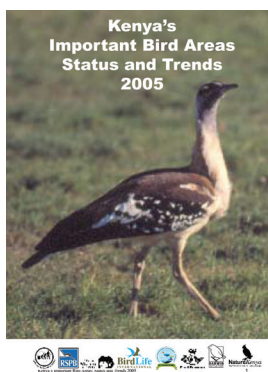


Kenya's Important Bird Areas Status & Trends 2015



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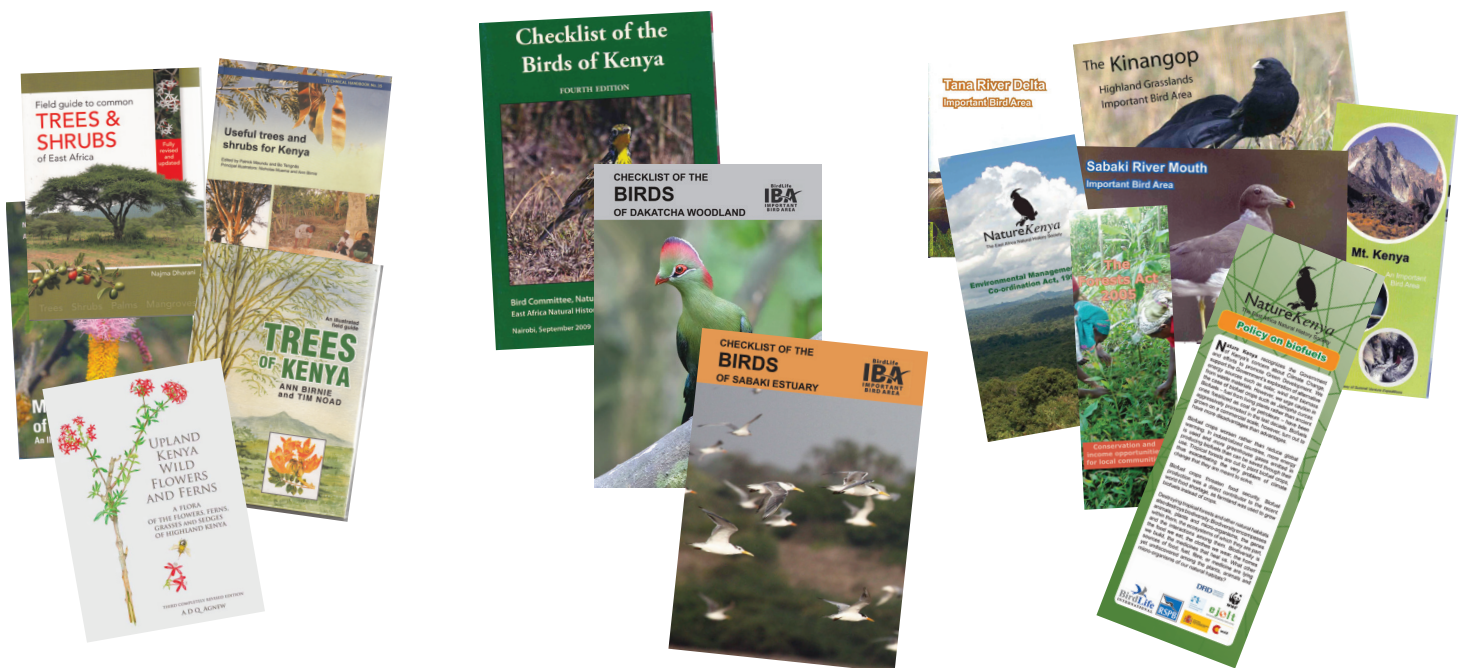
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Kenya's Important Bird Areas Status and Trends 2015

Compiled by:

Fred Barasa, Timothy Mwinami, Paul Gacheru, Paul Mungai, Harron Wanjohi, Ronald Mulwa and James Mwang'ombe

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Collaborating Organisations:

Nature Kenya, NMK, KWS, KFS, NEMA and RSPB and BirdLife International



Cover photo: **Rüppell's Vulture** (*Gyps rueppellii*)

The continent's largest and most recognisable birds of prey – vultures – are now at a higher risk of extinction. Among them is Rüppell's Vulture which occurs throughout the Sahel region of Africa from Senegal, Gambia and Mali in the west to Sudan, South Sudan and Ethiopia in the east, and south through the savannah regions of East Africa in Kenya, Tanzania and Mozambique.

Formerly abundant, the species has experienced extremely rapid declines in much of its range, particularly West Africa. The main causes of the drop in populations are thought to be indiscriminate poisonings, where the birds are drawn to poisoned baits; use of vulture body parts in traditional medicine; and deliberate targeting by poachers, as the presence of



Photo by **ANDRE BOTHA**

vultures can alert authorities to illegally killed big game carcasses, such as rhinos or elephants. Other factors thought to play a role in the declines include habitat loss, human disturbance and collisions with wind turbines and electricity pylons.

To ensure there's a future for this species, conservationists need to work with law makers, government agencies and the local people within its range to conserve the remaining populations, raise awareness amongst pastoralists of the dangers of using poisons for predator control, urge community members to keep livestock out of protected areas and stop poisoning carcasses, lobby governments to outlaw the marketing and sale of carbofuran pesticides, lobby the private sector and the government to collaborate in controlling the use of pesticides that are poisonous to people and wildlife, legislate and enforce measures to prosecute those involved in illegal killing and trade in vultures, protect and effectively manage breeding sites, ensure new energy infrastructure is 'vulture-friendly' and support activities to conserve vulture populations, including research and outreach activities.

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ACRONYMS

CBOs	Community Based Organizations
CFAs	Community Forest Associations
EMCA	Environmental Management and Co-ordination Act
IBAs	Important Bird Areas
KFS	Kenya Forest Service
KWS	Kenya Wildlife Service
NEMA	National Environment Management Authority
SSG	Site Support Group
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We extend our gratitude to all our stakeholders, site support groups and individuals who have been participating in the IBA monitoring by filling the basic monitoring forms for the various sites, which have been used in compiling of this report.

We also thank the reviewers for their invaluable time used in review of the initial draft. Our appreciation also goes to our donors for their monetary support that facilitated data collection from the field by SSGs at the various IBA sites and for the staff working on the report. Lastly, we wish to acknowledge the Important Bird Areas National Liaison Committee (IBA-NLC) for the administrative and coordination support to the IBA monitoring work.

We do specifically acknowledge the Danish Ornithological Society (DOF), Fondation Segré, the Nature and Biodiversity Conservation Union (NABU), Darwin Initiative, Royal Society for Protection of Birds (RSPB), MacArthur Foundation, Pathfinder and Rainforest Trust for having funded the production of this report.

