

**Proceedings of a Stakeholders Workshop on the Proposed
Formation of a National Waterbird Monitoring Committee
in Kenya**

at

**Invertebrate Zoology Training Laboratory
National Museums of Kenya, Nairobi
22nd March 2007**

Edited By

Simon Musila and Geoffrey Mwangi



Supported by



Acronyms

ACC	Amboseli County Council
AEWA	African Eurasian Water bird Agreement
AfWC	African Waterfowl Census
CCB	County Council of Baringo
CCK	County Council of Koibatek
DoO	Department of Ornithology
IBAs	Important Bird Areas
KWF	Kenya Wetlands Forum
KWS	Kenya Wildlife Service
LNRA	Lake Naivasha Riparian Association
LOCN	Lake Ol Bolossat Conservation Network
LVSBS	Lake Victoria Sunset Birders
NEMA	National Environment Management Authority
NGOs	Non-governmental Organizations
NK	Nature Kenya-East Africa Natural History Society (EANHS)
NMK	National Museums of Kenya
NWMC	National Water bird Monitoring Committee
NWMT	National Waterbird Monitoring Taskforce
OSIENALA	Friends of Lake Victoria
WCK	Wildlife Clubs of Kenya
WI	Wetlands International

Cover Photo: Participants of stakeholders workshop for the formation of National Water bird Monitoring Committee (22nd March 2007).

Workshop Participants

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Program for the consultative workshop on the formation of a proposed National Waterfowl Monitoring Committee (NWMC) in Kenya

Date: Thursday 22nd March 2007
Venue: Invertebrate Zoology Lab, National Museums of Kenya
Facilitator: Ronald Mulwa

TIME	ACTIVITY		LEAD PERSON
9: 30-10:00 am	Arrival and registration		Mr. Geoffrey Mwangi
10: 00-10:15 am	Start of Workshop - Introductions		Mr. Ronald Mulwa
10: 15-10:25 am	Opening remarks		Dr. Helida Oyieke
10: 25-10:45 am	Waterbird Monitoring: History, Successes & Challenges- Presentation		Mr. Simon Musila
11:45-11:00 am	<i>TEA BREAK</i>		
11:05-12:25 pm	Waterbird Monitoring - making the exercise more effective-Presentation		Mr. Oliver Nasirwa
12:30-13:00 pm	National Waterbird Monitoring Committee- Presentation		Mr. Wanyoike Wamiti
13:00-2:00 pm	<i>LUNCH BREAK</i>		
2:05-2:45 pm	GP 1	Discussions-Fundraising and Resource mobilization (Fundraising, logistics (transport, accommodation, permissions) & Equipment	Mr. Fred Omega
	GP 2	Discussions-Recommendations for Effective Waterbird Monitoring	Mr. Enock Kanyanya
2:45-3:15pm	Groups Presentations and Plenary		Mr. Ronald Mulwa
3:15-3:45pm	National Waterbird Monitoring Committee		Sarah Higgins
3:45-4:00pm	Concluding Remarks - Summary of Key Points)		Dr. Muchai Muchane
4:00-4:20pm	<i>TEA BREAK and DEPARTURE</i>		

Introduction

The waterfowl monitoring scheme was initiated in Kenya in 1991 by Department of Ornithology at National Museums of Kenya, Nature Kenya (East Africa Natural History Society (EANHS) and Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) - AEWA and Ramsar focal point in Kenya), with funding drawn from projects based at these institutions which dealt with some wetland issues (species, habitats conservation etc). However, the completion of most of these projects with time impacted negatively principally on the continuation of waterfowl counts, with most important sites (Ramsar sites (Lakes Baringo, Nakuru, Bogoria, Elmenteita & Naivasha) not being counted consistently over the years. Waterfowl census data gaps therefore, exists for swamps around Lake Victoria basin (Yala, Koguta & Sio Port), Lake Turkana, Kiunga Marine National Reserve and Lake Baringo (Ramsar site), with little or no comprehensive surveys done to document water bird populations in the 16-year (1991-2006) period.

