

# nature net

The Nature Kenya Newsletter

June 2000

## WHAT'S NEW!

### Special Offer

June's Nature Net comes with a special offer of the magazine *Ecoforum*. *Ecoforum* is the quarterly magazine of the Africa Office of the Environment Liaison Centre International, a network of more than 850 organisations around the world who are working for a healthier environment and more sustainable livelihoods.

*Ecoforum* is a networking tool for 'switched-on' people and organisations in East Africa: promoting unique and practical environmental initiatives; analysing what works and what doesn't, and why; and providing a forum for readers throughout the region to share their opinions and experiences. The enclosed issue focuses on biodiversity: how businesses, governments, organisations and individuals can get more involved in conservation for everyone's benefit. We hope that you enjoy this issue, which ELCI has made available for all Nature Kenya members because of our similar goals. Subscription information for those who wish to continue receiving *Ecoforum* can be found on the form inside the magazine.

For more information, contact the editor:

ELCI Office for Africa, P.O. Box 72461 Nairobi, Off Muringa Road, off Elgeyo Marakwet Road, Kilimani Tel: 02-570425, 576154, 562022 Fax: 02-562175. E-mail: [ecoforum@africaonline.co.ke](mailto:ecoforum@africaonline.co.ke)

## How did Kenya fare at CITES?

Kenya Wildlife  
Service



Dear all,

CITES is over and although we did not achieve uplisting of the Appendix II elephants, we did manage to prevent further ivory trade at this time, which was our primary goal.

For two days before the convention began, African elephant range states were locked away in meetings to find a 'solution' to the problem of conflicting proposals. We were disappointed with the quality of data that the Secretariat were using to make general statements. We made it clear that we did not trust the Secretariat nor the Standing Committee which approved the 1999 ivory sales at a time when no monitoring system was in place. Namibia, Zimbabwe, Sudan, Japan and South Africa, all part of the Standing Committee, had a conflict of interest.

*continued on page 2*

## Annual General Meeting

East Africa Natural History Society

A video, *Alien Empire*, will be shown after the AGM



## Agenda 2000

1. Confirmation of the minutes of the 90th Annual General Meeting
2. Matters arising from the minutes
3. Chairman's Report
4. Hon. Treasurer's report
5. Appointment of Hon. Auditor
6. Any other business for which due notice has been given
7. Election of Office Bearers and Members of the Executive Committee

*details on page 4*

**Monday 12 June '00, 5:30 p.m.**  
at the National Museums of Kenya,  
Louis Leakey M. Hall. Refreshments from 5:00 p.m.  
Transport to town available.

Editors, **Catherine Ngarachu  
& Anthony Kuria**

## Action for Biodiversity Conservation

NATURE KENYA, P. O. Box 44486, Nairobi. Tel: 749957 / 746090 Fax: 741049 E-mail: [eanhs@africaonline.co.ke](mailto:eanhs@africaonline.co.ke)

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At the end of the two days the only countries that supported ivory trade were southern African states, and all other states were calling for greater responsibility and support for monitoring and enforcement. With no consensus, the elephant debate was delayed to allow Kenya and the other proponents to find a compromise. We met daily with the SADC countries and bilaterally with South Africa. We maintained a firm position on no ivory trade and we spent more time discussing the options with other voting parties. We could not reach any agreement as they would not back down from an ivory quota.

On the day of the debate, Kenya announced revision of its proposal to allow the regulated sales of hides and live elephants, and no ivory trade, for Namibia, Zimbabwe and Botswana. This would have maintained a status quo, but would have prevented Zimbabwe from selling ivory trinkets, and would enforce greater regulations on live elephant sales. We believed that the world would support a proposal that gave them something but not the ivory. The Southern African ivory trading countries seemed to have been caught unawares, and the rest of Africa congratulated us for finding a solution.

At noon the region met with the European Union and a deal was struck. Kenya would withdraw her proposal if Zimbabwe, Namibia and Botswana would withdraw theirs, and South Africa had to go for a zero quota for ivory. The solution was called a win for Kenya and South Africa - we achieved no ivory and they got a down listing of their elephants to Appendix II.

Overall, Kenya submitted eight proposals and withdrew six while one was referred to the animals committee. Kenya was active in the debates on whales, hawksbill turtles, sharks, bushmeat trade, plants and rhino. Our 19 person delegation included experts in various fields from the KWS, NMK, local universities, and independents. All were present throughout and were given specific duties in each committee. Everyone was also involved in lobbying for all issues that were of concern to us.

We would like to thank all those who assisted us in our effort, for the petitions, all the emails and words of support, for giving us the necessary back up to build the confidence we needed to go into this frightening arena, fighting for what we believe in. Our success is also yours.

Paula Kahumbu  
KWS, Scientific Advisor

## GRANTS AWARDS &

Grant opportunities for projects concerned with bird protection

### THE CLUB 300 FOUNDATION AWARDS FOR THE PROTECTION OF BIRDS

Club 300 is a Swedish non-profit making association formed in 1984. The association has about 1000 members devoted in ornithology and with great interest in birds and bird watching. Club 300 provides conservation support through its Protection of Birds grant awards.

