

- Title:**
Mobilization of Grassroot Support to Conservation of Endemic Bird Species in Yala Swamp, Kenya
- Project manager (Give name, contact information and relevant qualifications and experience)**

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I am a trained fundamental ornithologist, with wildlife management diploma from University of Nairobi. As the coordinator of waterbird counts in the western Kenya region of more than 12 years, I have vast knowledge in conservation practices and excellent abilities in co-ordinating and managing community programs are exemplified in numerous donor funded projects I have implemented such as (African Bird Club, Kushlan Award, Raptors Research Fund, amongst other donors).

I have the ability to identify conservation threats, set goals and delegate responsibilities, observe time management in the projects undertaken making sure that the project schedules are adhered to while prioritize different skills to useful measures.

- Implementing institution or organization (Give the name, postal address and url (if any) of the institution sponsoring this project that will manage the funds)**

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- Purpose (Describe the desired outcome of the project)**

The proposed project intends to establish sustainable utilization of the natural resource and provide linkages between conservation of papyrus endemic bird species in the entire Yala swamp ecosystem. It would also seeks to explore conservation through organized trainings that builds the capacity, promote school outreach programmes by establishing Nature Clubs, increase awareness to school communities by providing information about species and their needs. The project also aims at coming up with a community monitoring and surveillance scheme to collect data and survey the wetland, this will enable a development of database and reports on status and trend. Training on basic monitoring will be done to the selected community members and university interns. The written reports will then be sent to: Cape Cod Bird Club, Nature Kenya, a birdlife partner in Kenya for completion and also disseminate conservation and basic research findings to relevant stakeholders. The data would also make it possible to evaluate findings and incorporate suggestions in adaptive plan to enhance their indigenous knowledge of conservation of their biodiversity (endemic birds), like the code of ethics of the International Society of Ethno biology and the Convention of Biological Diversity (1992).

Objectives/activities/outputs/outcomes

Specific objectives	Activities	Results (outcome)	Indicators of results	Assumptions
To build and promote sustainable use of Yala wetland	Training workshop for community and other stakeholder's representatives.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ 3 capacity building work-shop held. ✓ 30 community members trained 	Proper utilization the swamp by the adjacent communities	Necessary skills and knowledge to manage natural resource gained

Educate, inform and disseminate information to older and younger generation.	Outreach programme in schools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ 5 outreaches programme carried out in schools and general public. ✓ Reports. ✓ Environmental clubs formed in 5 schools. 	Understanding of the environment and conservation among school children	Maximum outreach done through elders and school institutions.
A system to promote Endemic birds and animals' species.	Monitoring and research on the three variables; vegetation, water and endemic bird species. Involve Kenya Wildlife Service to provide protection of the natural resource	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Monitoring report produced. ✓ Bird checklist produced ✓ Species population known ✓ Improve presentation and clarity of monitoring results. ✓ Increased availability and access to critical knowledge needed for decision-making for effective conservation of birds and their habitats. 	-Increase number of tourist and research groups. -Community-based stewardship of endemic birds and their papyrus ecosystems at selected important Yala swamp sites enhanced	Increase in number of rare birds, threatened and near threatened species. Economic index improved.

5. Description and Methods (This should be the heart of your proposal. Give any background you feel is appropriate and describe what you propose to do and what methods you will use).

Background

As recognized Important Bird Areas (IBAs) that hosts many papyrus endemic bird species found only in Lake Victoria Papyrus Wetlands all over the world, Yala swamp is still unprotected, have diverse functions, values and benefits such as maintenance of ecological processes and systems, carbon sink, maintenance of water table, prevention of erosion, reduction of extremes flow, sediments traps, wildlife habitats and centre of biological diversity, source of plant products, fishing, cattle grazing, water supply, nutrient and toxin retention, ecotourism, religious and cultural significance, research and education among others.

The Yala wetland which is listed as Important Bird Area because of its rich biodiversity of Afro-aquatic river/lake bird species, the presence of restricted-range species and it's population of papyrus specialist birds;

- i) Papyrus Yellow Warbler-*Chloroptera gracilinostris*
- ii) Papyrus Gonolek-*Laniarius mufumbiri*
- iii) White Winged Warbler-*Bradypterus carpalis*
- iv) Papyrus canary- *Serinus koliensis*
- v) Caruthers's cisticola-*Cisticola carruthersi*
- vi) Northern-brown Throated Weaver-*ploceus castanops*

Birdlife International lists **Papyrus Yellow Warbler** and **Papyrus Gonolek** as globally threatened and near threatened bird species respectively, which require urgent conservation action (Birdlife International, IBAs Status Reports, 2004).