Indeed, developing a sustainable funding for waterfowl monitoring in Kenya has been a great challenge. This is particularly because most funding for research and biodiversity monitoring in Kenya has relied heavily on external funding with little allocation from the central government. Since an external source of funding is not sustainable, there arises a need to explore a funding mechanism from organizations involved in wetlands conservation in order to effectively sustain the waterfowl counts in future. This could effectively be achieved through initiation of a forum of regular dialogue by all partners; such as through the formation of a National Waterfowl Monitoring Committee (NWMC (Dodman, 1997), that could draw membership from all stakeholders in wetland conservation in Kenya such as the government, civil society and community-based institutions. The driving force being to institutionalize the waterfowl counts within the core activities of these partners with a view to developing a sustainable and a reliable long-term funding strategy, sharing roles and developing terms of references for each participating institution in the shared responsibility of securing the future of wetlands and their biodiversity. It is hoped that through the NWMC all key participating institutions might mainstream the cost of waterfowl counts in their annual budgets, and hence reduce the unpredictable funding challenges which have existed in the past. Additionally, through NWMC all stakeholders can share information about issues that specifically affect the waterbird species and the habitats where they occur.

It is based on this premise that a consultative meeting of main players (Annex 2) on waterfowl species and their habitat conservation was organized at National Museums of Kenya on 22nd March 2007, to initiate a dialogue on the formation of the NWMC.

Main Goal

The main goal of the consultative meeting was to initiate dialogue among all key stakeholders in wetlands conservation in Kenya focused toward the constitution of a National Waterfowl Monitoring Committee (NWMC) in Kenya for effective monitoring of water bird species and their habitats.

Specific Objectives (or the agenda for the consultative meeting) were;

1. Brief reporting on waterbird monitoring in Kenya (History, successes & challenges)
2. Development of a sustainable funding strategy for the waterfowl counts.

3. Sharing responsibilities to sustain waterbird counts in Kenya.
4. Formation of a National Waterbird Monitoring Committee-(*do we need it & how do we operationalise it*)

Arrivals and registration: The workshop participants arrived at the Invertebrate Zoology training lab at NMK between 09:00am-09:30am. Geoffrey Mwangi (Assistant National Coordinator of Waterfowl Census in Kenya) assisted in their registration (names, organization affiliated with, address, cellphone & email contacts).

Welcoming note by facilitator and introductions: The workshop facilitator, Mr. Ronald Mulwa, Research Scientist at the Ornithology section of National Museums of Kenya (NMK), welcomed the participants and requested all of them to introduce themselves by mentioning their names, organizations where they are based, their roles and responsibilities, their contributions in waterfowl monitoring including their expectations from the workshop. He later introduced Dr. Muchai Muchane, the Head of Zoology department of NMK to comment on the aims of the workshop.

Participants Expectations (all different expectations were summarized as follows)

1. Share responsibilities in waterfowl monitoring
2. How to ensure that water bird counts are sustained in future
3. Come up with effective ways of fund-raising for the counts
4. Interact with stakeholders involved in water bird counts
5. Find solutions to challenges encountered in the organizing of the water bird counts in Kenya
6. How youth groups can be trained to participate in water bird counts
7. How counts be done consistently throughout Kenya
8. How parties can actively contribute resources for water bird counts for sustenance

Introduction: *Dr. Muchai Muchane:* Head Zoology Department, *National Museums of Kenya*

He welcomed all the participants to the workshop. He noted that when he was Head of Ornithology Section-formerly Department of Ornithology (DoO), waterbird counts was one of the major departmental programs. He then introduced Dr. Helida Oyieke, Director of Research & Collections, who was representing the Director-General of NMK to give opening remarks.

