






Issue No. 14: April - June 2024

KOLOKOLO



FEATURING

-  Bird research, monitoring and conservation
-  Protection and conservation of key biodiversity sites and habitats
-  Integrated innovative approaches addressing conservation challenges
-  Partnerships, Community involvement, membership and capacity building
-  Conservation stories/articles from members

www.naturetanzania.or.tz

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN



Dear members, thank you very much for supporting our mission and vision. I acknowledge the continued support of the Government of Tanzania, [BirdLife International](#), our [donors](#) and supporters for supporting and collaborating in engaging communities to conserve nature in Tanzania. I welcome our new members and in a special way, our new corporate member, [Kearsley Safari and Tour Company](#). Please, be informed that our 7th Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be convened on the 29th August 2024. On the 22nd August, an online seminar will be convened to present our projects. Please stay updated by following our social media and joining our WhatsApp group. I encourage members to contact our secretariat through info@naturetanzania.or.tz if you have any input or recommendations. Asanteni sana.

*John Y. Salehe
Chairman*

A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



I thank all contributors and readers of Kolokolo newsletter. During this quarter, we successfully completed the School Environment Education in Derema (SEED) project in Amani-Nilo Forest Corridor. A remarkable milestone of the SEED project is the qualification of all six primary schools as eco-schools. We truly appreciate the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) through USAID Tuhifadhi Maliasili Project for funding the SEED project. We have also established a new partnership with Partner für Klima und Nature (PfKN) for wetland conservation projects in Malagarasi-Muyowosi Ramsar Site (targeting Shoebill, Wattled and Grey Crowned Cranes) and Kagera Wetlands (targeting Grey Crowned Crane). We welcome more partnerships, financial and technical support to realise our ambitious strategy.

Happy Reading!!

*Emmanuel Mgimwa
Executive Director*

ABOUT NATURE TANZANIA



©Onongo J.

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.

WELCOMING



Since 1948
Kearsleys
Travel & Tours

Our new corporate member

Nature Tanzania's family is thrilled to welcome Kearsleys Travel & Tours as our new corporate member. Kearsleys, a 75-year-old Tanzanian DMC, is at the forefront in ensuring that many tourists from overseas are attracted to visit our alluring majestic country, Tanzania. Over the years, Kearsleys has been the main driving force, a market leader and a strong mover & shaker within the travel and tours industry in Tanzania and East Africa. As our new corporate member, Kearsleys provides funds to support our conservation and community empowerment programs in Tanzania, specifically our Biodiversity Monitoring (BiMO) training and mentoring program in East Usambara Mountains. If you are looking for a distinguished, tailor-made, and high-end safari holiday in East Africa, Kearsley is the right place. They are ready to take you on a breathtaking experience into the heart of nature's wonders with all the care and attention you need. Thank you very much Kearsleys Travel & Tours.

We are also happy to welcome 15 new individual members who joined Nature Tanzania in the past three months. With the incoming of new members, our family has grown to 478 members. THANK YOU ALL

NOTICE FOR THE 7th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF NATURE TANZANIA

The Chairman of the Board of Directors of Nature Tanzania is pleased to announce that the 7th AGM will be convened on the 29th August 2024. The 7th AGM meeting will be convened online through Zoom Meetings. A link for the online meeting will be shared in advance. Furthermore, a few members based in Arusha are welcomed for physical participation at our Arusha office but this should confirm with the secretariat through info@naturetanzania.or.tz

7th AGM tentative agenda

1. Chairman's report
2. Honorary Treasurer's report - audited financial statements
3. AoBs (should be communicated in advance)

Kindly contact the membership officer (Gaudensia Mariki) via gaudensia.mariki@naturetanzania.or.tz to renew your membership.

We are looking forward to meeting you all.

ALL SIX PRIMARY SCHOOLS IN AMANI-NILO FOREST CORRIDOR HAVE QUALIFIED FOR ECO-SCHOOLS GREEN FLAGS



Introduction

All six primary schools in Amani-Nilo Forest Corridor (ANFC) have qualified for the green flag of eco-schools. Please join us in celebrating this important milestone. This was achieved as part of the School Environment Education in Derema (SEED) project, funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) through the USAID Tuhifadhi Maliasili Project. The SEED project was a two-year project (June 2022 - June 2024) implemented in six primary schools, i.e. Zigi, Kambai, Kwezitu, Kwemdimu, Antakae, Msasa IBC and two secondary schools, i.e. Shebomeza and Zirai in Muheza District, Tanga region.

school-community collaboration in conserving the ANFC.

