

Minutes of the Important Bird Areas National Liaison Committee meeting held on the 19th November 2009, at the former Director Generals Board room, National Museums of Kenya.

Present

Ireene Karani (KA), Agatha Nthenge(NK), James Matundura(DRSRS), Maurice Wanyiri (KFS), Volga Lipwoni (KFWG), Mercy Ndalila (NK), Ernest Mwongela (NK), Ireene Mandindou (NMK), Rupi Mangat (WCK), Alex Ngari (NK), Parkinson Ndonge (MoE), Paul Matiku NK-Chairing) and Fred Barasa (NK-taking minutes).

Apologies

Musa Cheruiyot (WWF), Jackson Kiplagat (WWF), Eric Deche (WCK), Caleb Mireri (KU), Fleur Ngw'eno (NK), Julius Arinaitwe (BLAPS), Edith (EK), Gonzaga (EK), Beatrice Khayota (NMK), Alfred Owino (KWS), Peter Simi (ELCI).

Abbreviations

ASALs- Arid and Semi Arid Lands	KFS-Kenya Forest Service
CCAs-Community Conserved Areas	KFWG- Kenya Forest Working Group
CFAs- Community Forest Associations	KWS- Kenya Wildlife Service
DRSRS-Department of Resource Surveys and Remote Sensing	MEAs- Multilateral Environmental Agreements
EIA- Environmental Impact Assessment	MoE- Ministry of Environment
EK-Eco-tourism Kenya	NBEs – Nature Based Enterprises
ELCI -Environmental Liaison Centre International	NK-Nature Kenya
GoK-Government of Kenya	NLC-National Liaison Committee
IBA- Important Bird Area	NMK-National Museums of Kenya
KA-Kesarine & Associates	WCK-Wildlife Clubs of Kenya
	WWF-World Wildlife Fund

Introductions

The chair called the meeting to order at 10.10 a.m. by first welcoming all members present and went on to facilitate self introductions. Apologies were noted.

Adoption of the agenda

Members adopted the meeting's agenda.

Min 79/11/09 Matters arising & confirmation of previous minutes

- On page two, "Department of remote Sensing and Remote Surveys" was corrected to read "Department of Resource Survey & Remote Sensing" and "ASANAL" was corrected to read "ASALs".

- The chair confirmed to a member that a gap still exists and is a subject for discussion as far as the task force that was set up on the MEAs is concerned, as no progress had been made.
- The chair confirmed to a member that a task force to implement the production of the IBA report exists to ensure the results are distributed widely.

Minutes of 16th July 2009 were proposed and seconded as a true record of that meeting.

Min 80/11/09 Institutional updates on ongoing conservation activities at IBAs

The chairman gave a brief history about the NLC and informed the members to raise/share the general conservation related issues that their respective organizations were undertaking and how the NLC could have a common approach.

a) DRSRS

- Carries out ground surveys to monitor the state of the forests
- Does mapping under their remote sensing section
- Does aerial surveys in the rangelands, estimating livestock and wildlife populations to determine the trends.

Concern

- A member inquired why the Ministry of Livestock, which still relies on the 1979 census data, does not use the data from DRSRS. The members were informed that only selected districts are covered and only sample counts are done.
- It was also suggested and agreed that DRSRS be sharing some of its technical reports to the NLC members (Some to be brought in the next meeting).

b) KFWG

- Do monitor the forest cover change and produce reports on the five water towers
- Hold monthly meetings
- Facilitates forest management plans
- Carry out capacity building for communities in forest issues e.g. in Maasai Mau that is still ongoing
- Produced a report on the Mau complex and gives advice to the Mau Task Force

c) Nature Kenya

- Nature Kenya is involved in: Advocacy and awareness creation; Monitoring; Environmental education; Local actions support and Action & resource management planning at some sites in Kenya.
- Some of the initiatives NK is involved in include the listing of the Lakes of the Great Rift Valley as World Heritage sites, commented on the EIA for the proposed Rabai-Malindi-Garsen 220Kv and Garsen-Lamu 132 Kv transmission lines and the listing of Tana River Delta as a Ramsar site.
- Discussions on next steps for the Tana court case ongoing
- EIAs for Jatropa farming ongoing in Dakatcha and Tana Delta
- Plans were at an advanced state for the January 2010 Rift Valley waterfowl counts.
- Participates in the development of the Biodiversity Indicators for the Country

- Held the IBA training in Naivasha in August 2009
- Detailed monitoring training follow-up held in Dakatcha woodlands in September 2009
- Basic monitoring training planned for Mt Kenya, Yala and Dunga (Action NK)
- The 2008 IBA status and trends report was being edited
- The environmental education strategic document is in place: aiming at increasing and enhancing awareness on environmental & conservation issues to schools, general public, community groups, media and the government.
- Does capacity building at various levels e.g. NBEs, monitoring and advocacy among others.
- NK also promotes conservation actions through local conservation groups.

