

# Kenya's Important Bird Areas Status and Trends 2004



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## Contents

<i>Executive Summary</i>	1
<i>Map and Status Update of Kenya's Important Bird Areas</i>	4
<i>IBA Status and Trends, 2003-4</i>	6
<i>Important Bird Areas in Kenya</i>	6
<i>Monitoring Framework in Kenya</i>	7
<i>State, Pressure and Threats, 2003-4</i>	8
<i>Conservation Action Needed</i>	11
<i>Annexes</i>	
1. <i>Sample of Individual Site Reports</i>	13
2. <i>Sample of filled basic monitoring form</i>	14
3. <i>Contributors and Acknowledgements</i>	17

## Cover photos

**On the cover:** *Hinde's Babblers* are found only in parts of central and eastern Kenya. These birds are unusual in that the amount of light and dark feathers in the plumage varies from individual to individual. They live in small, noisy groups in riverine thickets and scrub.

*Hinde's Babblers* have been recorded in Mukurwe-ini valleys in Nyeri District, Kianyaga valleys in Kirinyaga District, and also in Machakos, Meru, Embu and Thika districts. These sites are all privately owned and unprotected (except Wajee Camp). A few *Hinde's Babblers* also occur in Mwea National Reserve and Meru National Park.

The *Hinde's Babbler* in the photo has just been ringed. With permission from the authorities, researchers catch birds in certain localities, following strict guidelines. The birds are weighed, measured, and any special features recorded. Then a light aluminium band or "ring" is fitted on one leg. "Send Museum Nairobi" and a number are written on the ring.

The ringed bird is then released to continue with its life. If it is re-trapped by researchers, or sadly found dead, the number on the ring provides information about its age and movements. Monitoring by bird ringing is only done at a few sites, as part of research projects. Most monitoring of bird populations is done by recording birds seen or heard.

**Back cover:** *Researchers in Yala Swamp IBA.*

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ISBN 9966-9921-7-0

Published by Nature Kenya  
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# Executive Summary

Important Bird Areas are sites that are important for the conservation of birds and other biodiversity, on an international scale. Most of Kenya's existing protected areas were not chosen to conserve biodiversity, but because (i) they were suitable for hunting or photographing large mammals, or (ii) at the time, few, if any, people wanted to live there, or (iii) they protected a water catchment and contained valuable timber. There is no reason why sites selected this way should be expected to conserve all threatened biodiversity.

To select the most important sites to conserve plant and animal species, the Birdlife International Partnership used information about birds to develop and apply quantitative, objective, scientifically defensible and internationally accepted criteria. The sites identified following such criteria are called Important Bird Areas (IBAs).

There are four main reasons for a site to qualify as an Important Bird Area:

- The site is a habitat for a globally threatened bird species – a kind of bird in danger of extinction, anywhere in the world. The small forests of the Taita Hills shelter several endangered bird species.



*The Taita Thrush is endemic and endangered*

- It is a habitat for restricted-range birds. These are birds that live only in a small area of the country or region. For example, the Sokoke Pipit is found only in a few coastal forests.
- The area is home for many bird species that live only in a particular vegetation type, or biome. Most of the birds of the Lake Victoria Basin biome are found in Yala Swamp.
- The site contains very large congregations, or gatherings, of certain birds. For example, over 20 different kinds of waterbirds gather in big numbers in the Tana River Delta.

Some sites qualify for more than one reason. Most IBAs also contain other endangered or restricted-

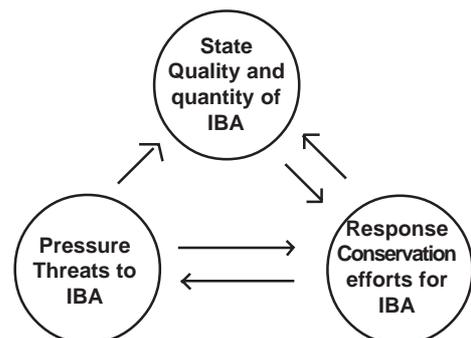
range animals and plants. Conserving areas that are important for birds protects other forms of biodiversity. Biodiversity includes living things, the genes they contain, the ecosystems in which they live, and the interactions between them.

IBAs form a practical tool for conservation, recognized worldwide. Many sites identified as IBAs are already classified as protected areas. Some of these may need improvement in protection or management. Certain IBAs have no legal protection, and many of these urgently need conservation action.

In Kenya, Nature Kenya (the East Africa Natural History Society) has coordinated the IBA process since 1995. The process is guided by a National Liaison Committee (involving government departments) with technical input from the National Museums of Kenya. Sixty IBAs were identified, and a directory, *Important Bird Areas in Kenya*, published and distributed. The IBA book is available at the Nature Kenya office and bookshops.

To ensure IBA conservation in perpetuity, Nature Kenya, with support from the Global Environment Facility (GEF), initiated a programme of action, advocacy and monitoring at IBAs—the IBA process. Monitoring is a vital part of the process; it helps in assessing the effectiveness of conservation measures and provides an early warning of emerging problems. Although the GEF funding ended in December 2002, the monitoring programme initiated by the GEF project is currently ongoing with support from the Darwin Initiative of the UK and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB).

This Report is an attempt to summarise the current status and trends of Kenya's 60 Important Bird Areas. The report adopts the State (conservation status), Pressure (threats), and Response (interventions) model.



*The State-Pressure-Response Model*

It uses not only birds as a key to site assessment, but also other taxonomic groups, as well as vegetation and existing management practices, to evaluate the overall state of the site.



*Amani Sunbird, found only in East African coastal forests*

The report is based on monitoring information gathered from a diversity of sources: members of IBA Site Support Groups (SSGs); the Kenya Wildlife Service; the Forest Department; National Museums of Kenya; field researchers; birdwatchers and other visitors to the sites including tourists. Reference material from institutional libraries such as the Kenya Wildlife Service were also used.

The report sets a baseline for assessing the impact of future conservation measures and investment. Together with *Important Bird Areas in Kenya* and the individual site reports, it will help Kenya prepare national reports to the Convention on Biological Diversity and other conventions; provide a basis for evaluating the implementation status of Kenya's National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans; and serve as a basis for assessing progress towards the international target of significantly reducing biodiversity loss by 2010. Donors interested in investing in the conservation of Kenya's Important Bird Areas should also find this report a useful funding guide.

## Status and Trends, 2004:

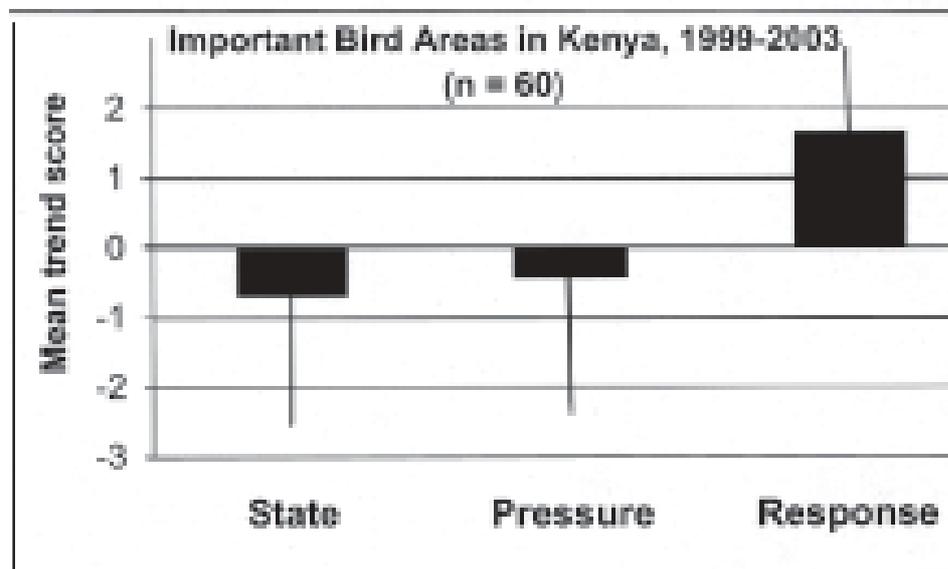
To assess the status and trends within Important Bird Areas, a monitoring framework has been developed and implemented by Nature Kenya in collaboration with the National Museums of Kenya. The monitoring process involves training, data-collection and analysis by the National Museums of Kenya and dissemination by Nature Kenya.

