

The

People4Nature

Belong!

Issue 7: December 2019

UTAMADUNI DAY

Unveiling the P4N 2019 Award
Winners

**Mama Ziro,
2019 P4N Person of the Year**



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This photograph of the Nubian Woodpecker was taken by Joseph Titus Kangor, P4N-057, at Lake Baringo Basin, Kenya.

Editors Note

There are two very closely related issues that have caught our attention in this 7th issue of our magazine.

The first is the abundance of natural resource wealth found within the boundaries of the African continent. And despite all this wealth, African residents continue to languish in poverty and sometimes in deep natural resource related conflicts.

Apparently, this trend will soon be reversed, if the initiatives in the cashew industry are to be realised and replicated.

The Consultative International Cashew Council (CICC) is the first agricultural commodity organisation founded on the initiative of African producing countries. This was closely followed by the Competitive Cashew Initiative (ComCashew), formerly known as the African Cashew Initiative (ACi).

These initiatives present a new and innovative model of broad-based multi-stakeholder partnership in development cooperation. With over 57% of global cashew production, Africa is set to increase its share of cashew production when the objectives of these initiatives are realised.

The only question that still remains unanswered is whether the cashew proceeds and profits will reach the many small holder farmers that shoulder the cashew industry.

The second noteworthy development is the ecosystem based group membership model of the People4Nature. The new model provides a platform for collective action. These groups are set to be our new frontier for channeling innovations, such as the solar water pumps in Mozambique, to mitigate the numerous environmental challenges we face at the local level.

It is our sincere hope that you enjoy your read.

Yours sincerely,

Phathisani Tabengwa,
Bulawayo, Zimbabwe.



Ms. Phathisani Tabengwa,
Editor and Convener, P4N-EnEA.

Message from the Summit

For the second year running, we have rolled out our quarterly People4Nature Global Magazine. The editorial team, supported by the Secretariat, have ensured that we have the magazine in good time. This is the 7th issue.

In the same breath, our People4Nature Global network has continued to grow. In 2019, the network grew by 134 members. The new members were from Bangladesh (1), Cameroon (2), Ghana (1), Kenya (115), Tanzania (5), South Africa (1), Uganda (1), USA (5), and Zimbabwe (2). Out of the 134 members registered, 32 were children (the Young People4Nature) from Bangladesh (1), Kenya (22), Tanzania (3), USA (4), and Zimbabwe (2). Currently, we have 600 members.

To boost membership and member engagements, the Secretariat introduced membership through ecosystem-based groups. Individuals will register with the network and form a group that will consolidate their individual effort to focus on ecosystem-wide challenges facing the environment and their livelihoods.

The first of such groups was Oloinyototo Women Enterprise Initiative in the Maasai Mara ecosystem, Kenya. It was established in October 2019 to support women willing to venture into nature-based enterprises. The group plans to initiate beekeeping, soap making, goat breeding among other nature-based enterprises.

The ecosystem based groups will form our new model of improving engagements with our members, and hopefully increase both our visibility and impact in these ecosystems. We call upon the general membership to support these initiatives.

Membership certificates were introduced this quarter, replacing the plastic cards used previously. New and old members are being issued with the new certificate with more details than the previous cards. Membership number and date of registration are the new details included in the certificates.

Finally, our traditional annual awards have continued to excite and motivate our members, by recognising their efforts and positive impact on the environment. This year, we recognised 43 members from 7 categories (**Full details on page 4, 5 and 6**).

Additionally, the Family award was expanded to include single parents who have registered all their family members, not only in 2019 but since our establishment.

The awards package will vary from category to category but will generally include a certificate and at least one souvenir. On this note, we thank Farm Action Ltd for their donation.

We look forward to a more prosperous 2020!

The 2019 People4Nature Global Awards

It is that time of the year when we converge to recognize those who made headlines, made a difference and impact on our network and the environment. This year, we broke tradition and announced the winners on Boxing Day, the 26th of December 2019.

This is the day the Government of Kenya renamed Utamaduni Day (Culture Day), and we found it befitting to also announce and celebrate the day with winners of various categories.

Here are our 2019 award winners per category:

I. The Person of the Year Award

Mama **Constance Ziro Kazungu** is a mother, a farmer, an advocate of the advancement of rural women and conservationist.

Her efforts to protect and let degraded forest areas of her farm regenerate have led to the re-establishment of a 20 acre forest in Mwanamwinga, Kilifi County, Kenya.

