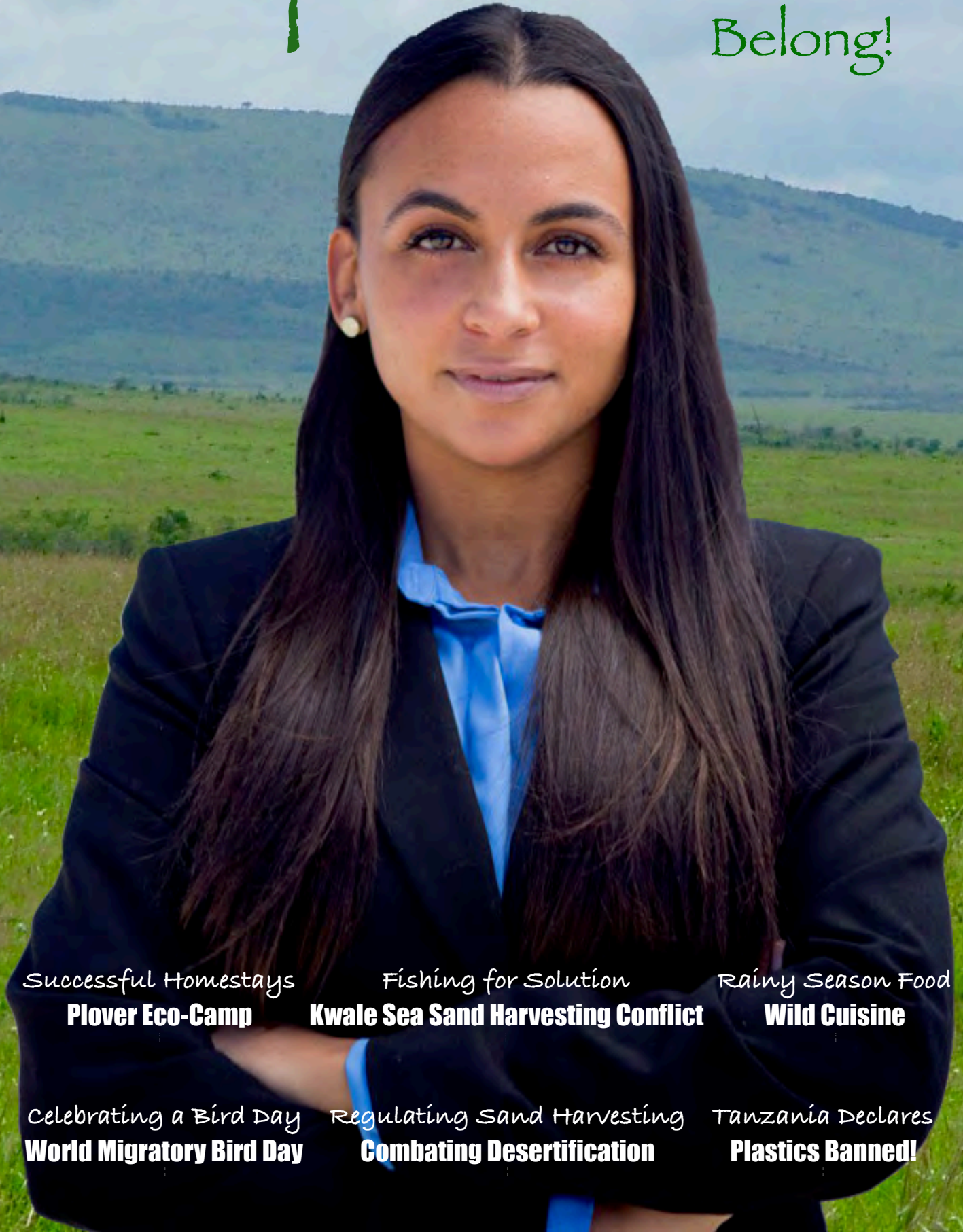


The People4Nature

Issue 6: April-June 2019

Belong!



Successful Homestays
Plover Eco-Camp

Fishing for Solution
Kwale Sea Sand Harvesting Conflict

Rainy Season Food
Wild Cuisine

Celebrating a Bird Day
World Migratory Bird Day

Regulating Sand Harvesting
Combating Desertification

Tanzania Declares
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Editors Note

Welcome to the 6th edition of our quarterly magazine. It is quite amazing that we are already half way through 2019!

Sand for construction was a free resource not long ago. Not anymore. Like all finite resources, the limit of utilizing sand as a free resource has been reached. This limit was not reached uniformly globally. In some areas, they reached the limit earlier than others. But it is now slowly sinking that a once free resource is quickly becoming scarce and increasingly expensive.

In this issue, we have delved into how sand harvesting is being managed to combat desertification in Makueni County, Kenya, and how communities along the south coast of Kenya are grappling with alternatives to quell a simmering conflict between them and a government agency over sea sand harvesting.

There is also more to read on how learning to cope with climate change, like any other form of learning, never ceases. This is what climate smart agriculture stakeholders in Kwale County, Kenya, quickly found out when they went on a cross site visit in the counties of Makueni and Isiolo.

You will also read articles on how the rainy seasons brings back traditional wild cuisines to the tables of most rural homes in Kenya, the nationwide plastic ban in Tanzania, as well as a number of events to mark important annual environmental days, including the World Day to Combat Desertification, the World Turtle Day, among others.

It is my belief that you will enjoy this quarter's read.

Yours sincerely,

Phathisani Tabengwa,
Bulawayo, Zimbabwe.



**Ms. Phathisani Tabengwa,
Editor.**

Platform Briefs

There were more and new discussions and activities in our platforms in the second quarter of 2019. And there are good news to report to our general membership in regards to these discussions and activities.

