Kenya's **Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs)**
Status & Trends 2023

Publications available at Nature Kenya

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Kenya's Important Bird Areas — Status and Trends 2012-2013

Kenya's Important Bird Areas Status & Trends 2014

Kenya's Important Bird Areas Status & Trends 2015

Kenya's Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas Status & Trends 2016

Kenya's Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) Status & Trends 2017

Kenya's Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) Status & Trends 2018

Kenya's Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) Status & Trends 2019

Kenya's Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) Status & Trends 2020

Kenya's Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) Status & Trends 2021

Kenya's Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) Status & Trends 2022

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Birds of Dakatcha Woodland IBA

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▶▶ **Checklists**

Checklist of the Birds of Dakatcha Woodland

Checklist of the Birds of Sabaki Estuary

Nairobi National Park — Bird Check List

Checklist of the Birds of Kenya — Fifth Edition — Bird Committee, Nature Kenya East Africa Natural History Society Nairobi, June 2019

Checklist of the Birds of Boni - Dodori

Kenya's
Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs)
Status and Trends
2023

Compiled by
Paul Gacheru, Joshua Sese, Timothy Mwinami, Benard Ngoru, James Mwang'ombe, Ronald Mulwa, Linus Kariuki, and Harron Wanjohi

Edited by
Fleur Ng'weno and Paul Matiku

Layout by
Mshenga Mwacharo

Collaborating Organizations
Nature Kenya, Kenya Forest Service (KFS), Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS), National Museums of Kenya (NMK), Wildlife Research & Training Institute (WRTI), National Environment Management Authority (NEMA), Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) and BirdLife International

Cover Photo: Bateleur (*Terathopius ecaudatus*)

Bateleur (*Terathopius ecaudatus*) conservation status was up listed to Endangered IUCN RedList category in 2020 and considered to be at very high risk of extinction. The Bateleur is a remarkable and easily recognizable raptor. "Bateleur" is derived from the French word for "tightrope walker," a reference to the bird's acrobatic flight patterns. In Kenya the species inhabits open country, including grasslands and wooded savanna in locations like Masai Mara, Samburu, the Tsavo ecosystem and Nairobi National Park. Threats faced by Bateleurs include poisoning, and habitat loss resulting in landscape degradation. Bateleurs are opportunistic feeders that sometimes feed on carrion. If they feed on a carcass that is a bait laced with poison targeting a problematic predator such as a lion or hyena, they may become poisoned and die.

Photo by Lorenzo Barelli

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Disclaimer

The views and opinions in this report are not necessarily those of the donors who have financially supported its production.

Papyrus Gonolek by Edwinn Selempo

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) are areas contributing significantly to the global persistence of biodiversity. These areas are appropriately identified using a global standard of criteria of identification of Key Biodiversity Areas adopted in 2016 during the IUCN Congress.

Globally, there are more than 16,400 KBAs. Kenya accounts for 109 KBAs, sites identified on the basis of different taxa, including 68 sites identified on the basis of birds. These are also known as Important Bird Areas (IBA). Every year, assessments are carried out to determine the condition of Kenya's KBAs, the threats facing them and any responses to safeguard them.

Basic Monitoring Protocol, globally designed monitoring criteria that assesses the STATE, PRESSURE, and RESPONSE, is the methodology used to assess Kenya's KBAs. This monitoring protocol has been used since 2004, illustrating important trends. The STATE score (ranging between 0: Very unfavorable to 3: Favorable) measure the condition of the KBA based on trigger species (a species by which at least one KBA criterion and associated threshold is met) and habitat condition (Quality and Quantity). The PRESSURE score (ranging from 0: Low to 3: Very high) measures the status and intensity of threats faced or experienced in the KBA, affecting the habitat and trigger species. The RESPONSE score (ranging from 0: Negligible to 3: High) evaluates the conservation actions being implemented in the KBA and supporting overall conservation of KBAs in Kenya.

In 2023, 56 sites (accounting for 82% of KBAs identified on the basis of birds, and 46% of all KBAs in Kenya) were assessed following the basic monitoring protocol. Overall, since 2004, the STATE of the KBAs has remained STABLE, PRESSURE has continued to MOUNT and RESPONSE has been on a DECLINE. Between 2022 and 2023, there was a decline in the PRESSURE and RESPONSE scores, and a small improvement in the KBAs' STATUS score.
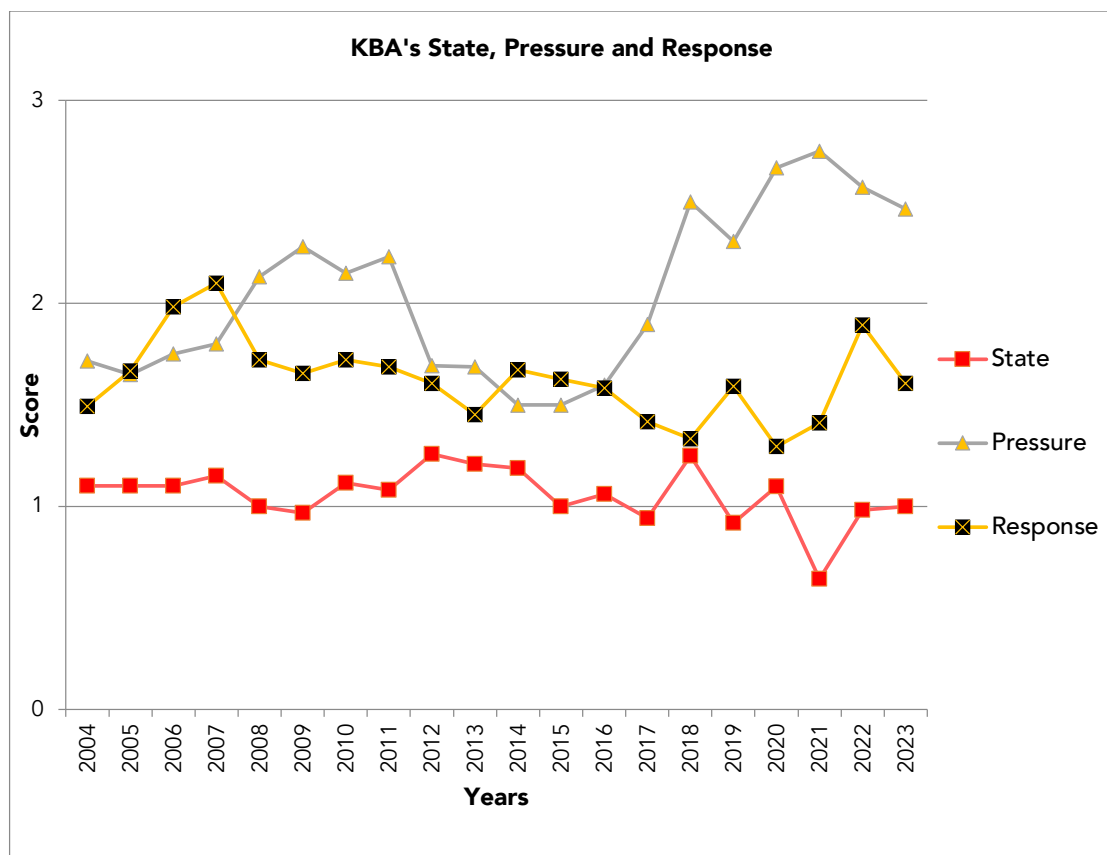
Figure 1: Mean scores for trend of STATE, PRESSURE and RESPONSE for Kenya's Key Biodiversity Areas between 2004-2023

Summary of Recommendations

1. Support, promote and implement actions on the restoration of forests and landscapes according to the UN Decade of Ecosystem Restoration 2021-2030.

