



NATIONAL MUSEUMS OF KENYA

WHERE HERITAGE LIVES ON



Digitization of the Journal of East African Natural History: a Journal of Biodiversity

**By
ASHAH OWANO**

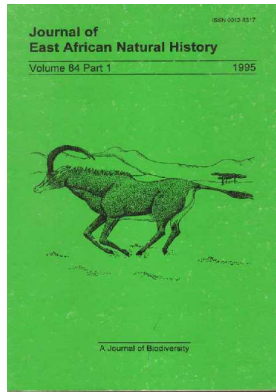
1910-2010

Celebrating a Century of Heritage Management

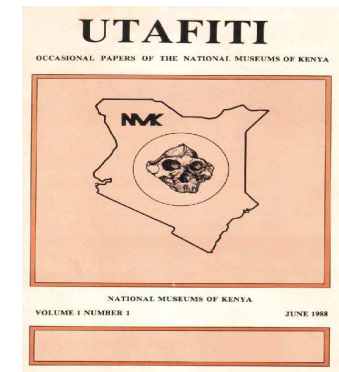
JOURNAL OF EAST AFRICAN NATURAL HISTORY: a Journal of Biodiversity

Background

- First published in 1910 by the East Africa Natural History Society (Nature Kenya), the oldest scientific society in Africa as *Journal of East Africa Natural History Society*
- It is over 100 years old



Journal of East African Natural History : a Journal of Biodiversity



- 1994 to-date Jointly published by the National Museums of Kenya and the East Africa Natural History Society as a merger of Utafiti and Journal of East Africa Natural History Society

Scope and Subject Coverage

- Accepts original papers and notes on Natural History in Eastern African region, mostly those contributing to new knowledge on status and conservation of biological diversity and ethnobiology in the region

Digitization Efforts to Improve Access

- In 2005 embarked on Retrospective digitization of the Journal of East African Natural History (1994-2008) with support from Critical Ecosystems Project Fund (CEPF) available at www.bioone.org
- 1910-1993 issues digitized and sent to BHL for uploading
- 2009- Born digital

Other Digitization Efforts to Improve Access

- Swara Magazine (1978-2008), Africana (1962-810 and Wildlife Magazine (1959-19610 for East African Wildlife Society
- Tanzania Notes and Records (1936-1986) at the request of University of Dar es Salaam

Experience After Digitization

- Started digitization without Training
- Lack of feed back on uploading provided data
- BHL provided a template for metadata

Experience After Digitization cont...

- Some articles are viewed at CiteBank
- Searching from Citebank is not very flexible or hasn't the site gone live?

Experience During Digitization cont...

- Choice of scanner depends on Type, size and condition of documents
- Damage to Library Hard copy e.g. due to splitting up in preparation for scanning
- Cost of rebinding

Experience During Digitization cont...

- Making documents searchable vis-à-vis
Rejection of certain characters when running
OCR
- Indexing and Accuracy during metadata
creation
- Staffing and type of training required
- Skewed scans created by software
- Memory Capacity (i.e. RAM & disk space)
of computer for handling large files

Uses of Biodiversity Literature and Information

- Provide baseline information for biodiversity research (Desktop & Field)
- Carry out research into Kenya's rich natural heritage
- Conservation of biodiversity
- Reference e.g. identification of species
- Education
- Monitoring and evaluation especially climate change issues

Primary Users of BHL in Africa

- Researchers
- Government & NGOs
- Institutions of higher learning
- Local communities

Suppliers of information not at table in Africa

- Research institutions
- Researchers, natural scientists/Gen Publ.
- Government & NGOs
- Institutions of higher learning
- Librarians through consortiums KLISC formed under INASP, Eifl

Biodiversity Literature: Requirement

- Local content
- Current literature
- Training
- Policy

Challenges to Digitization and Access

- Quality of library materials /hard copy for digitization (printed, rare or damaged text, illustrations some oversize)
- Indexing; bibliographic data like subject terms
- Standards e.g. resolution

Challenges to Digitization and Access cont...

