

# Important Bird Areas Programme for Kenya

## National Liaison Committee

Minutes of the National Liaison Committee meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> March 2004, at the Centre for Biodiversity Seminar Room of the National Museums of Kenya.

**Present:** Paul Matiku (Nature Kenya - *Chairing*), Maurice Wanyiri (FD), J. F. Odanga (Moi University), Solomon Mwangi (Nature Kenya), Joseph Kathiwa (ESOK), Newton Mwenda (Kenya Tourism Board), Peter Simi (ELCI), Collins Handa (NMK), Erustus Kanga (KWS), Ronald Mulwa (Ornithology Department, NMK), Eric Deche (WCK), Joseph Ruhiu (CDTF-BCP), Enock Kanyanya (KFWG), Simon Musila (IBA ReF), Nickson Otieno (IBA ReF) Fleur Ng'weno (Nature Kenya), Dan Omollo (Nature Kenya) and Anthony Kiragu (Nature Kenya *Minuting*)

**Apologies:** Ken Mwathe (ACC), Teresiah Munya (Min of Lands and Planning), Benson Murgor (Ministry of Education), Charles Nyandiga (UNDP), Daniel Mbithi, Betty Nzioka (NEMA), Joseph Kathiwa (ESOK), Parkinson Ndonge (NEMA), Calistus Ogol (Kenyatta University) Phillip Muruthi (AWF), Irene Njumbi (Acacia Consultants), Helida Oyieke (NMK) and Laurent Nthauga (IUCN-EARO)

The meeting was called to order at 10:25 a.m. A round of introductions was done. The Chair requested members to propose items for the agenda and confirm it. Minutes of the NLC meeting of 17<sup>th</sup> July 2003 were read.

### Min 04/42. Matters arising -

- Min 03/34. Matters arising - 'The State of Environment Report 2003' edited and published by NEMA will be out in 2004 after review in parliament as required under EMCA
- Min 03/35. Final evaluation report of the GEF project - Members were informed that BirdLife Africa Division was following up to identify issues that might have been left out when the project was completed.
- Min 03/37. NLC Terms of Reference (TORs) evaluation - It was noted the NLC had expanded to involve donors like CDTF-BCP and private sector like Acacia Consultants. Further it was also noted:
  - UNDP represents donors and also an organization interested and involved in biodiversity conservation.
  - Private sector organizations like Total Kenya and Nation Newspaper should be targeted and invited to the NLC.
  - Ministry of Energy was also proposed as a very important target for the NLC.
- Min 03/41. Date of next meeting - Had been changed from 22 Jan 2004 to 4<sup>th</sup> March 2004 because most members were away on assignments.
- Mr. E. Kanga of KWS will be delegating to someone at headquarters to attend the NLC. He is still interested to attend and contribute in capacity of KWS representative from Mt. Kenya & Aberdares IBAs.

The minutes were approved as a true record of the previous NLC of 17<sup>th</sup> July 2003.

## **Min 04/43. Institutional Reporting**

### **Nature Kenya**

Paul Matiku and Anthony Kiragu reported

- To update new institutional representatives on the NLC, Paul Matiku explained the background of the forum. Areas of emphasis were on how it all started, why it started, how it works and key milestones achieved like the priority setting and monitoring framework for IBAs later adapted by other African BirdLife partners.
- Anthony Kiragu presented a brief on Nature Kenya project's matrix, focusing on title of project, donor, partners and time frames.
- Paul clarified that the Mt. Kenya Eco-resource project will involve Wildlife Clubs of Kenya as it is envisioned as an education centre.
- Nature Kenya successfully fundraised from IUCN Netherlands Commission on Land Purchase for a reserve in Kinangop grasslands.
- The grasslands are out of the protected area network despite being an important habitat for the endemic and globally threatened Sharpe's Longclaw.
- Members were requested to provide innovative ideas for management of the reserve
- Critical Ecosystem Database was developed by Nature Kenya with funding from Critical Ecosystems Partnership Fund (CEPF)
- CEPF has set up a co-ordination committee composed of WWF, ICIPE, Birdlife International Africa Division Secretariat, Wildlife Conservation Society of Tanzania and Nature Kenya to review project proposals and recommend for funding.
- Members were further informed the CEPF was set up with 7 million dollars for conservation action for access to civil society. Projects must focus on Eastern arc hotspots.
- Nature Kenya is developing a community guide for forest conservation to be used by community members in articulating issues when they are doing forest awareness campaigns.