This forest is an example of the forest cover that once were the traditional home of the Mijikenda, an indigenous ethnic group found at the coast of Kenya. For her effort, she was awarded the Conservation Award. She was also awarded the Ambassador award for her environmental awareness activities.

The above achievements earned her the Person of the Year Award.

Mama Ziro, as she is popularly known, has also been an active community member, advocating for the advancement of girls and women in rural areas. She did this through the Maendeleo ya Wanawake (Advancement of Women) national Organisation in Kenya. She was also a long serving Treasurer of the organisation in Kilifi County. She also ventured into politics, serving as a member of the defunct Kilifi County Council between 1997 and 2002.



Mama Constance Ziro Kazungu, 2019 Person of the Year.

2. Ambassador Award

These are individuals who actively helped recruit, grow or share important conservation information about or with the People4Nature network.



1. Ahmed Abubakar (Kwale County, Kenya),
2. Amos Sowene (Taita Taveta County, Kenya),
3. Cesario Cambaza (Maputo, Mozambique),
4. Constance Ziro Kazungu (Kilifi County, Kenya),
5. Halinishi Yusuf (Makueni County, Kenya),
6. Hezekiah Karanja (Nyandarua County, Kenya),
7. Janet Mueni Matheka (Mombasa County, Kenya),
8. James Dorop (Narok County, Kenya),
9. **John Safari**, pictured above, (Kilifi County, Kenya), is the winner for the most number of articles published in our magazine in 2019.
10. Kariuki Wachira (Nyandarua County, Kenya),
11. Kusundwa Wamalwa Kusundwa (Katavi, Tanzania),
12. Omar Juma Abdallah (Kwale County, Kenya),
13. Paige Samblanet (California, USA),
14. Paul Omonge (Nakuru County, Kenya),
15. Ruth Kagai Adeka (Nairobi County, Kenya),
16. Hellen Njeri Kuria (Kilifi County, Kenya).

3. Environment Fund Award

These are individuals who consistently contributed to their Hazina Mazingira account, taken and paid their loans in time or linked others to the Fund and/or helped others to contribute to Hazina Mazingira.

1. **Noombarbali Enole Soit**, Narok County, Kenya for her community mobilization effort,
2. Karen Magomere Shavola, Kakamega County, Kenya, for being the most active Hazing Mazingira account,
3. Mariam Hamisi, Taita Taveta County, Kenya, for prompt repayment of her loans,

4. Team Award

The Oloinyiototo Team showed exemplary team effort that enabled them to mobilise women in Olesere village within the Maasai Mara ecosystem to establish the Oloinyiototo Women Enterprise Initiative.

The Oloinyiototo Team comprising of **Noombarbali Enole Soit, Evelyne Dorop, Faith Resian Morompi and Noonkuta Enole Dorop** from Narok County, Kenya are the 2019 winners.

5. Staff of the Year

James Kapoto Dorop and **Sally Titoyia Sengeny** (pictured below) both from Narok County, Kenya won the award.



6. Young People4Nature

The award recognises outstanding conservation work by a member below 18 years, whose efforts in environmental conservation stands out. The winners of this category are two young girls.



1. **Salome Ndechikio**, in Grade 4 (above), from Taita Taveta County, Kenya for tree planting, and
2. **Naomi Cidi**, in Grade 5 (Kilifi County, Kenya) for her scouting and kitchen gardening activities.

