






Issue No. 12: October-December 2023

# KOLOKOLO



## FEATURING

-  Species research, monitoring and conservation
-  Monitoring, protection and conservation of key biodiversity sites and habitats
-  Integrated innovative approaches for addressing conservation challenges
-  Partnerships, Community involvement, memberships and capacity building
-  Conservation stories/articles from members

## MESSAGES FROM THE CHAIRMAN AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

### A MESSAGE FROM CHAIRMAN



Dear members and the public, we appreciate your collaboration and support. 2023 closed with many achievements but more is still to be implemented. We are therefore optimistic for 2024.

I thank our partners and supporters including Altezza Travel, BirdLife International, Nature and Biodiversity Conservation Union (NABU), NABU International Foundation, Rwanda Wildlife Conservation Association (RWCA), the German Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), United States Agency for International Development (USAID) through USAID Tuhifadhi Maliasili Activity, and others. Happy Reading!!

*John Y. Salehe  
Chairman*

### A MESSAGE FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Dear members, your secretariat continues with implementation of on-ground activities back-to-back with fundraising. We appreciate your support of the 2023 Bird of the Year campaign. More than 1,390 people were reached in 2023. We continue with environmental education programs including the School Environment Education in Derema (SEED) project funded by USAID Tuhifadhi Maliasili Activity. Species and habitat conservation continue across the country. With migratory birds from Europe now here in Africa, this is an important time to raise awareness of bird conservation. Please vote for the 2024 Tanzania Bird of the Year (BoY) and don't miss the 1st public event on the 10th of February 2024 at Simba Farms and Lodge, West Kilimanjaro. ENJOY!!

*Emmanuel Mгимwa  
Executive Director*

## ABOUT NATURE TANZANIA

Nature Tanzania is a national conservation Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) with interests in nature conservation and community empowerment and engagement. We are the BirdLife International partner in Tanzania.

We are using birds as indicators of ecosystem health and a tool for biodiversity conservation. Our mission is to conserve and restore key biodiversity habitats that are identified as Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas (IBAs) in Tanzania for the benefit of the present and future generations. Our work and actions are informed by science and partnership. Communities are key stakeholders of our onground activities. Engaging Communities to Conserve Nature.

# TANZANIA BIRD OF THE YEAR 2023 CAMPAIGN

## > EVENTS AND THE NEXT STEPS <



The Endangered Grey Crowned Crane was voted as the 2023 Tanzania Bird of the Year. In 2023, Nature Tanzania has been creating awareness in collaboration with different partners and stakeholders to address the challenges facing this beautiful and iconic bird, and educating local communities on the importance of conserving this species. The campaign was shared across the country through public gathering events and social media platforms.

Four physical events for the Bird of the Year Campaign were organized in different places (1 event in Arusha reaching 90 people, 2 events in Moshi reaching 140 people and 1 event in Dar es Salaam reaching 161 people). More than 1,000 people reached through online platforms with BoY campaign messages nationally and internationally.

These events increased conservation awareness among the public, local communities and school children, the youth in colleges/universities and adults in different sectors. Online webinars were conducted alongside these public events for non-physical participants reaching more than 1,000 people.



Artistic drawings of White Stork and a family of Grey Crowned Crane were gifted to the Department of Zoology and Wildlife Conservation during the Bird of the Year event that was synchronized with celebration of the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of UDSM Birdwatching on the 2<sup>nd</sup> December

On the 2nd December 2023, the University of Dar es Salaam Birdwatching Group celebrated its 10th anniversary and on this great occasion, Nature Tanzania joined and conducted the fourth and last public event for the 2023 Bird of the Year (BoY). The same platform was also used to encourage participants to participate in the nomination and voting process for the 2024 BoY.

The BoY public engagement events were hosted by RiverTrees at USA River in Arusha (April), TPC Club, Moshi (September 2023), College of African Wildlife Management - MWEKA (October 2023), and the Department of Zoology and Wildlife Conservation of the University of Dar es Salaam (December 2023). The 2023 Bird of the Year campaign has physically reached 391 people and 3,000+ through social media platforms, and many more people through news on television channels.