The awards range from US\$6,000 - 8,000

Applications are accepted on a yearly basis, and grants awarded for each year. No application forms are needed. Simply send your proposal, with name and address, project description, budget and cost estimate, list of other sources of finances, and the project expectations.

For details, and to apply, contact *Michael Rosen, Club 300's Foundation for Bird Protection, Department of Animal Ecology, Ecology Building, 223 62 Lund, Sweden. Tel.: +46 (0)706 059 772 or email: birdprotection@club300.se*

The **deadlines** for submitting applications are **1 July** and **1 January** each year. Successful applicants will notified on time.

## KNOW KENYA COURSE KENYA MUSEUM SOCIETY

The eight day course will run from 24 October to 2 November (excluding the weekend).

**Already participated in Know Kenya Course?** Become a volunteer and get free admission to the lectures! Meetings organising the event begin in June. For details, call the *Kenya Museum Society office* on tel. 02-750 136 or email: [kms@africaonline.ca.ke](mailto:kms@africaonline.ca.ke)



### 10th PAOC Registration Deadline

The 10th Pan-African Ornithological Congress will be held in Kampala from September 3-8. The deadline for registration is **30 June 2000**. Participants who will present papers or posters should submit their manuscripts by the same date.

To register and submit materials, please contact: *PAOC 10 Secretariat, Nature Uganda, The EANHS, Plat 83 Tufnel Rd, P O Bax 27034, Kampala, Uganda. Fax: + 256-041-533528. Email: [eanhs@imul.com](mailto:eanhs@imul.com)*

Registration forms also available from Nature Kenya office.

## Bird Hotline

Lammergeier  
*Hell's Gate National Park/Apr*  
Amur Falcon, Horus Swift  
*Elsamere, Lake Naivasha /Apr-May*  
Fundamentals of Ornithology course

Heuglin's Courser  
*Patterson's Safari Camp, Tsavo/Apr*  
White-fronted Plover  
*Lugard Falls, Tsavo/April*  
Philip Hechle

Short Eared Owls (3)  
*Hobley's Volcana, Naivasha/Apr*  
African Wood Owl  
*Lavington, Nairobi/Apr*  
Muoki Kioko

Pygmy Falcon, Lesser Kestrel, Lesser Grey Shrike, Magpie Starling, Hemprich's Hornbill  
*Lake Baringa/Apr*  
Shailesh Patel

Spur-winged Geese, Greater Painted-Snipe  
*Umani Springs Camp*  
Peter Le Pelley

Banded Snake Eagle  
*Meru National Park*  
Delos/Hazel McCauley

Hinde's Babbler  
*Meru National Park*  
Phyllis Paltridge

Abyssinian Crimsonwing  
*Nairobi Arboretum/May*  
Fleur Ng'weno and CBD birdwalk



## REGULAR ACTIVITIES

### POT LUCK OUTINGS

Bird-watching outings held on every third Sunday of the month, i.e. **18 June**. Bring a picnic lunch, binoculars, field guides, etc. and meet at 9:00 am at the National Museum car park. Those attending decide on the venue - hence "Pot Luck".

### TREE WALK

Arboretum guided Tree Walks on the last Monday of every month i.e. **26 June from 9:30 a.m.** Meet at the FONA offices beside the Girl Guides HQ.

### WEDNESDAY MORNING BIRDWALKS

Bird watching walks at sites in and around Nairobi. Meet at the National Museum car park every Wednesday at 8:45 a.m. Return about 12:30 p.m. Those who are not members can get temporary membership at Kshs 100 per birdwalk, payable on arrival at the car park.

### ARABUKO SOKOKE (COAST)

The Saturday birdwatch with the Arabuko Sokoke Forest Guides Association is on the first Saturday of each month i.e. **3 June, at 6:30 a.m.** from the Visitor Centre, Gede. Cost 100/- per person.

### DECLARATION

Nature Kenya does not accept any responsibility whatsoever in respect of negligence of any of its staff, volunteers or members organising the outings/trips or for any loss, injury, death or damage to property.

### JUNE DIARY

Sat 3	A-S Forest Walk
Wed 7	Birdwalk
Mon 12	EANHS AGM
Wed 14	Birdwalk
Sun 18	Pot Luck Outing
Wed 21	Birdwalk
Mon 26	Tree Walk
Wed 28	Birdwalk

## ACTIVITIES

### EXCURSIONS

### CAMPING WEEKEND AT NDABIBI ESTATE, CRATER LAKE

Friday 28 - Sunday 30 July.



Extensive guided birdwalks and hikes round the rim of the crater can be arranged.

The trip cost includes catering.

Not included are drinks, which can be bought at the Crater Lake Camp.

Bring your own tent and sleeping bags.