This work was made possible by the Global Environment Facility through UNDP who supported the development of the monitoring framework between 1998 and 2002 and the Darwin Initiative who supported the testing of the framework and production of the first IBAs Status and Trends Report in year 2004.

Disclaimer

The views and opinion in this report are not necessarily those of the donors who have financially supported its production.



Sokoke Pipit by E. Selembo

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report highlights the status, pressure and responses recorded by the basic monitoring of Kenya's 64 Important Bird Areas (IBAs) for the calendar year ending 2015. It marks the 10th report since the production of Kenya's first Important Bird Areas status and trends report in 2004. It gives a summary of the trends in the condition of the sites, habitats and species, the threats affecting them and the interventions being undertaken.

IBA monitoring is a partnership between Nature Kenya, National Museums of Kenya (NMK), Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS), Kenya Forest Service (KFS) and National Environment Management Authority (NEMA), guided by the IBA National Liaison Committee. The monitoring results are represented using

the "State-Pressure-Response" approach on which the IBA monitoring framework is based.

This report also describes Hell's Gate National Park, the 65th IBA that has been added to the Kenyan list in 2015.

State, Pressure and Response Summary

A decline in the condition of Kenyan IBAs was recorded, from a mean score of 1.19 in 2004 to 1.00 in 2015 as indicated in Fig. 1 below. The pressure on the IBAs remained the same, with a mean score of 1.50 both in 2004 and 2015 (Fig. 1). The mean score for responses declined slightly from 1.67 in 2004 to 1.63 in 2015 (Fig. 1). The scores for the sites that were monitored in 2015 are summarised in Appendix 2.

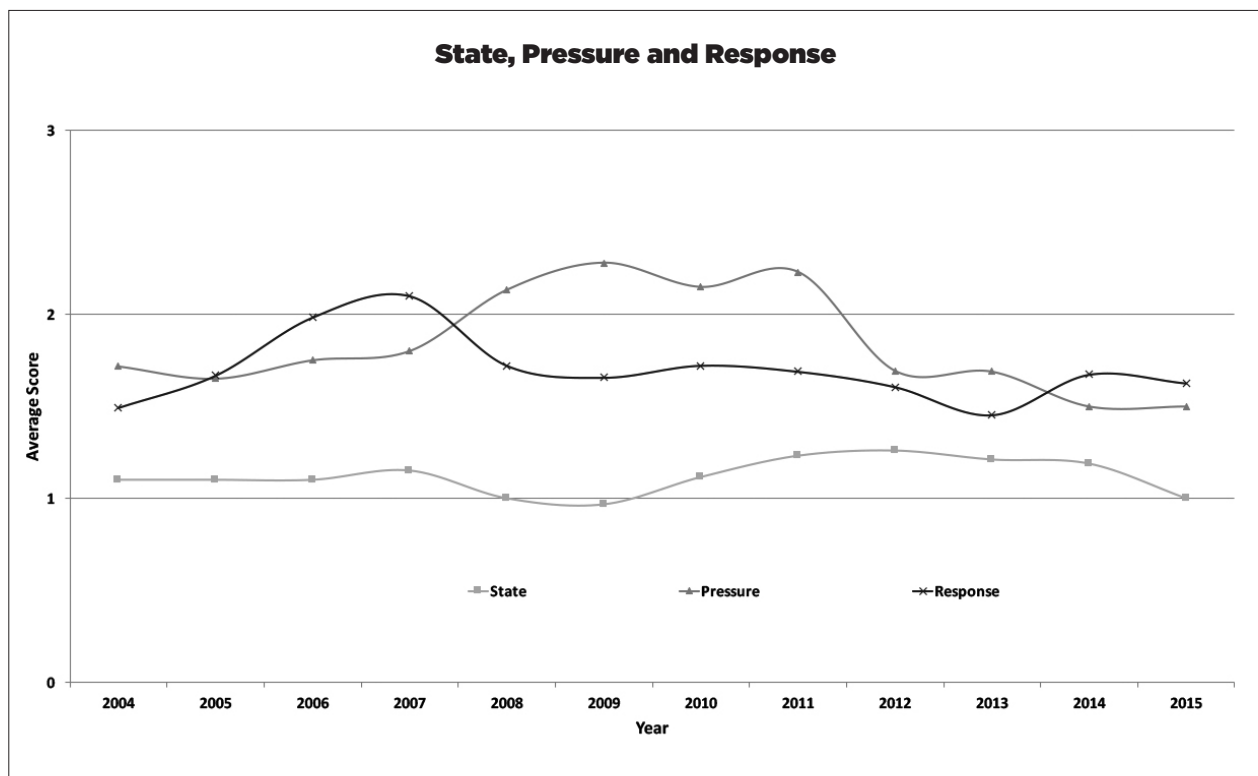


Figure 1: The average trends in State, Pressure, and Response in Kenya's Important Bird Areas, 2004-2015

Summary of Recommendations

As Kenya plans to industrialise, it is critical that visions of past leaders are taken into account. At the entrance of the Nairobi National Park, Kenya's founding father Mzee Jomo Kenyatta, states that: "The Natural Resources of this country, its wildlife which offers such an attraction to visitors from all over the world, the beautiful places in which these animals live, the mighty forests which guard the water catchment areas so vital to the survival of man and beast, are a priceless heritage for the future. The government of Kenya, fully realising the value of its natural resources, pledges itself to conserve them for posterity with all the means at its disposal".

1. Realising the values of Nairobi National Park, the Government of Kenya to consider to re-route the SGR to avoid cutting through the National Park
2. Promote development with conservation: ensure that infrastructural developments and agricultural programs follow regulations stipulated under EMCA and other environmental legislation
3. Build the capacity of County governments to integrate environmental conservation programs within their jurisdiction
4. Advocate for adequate budgetary allocation for conservation programs in County annual budgets
5. Inform County policy and legislation to incorporate and recognise the importance of ecosystem services to the economy
6. Encourage the Maasai community to uphold their traditions of wildlife conservation, by urging community members to keep livestock out of protected areas and stop poisoning carcasses.
7. Enhance private sector and Government collaboration in controlling the use of pesticides that are poisonous to people and large wildlife as well as insects.
8. Advocate for governments to outlaw the marketing and sale of carbofuran pesticides.
9. Protect and effectively manage vulture breeding sites.
10. Work with the Energy sector to ensure that new energy infrastructure is 'vulture-friendly'
11. Legislate and enforce measures to prosecute those involved in illegal killing and trade in vultures
12. Support activities to conserve vulture populations, including research and outreach activities, and promote public understanding and appreciation of vultures for their role in cleaning the environment of carcasses and for their beauty as a flock wheeling in the sky.



Papyrus Canary by E. Selemo

INTRODUCTION

Important Bird Areas (IBAs)

Important Bird Areas (IBAs) are internationally important places for the conservation of birds and other biodiversity. They form a global network of more than 13,000 sites crucial for maintaining the overall ranges and populations of birds globally. IBAs are a major part of the larger network of Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs).

