

nature net

The Nature Kenya Newsletter

February 2001

REPORTING

KEREITA FOREST SURVEY 2000 Project Summary

Community perception on forest
and bird conservation:
The case of Kereita Indigenous forest



Status:
Forest Reserve

IBA Category:
Globally-threatened
species, restricted-
range species,
Afrotropical Highlands
biome species

■ Kereita Forest
Map from the IBA Directory

Kereita forest forms an important watershed and has high biodiversity value for birds, plants and other taxa. These biological and environmental values are little understood by the local communities as evidenced by the lack of sustainable activities carried out by the community.

To adequately conserve and propose strategies to manage the natural resources of Kereita, relevant information was needed. The Kijabe Environment Volunteers (KENVO), the flag bearer of conservation at Kereita area, undertook a seven months study project that assessed and documented the status of the forest and community attitudes towards its conservation.

The KENVO team conducted case studies on the ethnobotanical and ethno-ornithological knowledge of the communities living around the forest. They found that these communities use or have value for over 40 species of birds. People use birds for decoration, pest control, telling the time, predicating the weather and have traditional beliefs about certain birds. Other uses of the forest range from medicinal to commercial utilization of the forest.

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Please note our address
now includes a postcode

Action for Biodiversity Conservation

NATURE KENYA, P. O. Box 44486, 00100 Nairobi. Tel: 749957 / 746090 Fax: 741049 E-mail: eanhs@africaonline.co.ke



WHAT'S NEW!

LAUNCH OF THE NATURE KENYA WEBSITE www.naturekenya.org

The web site will be going live at the end of January - so log on to this exciting and comprehensive presentation, with information on all of our activities, projects and programmes:

Action

Committees

- * Bird Committee
- * Mammal Committee
- * Insects Committee
- * Habitat Restoration Initiative for Eastern Africa
- * Plants Committee
- * Succulenta East Africa

Projects

- * Biodiversity Parks Project
- * Friends of City Park
- * Friends of Nairobi Arboretum
- * Important Bird Areas

Publications

- * The Journal
- * Kenya Birds
- * Bulletin
- * Nature Net
- * Scopus

Birdwatching

- * World Birdwatch
- * Wednesday bird walks
- * African Birding egroup

Partners

- * Birdlife
- * RSPB
- * GEF
- * Tropical Biology Ass'n
- * NMK
- * Kipepeo Project
- * FoASF

Contacts

TELL YOUR FRIENDS
ABOUT IT!

We are very grateful for the valuable support of web site designer Jake Kidde-Hansen of Watamu Web Workshop (web-fundi@web-fundi.com) for donating his time and skills in getting the site up and running.

TALKS & VIDEOS



GARDEN BIRDS

Talk By
DAVE RICHARDS
Safari guide,

photographer and author

Monday 12 February '01, 5:30 p.m.
National Museums of Kenya, Nairobi, FORD HALL
Refreshments prior & Town drop off

TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

TROPICAL BIOLOGY ASSOCIATION Field Courses in Tropical Ecology Uganda & Tanzania 2001

East Usambara Mountains, Tanzania
24 June - 23 July 2001 TBA 01/1

The forests of the Usambara are noted for their extraordinary biological richness and high species endemism. These forests are now severely fragmented and under great human pressure. The course will introduce some of the area's research and conservation programmes.

Kibale Forest National Park, Uganda
1 August - 30 August 2001 TBA 01/2 &
2 September - 30 September 2001 TBA 01/3

Kibale Forest is a mid-altitude tropical moist forest with a spectacular array of species and a long established programme of ecological research. These two courses will be based at the Makerere University Biological Field Station and each will include a short visit to a savanna habitat in the nearby Queen Elizabeth National Park.

Topics in ecology, evolutionary biology and conservation biology will be taught through field demonstrations, seminars, lectures and independent research projects.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

Scholarships are available which include transport to and from the field site, accommodation, subsistence and course fees.

Applicants must be nationals of an African country. They should have a first degree in a biological science (for example, zoology, botany, wildlife management or conservation biology) by the time the course begins. Applicants should either be studying for a higher degree or have an active involvement in biological field research or are scientists at the start of their research careers.

Applicants (including letters of reference) must be in English and **must include:**

- A **cover letter** explaining in detail why you want to attend the course (no more than 2 sides);
- A **Curriculum Vitae** giving details of academic and non-academic career, achievements and interests (other academic documents not necessary). Include your current postal address, telephone, fax and/or email;
- Confidential references (in English) from **two referees** (e.g. lecturers at your university, or employers at your current institution). All applicants must arrange to have references sent to the TBA as soon as possible: you may include them in a sealed envelope with your application, or ask your referee to send them directly to the TBA.

Applications should be sent to the **TBA Project Officer, at Nature Kenya address before the application closing date of 20 February 2001** (successful applicants will be notified by the end of March).