You can participate in voting for the 2024 Bird of the Year

For more communication or assistance, please contact [gaudensia.mariki@naturetanzania.or.tz](mailto:gaudensia.mariki@naturetanzania.or.tz)



Some participants during an event at TPC Moshi, September



Some participants during an event at CAWM - MWEKA, October

# THE AFRIEVOLVE PROJECT ENDS WITH REMARKABLE ACHIEVEMENTS

## > FINAL WORKSHOPS IN NAIROBI, KENYA AND AMANI, TANZANIA <

### A Triumph of Collaboration, Innovation, and Dedication



From January 2021 to December 2023, Nature Tanzania was part of the unique Afrocentric project AfriEvolve - Capacity Development for Green NGOs in Africa. AfriEvolve project was coordinated by NABU and implement-ed in six African countries - forming two clusters; the West Africa cluster. The East Africa cluster included Na-ture Kenya, Nature Uganda and Nature Tanzania. In Tanzania, Nature Tanzania supported local farmers in Amani Nature Forest Reserve to implement spice farming using agroforestry systems and provided access to finance.

To celebrate project achievements, all project partners, NABU, and BirdLife International gathered from 16th to 18th October in Nairobi, Kenya for a final project workshop. To ensure sustainability, the six partners are now working on a follow-up project to upscale the value chains of the CSA businesses supported during the AfriEvolve project.

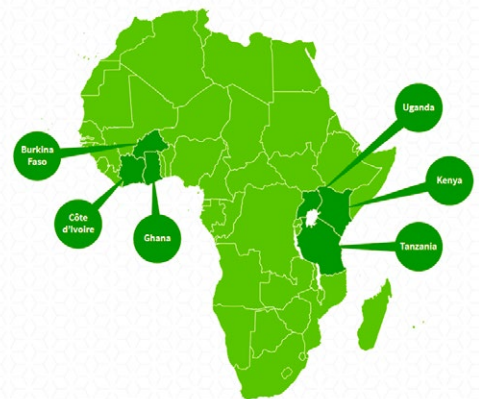
Below are some of the project achievements;

The project built the organizational capacity of Nature Tanzania and SoS Forests and as a result, these 2 organi-sations qualified and joined the BirdLife International partnership.

The project supported local farmers in the respective countries to pilot Climate-Smart Agriculture (CSA) there-fore adapting to the climate change impacts on agriculture. This is important for their food security and sus-tainable development.

In Tanzania, a €10,000 Community Revolving Fund was established. It is owned and operated by local farmers with technical support from Muheza District Council and provides access to finance for local farmers to up-scale CSA that integrates biodiversity conservation.

We thank the government of Tanzania for their collaboration and support. NABU and the German Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) provided financial support.



**Martin Harper**  
CEO | BirdLife International

I am honoured to lead BirdLife International in this crucial decade. Having been part of the BirdLife family for the past 19 years, I have seen the power of our Partnership acting both nationally and globally to tackle the nature and climate emergency.



It was an honor having Martin during the final AfriEvolve workshop in Nairobi. Nature Tanzania wishes him the best as he leads more than 120 conservation organizations from different countries under the umbrella of BirdLife International

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The AfriEvolve project included a Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) component that was implemented as a pilot at site-specific levels in respective countries. In Tanzania, Nature Tanzania implemented the CSA activities at Amani Nature Forest Reserve by involving spice farming communities in three villages of Msasa IBC, Mbomole and She-bomeza. On 11th December 2023, spice farmers (beneficiaries), stakeholders, and local partners gathered for a final project workshop at Amani Nature Forest Reserve to celebrate achievements and share insights (challenges & opportunities) that could benefit the next project phase.

- Many achievements have been reported in the past Kolokolo Newsletter issues but below is the summary;
- A €10,000 Community Revolving Fund (CRF) was established to provide access to finance to local farmers in CSA. The CRF benefited 125+ local farmers (direct beneficiaries)
  - Increased capacities of spice farmers at different levels including cultivation approaches, integration of organically made inputs for farm maintenance, post-harvest management, and value chain improvement (processing, labelling and branding)
  - Increased market linkages and access through training and participation in Nanenane farmers' exhibitions

We thank the government of the United Republic of Tanzania through Tanga Regional Administration, Muheza Dis-tract and the local government authorities at the ward and village levels, and all stakeholders for their good support and cooperation.