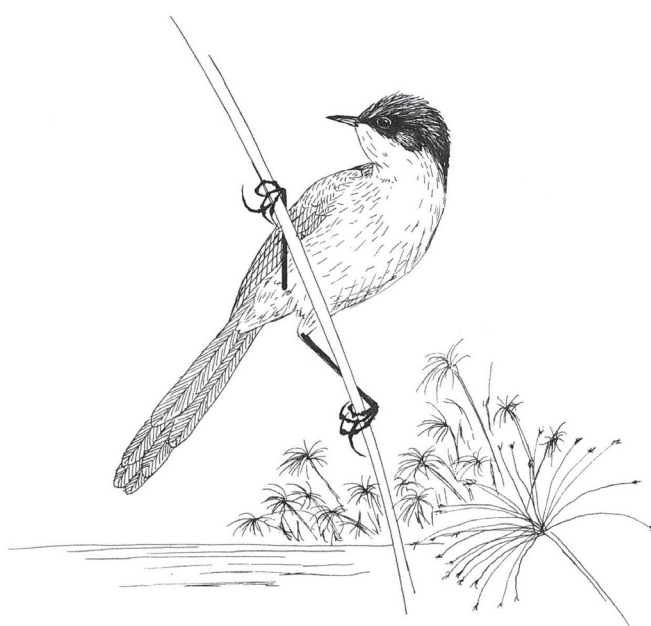
Currently, sixty-four IBAs have been identified in Kenya, covering 6,637,073 ha. These include forests, wetlands, semi arid and arid areas and moist grasslands. The 65th IBA, Hell's Gate National Park, is described in this Report. Kenya hosts 39 bird species that are globally threatened, of which 9 are endemic.

Monitoring involves assessing the status (the condition of key species and habitats), the pressure (threats) and responses (interventions) at an IBA, under the indicators framework adopted by the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). The state of an IBA is assessed based on the population of the IBA indicator species, i.e. those species for which the site is recognized as an IBA or the habitats they use. Using a 'weakest link' approach, the IBA is assigned a status score based on the habitat and/or species with the 'worst' status. The IBA status scores are as follows: 3 = Favourable; 2 = Near Favourable; 1 = Unfavourable; 0 = Very Unfavourable.

Pressures or threats are assessed by scoring information on time, scope and severity. Timing refers to whether the threat is immediate or more long-term. Scope refers to the extent or scale of the threat; while severity refers to the extent of the impact of the threat. Using the weakest link, the threat that poses the highest risk is used to assign the score to the whole IBA. Timing, scope and severity scores are combined to give an impact score as follows: 3 = Very High; 2 = High; 1 = Medium and 0 = Low.

Response is assessed by scoring the protection status of the IBA, management planning and conservation efforts at the site. Each of these is scored on a scale of 0-3, with the sum showing the overall site response status score: 3 = High; 2 = Medium; 1 = Low; and 0 = negligible. Thus, conservation efforts should aim at having the status score as 3, the pressure score as 0 and the response score as 3, for a site to be said to be doing well.

This report is based on data from fifty-seven basic monitoring forms that were received, covering forty-four of the sixty-four IBA sites. Secondary data from the media, especially newspapers, was also used for this reporting. Data extrapolation was applied in 20 sites where there was no data.



Papyrus Yellow Warbler by E. Selemo

KEY RESULTS

Status of Habitats and Species

A decline in the status of Kenyan IBAs was recorded, from a mean score of 1.19 in 2014 to 1.00 in 2015 as indicated in Fig. 2. This implies that on average the condition of most of the IBA sites is unfavourable in terms of habitats and the species that use them. Only three sites scored favourable conditions and these are Mount Kenya, Mwea National Reserve and Tsavo East National Park.

A further eight IBA sites scored near favourable conditions; these include the Aberdare Mountains, Arabuko-Sokoke Forest, Kikuyu Escarpment forests, Mida Creek, Mount Elgon, Ruma National Park, Shimba Hills and Tsavo West National Park. Unfavourable condition was scored in 19 of the sites, among them Dakatcha Woodland, Dandora ponds, Dunga Swamp, Nairobi National Park and South Nandi Forest.

Very unfavourable status score were recorded for 14 sites, including Busia Grasslands,

Mukurweini Valleys, Lake Nakuru National Park and Masai Mara. In Busia Grasslands, the expansion of the Mumias Sugar belt reduced the area of natural grasslands; hence the foraging area of the trigger species (Blue Swallow) was limited and few Blue Swallows were recorded. Habitat degradation in the case of Mukurweini Valleys was driven by demand for more agricultural land.

Land clearing and high rainfall in the Lake Nakuru catchment resulted in high levels of fresh water and silt entering the lake. This led to high water levels and reduced alkalinity in Lake Nakuru - poor conditions for the blue-green algae on which flamingos feed. Only a few flamingos were recorded at Lake Nakuru for most of 2015. At Masai Mara National Reserve, large tracts of land close to the Reserve were converted to farmlands, interfering with breeding and foraging sites of some species.