### **Comments/issues**

- It was clarified the two projects working at Arabuko Sokoke Forest - an important tourist destination according to KTB, are complimenting each other in terms of management and focus.
- One of the projects at Arabuko Sokoke focuses on and also has a marketing component for the forest, Mida Creek, Dakacha woodland & the Kayas.
- The focus is marketing north coast forest as visitor attractions creating opportunities for linkages with KTB
- A clarification on Mt. Kenya eco-resource centre noted KWS senior warden at Mt. Kenya National Park was part of the team that identified the site for the centre.
- On a site visit the Senior Warden had mentioned that although KWS had a small education centre at park headquarters, the Nature Kenya Eco-resource centre would serve greater numbers of schools and community near Naru Moru, Nanyuki and Nyeri areas.
- KWS could be requested to send an Education Warden to work with Nature Kenya staff at the centre since the park warden was more of an administrator.
- Although the site was on indigenous forest which automatically falls on KWS jurisdiction, it was administered under Gathiro Forest station run by Forest Department Nyeri. However both government agencies were aware and supportive of the project.
- Dr. Odanga referred to Nature Kenya's Education for Sustainable Living project and brought to the attention of members a proposed project with funding from the USA to support a similar initiative, focusing on Kakamega Forest. Dr. Odanga was willing to advise them to give the project a national coverage.

- A member emphasized the purpose of sharing and networking provided by the NLC forum plays a key role allowing organization's efforts to supplement each other.
- Mr. J. Ruhiu reported BCP had funded IUCN- EARO office to document impacts of communities in East Africa.
- The meeting recommended that Nature Kenya propose roles for NLC member institutions on projects as opposed to institutions identifying their roles on projects since it was hosting the secretariat developing the projects.
- Nature Kenya was keen to have the NLC steer the process of expanding IBAs to key biodiversity areas, help develop Site Support Groups (SSGs) for Eastern Arc and Coastal forests through projects funded under CEPF.
- Members were informed of a proposal sent to the GEF medium size grants to allow Nature Kenya and partners consolidate, enhance and expand the on-going initiatives with local communities/SSGs to other IBAs.

### **KWS planned and on-going projects**

Erustus Kanga reported

- October 2003 to March 2004 over twenty five Warden and Research Officers had been trained on monitoring IBAs.
- Capacity built has enabled fifteen sites provide data on the status of the sites using the basic monitoring forms.
- More KWS staff on the ground were eager to be involved with monitoring
- The USAID funded Forest Rehabilitation and Management programme (FORREMS) targeting Arabuko Sokoke, Mkogodo, Mt. Kenya and Aberdare ranges Forests, has enabled Forty community enumerators had been trained at Mkogodo for surveys.
- Permanent Sampling Plots have been set up at Arabuko Sokoke Forest for monitoring.
- A GEF funded initiative focusing on developing biodiversity indicators to monitoring wetlands is going on headed by Dr. Gichuki funded.

### **KTB**

Newton Mwendwa reported

- KTB will be developing promotional brochures on different sites including IBAs and will need help from the NLC members. They plan to start with birds of Arabuko Sokoke and welcomed NLC input.
- KTB projects are designed to have benefit-sharing addressed improving people's livelihoods whenever an area is opened for tourism.
- KTB welcomes NLC members to contribute to their quarterly magazine.

### **Comments/issues**

- Nature Kenya expressed interest in helping with editing promotional materials and providing advice on IBAs especially unique but unpublished sites like Sabaki Rive mouth.
- A national policy on local communities benefiting from conservation projects is lacking and no clear policy guidance is available yet.
- Networking would help in empowering communities maximize on initiatives in this area e.g. Community Tourisms.
- WCK has slides to share with KTB for publications.
- KFWG and NMK's Department of Ornithology were also willing to help with editing and refining KTB brochures where appropriate.