The **Network of Women in Conservation** (NoW Conservation) platform kicked off this quarter's activities by electing its first co-convener. Ms. Ashengai Kimath, was elected the co-convener. She is the founder of Environmental Action and Community Development, an NGO based in Arusha, Tanzania. She holds a bachelor's degree in Geography and Environmental Studies (University of Dar es Salaam), and a Masters of Arts in Education Management and Leadership (University of Arusha).

In their discussion this quarter, the NoW Conservation explored the qualities of an effective leader that P4N Women should emulate. The platform were in agreement that an effective leader needs to

provide direction, inspiration, guidance and exhibit courage, passion, confidence, commitment, and ambition. There was a lesson that was drawn from our mothers, as effective resource mobilizers and their ability to feed (meet the needs) their family with limited resources.

The **P4N Forest and Wildlife** platform reviewed the P4N Tree Planting Strategy in light of challenges encountered in implementing it. The more comprehensive strategy now includes a detailed process of identifying tree nursery owners, responsibility centres for the management of planted seedlings and linkage to the market.

The establishment of YP4N Clubs dominated the discussion at the **YP4N** platform. School Principles will now be contacted with a proposal to establish YP4N Clubs in schools that do not have Wildlife or Nature clubs. The general activities of the club will include tree planting, school competitions (debates, drawing, painting, songs, puppetry

and essays), environmental lectures and learning tours. Interestingly, Utange Primary School, in Mombasa County, Kenya, was the first to establish the club with Ms. Elizabeth Kadzo (P4N-210 and Teacher) as the Patron. The club has 20 members.

The rest of the platforms are yet to conclude their discussions and will be reporting in the next quarter. The ongoing discussions include **Indigenous P4N** who are developing a communication strategy for indigenous people, the **Water** platform is exploring options for sustainable sand harvesting, **Nature Enterprise** platform is deliberating on suitable business models for marine-based tourism, **Agriculture and Fisheries** platform is yet to conclude its discussion on how to promote fish farming among our members while the **Education and Awareness** platform devoted most of their time to improve our magazine.

-A P4N Summit Report-



The team viewing a Tractor drawn ripper at the Agricultural Mechanization Service, Wote, Makueni County, Kenya.

MAKUENI-ISIOLO CROSS-SITE VISIT

After more than three years as partners in the FAO Good Agricultural Practises (GAPs) in Conservation Agriculture (CA) project, lead farmers, aggregators, fabricators and government officers visited Laikipia and Makueni Counties, Kenya, from 28th April to 4th May 2019. A total of 26 individuals comprised the team of visitors.

The exchange visit was necessary to expose farmers, service providers and extension officers to GAPs as adopted in Makueni and Laikipia Counties. In addition, this team was eager to learn how farmer groups were aggregating their farm produce as well as mechanization of farm equipment.

Makueni County

Makueni County was the first stop for the team. It is one of the drier areas of Kenya. Here, the County Government has fully supported the GAPs in CA project.. Mangoes, green grams, tomatoes, sisal, cotton and sericulture are some of the agricultural activities in the county.

The adoption of CA has been high with service providers for ripping and harrowing providing the service using online platforms.

After visiting various county government offices, the team visited Kibwezi East Cooperative Society. The cooperative has 600 farmers growing pulses. They use tractor and oxen drawn rippers. Athi River provides water irrigation. Currently, the average pulse production is 6 (90kgs) bags per acre.

The Kiteng'ai Commercial Village, a community initiative established in 2010 to enhance food security in Mtito Andei Ward, was the next stop. The village consists of 150 commercial farmers who have been contracted by Imara Agro Ltd to produce pulses.

The village is well organized with committees on production, marketing, quality assurance as well as a section on savings and loans. The savings and loans programme was initiated by Prof. Kivutha Kibwana, Governor of Makueni County.



The team at the Makueni County Agricultural Mechanization Service Centre, Wote.

Notable achievements include seed production for Dean Seed Company in 2011, purchase of a commercial plot and ensuring each of its 22 affiliate groups has rippers, shallow seeders and sub-soilers. In addition, farmers are food secure, financially stable and have both borrowing and purchasing power. In addition, the County Government purchased two tractors to support their activities.

They have faced challenges such as meeting volumes and quality required by contractors, delays in paying farmers and loss due to damage by pests are some of the challenges they face.

Laikipia County

Laikipia County is an equally dry county that lies on the leeward side of Mt. Kenya. Maize, wheat, beans and potatoes are the main crops. CA adoption has been high even among the large-scale farmers. It has been used as a solution to reduce production costs, enhance soil fertility and sustainable management of natural resources.

The county has 5 walking tractors to support CA, and equipment such as rippers, rotavators and direct seeders can be attached.

In Laikipia, the team visited Mr. Duncan Macharia, a planting and ripping service provider. He started off in 1980 using oxen drawn seeders. But with his interaction with the GAPs in CA project, he abandoned the animals for a walking tractor due to shortage of pasture and high demand for his services beyond his locality.

The walking tractor has many advantages including its low cost compared to conventional planting and ripping costs, and can be attached to a maize sheller, a water pump, a ripper and a boom sprayer. His business has grown due to proper record keeping, honesty in dealing with clients, among other factors.

The team also visited Chakula Tele Group at Male. The team visited a well-planned farm, roof water harvesting, good cover cropping using butternut, in-situ

water harvesting using terraces and retention ditch, a demonstration plot, an apiary, water harvesting for cultivation using farm pond, a vegetable kitchen garden, CA equipments (shallow weeder, locally fabricated sub soiler) and a zero-grazing unit.

In conclusion, farm planning, standardisation of prices of services provided by Service Providers, adoption of contract farming were the main take home lessons by the team.