2. Encourage sustainable green value chains in production processes.

3. Prioritize sustainable alternatives such as community-based renewable energy solutions to regulate and monitor fuelwood consumption and prevent deforestation.

4. Integrate biodiversity considerations across all sectors of Kenya's economy.

5. Adopt, apply and implement international best practices in infrastructure development projects following global standards and tools – i.e. IFC Performance Standard 6,

6. Undertake economic valuations for natural/ biodiversity capital in Kenya, informed by detailed ecosystem services, to inform government decisions on resource allocation.

7. Promote development and implementation of County spatial planning, ensuring ecosystem connectivity through effective management practices.

8. Explore innovative financing mechanisms to incentivize local communities living in or near important conservation areas.

9. Strengthen the skills of county officials in environmental matters, including policy development.

10. Promote and integrate citizen science approaches for education, awareness and data capture.

11. Recognize Key Biodiversity Areas identification to guide conservation priority setting in Kenya.

12. Avoid building nuclear energy facilities in high-biodiversity locations or near the ocean at a time of rising sea levels.

Moorlands within the Aberdare Forest. Photo by John Mwacharo

KEY RESULTS

KBA STATE: Status of Habitats and Species

The STATE scores range between 0: *Very unfavorable* to 3: *Favorable*, measuring the condition of the KBA based on trigger species (a species meeting at least one KBA criterion and associated threshold) and habitat condition (Quality and Quantity). Overall, as shown in Figure 2 since 2004, the STATE of KBAs in Kenya has remained STABLE with scores falling between 'VERY UNFAVOURABLE' and 'FAVOURABLE' based on the condition of the habitats and the species. Comparing STATE score between 2022 and 2023 a slight IMPROVEMENT of score from 0.98 to 1.0 was registered. Overall, the average STATE score of KBAs is regarded as UNFAVOURABLE.

In 2023 only three (3) KBAs had a 'FAVOURABLE' STATE score: Lake Bogoria National Reserve (KE 045), Mau Forest Complex (KE 051), and Mrima Hill Forest (KE 018). This is a decline from five in 2022. Of the three sites, only Lake Bogoria National Reserve retained the favourable score. Forty-seven (47) sites had 'UNFAVOURABLE' state score while six (6) had 'VERY UNFAVOURABLE' state score – these include Kianyaga Valleys, Lake Naivasha, Lake Nakuru National Park, Maasai Mara National Reserve, Mukurweini Valleys and Tana River Delta.

The changes in the STATE of the KBAs was attributed, but not limited, to:

1. Extreme unprecedented weather events resulting in prolonged droughts from 2020 to 2023, particularly over the 2022-2023 dry season, affecting vegetation cover. Wildlife populations were affected; for example 10% of Endangered Grevy's zebra died as a result of drought in the Samburu landscape, and 6,000+ individual wildlife (elephants, wildebeest, etc.) in the Amboseli landscape.

2. Continued high water levels within the Rift Valley lakes reduced the alkalinity of the lakes and their ability to sustain the cyanobacteria that is the main food of Lesser Flamingoes, affecting their population.

3. Many wetland areas were highly affected by the prolonged drought, resulting to low water levels in some wetlands such as Lake Ol'Bolossat; and the drying up of seasonal wetlands that are the breeding areas of the endemic Clarke's (Kilifi) Weaver in Kilifi County until mid-2023.

4. Increased landscape degradation in Key Biodiversity Areas resulting from incursions of large herds of livestock in search of pasture, exhausting the seed bank of grasses and trees.

5. Proliferation of invasive plant species following the rains towards the end of 2023, i.e. *Prosopis juliflora, Ipomoea hildebrandtii,* invasive plant colonisers in the absence of pasture.

6. Negative ecological footprint of infrastructure projects, such as roads and powerlines, are cutting through sensitive ecosystems, and settlements are encroaching on natural habitats. Increased human activity is leading to pollution and habitat degradation.
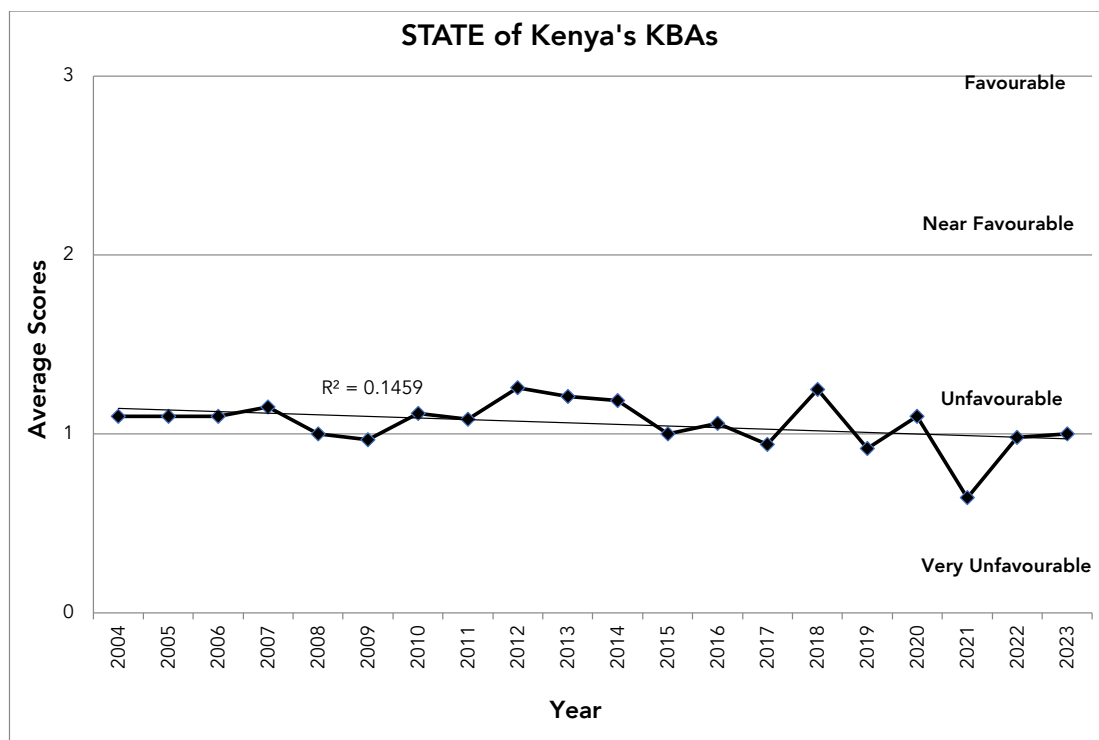

Figure 2: Mean score for trend of STATE Score for Kenya's Key Biodiversity Areas between 2004-2023

PRESSURE: Threats to KBAs

PRESSURE scores ranging from 0: *Low* to 3: *Very high*, measure the extent and intensity of threats faced or experienced in the KBA, affecting the habitat and trigger species. Overall, since 2004, PRESSURE has continued to MOUNT in KBAs with a steady increase documented from 2015 (Figure 3. From 2021, it has been on a slightly declining trend; the 'PRESSURE' score in 2021, 2022 and 2023 has been, 2.75, 2.57, and 2.46 respectively.