6. Family Award

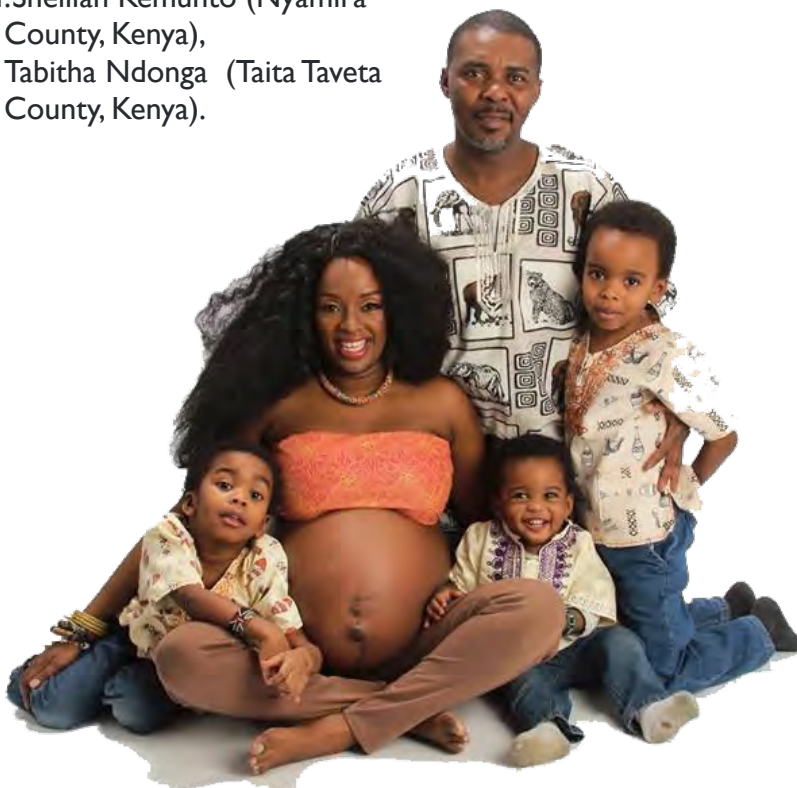
The award recognised individuals who enrolled all their family members in the People4Nature Network during the year 2019, and women who had missed out in previous years.

1. Ashengai Abel Kimath (Arusha, Tanzania),
2. Domitila Nzomo (Taita Taveta County, Kenya),

3. Dr. Muktarun Islam Prity, (Sylhet, Bangladesh),
4. Esther Wambui Karanja (Nyandarua County, Kenya),
5. Grace Njeri Njoroge (Nairobi County, Kenya),
6. Halinishi Yusuf (Makueni County, Kenya),
7. Hezekiah Karanja (Nyandarua County, Kenya),
8. John Safari (Kilifi County, Kenya),
9. Karen Shavola (Kakamega County, Kenya),
10. Mary Kahonzi (Kilifi County, Kenya),
11. Phathisani Tabengwa (Bulawayo, Zimbabwe),
12. Rashida Zaid Suleiman (Arusha, Tanzania),
13. **Samuel Chanzi** (Philadelphia, USA). Mr. Chanzi enrolled 5 family members, the largest number registered in this category in 2019,
14. Sheillah Kemunto (Nyamira County, Kenya),
15. Tabitha Ndonga (Taita Taveta County, Kenya).



Ms. Halinishi Yusuf with her son, Che.



Mr. Samuel Chanzi with his family. Sarah Mulana, our first member to be registered in 2019, had not been born then.

Unlocking Water Security for Agriculture in Africa

Agricultural yields in Sub Sahara Africa have remained stagnant over the last decades. Dominant constraints are soil nutrients (large heterogeneities), water (highly variable and uncertain), energy (severely limited), markets (volatile and unreliable), and outdated agricultural extension. In semi-arid and arid areas insufficient and irregular access to water for crops stands out as a major challenge. This lack of water security explains persistent low fertilizer application and stagnant crop yields. This is compounded by climate change, which further increases rainfall variability (floods and droughts).

One key to unlocking Sub-Saharan Africa's agricultural potential is enhancing water security through increased ability of farming systems to cope with water variability through increased water storage, such as in alluvial aquifers. This can simultaneously increase the efficient use of limited water resources. The river beds of seasonal rivers provide opportunities for nature-based water storage. The sandy river beds contain significant amounts of water throughout the dry season and have the potential for intensifying irrigated agriculture. This action research therefore aims to co-create solutions that can transform alluvial aquifers from underutilised community water supply systems to commercially viable water supply systems for multiple uses with a

focus on high-value agricultural products and (supplementary) irrigated food crops.

The project aims to change farmer-tested ways of using alluvial water more effectively, efficiently and sustainably in "living labs", will lead to:

- Farmers adopting new practices and improving their livelihoods;
- Fostering co-creation and innovation that will change existing development practices and encourage more effective approaches and cross-sectoral collaboration;
- Promoting South-South-North learning and improved methodologies for action-research.

The principal project partners are IHE Delft (project Lead), Mekelle University, Oxfam Mozambique, Dabane Trust, ACACIA Water and Oxfam Novib. The Limpopo Lab partners are Oxfam Mozambique (coordinator), Higher Polytechnic Institute of Gaza (ISPG), Eduardo Mondlane University (UEM), ARA-Sul, National Irrigation Institute (INIR), Rural Communities Development Association (ADCR), iDE and Kulima. This is a 3-year project, from 2016 to 2019, extended to September of 2020.