Facilities include: Long drop toilet, hot showers, askari.

Meet on Friday 28 July at 3:15 p.m at the National Museum car park for a 3:30 p.m. **prompt** departure. We depart from Ndabibi on Sunday 30 July at 3.30 P.M.

Cost per person: 3000/- (same for adult and child)

Maximum number of persons: 12 persons

Book and pay by: 15 July at the Nature Kenya office

## COMMITTEES AND PROJECTS

### From the Office

The month of June will see important changes at Nature Kenya. Shriti Rajani, the Executive Officer, is leaving. Shriti helped to transform the Nature Kenya office to what it is today. She will be remembered for her patience, cheerfulness, and commitment to conservation.

Nature Kenya wishes her all the best in her future endeavours.

The office also welcomes Lawrence Maina, the TBA Assistant Project Officer. Maina will be helping with the Tropical Biology Association activities in East Africa.

### IMPORTANT BIRD AREAS

#### WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY, 5 June 2000

Celebrate the World Environment day in style! Site Support Groups will be organising various activities to mark the day. Visit the group nearest you and be part of this big event.

Participating groups: Rural Initiative for Sustainable Development (South Nandi), Lake Victoria Sunset Birders (Kisumu), Friends of Kinangap Plateau (North Kinangop), Kijabe Environment Volunteers (Kikuyu Escarpment Forest) and Kamugere Catholic Youth Conservation Group (Embu).

### SUCCULENTA

#### SATURDAY 3 JUNE. 10.00 AM

#### Annual General Meeting

Succulenta are reminded that the AGM will be held at the home of Gilfrid and Patricia Powys in Riverside Lane, off Riverside Drive, last house on the left hand side.

### NOTICES

Library users! Treat others as you would like them to treat you! Please don't be selfish.

- Return all books you borrow
- Never write in books or tear pages

The library staff request that you do not bring coats and heavy jackets in the library, in order to reduce thefts.

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# IMPORTANT BIRD AREAS

## Important Bird Areas of Kenya Directory Launch Pictorial



**New!**

The book gives site-by-site accounts of all 60 IBAs already identified in Kenya.



Authors (above): Dr Leon Bennun and Peter Njoroge



People from all walks of life came to witness the launch of perhaps one of the most detailed books on conservation, focusing on birds, in Kenya

N. Rotich (right) Director of KWS, read the Keynote address on behalf of the guest speaker, Dr R. Leakey



Participants take a look at copies of the IBA directory (top) and left, participants queue to purchase their copies of the book at Serena Hotel, Nairobi



We thank all who came. Your presence made a big difference!

The book is available for members at the Nature Kenya office at Ksh 1,000



The launch was kindly sponsored by the RSPB and Serena Hotels, Nairobi



## NATURE KENYA AGM 2000

### Matters raised by the Executive Committee

#### Constitutional amendment

Suppose that legal proceedings were instituted against the Society in consequence of a statement or action. How far might Committee members and others in the Society be held personally liable? There has been discussion for several years concerning this issue. At the moment, there is no protection for officers acting on behalf of the Society against any liabilities that might result. If damages were awarded, they would be personally liable to pay.

With the Society's expanding activities and ascending profile, this has caused concern. It has therefore been proposed to insert an indemnity cause in the Constitution. This makes it clear that officers acting in good faith to further the aims of the Society should receive protection against claims — to the extent, at least, that the Society's resources allow.

Of course we all hope that such a situation never arises - but it seems wise to be prepared just in case!

#### Proposal to the AGM

To ADD a clause XVIII to the Constitution to read as follows:

#### XVIII. INDEMNITY

1. Every member of the Executive Committee, and of any other Committee, and every officer and employee of the Society, and any person acting on the lawful directions of any Committee of the Society, shall be indemnified out of the funds of the Society against all damages, costs and expenses awarded against or incurred by any such person as a result of any claim made against him or her personally for anything done or omitted to be done by him or her *bona fide* for the purpose of carrying out any of his or her functions, powers or duties.

PROVIDED THAT no payment shall be made under this indemnity unless the person against whom such claim is made:

- a) gives notice in writing to the Executive Committee within thirty days of the claim being made against him or her in respect of which he or she proposes to rely on this indemnity; and
- b) acts in response to such claim on the directions, if any, reasonably given by the Executive Committee.

#### Corporate membership

The Development Sub-committee has been working on a new and more attractive corporate membership package. At the moment there are NO corporate members, so something obviously needs to change! The new package is still being developed, and the needs of corporate members are being assessed. It is likely that one recommendation will be that the cost of corporate membership (currently KSh 5,000/=) should increase. Apparently, many businesses feel that this sum is too small to worry about - a bigger package both in benefits and cost might be more interesting to them.

Any change in membership fees must be approved by the AGM. The Executive Committee **REQUESTS** the AGM to give it the mandate to change Corporate Membership subscription rates between now and the next AGM, if necessary, to an appropriate rate that it shall decide.