

Important Biodiversity Areas Monitoring in Kenya

Project Implementation Team

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Introduction

Though important bird areas are identified based on the threatened bird species they hold, are actually important sites for other biodiversity.

The regional framework for monitoring Important Bird Areas (IBAs) in Africa was developed by BirdLife International in close collaboration with the individual country partners and conservation stakeholders.

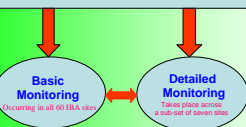
The IBAs conservation and management objective is to ensure perpetual conservation of species, sites and habitats. In Kenya, IBA monitoring is being coordinated by Nature Kenya and involves other key stakeholders notably NAK, KWS, NPS, NEMA and local communities.

The basic monitoring scheme uses a simple form developed by the IBA National Liaison Committee. Forms are filled by people working at various sites (e.g. forest guards/Rangers/officers) and volunteers.

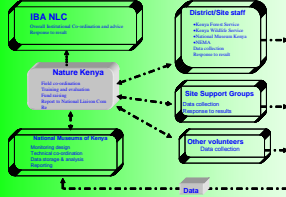
The process of monitoring involves designing a robust, appropriate and cost-effective scheme. This leads to accurate data collection, storage, analysis and application. Results of this process are fed into management planning, policy evaluation, advocacy, fundraising and conservation action.

The monitoring framework, currently functioning in Kenya, implements article 7 of the Convention on Biological Diversity on identification and monitoring.

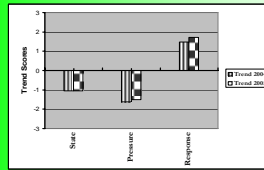
Two-tier Monitoring Framework



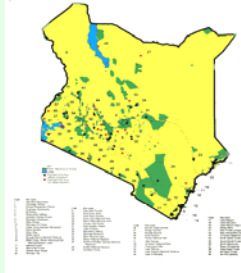
IBA Monitoring Institutional Structure



IBA Status and Trends Summary for 2004 & 2005 (N=60)

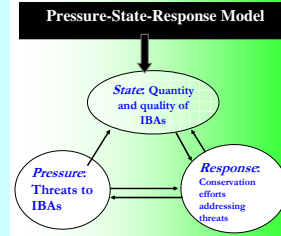


NI: State, Pressure, Response data is coded between -3 to +3 (extremes) Through the State of IBAs in 2004/05 is similar, Pressure reduced slightly and conservation interventions increased a little in 2005.



Map of Kenya's 60 IBA Sites

The IBA monitoring Model



State



Good habitats have plentiful rain with food, freshwater and other resources for wildlife. The framework seeks to monitor the integrity of ecosystems.

Pressure/Threats



Charcoal burning is a frequent threat in 20% of 60 IBAs that hold crucial biodiversity species (IBA Status and Trends Report 2005).

The problem can be addressed by encouraging use of alternative sources of fuel like using energy saving stoves and planting of fast growing trees in woodlots at home.

Response



To ease water access from forest ecosystems by local communities, targeted projects have made the resource available closer to the villages. E.g. in Arabuko Sokoke Forest in Malindi.



Members of Friends of Kinarego Plateau, a Site Support Group carrying out Detailed Monitoring in Kinarego. Considered for the globally threatened Sharp's's Longtail (Macropygia sharpei).

Annual IBA Status and Trends Report

- » Identifies & communicates threats at site level
- » Can be used to guide site management planning process
- » Provides recommendations for highest priority conservation action.
- » Identifies institutional constraints and justifies resource allocation/mobilization
- » Identifies Research and funding priorities
- » Forms part of national reporting to CBD



Capacity building for biodiversity monitoring



Lessons learned

- » Monitoring is a strong tool for conservation awareness among communities
- » Immense capacity is built by participating in monitoring
- » Making monitoring relevant to the needs of the partner institutions is key to achieving institutionalization / Sustainability
- » Institutionalization and integration are key features of sustainability
- » Data being used to inform conservation action & can justify fund raising