Official opening : *Dr. Helida Oyieke;* Director, Research & Collections, *National Museums of Kenya*

On behalf of the NMK's Director-General, Dr. Oyieke welcomed the workshop participants to NMK. She expressed her delight on the initiative of forming the

National Waterbirds Monitoring Committee that could sustain and steer the waterfowl counts process. She further acknowledged the fact that no single organization could manage this process on her own, hence the need for partnerships. She was concerned on the challenges the national coordinators face, especially intermittent funding that leads to non-consistency in data collection. She also pointed out the importance of waterbirds count data, some of which has resulted into identification of Kenya's Ramsar sites. She emphasized the need for the domestication of the waterfowl monitoring scheme within the operational structures of all partners in order to ensure sustainable funding for the activity and consistency in data collection. Finally, she further recommended the need for the involvement of the local communities and local organization adjacent to wetland sites in water bird counts in order to reduce the overall cost of the counts in future. Additional information of her speech can be found at Annex 1.

SESSION ONE-Presentations

Part one of the workshop was covered by three talks presented by Simon Musila, Oliver Nasirwa and Wanyoike Wamiti. The purpose of the talks was purposely for all the participants to have an overview of the water bird monitoring programs, how its structured and conducted in Kenya; as well as an idea of the structure and working of a national water bird monitoring committee. The presentations were also intended to bring all participants into the same background and thinking, in order to enhance the quality of discussions on the priority issues (details of each talk are presented below; an equivalent and more comprehensive information about the same in the annexes). The talks were 15 minutes with question time and comments from participants of about five minutes, even though this time frame was not strictly followed.

Talk 1: Waterbird Monitoring in Kenya: History, Successes & Challenges

Simon Musila, National Co-ordinator, African Waterfowl Census (AfWC), National Museums of Kenya-Ornithology Section

Simon Musila gave a presentation on the origin of waterfowl census, the brainchild of Wetlands international (WI). It was initiated in Africa in 1967 (West Africa). In Kenya, it was started in 1991 by NMK-DoO, KWS and Nature Kenya (NK).

He highlighted the main aims of water bird monitoring which include :

1. Generate data on waterbird numbers in different wetland sites
2. To assess the trends in numbers and distribution over time
3. To generate baseline data for more intensive research
4. To provide information for prioritisation of conservation effort

Significant achievements that have been achieved by the counts were also highlighted such as;

1. Continuous running of the monitoring program for the past 16 years without collapse
2. An increase in the sites and regions covered over the 16 years
3. Creation of awareness about water bird species and their habitat conservation

4. local community involvement and capacity building initiatives at specific sites
5. Use of data to identify Kenya's Ramsar sites and IBAs and publication of documents that guide global conservation agenda (the water bird population estimates series)

Challenges faced by the water bird monitoring in Kenya highlighted included;

1. Water bird counts funding
2. Co-ordination & logistical planning of counts
3. Information gaps for site which have been poorly visited or literally ignored
4. Shortage of equipment (vehicles, optical equipment, camping gear, computers)
5. High turn-over of highly skilled coordinators and experienced volunteers (who normally lead counting teams)

He recommended an institutionalisation of the waterfowl monitoring program in the core activities of all partners; and specifically to endeavour to;

1. Fundraise for the counts or set a side some funds annually to run the program
2. Contribute equipment-vehicles, boats, tents to the waterfowl counts
3. Strive to organise communities around wetland sites to participate in the counts
4. Partners assist in securing permissions and camping sites for volunteers in specific sites

For detailed information on this talk refer to Annex 3.

Talk 2; Meeting the goals of Waterbird Monitoring Programme

Oliver Nasirwa, *Sub-Regional Waterbird Officer, Wings over Wetlands Project;*
Wetlands International & BirdLife International

