbank team comprising of Jaap van Luijk, Raymond Nyamweya, Vincent Rague and Mbuvi Ngunze.

This was the sixth consecutive year the charity golf tournament was running under the "Lungs for Kenya" banner. Nature Kenya's "Lungs for Kenya" initiative seeks to engage local communities to plant trees to restore Kenya's degraded forests. Among the

sites that have benefited from the initiative are the Arabuko-Sokoke Forest, Taita Hills forests, Dakatcha Woodland and Mt. Kenya forest.

Nature Kenya would like to thank all sponsors who generously contributed towards making the event a success. We would also like to thank the Tournament Director Mr. Alexander Duncanson and the organizing committee, all of our members, special guests and partners who found time to participate in this year's tournament. 🌳

108TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE EAST AFRICA NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

VENUE

Louis Leakey Hall, Nairobi Museum

DATE

Wednesday 16th May 2018

TIME

12:00 - 2:00pm

AGENDA AND PROGRAMME

12:00 p.m: Tea/Coffee

12:30 p.m: Barbecue

1:00 p.m: Convene in Hall

- Minutes of the 107th AGM
- Matters arising from the Minutes
- Chairman's Report
- Honorary Treasurer's Report
- Appointment of Auditor
- Library, Journal, Committees and Projects Report

• Any other business of which due notice in the form of the Resolution to be proposed has been given to the Honorary Secretary, signed by not less than 2 members, not less than 21 days before the date of the meeting

- Election of Office Bearers, Members of the Executive Committee, and Trustees

- 2:30pm: Film - A Plastic Ocean!



Nomination forms for office bearers or Executive Committee members may be collected from the office or requested by e-mail.

Nature Kenya alerts Parliament to Energy clause that threatens rivers, parks, forests and all Government land

By J. Mwacharo

Nature Kenya appeared before the National Assembly's Departmental Committee on Energy to present recommendations on the Petroleum Exploration, Development and Production Bill, 2017 and the Energy Bill 2017.

Section 107 (1) of the Petroleum Bill 2017 states: "For the purpose of the production and transportation of upstream petroleum, a contractor may erect, fix, install or lay any oil or gas pipelines, other infrastructure or apparatus in, through, upon, under, over or across any public street, road, railway, tramway, river, canal, harbour or national government property in the manner and on the conditions as provided in this Act."

Section 206 (1) of the Energy Bill 2018 states: "For the purpose of the production, conveyance and supply of energy, a licensee may erect, fix, install or lay any electric supply lines, oil or gas pipelines, other infrastructure or apparatus in, through, upon, under, over or across any public street, road, railway, tramway, river, canal, harbour or Government property, including forests, National parks, reserves and heritage sites, in the manner and on the conditions as provided in this Act."

These two sections appear to give oil companies a free hand to build oil wells

or pipelines on any piece of public land, including those that should be protected for the national good.

"The current versions of the Bills allows oil and gas wells and pipelines to be built on any national government property. National government property of course includes national parks, forest reserves, national monuments and heritage sites," Nature Kenya executive director Dr. Paul Matiku told the committee during the Bills' public hearing.

Infrastructure builders prefer to build on government property, because it is less expensive to acquire. And yet most government properties are our most valuable assets. These include national parks, the nucleus of our tourism industry, an important provider of jobs and income; national forests that protect our climate, water and genetic resources; and national monuments that honour our cultural history.

Nature Kenya appealed to Parliament to amend the Bills to safeguard national parks, forest reserves, national monuments and cultural sites.

"Allowing unfettered access by petroleum companies to these critical sites is a dangerous move," Dr. Matiku said.



A group of Impalas in Tsavo West National Park. PHOTO: P. USHER



NEW GUEST HOUSE IN DAKATCHA WOODLAND

Dakatcha Woodland Important Bird and Biodiversity Area (IBA) north of Malindi is at its best at this season. Thanks to March rains, the trees are brilliantly green with new leaves, many of them flowering. Most of the shrubs are in bloom, some are in fruit. Migratory birds are passing through, and Clarke's Weavers – birds found only in Kilifi County – are checking out the seasonal wetlands as potential breeding sites.