## **Forest Department**

Maurice Wanyiri reported

- FD is involved in FORREMS projects in Mt. Kenya, Mkogodo, and Cross-Boarder biodiversity project in Taita Taveta.
- Members were advised to get in touch with the Chief Conservator of Forests (CCF) for immediate attention on urgent matters
- The Forests bill is out of cabinet waiting presentation to Parliament once they resume.
- Before the policy is ratified by cabinet the Forest Bill cannot be published for discussions at Parliament.
- The FD was busy in late February 2004 working on the policy to present to cabinet.

### **Comments/issues**

- Mr. J. Ruhiu reported BCP has funded projects in forests sites that had stalled due to lack of authorization from the department and needs to get them going.
- Nature Kenya appreciated FD's commitment on monitoring forests. Some staff provided useful advise on how to follow-up on basic monitoring forms in their absence during the suspension of the whole department staff.

## **KFWG**

Encok Kanyanya reported

- Aerial survey of Mt. Kenya and Aberdares forest, reports were published and distributed. KFWG does a lot of aerial photography monitoring together with KWS, DRSRS and UNEP
- KFWG is working together with BCP to carry out aerial survey of Mau forests.
- KFWG had established a forest monitoring hotlines allowing the public to provide information on what is happening to forests.
- KFWG members also provide reports during the monthly meetings some coming through from SSGs like Kinangop, Kereita and Nandi forests.
- Have prepared a check list of forests with details of sites and location.
- Helping Community Based Organizations develop Participatory Forest Management Plans (PFMP) and have been working with Nature Kenya and KENVO in Kereita forest.
- Produced a draft manual on PFMPs processes.
- Working with FD on guidelines on how to implement in PFMP's through agreements between local community and the department.
- Have produced a draft paper on experiences KFWG gained in developing PFMPs.
- Forest excisions court case delayed by the judicial reforms.
- Have hosted a donors' forum discussing how and what donors can do to help in forests conservation issues.

### **Comments/issues**

- It was noted the KFWG forest checklist could complement Nature Kenya's monitoring efforts especially in smaller forests where SSGs can also participate.
- Members were informed UNDP had supported FD to develop guidelines for developing strategic management plans.
- A member noted that NLC initiatives with FD need to be accelerated taking advantage of the department's involvement since a lot was waiting to happen. There is money to do things yet information and clearance from the department was not forthcoming.
- Members were advised that the Forest officers were very willing to perform and have been pushing the minister of environment on the matters of the Forest Bill
- A member felt that piloting of PFMPs should be allowed to test the process given that PFMP had been in co-operated in the Forest Bill 2004.

## **ESOK**

Joseph Kathiwa reported

- Working with FD, KWS and Nature Kenya on initiatives at Kakamega Forest.
- UNDP funded a community based ecotourism projects at Kakamega forest.
- The project was envisaged due to the increasing number of visitors to Kakamega forest especially on the southern block yet there was inadequate accommodation facility.
- An Environmental Impact Assessment was done and Bandas will be put up, the project awaits return of the Forest Department at site.
- ESOK also has initiative in Samburu investing in cultural tourism, working with Women's self-help groups to set up the cultural villages.
- ESOK has been doing education programmes engaging people during open days and seminars. BCP funded an open day in Malindi.
- ESOK appointed evaluators who appraise tourism facilities with the aim of raising standards. So far twenty five facilities have been assessed.

### **Comments/issues**

- ESOK was advised to take up matters with the CCF directly to avoid delays with regards to completion of facilities in Kakamega forest.
- It was suggested that ESOK should expand to areas near or in IBAs not frequently visited

## **ELCI**

Peter Simi reported

- Most initiatives relate to water management hence touching on forests as catchments
- A project on Agro-ecosystems at ICIPE has contracted ELCI to document use of native grasses in conservation of ecosystem stability. Other projects will be focusing on Sustainable Agriculture – promoting organic farming. Kenya Institute of Organic Farming trains many farmers but still not enough impact has been felt. ELCI wants to train farmers in organic farming
- ELCI has a project on Environmental Law and key objective is to educate Kenyans on EMCA. The project has produced user friendly community guides for Nairobi, Coast, Dry lands and Nyanza.
- A video has been produced using environmental issues captured in Narok, Isiolo and Laikipia. It is used as visual aid in public campaigns.
- Due to poor policy addressing uses of natural resource, ELCI have formed a working group to look at how Civil Society Organizations can influence on policy formation with regards to water use. ELCI is at the last stages of producing a position paper on the matter.
- In late April 2004 ELCI will hold stakeholders workshop to discuss water policy matters hope to invite the minister of water resources.
- ELCI welcomes NLC members to contribute to Eco-Forum a quarterly magazine