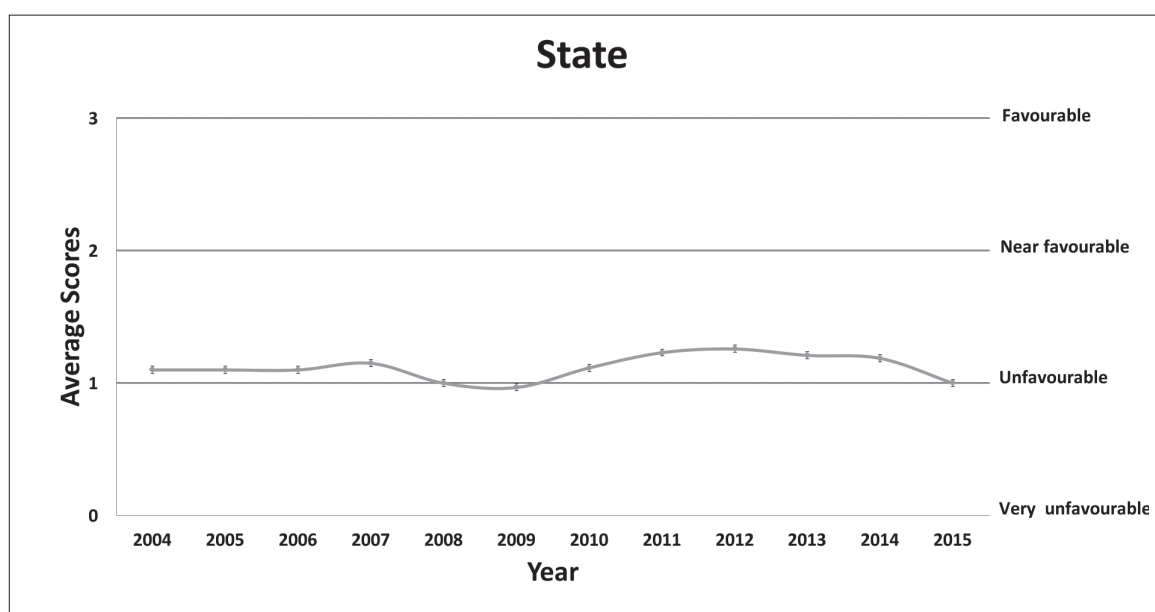


Figure 2: The Average Status of the Kenya IBAs, 2004 to 2015

Pressure: Threats to IBAs

The pressure score remained at a mean of 1.5 in both 2015 and 2014 (Fig 3). Six sites recorded Very High pressure; these include Dakatcha Woodland, Tana River Forests, Dida Galgalu Desert, Amboseli National Park, Mau Forest Complex and Boni and Dodori National Reserves. High pressure was noted in 25 sites, and Medium pressure in 27 sites. Low pressure was recorded at six sites, which include Dzombo Hill, Taita Hills Forests, Ruma National

Park and Machakos Valleys. Among the threats reported were extensive charcoal burning, logging for poles, poaching of mammals, shifting agriculture, land use change, illegal grazing, fire and cultivation in some wetlands like Kimana in Amboseli ecosystem. Siltation was a major threat especially for the Rift Valley lakes, for instance Lake Nakuru water levels are still high and not alkaline, hypothesised to be caused by increased siltation.

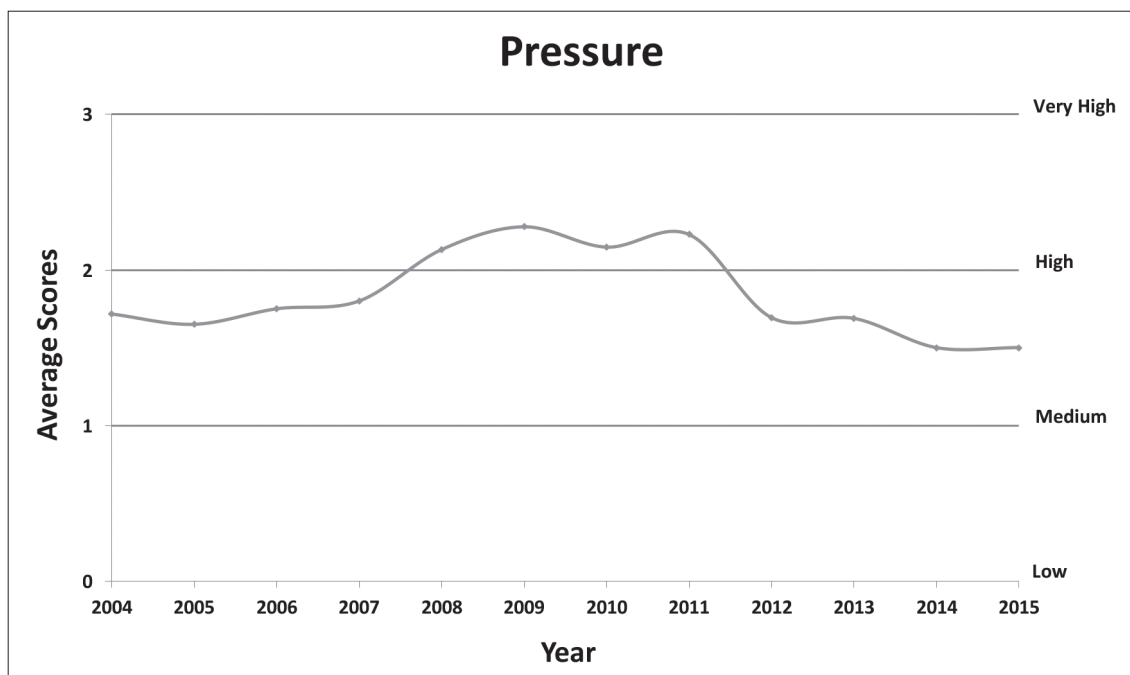


Figure 3: The Average Pressure on the Kenya IBAs, 2004-2015

Response: Conservation Action at IBAs

During 2015, there was a slight drop in conservation actions at the Kenyan IBAs. Responses dropped from a mean of 1.68 in 2014 to 1.63 in 2015 as indicated in Fig. 4. High response scores were recorded at 17 sites, which include Aberdare Mountains, Kakamega Forest, Arabuko-Sokoke Forest, Tsavo West National Park and North Nandi Forest, among others. Medium responses were recorded at 16 of the IBAs, which include Chyulu Hills, Taita Hills Forest, Lake Bogoria National Reserve and Lake Nakuru National Park. Kinangop Grasslands, Mukurweini Valleys, Dakatcha Woodland and Masai Mara were among the 21 sites that had a low response score. There was a negligible response score at 10 of the sites, including Kianyaga Valleys, Dandora Ponds, Busia Grasslands, Sio Port Swamp and Kwenia.

In Arabuko-Sokoke Forest, for example, a high response was recorded due to awareness creation through several meetings during the entire year that involved several stakeholders (KFS, KWS, CBOs, Chiefs, County Government, SSG, and CFAs) and the community.

Organized patrols, desnaring, destroying of charcoal kilns and recording and reporting of the cut stems to KFS or KWS, were some of the best conservation interventions witnessed during the reporting period. A summary of the patrols as an intervention in Arabuko-Sokoke is summarized in Fig. 5, which demonstrated that continuous patrols deterred illegal activities in the forest.

Other conservation interventions include the recognition of Hell's Gate National Park as the 65th Kenyan IBA following intensive advocacy work. In the Western part of the country, strategic plans for Kakamega Forest, North and South Nandi forests and Cherengani Hills (2015-2040) were developed. This was accompanied by reviewing and creating awareness on various Acts of Parliament (Forest Act 2005, Forest Bill 2015, Wildlife Act 2013, EMCA 1999 and Water Act 2002) for the community through workshops. There was also infrastructural support to KWS in Kapsabet and to KFS in Kobujoi and other stations whose offices were renovated and equipped with furniture.