In 2023, only one site had a 'LOW' pressure score i.e. Dzombo Hill Forest (KE 010), one site had a 'MEDIUM' pressure score i.e. Mau Forest Complex (KE 051). Twenty-five (25) KBAs had the average pressure score 'HIGH' while twenty-nine (29) recorded a score of 'VERY HIGH'.

The threats documented included, but are not limited to:

1. Planned and ongoing infrastructural developments in Kenya such as the road construction/upgrade through the Aberdare forest; and the planned nuclear power generation plant to be built along the Kenyan coast.

2. Land use changes causing habitat fragmentation, loss and degradation as a result of conversion of grasslands to croplands, increased cultivation and intensive livestock production, documented in Kinangop highland grassland.

3. Unchecked and unregulated deforestation – clearing of forests for firewood, timber extraction and charcoal production, i.e. Mangrove forests at the Kenyan coast; pockets of riverine forest in Tana River Delta.

4. Wildlife poaching, i.e. poaching of Gray Crowned Crane chicks and eggs in Lake Ol'Bolossat; small game snaring in Arabuko-Sokoke Forest, Dakatcha Woodland, and Tsavo East NP.

5. Collision and electrocution of bird by energy infrastructure such as powerlines and wind turbines.

6. Water pollution, resulting to accidental poisoning of wildlife and bioaccumulation in food web, recorded at Lake Nakuru and Lake Naivasha.

7. Mineral prospecting and mining, including planned limestone mining affecting Chasimba KBA, and prospecting for Titanium close to Arabuko-Sokoke Forest and in the Tana River Delta.

8. Disposal of brine by salt manufacturing factories along the Kenyan coast, affecting mangrove forests by killing trees due to increase in water salinity.

9. Unregulated livestock numbers, increasing pressure on pasture and competition with wildlife, resulting to human wildlife conflict and rangeland degradation; documented in Amboseli, Masai Mara, and Samburu-Laikipia landscapes.

10. Climate change impacts resulting in weather extremes like prolonged droughts and patchy rainfall distribution.
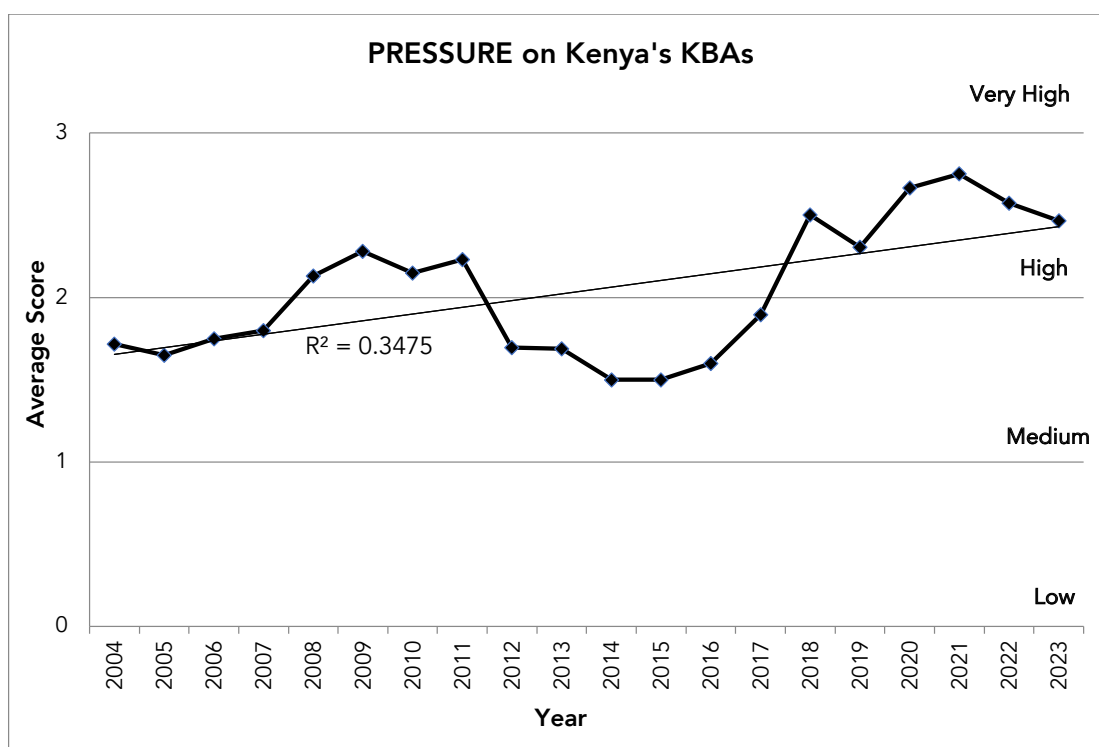
Figure 3: Mean score for trend of PRESSURE Score for Kenya's Key Biodiversity Areas between 2004-2023

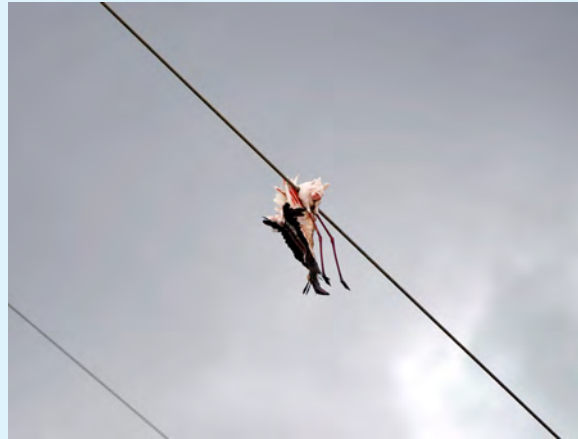## Bird Collision with Power lines at Lake Elmenteita Key Biodiversity Area

By Paul Gacheru, Richard Kipngeno, Joshua Sese

Part of the high voltage transmission line passing close to Lake Elmenteita. Photo by John Mwacharo

Power lines have been documented to pose significant risks of electrocution and collision to large birds, influenced by poor design and routing. Results from the power line survey work carried out from October 2022 to September 2023 besides Lake Elmenteita KBA, a total 20 incidents of 10 bird species fatally interacting with power lines were documented. In an area with numerous predators, it is likely that there were other, unrecorded casualties.

Bird species of conservation concern directly documented were Tawny Eagle (*Aquila rapax*) VU and Lesser Flamingo (*Phoeniconaias minor*) NT. It was estimated that power lines around Lake Elmenteita had a collision risk (which may also result to electrocution) of mean 1.15±SE 0.47 Incidents/Km along High Voltage Transmission Lines.