## BIODIVERSITY MONITORING TRAINING AND MENTORING PROGRAM (BIMO) - 2023 UPDATES

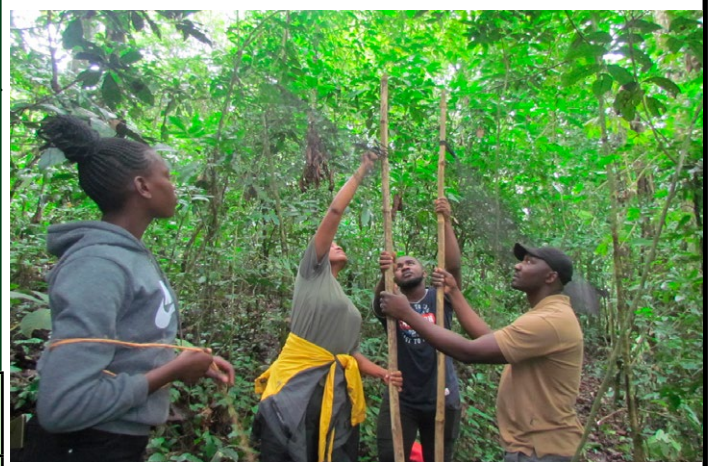
The 4th and 5th cohorts marked great successes for the BiMO Training Program with 22 trainees (10 females) trained in 2023. This makes a total of 49 (24 females) people trained since the program's establishment in September 2020. A key achievement is that most of the alumni are now bird conservation ambassadors in their organisations with many now self-employed and others employed by key conservation organisations including Nature Tanzania.

BiMO is a locally crafted conservation program tailored for capacity building to Nature Tanzania members, young conservation graduates and nature enthusiasts. The program is implemented by Nature Tanzania in collaboration with the Department of Zoology and Wildlife Conservation of the University of Dar es Salaam (UDSM) at Amani Nature Forest Reserve. For 2023, we acknowledge financial support from all NT members, Altezza Travel and the USAID Tuhifadhi Maliasili Activity. More support is needed and therefore welcomed especially for 2024.

### Donations are welcomed to support sustainability of BiMO Program

2 Cameras	10 (10x42) binoculars
2 GPS	10 Rain coats
10 Tents	10 Rain boots
2 Gas cookers and refilling	Camp chairs
Camp tables	Solar lantern / Head lamps
Field guides (birds, plants, insects, reptiles, etc.)	Food for 21 people *15 days* 4 times a year
A motorcycle for field Logistics and activities	4 digital refractometers

To donate or join Nature Tanzania membership, Please contact us via +255(0) 689111313 or email [info@naturetanzania.or.tz](mailto:info@naturetanzania.or.tz)



**THE VULTURE CONSERVATION PROJECT EMPOWERS MAKAO ENTREPRENEURS THROUGH BUSINESS SKILLS TRAINING AND PROVISION OF SOFT LOANS, MEATU, SIMIYU**



Nature Tanzania continues to implement the project “An integrated approach to protecting wildlife from poisoning in Mara-Serengeti” in Makao Wildlife Management Area (2021-2025). The project is funded by the United Kingdom government through its Darwin Initiative. The project is addressing factors that threaten vultures and impact negatively on communities, resulting in livelihood improvements through better protection of livestock and new sustainable livelihood options. In Makao WMA, Nature Tanzania is working with stakeholders including traditional healers to address the use of vulture body parts in traditional medicine (belief-based killings of vultures).

As part of the project, a sustainable Community Revolving (CRF) has been established to provide access to finance. In November 2023, we conducted a two-day entrepreneurship training workshop for 51 (29 females) entrepreneurs from villages forming Makao WMA. The training increased the technical capacity of local entrepreneurs on business implementation and management focussing on livelihood that reduces pressure on natural resources including wildlife.

The training was facilitated by Community Development Officers from Meatu and Itilima District Councils. It was attended by CRF beneficiaries, entrepreneurs from member villages of Makao WMA and CRF Committee members.

The training topics included concepts of entrepreneurship, capital, branding, marketing,

value chain & value addition, business planning, management and monitoring, risks management in business, innovation, vision and leadership among others.

Miss. Blandina Babu (Community Development Officer of Meatu District Council) emphasized participants to use the knowledge and skills obtained during the training to improve their business and their livelihood in general. Also, she asked all participant to share their skills with others in their business groups and the community at large.

They were also tasked to support vulture conservation, especially addressing the belief-based killings of vultures. More community members are expected to benefit from the established CRF.