This talk enlightened participants on the objectives of waterfowl census in the world. It gave a brief description of how African Waterfowl Census (AfWC) is coordinated at the regional level. He also covered on the importance of waterfowl monitoring in various conservation circles and conventions e.g. Ramsar Convention, Convention on Biological Diversity, Convention on Migratory Species (AEWA), Important Bird Areas (IBAs) and National Heritage. It provided insights on the origin of proposals for the formation of NWMC, which was recommended in a workshop in Senegal in February 1996. The Senegal workshop also discussed amongst other issues, the African Waterbird Census goals and coordination, census methodology, reporting and application of results, training needs and community involvement, field guides and other necessary equipment, cooperation, the role of international conventions and funding. He gave a detailed exposition on the goals of AfWC broadly classified as : scientific, intermediate, stakeholders and national co-ordination. Other issues the talk was concerned with included the roles of national coordinator, structure of the International Waterbird Census (IWC), elements of the monitoring scheme, Terms of Reference for Regional Coordinator, National and Sub-National Coordinators and role of volunteers/ fieldworkers/ counters. See annex 4 for details of this presentation.

Talk 3: Proposed National Water bird Monitoring Committee (NWMC)- Some Insights

Wanyoike Wamiti; Assistant National Coordinator, African Waterfowl Census, National Museums of Kenya-Ornithology Section

The objective of the talk was to provide an understanding of why the proposed committee is important and its objectives, and how it could be structured and operationalised. According to Wamiti the committee could have two main units: the coordination and the administrative. The coordination unit would be managed by a secretary possibly the waterfowl coordinator and be responsible for analysis and publication of water bird data, volunteer organization and communication: The facilities and equipment sub-unit of administrative unit could be involved in the acquisition (donations, fund-raising and purchase) of equipment such as vehicles, camping gear, optics, water bird guides, computers etc; while the fundraising and management sub-units of the administrative unit could be responsible for funding mobilization for use in the actual management of the water bird monitoring program (annex 5 for more details).

SESSION TWO-Group Discussions

Part two of the workshop was covered by active participations of the members in discussion groups. All participants were divided into two groups; members in each being deliberately assigned in consideration of experiences or skills in the focus theme. A group leader was identified in each group to moderate and guide discussions. Each group chose a secretary to put down their ideas for presentation. A total of 30 minutes was used in the group discussion followed by presentations of the ideas of each group to all participants. Any additional ideas from the comments of other group members were included in the presented ideas. The following are ideas which were produced by each group.

Group 1: Fundraising, Resource Mobilization and Logistics

The first group which had a total of 13 members comprised of Musa Cheruiyot, Paul Omonge, Joel Siele, Fred Omengo, Josephine Nzilani, Fred Baraza, Laban Ng'etich, Ireene Madindou, Sarah Higgins, Simon Musila, Stephen Mbuto, Peter Odhiambo & Oliver Nasirwa. The group discussed fundraising, resource mobilization, logistics (transport, accommodation and equipment). The outcomes of the results were presented by Musa Cheruiyot (WWF). They came up with the following recommendations.

1. Factor in the waterbird census costs in each organization's annual budget and integrate the exercise in the organization's financial structures (key organizations involved, NGOs and community groups).
2. There is a need to develop an image: for instance through development of an institution (like the proposed NWMC) which could have some an institutional membership.
3. Involve corporate world in the committee as members or to support the counts.
4. Form a secretariat that will write proposals to potential donors.

5. Members felt that some organizations are willing to donate funds but there was a need to definite a framework to mobilize these funds, for example through definition of the specific objectives that require some support.
6. The National Museums of Kenya can provide an account for fund-raising on water bird monitoring if that need arose.

An analysis of the stakeholders currently involved in the water bird counts and other potential one was done to identify what resources were available for sustaining the water bird monitoring. The following matrix is a result of the stakeholder analysis.