A dead flamingo dangling on a power line near Lake Elmenteita. Photo by John Mwacharo

In a comparison of bird collision incidents between different power lines around Lake Elmenteita, results show that the area where both the old and new power lines run parallel to each other had the highest number of collisions, followed by the old transmission line and the stand alone new transmission line (see Figure 4 below).
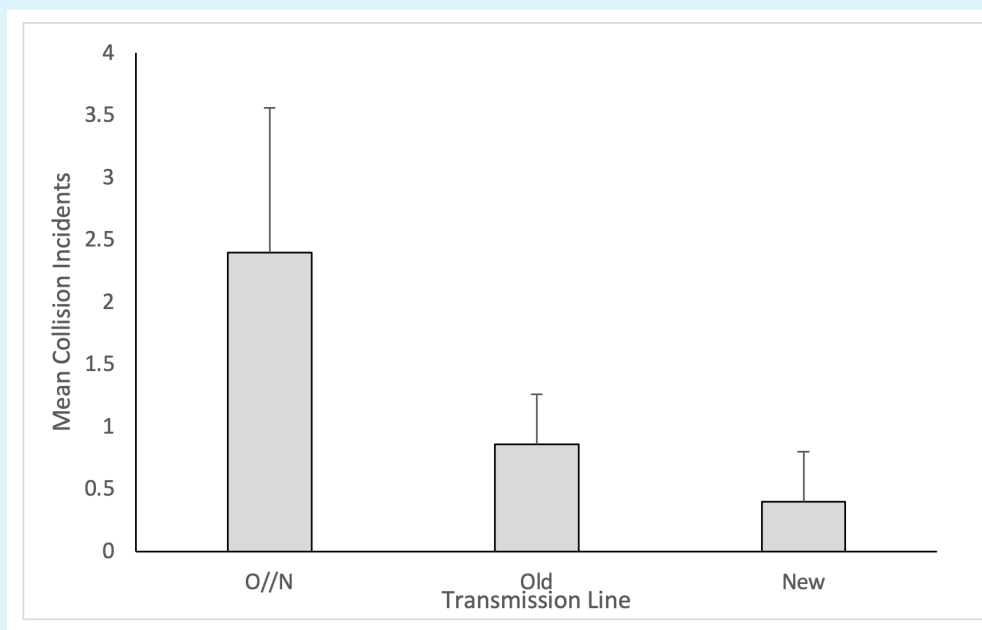
Figure 4: Comparison of Recorded Collision Incidents between: Old & New Line Interchange and Running Parallel to each other (O//N), Cold transmission Line (Old), and New Transmission Line (New)

Plight of Grey Crowned Cranes in Lake Ol'Bolossat

By Wanyoike Wamiti

Lake Ol'Bolossat, (KE 061) in Nyandarua County was reported to be drying up in 2022. The lake, whose water supports the livelihoods of communities in the dry Laikipia, Samburu, Isiolo and Garissa counties, has long been a very important breeding ground for the globally threatened Grey Crowned Crane (*Balearica regulorum*, EN). During Kenya's first countrywide Grey Crowned Crane census (GCCC) of 2019, over 100 breeding pairs of the species were recorded at the lake. However, it is reported that only 8 chicks fledged from this population. This suggests that the cranes stopped their breeding activities and gathered in alternative areas with available food sources as a result of the lake and other wetlands drying up (Wamiti *et al.* 2023). Findings from the second GCCC (Wamiti *et al.* 2023), pointed out that the main threats to this iconic bird are habitat loss and degradation, water abstraction, captive keeping of cranes, poisoning, removal of eggs and chicks in the wild, electrocution, poaching, overgrazing and burning of wetland vegetation. Similar threats were mentioned in the first GCCC (Wamiti *et al.*

RESPONSE: Conservation Actions in KBAs

The RESPONSE score ranging from 0: *Negligible* to 3: *High*, evaluates the conservation actions being implemented in a KBA and supporting overall conservation of KBAs in Kenya. Overall, from 2004, the RESPONSE score recorded in KBAs has not been stable (Figure 5). Between the years 2022 and 2023, there was a decline in the RESPONSE score from 1.89 to 1.61. This is the first time the score reduced since 2020, however; 2020, impacted by the coronavirus pandemic, had the lowest score of 1.29.

In 2023, six (6) KBAs recorded a 'NEGLIGIBLE' response score, twenty (20) sites had a 'LOW', 20 had a 'MEDIUM' score, while the remaining ten (10) had a 'HIGH' response score. The ten sites were: Aberdare Mountains, Amboseli National Park, Dzombo Hill Forest, Kikuyu Escarpment Forest, Kirisia Forest Reserve, Lake Elmenteita, Masai Mara, Mount Kenya, Nairobi National Park, and Taita Hills Forests. This year, the number with a 'HIGH' response score reduced from 19 to 10, although seven retained the 'HIGH' score.

Despite the average decline in the RESPONSE score, there are notable conservation efforts in these sites. There are leading efforts from county and national governments; national agencies like Kenya Forest Service and Kenya Wildlife Service; non-governmental and civil society organizations; and community groups such as Site Support Groups.
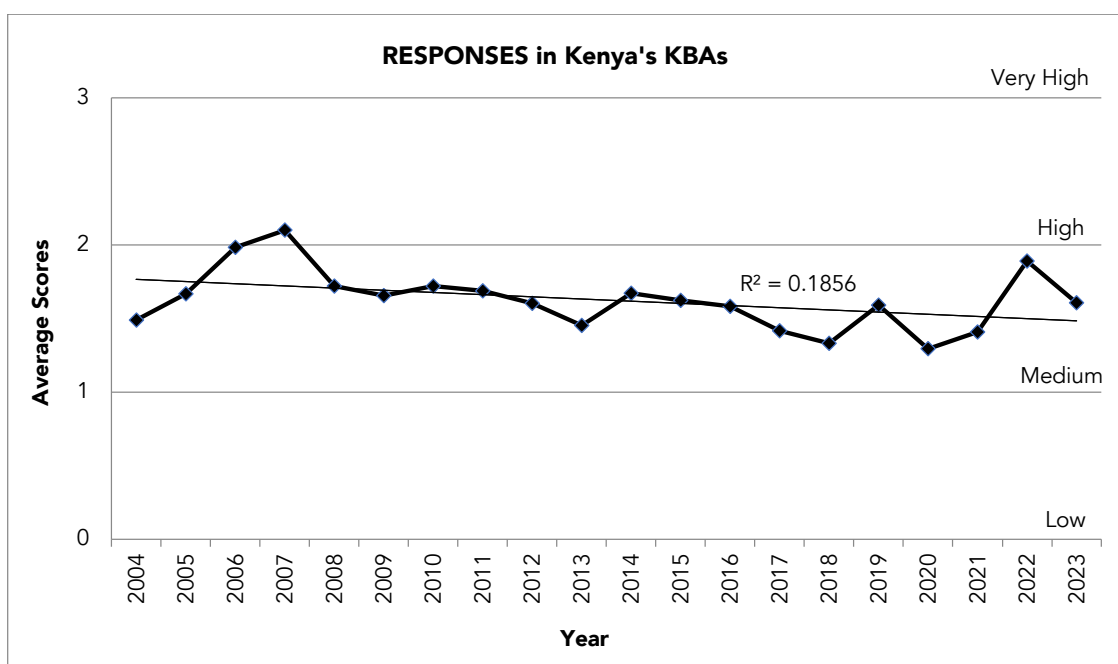

Figure 5: Mean Score for Trend of RESPONSE Score for Kenya's Key Biodiversity Areas between 2004-2023

Government RESPONSE

1. Starting implementation of the global biodiversity plan outlined in the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) – a global vision of a world living in harmony with nature by 2050.