Standard data collection forms for monitoring Important Bird Areas were developed and distributed through IBA Site Support Groups (SSGs), Nature Kenya members, Forest Department, Kenya Wildlife Service, National Environment Management Authority and other cooperating organizations. In addition, detailed monitoring is being carried out at six critical IBAs (10% of all sites), with support from the Darwin Initiative and the RSPB, the UK BirdLife International Partner.

The main sources of this report are Basic Monitoring Forms, retrieved from 78% of the sites. These include the 6 critical sites in which detailed monitoring is also taking place: Arabuko-Sokoke Forest, Kakamega Forest, Kinangop Highland Grasslands, Kikuyu Escarpment Forests, Mukurweini Valleys and Lake Victoria Papyrus Swamps (Dunga, Koguta and Kusa).

To broadly generalize the findings from monitoring information:

- illegal logging, charcoal burning and firewood collection is a threat in 86% (19 out of 22) of the forest sites;



*Diagrammatic summary of State of Kenya's IBAs*

*The Papyrus Yellow Warbler is only found in papyrus swamp habitats*



- agricultural encroachment threatens 50% of the wetland sites and 46% of the total number of sites;
- encroachment for livestock grazing is prevalent in 85% of the sites;
- human wildlife conflict is a major issue in 10% or 6 out of the 60 sites.

In response to the threats, 40% of the sites still need formation and proactive involvement of local Site Support or lobby groups to undertake reporting and conservation action. In 18 sites, donor-funded income-generating projects are underway to ease pressure on exploitation of natural resources. Research or monitoring is going on in 73% of the sites.



*Lesser Flamingos occur mainly in alkaline Rift Valley lakes*

Sites under particularly severe threats include Yala Swamp, Busia Grasslands, Mukurwe-ini Valleys and Mau-Narok/Molo Grasslands, because of agricultural encroachment.

Significant improvement has been achieved in Meru National Park due to increased security, surveillance and proactive monitoring based on a Management Plan. Mt. Kenya National Reserve and Kakamega Forest have also improved in state due to better surveillance and eviction of squatters as well as restriction on agricultural and other encroachment, including the suspension of Non-Residential Cultivation (the “shamba system”).

## Urgent Conservation Interventions Needed:

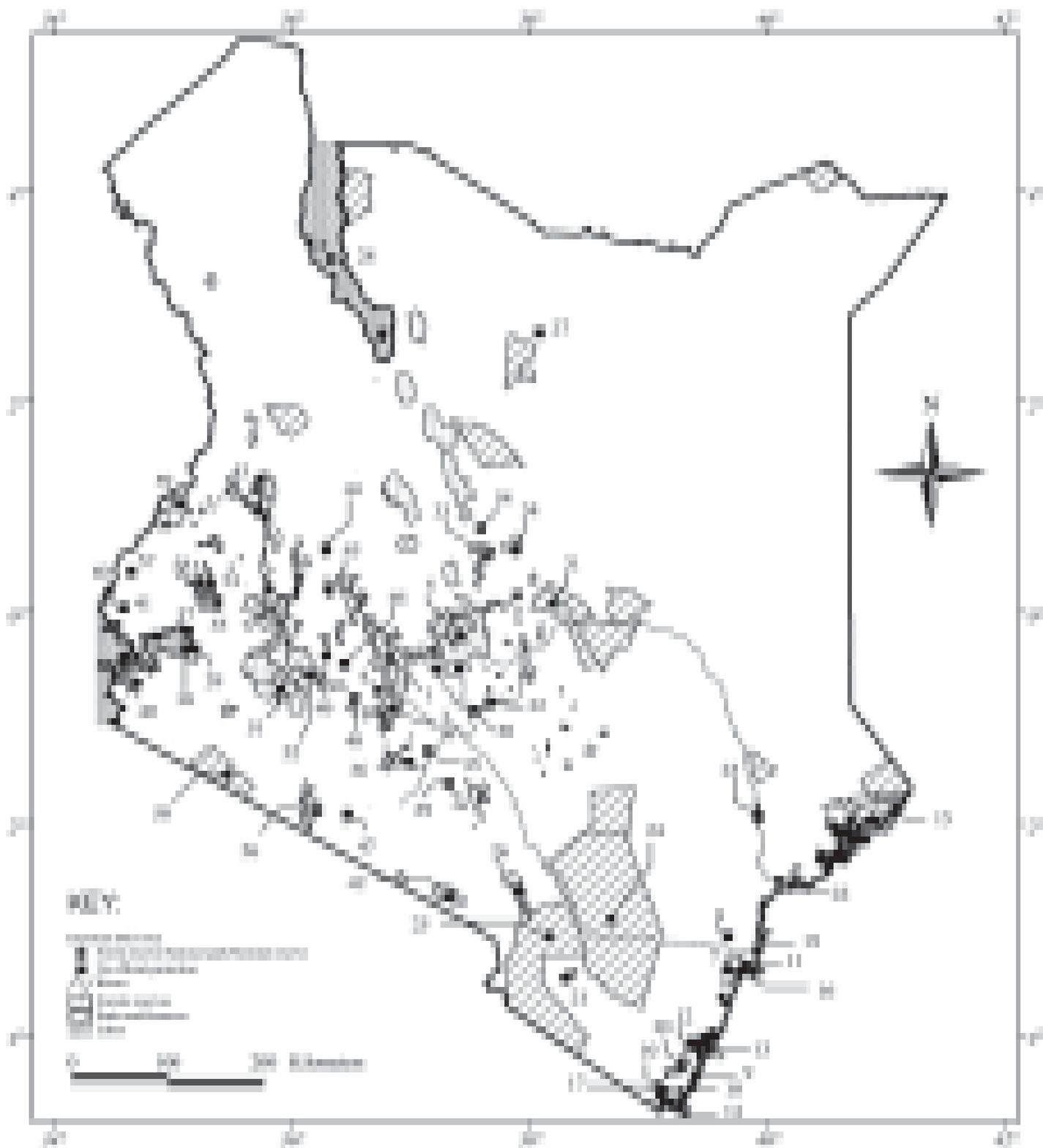
The report prescribes a variety of urgent conservation interventions needed to avert the pressures on biodiversity and habitats:

- A complete halt to the degazettement of portions of forest comprising IBAs, and repossession or re-gazettement of those allocated in the recent past.
- Improved logistical and personnel capacity of forest guards to patrol and protect critical forests.
- Total enforcement of the policy to discontinue Non-Residential Cultivation in indigenous forest management; NRC has tended to attract squatters.
- Drawing up and implementation of sound Management Plans for sites, with input from all stakeholders.
- Providing alternative means of livelihoods to communities living adjacent to IBAs through supporting non-consumptive income generating initiatives, including eco-tourism, to ease pressure on the natural resource base.
- Establishment and development of on-farm forestry and household woodlots.
- Facilitation of the formation of Site Support Groups and building their capacity to take conservation action, monitor the sites and create community conservation awareness in sites where this is feasible.
- Comprehensive biodiversity and habitat surveys of the little-visited, little-known and potential IBAs in order to document their conservation status and monitoring needs.
- Advocacy for review and streamlining of the policy of harvesting mangrove along the coast – recently revived by the Forest Department – to avert over-exploitation.
- Reconciliation of views from Councils of Elders and Coastal Forest Conservation Unit regarding matters of access and management of Kaya Forests.

# Summary of status of Kenya's IBAs

IBA Code	Name of Site	State
KE001	Aberdare Mountains	Improvement
KE002	Kianyaga Valleys	Not ascertained
KE003	Kikuyu Escarpment	Great improvement
KE004	Kinangop Grasslands	Slight decline
KE005	Mt. Kenya (Nat. Park & N. Reserve)	Slight decline
KE006	Mukurwe-ini Valleys	Decline
KE007	Arabuko-Sokoke Forest	Improvement
KE008	Dakatcha Woodland	Not ascertained
KE009	Diani Forest	Decline
KE010	Dzombo Hill Forest	Not ascertained
KE011	Gede Ruins National Monument	Stable
KE012	Kaya Gandini	Stable
KE013	Kaya Waa	Limited threat
KE014	Kisite Island	Decline
KE015	Kiunga Marine National Reserve	Improvement
KE016	Mida Creek, Whale Isl., Malindi/Watamu NPs	Slight improvement
KE017	Marenji Forest	Decline
KE018	Mrima Hill Forest	Major improvement
KE019	Sabaki River Mouth	Not clearly known
KE020	Shimba Hills	Decline
KE021	Taita Hills Forest	Major decline
KE022	Tana River Delta	Not clearly known
KE023	Tana River Forests	Stable (little change)
KE024	Tsavo East National Park	Decline
KE025	Tsavo West National Park	Decline
KE026	Chyulu Hills National Park	Improvement
KE027	Dida Galgalu Desert	Not ascertained
KE028	Lake Turkana	Decline
KE029	Machakos Valleys	Not clearly known
KE030	Masinga Reservoir	Minor improvement
KE031	Meru National Park	Major improvement
KE032	Mwea National Reserve	Decline
KE033	Samburu & Buffalo Springs Nat. Res.	Stable
KE034	Shaba National Reserve	Decline
KE035	Dandora Ponds	Major decline
KE036	Nairobi National Park	Decline
KE037	Dunga Swamp	Decline
KE038	Koguta Swamp	Decline
KE039	Kusa Swamp	Decline
KE040	Ruma National Park	Slight improvement
KE041	Yala Swamp	Decline
KE042	Amboseli National Park	Major decline
KE043	Cherangani Hills	Decline
KE044	Lake Baringo	Decline
KE045	Lake Bogoria National Reserve	Little change
KE046	Lake Elmenteita	Little change
KE047	Lake Magadi	Decline
KE048	Lake Naivasha	Slight improvement
KE049	Lake Nakuru National Park	Improvement
KE050	Maasai Mara National Reserve	Decline
KE051	Mau Forest Complex	Minor improvement
KE052	Mau Narok/Molo Grasslands	Major decline

IBA Code	Name of Site	State	Potential IBAs
KE053	North Nandi Forest	Decline	P1 Boni and Dondori Forests
KE054	Oi Donyo Sabache	Not ascertained	P2 Kongelai Escarpment
KE055	South Nandi Forest	Decline	P3 Malkamari National Park
KE056	South Nguruman	Stable	P4 Mt Kasigau Forest
KE057	Busia Grasslands	Decline	Not ascertained
KE058	Kakamega Forest	Major improvement	P5 Mt Kulal Forest
KE059	Mt. Elgon	Decline	Major decline
KE060	Sio Port Swamp	Decline	



# IBA Status and Trends 2003-2004

## Kenya's Important Bird Areas

**Important Bird Areas** are an innovative way to incorporate research findings into environmental planning. Important Bird Areas (IBAs) are sites that have been identified as important for the conservation of birds. Almost all IBAs, however, are also important for the conservation of other biodiversity – living things, the genes they contain and the ecosystems in which they live.

Important Bird Areas have been identified throughout the world, using standardised, internationally agreed scientific criteria. They fall into four main categories:

1. Areas sheltering significant numbers of birds which are **globally endangered** – likely to become extinct unless their habitat is preserved. Arabuko-Sokoke Forest at the Coast is a good example, as it shelters six globally threatened species of birds.
2. Sites where large numbers of birds **congregate**. These sites are also of international concern, as many of the birds in question are waterbirds which migrate long distances, often from continent to continent. Alkaline lakes such as Nakuru, Elmenteita and Bogoria hold large concentrations of flamingoes and other waterbirds.
3. Areas which are home to bird species with a **restricted range**. These birds occur only in areas of less than 50,000 square kilometres. Many such birds are threatened by changes in their habitats. The lower Tana River forests, for example, shelter five kinds of birds with restricted ranges, and are affected by local and upstream environmental changes.
4. Areas containing the characteristic birds of a particular **biome** – for example, the African Highlands Biome. Although these birds may not be immediately threatened, their restricted distribution means that their total population is vulnerable to local changes.

The proactive involvement of Kenya in the IBA process started in 1995 with surveys to identify sites that qualified for designation. Nature Kenya together with researchers from the National Museums of Kenya and other partners, identified 60 Important Bird Areas in Kenya. Many of the sites, such as Mount Kenya, Kakamega Forest and Gede Ruins National Monument, are already designated as protected areas. Other sites important for threatened birds and other biodiversity, such as the Tana Delta Wetlands or the Kinangop Plateau grasslands, are wholly without protection.

Kenya's IBAs represent all key habitat types in Kenya: 22 Forests (of these, 20 (90%) are protected areas); 18 wetlands (only 5 (27%) are in protected areas); 12 semi-arid and arid areas (7 (58%) are protected areas); 6 moist grasslands (3 (50%) are in protected areas). In other categories, there are two sites, neither of them protected.

Of these 60 sites, 46 hold globally threatened bird species, 29 have range-restricted birds, 32 host biome-restricted birds, and 13 are identified for holding congregatory bird species. At least five other sites were considered potential IBAs.

The sites, their location, description and value for bird conservation, were published as *Important Bird Areas in Kenya*, by Leon Bennun and Peter Njoroge, in 1999. (The book is available from Nature Kenya and bookshops such as Text Book Centre.)

Now that Important Bird Areas have been identified and recognised, the IBA process expands: it involves conservation advocacy, action and monitoring in order to protect these sites in perpetuity. In 1998, a five-year regional BirdLife project – the African NGO-Government Partnerships for Sustainable Biodiversity Action – funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) through the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) developed the IBA process in ten African countries.



*Sokoke Pipit, East Coast Akalat and Spotted Ground Thrush, globally threatened birds of the Arabuko-Sokoke Forest*

Since 1998 Nature Kenya and partners have undertaken activities to alleviate the threats facing Important Bird Areas in Kenya, including:

- Establishment of the National Liaison Committee to facilitate networking, advocacy and information exchange among government and non-government conservation and development institutions
- Establishment, development and consolidation of local constituencies for site conservation through Site Support Groups (SSGs)
- Development and testing of a nation-wide habitat and biodiversity monitoring framework run by government agencies and community institutions
- Participation in the development and review of national conservation legislation and policy and establishment of the Environmental Legislation and Policy Working Group (ELPWiG)
- Developing and implementing conservation models e.g. priority setting, SSGs process and monitoring for use in Kenya and for regional application in the BirdLife International Partnership
- Mobilising resources critical for the implementation of the IBA process
- Strengthening and diversifying Nature Kenya action groups, committees and projects to take action at IBAs
- Setting priorities for site advocacy, and guiding investment of limited resources for site action
- Raising awareness locally and nationally
- Supplying site information to national decision makers, and advocating for sound environmental decisions among decision makers

In terms of site action, 15 IBA Site Support Groups have been established at 9 sites, and are currently working with local communities to create awareness and take action for conservation. Monitoring and research to improve understanding of IBAs, their status, condition, and the other biodiversity they contain, is a crucial

component of conservation action. In six IBAs (10 % of sites) SSG members are also undertaking detailed monitoring, with the support of the Darwin Initiative, which aims at building the capacity of the Kenya Government and local communities to carry out IBA monitoring.

## The Monitoring Framework for Kenya

Monitoring involves repeated collection of information over time in order to detect changes in particular variables. Monitoring is a vital part of any serious conservation programme; it helps to assess the effectiveness of conservation measures and provides an early warning of problems. The process of monitoring involves designing an appropriate, cost effective scheme; data collection, storage and analysis; and finally, application, including feeding into management planning, policy evaluation, advocacy, fundraising and conservation action.

In Kenya, all IBAs are priority sites for conservation, requiring attention in terms of conservation interventions. However, following a priority setting exercise for all the 60 sites – taking into account severity of threat and biological importance – it was recognised that some sites are faced with more serious threats than others. Monitoring in such a scenario requires a two-tier approach.

The first tier is the basic monitoring taking place in all the sixty IBAs. A data form for basic monitoring has been designed and approved by the participating institutions.

Forms may be filled once a year, or whenever a visit to the site is made. Nature Kenya is working with the Forest Department (FD), Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS), National Environment Management Authority (NEMA) and a number of conservation organisations to institutionalise the process.

Detailed Monitored IBAs	Site Support Group	Months for Monitoring	
		Dry Season	Wet Season
Kikuyu Escarpment	KENVO	Once per Year	August
Kinangop Plateau	FoKP	February	August
Mukuruwe-ini Valleys	MEVO	Once per Year	July
Lake Victoria (Dunga Swamp)	LVSF	December	April
Kakamega Forest	KEEP	December-January	May
Arabuko-Sokoke Forest	ASFGA	Monitoring Scheme in Development	

*The detailed monitoring program for Site Support Groups at selected Priority Sites*

The second tier is the detailed monitoring taking place at 10% of the 60 sites, particularly those that are critically threatened: Arabuko-Sokoke Forest, Kakamega Forest, Kinangop Highland Grasslands, Kikuyu Escarpment Forests, Mukurwe-ini Valleys and Lake Victoria Papyrus Swamps (Dunga, Koguta and Kusa). This data is being collected by members of site support groups and in some cases government agencies.