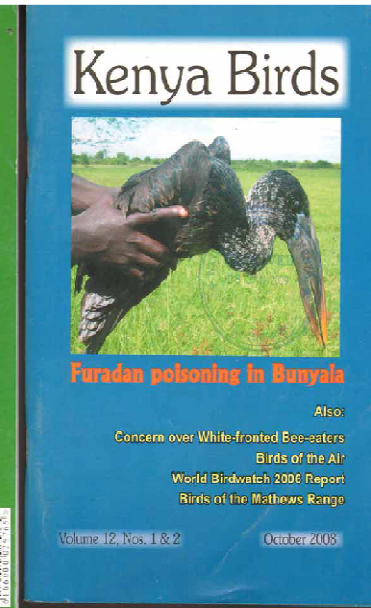
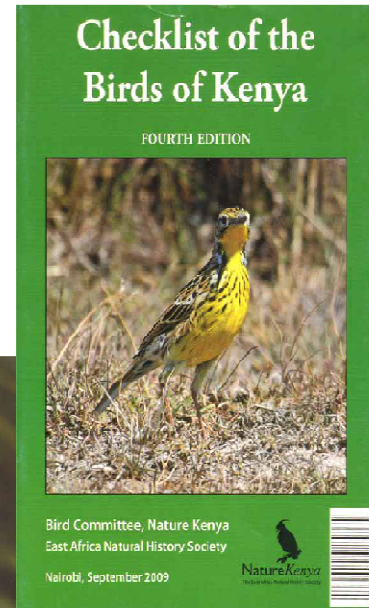
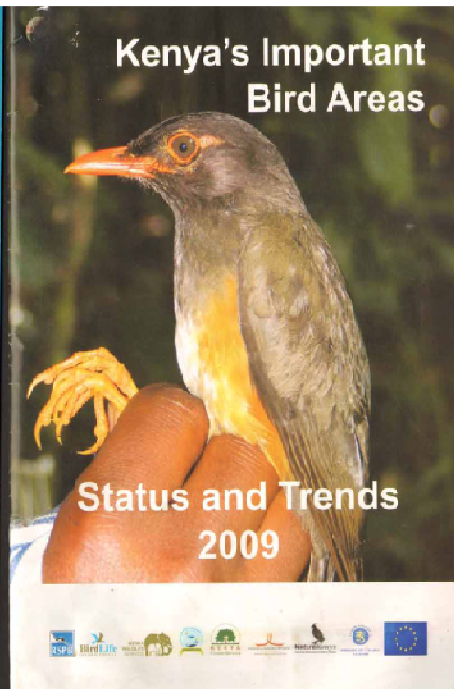
- Digitization Funding: Short term = long term commitment to provide access. Accepting digitization funding implies institutional commitment that outlives the period of funding. Expectation for long term access to be included within terms of the grant
- Sustainability, usability and access (subscription)

Other Potential Grey Literature for future Digitization

- Utafiti (1988-1992)
- Kenya Birds (1992-2008)
- Kenya Birding (2007-)
- Scopus (1977-)
- EANHS Bulletin (1970-2002)
- KIFCON Reports (Several)
- Costs, Benefits and Unmet Needs of Biological Diversity Conservation in Kenya



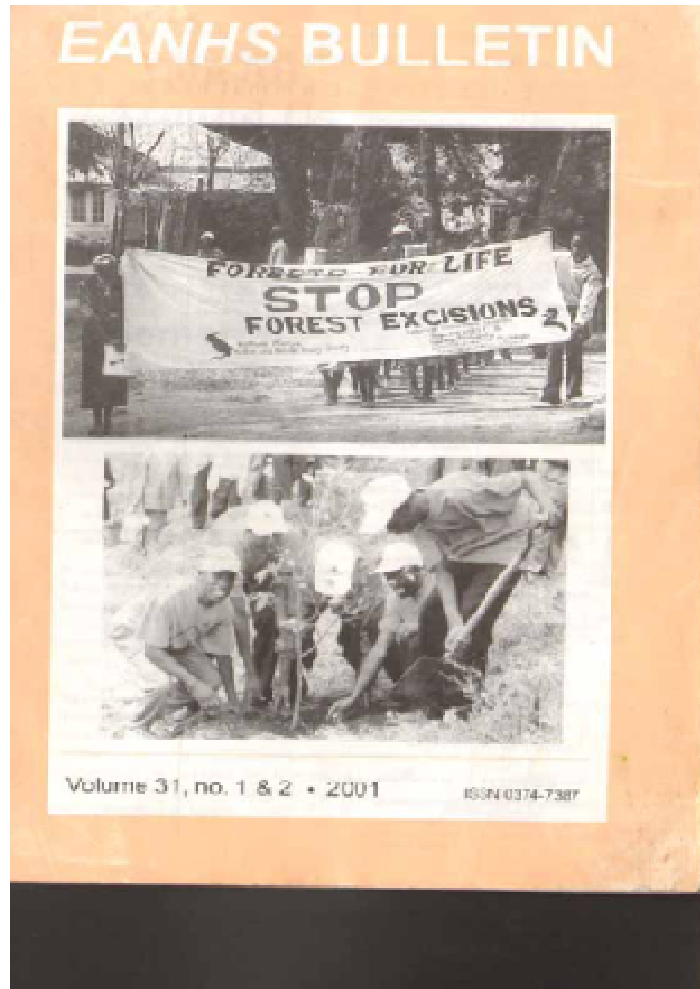
Potential Grey Literature



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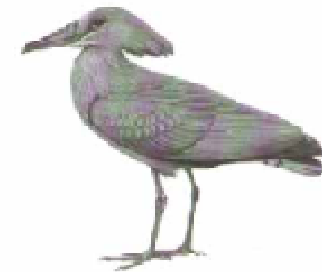
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Potential Grey Literature cont...



ISSN 0250-4162

SCOPUS



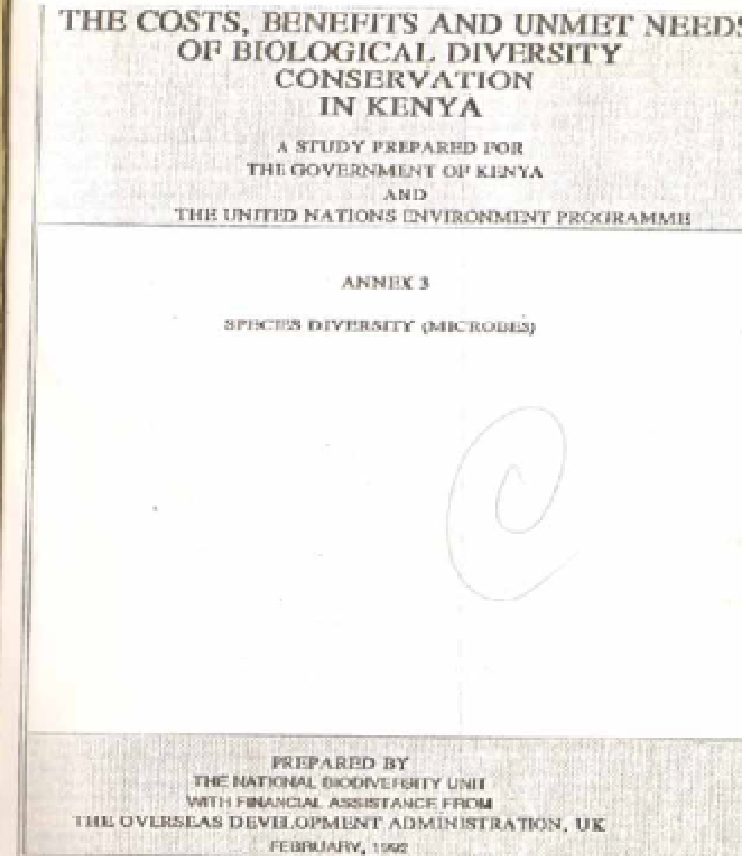
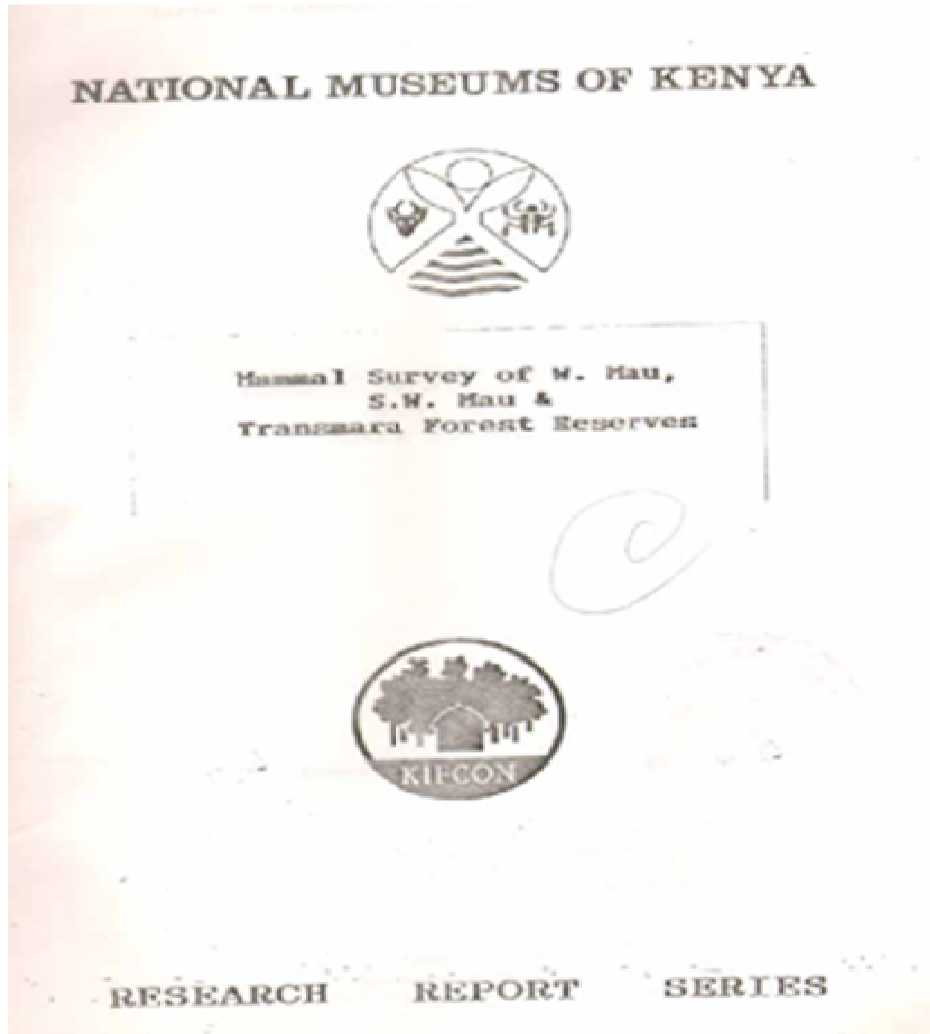
A publication of the
Bird Committee of the
East Africa Natural History Society

Edited by
Jeremy Lindell

Volume 24, July 2004



Potential Grey Literature cont...



THANK YOU



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