2. Development of Kenya's National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan 2020-2030- mainstreaming KBAs as key indicators in a number of targets.

3. Development and implementation of Species Action Plans aimed at safeguarding bird species and their habitats. Some notable efforts include:

   - Finalizing the Vulture Multi-Species Action Plan for Kenya (2024-2034)

   - Ongoing development of Single Species Action Plan for the Conservation of the Grey Crowned Crane (2024-2034).

   - Review of the Action Plan for Conservation of Critically Endangered Birds in Taita Hills, Kenya (2015-2020) (Taita Thrush and Taita Apalis).

4. Recruitment and deployment of 2,700 Forest Rangers by Kenya Forest Service across the country, beefing up surveillance and security of public forests. Technical officers (Forest Station Managers) have also been recruited, to be deployed to the forest stations.

5. Development and implementation of site management and action plans, focusing on species and sites. These management plans highlight a strategic approach to addressing both ecological and socio-economic challenges in conservation. Some notable efforts to save sites and habitats include:

   a. Development of Greater Maasai Mara Landscape Management Plan

   b. Development of Forest Landscape Restoration Action Plan for Taita Taveta County, Lamu County, and Tana River County.

   c. Development of Environment Action Plans for Tana River and Lamu Counties.

   d. Development of Dakatcha Woodland Management Plan led by Kilifi County.

   e. Development of Sub-Catchment Management Plans through engagement of 5 WRUAs in Tana River County.

   f. Development of Lake Elmenteita Wildlife Sanctuary Ecosystem Management Plan (2023-2033)

   g. Development of Shimba Hills National Reserve Management Plan (2024-2034)

   h. Ongoing development of Hell's Gate National Park Management Plan (2024-2034)

   i. Ongoing development of Kiunga Marine National Reserve Management Plan (2024-2034)

   j. Ongoing revision of Meru National Park Management Plan (2007-2017)

   k. Ongoing development of Lake Nakuru National Park Management Plan (2024-2034)

   l. Ongoing development of Mwea National Reserve Management Plan

6. Roll out of forest fire detection and suppression program that is installing fire towers, remote sensing and fire-fighting equipment.

7. Community Forest Associations (CFAs) capacity building, preparation/review of Participatory Forest Management Plans (PFMP) and signing of Forest Management Agreements (FMA). Development of Participatory Forest Management Plans through engagement of Community Forest Associations in Tana River County, Kilifi County and Taita Taveta County to signed PFMPs.

8. Conservation education and awareness to schools and local communities.

9. Wildlife population monitoring - Annual water bird counts and biennial national wildlife census to estimate wildlife populations in Kenya.

10. Partnerships and collaborations with scientists, research institutions, civil society, NGOs and local communities. For instance, bird census and tagging of birds to monitor trends in migratory patterns.

11. Promoting wildlife-utilization enterprises – Farming of birds listed in the tenth (10) schedule of the Wildlife Conservation and Management Act, 2013.

Community RESPONSES

1. Community-Based Management: Active participation in county level policy formulation processes like County Integrated Development Plans. For example, 13 submissions to influence national and county policies and legislation by local communities. including Site Support Groups and Community Forest Associations in Siaya, Kakamega, Nyeri, Nyandarua, Kilifi, Taita Taveta and Tana River counties.

2. Education and Awareness: 58,821 people reached by 21 Site Support Groups through school outreaches, churches and public gatherings.

3. Habitat Protection: Guarding natural habitats from degradation and destruction. For example, three Community Forest Associations in Taita Hills identified community scouts who were trained by KFS to support forest protection.

4. Monitoring and Reporting: Observing and reporting changes in the sites to enable production of the KBA Status and Trends report. Fifteen Site Support Groups carried out detailed site monitoring, for example in Mt. Kenya, Kinangop grassland, Taita Hills forests, Dakatcha Woodland and Arabuko-Sokoke Forest, among others.

5. Participation in Conservation Programs: Engaging in and supporting conservation initiatives and projects. For instance, Friends of Kinangop Plateau actively engaged in community-led sheep rearing for the benefit of Sharpe's Longclaw, a bird dependent on tussock grassland.

6. Stewardship: Acting as custodians and caretakers of local environments.

7. Landscape Restoration: Restored 2,200 ha of degraded areas in Taita Hills Forests, Mt. Kenya Forest, Aberdare Forest, Tana River Delta, Dakatcha Woodland, mangrove forests of Sabaki River Mouth, and other sites.

Civil Society Organization RESPONSES

1. National and local policy work: 48 submissions were made to influence policies, legislation and institutional frameworks at county and national levels to promote ecosystem resilience; catalyzing development of 6 county policies and legislation, resulting in the Lamu Climate Change Act, Lamu Climate Finance Regulations, Tana River Environment Policy, Tana River Forest Bill, Taita-Taveta Forest Bill and Taita-Taveta Forest and Landscape Restoration Action Plan.

2. Promoted sustainable livelihoods at different sites across the country: 11 communities earned 93 million shillings from nature-based income-generating enterprises.

3. Sustained advocacy campaigns informed by science to defend Chasimba rock outcrop and caves in Kilifi against limestone mining and reroute the Mau Mau road to avoid Aberdare Forest.

4. Prompted Busia and Siaya County Governors to sign a joint communique committing to protect Yala Swamp in September 2023.

5. Catalyzed the adoption of the Yala Delta Land Use Plan by the Siaya County Executive.

6. Encouraged nature-based solutions and sustainable production and supply chains such as the Tana River Delta Green Heart Project

7. Actively supported government in the implementation of global conventions and agreements such as Ramsar, AEWA, CBD, CITES, CMS.

8. Secured suitable habitat for threatened birds through land purchase, expanding the protected area network in Kenya, i.e. in Dakatcha Woodland and Taita Hills forests.

Community volunteers being trained on biodiversity monitoring by the Dawida Biodiversity Conservation Organization (DABICO) at Chawia forest in Taita Hills. Photo by Gilbay Obunga

Highlights from WRTI 1ST Wildlife Scientific Conference

By Benard Ngoru

The Wildlife Research and Training Institute (WRTI), in collaboration with the State Department of Wildlife and other conservation partners, organized the 1ST WRTI Wildlife Scientific Conference on 26th-28th September, 2023. The theme of the conference was "Use of Wildlife Science for enhanced Biodiversity Conservation and improved Livelihoods" which highlighted the nexus between science, policy, management and livelihoods.