## The “Pressure-State-Response” Model

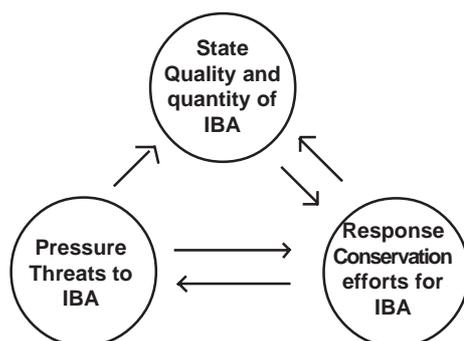
Important Bird Areas should essentially be managed to conserve the birds and other biodiversity populations for which they are listed. This basic point is important because it defines the overall conservation goal that will in turn determine which variables are to be monitored. However, it is not practical to monitor every relevant attribute of an IBA, and so a variety of general environmental and habitat indicators, including species of biodiversity, were chosen in various sites to determine conservation needs.

One useful approach that has been used by the Convention on Biological Diversity and the BirdLife Partnership in Europe, and that has been adopted for the purpose of this Report, is called the “Pressure-State-Response” Model.

**Pressure:** Indicators that identify and track major threats to the IBA. For example, increased human population, increased papyrus harvesting, over-fishing, etc.

**State:** Indicators that refer to changes in site condition and biodiversity value. Site conditions may include water level, water transparency, etc. Biodiversity value indicators may include threatened bird species populations, species richness and so on.

**Response:** Variables that identify and track conservation actions, such as changes in the legal status of a site (through gazettement, etc); establishment of site support groups; funding of conservation programs; etc. The relationship forms the following diagrammatic loop:



## Summary of IBA Status and Trends, 2003/2004

### State

Although the conservation status of a large number of IBAs has remained largely unchanged over the past year, there has been a general decline across the board. According to BirdLife International the pilot project in Kenya shows that overall the condition of the country’s IBAs has continued to decline, despite improvements at some sites, since the IBA directory was published in 1999. Overall pressures have also increased. However, there has been a substantial stepping up of the conservation response, which may show a positive impact on state and pressure in the future.

Improvements that have occurred can mainly be attributed to government interventions in the form of stricter controls by the Forest Department on access to and use of forest products, as well as intensified patrols by the Kenya Wildlife Service. In many forest IBAs such as Mount Kenya, the Aberdares and the Kikuyu Escarpment Forest (Kieni Block) where Non-Residential Cultivation has been recently stopped, the rate of exploitation of the forests has reportedly drastically gone down.

Secondly, the emergence and subsequent growth of pro-active Site Support Groups (SSGs) and other conservation-oriented Community Based Organisations has promoted conservation awareness among local people and a better understanding of the value and importance of the sites. Good examples are the Kikuyu Escarpment Forest, the Kinangop Highland Grasslands, Mukurwe-ini Valleys and Kakamega Forest.

The Site Support Groups have undertaken conservation measures including afforestation, policing, diversifying initiatives for local livelihoods and monitoring. A number of these SSGs are actively involved in detailed monitoring of key bird species and their habitat under the Darwin Initiative Project currently being implemented by Nature Kenya and National Museums of Kenya.

Heavy rains have intensified the problem of siltation in most lakes and swamps found in or near IBAs. This, compounded by pollution, human encroachment, and catchment degradation, has led to a general decline in the status of these sites and the quality of water, notably in Lake Victoria Papyrus Wetlands, Lake Nakuru and the Yala Swamp.

A number of sites have registered considerable deterioration of state. These include receding water levels at Lake Magadi, die-offs of Lesser Flamingo in Lake Bogoria, off-road driving in the Maasai Mara, illegal allocations of forest land in the Mau Complex and irrigation activities in the Yala Swamp. The squatter crisis and marijuana cultivation seriously degraded the Mount Kenya Forest, while the grazing pressure by elephants

has led to poorer habitat quality in Amboseli National Park.

Tremendous improvements have been recorded in Meru National Park where poaching has been drastically reduced, old boundaries recovered and habitat quality remarkably enhanced. In the Aberdares, the benefits of the electric fencing project undertaken by Rhino Ark is already yielding positive results in form of reduced illegal logging, rise in the number of the Bongo antelope and reduction in human-elephant conflicts. There is notable forest regeneration in Kikuyu Escarpment Forest (Kereita block). At the coast, the Coastal Forest Conservation Unit is working with communities to put in place regulatory measures on the use of forest products from the sacred Kaya forests.

Other sites, especially those in the Arid and semi-Arid Areas such as the Shaba and Samburu Game Reserves, Lake Turkana, Tsavo East and West, remain more or less intact due to low impact from human activity.

*Turner's Eremomela, globally endangered bird of the Kakamega and Nandi Forests*



## Pressure

The overriding threat to Kenya's IBAs is the ever-increasing human population coupled with changes in land-use. This has resulted in encroachment, fragmentation and general degradation of the natural habitat.

Illegal logging, charcoal production, firewood collection and harvesting of poles are still characteristic of most of the forest IBAs, although the Forest Department has instituted stricter controls in 2004. Cattle grazing and the problem of illegal squatters also affect some of the forests. Portions of national forest reserves such as the Mau Forest Complex, South and North Nandi forests have been excised.

In most forests, forest guards suffer from reduced logistical capacity to conduct effective patrols and offer protection. Farming activities around the Aberdare Forest, combined with the human-elephant conflict, is a major challenge in its conservation, while growing of marijuana in the Mount Kenya Forest remains a threat though reduced in scale.

In protected areas, threats seem to stem mainly from the challenges of management and implementation of site

plans. The grassland in Lake Nakuru National Park, for instance, is under strain partly due to the inability of herbivores to disperse beyond the fence and partly due to the voracious grazing by the White Rhino. In Nairobi National Park, considerable pressure has stemmed from the narrowing of the migration route in and out of the Park. There are conflicts between herdsman in the Kitengela wildlife dispersal areas and lions that move out of the park to seek herbivore prey that have been streaming out in search of better quality pasture.

In the Mara, heavy visitor pressure, off-road driving, land sub-division and wheat farming outside the reserve, and proliferation of infra-structural development continues to severely degrade the Maasai Mara Ecosystem. The browsing habits of elephants in the Amboseli National Park, coupled with overstocking and the pressure of grazing by the local pastoral communities, exert further pressure on this fragile ecosystem.

Many grassland and privately-owned IBAs, such as Kinangop Grasslands, Molo/Mau Narok Grasslands, and Mukurwe-ini Valleys are threatened with loss or degradation as a result of conversion to agriculture. Large portions of biodiversity-rich grasslands in the Kinangop Plateau have been converted to wheat and horticultural farms. Much of the Busia Grasslands are now under sugarcane plantations, and there is very little of the original grasslands left.

Many wetland IBAs continue to experience intense pressure from small and medium scale reclamation and encroachment for prime riparian agricultural land, and also from pollution and papyrus harvesting. These include Dunga Swamp, Sio Port, Kusa and Yala Swamps. A large part of the Yala Swamp is already earmarked for reclamation for a major long-term rice-farming project.

Fishing pressure, as well as drops in water levels due to catchment degradation, is a threat in Lakes Naivasha and Baringo. Lake Naivasha is also faced with the invasive species problem, including Water Hyacinth, Salvinia and the Louisiana Crayfish. The Water Hyacinth is almost choking the Dandora Sewage Treatment ponds.

Along the coast, many marine IBAs are affected by pollution and coral destruction from tourist activities and global warming. More potential degradation is anticipated from the proposed titanium mining project in Kwale, and the recent lifting of the ban on mangrove harvesting. The beachfronts also continue to attract investors in the hospitality industry with the potential impact of further degradation.

An outstanding challenge is the precarious position of IBAs outside the protected areas system, that almost invariably occur in localities with high human density. These IBAs face the most serious threats of habitat loss and conversion to agriculture, not least because they are privately owned. Much of the Lantana bushes that form the habitat for the endemic Hinde's Babbler in the Mukurwe-ini Valleys are now under coffee farms, and riverine vegetation is being removed at an alarming rate.

## Response

A number of interventions and responses to avert negative trends in Kenya's 60 Important Bird Areas were recorded in 2003/04.