Mr. Cesario Cambaza (above) and Mr. Paulo Saveca, the article writers, are lecturers and researchers at the Higher Polytechnic Institute of Gaza (ISPG), Mozambique.

Research in the Limpopo (Mozambique)

Arid lands are often crisscrossed by sand rivers (figure 1), which flow only immediately after rainfall events, but have a river bed that is often filled with several meters of (coarse) sand. This bed forms a so-called aquifer, a shallow groundwater reservoir that is recharged every time the river flows during the rainy season.



Figure 1: A sand river that only flows immediately after rainfalls.

In March of 2019 the project published a feasibility report as a result of a demand driven research realized from January to December of 2018 for an Irrigation Package for Sand Rivers (IPSAR). This feasibility study assessed the technical feasibility, the business case and the upscaling potential of the Package in the Limpopo River, Mozambique. The research was conducted by experts from ACACIA Water (project lead), ISPG, Oxfam Mozambique, PRACTICA Foundation and IHE Delft, supported by the Mozambican government and financed by the government of The Netherlands.

During the survey in 2018, different methods of manual drilling (figure 2 and 3) and well installation using local materials and equipment were tested, including the functionality of low discharge solar pumps. The results of the drilling tests and their assessment of water availability show that from dry bed sand deposits, the groundwater occurs between 3 and 5 m. The lithological layers are composed of

differentiated unconsolidated sediments with granulometry up to 13.6 m. This aquifer system has a groundwater exploitation yield above 18 m³/h and the level of variability of the water table is differentiated according to the hydrological season with an average of 3.84 m. In the dry season the variability is above average and in the rainy season below. The quality of groundwater occurring in alluvial deposits is recommended for irrigation and is classified as non-saline (EC < 0.75 dS/m) and excellent (RAS < 10 meq/L).



Figure 2: Bailing method of drilling wells.



Figure 3: Driven well-point method of drilling wells.

Moreover, on-field demonstration plots have been set up for groundwater exploration using low-consumption pumps that operate through solar panels (figure 4). Four different packages were installed in different farmer fields across Chókwè and Guijà districts, the province of Gaza. The package components (type of well, pump, conveyance, and application system) are combined to meet the specific needs of each farmer.

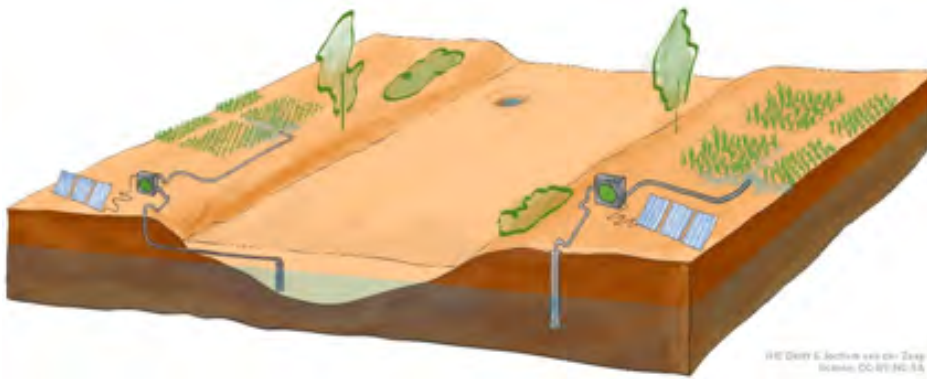


Figure 4: A 3D Cross-section of an alluvial aquifer with wellpoint abstraction systems for smallholder irrigation.

and increase net profit. The installation of the package will require government or donor funding to set up an adequate financing mechanism provided by a local institution with experience in agricultural finance. Furthermore, IPSAR has the potential to improve food security and raise the average income for thousands of smallholder farmers supporting their families in rural Mozambique.

This innovative solution brings to the smallholder farmer advantages in three domains: the technology used (hand-drilled shallow well-points in or next to a sand river combined with a solar-powered water pumps), the arrangement (individual smallholder farmers), and the purpose (market-oriented farming). The research showed that the total cost of the IPSAR will vary between 675.00 and 1,420.00 USD for a plot size of 2,000 m². Under current conditions, smallholder farmers have an average net profit of 750.00 USD/ha/season, which would result in a payback time of 3 years for the package. Introducing the package was found to be feasible on 49,400 ha of land, enabling sustainable abstraction of 150 Mm³/year of water.