Calls for Action resulting from the conference were: Development of a national wildlife database hosted by WRTI with data contributed by stakeholders guided by a data sharing protocol; need to engage policy makers in wildlife management and research to profile emerging issues in the national development agenda and policy directives; and development of a National Red List for rare, threatened and endangered species in order to guide the review of Schedule Six of the WCMA 2013 with support from the national Kenya Species Specialist Group (KeSSG) that was launched under the auspices of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) during the conference.

Key activities of the Kenya Species Specialist Group include:

1. Complete global Red List assessments for selected species not yet on the IUCN Red List.
2. Conduct national Red List assessments for priority wildlife and socio-economically important species.
3. Promote and contribute to the development and implementation of existing species conservation action plans.
4. Publish species assessments on authorized platforms to support decision-making.
5. Support the integration of species information into development sector planning and national strategies.
6. Promote integration of species information and conservation actions into national and county-level policy processes.

For more information, see https://wrti.go.ke/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/WRTI-1ST-Scientific-Conference-Proceedings-Final_.pdf

Media Coverage of KBAS

By Peter Njeru

Media plays a major role in wide communication of scientific research, and informing and educating the public on environmental issues. It also increases awareness on the importance of conservation, sustainable management, and responsible utilization of natural resources. The way in which information is framed, and the communication of expert recommendations by the media, is crucial for the target audience consumption and impact.

In 2023, conservation and related articles from the Daily Nation, the Standard and the Star newspapers were continuously tracked with an average of 166 articles and notices on conservation concerns recorded every month. The year was characterized by severe drought during the dry season and terrible floods during the rainy seasons that made major headlines; various other environmental issues were also covered by the media.

At least 30 KBAs featured on mainstream media in 2023. The Amboseli ecosystem was among the sites with multiple appearances, including reports of rising numbers of livestock in the park in search of pasture and a case about the killing of ten lions within the ecosystem as a result of human-wildlife conflicts. This was followed by the presidential announcement of the plan to transfer its management to the County government of Kajiado that will result in legal downgrading of Amboseli National Park to a national reserve – a decision considered detrimental to wildlife management, the environment and Kenya's international reputation on biodiversity conservation.

Other threats to the environment highlighted by media included:

1. Misuse of agrochemicals threatening biodiversity.
2. Lifting of the ban on logging, termed as un-procedural by numerous conservationists.
3. Power lines and electric fences having detrimental impacts on migratory birds due to increased collision and electrocution.
4. Invasion by Red-billed Quelea birds that wreaked havoc on rice fields in Nyanza and led to large-scale destruction of the birds' roosts.
5. Flooding – A dyke at L. Kanyaboli broke, draining the wetland and some of its unique species, and displacing over a hundred people.
6. Invasion of Tsavo's pristine landscape after the rains by invasive sodom apple and morning glory plants.
7. Pollution threats by salt farms in Kilifi, and the export of eight Baobab trees from Kilifi County.
8. A proposed Asbestos hazardous waste disposal site in Minjila, in Tana Delta.

9. First marine survey in 30 years revealed a dire situation at the marine ecosystem.

The news media also reported the many efforts to address environmental problems during the year. The efforts included:

1. Reports of a wind power firm stopping its turbines for vultures to pass.
2. A marine aerial survey along the Kenyan coast led by Kenya Wildlife Service
3. Imposition of heavy fines or jail terms for failure to dispose of solid waste properly by the National Environment Management Authority
4. Development of an action plan for cleaning up the Nairobi River
5. Nullification of titles for land parcels on Lake Naivasha riparian land by the court.
6. Adding lights to cattle bomas to avert predation by lions.
7. Scientists finding more ways to fight and use the invasive *Prosopis juliflora* plant.
8. Scientists urging government to adopt safer methods of controlling nuisance birds.
9. Sixty Maasai women graduating as wildlife champions in Amboseli.
10. Naming of elephants in Amboseli in a bid to raise funds and boost conservation efforts.
11. Rhino ear notching exercise at Lewa conservancies to allow better tracking and monitoring.
12. Northern white rhino embryos created from frozen sperm.
13. Thirteen tonnes of sandalwood burnt to warn harvesters and deter its illegal harvesting.
14. Illegal fishing gear worth over a million shillings set ablaze in Bondo to curb unsustainable fishing in Lake Victoria.
15. A plan mooted to fence Kakamega forest to conserve the ecosystem.
16. Kaya elders continuing to guard sacred forests to counter the effects of climate change.
17. Initiatives to promote climate smart agriculture.

A newspaper clipping of a conservation article.

Integrating Biodiversity into economic sectors to combat climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution: the role of Civil Society

By Peter Njeru

Civil society organizations are very instrumental in influencing responsible practices through initiatives for securing nature from hostile anthropogenic activities. Some of the initiatives include promotion of nature-based solutions for climate resilience, advocacy and lobbying, influencing policy and legislation, litigation, education and awareness creation. Internationally, civil society can engage in relevant environmental negotiation processes to support states with data; and engage in the domestication and implementation of Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs).

Nature Kenya, individually and in partnership and collaboration with other organizations, has made efforts to mainstream biodiversity in policies, legislation, strategies and plans to assist governments and encourage businesses to support nature. Examples of such engagements include:

1. Partnerships with Coca-Cola, East African Breweries Limited, the Privatization Authority, Kenya Deposit Insurance Corporation and Wild Flavors to restore over 119 hectares of degraded sites in Mt. Kenya and Aberdares forest ecosystems, and on organization land.
2. Partnerships with Kipeto Energy Limited on mitigation of human-wildlife conflict, awareness creation on vulture conservation and advocacy against the poisoning of wildlife.
3. Over 108 engagements with the national government, county governments, and private developers on the revision, strengthening or development of policies, legislation, strategies, plans and projects that are relevant to biodiversity and human well-being.
4. Engagement with national institutions and programs including the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan development process; and continued participation as members of the National Steering Committees for commemoration of international environmental days (World Wetlands Day, World Environment Day, and World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought).
5. Engagement in international meetings and negotiations, including the Convention on Biological Diversity's Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, and the Sustainable Agriculture Network global board.
6. Capacity building of four Site Support Groups in the coastal region to develop advocacy strategies and action plans.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Overall Recommendations

1. Support, promote and implement actions on the restoration of forests and landscapes according to the UN Decade of Ecosystem Restoration 2021-2030.
2. Encourage sustainable green value chains in production processes.
3. Prioritize sustainable alternatives such as community-based renewable energy solutions to regulate and monitor fuelwood consumption and prevent deforestation
4. Integrate biodiversity considerations across all sectors of Kenya's economy
5. Adopt, apply and implement international best practices in infrastructure development projects following global standards and tools, i.e. IFC Performance Standard 6.
6. Undertake economic valuations for natural/biodiversity capital in Kenya, informed by detailed ecosystem services, to inform government decisions on resource allocation.
7. Promote development and implementation of County spatial planning, ensuring ecosystem connectivity through effective management practices.
8. Explore innovative financing mechanisms to incentivize local communities living in or near important conservation areas.
9. Strengthen the skills of county officials in environmental matters, including policy development.
10. Promote and integrate citizen science approaches for education, awareness and data capture.
11. Recognize Key Biodiversity Areas identification to guide conservation priority setting in Kenya
12. Avoid building nuclear energy facilities in high-biodiversity locations or near the ocean at a time of rising sea levels.