Common to many IBAs is the upsurge in the number of Site Support Groups and Community Based Organisations working to take direct conservation action and to create conservation awareness among local people. Many of them, i.e. in Kakamega Forest, Arabuko-Sokoke Forest, Kikuyu Escarpment Forest, Kinangop Grasslands, Mukurwe-ini Valleys and Mt Kenya, have, with donor assistance (from United Nations Development Programme, Danish International Development Agency, United States Agency for International Development, European Union Biodiversity Conservation Programme, Kindernithilfe/NABU, etc.) been involved in initiating nature-based, non-consumptive enterprises (eco-tourism, butterfly farming, beekeeping and commercial tree nurseries) to ease pressure from the exploitative use of the resource base.

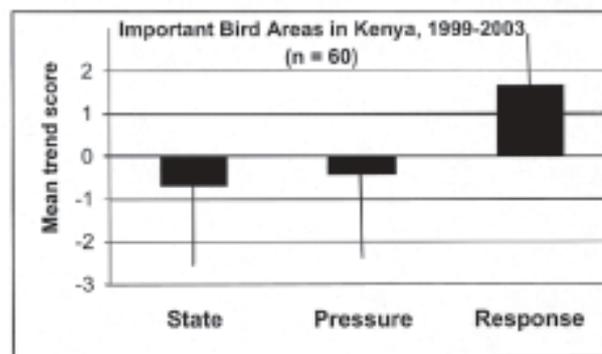
Nature Kenya and the National Museums of Kenya, with support from the Darwin Initiative, continue to strengthen the capacity of SSGs neighbouring six of the most critical IBAs to carry out detailed monitoring. Data generated is already being used to guide management of some of these sites. In Kinangop, data gathered over the last 4 years has been used to guide and initiate the acquisition of a parcel of the grassland, targeted at establishing a sanctuary for the globally threatened Sharpe's Longclaw. Monitoring data is being used to design drafts for site management plans in Dunga Swamp, Kikuyu Escarpment and Mukurwe-ini Valleys.

The Darwin Initiative support has also been used to build capacity within relevant government agencies in species and habitat monitoring. Training targeted the Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS), Forest Department (FD) and National Environment Management Authority (NEMA) staff from 54 of the 60 IBAs. The training has enhanced the ability of sixty government staff to carry out basic monitoring using standard forms – which is the basis of this report.

Other Government and Non-Government interventions include the formation of Game Scouts Associations and community policing strategies initiated by the African Conservation Centre in areas adjacent to the Amboseli and Tsavo parks. A similar strategy is in place at Mida Creek and Watamu Marine National Park, while the Coastal Forest Conservation Unit oversees the use of Kaya forests by local residents.

The fish stocks at Lakes Naivasha and Kanyaboli (in the Yala Swamp) have survived partly due to annual fishing bans imposed by the Fisheries Department. In an effort to reduce the abstraction of water, the Lake Naivasha Riparian Association is urging more and more of its member farmers to install water meters.

Many IBA sites in protected areas are now benefiting from the Kenya Wildlife Service's increased surveillance



*A summary of the survey results*

and habitat monitoring. Through better equipment and more proactive ecosystem change tracking, the KWS is now able to make management decisions informed by ecological realities in the field. Furthermore, the KWS has continued to send its field personnel for training in monitoring under the Nature Kenya/RSPB programme funded by the Darwin Initiative. About 45 of its officers have benefited from this training since the programme began in 2002. KWS (and the Koibatek and Baringo County Councils) also continue to provide logistical and technical support in the annual monitoring of waterfowl in the Rift Valley Lakes IBAs.

Several scientific research projects are ongoing in a number of IBAs. These include, among others:

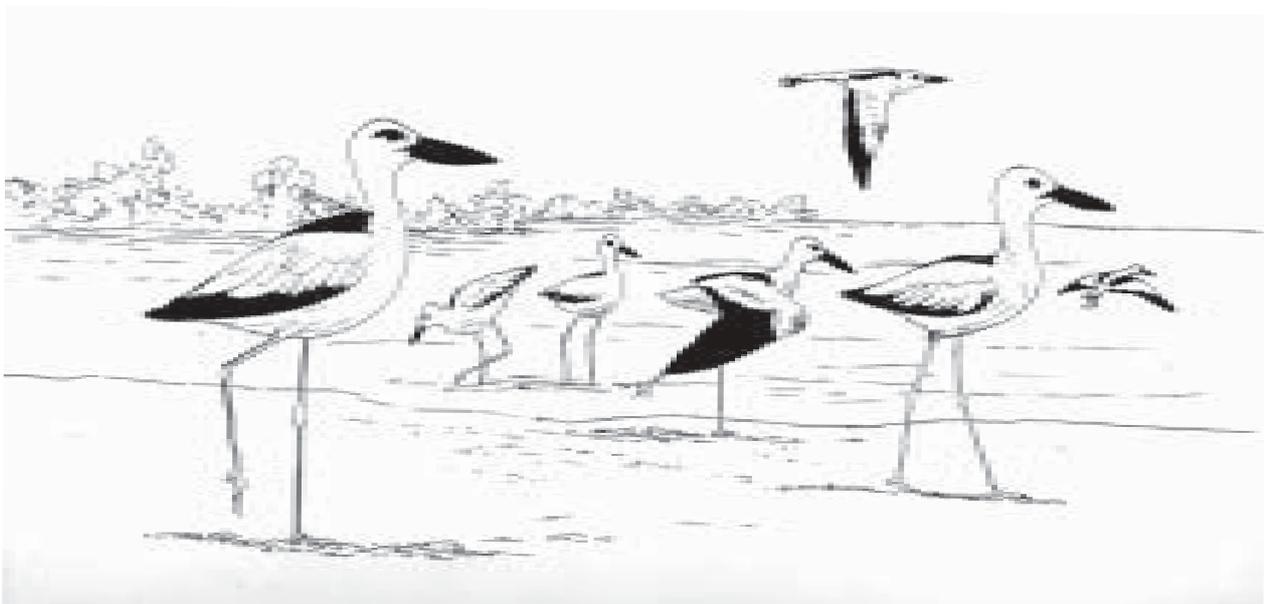
- Monitoring of wintering populations of the Blue Swallow in Ruma National Park
- Satellite tracking of Lesser Flamingo in the East African lakes
- A ringing scheme for songbirds in the Mwea National Reserve
- Surveillance of Cheetah populations in the Maasai Mara
- Control of the spread of the water hyacinth in Lake Victoria catchment
- Restoration in the Mau Forest Complex by World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF-EARPO)
- Monitoring using remote sensing in Mt Kenya by the Kenya Forest Working Group and UNEP's Division of Early Warning and Assessment (DEWA)
- Biodiversity assessment and monitoring in Kakamega Forest by BIOTA (Biodiversity Transect And Monitoring Analysis)

A recent response by the Forest Department has been the suspension of Non-Residential Cultivation and all associated activities including squatting in all government forests, a move aimed at reducing illegal logging, settlement and other ills associated with the practice. In 2003, all forest officers were suspended and those with clean records recalled in 2004 with new commitment and conditions.

# Recommendations: Key conservation actions needed

From the information gathered through visits, IBA basic monitoring forms and conversations with people working in IBAs, findings indicate that for these sites to improve in their conservation status or indeed to avoid further degradation, a number of general actions are needed:

- A complete halt to the de-gazettement of portions of Forest Reserves comprising IBAs, and repossession or re-gazettement of those allocated in 2001 following an excision process. This will restore the catchment functions of these forests while checking the rate of encroachment and exploitation by humans.
  - Improved logistical and personnel capacity of forest guards to patrol and protect critical forests. Reports indicate that the guards are under-equipped in many stations and are unable to deal adequately with those who violate forest protection laws at night, for instance. They are also ill prepared to handle the criminals between the often-long interval between arrest and prosecution. They are underpaid, their morale is extremely low and occasionally they receive offers to allow unauthorized use of the forest resources.
  - Discontinuation of the Non-Residential Cultivation policy or strict management in plantation forest management so as not to continue to attract squatters and accelerate forest destruction. Some people are said to destroy or damage tree seedlings so they do not grow into mature trees. Through this they can prolong their own stay in the forest. At the same time they reportedly collude with timber prospectors and saw-millers for small returns.
- Drawing up and implementation of sound Management Plans for sites, inclusive of inputs from all stakeholders. The management of many sites, including protected ones, is based on outdated management plans or none at all. Other sites have plans that exclude some key stakeholders, making the attainment of goals unlikely.
  - Training, encouragement or support for communities neighbouring IBAs to develop non-consumptive income generating initiatives, including eco-tourism and establishment of woodlots on their own land, so as to ease the pressure of exploitative encroachment on the natural habitat. Communities adjacent to Arabuko-Sokoke Forest, for instance, would benefit immensely from the woodlot scheme, as most logging targets wood for carving or for building poles.
  - Facilitation of the formation and training of Site Support Groups for IBAs that lack them, to sustainably carry out basic monitoring and habitat assessment while creating community conservation awareness.
  - Comprehensive surveys of biodiversity status of little visited, little-reported and potential IBAs so as to figure out and document their conservation needs. Information is badly needed to identify research, monitoring and conservation needs of these areas.