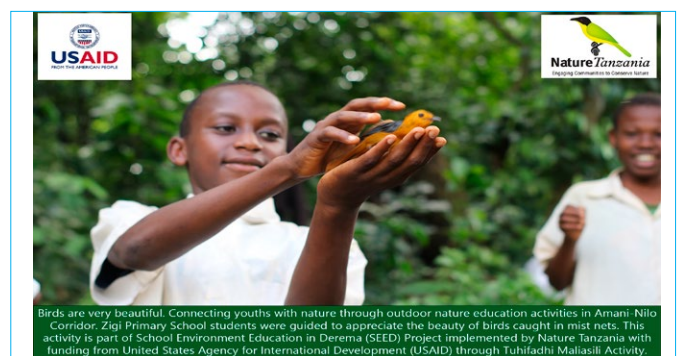
Project implementation

During project implementation, six eco-committees (66 members) were formed as the leading structure to support implementing eco-school programs in the schools, especially the eco-schools seven-step framework. Key project achievements/impacts include contributing to improving relationships between the community and schools. This was achieved through school eco-committees. The project successfully introduced the Environmental Education (EE), ESD, Investigation, Vision, Action and Change (IVAC) approach to learning and teaching methods to the six primary schools. By doing so, the project has integrated ANFC and nature conservation into the school curriculum using IVAC (teaching and learning method). The project has raised awareness of more than 1,000 people in the ANFC through radio jingle broadcasting. The project has contributed to improved school ground environments through school ground greening, therefore contributing to soil erosion control.



Birds are very beautiful. Connecting youths with nature through outdoor nature education activities in Amani-Nilo Corridor. Antakae Primary School students were guided to appreciate the beauty of birds caught in mist nets. This activity is part of School Environment Education in Derema (SEED) Project implemented by Nature Tanzania with funding from United States Agency for International Development (USAID) through Tuhifadhi Maliasili Activity.

The project's main goal was to develop a youth workforce that is aware of and concerned about the Amani-Nilo Forest Corridor (ANFC). The project used a student-centred and interactive approach to learning and teaching to transform schools into learning hubs for natural resource management and informed decision-making. The SEED project used the eco-schools approach, therefore implemented the Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) and enhanced



Birds are very beautiful. Connecting youths with nature through outdoor nature education activities in Amani-Nilo Corridor. Zigi Primary School students were guided to appreciate the beauty of birds caught in mist nets. This activity is part of School Environment Education in Derema (SEED) Project implemented by Nature Tanzania with funding from United States Agency for International Development (USAID) through Tuhifadhi Maliasili Activity.

The six primary schools were supported with TZS 25,455,600 to establish micro-projects. Three primary schools are implementing beekeeping projects and tree nurseries by two primary schools, and one school is implementing avocado and vegetable gardening projects. As part of outdoor nature education activities, 617 students (352 females) were reached with birdwatching during the 1st year, and 452 students (239 females) were reached during the 2nd year of the project. Furthermore, 49 students (54 females) were reached with mist netting activities during the 1st project year, while 233 students (115 females) were reached during the 2nd year. In collaboration with the University of Dar es Salaam, we conducted Biodiversity Monitoring (BiMO) training for 14 people (6 females).

Project impacts



As a result of different project activities, a total of 2,298 people (51.3% females) were trained in sustainable Natural Resources Management (NRM) and/or biodiversity conservation and 2,055 youths (52.5% females) were trained in soft skills through USG-assisted programs. Furthermore, the project has contributed to increased students' academic performance (for example, from 56% in 2022 to 86% in 2023 at Kwezitu (source 2022 and 2023 Standard Seven National Exams Results). In May 2024, the Tanzania Green Flag Assessment Jury (TGFAJ) assessed the six primary schools for eco-schools green flags, and all six primary schools qualified.