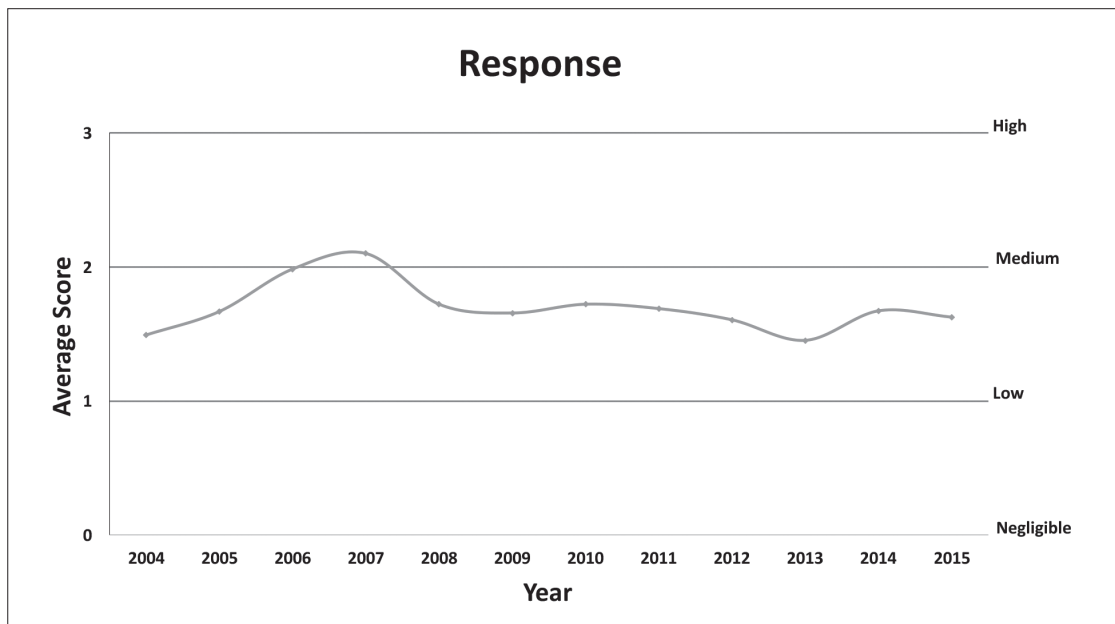


Figure 4: The Average Response Scores for Kenyan IBAs, 2004-2015

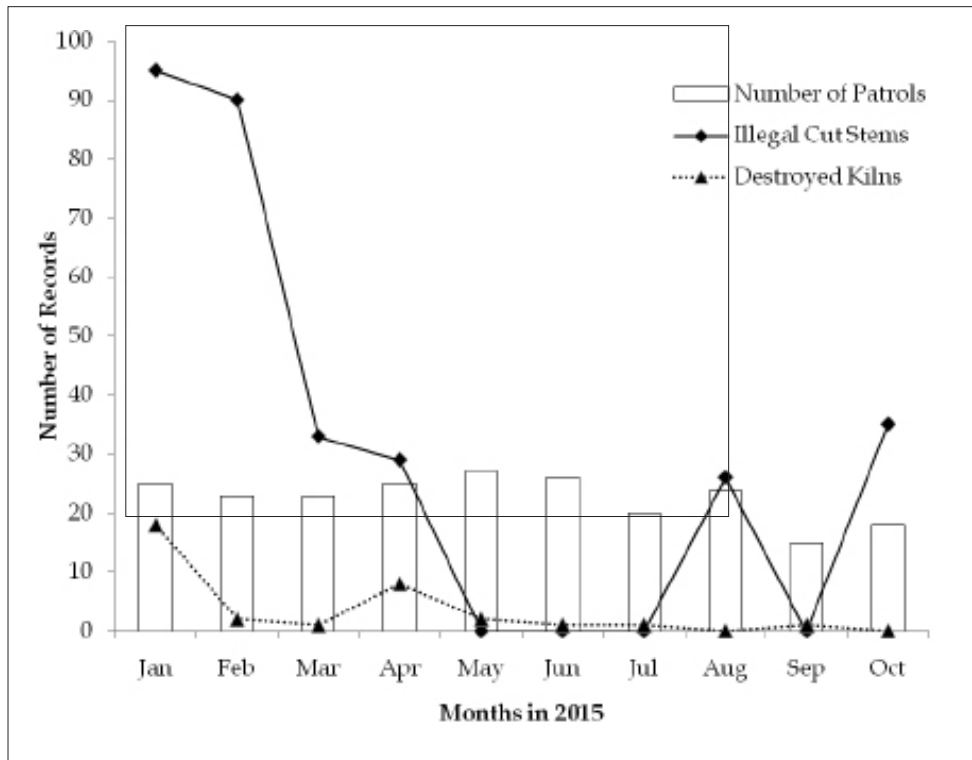


Figure 5: Patrols in Arabuko-Sokoke Forest in 2015

In Yala Swamp, although the basic monitoring seem not to have captured a wide range of responses including: Development of a Land Use Plan guided by Strategic Environment Assessment, Ecosystem Service Assessment for Yala, restoration of degraded areas by the local community, mapping of Community Conservation Areas, planting of native vegetation along Yala River and local community livelihoods initiatives including fish farming and papyrus products and marketing. These initiatives are at their early stages and so pressure remains high and the condition of Yala swamp remains unfavorable.

In terms of environmental education, 10,000 students from 60 schools were reported to have visited the Eco-resource centres in Kakamega, South Nandi, Taita, Cherangani, Dakatcha, Mt Kenya, Kikuyu Escarpment, Kinangop and Sabaki. The students planted 590,902 tree seedlings within their schools during the reporting period, and 18 schools were supported by Nature Kenya to establish tree nurseries. Over 15,000 local community members were also reached with conservation messages through various means including important environmental days, where over 14,300 brochures were distributed. The capacity of communities to engage in farm forestry was enhanced when 131 community members were trained.

Response by County Governments

As part of sustainable conservation efforts, consultative development of Taita Apalis, Taita Thrush and Sagalla Caecilian Species Action plans were finalized. (Caecilians are related to frogs and toads, but look like tiny snakes, and are very local in distribution.) These plans offer a good guideline to the Taita Taveta county government and conservation groups on areas that need to be targeted to conserve forest habitats in Taita Hills for the preservation of biodiversity and ecosystem service provision. The county government of Taita Taveta, through the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resource Management, has adopted these action plans and has committed to using these guidelines while developing county legislation and policies.



Figure 6: Sagalla Caecilian

Siaya and Busia counties are engaged in developing a joint Yala Wetland Land Use Plan, which is now at an advanced level. The Land Use Plan will guide sustainable conservation of the wetland.



Figure 7: Papyrus planting at the Yala Swamp.

Kitui County is keen on developing birding as a flagship activity to promote tourism. Working closely with Nature Kenya and the National Museums of Kenya, surveys of important birding sites within the county are a first step towards identifying birding hotspots. Kitui County hosts an endemic and globally threatened bird species, Hinde's Babbler. Focusing on birding tourism will help to profile important habitats and enhance their conservation.



Figure 8: A bird watching activity at the Arabuko-Sokoke Forest in Kilifi.