Institution	Resources Available	Activity
EAWLS	1. Some funding available	For information generation
WI	1. Provide some funding for January counts annually (very competitive)	Study proposals from many countries in Africa
KWS-L. Nakuru	2. Provide free accommodation to volunteers	
LVSBS-For counting waterbirds In Dunga Swamp IBA-Kisumu	1. KWS provide boats and vehicles to facilitate water bird census. 2. LVSBS collaborates with OSIENALA who give funds to LVSBS for the water bird counts. 3. WCK provide vehicles and fuel. 4. NEMA has supported LVSBS.	LVSBS also fundraises through writing proposals and sending to donors.
County councils	1. Local conservation based community groups to approach county councils to do the counts e.g. Friends of Kinangop Plateau	
NMK	1. Provides accommodation and facilities for volunteers. 2. Supporting the Coordinator & Assistants. 3. NMK provided some seed money for the counts in January 2007	
LNRA	1. Provide boats and coxswains and other facilities collaborates with land owners around L. Naivasha	
WWF-Bogoria, Naivasha and Kiunga	1. Training of interest groups like Friends of Nature Bogoria. 2. Donation of vehicles and fuel. 3. Integration of management plan in Lake Bogoria. 4. Friends of Nature, Bogoria gives manpower and skills-training of secondary school teachers.	
CCK/CCB	1. Can assist in ground logistics, camping site, staff. 2. County council in Baringo/Koibatek can be approached to give resources. 3. Groups can be approached to give boats.	
Universities in Kenya	1. Public and private-can provide vehicles and skilled manpower.	
KWS-HQS	1. Involve specific stations in early planning for waterfowl counts 2. Provides vehicles for volunteer transportation 3. Provide technical assistance for KWS staff	
NK/ Bird Committee	1. NK-provides financial support, vehicles and binoculars for counts 2. NK-trying to streamline the water bird census into their budgets. 3. Bird Committee gives some little funds to the census.	
Corporate world e.g Safaricom (a mobile service provider in Kenya)	1. Funding may be available but on condition that the firms get publicity in the process.	

Group 2: Recommendations for Effective Waterbird Monitoring

The second group, which had a total of 13 members comprised of Enoch Kanyanya, Kamua Mbogo, Joseph Mbugua, Muchai Muchane, Colin Jackson, Ronald Mulwa, Kariuki Ndang'ang'a, Jane Macharia, Geoffrey Mwangi, Wanyoike Wamiti, Musa Kayamba, James Kimaru & Moses Odhiambo. This group came up with recommendations for effective waterbird monitoring. The ideas of the group were presented by Kariuki Ndang'ang'a (BirdLife International) as shown below.

What are the challenges/what makes water bird monitoring ineffective

1. Lack of skilled volunteers
2. Lack of feedback to data collectors
3. Inconsistency/regularity
4. Data forms–lacking entries for some species found at some sites
5. Untrained/unskilled volunteers
6. High turnover of volunteers and coordinators
7. Lack of funds
8. Difficulties in obtaining permits and authority to access sites
9. What is the sufficient coverage of sites?
10. Few number of involved partners/stakeholders with resources
11. Logistical/transport problems
12. Reporting and dissemination
13. Limited publicity
14. Isolation from other relevant linkages
15. Health and safety risks
16. lack of harmony in Database between institutions (all data at NMK is in one format –MS-ACCESS)

The group provided the following solutions for the above challenges

1. Volunteers –

- a. Maintain database of past volunteers
- b. Motivation to volunteers – certificates
- c. Communicate other issues of interest to contacts in the database
- d. Identify committed volunteers
- e. Approach tour companies to release tour guides
- f. Keep amateurs in the loop-also involved
- g. Send letter of introduction and timetable to relevant tour companies
- h. Discussion forum–make us of Kenya Bird Finder (worldbirds.org/Kenya)
- i. Tell volunteers in advance if it'll not be possible for them to participate

2. Feedbacks

- a. Feedback to volunteers through simple appealing reports
- b. Disseminate summaries widely
- c. Report immediately (don't wait for July data)
- d. Acknowledge participants fully