**ADDRESSING THE ILLEGAL KILLING OF BIRDS IN CENTRAL TANZANIA - DODOMA**



**Project summary:** Kongwa and Mpwapwa districts are important stopovers for the Palearctic migratory birds. The project aims to promote and implement conservation, sustainable development, and awareness creation to contribute to nature conservation and community livelihood development in Tanzania. It specifically intends to address the Illegal Killing of Birds (IKB) in Central Tanzania. The project is funded by the NABU International Foundation for Nature.

**PROJECT ACHIEVEMENTS**

**Awareness raising in schools**

Nature Tanzania raised awareness in environment club sessions at five project schools in the Kongwa and Mpwapwa districts. This was on the importance of environmental protection and bird conservation. A total of 176 students has been reached (98 females) through established environmental clubs during the reporting period. Birdwatching activities were also organized and conducted with environment club students at Manungu Primary School reaching more than 100 students.

**Awareness raising in villages**

Awareness of environment protection and bird conservation has been shared with local communities at Ng’hambi and Msagali village, reaching a total of 146 local communities (67 female). This was achieved during Village General Assemblies.

**Commemoration of the World Migratory Bird Day and October Big Day**

In commemoration of the World Migratory Bird Day and the October Big Birding Day, we conducted bird watching at Ikoa dam-Mpwapwa and recorded 37 bird species. We also raised awareness to local

local farmers around Ikoa Dam. Local farmers were encouraged to stop the illegal killing of migratory birds that use the Ikoa dam as their stopover.

**Livelihood projects**

To reduce pressure on natural resources, specifically birds, the project supported target beneficiaries with poultry farming, beekeeping and pig farming projects to provide additional sources of protein and income therefore reducing pressure from the IKB. Ng’hambi and Msagali villages beneficiaries are running successful poultry farming. Manungu, Molisheni, Nghámbi, Msagali and Mlanga are running beekeeping projects; Nghámbi, village beneficiaries are running pig farming projects. Manungu village beneficiaries are running goat farming projects.

Kongwa and Mpwapwa District Councils provide technical support to these groups on veterinary services, extension services and marking. In collaboration with the 2 districts, we regularly conduct trainings and meetings to check progress and ensure the groups have the information and capacity to be successful. In doing so, we are supporting sustainable development in Tanzania.



## SUPPORTING VALUE CHAIN FOR ECO-FRIENDLY PRODUCED SPICE AND BEE PRODUCTS

The communities are a center of our conservation work and we holistically engage them in almost all our onground activities. The natural resources that we campaign for protection and conservation are in fact primarily protected by the surrounding communities. In realizing the importance of engaging the local communities in conservation of nature, Nature Tanzania works diligently to support their livelihoods through initiating alternative Income Generating Activities (IGAs) that fit the local environment. Nature Tanzania has so far successfully supported spice farmers in Tanga and Beekeepers in Dodoma to sustainably produce, add value and market their eco-friendly produced products. These two communities are now reaching out the external markets to sell their products. So, we encourage readers of the Kolokolo Newsletter to press orders and buy such amazing natural products as much as you can at the good prices. By buying these products you contribute to improving the local communities' incomes and also help conservation of nature. The products are available at Nature Tanzania offices - TEMDO Building Njiro in Arusha, Amani Field Office in Tanga, and Kongwa Field Offices in Dodoma.

Get a Pack for your family, friends and colleagues

### HONEY PRODUCTS

Stinging Bee Honey  
Stingless Bee Honey

#### Contacts

+255(0)689111313

+255(0)783643331

Get a Pack for your family, friends and colleagues

### SPICE PRODUCTS

Masala ya Kuku | Masala ya Samaki | Tea Masala  
Nyama Masala | Pilau Masala

#### Contacts

+255(0)689111313

+255(0)719555774



With support from



Bundesministerium für wirtschaftliche Zusammenarbeit und Entwicklung

**EVENTS & WORKSHOPS****THE 14TH TAWIRI INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE, AICC ARUSHA**

The 14th TAWIRI Scientific Conference was held at the Arusha International Conference Center (AICC) in Arusha from 6th - 8th December 2023. Theme: Human-Wildlife Coexistence for Bio-diversity Conservation and Socio-economic Development. Nature Tanzania was represented by staff and volunteers. The conference was attended by 400+ registered participants and 250+ scientific papers including keynote papers were presented. An important output is that the CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT ACTION PLAN FOR VULTURES IN TANZANIA, 2024-2033 was also launched during the conference by Hon. Angela Kairuki, Minister of Natural Resources and Tourism. Nature Tanzania participated in the development and approval of this important action plan.

Nature Tanzania supported 2 students from the Department of Zoology and Wildlife Conservation - University of Dar es Salaam. One of them, Mr. Jimminus Kakoko presented on "Effect of Urbanisation on Avian Community in Tanga Metropolitan Areas, Tanzania". Nature Tanzania secretariat, delivered the following (oral and paper) presentations;

- Ornithological Status of Makao Important Bird Area, Simiyu, Tanzania.
- Monitoring of Grey Crowned Crane in Northwestern Tanzania, Kagera.
- Distribution and Abundance of Migratory Birds and the Status of Illegal Killing of Birds in Kongwa and Mpwapwa Districts, Tanzania.
- Vultures Populations Surveys and Monitoring in Makao Important Bird and Biodiversity Area, Tanzania"



# CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR GREETINGS



Join Nature Tanzania during this 2024 New Year Season.

For 2024, the first 10 new members and 5 resubscribing members will get either a t-shirt, cup, cap, honey or spice products.

Contact [info@naturetanzania.or.tz](mailto:info@naturetanzania.or.tz) or +255(0) 689111313 for guidance



## BIRDING & FUNDRAISING OPPORTUNITIES

### Birding Calendar in Arusha

On 1<sup>st</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Saturdays

Contact: +255 753111084 | 0657373455

DATE	SITE
27th January 2024	Eluanata Dam (Nanja)
24th February 2024	Oldonyo Sambu
30th March 2024	Lake Duluti

### Birding in Kyerwa, Kagera

On Saturdays

Contact: +255 758468977

### Birding in East Usambara Mountains

On Saturdays

Contacts: +255 654898154 | +255 719555774

### Birding in Kongwa & Mpwapwa, Dodoma

On Saturdays

Contacts: +255 767953203 | +255 783643 331

### University of Dar es Salaam Birdwatching Group

First Saturday: Every month

Contact: +255 758336769



### Do you have a good conservation idea but no funding? Read below about ABC

The African Bird Club (ABC) is a UK registered charity with the aims of supporting conservation of birds and their habitats in Africa. ABC runs a Conservation Awards Programme that supports small to medium sized conservation projects in Africa. Since 1996, it has supported a wide variety of projects including training courses, research into threatened species and promotion and awareness of conservation issues in Africa. The Conservation Awards aims to encourage as wide a range of ideas as possible, and funds approximately a maximum of £3,000 per project per year. About 10-15 Conservation Awards are given each year. Applications accepted are those from individuals residents of Africa or institutions based in Africa. Many different types of projects can be considered so long as there is a clear conservation objective. These could include: survey and research into African birds; educational projects or training courses; production of guides to the common birds of a country in local languages; interpretation material for nature reserves; other ideas will be considered. The African Bird Club gives out a smaller number of Expedition Awards up to a maximum of £5,000 each year for larger, more ambitious projects. These usually involve proponent travelling to a foreign country to undertake the project. Funding for these projects is often obtained from several sources. For more details including deadlines for applications please visit their website <https://www.africanbirdclub.org/conservation-fund-awards>. You can also contact the ABC's Tanzania Country Representative, Mr. Emmanuel Mгимwa through [tanzania@africanbirdclub.org](mailto:tanzania@africanbirdclub.org)

### SDGs RELATED TO NATURE TANZANIA'S WORK



ARTICLES FROM MEMBERS

EFFECT OF URBANIZATION ON AVIAN COMMUNITY IN TANGA METROPOLITAN AREAS, TANZANIA

Jimminus P. Kakoko and Jasson John

Department of Zoology and Wildlife Conservation, College of Natural and Applied Sciences, University of Dar es Salaam,

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**Key words:** Alien bird species, Avian community, Environmental variables, Urbanization

Urbanisation has had profound impacts on wildlife including birds. Tanga, being the second largest city along the coast of Tanzania, is also subjected to high rate of urbanisation. We conducted a study to assess the impact of urbanisation on the avian communities in Tanga metropolitan areas. The study area was stratified into three zones with different levels of urbanisation; Central Business District (CBD), Semi-Urban (SU), and Peri-Urban (PU). Birds were sampled using point count method. We also estimated the following environmental variables (urbanisation indices) at each census point: percentage cover of buildings, pavements, bare land, and vegetation, and number of parked vehicles and pedestrians. A total of 1,358 individual birds from 28 families and 8 orders was recorded. Parked vehicles, buildings, pedestrians, pavements increased towards the CBD whereas bare

land and vegetation cover increased towards the PU ( $\chi^2 = 2313.808$ ,  $df = 10$ ,  $P < 0.05$ ). Avian species diversity decreased with the increase in urbanisation (with significant levels,  $P < 0.05$ ) among zones: CBD versus SU, CBD versus PU, and SU versus PU. However, in the CBD there was high abundance of alien bird species; House Crow and House Sparrow. The first two axes of the canonical correspondence analysis scatter plot explained 62.72% and 37.28% of the variance in the species, whereby vegetation and bare land had significant influence in distribution of birds than pavement, buildings, parked vehicles and pedestrian. Because urban sprawl is increasingly affecting avian communities, it is worth considering some strategies to increase green spaces and managing urban gardens by planting native trees. Moreover, the dominance of alien bird species may as well outcompete and threaten native avifauna; we therefore recommend their population control. For House Crow, long-term trapping and garbage management could work well.

## BIRDS OF SUA BOTANICAL GARDEN

Perpetua Ezekiel Nyagwaswa

[perpetuanyagwaswa@gmail.com](mailto:perpetuanyagwaswa@gmail.com)



The botanical garden at Sokoine University of Agriculture was founded by President Julius Kambarage Nyerere in 1986. It is a valuable resource for research, education, conservation and tourism. The garden is characterized by four distinct habitats, each with unique flora and fauna as describe below. The garden is of ornithological importance as it hosts about 40 bird species including resident and migratory birds. Despite the garden's many benefits, it faces challenges such as deforestation, invasive species, waste/garbage disposal and impacts of climate change that affects plants and animals in the garden and causing shifts in their ranges and changes in their behaviour.

**The Grassland habitat;** is characterized by grasses and herbs including fever grass, vetiver grass, and few Vachelia trees. This habitat attracts grassland birds including African Grassland Pipit and Yellow-throated Longclaw. Bronze Mannikins and Red-billed Firefinch utilize this grassland as well. The Pin-tailed Whydahs visit the grassland and use it as play ground especially during courtship display when males lek to attract females.

**The Woodland habitat;** comprises of a variety of trees including *mpingo* - a national tree symbol for Tanzania, and a number of miombo tree species. The mpingo tree, also known as African black-wood (*Dalbergia melanoxylon*), is endangered and prized for its hard and dark wood. "Miombo" trees are

native to southern Africa and are an important part of the woodland ecosystem. Other plants found in the woodland habitat include Vachelia trees, Tamarind, and the beautiful flowering Jacaranda that flowers purple-bluish during winter.

**The Bushland habitat;** is characterized by dense shrubs and thorny plants such as the African box-thorn and the Sickie Bush. This habitat provides a haven for a variety of birds including sunbirds - the well renown avian pollinators, Tinkerbirds and Barbets. Insects such as locusts and butterflies are also common in this habitat.

**The Wetland habitat;** is a haven for aquatic biodiversity. It is home to a variety of aquatic plants such as water lilies, papyrus and sedges. The wetland is home to a variety of frogs and fish. It is also important for maintaining the water quality of the surrounding areas and provides a breeding ground for many bird species such as Weavers, African Jacana, Lesser Moorhen, Egyptian Goose, Three-banded Plover and Black Crake.

### Recommendations for Addressing the Challenges Facing SUA Botanical Garden

1. Development of a conservation plan that includes reforestation and the control of invasive species - the plan should take into account the effects of climate change.
2. Increase public awareness activities focusing on addressing the threats and educating about the importance of the botanical garden - this could be done through environmental education programs and outreach activities.
3. Capacity building to students' associations such as WISASUA and HOWA Birding Club that are focusing on wildlife conservation - this could be in terms of suppling equipment for biodiversity monitoring such as binoculars and field guide books, and training students on biodiversity monitoring particularly for SUA botanical garden





**NatureTanzania**  
Engaging Communities to Conserve Nature

## Our Partners and Supporters



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