Fundamentals of Ornithology



A certificate course
for bird guides
and birders



Elsamere Field Studies Centre, Lake Naivasha
26 April — 3 May 2001

The Ornithology Department of the National Museums of Kenya and Nature Kenya will jointly run a week-long introductory ornithology course in 2001. This popular residential course will be based at the Elsamere Field Studies Centre on the shore of Lake Naivasha. Wetland, grassland, savannah and forest habitats are all within easy reach for practical field sessions, while the lake and its surroundings have a wide diversity of bird species.

'Fundamentals of Ornithology' is a course designed for bird guides and keen birdwatchers who want to improve their understanding of birds and their skills in the field. Teaching will be through illustrated lectures, discussion sessions, group seminars, demonstrations and field practicals, in an informal environment. Participants completing the course to the satisfaction of the instructors receive a **Certificate in Ornithology**.

Topics to be covered include: fieldcraft and ethics · evolution and classification · scientific names · habitat and distribution · identification: parts of a bird; finding the right family; making descriptions and taking field notes; calls; submitting records; using bird guides; wetland, forest and grassland birds · migration and movements · flight, feathers and physiology · feeding strategies · breeding behaviour · bird ringing · habitats and conservation.

Fees and application

The course fee is KSh 22,000/- per person, payable to 'Nature Kenya'. This subsidised fee includes full-board accommodation for seven nights at Elsamere Field Studies Centre, transport to and from Naivasha and during field outings, and all other course materials, fees, equipment, and teaching expenses.

Applicants must have some experience of birdwatching, and education up to at least KCSE level (a CV is required with application). There is a strict limit of **18 places** on the course. To secure a place, applications must be accompanied by a non-refundable deposit of half the course fees (Ksh 11,000/-). Course fees must be paid in full by 20 April, or the place may be re-allocated.

Applications, and inquiries, should be addressed to:
Lawrence Maina at Nature Kenya.

REGULAR ACTIVITIES

POT LUCK OUTINGS

Members meet at the National Museum, Nairobi car park at 9:00 a.m. the third Sunday of every month, i.e. **18 February**. They decide where to go and what to do - usually observing birds and nature in general. Bring lunch.

TREE WALK

Arboretum guided Tree Walks on the last Monday of every month i.e. **26 February from 9:30 a.m.** Meet at the FONA offices beside the Girl Guides HQ. Those who are not members of FONA pay Ksh 100/- fee on arrival at the gate.

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 Ksh 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 February, 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.

FEBRUARY DIARY

Sat 3	Arabuko-Sokoke
birdwalk	
Mon 12	Talk on Garden Birds
Sun 18	Pot Luck Outing
Sat 24	Wind in the Trees
Sat 24 - Sun 25	Trip to Malu
Mon 26	Tree Walk
No Members Lunch in February	
Birdwalks every Wednesday Morning	

Editor, Catherin  Ngarachu

Bird Hotline

Please note the records below are unconfirmed

Woolly-necked Stork, White Stork, Abdim's Stork, Pygmy Falcon Oltepesi Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouse Olargesailie/ Jan Shailesh Patel, Bernd de Bruijn

Bare-faced Go-away-bird Hillcrest Schaal, Langata, Nairabi/ Dec Jahn Dawson

Frigatebirds, apparently a pair of Christmas Island Frigates Driftwaad Beachclub, Malindi/ Dec Robin Cahill and other guests

Green-capped Eremomela, Olonana Camp, Mara/ Dec Elly Gathungu

Luhder's Bush Shrike, Red-headed Bluebill, Yellow-whiskered Greenbul, Red-capped Robin Chat, Joyful Greenbul Mara / Dec Isaac Tesat

Roseate Tern, Ruddy Turnstone, Greater Crested Tern, Heuglin's Gull Malindi Harbour/ Dec Peter Komou, Emmanuel. K. Thoya

approx. 150 African Open-billed Storks near Aruba Dam, Magpie Starling Tsava East/ Dec Philip Hechle

Brown-chested Plover Mara/Dec Willis Okech

hundreds of Amur Falcons hawking insects, Tsava/Nav Rupert Watsan

3 Brown Parrots perching Lakichagia/ Dec Banded Snake Eagle, Isabelline Shrike Meru N. Park/ Nav Grephus A. Ingati

Red-knobbed Coot, Yellow-billed Stork Mana Dam, Mala South/ Nov Jesse K. Irungu

Ethiopian Swallow, Sprosser, Southern Black Flycatcher Segera Ranch, Laikipia/ Nav Mercy Njeri Muiruri

Red-throated Wryneck Kipevu Raad, Langata, Nairabi/ Nov J. Drawley

pair of adult House Sparrows & 4 Juv. Rumuruti town / Feb 00 Peter Faul

Please send details to Kenya Birds, c/o Nature Kenya

Remember to renew your membership!