Conflict between Conservation Efforts and Vision 2030

The Standard Gauge Railway from Mombasa to Nairobi and Nairobi to Kisumu is one of the development flagship projects in Kenya's Vision 2030. The railway is being constructed alongside the old railway line from Mombasa to Nairobi. The difference between this new railway and the old one is that it is raised a few meters above the ground, creating a formidable barrier. It has separated Tsavo East from Tsavo West, and there are plans to fence a large section of the 133Km to avoid possible train-wildlife collision.

The new barriers created will disrupt the ecology of one of the greatest ecosystems in Kenya, for it relies heavily on elephants and their migration. The ecosystem services provided by these mega herbivores, which include seed dispersal and nutrient cycling, are essential for the stability of the habitat. There have been attempts to connect Tsavo

East and Tsavo West through underpasses, but the success of this is still uncertain and the impacts unknown. Kenya Wildlife Service in collaboration with Save the Elephants have put tracking collars on elephants to monitor their movement post-SGR development. It has been noted that the number of visitors to the Tsavos has declined from over 150,000 in 2011 to 32,000 guests in 2015. This decline, caused by issues of security and world economic slowdown, affects revenue collection and funds available for mitigating the impacts of the SGR.



Figure 9: Part of the section of the Standard Gauge Railway cutting through Tsavo National Park.

Now there are proposals for Phase 2a of the SGR route to cut across Nairobi National Park, the first national park in Kenya. This small (117 km²) but iconic and popular park has already been encroached along its northern side by the Southern Bypass Road and on its eastern side by Phase 1 of the SGR. The precedent of infringing on important conservation areas will have far-reaching consequences. A railway cutting across a small national park will have negative impacts on ecosystem health, which outweigh the benefits from infrastructural development.

IBA Media Coverage

The mainstream print media in Kenya continued to highlight some of the major conservation issues in Kenya. A total of 2,419 incidences within 39 IBAs were reported in various print media (Nation, Standard, The Star and The East African). Other reports on conservation issues affecting non-IBAs sites

were reported in 2,422 incidences. In terms of the threats that were mentioned, Human-Wildlife conflict, infrastructural developments, illegal logging, charcoal production, overgrazing and destructive mining activities were some most commonly mentioned.



Figure 10: Illegally harvested fire wood left behind by poachers at the Arabuko-Sokoke Forest.

Several conservation measures were reported through the media. These include:

- arresting and charging of poachers with bushmeat and ivory tusks by KWS;
- arrest of suspected persons involved in wildlife poisoning in Narok County;
- Kenya being among the four nations in Africa that will benefit from the Green Climate Fund;
- Kenyan government efforts to raise the forest cover to 10 per cent and Kenya Forest Service allocating Ksh13 billion for increasing forest cover;
- Signing of agreements to safeguard forests by KFS;
- the heavy fines imposed in various cases affecting the environment;
- and a directive by the President of Kenya that all Kaya forests to be gazetted and shrines be protected, among others.

Description of Hell's Gate National Park, Kenya's 65th Important Bird Area

Administrative Region: Nakuru County, Kenya

Central Coordinates: 0° 54'S, 36°21' E

Area: 68.25km²

Altitude: 1,900m

Site Description

Hell's Gate was named for a narrow entrance between lava ridges and a gorge leading to volcanic hot springs. It is a relatively small national park (68.25 sq kms), south of Lake Naivasha and west of Mount Longonot, and was gazetted in 1984. It is a popular park with both local and international visitors due in part to its proximity to Nairobi, low entry fees, and because it offers a range of outdoor activities, including biking, rock climbing, hiking and camping. It is one of only a few national parks in Kenya that allow visitors to access the park without need of a vehicle as visitors can walk or cycle from the entrance gate.

Hell's Gate is renowned for its plains game, birds and scenic features. Amenities include a Maasai Cultural Centre and three basic

campsites. It is located in close proximity to Kenya's largest geothermal development area at the adjacent Olkaria site.

Habitats and Percentage Cover

Cliffs: 15.5%

Gorges: 7%

Rock Towers: 1%

Acacia Woodland and Grassland: 76%

Hot Springs: 0.5%

Land-use and Percentage Cover

The site is a National Park administered and managed by Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS). KWS has a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Kenya Electricity Generation Company Ltd (Kengen), the leading electric power generating company in Kenya. KenGen has been accused of inadequate cooperation in the implementation of the MoU.

Birds

The park contains Kenya's only nationally protected nesting colony of Critically Endangered Rüppell's Vultures *Gyps rüppellii* that typically contains 19 nests per year on a cliff face. Other globally threatened species