### **Comments/issues**

- It was clarified that the water issues related both to supply and conservation of catchments
- It was suggested that Local authorities can be used as entry points

## **Moi University**

J. Odanga reported

- It is an institution of higher learning and Nature Kenya contributes publications to the library. NLC members are welcomed to contribute likewise.
- Moi university has benefited directly from funding in research
- Universities are encouraging projects with a national scope as opposed to small localized projects.
- Moi and Egerton Universities were funded by European Union to survey underlying effects of Njoro river and catchments degradation. The project also involved NNK Department of Ornithology.
- Another project on L.Victoria watershed is on the pipeline waiting funding.
- Moi University can contribute greatly to research and surveys using students as resource to collect information/data.

### **Comments/issues**

- BCP can provide student attachment for social economic and marketing to follow-up on its projects.
- KWS research station at Muiga has opportunity for 2 students to Meru National Park on the Lion census. KWS would provide a vehicle & food. Interested students should get in touch with Mr. Kanga
- Students can be good resource for collecting monitoring data when on attachments at sites that are IBAs.

## **CDTF-BCP**

J. Ruhiu reported

- Community Development Trust Fund (CDTF) was as a result of Kenya government initiative with EU where a grant of Kshs 400 million shillings was set aside.
- CDTF has two programmes, Biodiversity Conservation Programme (BCP) and Community Development Programme (CDP)
- BCP aims to raise awareness on biodiversity issues, develop enterprises for wealth creation, reduce conflicts on natural resources use and reduce biodiversity loss.
- By end of February 2004, BCP had funded 29 projects and 6 pending review. The Programme will be ending in 2005.
- Supporting work in forests, wetlands, national parks, reserves, management plans development, ecological monitoring, enrichment planting
- All projects are geared to provide financial support for community development. Focus on biodiversity issue and poverty reduction.
- BCP is scheduled to phase-out in 2005 but there are plans for a second phase.
- Focus of next phase will shift from biodiversity to general environmental issues like link environment and poverty.
- BCP is sourcing for a resource person(s) to develop a brochure for the programme picking on the good practices funded.

### **Comments/issues**

- Nature Kenya is willing to share experiences with NLC members on how to go about BCP administrative conditions when seeking project funding.
- BCP had contracted IUCN to document experiences on working with communities and would share this with NLC members.

## **WCK**

Eric Deche reported

- A dissemination point for schools.
- Received booklets from Nature Kenya and disseminated to regional offices. WCK support working with communities as is the case with Lake Victoria Sunset Birders in Kisumu.
- Willing to work with Nature Kenya on the Mt. Kenya Eco-resource centre.
- Want to revive publishing of WCK magazine hence discussions with editor are ongoing. NLC members are welcome to provide articles for publishing
- Moi University and WCK have developed a diploma in Tourism and Wildlife Management.

## **Comments/issues**

- BCP welcomes WCK students to do social economic assessments of Eco-tourism facilities set-up through community projects.

## **Min 04/44. Update on sites**

Members are encouraged to share any project plans or activities at IBAs and others sites of national importance. The aim is to enhance networking and encourage organizations pull in effort towards achieving better environmental management.

- The meeting was informed of plans by Kenya governments, Ministry of public works to build a By-pass road from Mombassa to Malaba. The road will go through Ondiri Swamp in Kikuyu. Although it is not an IBA it is the only known quacking-bog in Kenya.
- Members were keen to know if EIAs had been done on the sensitive sites the By-pass will go through.
- It was noted the By-passes routes were designed twenty years ago before EMCA came to effect which requires EIAs done on major projects. Members agreed more information was needed to guide on next steps.