*Crab Plovers, a speciality of the Kenya Coast*



*Abbott's Starling, a threatened bird of Kenya's highland forests*

### Recommendations, continued

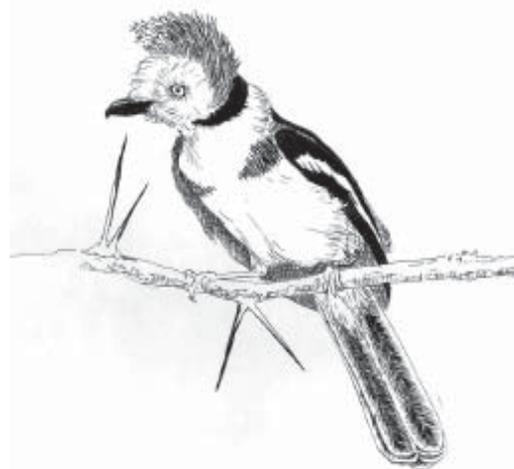
- Review and streamline the policy of mangrove harvesting at the Coast, recently revived by the Forest Department, so as to avoid over-exploitation, perhaps through a system to license harvesters and introduce quotas.
- Reconciliation of points of views of Councils of Elders and the Coastal Forest Conservation Union regarding access to Kaya forests at the Coast. The CFCU are attempting to promote sustainable use, but the elders are reluctant to participate.

### Recommendations specific to the forest sector:

- The Forest Department should urgently revise the policy on fuel wood extraction to provide for retention of the absolute minimum critical for the survival of threatened species. It is regrettable and unfortunate that fuel wood, which has always seemed to be a low impact resource extraction by local communities, is, in fact, an ecologically disastrous process.
- Any policies to exploit indigenous forests must take into account the effects on endemic and other globally threatened species that are very sensitive to any slight changes in their habitats. All indigenous forests in Kenya today must be given at least 25 years (starting now) to recover before any extractive timber use can be recommended. The Forest Department should urgently revise the existing forest extractive use policy to ensure that all forms of logging and pole cutting in indigenous forests are put to a complete stop so as to allow the forest to regenerate to full capacity.

In this regard it is critical that local communities are informed and involved in any forest and species recovery programmes. To succeed, private forests should be encouraged so as to provide alternative timber and energy needs to local communities.

- The Forest Department should establish policy and strategies to ensure that none of the remaining indigenous forests are subjected to further loss and fragmentation. Strategies to create corridors linking major forests, hence allowing inter-fragment gene flow and exchange, are critical for biodiversity survival.
- The Forest Department needs to develop strategies for reducing livestock grazing in forests, availing water outside the forest boundaries and working with farmers to avail fodder outside the forest. Resource user associations with clear governance and leadership structures need to be developed so that local communities can begin to control the use of the forest resource. There is urgent need for the Forest Department to work out new forest uses, such as beekeeping and sericulture, that have higher returns and have minimum effects on forest-dependent species of birds and other wildlife.
- The Forest Department must see that all forests are surveyed and title deeds acquired to prevent any future reduction in forest boundaries. The Kenya Government should urgently recognise that it has a responsibility to guarantee, to present and future generations, that the forests in Kenya will continue to play their pivotal role in human survival and national development.



*Grey-crested Helmet-shrikes live only in southern Kenya and northern Tanzania.*

# Annex 1: Sample of Individual Site Reports

## KE001 - Aberdare Mountains

**State: Improvement      Pressure: Slight  
improvement      Response: Major improvement**

Forest resource exploitation is more or less stopped and whatever is left of it is either illegal or controlled by the Forest Department through a quota system. The annual Rhino Charge challenge in 2003, helped raise a record Ksh. 26,345,000 to continue the erection of the fence around the park, a 60% increase over 2002.

### Information sources

- Butynski T. 1999 of Zoo Atlanta, *Wildlife fence placement study and recommendations*. pp 67 - 71. A report for KWS and FD
- Lambrechts, C., Woodley, B., Church, C., and Gachanja "Crisis" on the Aberdares *Swara Magazine* May 2003
- Mathenge, G. 2003 Delicate balancing act for Maathai on forests. Daily Nation Newspaper, Horizon. Thursday, January 16, 2003

### Other information

- Information from the IBA Basic Monitoring Form
- KWS Mweiga Station, P. O. Box 494, Nyeri, Tel. 061 4652, E-mail: konessd@mailafrica.net It would be useful to contact KWS Mweiga Research Station for more information on forest and park monitoring. Meanwhile, the research officers are setting priorities for what to monitor.
- Nation Media Group Eco-challenge Fund, P. O. Box 49010 Nairobi.
- IBA Paper database catalogue and press cuttings
- Safaricom Communications Limited, Nairobi

## State

So far 160 km of the park has been electrically fenced. Non-residential cultivation (shamba system) has been discontinued and this has somewhat eased pressure on forest product exploitation. Some 767 km<sup>2</sup> (80%) of the IBA is under full legal protection and policing is done by the KWS and Forest Department. There are a number of Community-Based Organizations focussing on the conservation and sustainable use of the park, but the number and membership is not known. Most of the CBOs are engaged in public awareness promotion towards the conservation of the Aberdares as well as afforestation programmes. Forest resource exploitation has been reduced considerably and whatever is left of it is controlled

by the Forest Department through quota a system. The population of Bongos and Giant Forest Hogs appears to be picking up again, and this is attributed to the culling programme for the lions that had predated upon them to near-non-viable levels. The park now holds an estimated 74 black Rhino, according to the park authorities. General policing is being undertaken by the KWS and Forest Department while resource quotas are controlled by the Forest Department. The deployment of National Youth Service personnel recently, has greatly improved the forest policing.

However, human-wildlife conflicts are ever escalating and the serious concern is that traditional elephant migration corridors between the Aberdares and Mt. Kenya are now settled, farmed or developed. The animals continue to inflict tolls on humans and their crops while at the same time the KWS and Forest Department have to balance between conserving the park, generating revenue and compensating local people for crop and life lost to animals; negative ecological impacts are felt in some sections that are already fenced off, from elephant activity. This is obviously in conflict with the fencing policy, and needs serious thought including prospects for translocation to other areas, and to raise more money through the Rhino Charge to complete the electric fence to check illegal logging and charcoal burning that still occur. Travel advisories from major Western countries has adversely affected revenue generation from tourism

## Pressure

**Illegal logging** (the survey counted about 9,425 illegally logged indigenous trees, including 4446 African Pencil Cedars). Now there is a ban on logging the rate seems to be going down somewhat. The main tree species that were targeted for selective logging were Camphor, *Juniperus* and *Podocarpus*.

**Charcoal production** (this could now be the single biggest threat facing the Aberdares: there were 14,499 charcoal kilns). This is most rampant on the range's western, southern and southeastern slopes. On escarpments bordering the rift valley, charcoal burning has already resulted into the destruction of up to 80% of the forest canopy (but there were fewer kilns within the fenced areas in the north and the western slopes).

**Cultivation of marijuana** and other food crops. 146 cultivated fields were observed in the survey, 16 of these, covering 3 hectares on the eastern slopes above Enderasha, Chinga and Wanjerere, were under marijuana. The rest was covered mainly by maize or tobacco.

**Accidental fires** from honey prospecting activities by some local people do cause devastating ecological effects including destruction of nests for ground-nesting birds.