County Governments

1. Formulate and operationalize county policies and legislation for sustainable land and biodiversity conservation and management.
2. Promote forest and landscape restoration aligned with national targets.

Kenya Forest Service

1. Mainstream KBAs in Kenya Forest Service program planning.
2. Align program/activity outputs and targets to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity's Global Biodiversity Framework, especially those on biodiversity conservation and protected areas.

National Museums of Kenya

1. Continue to conduct biodiversity research at target sites with a view to availing data to guide designation of new KBAs, (including reviewing existing IBAs against the KBAs) in collaboration with other stakeholders.
2. Continue taking part in monitoring the status of species and habitats at KBA sites.
3. Continue building capacity among local community members and volunteers on recognition and monitoring of KBA trigger species and their habitats through citizen science.

Kenya Wildlife Service

1. Implement the global biodiversity plan, the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) – a global vision of a world living in harmony with nature by 2050.
2. Develop and implement Action Plans aimed at safeguarding bird species and their habitats.
3. Develop and implement Management Plans focusing on species and sites.
4. Continue Conservation education and awareness to schools and local communities.

Wildlife Research and Training Institute

1. Develop the National Red List for rare, threatened and endangered species in order to guide the review of Schedule Six of the WCMA 2013.
2. Enhance the use of technology in wildlife tracking and monitoring and the adoption of innovative technologies in wildlife research.
3. Finalize and implement the National Wildlife Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation Strategy.

National Environment Management Authority

1. Enhance stakeholder consultations to inform decisions and policies that have implications on biodiversity conservation.
2. Inform all those who submit comments on EIAs, ESIAs and SEAs of the final outcome.

Nature Kenya

1. Support the profiling, assessment and reassessment, identification, and listing of new and legacy KBAs in Kenya.
2. Encourage the citizen science approach in biodiversity conservation.
3. Strengthen the capacity of local community CSOs through training and mentorship to advocate for sustainable development.

DATA CONTRIBUTORS

Name	Institution
Alex Karuri	Mt Kebio
Aloise Garvey	Serena Hotels
Aloise Wambua	Born Free Foundation
Alphonce Opondo	Bunyala SSG
Amos Ngao Mathew	Chyulu SSG
Ann Njeri Githua	KENVO
Ariro Lwala	Yala SSG
Brian Ochieng Otiego	NK
Casianes Olilo	KMFRI
Charles Kamau	FoKP
Charles Kariuki	Mukurweini SSG
Charo Ngumbao	ASFADA
Christine Mwende	Tsavo Trust
David Magoma	NK
David Musya	Mumoni SSG
Dominic Shilabira	KEEP
Dorsila Tsuma	Yala SSG
Ednah Kulola Nyambu	NK
Edwin Kipruto	Sekemiat SSG
Edwin Ochieng	Bunyala SSG
Edwin Ogaye Misachi	KFS
Edwin Utumbi	NK
Florence Wairimu	NMK
Fredrick Kinuthia	Gatare Forest CFA
Fridah Kalekye	NK
George Odero	Yala SSG
George Oweke	Yala SSG
George Wambiya	Yala SSG
Gilbay Obunga	NK
Grace Wacu	KENVO
Habib Namayi	BECEP
Hezbone Okoth	Dunga SSG
James Kimaru	KWS
Japhet Amani	SARICODO
Jeniffer Kakunia	Mutitu Hill SSG
Jeremiah Rono	KWS
John Maganga	DABICO

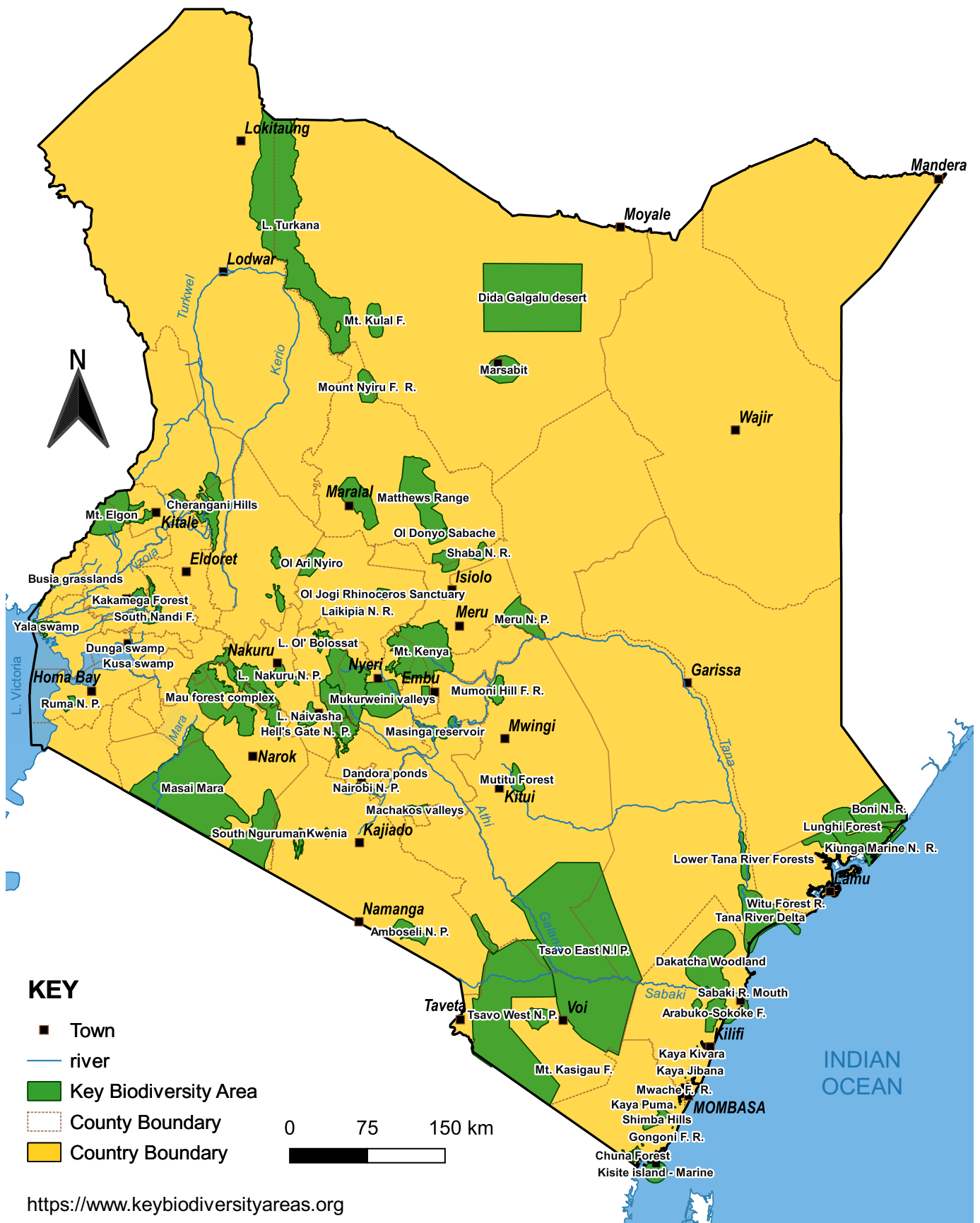| Name	Institution
John Shunza	KEEP
Jonah Lelei	North Nandi SSG
Joseph Mzozo	NK
Josephine Retoe	Masai Mara SSG
Josphine Ndambu	Mumoni SSG
Kaitet Munkuti	Masai Mara SSG
Kosgei Titus	South Nandi SSG
Lentaaya Rosano Robert	Kirisia CFA
Linus Kariuki	KWS
Lizbeth Mate	Marwell Trust
Lynn Njuguna	WRTI
Mariam Bassa Hatu	TDCN
Mark Juma Owili	Ruma SSG
Martin Njogu Kiama	NK
Mary Kimani	LANABICO
Milka Musyoki	NK
Moses Mulwa	NMK
Nancy Karimi Nthumbi	Ithugu SSG
Nicholas Bii	Born Free Foundation
Osman Kampare Duba	Isiolo County
Otieno Evance Ngeso	NK
Patricia Marwara	Yala SSG
Patrick Changawa	Dakatcha SSG
Patrick Kipkorir Kurere	Friend of Nature Bogoria
Paul Ekwar	Wetlands International
Peris Njoki Kiema	Mutitu Hill SSG
Peter K. Mwangi	KFS
Peter Waitugi	LECBO
Rebecca Ikachoi	NK
Richard Kipng'eno	NK
Ruwa Kalama Masha	KFS
Salim Abdala Bakari	Mida SSG
Samson Genga	Yala SSG
Simon Shati Makokha	NK
Stan Kivai	KIPRe
Timothy Mwinami	NMK
Wanyoike Wamiti	International Crane Foundation
Willis Benard Nyangule	LANABICO