Mr. John Safari (article writer) is the Deputy County Director, Crop Production, and FAO Field Programme Assistant, Kwale County.

WILD CUISINE

Ms. Ruth Adeka of National Museums of Kenya, takes us through the rainy season foods of Kenya.

Kenya is known for its rich biodiversity that consists of animal and plant species which inhabit various ecological habitats that stretch from the humid highlands to the hot lowlands. It has a wealth of sociocultural diversity in which there are the Bantus, Nilotic and Cushitic speaking people who have diverse food cultures and habits.

Kenya is rich in traditional foods which have been part of people's cultures for centuries. They are vegetables, fruits, roots and tubers, cereals, beans and nuts which are cultivated or gathered from the wild habitats. Other food types are edible mushroom, edible insects, edible caterpillars, edible snails, birds among others.

In Kenya, food availability is regulated by seasons throughout the year. Kenya experiences two rainy seasons in the year; they are long rains which occur in March

to April and short rains which fall in October to December with dry spells in between. Rainy season in Kenya comes with a blessing of nutritious traditional vegetables, edible insects and sprouting mushrooms are available as a source of food and nutrients. Examples of vegetables available during rainy season are;

1. Kongwa

Also known as Dzadza (Giriama), linyororo (Maragoli), mukengeria (Kikuyu), odielo (Luo), *Commelina africana*.

It is strategically available at the beginning of rainy season before other species can be harvested. It is a soft vegetable hence mixed with coarse vegetables when cooked. It is widely consumed by Luhya, Teso, Mbeere, Kamba and Luo.

2. Togotia

Erucastrum arabicum is plenty

during rainy season in Nairobi and other highlands west and east of Rift valley especially along streams. It is used as vegetable that is mashed in mukimo; a delicacy among communities in central Kenya. It also used as vegetable among Kipsigis and Kamba.

3. Logatsi

Amaranthus graecizans is a common amaranth in semi-arid and arid regions but also grows in wetter areas as a weed. It is said to be tastier than other amaranth whose tender small tender leaves and shoots are used as vegetable served with ugali or mashed in bean-maize mixture.



Logatsi served with steamed potatoes.

Edible Mushroom

Mushrooms are categorized as plants but they literally belong to the fungi kingdom. They are rich in protein, vitamin B and selenium which is a powerful antioxidant which prevents cell damage. They protect the heart by lowering cholesterol.

Edible mushrooms are available throughout the rainy season in wild habitats. At the coast, they are found growing on trees such as mirihi, rotting dead baobab (muuyu) and termite mounds (vichuguu).

Examples of edible mushrooms (vyoga, zhoga) from the coast are; vyoga udzondo, vyoga muyu, vyoga nyama, vyoga mamewe, uhovu, vyoga rerema, vyoga sikiro, vyoga mkundu wa nyani, vyoga mbwate among others. Vyoga mamewe is the largest type of the mushroom size of uteo (woven tray). When a centipede (jongoo) doesn't eat certain mushrooms then people avoid it because it is poisonous and vice versa is true. Mushrooms are cooked traditionally by washing well then boiling with spices such as raw mango or baobab pulp to impart sourness. It can also be spiced with coconut milk or roasted on fire and eaten.

Edible insects

1. Termites are referred to as lutswa (Giriama), tsitswa (luhya). Termites come out in the evening when it is raining. They are captured by digging a hole and placing light next to the hole. A bucket with water is placed next to the light. The insects

follow the light and are captured with wings in water as they cannot fly. Edible termites are sold in the markets. They are cooked by washing then put in a hot frying pan to remove wings. They are then seasoned with salt and left to roast for a while. Termites are rich in proteins.

2. Crickets, also referred to as chenene, lives in soil and is brown in colour. Children dig holes to unearth crickets. They then hook many of them



Crickets!

on a stick and take them home. Crickets can bite someone. Its legs have many prickles which can prick and hurt someone.

3. Makunyati lives on mango, cashew and other trees. It is eaten at the caterpillar stage before changing to a butterfly. Its available during rainy season (April) when young leaves are in plenty. The end (anus) is cut and stomach contents squeezed out. The insects are then roasted and seasoned, changing them to black.

PLASTICS BANNED!

By the Secretariat

Authorities in Tanzania have banned single-use polythene bags in an attempt to tackle plastic pollution. The Plastics Carrier Bags Regulations 2019 prevent import, export, manufacturing, sale, storage, supply, and use of plastic carrier bags



regardless of their thickness. The new regulations took effect from 1st June 2019 in mainland Tanzania. The ban, however, exempts plastic or plastic packaging for medical services, industrial products, the construction industry, the agricultural sector, foodstuff, sanitary and waste management.

Visitors to the country were notified, through a travel advisory issued on 15th May 2019, to avoid carrying plastic bags before embarking on a visit to Tanzania, stating only Ziploc bags that are used to carry toiletries will be permitted.

The journey to ban single use plastics began way back in August 2016, when the government warned manufacturers of plastic bags to diversify their line of business in preparation for a total ban on single use plastics in the country.

Tanzania now joins Kenya, Rwanda and South Sudan in phasing out the single non-biodegradable plastics. It is a journey that few countries have successfully navigated. Uganda, for instance, imposed a ban in 2007 on use of lightweight plastic bags. However, the ban was never implemented.

Today, manufacturing plastic bags in Tanzania can lead to a two-year prison sentence or a fine of up to Tshs. 1 billion, while anyone found carrying a bag can be subject to a fine of up to Tshs. 200,000 or imprisonment of up to 7 days or both.

Manufacturers of substitutes for plastic

Tanzania Joins Kenya, Rwanda and South Sudan in Banning Plastics.

carrier bags have been able to produce alternative carrier bags to meet the huge demand.