The meeting recommended:

- The NLC should write to the Chief Roads Engineer, Ministry of Roads and Public Works, for more information. The content should show support to the project but indicate areas of concern where road can damage biodiversity. Seek to know if EIAs have been done to the areas in question. (Attached as Annex 1)
- Get a map from the ministry of public works to clearly identify where the road will go through. - Enock Kanyanya will follow up on this.
- Convene a special NLC task force to look at all the sites important for biodiversity.
- An Ad hoc committee/ task force was nominated with the following members
  1. Enock Kanyanya (KFWF-Convenor)
  2. Joseph Ruhui (CDTF-BCP)
  3. Maurice Wanyiri (FD)
  4. Nature Kenya rep
  5. NEMA rep
- Task force agreed to meet on 22<sup>nd</sup> of March 2004 and discuss the issue
- It was further recommended that NEMA's involvement should target Mr. Sinange's office.

**Min 04/45. IBA Monitoring**

Solomon Mwangi reported

- The Mid-Term Review of the Kenya's IBAs Monitoring project by Mr. Alex Forbes of LTS international which took place from 16<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> February 2004. Darwin was evaluating the project based on the following; relevance, efficiency, effectiveness, impact, sustainability and lessons learned
- Key highlights of the review were as follows:
  - The project responds to a clearly defined need and priority for Kenya, and enjoys the support of a number of relevant stakeholders. However, the demand by Government agencies (FD and KWS) is less well defined considering difficulties in the institutionalization of the monitoring system.
  - The biodiversity monitoring system appears to be well adapted to render it simple yet scientifically robust and thus applicable by a wide range of users (SSGs, FD and KWS staff). Data collected is limited to the critical ecological indicators for each site, thus minimizing information overload
  - Capacity has been strengthened within all institutional partners and local partners, allowing for the monitoring systems to be applied. Mention is made by KWS and FD on the overall awareness raised within their institutions on the practical monitoring methodology applied and potential benefits.
  - The Project has raised the capacity and awareness of SSGs to take action for conservation. The groups visited demonstrate strong capacity for monitoring and commitment to safeguarding sites.
  - The project supported the Kenyan Delegation at the COP 7 to communicate its efforts to implement national CBD priorities.
  - Potential for sustainability of monitoring is good considering that the process is well embedded within NEMK and Nature Kenya. More work is required to ensure continuity and institutionalization within FD and KWS.
  - This positive project serves as an excellent example of a good project for the Darwin Initiative.
  - Generally Mr. Forbes said the project was going on well, the Aide Memoire is attached as Annex 2

**Min 04/46. NLC contributions to national reporting and conventions – Challenges to 2010 targets**

The NLC constitutes organizations specialized in various thematic areas of environment, hence advantaged to have wide knowledge base on issues that need to be addressed for national reporting to CBD. Members were notified this agenda item was more urgent before COP 7 in February 2004. However comments on the meeting's outcomes were welcome.

Key concerns raised at the meeting were:

- Kenya was not prepared for the meeting hence limiting contributions.
- Kenya should ensure delegates sent to these meetings are the best on the specific thematic issues of the conventions.
- The meeting recommended:
  - Keep the agenda item to trigger NLC member institutions collaborate and agree how we can discuss it further to prepare and harmonize information together with NEMA for international conventions.
  - On National Biodiversity Action Plan (NBSAP) members need to be informed of implementation process which was being reviewed with support from UNDP.
  - Development of a position paper to NEMA on the various thematic areas to influence preparation of Kenya's position before CBD meetings.
  - NEMA and Nature Kenya to help define NLC's niche CBD reporting.
  - NLC's mandate and scope on this matter be discussed in the next meeting.



**Min 04/47. A.O.B.**

- Members were encouraged to network further since more information sharing was needed.
- NLC members were welcomed to join Nature Kenya as members both institutions and individuals.
- Paul Matiku on behalf of Nature Kenya greatly appreciated NLC members for their continued involvement and useful contributions.

**Min 04/48. Date of next meeting:**

- Next meeting was not scheduled but left for Nature Kenya to convene at an appropriate date.
- Time and venue of meeting; from 10:00 a.m. at the National Museums of Kenya, Natural Science Seminar room.

There being no other business, the meeting drew to a close at 2:00 p.m.