3. ***Inconsistency***
 - a. Prioritize sites.
 - b. For all sites where there are volunteers/guides are located. Mobilize them to count at that site.
 - c. Make use of existing site interests already expressed by some organizations/individuals e.g. ACC-Amboseli; KWS Wardens.
 - d. Keep contact list -identify who is working where (map of Kenyan wetlands and contacts?) and contact them.
 - e. Utilization of opportunities at KWF
4. ***Data forms***
 - a. Specific forms for sites
 - b. Include aspect for assessing status of site – e.g. related to IBA monitoring
5. ***Training for volunteers***
 - a. Strive to maintain trained volunteers
 - b. Encourage experienced volunteers to participate continually and train others
 - c. Organize regular site-based bird walks, e.g. Naivasha, Bogoria
 - d. Involve site-based volunteers in counting other sites too
 - e. Find out what happened to Waterbird guidebook that was being published by DoO
 - f. Organize a waterbird identification course around Nairobi?
6. ***Develop a Water Bird Counting (WBC) strategy***-for problem six (6)
7. ***Stakeholders***
 - a. Remember to acknowledge all contributors in reports and by letter where possible.
 - b. Do stakeholder analysis.
 - c. Institutionalize – do not deal with individuals.
8. ***Make use of waterbirds counts to monitor avian flu*** – to fundraise-see problem eight
9. ***Reporting & Dissemination***
 - a. Coordinator to directly communicate results to volunteers and donors
10. ***Publicity***
 - a. Make use of other existing networks and programme, e.g. NK, WCK
 - b. Media
 - c. Let Visiting birdwatchers know, e.g. hotels, internet, etc
 - d. Advertise in all Wednesday bird walks just before the counts (e.g. Nov and Dec)
11. ***Health and safety***
 - a. All used vehicles to be insured and ensure that they have no mechanically problems.
 - b. Contacts site-based rangers/security personnel.
 - c. Always have first-aid Kit plus training on how to use it.
12. ***Database***
 - a. Data sharing policy – free but need for acknowledgement

The Formation of the National Waterfowl monitoring committee

Sarah Higgins; *Secretary; Lake Naivasha Riparian Association (LNRA)*

Sarah Higgins summarized the benefits of the proposed NWMC into the following key areas:

1. NWMC would make fundraising for waterfowl monitoring easier.
2. It would make the coordination efficient.
3. The data would be of better quality.
4. The needs for future monitoring would be better defined.
5. Potential donors will be recognized more easily.

All participants in the workshop were in agreement about the need for the formation of a water bird monitoring committee particularly because of the benefits that could be reaped as discussed above. However, it was not quite clear even towards the end of the this session how the participants could constitute the committee. The following are participants views and reactions about the way forward concerning the formation of NWMC in Kenya.

Participants thought that it was important to first define the structure of the committee, i.e. agree on the number of members the committee would have, their roles and responsibilities. In this regards members proposed the creation of posts such as chairperson and assistant chairperson, secretary (coordinator); mainly as the office bearers of the committee. Participants unanimously agreed the that the National Coordinator, African Waterfowl Census (AfWC) based at the National Museums of Kenya be the secretary of the committee once formed. The other posts were not filled, because of the time limitation, but all participants by consensus emphasized the need for more comprehensive discussions before the formation of the proposed NWMC.

The Way Forward: Finally participants agreed to form a task force-a small group of all represented organizations in the workshop to further deliberate on formation of the water bird committee. The name of the task force which all members agreed was '**National Waterbird Monitoring Taskforce**' (NWMT). The task force is not the actual committee, but a few groups of key organizations in the water bird monitoring which should later meet, and provide advice on the formation and the running of a water bird monitoring committee in Kenya.

Recommended members of the National Waterbird Monitoring Taskforce-the following organizations were selected by all participants to be members of the NWMT. It was agreed that a meeting would be called or email communication initiated in future to engage the individuals represented by these organizations in discussions which would result into the guidelines for the formation of a water bird monitoring in Kenya. The National Coordinator, African Waterfowl Census (AfWC), will be responsible for organization of the future meeting or initiation of the email communication. The NWMT will constitute individuals from the following organizations.