- b) It is a habitat for wildlife such as the rare semi aquatic antelope, the Sitatunga (*Tragelaphus spekii*), Vervet monkey, Hippopotamus (*Hippopotamus amphibius*), African python (*Python sebae*)

However, these ecological and socio-economic functions, values and benefits are under anthropogenic threats such as papyrus clearing as epitomized by unsustainable agriculture, over harvesting of papyrus for cottage industries, settlement, burning and sand harvesting. These have resulted to widespread externalities in the Lake and its outflow. Lapses in policy implementation have accelerated encroachment and degradation of wetland ecosystems. Other threats emanate from wetland drainage for agriculture, human settlements increased siltation, catchments destruction, over exploitation of natural resources, invasion of alien species, pollution by waste disposal and agro chemical; all leading to various wetland conservation challenges

Methodology

We would use; integrated approach that combines interview, surveys questionnaires and observations:

- **Question** the adjacent homesteads randomly on relevant indicators on a range of 5 km² along the swamp/riverbanks areas. And as a result it would Create awareness on indicators leading to institutionalization of monitoring system and adoption of reporting frame works and national and regional levels on trends of biodiversity;
- **Sample** water quality randomly on the river mouths and interior; analyze them in the laboratory to show the relations with the pollution in the lake and why there is need for the locals to treat their drinking waters;
- **Observe** economic trends of the project area and likeable factors affecting them, integrate environmental, social and economic indicators for greater sensitivity of planning and decision making towards sustainable development and report regularly and reliably on condition and trends and eventually, develop better monitoring mechanism for wetland ecosystem; and
- **Interview** every homestead randomly along the shores, hills and other catchments areas to find out their attitude and cultural values on ethno-ornithology and ethno-botany in relation to indigenous knowledge of the locals.

6. Timetable (Give the anticipated times for meeting key stages in the project)

ACTIVITY/MONTH	1 ST	2 ND	3 rd
Awareness creation	X	X	
Training/Capacity building	X	X	
Monitoring and Research	X	X	X
Progress Report	X	X	X
Evaluation		X	
Final Report			X

7. Budget (Give itemized breakdown of use of funds)

ITEM	Amount (KSH)	Amount Requested from CCBC (USD)	Organization/ In-kind Contribution (USD)
Field Allowance(@2000 Per Person)*5	40,000	0	400
Sub total	40,000	0	400
Monitoring			
a. Binoculars 3 pairs @200*5	6,000.00	30	30
b. GPS Hire	6,000.00	30	30

d. Gumboots 5pairs @100*5	5000.00	25	25
Digital Camera (Documentation)	10,000.00	50	50
Boat Hire	4,000.00	20	20
Memory stick (Flash Disk)	4,000.00	20	20
First Aid Kit	5000.00	25	25
Report production	8,000.00	40	40
Sub total	48,000.00	780	240
Training Workshops			
Training of user group (20 persons) *2days	20,000	100	100
Venue Hire	12,000	60	60
Meals	40,000	200	200
Transport	10,000	50	50
Report writing	10,000	50	50
Sub-total	92,000	460	460
Outreach Programme			
School &Community Awareness (Lump sum)	50,000	250	250
Transport	10,000	50	50
Sub total	60,000	300	300
Amount Requested From African Bird Club	KSHS 240,000	1000	1400

8. Matching funds or resources (Give any additional funds or resources available for your use)

In-Kind contribution: i) from organization (USD 600)
ii) IDEA WILD (USD 400)
iii) Community volunteers (equipments, enumerators and meals= USD 400)

9. Continuity: (Do you anticipate the project continuing after expiration of the grant? If so, how will it be supported?)

The project is designed to initiate, develop and promote the long-term sustainability of all its outcomes through a combination of networks, institutional and financing mechanisms including: integration of project outcomes into existing eco-tourism opportunities and institutional frameworks; establishment of practical arrangements and local mechanisms for sustainable financing of community stewardship of sites (protected and non-protected areas); involvement of relevant institutions, agencies and stakeholders at national and local levels in project development and execution; and capacity building for relevant stakeholders for wetland biodiversity in the key sites.