The Minister in the Office of the Vice-President in charge of Environment, Mr. January Makamba, has assured businessmen of the government's efforts to support the manufacturers of substitutes for plastic carrier bags through setting new standards, laws and regulations.

"The government will continue supporting manufacturers of substitutes for plastic bags to ensure there is no shortage. We are also thankful that members of the public have responded well to make the campaign successful," said the Minister.

A quick survey of our members in Tanzania has revealed that citizens have generally welcomed the move by the Government to ban plastics and have quickly adjusted to the new realities of life without single use plastics.

Mr. Kusundwa Wamalwa, in Katavi, has observed that there are three categories of citizens affected by the ban. The first category is that of businessmen, who were not given enough time and incurred heavy losses because they were forced to dispose off their remaining stock of plastic bags. The second category is that of ordinary citizens who use plastics in their day to day activities. They complained of not being adequately prepared and were initially forced to carry merchandise in

newspaper wrappings or in bags that were expensive and of poor quality. And the third group consisted of those conscious of the plastic menace, who welcomed the government move to ban the plastics.



A sample of the new carrier bags being promoted

Mr. Kusundwa is one of those who celebrated the ban on 'rambo', the single use plastic bags as they

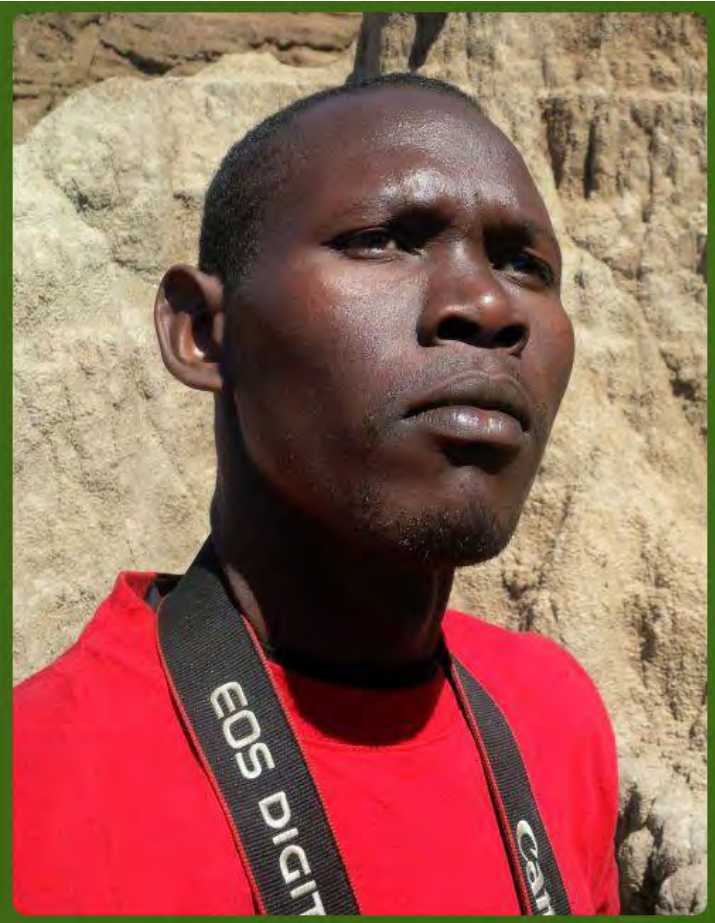
are popularly known in Tanzania. Mr. Frank Maro, in Mwanza, observes that citizens have understood and accepted the government move to ban plastics. Similar sentiments have been expressed by Ms. Ashengai Kimath and Ms. Martha Ntoipo in Arusha.

Ms. Rashida Zaid, in Arusha, observes that although citizens have supported the government ban on plastics, the alternative packaging materials are slightly more expensive.

Half of the plastics produced in the world are designed to be used just once and discarded, according to the United Nations Environment. For decades, they have polluted both land and sea at an alarming rate, posing risks to human health and wildlife. The government believes it is a step that has to be taken to create a greener and cleaner future. It is,

however, not clear how long it will take to reverse the damage caused by single use plastics on the environment.

Celebrating A Bird Day!



Mr. Paul Omenge, article writer, is a PhD student at the University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna, Austria.

This year, the theme for the World Migratory Birds Day (WMBD) is “***Protect Birds: Be the Solution to Plastic Pollution!***”

What is the World Migratory Birds Day?

Bird Migration is one of the most iconic phenomena in the world. Even though many animal species Migrate, birds interest us because their journey traverses continents and involves thousands of kilometres. Our Planet has 11,000 bird species. One in every five is migratory. Forty percent of these are in decline, and one in eight is threatened with global

extinction. WMBD is therefore an annual campaign, which raises awareness and highlights the plight of migratory birds across the world. It underscores the need for the conservation of their habitats and draws attention to the threats they face globally. The event also emphasizes the ecological importance of migratory birds, and the need for international cooperation to conserve them. Some of the conspicuous migratory bird species include the Peregrine Falcon, Blue Swallow, European Bee Eater, Arctic Tern, Egyptian goose among others.

Threats to birds

Some of the threats to birds include plastic pollution as aptly captured in the theme for this year celebrations. Others include habitat loss and degradation, caused by agricultural development, collision with power-lines and wind turbines and the illegal taking/hunting and killing of birds. Poisoning also heavily affects Migratory birds. It is common for farmers to use poison to prevent birds from eating crops in the farms. Additionally, Climate change continues to change the weather patterns thereby affecting bird migration.

Global Conservation Efforts

The Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS), also known as the Bonn Convention, and the

Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds (AEWA), spearhead the global conservation of Migratory Birds. However, at the local level, conservation organizations such as Nature Kenya, National Museums of Kenya and the Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) among others, often coordinate the WMBD celebrations with other partners.

The Activities

A few years ago, I was part of a team that organized the celebration of the WMBD at Dunga beach in Kisumu, on the shores of Lake Victoria, Kenya. We organized boat racing competitions for the fisher-folk, birdwatching activities, dance competitions, speeches and award of presents to school children that presented songs, poems and skits based on the prevailing conservation theme. Local community groups, schools, government departments as well as the local administration graced this colorful event. The Dunga

Beach Management Unit (BMU), Dunga Ecotourism and Environmental Youth Group (DECTA) and Lake Victoria Tour Guides Association (LVTOGA) participated.

Looking forward

Beginning last year 2018, World Migratory Bird Day has

How can you participate? Connecting Events with a Global Campaign and Theme Activities for the World Migratory Bird Day take place in many different countries and places across the globe - united by a common campaign and theme. Those interested



World Migratory Bird Day celebrations at Lake Elementaita, Rift Valley, Kenya.

become an annual event, observed every second Saturday of the months of May and October. This has made it possible to organize events in countries around the world at peak times of bird migration. This Year, the global event shall be celebrated on 11 May and 12 October 2019.

The People4Nature, Belong!

in organizing an event to mark WMBD can register their planned activity then share with the hashtag #WorldMigratoryBirdDay on social media. Register your event using <http://www.worldmigratorybirdday.org/participate>.

COMBATING DESERTIFICATION

Desertification as a result of drought, deforestation or inappropriate land use is threatening nearly one fifth of the world's land and is now a natural hazard with significant socio-economic and environmental impacts causing deaths and displacement of people. Desertification and drought

are related and if not addressed they pose a serious challenge to sustainable development especially in developing countries.

Combating desertification requires both land and water management practices and policy approaches that promote sustainability of ecosystems. It is essential to be proactive rather than reactive in combating desertification. Attempts to rehabilitate deserts are costly and tend to deliver limited results. Studies show that by 2025, 1.8 billion people will experience absolute water scarcity and two thirds of the world will be living under water stressed conditions.

As populations increase

especially in dryland areas, more and more lands are becoming degraded and this is exacerbated by the effects of climate change. Integrated land and water management are the key methods to fight desertification. All measures that protect soils from erosion salinization and other forms of degradation effectively prevent desertification.

The World Day to Combat Desertification is celebrated annually on the 17th day of June.

It is a day celebrated since 1995 to promote public awareness relating to international cooperation to combat desertification and all the effects of draught.

The theme for this year was 'Lets Grow the Future Together'.

In Kenya, the day was celebrated at Makindu, Makueni County.



**Ms. Halinishi Yusuf,
(Article Writer)
Managing Director, Makueni
County Sand Conservation and
Utilization Authority.**

Management practices include measures to spread the pressure of human activities such as the various agroforestry systems, traditional water recharge through planting of trees to increase infiltration and reduce surface run off during raining season while preventing soil erosion. Protection of vegetation cover is also a major instrument for prevention of desertification through prevention of soil erosion by wind and water.

For Arid and Semi-Arid Lands such as Makueni County, one of the most important human activity that has contributed to desertification has been unregulated sand harvesting. For years, like in other dry counties including Kajiado, Kitui and Machakos, sand harvesting steadily increased in the last two decades occasioned by demand for river sand by the rapid



A lorry ready to transport sand from one of the dry riverbeds in Makueni County.

infrastructure development that was experienced. Proximity to the growing Nairobi City and its environs, Standard Gauge Railway among other major construction projects increased the demand for river sand.

Due to lack of guidelines, sand harvesting was done without consideration of its negative impacts on the environment, water availability, social and economic way of life of the localities. As a result of rampant sand harvesting,

there was wanton destruction of rivers lowering the water retention rates leading to reduction of underground water. This is manifested in how fast the rivers dry up after rains and drying of shallow wells as well as boreholes. This in turn leads to water scarcity adversely affecting agricultural activities, increasing distances to potable water hence loss of time that would otherwise be useful for development, loss of aquatic organisms and reduced vegetation cover and aggravating the effects of climate change.

In the wake of the adverse effects of unregulated sand harvesting, Makueni County enacted the Makueni County Sand Conservation and Utilization Act, 2015 which guides sand conservation and sustainable utilization. The Act forms an Authority that is the

of sand regulated to ensure sustainable exploitation. The once upon a time violent enforcement has transitioned to largely community centred management as the community increasingly embraces sand conservation and regulated exploitation in

developed due to increased water retention.

According to a report by United Nations Environment Programme (2019) titled Sand and Sustainability: Finding new solutions for environmental governance of global sand resources, sand resource is the second most exploited resource after water and the most unregulated. The key recommendation from the report is that guidelines to regulate sand activities are imperative if sustainability will be guaranteed. Makueni County forms a case study of where unregulated sand harvesting propelled desertification and the subsequent regulation of the same and the results attained as an approach to combat desertification and a climate change adaptation strategy for the rather dry County.



One of the less affected riverbeds in Makueni County.

lead agency for the County on all matters relating to sand conservation and its utilization. Within a span of four years since the enactment of the Act, sanity has been restored in the sand trade, with sand export outside the County being restricted to avoid over exploitation and the local use

line with the Act and Regulations. As a result, rivers that were once dead are on their steady pathway to recovery, with majority of them harbouring small irrigation activities as villagers take on irrigation farming relying on shallow wells that have

FISHING FOR SOLUTION

The Sea Sand Harvesting Conflict in South Coast, Kenya

The Kenya Ports Authority (KPA) is engaging in an ambitious Mombasa Port expansion in a bid to protect its position as the region's biggest port facility. The plan to expand the port is divided into three phases that involves creation of additional container terminals. The above project has undoubted national significance and benefits to Kenya.

To complete the expansion programme, Kenya Ports Authority requires 15.5 million cubic meters of sand. Currently, Phase I is complete

and 7.5 million cubic meters of sand have been used.

It is while undertaking Phase II that KPA realized that the sources of sand identified along Shella Beach at the



A demonstration against sea sand harvesting, at Kongo beach, Diani, Kwale County.

mouth of Kilindini Channel, could not meet the demand. Additional sources had to be identified to fulfil the demand.

Kwale County, lying south of Mombasa County, has vast deposits of sand along its

beaches and sea. But to be able to harvest the sand, an environmental and social impact assessment (ESIA) had to be undertaken to determine any adverse effects on the marine environment and livelihoods of communities depending on this resource, as well as propose mitigative measures to contain the adverse effects. This is as per the Environmental Management and Co-ordination Act of 2015, that requires that any project that may have an adverse impact on the

environment and communities must undertake an ESIA.

Sea sand harvesting within Mombasa County was guided by a comprehensive ESIA with stakeholders fully involved.

It is unfortunate that the same process was not followed before the sea sand harvesting activity off in March 2019 in Waa and Tiwi beaches in Kwale County.

This is not the first time that a mega infrastructural activity has targeted sea sand in Kwale County. In July 2015, the National Environment Tribunal stopped Kenya Railways Corporation and China Bridge and Roads Corporation from harvesting sea sand from Kwale for the construction of the Standard Gauge Railway (SGR).

Sand harvesting is currently being done by the vessel Wilhelm van Oranje, owned by the Dutch engineering firm Boskalis on contract to Toyo Construction, a Japanese contractor working on the Phase 2 Container terminal. The project is financed by Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

There has been an outcry and concerns by stakeholders in Kwale County over the impacts of the on-going sea sand harvesting operation. Fishermen were the first to witness the impacts of the dredging activities of Wilhelm van Oranje.

and Diani, has been pulled into the sea to maintain a balance as a result of the sea sand harvested.

In Search of Solution

After the initial outcry by the community over the illegal sea sand harvesting, a stop order



Moses Ziro (extreme left), the article writer, with a team of NECSA-K members at Kongo beach, Diani, during the fact finding mission.

The plums and general disturbance of the marine environment is destroying fishing grounds, fish breeding areas, killing fish, corals and other marine life in the process. In recent days, the sand along the beaches in Tiwi

was issued on 26th March 2019 by the Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Transport, Infrastructure, Housing and Urban Development, to allow KPA to consult with stakeholders.



NECSA-K members meeting with Mr. Christopher Obure, CAS, at the Ministry Headquarters, Nairobi.

KPA initiated meetings with a section of fishermen to develop a compensation plan, but the selective manner in which the process has been undertaken has elicited resistance from other fishermen and businessmen not included in the process.

The Parliamentary Select Committee on Environment, at the invitation of KPA, held a meeting with stakeholders in Ukunda on 4th May 2019. The Kwale Community had

expected the committee to take radical steps to resolve the conflict, including suspending the operations. That did not happen.

It is after the visit by the Parliamentary Committee on Environment that the Kwale County Natural Resources Network (KCNRN), an umbrella organization for civil society organizations in Kwale Country, organized to take up the issue with the National Government in Nairobi.

It was clear that the absence of a comprehensive ESIA to guide mitigation of impacts on the environment and compensation for loss of livelihoods for communities, was the genesis of the current conflict between KPA and the Kwale County community. The KCNRN, with the support of the National Environment Civil Society Alliance of Kenya (NECSA-K), came up with a number of proposals to end the conflict.

These include: -

1. The immediate suspension of the sea sand operations to pave way for a comprehensive ESIA to be undertaken,
2. The immediate suspension of the haphazard compensation process being undertaken by KPA until a clear and acceptable compensation plan for the affected communities is developed,
3. The development of a sound marine environmental restoration plan,
4. Meaningful engagement of key stakeholders in resolving the conflict ,
5. The establishment of a participatory monitoring and evaluation team to evaluate and monitor the impacts of sea sand harvesting operations.

These proposals were shared in various meetings held on 16th May 2019 between representatives of KCNRN, the Kwale County Government and NECSA-K, operating under the umbrella of NECSA-K. The team held meetings

government had received the issues and was working on finding a solution.

In mid-June 2019, the KCNRN, together with the South Coast Residents Association, moved to court to restrain the Cabinet Secretary,



Mr. Salim Athman, Tourism Secretary, after meeting with NECSA-K members at his office.

with Hon. Chris Obure, the Chief Administrative Secretary, Ministry of Transport, as well as Mr. Salim Athman, Tourism Secretary, Ministry of Tourism. In both meetings, there were assurances that the

Ministry of Transport and the KPA from harvesting sand and dumping waste along the coastline between Likoni and Diani. The case will be heard on 29th July 2019.



Mr. Omar Abdalla Juma (left), Wasini BMU Secretary (article writer), explaining the coral transplant process at Wasini Island to Prof. Micheni Ntiba, the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries.

MTAFITI OPEN DAY!

The Kenya Marine and Fisheries Research Institute (KMFRI) holds the Mtafiti Open Day, an annual event, to showcase the activities it undertakes to improve marine conservation and contribute to the livelihoods of communities and the economy as a whole.

This year, the Mtafiti (mtafiti is research in Swahili) Open Day was held on the 30th and 31st of May 2019, at the institution's headquarters at English Point, Mkomani, Mombasa, Kenya. The theme for 2019 was Aquatic research for blue growth and food security.

The Wasini Beach Management Unit (BMU) was represented by its Secretary, Mr. Omar Abdalla Juma. He had the opportunity to interact with various stakeholders and describe the coral transplant process to restore coral reefs at Wasini Island, Kwale County, Kenya.

KMFRI is one of the partners of the BMU who supported the establishment and demarcation of a 352-hectare co-management area, which also includes a 30-hectare closed area (a no-fishing/take zone). The no-take zone ensures the protection of corals and fish spawning grounds as well as providing for eco-tourism opportunities.

KMFRI was key in providing technical backstopping for the coral restoration project by creating an artificial reef in a 15-hectare degraded coral site.

Besides ecosystem restoration activities, KMFRI has, for the last 15 years supported climate change mitigation through the Climate Change and Blue Carbon project. The project, dubbed Mikoko Pamoja, is a community-type

carbon offset project based at Gazi, Kwale County, and mainly focusses on mangrove conservation and protection, and is linked to the carbon credit market.

The last category that was featured in this year's Mtafiti Open Day was on food



security and wealth creation. KMFRI, together with other state agencies under the Blue Economy Implementation Committee, has been in the forefront in supporting seaweed farming with special emphasis on enhancing technology transfer and product commercialization.

Kibuyuni Sea Weed Farmers, a user group under Kibuyuni BMU, have been recipients of this support and are currently producing soap, detergents and shampoo from sea weed.

The marine environment, despite these interventions, continues to be degraded.

The main threats still remain sediment deposition from unplanned agricultural activities, unplanned developments along the coast, over-fishing, use of illegal gears, destruction of

coastal vegetation, especially mangroves and pollution. It is believed that 90% of sewage in Mombasa and plastics find their way into the sea.

Pollution, does not only kill marine life, but also reduces the quality of blue economy products.

The idea of organizing and celebrating the World Turtle Day was first floated by the American Tortoise Rescue, to bring attention to, and increase knowledge of and respect for, turtles and tortoises, and encourage human action to help them survive and thrive.

The American Tortoise Rescue organized and sponsored the first World Turtle Day on 23rd May 2000, and it has been celebrated yearly ever since.

The public, and particularly school going children, can participate in beach clean ups and areas known for turtle nesting together with public informative speeches to encourage teaching about turtles and tortoises.

There are seven species of sea turtles. These are Hawksbills (Critically Endangered), Kemp's Ridleys (Critically Endangered), Greens (Endangered), Leatherbacks (Vulnerable), Loggerheads (Vulnerable),



The Greens Turtle

4. Reduce the amount of chemicals you use.
5. Volunteer in activities aimed at protecting and improving the survival of turtles!

SHELLEBRATING WORLD TURTLE DAY!

The day is celebrated around the globe in a variety of ways, from dressing up as turtles to saving turtles caught on by fishing nets, to research activities.



The Hawksbill Turtle

Olive Ridleys (Vulnerable) and the Flatbacks (Data Deficient).

How can we protect the Sea Turtles?

1. Turn out lights visible from the beach!
2. Reduce the amount of garbage you produce and clean up trash you see on the beach.
3. Be aware of sea turtle nesting areas and avoid nesting and hatching turtles.



Ms. Janet Matheka (article writer) works at the People4Nature Global Secretariat.

WASINI TROPHIES!

The second quarter of 2019 has been a season of recognition for Wasini Beach Management Unit, the local community marine organization managing the Wasini fish landing site and marine resources, in Kwale County, Kenya.

It began in May 2019 with the Sustainable Tourism in Africa Award, an annual evidence-based award program of the Sustainable Tourism Africa Summit. The Summit is an annual sustainable tourism knowledge sharing and action-oriented networking event.

The theme for 2019 was Sustainable Tourism for Sustainable Oceans and Wasini BMU won the runners-up Sustainable Tourism in Africa Award in the Innovative Protection of Marine Life (Species and Habitat Conservation) category. The Summit, the 5th by Sustainable Travel and Tourism Agenda Ltd, was held in Mombasa.

But that only opened the door for more awards. The African Public Service Day (APSD), a day celebrated to recognize the value and virtue of service to the community, was hosted by Kenya from the 21st to 23rd June 2019, at the Kenya International Conference Centre (KICC), Nairobi. The 7th Edition of the APSD celebrations, spearheaded by the Ministry of Public Service, Gender and Youth Affairs, gave a platform to reflect on the public service role in ensuring economic development and growth on the continent.

The event showcased innovation and growth momentum within the African Continent, under the theme The Intersection of Youth

Empowerment and Migration: Entrenching a culture of Good Governance, ICT and Innovation for inclusive Service Delivery.



Mr. Abubakar Ahmed, article writer, receives the Most Promising Innovation Award on behalf of the Group.

It is at this event that Wasini BMU bagged two more awards for the innovative coral transplant initiative for the rehabilitation of degraded coral reef around Wasini Island. They received the first prize for Most Promising Innovation in Kenya, and a runners-up award in the same category at the Africa level.

HOMESTAYS

Plover Eco-Camp and Homestay, A Home Away From Home.



Mr. Wachira Ruhiu, owner and manager, Plover Eco Camp and Homestay.

camping and homestay facilities to tourists and locals.

The facility is located in Kinangop Plateau, a region in Kenya between the Kenyan Rift Valley to the west and the Aberdare Range of Mountains to the east. The entire Kinangop Plateau is about 77,000 hectares and is home to the Sharpe's Longclaw, a globally threatened grassland-specialist bird endemic to this area.

Homestay has steadily gained prominence in recent times as a popular form of hospitality and lodging whereby visitors sleep at the residence of a local of the destination to which they are traveling. The rise of homestays as an alternative to the traditional form of lodging for tourists is a result of the convenience offered to long-term tourists and the extra visitor experience that can only be found within a family setting.