Project sustainability

The project's sustainability is achieved through local structures to enable sustainability, i.e. the established eco-committees will continue to coordinate supported activities in the respective schools/villages. The established eco-parliaments will continue to coordinate student's participation

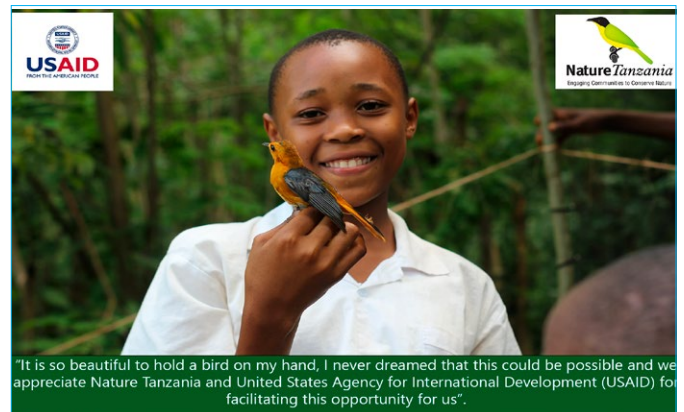
in the eco-schools activities in the respective schools. The government's ownership of the program will ensure sustainability.



The trained teachers will continue to support IVAC and integrate ESD into school curricula. The established micro-project are expected to generate revenues to run the project following the eco-schools' guidelines. The schools and community members have replicated activities that address the environmental challenges that were identified during the environmental review, including soil erosion control and tree planting.

Acknowledgement

The project worked closely with various stakeholders, including the President's Office—Regional Administration Local Governments (PO-RALG), Tanga Regional Government, Muheza District Council, Tanzania Forest Service Agency (TFS), ward and village governments, school administrations, extension officers, students, and community members. We especially appreciate the USAID Tuhifadhi Maliasili Project for its excellent technical support during project implementation. The USAID and USAID Tuhifadhi Maliasili Project are acknowledged for financial support.



CONSERVING MALAGARASI-MUYOVOZI RAMSAR SITE, AN IMPORTANT BIRD AND BIODIVERSITY AREA IN TANZANIA



Malagarasi-Muyovozi Ramsar Site (MMRS) is a Tanzania's first Ramsar Site designated in 2000. It is the third largest Ramsar Site globally and plays an important role in the Malagarasi River Basin, which constitutes about one-third of Lake Tanganyika's catchment area. The MMRS ecosystem includes a diverse range of wetland habitat types mainly comprised of a mosaic of floodplains, permanent and seasonal rivers, marshes and swamps that are regularly flooded. These areas serve as resting and feeding sites for migratory and resident bird species, large populations of mammals. This includes threatened species such as Shoebills, Wattled and Grey Crowned Cranes and Slender-snouted Crocodiles. Despite its ecological and social importance, MMRS is threatened by anthropogenic activities and, therefore, requires immediate action.



In partnership with Nature and Biodiversity Conservation Union (NABU) and Partner für Klima und Nature (PfKN), we are excited to announce a new project, "Wetland and Bird Conservation in MMRS, Tanzania". The project focuses on enhancing local governance of natural resources and building capacities for species and

habitat monitoring and sustainable conservation of the MMRS. The project, which is implemented in close collaboration with the Tanzania Wildlife Management Authority (TAWA) and local government authorities in the Tabora and Kigoma regions, places a strong emphasis on a community-driven strategy. This approach recognizes the vital role of local communities in addressing factors contributing to biodiversity loss and safeguarding the MMRS ecosystem.



The project, which received all-around endorsement following field visits in March, May, and June 2024, will run for 3 years. The project complements the ongoing efforts of the government of Tanzania, specifically TAWA, and the previous projects (SIMMORS and SWMP) to realise sustainable wetland conservation and management in collaboration with local communities. We acknowledge the support and cooperation from TAWA, NABU, PfKN and local government authorities in the Tabora and Kigoma regions.

THE TWELVE RINGED GREY CROWNED CRANES - A GREEN LIGHT TO POPULATION MONITORING IN NORTHWESTERN TANZANIA

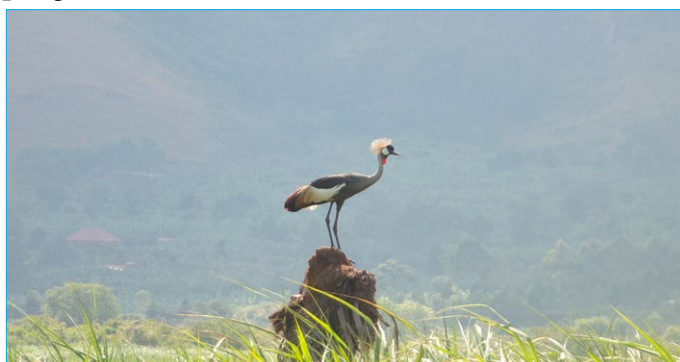


The Grey Crowned Crane (GCC), a magnificent but endangered bird, faces urgent threats. The species was uplisted to Endangered due to factors such as habitat loss and the illegal removal of birds and eggs from the wild. These threats have led to rapid declines over the past three generations (45 years). The Kagera wetlands in Northwestern Tanzania are crucial feeding and breeding grounds for the Tanzanian GCC population outside the protected area network. However, these habitats are threatened by human activities, including rapid habitat loss and wetland degradation. Illegal hunting and trapping, as well as egg and chick collection, further endanger the species. In 2021, Nature Tanzania, with support from NABU, established a Grey Crowned Crane conservation program in Northwestern Tanzania.

in GCC monitoring and awareness raising. In collaboration with the community conservation champions, we have successfully implemented the GCC ringing program using the country-code program. Between March and June 2024, 12 juveniles were successfully ringed in Karagwe and Kyerwa wetlands, a significant milestone in our conservation efforts. The ringed GCC are now being monitored by community conservation champions. This is the first initiative in Tanzania that complements the East Africa transboundary ringing program along the Kagera River (Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda).



We appreciate the support from community conservation champions, and local government authorities. Tanzania Wildlife Research Institute (TAWIRI) and The Tanzania Commission for Science and Technology (COSTECH) provided research clearance and permit. NABU, NABU International Foundation and RWCA are acknowledged for their financial support of our Northwestern GCC conservation program.



In 2022, we partnered with the Rwanda Wildlife Conservation Association (RWCA) for transboundary collaboration towards GCC monitoring and conservation. As part of this partnership, 20 community conservation champions have been recruited and leading

ILLEGAL COLLECTION OF GREY CROWNED CRANES - WHERE ARE THEY TAKEN?



“I am very happy for the rescued Grey Crowned Crane. It could have lost its life if I had not reported this scenario. Thanks to the Community Conservation Champion and the Project Officer for the prompt responses following my report. It took me over a year to learn about Grey Crowned Crane’s importance. The knowledge I received from Nature Tanzania changed my perception of birds and increased my confidence in communicating illegal activities affecting birds and the environment.”

Illegal collection of eggs, chicks and adults threatens Grey Crowned Cranes (GCC) in the Kagera wetlands. In 2021, 2022 and 2023, GCC egg collection cases in Karagwe and Kyerwa districts were 0, 4 and 3, respectively; GCC chick collection cases were 4, 3 and 2, respectively; GCC adult collection cases were 1, 1 and 3, respectively. In the first half of 2024, 2 egg collection cases and 2 chick collection cases have been recorded. Recording these cases was made possible with good collaboration from the community conservation champions and the crane lovers from the communities. These alerting data triggered us to investigate the drivers of collection. We found that the collected eggs are boiled/fried and eaten at home. We are informed that GCC chicks might be illegally sold outside the country, and a few individuals are kept as pets at home. GCC adults are used in traditional beliefs and food, and some are kept as pets at home.

The pictures above show an adult GCC captured at Chamchuzi wetland in Karagwe district. One of our Community Conservation Champions received a call from one of the villagers reporting a captured GCC at someone’s house. The champion visited the place and advised the person with the crane to release it. The captured GCC was hunted for food, so the champion educated and requested the hunter stop illegally capturing

GCC. The community conservation champion delivered a conservation education to the family, and the hunter showed good cooperation and promised not to hunt cranes anymore. After the environmental education session, the CCC and the hunter released the GCC safely back to the wetland. The matter was also reported at local government authorities.

This GCC rescue shows a significant role played by our community conservation champions and close collaboration with community members in protecting GCC in Kagera wetlands. We continue to work with partners and the Government of Tanzania to ensure our bird species are protected and conserved for the benefit of present and future generations.

In the Kagera region, Nature Tanzania engages 20 community conservation champions in GCC monitoring and conservation. Through this approach, local communities participate directly in conserving and protecting nature around them. This approach secures resource ownership and sustainability in conservation action. The volunteers also make species and habitat monitoring and conservation possible due to larger areas of the wetlands. We appreciate support and collaboration from the Kagera Regional Government, Kyerwa and Karagwe District Councils. Local communities, including farmers and livestock keepers, are positively supporting our conservation initiatives.

IN LOVING MEMORY

OF OUR CRANE CONSERVATION VOLUNTEER

FABIAN FORTUNATUS



The Late Fabian (on the right) holding a juvenile Crane after catching it Murongo wetland for ringing. He will forever be remembered for his volunteering heart in monitoring and conserving Cranes.

Nature Tanzania received the tragic news of Fabian Fortunatus's death with sadness. Mr Fabian was one of the dedicated crane conservation volunteers at Kyerwa Wetlands. He passed away on May 10, 2024, while fishing in the Kagera River. Mr Fabian and his fellow fisherman were unexpectedly attacked by a Hippopotamus, which pushed their small local boat to the centre of the river, causing it to sink. The body of his friend was found floating after several hours, but sadly, Fabian's body hasn't been found to date. During his life, Mr. Fabian was an active champion in raising awareness among fellow fishermen and supported our GCC conservation activities in the Kyerwa wetlands. Being a fast runner and courageous swimmer, he actively volunteered in our GCC ringing activities. His committed efforts will always be remembered and treasured.

Fabian has left a wife and three helpless children. This family depended on Fabian for their basic needs. This sudden loss has left unending tears in the wife, not to mention the children. Nature Tanzania has been very close to Fabian's family for consolation and brainstorming on how to support the family in the absence of Fabian.



We thank the NABU International Foundation for initiating and leading fundraising to support Fabian's family. So far, more than TZS 6,200,000 has been collected for this family. The funds will be used to support Agnetha in securing land for agriculture, building her entrepreneurship skills (tailoring) and business capacity, and supporting the three children with basic needs.

Don't hesitate to contact us if you wish to help this family. We submit our condolences to the family, friends and the Nature Tanzania's family. May almighty God Rest His Soul in Peace, Amen.

SCALING UP CONSERVATION EFFORTS TO PROTECT BIRDS FROM ILLEGAL KILLING IN CENTRAL TANZANIA, DODOMA REGION



Dodoma region is one of the important bird migration flyways but faces challenges including the Illegal Killings of Birds (IKB). Since 2020, Nature Tanzania has been supporting communities in Kongwa and Mpwapwa District, Dodoma region, to address IKB. The program focuses on conserving resident and migratory bird species using the White Stork as the flagship species. The IKB program works closely with youths who engage in the IKB, mainly as a source of income. The IKB program implements different strategies, including capacity building, providing alternative livelihood and business support, and mentoring the recruited youths (former bird hunters).

The IKB program is implemented with financial support from the Nature and Biodiversity Conservation Union (NABU), NABU International Foundation and Niedersächsischer Landesbetrieb für Wasserwirtschaft, Küsten- und Naturschutz (NLWKN). Because income is the main IKB driver, bird hunters (primarily youths) were organised into two football teams in the Kongwa and Mpwapwa districts, Dodoma region. The two football teams were supported with beekeeping and pig farming projects, and in return, they support bird conservation.

Under the two football teams, 95 youths (49 females) are implementing beekeeping. During the reporting period, more than 350 kg of honey was harvested and sold out, generating revenue of Tsh 3,500,000. 42 former bird hunters (14 females and 20 youths) are implementing pig farming. They started with 14 pigs, and so far, two pigs gave birth to 15 piglets, making 29 pigs. During the reporting period, Tshs 1,400,000 was generated by selling four pigs. The youths plan to construct another pig house and

expand their business, including venturing into goat and sunflower farming. The youths also raise awareness of nature conservation during football competitions/games, including IKB – more than 1,500 youths have been reached. The IKB program also supported two women groups (32 members) to establish chicken farming, starting with 50 chickens. We also recorded project replication at the village level, e.g., two community members at Msagali village adopted the beekeeping project (10 modern beehives), and two other groups in Manungu and Msagali villages have started goat farming projects with 1 and 6 goat respectively.