We need your support!
Recruit **one** other member!

NOTICES

CARE FOR THE ENVIROMENT?

Use Biodegradable cleaning products for Yourself, Your Home, Your Clothes, Your Garden!

Highly concentrated, Highly versatile.

Environmentally friendly and

CARES FOR YOUR POCKET TOO....!!

Contact:

Finn & Scilla Davey, (Independent GNLD Distributors) P.O. Box 612, Village Market, Nairobi Tel: (0)311 50088 Fax: (0)311 50091 Email: pumpkin@africaonline.co.ke

COMPOST MAKING AND BASIC GARDENING/ HORTICULTURE COURSE

Friday March 16 '01, 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

This is a gardeners course, illustrating how to turn waste from kitchens, lawns and gardens into useful compost manure and basic gardening techniques and horticultural practices.

Charges KShs. 600/- per person

Call, fax or email the Nature Kenya office to book.

All proceeds used to support the maintenance of the Arboretum (Organised by Friends of Nairobi Arboretum)

TEA TROLLEY NEEDED!

The Nature Kenya office is looking for a tea trolley!

If you have one and are happy to donate it to us, please call Elizabeth, or Fanshaline at the office.

Thank you!

BIRDING AT OLOGESAILIE PREHISTORIC SITE!

George Eshiamwata, an Intern with Ornithology Dept. NMK is based, much of the time, at this site working on the Parisoma project.

George would be happy to accompany Nature Kenya members on birdwalks, on any Sunday, when he might be available.

EXCURSIONS

Camping and Birdwatching at Malu Farm

Saturday 24 to Sunday 25
February, '01



Malu is a 1700-acre farm located north of Lake Naivasha, lying at the base of the Kinangop Escarpment and overlooking the Rift Valley.

The campsite is on the Malewa river which passes through the farm; the hiking and birdwatching is good, using trails in the forest and along the river; there is a small pool that has been built into a stream where hot water springs from a nearby rockface. If anyone wishes to bring their own rods, there are some trout in the river and the campsite is a good place for fishing.

Facilities at the campsite consist of only a pit latrine. Firewood is available and there is an askari to keep watch.

This is a do it yourself trip where you will need to bring everything you think you will need, such as your own drinking water, food and camping gear.

Meet at the National Museums car park on Saturday at 8:00 a.m./ depart Malu at 3:30 p.m. on the Sunday.

Cost: Ksh 900/- per person, Ksh 400/- per child inclusive of camping and guide fees.

Book by 16 February '01 and please let us know if you can give lifts.

Trip to the Usambaras

Book now for this exciting expedition!

Cost per person: Ksh 20000/- including room and board as mentioned in the itinerary (full itinerary in the December/ January newsletter) & guide fees. Save 2000/- by camping at Mullers, Ksh 14000/- per child sharing



Vehicle rates to be confirmed in the next newsletter. Meals enroute and optional excursions while at Shimoni are not included.

Space is limited for this trip and bookings will only be confirmed with a booking deposit of 10,000/-. Refunds for cancellations after the deadline date will not be possible. **Booking deadline extended to 28 February '01**

Brief Itinerary to East Usambaras from April '01

- Thursday 12** Nairobi - Lushoto
- Friday 13** Mountain walk through various villages, across valleys
- Saturday 14** Morning in Lushoto, lunch at Muller's, Amani Hostels (dinner & overnight)
- Sunday 15** Look for African violets and birdwatch
- Monday 16** Visit the Botanic Garden
- Tuesday 17** East Usambaras to Shimoni
- Wednesday 18** Shimoni Reef Hotel
- Thursday 19** Shimoni - Nairobi



Wind in the Trees

Saturday 24 February 01

11:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. at the Nairobi Arboretum

Come, relax and enjoy music and songs under the trees!
Admission free/ Refreshments will be available for sale

From the front page
Encroachment on Kereita Forest



Illegal activities observed during the survey include charcoal burning, livestock grazing, fuel wood collection, timber harvesting, herbal medicine collection, tomato pegs collection, pole wood collection and farming in hilly areas. Most of these activities are out of control. Of these, charcoal burning and timber collection are the most environmentally devastating. One of the study sites covering about 100 hectares has been reduced to bush land.

On the other hand, policies and legislation governing the utilisation of natural resources in this forest reserve have not been favourable to local users. Any use of the forest, which is considered illegal, incurs penalties which then foster among the communities a negative attitude towards the forest which results in further negative impacts on the forest.

KENVO recommends the involvement of the local communities in the management of Kereita forest and its resources.

*Project Conducted By Kijabe Environment Volunteers
Project Supported By BP Conservation Programme, BirdLife International and Flora and Fauna International*