IPSAR allows farmers to abstract water from the river dry bed and channel it to the fields for immediate use. For instance, in 2019, a test kit was installed in a farmer's plot in Macarretane, Chókwe district, with full access to the package. Mrs. Anita (figure 5), a 65 years old smallholder farmer, had a second successful

season using the kit. She used to practice rainfed subsistence agriculture growing only maize. With the introduction of the IPSAR, she was able to produce 2000 m² of different crops, including maize, cabbage and beans and sell her products in the local market, with a net profit of roughly 83,00 USD, that she could use as an additional home income. At the end, she was able to buy seeds to start a new season by herself. Currently, Mrs. Anita has water throughout the year, with low energy costs for groundwater abstraction (solar pumps).

The study concludes that IPSAR would allow 30,000 smallholder farmers along the Lower Limpopo to irrigate at least 15,000 ha of horticultural crops. The package provides a secure source of water, making it possible to invest in cash crops



Figure 5: Mrs. Anita (Above) assembling the solar pump and (Below) after harvesting cabbage from her plot



Promoting Cashew Value Chains in Africa



Africa has become a highly visible contributor to the global cashew industry. In 2015, over 2.5 million African small-scale farmers grew about 57% of the world's cashew nuts. Between 2006 and 2015, raw cashew processing grew from 35,000 tonnes to 105,700 tonnes.

So how important is the cashew industry in Africa?

Agriculture plays an important role in Africa, with over two thirds of African population deriving their livelihoods from the agricultural sector. But the biggest challenge facing African countries today is to make the agricultural sector sustainable and fit for the future.

Cashew is increasingly becoming prominent and is seen in many countries as an important cash crop with diverse potential. Given that, progressive climate change is forcing many farmers, especially in the Sahel region, to break new ground, the cashew tree is ideal for adapting to climate change.

Many cash crops in Africa are facing huge challenges in coping with an ever-changing adverse climate. As such the Cashew tree offers these small farmers an innovative and future-oriented alternative. The crop also offers a great potential for developing its local

processing which creates numerous jobs. Additionally, Cashew as an export product offers a connection to the international market.

The Challenge

The young cashew sector is plagued with a number of challenges. Small-scale farmers and processors are poorly organised, associations and cooperatives hardly exist or lack financial and human capacities. In addition, most countries do not or only occasionally support cashew with political initiatives, regulations and support programmes.

Harnessing the Potential of the Cashew Industry

Governments are increasingly becoming aware of the potential of the cashew sector. As a result, the Consultative International Cashew Council (CICC) was established in Ivory Coast in 2016. For the first time, an agricultural commodity organization was founded on the initiative of African producing countries. The aim is to jointly shape and promote the sector through the exchange and provision of analysis and information.

On November 17, 2016, the first four member states, Benin, Ivory Coast, Togo and Burkina Faso, signed the Convention establishing the Consultative International Cashew Council, CICC. Today, the CICC has nine member countries (Benin, Burkina Faso, Ivory Coast, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Togo and Senegal), which together represent 42% of cashew production worldwide.

The Competitive Cashew Initiative (ComCashew) is another African initiative that aims at strengthening the competitiveness of African Cashew production to reduce poverty amongst small-scale farmers in the six project countries of Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Mozambique and Sierra Leone.

The Competitive Cashew Initiative (ComCashew), formerly known as the African Cashew Initiative (ACi) presents a new and innovative model of broad-based multi-stakeholder partnership in development cooperation. ComCashew is a private-public partnership project under the implementation of the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, with funding for its third phase from the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).

In collaboration with private companies and public sector partners, significant progress and impact has been made for over 512,000 farmers and about 40 processing companies. Since its inception in 2009, around 530,000 new jobs have been created in the six project countries: Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Mozambique and Sierra Leone – 75 percent in production, 20 percent in trade and 5 percent in processing.

ComCashew started in 2009 and is currently in its third phase of implementation, which will run until December 2020.

There are four broad objectives of the initiative as it enters its third phase of implementation.

1. Increasing the productivity of cashew farmers,
2. Creating a local processing industry that is globally competitive,
3. Establishing stable and long-term business relationships between producer groups, processing units and buyers,
4. Creating a supportive enabling environment, for example by means of guidelines that favour the cashew sector.

In its third phase, the project strives to consolidate the achievements, reinforce the capacity of local actors, and transfer knowledge to

partners and target groups. In this context ComCashew is upscaling the “Master Training Program” (MTP).