Now there is a new guest house to stay in, overlooking a great nyari or depression and a sweeping view of Dakatcha woodland forest. This is the **Bore Community Forest Centre**.

Bore Community Forest Centre is about ten kilometres past Marafa off the Malindi-Baricho Road. It is owned by the community, and has just been officially opened. It has a large traditional central banda where you can view the sunrise or sit in the shade in the heat of the day.

Accommodation offered are basic rooms with one or two single beds in another large new banda. The showers and toilets are currently in the next building nearby. Bring your own food and the staff will cook it. Solar panels provide electricity and you can charge your phone and use the Bore wifi.

The special introductory offer is Ksh.1,000 per person per night, bed and breakfast.

For more information or to book accommodation, contact Alex Katana of Green Umbrella,

E-mail: alex.katana2013@gmail.com or
Mobile: 0728-526449

WhatsApp: 0711-424635

To book an experienced local bird guide, contact Julio Mwambire of Heil's Kitchen, Marafa

E-mail: julloheillskitchen2@gmail.com

Mobile: 0725-082464

For updates go to
www.naturekenya.org

Editorial Team

John Mwacharo

Norman Kiboi

Gloria Waswa

Fleur Ng'weno

Sarah Munguti

Layout John Mwacharo

Front banner P. Usher



NatureKenya

THE EAST AFRICA NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

[Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/Nature-Kenya) [Twitter](https://www.twitter.com/Nature_Kenya)

For contributions, advertising and subscriptions - contact us at

P. O. Box 44486 GPO, Nairobi Tel: 020 3537568/ 0780149200/ 0751624312/ 0771343138
office@naturekenya.org www.naturekenya.org

Printed with support from:



Birding at the Racecourse

Text and Photos by P. Usher



The unusual rain stayed away the Wednesday of 7th March so the Nature Kenya birders went to the Racecourse. There were many migrants as well as local birds. From top: Common Rock-Thrush, Blackcap, Northern Wheatear and Yellow-throated Longclaw.

Bright Planets in the Evening Sky

By F. Ng'weno

Brilliant Venus is low over the sunset in April 2018. Bright Jupiter rises in the east. For the rest of the night Jupiter appears to travel west with the stars - it is actually our Earth that turns towards the east. In the evening, the next brightest light is the star Sirius, high in the southwest. And next, the star Canopus, low in the southwest. The moon is near Venus on April 17, and near Jupiter on April 3 and 30.

In the morning sky, Jupiter is in the west. Reddish Mars, growing brighter, is high overhead. Golden Saturn passes Mars on April 2 and moves towards the west. Mars appears close to the star Nunki in the constellation of Sagittarius. Little Mercury is low over the sunrise. The moon is near Saturn and Mars on April 7.

April Stars

Face south and look high in the sky towards the west, beyond Sirius. You can now imagine the constellation of Orion as a Warrior walking towards the sunset. Three bright stars in a row are his belt, with a hanging sword of three faint stars in a row. Above the belt are two bright stars for his shoulders. One of them, Betelgeuse, shines with an orange glow. Below the belt and sword are two bright stars for his knees. The brighter one, Rigel, shines blue-green in colour.

The star Procyon is high overhead. The ancient Greeks imagined Sirius and Procyon as the two hunting dogs following Orion. Further north, the stars Castor and Pollux are in the constellation called Gemini, the Twins - like a long rectangle.

The constellation Leo the Lion is high in the eastern sky. The bright star Regulus can be imagined as the heart - or the front paw - of the resting lion. North of Regulus, a half circle of stars forms the lion's mane. To the east, other stars seem to form the lion's back and tail. The moon is near Regulus on April 24.

Moon, April '18

Last quarter (overhead at dawn), April 8. New moon, April 16 - look for the slender crescent near Venus on the 17th. First quarter (overhead at sunset), April 22. Full moon, April 30.