Environmental education programs are implemented in Four (4) primary and two (2) secondary schools with more than 200 students, and 60 teachers have been reached so far. Outdoor nature education activities, e.g. birdwatching, have reached more than 180 students and 20 teachers. All activities are implemented in collaboration with Kongwa and Mpwapwa district councils for sustainability. From these interventions, nature conservation awareness has increased, youths' monthly income has increased, and they no longer need to kill birds to earn income. As a result, we have seen a slight decrease in IKB, but the problem's scale is so big that more efforts are still needed. Nature Tanzania appreciates financial support from NABU, NABU International Foundation, and NLKWN. Technical support and collaboration from Kongwa and Mpwapwa District Councils are acknowledged and appreciated. Local communities including youths have been very cooperative and active in supporting project implementation.

MBINA - SUKUMA TRADITIONAL CEREMONIES THAT TURNED INTO OPPORTUNITIES FOR CONSERVING VULTURES IN TANZANIA



Vultures are a very important group of birds playing a pivotal role in cleaning up the environment and, therefore, maintaining ecological balance. Wildlife poisoning driven by use of body parts in traditional medicine poses risks to human health and is killing threatened African vultures leading to significant population declines. Raising community awareness about vultures' importance and threats is critical to conserving these species. In the Meatu district, Simiyu region, vulture body parts are used for traditional belief practices. Nature Tanzania is implementing "An integrated approach to protect-ing wildlife from poisoning in Mara-Serengeti" project in Makao Wildlife Management Authority (WMA) funded by Darwin Initiative through BirdLife International. The pro-ject is expanding successful pilots to reduce poisoning by working with communities to address factors that threaten vultures and negatively impact communities. This will re-sult in livelihood improvements through new sustainable livelihood options.

of birds, belief-based use of vultures, and call for action were communicated to traditional healers and the event spectators through posters and stickers. A total of 1,000 posters and 1,400 stickers, 2,700 bro-chures and 20 t-shirts were distributed. We also collaborated with the North Carolina Zoo during these events. Our participation increased the community's understanding of protecting vultures from poisoning and belief-based use.



To reduce vulture poisoning in traditional medicine, raising awareness for behavioural change targeting traditional healers and the larger community is very important. This approach can be very successful when traditional platforms are used. To achieve this, we participated in five Sukuma events, locally known as Mbina, to raise awareness. Mbina are annually convened between March and June to celebrate harvest seasons. Mbina also honours Sukuma traditions and beliefs, some of which are linked to the mo-tivation to use plant and wildlife products in traditional medicine.

As part of this project, Nature Tanzania mobilised and engaged traditional healers in addressing the belief-based use of vulture parts. As a result, traditional healers identified *Biophytum crassipes* as a plant-based alternative. Since 2023, most traditional healers have been using this plant-based alternative in their traditional healing, therefore, reducing vulture body parts demand. At the same time, the project also supports livelihood alternatives for youths, women and men to reduce vulture poisoning pressure. Many youths poison vultures in order to sell vulture body parts to traditional healers for income. We appreciate Darwin Initiative for funding the project and BirdLife International for technical support. Meatu District Council and Makao WMA are acknowledged for collaboration and support.

During the reporting period, we attended 5 Mbina events in Itilima and Bariadi districts, Simiyu region. Through the efforts of 10 volunteers, more than 35,000 people and 1,200 traditional healers were reached with awareness raising for 8 days. The messages addressing the impacts of poisoning, illegal killing

HOW YOUR SHILLING & DOLLAR CAN SUPPORT COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND LOCAL CONSERVATION EFFORTS

Communities are the primary natural resource stewards and the centre of our conservation work. They interact with and depend on natural resources that we strive to protect and conserve. However, most of them need more capacity and resources to ensure sustainable utilization of natural resources. Realising this opportunity, Nature Tanzania integrate community livelihood activities into all our programs. Some of these initiatives are supported through our Community Revolving Fund (CRF) model. CRF is a sustainable microfinancing system that involves a seed fund from which qualified community groups borrow funds as soft loans. The fund is designed to be sustainable and self-financing through small interest fees and, therefore, scalable. Over time, the fund increases, reaching more people. Communities themselves own CRF for their benefit. For example, in Amani Nature Forest Reserve, we support local farmers in cultivating spices using Climate-Smart Agriculture (CSA) while conserving birds in their farmlands. These spices are then processed, added value, packed, branded, and sold to diversify their income. Former bird hunters are implementing beekeeping projects in Kongwa and Mpwapwa Districts, Dodoma region. The honey produced from their projects is packed and sold locally and nationally. Dear nature lover and reader of the Kolokolo Newsletter, we invite you to support these communities by buying their products. All revenues go back to the communities, therefore contributing to improving their livelihood as they are conserving biodiversity. The products are available in our offices. For more information, please call/WhatsApp +255 689 111313.

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

CELEBRATING THE WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY, 5TH JUNE 2024

Theme: **Land restoration, desertification and drought resilience**

EVENT ACTIVITIES AT RWENKENDU IN KYERWA, KAGERA



500 hundred people including primary school students participated during this important global conservation event. The participants were engaged in planting 200 trees, collecting garbage around Rwenkendu village. The activity was wrapped up by a football match which brought communities, including students, together celebrating nature.

EVENT ACTIVITIES IN KIGALI, RWANDA, 4th to 6th June 2024



Nature Tanzania, represented by Neema Mwaja (IKB Project Officer), participated in a regional workshop hosted by Albertine Rift Valley Society (ARCOS), in Kigali, Rwanda. The workshop brought together members of the African NGOs Alliance for Environmental Sustainability (ANAES), to build institutional and leadership capacity among members.

E V E N T S

VULTURE CONSERVATION WORKSHOP IN ARUSHA 17TH - 18TH APRIL 2024



The Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism (MNRT), through the Wildlife Division in collaboration with Nature Tanzania, co-hosted the VULTURE CONSERVATION WORKSHOP, from 17th to 18th April 2024 which took place at Corridor Spring Hotel in Arusha. The workshop was attended by representatives from various government and non-governmental institutions, including Tanzania Wildlife Research Institute (TAWIRI), Tanzania National Parks Authority (TANAPA), Tanzania Wildlife Management Authority (TAWA), Tanzania Forest Services Agency (TFS), College of African Wildlife - Mweka (CAWM), Tanzania Hunting Tourism Association (TAHOA), and The Conservation Dog Organisation. The workshop was also attended by experienced representatives from BirdLife International, BirdLife South Africa, and the University of Namibia.

The workshop article is accessed [here](#).

NATURE TANZANIA'S PARTICIPATION IN THE 15TH UDSM RESEARCH WEEK, 16TH - 19TH APRIL 2024

“Fostering research and innovation through university-industry partnership”



We appreciate the continued collaboration between Nature Tanzania and the University of Dar es Salaam (UDSM). Through this active partnership, Nature Tanzania got an opportunity to participate and showcase its activities and the achieved milestones; this includes educating the public through the 2024 Bird of the year campaign. We thank all who visited our booth at the Department of Zoology and Wildlife Conservation. We also congratulate all members who joined our organisation through this event. We continue to collaborate with UDSM in areas of research, capacity building to university students through , conservation and implementation of the Biodiversity Monitoring and Mentoring Program in East Usambara.

BIRDING & FUNDRAISING OPPORTUNITIES

Birding Calendar in Arusha

On Saturdays

Contact: +255 753111084 | 0657373455

DATE	SITE
27 th July 2024	Eluanata Dam (Nanja)
3 rd August 2024	Oldonyo Sambu
31 st August 2024	Lake Duluti
28 th September 2024	Chama Forest

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.

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. 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 contact ABC's Tanzania Country Representative, Mr. Emmanuel Mгимwa through tanzania@africanbirdclub.org

SDGs RELATED TO NATURE TANZANIA'S WORK



THE MAJESTIC SECRETARYBIRD - 2024 TANZANIA BIRD OF THE YEAR

Author: Boniface James (boniphacejames69@gmail.com)

WHY CALLED A SECRETARY?

This bird is called a secretary/clerk due to the feathers standing at the back of its head like an 18th century clerk and a pen-like mark at the corner of its wings. Its Swahili name is **Karani Tamba**, and in Maasai culture, it is famously known as **Savannah Warrior!** The warrior title reflects its hunting ability and power as it hunts snakes successfully.

BELOW ARE THE CHARACTERISTICS OF KARANI TAMBA

1. Knowledge and Skills

The Secretarybird is a knowledgeable and skillful raptor. It knows the Savannah and its preys very well, and, so, applies extraordinary skills during hunting. One of the interesting hunting behavior of this bird is that it uses the long scaled-feet to strongly knock and stamp snakes to death before enjoying its meal. Being a terrestrial snake-hunter and Savannah Warrior, the Secretarybird is capable of killing venomous and dangerous snake species such as Cobra, Adders and Mambas. It has hard scales on its legs and this helps it not to get hurt especially when fighting a snake. The Secretarybird is adapted to walking rather than soaring as compared with other raptors, hence baptised the name **Walker**. This is because its preys are on the ground and its hunting weapon is its legs.

2. Their Beauty

Secretarybirds are beautiful with most of the body having gray and black feathers, long legs and a long narrow center-tail. The orange-to-yellow colour around its face and cere makes it look even more beautiful.

3. Breeding and Life span

Secretarybirds are monogamous and usually defend a territory of more than five kilometers. They can breed at any time of the year, but mostly in late summer. Courtship includes a mutual display of chasing each other with wings spread up and backwards much like they perform when chasing ground prey. Mating takes place either on the ground or in their large nests up high in trees, mostly *Vachelia* sp. The nest is built by both sexes on a thick thorn tree, often *Vachelia*, at a height between 8 and 40 feet above the ground. The nest is built as a flat platform of sticks 1.0–1.5 m wide and 30–50 cm deep. A deep depression is laid with grass and a piece of manure from time to time. Eggs are laid in 2 to 3 days to reach 1-3 eggs. Long white range eggs with an average weight of 130 grams. Both parents incubate the eggs, starting as soon as the first egg is laid, but usually the female stays in the nest all night. Eggs hatch after about 45 days, both parents feed the young. After the eggs hatch, the parents take turns staying in the nest with the children. The Secretarybird lives 10-15 years in the natural environment. However, if kept in captivity in wildlife parks and zoos, it can live up to 19 years.

4. Threats and enemies of Secretarybird

The Secretarybird is threatened mostly by fires which burnout nests, eggs as well as chicks, and habitat loss. Elephants on the other hand threaten life of Secretarybird as they fell down trees that are used as roosting and nesting sites. Also, the eggs, chicks and juveniles



may be predated by other raptors and carnivores in the wild. The biggest enemy of this majestic bird is human being who hunts it for varying irrational reasons including, belief-based use in traditional medicine, for trade and food.

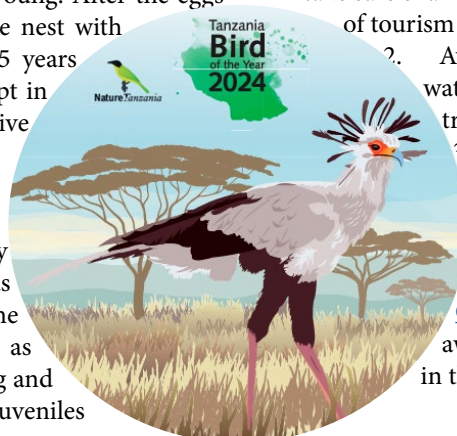
Conservation Status

The conservation articles are written for sensitizing and inviting readers to take actions in conservation of our wildlife. The conservation articles like this one, provide us with good information about the status, threats facing wildlife and lessons for us to take part in conserving them. We are therefore encouraged to read these articles, and share our understanding with the communities around us so that they are also knowledgeable about the importance of conserving wildlife.

The Secretarybird was assessed and listed as Vulnerable in 2011 then as Endangered by IUCN Red List in 2020. Its population size ranges from 6,700 to 67,000 mature individuals in about 40 African countries including Tanzania. If the situation continues like this then they might be placed in a group of creatures in danger of extinction in the world. There are many challenges that cause a decrease in the number of these birds in their environment, which are largely caused by human activities such as, fire, agriculture, logging, and pollution of water sources. This means, more conservation efforts are required to increase protection of this bird in its habitats.

HOW YOU CAN PARTICIPATE IN CONSERVING KARANI TAMBA?

1. You and I should take responsibility of ensuring that we take care of and protect this endangered bird for the benefit of tourism and our country.
2. Avoid burning forests, polluting/poisoning water sources, hunting them and cutting down trees.
3. The development infrastructure in the wild should consider environmental policies for the conservation of wild animals in our areas.
4. Join the [2024 Bird of the Year Campaign](#) to take part in creating more awareness about the importance of this bird in the ecosystem.





©Onongo J.

Our Partners and Supporters