1. National Museums of Kenya-Ornithology section
2. Kenya Wildlife Service
3. Nature Kenya
4. Lake Naivasha Riparian Association
5. East African Wild Life Society (Kenya Wetlands Forum)
6. Worldwide Fund for Nature (WWF)
7. National Environmental Management Authority
8. Wetlands International
9. Kenya Professional Guides Association

Concluding Remarks; Dr. Muchai Muchane

Dr. Muchai Muchane, thanked everyone for participating in the workshop, and all the presenters and lead persons for the moderation of the discussions. He mentioned that since there was consensus, on the formation of the water bird committee, this was an indication that organizations were willing to forge strong partnerships to counter funding and logistical water bird monitoring challenges. Finally he thanked the participants on behalf of the Director-General NMK.

Annex I: *Opening speech by Dr Helida Oyieke,* Director of Research and Collections, National Museums of Kenya

Ladies and gentlemen, Good morning. I would like to invite all of you to the consultative meeting on the proposed formation of a National Waterfowl Monitoring Committee (NWMC) in Kenya. Waterfowl census, an international monitoring strategy for wetlands biodiversity, has been running in Kenya for the last 16 years (since 1991). This initiative is part of the International Waterfowl Census and African Waterfowl Census, both coordinated by Wetlands International. In Kenya the monitoring program was initiated by among other organizations, the National Museums of Kenya, Kenya Wildlife Service and Nature Kenya. The censuses are done by volunteer professional bird watchers and amateurs in January and July annually. Data generated from this activity, has been useful in the identification of Kenya's five Ramsar sites (Lakes: Baringo, Naivasha, Nakuru, Bogoria & Elmenteita) and some Important Bird Areas (IBAs).

There are however, challenges which have been encountered since 1991, that have been difficult to surmount; which include unsustainable funding, proper communication and co-ordination of all stakeholders and logistical planning for the waterfowl counts. These challenges have resulted in inconsistent counting at various wetlands, total ignorance of others and lack of regular acquisition of equipment and capacity building of volunteers.

To address these challenges and ensure that the waterfowl monitoring will continue successfully in future, there is need for all interested stakeholders including Community Based Organizations, Non-Governmental Organizations, Government Departments and funding agencies to forge strong partnerships and pull their resources (human, financial etc) and sustain the monitoring program. The deliberations therefore, for the formation of a National Waterfowl Monitoring Committee is timely. It is a positive step towards sustenance of the monitoring program, which provides useful information on the ecological health of wetlands in Kenya.

The National Museums of Kenya has been at the forefront in ensuring that the waterfowl monitoring program continue without collapse since its inception. I therefore, would like to assure all of you that the museum will still continue to be very supportive of this program and will provide an enabling environment for the functioning of the proposed committee. Lastly, I wish to call upon all partners in this process to work together and institutionalize the waterfowl monitoring program within the core activities of your organization, with a view of developing a reliable and long-term strategy in the shared responsibility of securing the future of wetlands and their biodiversity.

With those few remarks, I now declare the workshop officially opened

Thank You

Annex 2: Participating Organizations Invited (R-represented, NR-not presented)

From Government of Kenya

1. National Museums of Kenya-Department of Ornithology ®
2. Kenya Wildlife Service-Wetland Office ®
3. National Environment Management Authority N®
4. Koibatek County Council ®
5. National Museums of Kenya, Wetlands and Marine Program ®

Civil Society Organizations

1. Nature Kenya-East African Natural History Life Society ®
2. East African Wildlife Society ®
3. Lake Naivasha Riparian Association ®
4. A Rocha Kenya ®

Community Based Organization

1. Lake Victoria Sunset Birders ®
2. Friends of Lake Bogoria ®
3. Friends of Kinangop Plateau ®

International NGOs

1. World Wildlife Fund ®
2. International Union for Conservation of Nature N®-*with apologies*
3. Netherlands Embassy in Nairobi N®
4. BirdLife International Secretariat-Nairobi ®

Annex 3: Musila-*Waterbird Monitoring in Kenya: History, Successes & Challenges*

Annex 4: Nasirwa-Meeting the goals of Waterbird Monitoring Programme

Annex 5: Wanyoike-Proposed National Water bird Monitoring Committee (NWMC)-
Some Insights.