Meteor Showers

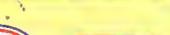
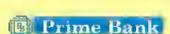
Meteors are bits of rock and dust from space that fall into the Earth's atmosphere and burn up with a flash. They are sometimes called shooting stars or burning spears. In April there are two meteor showers: the Lyrids, April 16-25, peaking April 22-23; and the Eta Aquarids (dust from Halley's Comet) April 19 to May 28, peaking May 6-7. Best viewing is from a dark location on a clear night after midnight.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Issue in progress" (Vol 107 Part 1) have brought one paper online on BloOne <http://www.bioone.org/toc/eanh/107/1>

Insights into the Natural History of the Little Known Maned Rat *Lophiomys imhausi* through Examination of Owl Pellets and Prey Remains
Darcy Ogada

THANK YOU "LUNGS FOR KENYA" CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT SPONSORS



Andrew Kamiti • Peter Blackwell • Daphne Butler • Salma Watt • Alex Duncanson

in the FIELD

APRIL AT A GLIMPSE

Apr 4th Morning Bird Walk
 Apr 7th FoCP Nature Walk
 Apr 11th Morning Bird Walk
 Apr 15th Sunday Bird Watch
 Apr 18th Morning Bird Walk
 Apr 21st FoCP Nature Walk
 Apr 25th Morning Bird Walk/Members monthly talk

Bird ringing every Tuesday morning (check with Ornithology section, National Museums).

Birders Please Note! The Wednesday Morning Birdwalks meet at 8:30 am at the Nairobi National Museum. Transport is on a self-help basis. The group meets in the courtyard of the Nairobi National Museum, past the entrance to the galleries. We normally return at about 12:30 pm.

The Sunday Birdwatch on the THIRD Sunday of each month now also meets at 8:30 am, at the same location. It is a day trip; please bring water and lunch.

Mombasa Birdwalks On the 3rd Saturday of each month. For meeting time and place, please contact Taibali Hamzali <thamzali@gmail.com> / 0733-980540; or Doris Schaule <dorischaul@gmail.com> / 0722-277752. Or check Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/FFJmombasa/>

Contact the office for information on other birdwalks in Kakamega, Kisumu, and other sites

Ngong Forest walks - 1st and 3rd Saturday at 9.00 am. Contact Simon 0729-840715

Beat the cold weather!



Get yourself cool Nature Kenya branded apparel!

Hoodies available in black and grey white - sizes M, L and XL. Also available for kids.

Fleece jackets in black and navy blue - sizes M, L and XL. Other items on sale include ladies and gents polo shirts (in beige and black), t-shirts, safari hats, water bottles (metallic) and mugs.

For inquiries call: 0739 200216

or send an email to: office@naturekenya.org

WELCOME ON BOARD

Nature Kenya (the EANHS) would like to welcome the following members to the East Africa Natural History Society:

FAMILY MEMBERS

Lakhvir-Singh Khalsa
 Damaris Opillu
 Evanson Kiman

Mercy Chebet
 Lilian Onduko
 Elizabeth Howard
 John Ponsonby

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS

Claris Otieno
 Lesley Henderson
 Elizabeth Sindani
 Eren Taskin
 Jerry Msagha Mrima

STUDENT MEMBERS

Terence Wahome
 Kelvin Maina
 Mark Mwenda



Download free QR Readers from the web and scan this QR (Quick Response) code with your smart phone for pictures and more stories.

Yes! Start my NatureKenya membership

Surname _____
 First Name _____
 Ms/Mr./Title _____
 Address _____
 Tel _____
 Mobile _____
 Email _____

MEMBERSHIP TYPES	Ksh Per Year
Full	2,000
Sponsor	6,000
Family	2,800
Student	1,200
Schools,	1,500
Clubs	
Corporates	20,000 - 30,000



JOIN/RENEW MEMBERSHIP

- Select 'Lipa na Mpesa'
- Select 'Pay Bill'
- 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