Golden-rumped Sengi (elephant shrew) by Edwinn Selempo

Summary of 2023 Kenya KBAs Scores on Pressure, Status, Response, and Overall Change Description

KBA Code	Site Name	State 2023	Pressure 2023	Response 2023
KE001	Aberdare Mountains	1	3	3
KE042	Amboseli National Park	1	3	3
KE007	Arabuko-Sokoke Forest	1	3	2
KE057	Busia grasslands	1	2	0
KE043	Cherangani Hills	1	2	2
KE026	Chyulu Hills forests	1	3	1
KE008	Dakatcha Woodland	1	3	2
KE035	Dandora ponds	1	2	1
KE037	Dunga swamp	1	2	1
KE010	Dzombo Hill Forest	1	0	3
KE011	Gede Ruins National Monument	1	3	1
KE065	Hell's Gate National Park	1	3	2
KE058	Kakamega Forest	1	2	2
KE002	Kianyaga valleys	0	2	0
KE003	Kikuyu Escarpment forest	1	3	3
KE004	Kinangop grasslands	1	3	1
KE 068	Kirisia Forest Reserve	1	2	3
KE038	Koguta swamp	1	2	0
KE039	Kusa swamp	1	2	0
KE062	Kwenia	1	3	1
KE044	Lake Baringo	1	2	2
KE045	Lake Bogoria National Reserve	3	2	2
KE046	Lake Elmenteita	1	3	3
KE047	Lake Magadi	1	3	1
KE048	Lake Naivasha	0	3	1
KE049	Lake Nakuru National Park	0	2	1
KE061	Lake Ol' Bolossat	1	3	2
KE028	Lake Turkana	1	3	0
KE023	Lower Tana River forests	1	3	1
KE017	Marenji Forest	1	2	2
KE050	Masai Mara	0	3	3
KE030	Masinga reservoir	1	2	1
KE051	Mau Forest Complex	3	1	2
KE031	Meru National Park	1	2	2
KE016	Mida Creek, Whale Island and the Malindi - Watamu coast	1	3	1
KE059	Mount Elgon (Kenya)	1	2	2
KE005	Mount Kenya	1	2	3
KE018	Mrima Hill Forest	3	3	2
KE006	Mukurweini valleys	0	2	0
KE066	Mumoni Hill Forest Reserve	1	3	1
KE067	Mutitu Forest	1	3	1
KE032	Mwea National Reserve	1	2	1
KE036	Nairobi National Park	1	2	3
KE053	North Nandi Forest	1	2	2
KE040	Ruma National Park	1	3	1
KE019	Sabaki River Mouth	1	3	1
KE033	Samburu and Buffalo Springs National Reserves	1	2	1
KE034	Shaba National Reserve	1	3	1
KE055	South Nandi Forest	1	2	2
KE056	South Nguruman	1	3	1
KE021	Taita Hills forests	1	2	3
KE022	Tana River Delta	0	3	2
KE024	Tsavo East National Park	1	3	2
KE025	Tsavo West National Park	1	3	2
KE041	Yala swamp complex	1	3	2

KENYA'S KEY BIODIVERSITY AREAS

Lokitaung

Mandera

L. Turkana

Moyale

Lodwar

Turkwel

Mt. Kulal F.

Dida Galgalu desert

Kerio

Mount Nyiru F. R.

Marsabit

Wajir

Maralal

Matthews Range

Mt. Elgon

Cherangani Hills

Kitale

Ol Donyo Sabache

Shaba N. R.

Eldoret

Ol Ari Nyiro

Isiolo

Busia grasslands

Ol Jogi Rhinoceros Sanctuary

Meru

Kakamega Forest

Laikipia N. R.

Meru N. P.

Nzoia

South Nandi F.

Yala swamp

Dunga swamp

Nakuru

L. Ol' Bolossat

Kusa swamp

Nyeri

Mt. Kenya

Garissa

L. Victoria

Homa Bay

L. Nakuru N. P.

Embu

Mumoni Hill F. R.

Ruma N. P.

Mau forest complex

Mukurweini valleys

Mara

L. Naivasha

Masinga reservoir

Mwingi

Hell's Gate N. P.

Tana

Narok

Mutitu Forest

Masai Mara

Dandora ponds

Kitui

Nairobi N. P.

Athi

Machakos valleys

Boni N. R.

South Nguruman

Kwenia

Kajiado

Lunghi Forest

Kiunga Marine N. R.

Lower Tana River Forests

Lamu

Namanga

Galana

Witu Forest R.

Amboseli N. P.

Tana River Delta

Tsavo East N. P.

Dakatcha Woodland

Sabaki

Sabaki R. Mouth

Taveta

Tsavo West N. P.

Voi

Arabuko-Sokoke F.

Kilifi

Mt. Kasigau F.

Kaya Kivara

Kaya Jibana

INDIAN OCEAN

Mwache F. R.

Kaya Puma

MOMBASA

Shimba Hills

Gongoni F. R.

Chuna Forest

Kisite island - Marine

KEY

- ■ Town
- — river
- ■ Key Biodiversity Area
- ⬚ County Boundary
- ⬚ Country Boundary

0   75   150 km

Iyale forest, Taita Hills. PHOTO BY IAN FRANCIS

KEY BIODIVERSITY AREA

RSPB

BirdLife
INTERNATIONAL

NatureKenya
THE EAST AFRICA NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY