



NATIONAL MUSEUMS OF KENYA

WHERE HERITAGE LIVES ON



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Biodiversity research Team**

1910-2010

Celebrating a Century of Heritage Management

# East African Fish collections (since 1997)



Over 40, 000 freshwater  
And 20,000 marine fishes

Various databases – for  
collection management but  
also various projects to  
enhance sharing of  
biodiversity information

Most have been for specific  
regions or collections:  
-Mt Kenya collections  
-Kakamega forest  
-**Lake Victoria (JRS  
biodiversity foundation)**

Data sharing options: fishbase; fishnet

## Important considerations

Users/Audience: limited number of users of biodiversity information from the collections (now highly geared for researchers)

Potential users:

- University students – currently have no guide of freshwater or marine fishes of Kenya
- High school and Primary schools – constant visitors to the museum and aquarium; lack information and exhibits to keep them interested.
- This is something important to consider even at early stages = what do we want to present for variety of users and how to maintain a live representation of information from reference collections.
- Live = giving life to preserved specimens ; updated information

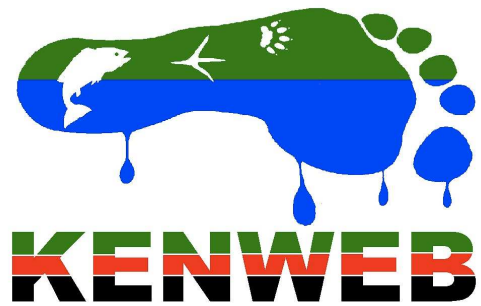


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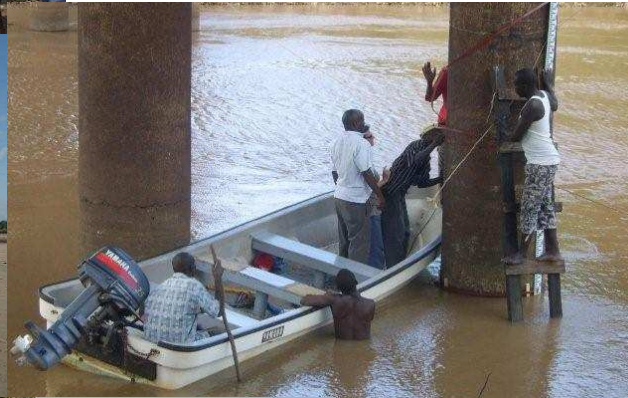
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# Participatory research for development transdisciplinary biodiversity and socio-economic assessments

Kenya Wetlands Biodiversity Research Team  
(KENWEB)



## Exceptional Biodiversity of wetlands



Northern Carmine Bee-eater  
*Merops nubicus* (September  
-April)



African Fish-eagle  
*Haliaeetus vocifer*



Great White Egret  
*Casmerodius albus* feed and breed  
in the delta



Goliath Heron *Ardea goliath*,  
measures 1.5m tall



Saddle-billed Stork *Ephippiorhynchus*  
*senegalensis*



Blue-headed Tree Agama  
*Acanthocercus atricollis*



Tana Bulldog,  
*Marcusenius macrolepidotus*



Speckle-lipped Skink  
*Trachylepis maculilabris*



The Tana Mangabey,  
*Cercocebus galeritus*



Hippopotamus  
*Hippopotamus amphibius*



Nile Crocodile  
*Crocodylus niloticus*

- Discussions on education and outreach very useful since one core objective of my job and our work in KENWEB is to include programs for school children including field surveys, laboratory work and reporting = challenge is on how to keep them motivated and continuously informed and engaged
- Get them into biodiversity careers

# Tana Delta Photo Exhibition – Since June 2011



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Web: [www.afkenya.or.ke](http://www.afkenya.or.ke) [www.facebook.com/Alliance.Francaise.Nairobi](http://www.facebook.com/Alliance.Francaise.Nairobi)



## Primary and secondary school programmes

- Guides visits for school students age 12 and above in the Tana River Delta exhibition
- Involve Secondary School students in Biodiversity research through participation in fieldwork

# Tana Delta Documentary

- Featuring participatory research by KENWEB members
- Launched in 7th June 2011 at Alliance Française, Nairobi
- Is available on website:  
<http://www.kenweb.museums.or.ke>

## Take home lessons from BHL workshop

- The role of librarians and resource centres is under-estimated in most biodiversity institutions
- Learnt about various levels of dissemination – balancing content for variety of audiences
- Potential that BHL has for partnerships with Africa biodiversity institutions

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- <http://www.kenweb.museums.or.ke>