

Nature *Kenya*

The East Africa Natural History Society

Important Bird Areas Programme for Kenya

Minutes for National Liaison Committee Emergence Meeting on 14th October 2005 at Biodiversity Seminar Room, NMK

Presents were;

1. Wanjiru Macharia-East Africa Wildlife Society
2. Fleur Ngw'eno-Nature Kenya
3. Jennifer- East Africa Wildlife Society
4. Jim Nyamu – Africa Conservation Centre
5. Isabella Mbandi-Wildlife clubs of Kenya
6. Paul Matiku (Chairing)-NK
7. Enock Kanyanya-NK
8. Simon Musila-IBA Fellow
9. Martin Mwema-IBA Fellow
10. Joel Siele-NK
11. Jacob Machekele-NK

Agenda

1. Introductions
2. Degazettment of Amboseli National Park
 - a. Current status
 - b. Impacts
 - c. Way forward
3. Any other business
4. Date of next meeting

The meeting starts at 10:50 AM

Introduction

There were self introduction by the members, after the introduction the chairperson for that day who is the Executive Director of Nature Kenya briefed the members why the meeting was called within a short time contrary to the usual NLC meetings he explained that the purpose of that meeting was to discuss mainly on the changed of Amboseli National Park to a National Reserve.

Degazettment of Amboseli National Park

On 29th September 05 the President of Kenya ordered the Ministry of Tourism and Wildlife to change the management of the Amboseli National Park that was being administered by Kenya

Wildlife Service (KWS) to be under Ol Kejuado County Council now being a trust land, this has led to downgrading/demoting the park that had gain international recognition. The Environmental conservation groups both NGOs and Civil Societies and group ranches reacted on this move that was made by the government and termed this as illegal since they didn't consult KWS, other organizations and stakeholders. It also contravened Wildlife (Conservation and management) Act

The NLC who members are from both the government institutions, NGOs, CBOs and Civil Societies and they have the right to voice their issues on the matters related to biodiversity Conservation and the issue of Amboseli is one of them. Amboseli National Park is one of the Important Bird Areas in Kenya where the NLC are very much concerned on its conservation status. The NLC members that met on 14th October 05 discussed on the current status, Impacts and Way forward on the change of the park's status.

a. Current status

- Olkejuado County Council was waiting for the KWS to officially hand over the management of the park to them,
- Conservation lobby groups including the East African Wildlife Society (EAWLS) who is an NLC member moved to High Court to challenge the change of park's status

b. Impacts

- The NLC members feared that the park may be mismanaged by the county council if left alone because they lack technical capacity and resources to effectively managed the reserve,
- The reserve may not real attract donors as used to be,
- The change of the park status was likely to affect the maintenance of the park's ecological integrity; the park needs to be managed scientifically.
- The park would loose a recognition from IUCN data list,
- The work of the NGOs and CBOs in Amboseli may not have good welcoming from the county council an like KWS,
- The future of the park is not certain,
- A minister cannot declare the degazettement of the park or a reserve without wide consultation,
- On the other hand the Maasai's can manage the reserve only if they are being supported by other stakeholders,

c. Way Forward

- The EAWLS to issue another joined statement where the partners will contribute,
- Campaign through the Television and radio stations to have the reserve continued being managed by KWS,
- The EAWLS to write campaign letters to cabinets, MPs, County Council, DC and copy to Area chiefs and their assistants then nominating chair to sign the letters
- Planning breakfast meeting with the MPs

A.O.B

- EAWLS was asked to get in touch with the NLC members

Date for the Next meeting

This will be communicated to members as soon as the EAWLS completed the assignment it was given