**Livestock grazing**. About 18497 cattle were seen in the northern reaches, clearly affecting forest regeneration.

**Human-wildlife conflicts**, except among communities living in the already fenced off areas.

**Landslides** occasionally create considerable ecological damage in the rainy seasons.

**Elephant** browsing habits are a major cause of habitat alteration/degradation.

## Response

The Rhino Ark, in collaboration with the Nation Media Group (Nation Aberdare Forest Fund), has set up a fund raising initiative to build lasting benefits for the communities who live along the Aberdare fence, conserve its forests and one of East Africa's most famous rhino and wildlife sanctuaries. In the same way, *Safaricom*, a local cell phone company, has introduced Eco-Option credit top-up cards; the mobile phones service provider will then contribute some cash towards this initiative through the Nation Media Group. At least two government officials from the site have been trained in monitoring and management planning under the Darwin Initiative-funded project through Nature Kenya and the National Museums of Kenya over the past two years.

## Research and monitoring

The Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) is undertaking a long-term elephant monitoring project (elephants are estimated at 3116 in the park, forest reserve and adjoining dispersal area), a project to monitor the population of Bongo in the park and one involving the culling of lions. An aerial survey by KWS, UN Environment Programme (UNEP), Rhino Ark and Kenya Forests Working Group (KFWG) was successfully completed in June 2003 and is now a baseline upon which future monitoring of ecological and anthropogenic developments will be referenced. Jackson's Francolins are reported by the Park's ecologist to be present in considerable numbers but there are no existing recorded estimates of their population.

## Action needed

Regular periodic aerial surveys of the range to keep track of changes

Stricter enforcement of laws regulating access to and utilization of forest resources by the local people

A comprehensive survey of avifauna of the area so as to update existing information/database.

## Useful contacts

- Aberdare Research Station, P. O. Box 22 Nyeri
- Charles M. Mutune, Resident Wildlife Researcher, Aberdare National Park, Box 22, Nyeri
- Senior Warden, Aberdare National Park, P. O. Box 22, Nyeri, Tel. 061 55024 or 061 55486, E-mail: [Aberdare@africaonline.co.ke](mailto:Aberdare@africaonline.co.ke)
- Augustine Ajuoga, Field Officer, Aberdare National Park, P. O. Box 22, Nyeri, Tel. 061 55024 or 061 55486, E-mail: [Aberdare@africaonline.co.ke](mailto:Aberdare@africaonline.co.ke)
- Kenya Forest Working Group, c/o East African Wildlife Society, Nairobi
- Nyandarua District Forest Officer, P. O. Box 28, Nyeri
- The Rhino Ark, P. O. Box 28, Nyeri
- Godfrey Mutuarugi, Kabage Forest Station, P. O. Box 28, Nyeri
- Robert Ngotho, P. O. Box 28, Nyeri, Tel. 061 2021
- Officer in charge, Nyeri field office, Kenya Forestry Research Institute (KEFRI), P. O. Box 28, Nyeri

# Annex 2: Sample of a completed Basic Monitoring Form

*(answers in bold type)*

1. Name of the IBA (please use a new form for each site)  
**Isecheno section of Kakamega**

2. Today's date **17/11/03**

3. Your name: **Rosalyn Shikami – one of the participant in the workshop (also a KEEP member).**

4. Your contacts:  
postal address:  
telephone/fax  
e-mail:

5. Does this form cover (a) the whole IBA • or (b) **just part of the IBA?** • (tick one box) part

If (b), which part / how much of the whole area?  
Isecheno 2100 ha

6. Are you resident at the IBA? (a) **Yes** • (b) No • yes  
If (b) — what was the date and duration of the visit(s) you are reporting on?

— what was the purpose of your visit(s)?

7. Please summarise the **current** status of natural habitat in the IBA, based on your observations and information, by circling a score from 1 to 4 below:

- 1 Largely intact and undisturbed
- 2 Slight decline in habitat area or quality** **yes**
- 3 Substantial decline in habitat area or quality
- 4 Severe decline in habitat area or quality

8. Please summarise the level of immediate future threats to the IBA, based on your observations and information, by circling a score from 1 to 4 below:

- 1 No obvious immediate threats
- 2 Slight**
- 3 Substantial
- 4 Severe

9. Please give any further information and details that you think may be helpful. Please attach or send more sheets or other documents/reports if necessary. There is no need to answer all the questions or fill in all the tables — please just put down the information that you have available. If possible, please attach a MAP (a copy of a topographical map, or a simple sketch map) showing the location/extent of the threats/actions that you identify, and the location of any records.

i. Current status

(a) General comments:

**Although the threat (agriculture) has been going on seriously, this has evolved to even burning the vegetation in view of preparing this site – has led to no growth or under regeneration of forest species.**

(b) Specific changes. Please give information on the extent and rate of recent change (state the period) – provide numbers wherever possible.

ii. Threats/conservation issues: (a) General comments:

(b) Specific threats: Please assess the intensity of the threat, whether this is increasing, decreasing, or stable, and give details or comments to explain your assessment. Please give quantitative information as far as possible. The threats of chief concern are those that may affect the bird species for which the IBA is listed – including overflying migrant species in the case of ‘bottleneck’ IBAs

Threat class	Intensity	Trend	Explanation/details
Abandonment/reduction of land management			
Agricultural intensification/expansion	<b>A-</b>	+	
Aquaculture/fisheries			
Burning of vegetation	<b>B</b>	<b>0</b>	
Consequences of animal/plant introductions	<b>C</b>	<b>0</b>	
Construction/impact of dyke/dam/barrage			
Deforestation (commercial)	<b>A</b>	+	
Disturbance to birds	<b>A</b>	+	
Drainage			
Dredging/canalisation			
Extraction industry	<b>C</b>		
Filling-in of wetlands			
Firewood collection	<b>A</b>	+	
Forest grazing	<b>A</b>	+	
Groundwater abstraction			
Industrialization/urbanization/infrastructure/intensified forest management			
Natural events			
Recreation/tourism	<b>B</b>	+	
Selective logging/cutting			
Shifting agriculture	<b>A</b>	+	
Unsustainable exploitation	<b>A</b>	+	
Other (please specify)			

#### Codes for intensity of threat

A	High	B	Medium	C	Low
U	Unknown	N/a	Not applicable		

#### Codes for trend of threat

-	Threat decreasing	0	Threat stable	+	Threat increasing
U	Unknown	N/a	Not applicable		

Period assessed	From:	To:	Details
Status variable		Change score	
Habitat area			
Habitat quality			
Bird populations (specify species/groups)			
Other			
Scores for changes			
-	Decline (unknown extent)		
- 3	Large decline		
- 2	Moderate decline		
- 1	Slight decline		
0	No change		
+	Improvement (unknown extent)		
+1	Small improvement		
+2	Moderate improvement		
+3	Large improvement		
N/a	Not applicable		
U	Not assessed		

**iii. Conservation actions/responses**

(a) General comments:

(b) **Specific actions or responses:** Please assess each action or response (improving, declining, no change, not applicable) and give details or comments to explain your assessment. Please give quantitative information as far as possible.

<b>Actions/responses</b>	<b>Score</b>	<b>Explanation/details</b>
Legal/protected area status	+	<b>Forest reserve</b>
% of IBA under legal protection	+	<b>Wholly protected</b>
Establishment of local conservation group(s)	+	<b>KEEP (1995)</b>
Number of local conservation groups	+	<b>Many... 30 groups</b>
Number of local conservation group members	+	<b>200</b>
Activities of local conservation groups	+	<b>Estab. of nurseries/cultural activities</b>
Development of site action plan		
Implementation of action plan		
General management and policing	+	
Resource use controls/quotas	+	<b>Set areas for diff resource uses</b>
Eco-tourism initiatives <sup>a</sup>	+	<b>Improved tourism facilities</b>
Visitor numbers <sup>a</sup>	+	
Number of conservation staff and volunteers		
Revenue generated from site		
Surveys and research	+	
Conservation projects/actions: planned	+	<b>Resource centres/educ. environ. awareness</b>
Conservation projects/actions: implemented	+	<b>Most ecotourism facilities Environ. approaches have been done</b>
Advocacy/interventions for site		
Publicity generated for site		
Environmental Impact Assessments	+	<b>All the conserv. Projects have been done the same</b>
Mitigation measures implemented		
Other (specify):		

Score: + improving, – declining, 0 no change, N/a not applicable

<sup>a</sup>Note that the conservation effects of increased eco-tourism and visitor numbers are not always positive – please explain your rating

v. Interesting bird records, population estimates, lists or other details

**Grey Parrot, Gt Blue Turaco, Turner’s Eremomela, Chapin’s Flycatcher**

vi. Records, population estimates, lists or details for other fauna or flora

**The area has several lists of flora & fauna:**

**Mammals: Potto, Red-tailed Monkey (7 spp primate)**

**Birds (330 sp)**

**400 spp butterfly**

**Snakes (27 spp)**

**Flora: Olea capensis, Misopsis emini, Prunus africana, Markamia lutea, Croton megalocarpus**

vii. Useful contacts (for research projects, site conservation groups, tourism initiatives, etc.)