Concern

- The GoK logo was missing from the list of sponsors/collaborators (NK to rectify)

d) Kesarine Associates

- It's a private consultancy firm helping to balance issues of poverty and conservation to improve on people's lives among other tasks.
- Apart from the Tana and Jatropha issues, the meeting was informed that due to drought, many pastoralist communities opted for agriculture along the river system in Garrissa hence clearing a lot of biodiversity and using a lot of water for irrigation.

e) KFS

- CFAs are now a requirement in all the forests.
- Management planning process is ongoing in many forests
- Collaborates in the biodiversity surveys in Mt Kenya (results on the Chogoria and Sirimon transects show no regeneration due to overgrazing during the drought season).
- There was a tree planting launch in Eastern Province that was expected to continue during the Elnino rains.
- A request was made to NLC to support in the rehabilitation of the Mau complex once the evictions are through.
- NK was requested to offer training on IBAs to the KFS officers.

Concern

KFS was requested to help NLC understand what Jatropha plant is and what are its effects to the communities and the environment

f) WCK

- Produces Komba magazine 3 times a year
- Works with schools on conservation issues through educational programmes

Min 81/11/09 Expanding Protected Area network in Kenya: Issues and way forward-Yala, Dakatcha, Dunga, Sabaki and Tana Delta.

The meeting was informed that there is need to enhance the sustainable use of natural resources in unprotected IBAs by and for local communities.

The driving objectives given were to;

- Develop Conservation and Development Master plans for the wetland IBAs
- Establish and strengthen SSGs for the sustained conservation in the IBAs
- Stimulate the establishment of Community Conserved Areas (CCAs)

Results

- KWS is facilitating the formation of a national reserve in Yala Swamp at the request of Siaya County Council.
- Community action plans are being formulated in Dunga, Yala and Tana
- Mapping for Yala, Sabaki and Tana was ongoing
- Process of CCA establishment has been initiated in Ozi location (Tana River Delta)

Min 82/11/09 Multi-Lateral Agreements-Updates from the ministry, National MEAs Co-ordination, Climate change-December preparedness, CBD -2010 and the 2010 targets

- P. Ndonye confirmed that he was now with the Ministry of Environment where he heads the MEAs Department. The Department deals with advising the Government on all treaties dealing with biodiversity and climate change.
- He agreed to represent the Ministry in the NLC.
- The UN climate change conference will be held in Copenhagen (Dec 7th -18th)
- Regional Consultation for Africa on the updating and revision of the Strategic Plan of the Convention for the post-2010 period to be held between the 11th and 12th December 2009 in Cairo.
- The third meeting of the ad hoc open-ended Working Group on the Review of Implementation of the Convention (WGRI-3) and inputs from the fourteenth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA-14) both to be held in Nairobi in May 2010.
- 2010 will be the International Year of Biodiversity, and celebrations will be hosted in Kenya in May (Ndonye to update members in the next meeting)

Concern

- A one day meeting/workshop was requested to be organized by the Ministry to get the government stand on the Jatropha issue.

Min 83/11/09 Threats to IBAs - Way forward

- The 2008 IBA status and trends report executive summary was given indicating the state, pressure and response.
- All showed a declining trend, indicating a concern to the Kenyan biodiversity

- Some of the threats are due to the land use policies (ownership e.t.c) making implementation hard, others are due to poverty, loopholes in the existing laws and regulations
- Solution-a system of engaging scientists was required to highlight some case studies on how to reduce poverty (a gap exists between scientists and the development challenges), educate people on environmental issues and increase awareness creation on the ground using the media.

Concern

- The linkage between best practices on environmental conservation and poverty reduction was to be an agenda item per institution in the upcoming NLC meetings.

Min 84/11/09. Branding IBAs. What does it take and what is the strategy for expansion to other IBAs

- It's ongoing- a global IBA brand was developed. It shows the global acronym – IBA, aimed at supporting local promotion of community ecotourism, marketing strategy and advocacy.
- KWS branded Lake Nakuru in September 2009 which was a huge boost to the KWS's efforts to market the lake as: "The world's greatest ornithological spectacle".
- The species guardian programme also exists

Min 85/11/09 AoB

- Action points to be noted in future minutes for easier tracking/updating
- A space for signing on the minutes also needs to be provided.
- NK was requested by Media Environmental Project from US to screen a film during the Copenhagen meeting, still waiting for the DVDs

Min 86/11/09 Date of next meeting

- Mid of February 2010

There being no other business the meeting ended at 13.10pm.

Signed: Chairman-----Date-----