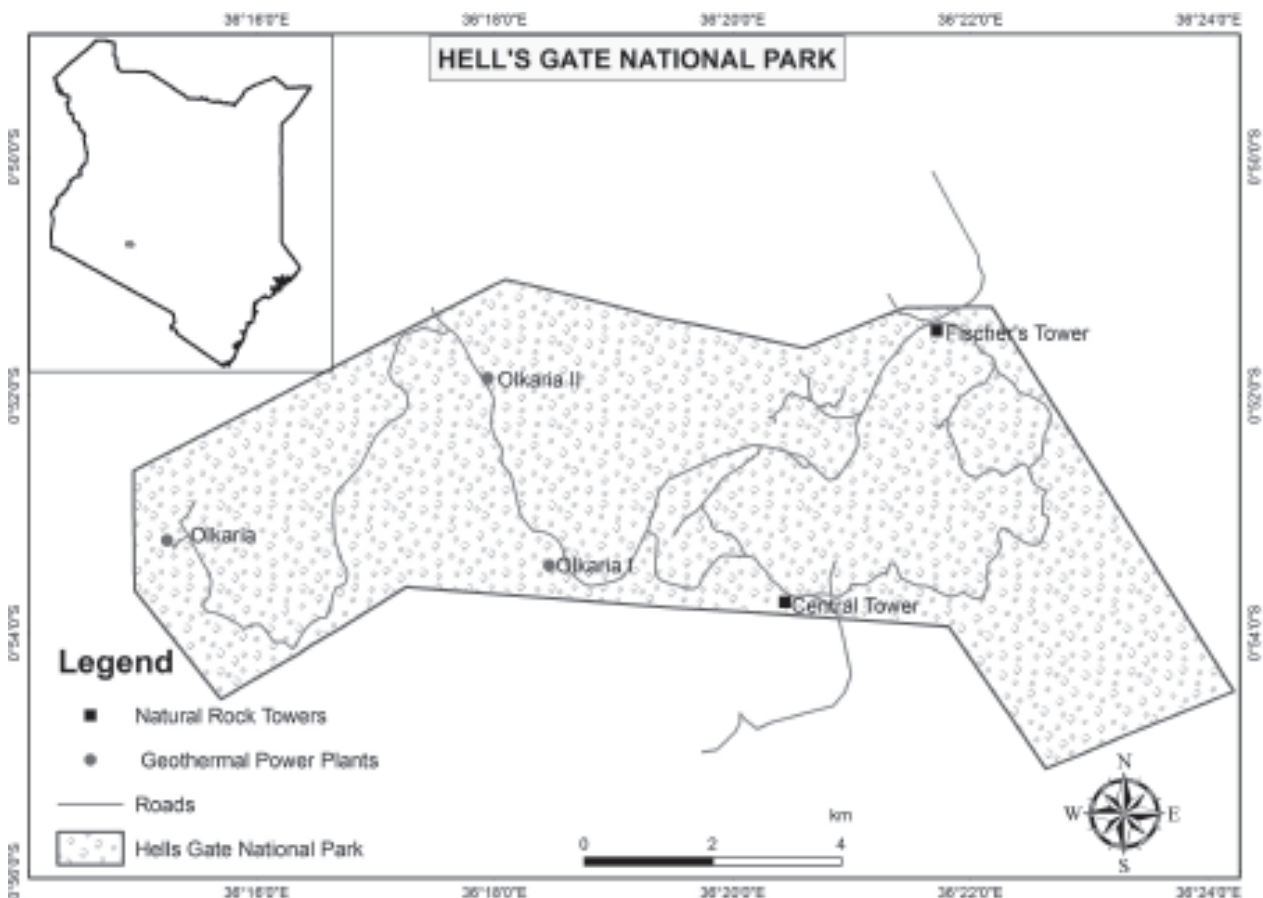


Figure 6: Map of Kenya and Hell's Gate National Park

occurring in the park include: Critically Endangered White-backed Vulture *Gyps africanus*, and the Near Threatened Grey-crested Helmetshrike *Prionops poliolophus*. There are over 100 other bird species recorded inside the park; many thousands of swifts roost and nest in cracks on the cliffs.

Other Wildlife

Medium to large sized mammals recorded in the park include: Serval cat, Bat-eared fox, Striped hyena, African buffalo, Zebra, Eland, Impala, Hartebeest, Thompson's gazelle, Olive baboon, Chanler's mountain reedbeek and Klipspringer.

Conservation Issues

Hell's Gate is a highly threatened park. Despite being a protected area, rapid geothermal development within and adjacent to the park is the most critical threat to the park's wildlife and habitats, as well as its ability to continue to attract tourists. In particular, noise and dust pollution levels are high, especially in the area immediately adjacent to the current geothermal activity. These have already severely degraded the scenic beauty of the park as a tourist attraction. To date, 32 km² of national park land has been taken up for geothermal development.

Threats to flora and fauna (and tourists) emanating from geothermal development includes the following:

1. Noise pollution and vibration at central tower limestone gorges was responsible for loss of nesting Cape (Mackinder's) Eagle Owl. Vibration and noise may interfere with those animals that hunt by sound, such as owls, Bat-eared fox and Serval cat (the latter two being formerly common, now virtually absent). This has affected the colonies of nesting vultures.
2. Light pollution - from lights on well towers that illuminate sections of the park
3. The chemical composition of the caustic brine run-off remains largely unknown, but it likely contains sulphur among other contaminants. In addition there are brine overflows at some of the wells. Apart from harming wildlife inside the park, the communities outside the park are using this water for washing clothes, and it may be contaminating their drinking water; it may also affect livestock as they drink it.

4. Electrical pylons lead to collision mortality of soaring birds. When it rains, electrical poles of concrete and metal arm construction can electrocute perching birds.
5. Hydrogen sulfide pollution - This poisonous gas, released during the process of generating power from volcanic steam, is recognized worldwide as a very dangerous air pollutant.
6. Increase in human activity - there are a tremendous number of people now operating in and with access to the park. This poses a big problem for security, especially concerning poaching of wildlife and transportation of charcoal.

Other significant threats to Hell's Gate national park include rapid population growth and urbanization in Naivasha town and other areas adjacent to the park. Road infrastructure, new housing estates, industrial development related mostly to geothermal power production companies, and settlements of former pastoral communities along half the boundary to the west of the park have severely impacted the park and its wildlife. Another large stretch of park boundary is surrounded by horticultural industries that house high human populations, decreasing nesting and foraging opportunities for wildlife and increasing pesticide contaminants in the ecosystem. This has also led to increasing pressure on the park's limited resources, including trees for charcoal and poaching of wildlife for bushmeat.

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OVERALL RECOMMENDATIONS

As Kenya plans to industrialise, it is critical that visions of past leaders are taken into account. At the entrance of the Nairobi National Park, Kenya's founding father Mzee Jomo Kenyatta, states that;

"The Natural Resources of this country, its wildlife which offers such an attraction to visitors from all over the world, the beautiful places in which these animals live, the mighty forests which guard the water catchment areas so vital to the survival of man and beast, are a priceless heritage for the future. The government of Kenya, fully realising the value of its natural resources, pledges itself to conserve them for posterity with all the means at its disposal".

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- 12. Support activities to conserve vulture populations**, including research and outreach activities, and promote public understanding and appreciation of vultures for their role in cleaning the environment of carcasses and for their beauty as a flock wheeling in the sky.

Recommendations for Government and Non-Governmental Organisations

Kenya Forest Service

1. Add an extra Forest Station at Chumani Area in Arabuko-Sokoke Forest, where a lot of illegal activities take place.
2. Promote commercial tree growing of suitable indigenous tree species, especially in Dryland ecosystems.
3. Produce and share the Forests and Forest Resource assessment reports.
4. Encourage and support land owners to sustainably manage natural and riverine forests.
5. Rehabilitate, restore and protect degraded forest ecosystems, water towers, catchment areas and other ecologically fragile areas.
6. Better manage forest plantations to meet increasing timber demand and provide a temporary relief measure towards climate change vulnerability

National Museums of Kenya

1. Work with county governments to identify key biodiversity areas, resources and hotspots; and promote sustainable utilization options
2. Encourage researchers to complete IBA basic monitoring forms when conducting routine field work at various IBAs
3. Strengthen conservation of Kaya forests and other Kenyan heritage sites that are Important Bird Areas

Kenya Wildlife Service

1. Mainstream IBA monitoring into routine biodiversity monitoring activities undertaken at National Park level and provide requisite resources.
2. Create awareness at Ministry level to justify the importance of long term conservation of critical IBAs such as Hell's Gate National Park in light of other competing national interests.
3. Promote interventions for bird conservation at Important Bird Areas.

National Environment Management Authority

1. Timely sharing of EIA reports of projects within Important Bird Areas.
2. Regular monitoring and auditing of projects within IBAs to ensure adherence to the Environment Management Plans (EMPs).
3. Enhancing community participation and input in EIA reports including monitoring and enforcement of EIA recommendations during and after project implementation.

Nature Kenya

1. Enhance advocacy and awareness creation on the need for better regulations on use of highly toxic pesticides affecting vulture and other wildlife populations.
2. Work closely with county governments on local policy development.
3. Empower local communities in advocacy skills to ensure sustainable use of natural resources.