**Marina Cords**

**Peter Fashing**

**KEEP**

**ESOK/NK**

viii. Other notes



*Chapin’s Flycatcher, a threatened bird found in Kakamega Forest*

# Annex 3: Contributors

The following have contributed to this IBA monitoring and conservation status report from their site visits by completing the IBA Basic Monitoring forms. Some teams have submitted more than one bird record/checklists of the areas they visited. We owe you lots of thanks and hope you continue to make similar spirited contributions.

Richard Bagine-KWS  
Erastus Kanga-KWS  
Jackson Kingoo-KWS  
Samuel Andanje-KWS  
Stephen Nyaga-KWS  
Munene Rauni-KWS  
Kimutai David- KWS  
Shadrack Ngene-KWS  
Anne Kahihia-KWS  
Jarso Guyo-KWS  
Augustine Ajuoga-KWS  
Gambre Albert-KWS  
George Mwangi-KWS  
Philemon Ole Nachuru-KWS  
Samuel Kasiki-KWS  
Jackson Asila-KWS  
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Alex Lemakhokho-FD  
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Francis Mathinji-FD  
Shame Ali Ndaro-FD  
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David Makonjio-FD  
Martin Shitali-FD  
Eliud M. Isutsha-FD  
Daniel Kipng'eno-FD  
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Godfrey Kabage-FD  
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Judy Gichare-FD  
Wycliffe Misoi FD  
Samuel Mathiu-FD  
Dickson Achola-FD  
DFO Kiambu-FD  
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Wellingtone Kombe-FD  
Helida Oyieke-NMK  
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Sylvester Karimi-NMK  
Simon Musila-NMK  
Titus Imboma-NMK  
Wanyoike Wamiti-NMK  
Muchai Muchane NMK  
Martin Kahindi-NMK  
Ronald Mulwa-NMK  
Nicodemus Nalianya-NMK  
Paul Webala-NMK  
Philister Malaki-NMK  
Patrick Gichuki- NMK  
Nickson Otieno-NMK  
Alfred Owino-NMK  
Anne Auma-NMK  
Patrick Malonza-NMK  
Bernard Amakobe-NMK  
John Musina-NMK  
David Gitau NMK  
Onesmus Kioko-NMK  
Timothy Mwinami-NMK

Peter Nyamenya-NMK  
Kisumu  
Oliver Nasirwa-WWT  
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Anthony Kiragu-NK  
Dan Omolo-NK  
Shailesh Patel-NK  
Solomon Mwangi- NK  
Bernd de Bruijn-NK  
Itai Shanni-NK  
Anne Gathitu-NK  
Leon Bennun-BirdLife  
William Olang-NK  
Brian Finch -EAOS  
Bernard Obera-KCC  
Colin Jackson-AK  
Nature Kenya's Sunday  
(pot-luck) Bird Walks  
Peter Kamau Mwangi  
David Kuria-KENVO  
Lake Victoria Sunset  
Birders  
Anne Theuri-NEMA  
Rauri Bowie  
Waterfowl Count  
Volunteers  
Reuben Ndolo-EW/RVLP  
Timothy Marangu  
Kipkorir Cheruiyot  
James Shindiyo-Samburu  
County Council  
Friends of Kinangop  
Plateau  
Members of MEVO  
Members of KENVO  
Members of ASFGA  
Robert Njue  
M.K. Komen-NEMA  
John Kio-LEBSHG  
Samuel Gitahi-LNRA  
Boniphase Kariuki  
Joseph Kariuki  
Douglas Gachucha-FoKP  
Peter K. Mwangi  
Bernard Chege-KMS  
Kevin Mazera  
Gabriel Ngale  
Abdulrahman Matano  
Quentin Luke  
Elias Kimaru  
Hamisi Mdudu  
Juma Lumumba  
Nairobi Ringing Group  
Emmanuel Thoya  
Absalom Kaisha Muyesu  
Wycliffe Khamala  
Gilfrid Powys  
Briggitte Wanjiku  
Erick Buchwald  
Marieta Alfaro

Hector Gomez de Silva  
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Joseph O. Ochiel  
Andrew M. Waweru  
John Baya Mitsanze-CFCU  
Simon Mwanyumba-  
MRIMADZO  
Nassir Abdallah Bege-  
MRIMADZO  
Moses Lotorah  
S. Kibicho  
Simon Thomsett  
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Members of Friends of  
Bogoria  
Philip Kirui-WCK (Western)  
Simon Mkalla-WCK (Western)  
Abila-KEMFRI  
Priscilla Boera-KEMFRI  
Dedan Mungai-Fisheries Dept  
Ochola-LBDA  
Maurice Otieno-PEnO  
(Nyanza)  
Opiyo Oduwo-OSIENALA  
Elias Awuondo-OSIENALA



Clarke's Weaver, known only from the Arabuko-Sokoke Forest and the unprotected Dakatcha Woodland

## List of Acronyms

ASFGA = Arabuko Sokoke Forest Guides Association  
AK = A Rocha Kenya  
BI = BirdLife International  
CFCU = Coastal Forest Conservation Unit

DFO Kisumu = District Fisheries Officer (Kisumu)  
EW/RVLP = Earthwatch Rift Valley Lakes Project  
EAOS = East African Ornithological Safaris  
FD = Forest Department  
FoKP = Friends of Kinangop Plateau  
KCC= Kisumu City Council  
KEMFRI = Kenya Marine and Fisheries Research Institute  
KMS = Kenya Museum Society  
KENVO = Kijabe Environment Volunteers  
KWS = Kenya Wildlife Service  
LBDA = Lake Basin Development Authority  
LEBSHG = Lake Elmenteita Birdwatchers and Self-help Group  
LNRA = Lake Naivasha Riparian Association  
LVSF = Lake Victoria Sunset Birders  
MRC= Mpala Research Centre  
MEVO = Mukurwe-ini Environment Volunteers  
MRIMADZO = Mrima Hill, Marenje and Dzombo Forest Organization  
NbiRG = Nairobi Bird Ringing Group  
NEMA = National Environment Management Authority  
NK = Nature Kenya  
NMK = National Museums of Kenya  
OSIENALA = Friends of Lake Victoria  
PEnO = Provincial Environment Officer (Nyanza)  
WCK = Wildlife Clubs of Kenya  
WWF = Worldwide Fund For Nature  
WWT = Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust

## Acknowledgements

Collection of data, which forms the basis of this report, is a joint effort between the Forest Department, Kenya Wildlife Service, National Museums of Kenya, Site Support Groups, Nature Kenya, and other Important Bird Areas National Liaison Committee (IBA-NLC) institutions. We greatly appreciate the effort that all of you have put into this work. We particularly wish to thank all members of the National IBA Monitoring Focal Point: Kenya Wildlife Service, the Forest Department, Wildlife Clubs of Kenya, African Conservation Centre, IUCN (the World Conservation Union), Kenya Forests Working Group, National Environment Management Authority and National Museums of Kenya.

Our appreciation also to Nature Kenya members, members of various Site Support Groups, individual birdwatchers, scientists and tourists who took the time to fill in the monitoring forms. Your contribution has been very useful. This report would not have been completed without further valuable editorial and review input from Fleur Ng'weno, Catherine Ngarachu and Robinson Mugo of Nature Kenya; the Director of Nature Kenya, Paul Matiku; Dr. Muchai Muchane, Head, Department of Ornithology, NMK; Paul Buckley, Dr. Paul Donald and Richard Gregory of the RSPB and Professor William Sutherland of the University of East Anglia.

Last but by no means least, we would like to recognise the vital contribution from the Darwin Initiative of the UK Government for providing the seed money for this project and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) for technical support and advice in the implementation and management of the project. The Project Advisory Group (Leon Bennun, Paul Matiku, Richard Bagine, Helida Oyieke, Paul Buckley, Bill Sutherland, Chris Bowden) provided strategic direction on the implementation of the monitoring framework. This work is coordinated by Nature Kenya (the East Africa Natural History Society).



*Papyrus Gonolek, restricted to papyrus swamp wetlands*