The most successful homestay in Nyandarua County, Kenya, was started and run by one of our own members, Mr. Wachira Ruhiu. The Plovers Eco-camp and Homestay, based at Murungaru, opened its doors in January 2012 offering both



The garden at Plovers has seats made from local materials.



Various activities are held here including marriage receptions, birthday parties among others.

This gives the eco-camp and homestay facility a perfect setting for Mr. Wachira Ruhui, to offer various services in both hospitality and environmental conservation. Over the years since its establishment, Plover Eco Camp and Homestay offers such services as: -

1. Historical Tourism for tourists with interest in visiting the Mau Mau (freedom fighters) Caves and Old Settler Houses as this was part of the White Settler Highlands,
2. Eco-tourism for avian (bird) tourists who wish to

- see endemic birds on the vast Kinangop grasslands, forests, wetlands, including the highland lake Ol Bolo ssat. The camp also organizes excursions, hiking and a conducive environment for team building along the Rift Valley escarpment and Aberdare Ranges,
3. Cultural tourism for those who wish to experience first-hand the culture and traditions of the Agikuyu. There is the homestay, cultural museum and traditional dancers,
4. Environment and Conservation Education for

- students and researchers, and,
5. Agri-Tourism experienced through interaction with many farmers around the facility practicing sustainable organic agriculture.

The facility has been recognized by the Nyandarua County Government's Ministry of Tourism as a leading ecotourism facility and homestay in the county and for the role it plays in sensitizing the community on environmental conservation and the cultural heritage of the Agikuyu.

WELCOME HOME!

Our People4Nature Global has continued to grow, with more young people joining the network. This quarter, 22 Young P4N members were registered from Kenya and Zimbabwe. Out of the 22, 20 represent members of the newly established Utange Primary YP4N Club in Mombasa, Kenya.

It is, therefore, our pleasure to welcome home the following 24 new members.

1. Mariam Hamisi (Taveta, Kenya),
2. Nakamyuka Olivia (Jinja, Uganda),
3. Jayden Tabengwa (Bulawayo, Zimbabwe),
4. Jaysen Tabengwa (Bulawayo, Zimbabwe),
5. Joyce Mwagandi (Mombasa, Kenya),
6. Salim Omar (Mombasa, Kenya),
7. Baraka Kidaya (Mombasa, Kenya),
8. Rooney Ojuka (Mombasa, Kenya),
9. Beatrice Mengi (Mombasa, Kenya),
10. Halima Mwajuma (Mombasa, Kenya),
11. Mary Mwamuye (Mombasa, Kenya),
12. Dranis Atieno (Mombasa, Kenya),
13. Ann Wangui (Mombasa, Kenya),
14. Zawadi Kadzo (Mombasa, Kenya),
15. Purity Isaac (Mombasa, Kenya),
16. Mercy Gedion (Mombasa, Kenya),
17. Sauda said (Mombasa, Kenya),
18. Hyna Monday (Mombasa, Kenya),
19. Happy Juma (Mombasa, Kenya),
20. Paul Mwambire (Mombasa, Kenya),
21. Fauzia Ramadhan (Mombasa, Kenya),
22. Faith Furaha (Mombasa, Kenya),
23. Zainab Suleiman (Mombasa, Kenya),
24. Tatu Kassim (Mombasa, Kenya).



Nakamyuka Olivia, Jinja, Uganda.



The environment and natural resources globally are under threat from unsustainable anthropogenic activities and the effects of climate change. We are all trying to do something to sustain life and the finite resources on earth. But there is a group of conservationists that have taken the law into their own hands.

Meet Ms. Paige Samblanet, P4N-349, California, USA. Ms. Paige is a third-year student studying environmental, energy, and water law. She is a California Law Fellow and has worked for organizations such as EarthJustice and The California Energy Commission.

In 2014, Ms. Paige spent 6 months in Kenya where she worked with Global Vision International (GVI), studied wildlife and taught environmental education in schools in the Wasini Island and Shimoni area.

THE SUMMIT

1. Silvanus Uunona – Chairman,
2. Yaa Tiwah – Co-Chair,
3. Moses Ziro – Secretary,
4. Frank Maro – Treasurer,
5. Phathisani Tabengwa – Member,
6. Cheli Gurung – Member,
7. Nancy Saumu Ronald – Member,
8. Emma Kyomukama – Member.

PEOPLE4NATURE MAGAZINE

1. Phathisani Tabengwa - Editor
2. Catherine Musili - Co-Editor.

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PLATFORMS

Water (iNoWPractice Water)

Convener: Silvanus Uunona (Namibia),
Co-convener: Soledad Castro (Costa Rica).

Wildlife and Forest (P4N-Wild)

Convener: Nancy Saumu Ronald (Kenya),
Co-convener: Dorothy Syallow (Kenya).

Conservation Agriculture and Fisheries (P4N-CAF)

Convener: Yaa Tiwah (Ghana),
Co-convener: Setondji Gaston (Gabon).

Environmental Education and Awareness (P4N-EnEA)

Convener: Phathisani Tabengwa (Zimbabwe),
Co-convener: Zelalem Abera (Ethiopia).

Young People4Nature (YP4N)

Convener: Cheli Gurung (Nepal),
Co-convener: Raymond Mwambire (Kenya).

Indigenous People4Nature (Indigenous P4N)

Convener: Moses Ziro (Kenya),
Co-convener: Jazzy Razalajaona (Madagascar).

Network of Women in Conservation (Now Conservation)

Convener: Emma Kyomukama (Uganda),
Co-convener: Ashengai Kimath (Tanzania).

Enterprise-led Conservation (ECO-P4N)

Convener: Frank Maro (Tanzania),
Co-convener: Fadhila Ghikas (Kenya).