Data Contributors

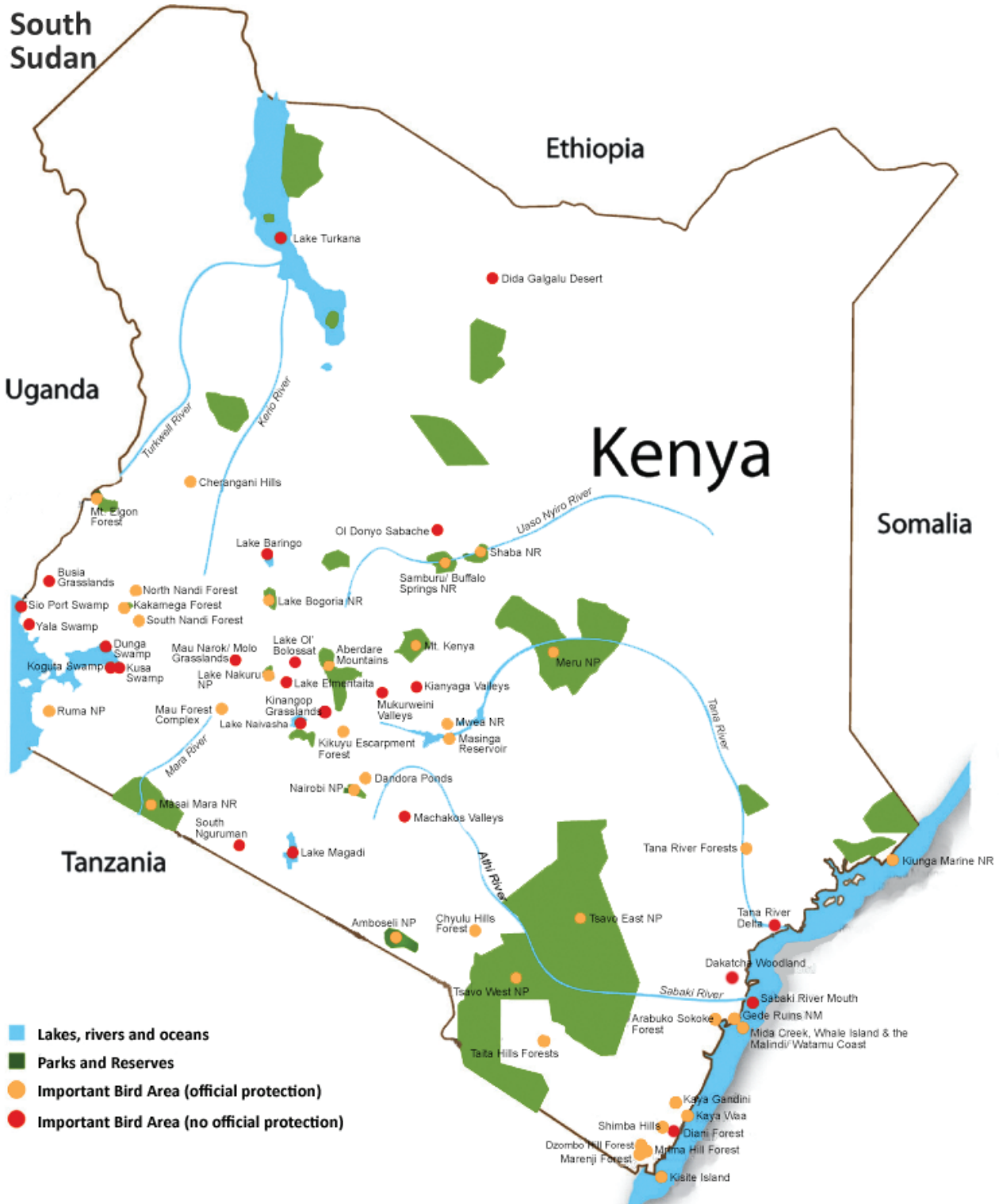
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Hinde's Barbler by E. Selembo

Appendix 1: Pressure, Status and Response Scores at Kenya IBAs Monitored in 2015

IBA Site Name	Code	Pressure	State	Response
Aberdare Mountains	KE001	1	2	3
Kikuyu Escarpment forest	KE003	1	2	3
Kinangop grasslands	KE004	2	1	1
Mount Kenya	KE005	1	3	3
Mukurweini valleys	KE006	1	0	1
Arabuko-Sokoke Forest	KE007	1	2	3
Dakatcha Woodland	KE008	3	1	1
Diani Forest	KE009	1	0	1
Dzombo Hill Forest	KE010	0	0	3
Gede Ruins National Monument	KE011	2	1	2
Kaya Gandini	KE012	1	0	2
Kaya Waa	KE013	2	0	2
Mida Creek, Whale Island and the Malindi - Watamu coast	KE016	1	2	1
Marenji Forest	KE017	1	0	2
Mrima Hill Forest	KE018	1	0	3
Sabaki River Mouth	KE019	1	1	1
Shimba Hills	KE020	1	2	1
Taita Hills Forests	KE021	0	1	2
Tana River Delta	KE022	2	0	1
Tsavo East National Park	KE024	2	3	2
Tsavo West National Park	KE025	1	2	3
Meru National Park	KE031	1	1	3
Mwea National Reserve	KE032	1	3	2
Dandora ponds	KE035	0	1	0
Nairobi National Park	KE036	1	1	3
Dunga swamp	KE037	2	1	1
Ruma National Park	KE040	0	2	3
Yala swamp complex	KE041	2	1	1
Cherangani Hills	KE043	1	0	2
Lake Baringo	KE044	1	1	0
Lake Bogoria National Reserve	KE045	2	1	2
Lake Elmenteita	KE046	1	1	1
Lake Naivasha	KE048	2	0	2
Lake Nakuru National Park	KE049	2	0	2
Masai Mara	KE050	2	0	1
Mau Narok - Molo grasslands	KE052	2	0	0
North Nandi forest	KE053	1	1	3
OI Donyo Sabache	KE054	2	1	3
South Nandi forest	KE055	1	1	3
Busia grasslands	KE057	2	0	0
Kakamega forest	KE058	1	1	3
Mount Elgon (Kenya)	KE059	1	2	1
Lake Ol' Bolossat	KE061	1	1	2
Kwenia	KE062	2	1	0



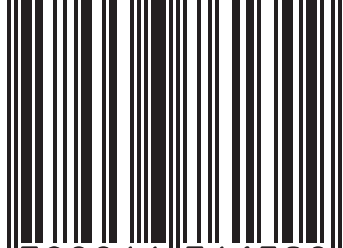


Vultures killed by poisoning near the Masai Mara Game Reserve. Photo by E. Reson



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