The program aims at creating a pool of qualified experts in the cashew value chain to facilitate knowledge exchange, learning and innovation within the cashew sector.

Through the training program, there is resource persons in each country for knowledge transfer in the following areas: -

1. Agronomy and cashew orchards management;
2. Post-harvest management and quality of cashew products;
3. Processing and value addition to cashew and -its by-products;
4. Market Mechanism, nut and kernel market analysis;
5. Business relationships between stakeholders;
6. Value chain development;
7. Economics of cashew farming and processing
8. Self-financing advice;
9. Price analysis and price formation; and,
10. Design and production of teaching/training materials.

The program has trained 291 experts along the cashew value chain among which 78 are women.



Mr. John Safari Ziro, the article writer, attending a ComCashew Master Training Program at Sunyani, Ghana, from 24th August to 1st September 2019. 98 participants attended the MTP training from Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Kenya, Mozambique and Sierra Leone.

The Great Wildebeest Migration



The great annual migration of millions of zebra, wildebeest (gnu) and other antelope in East Africa tops almost every list of safari experiences.

When you plan your trip, you'll need information about the annual migration, the best times to witness this wildlife spectacle, where to stay, and when to see it in Kenya and Tanzania.

Each year, almost two million wildebeest and 20 000 plains game migrate from Tanzania's Serengeti to the south of Kenya's Maasai Mara in search of lush grazing grounds and life-giving water.

This treacherous odyssey is dictated by the seasons and where the rains are, the wildebeest are not far behind. This epic journey from north to south spans almost 3000

kilometers and is virtually endless.

This great spectacle of nature is an iconic safari option for avid travellers, nature lovers and those who want a little more from their African experience.

The Migration

Each year around 1.5 million wildebeest and 300,000 zebra (along with other antelope) gather up their young and start their long trek from Tanzania's Serengeti Plains, further north to Kenya's Masai Mara National Reserve.

They go in search of food and water. Their journey runs in a clockwise circle and the animals cover a distance of around 1800 miles. It's a tough journey, and every year an estimated 250,000 wildebeest don't make it.

One of the most spectacular sights of the migration is when the herds gather to cross the Grumeti River, the herds cross, crocodiles are lying in wait for any weak and feeble ungulates that can't cope with the strong currents or lose their mothers.

But the river crossings aren't the only spectacle. Just witnessing hundreds of animals on the plains is a sight in itself. Particularly because they attract many of Africa's impressive predators, lions, leopards, hyenas and wild dogs follow the herds and give safari goers excellent chances of seeing a kill in action.

Being a natural event the migration changes year to year in both timing and location.



The Migration in Tanzania

In December through to March the Serengeti plains and the Ngorongoro Conservation areas in northern Tanzania are home to giant herds of wildebeest, zebra and other ungulates. This is also the calving season.

Most of the wildebeest calves are born in just a three week period, usually the beginning of February. Calves attract predators and this is an amazing time of year to watch impressive lion kills. It's also quite spectacular to see almost half a million little wildebeest being born and running alongside their mothers.

The southern Ndutu and Salei plains are the best areas to see the large herds during this time of year.

By April/May the herds begin to migrate west and north to the grassier plains and woodland of the Serengeti's western Corridor. The rain during this time of year makes it difficult to follow the herds during this stage of their migration. Many of

Tanzania's smaller camps in fact shut down due to impassable roads.

By the end of May, as the rains stop, the wildebeest and zebra gradually start moving north and individual groups begin to congregate and form much larger herds. This is also the time the wildebeest mate. Western Serengeti is the best place to watch the migration unfold.

By July the herds reach their first big obstacle, the Grumeti River. The Grumeti River can get deep in places, especially if the rains have been good. This is the first of the spectacular river crossings you can witness. The depth of the river makes drowning a distinct possibility for many wildebeest and there are plenty of crocodiles to take advantage of their distress.

The Migration in Kenya

By late July, the grasses of the western Serengeti are turning yellow and the herds continue north. After crossing the Grumeti River in Tanzania the wildebeest and zebra head to Kenya's Lamai Wedge and the Mara Triangle.

Before they get to the lush plains of the Mara, they have to make another river crossing. This time it's the Mara River and that, too, is filled with hungry crocodiles.

September through to November, the Mara plains are filled to the brim with large herds of ungulates, naturally followed by predators.



Wildebeests crossing the crocodile infested Mara river in Kenya.

By November/December the rains start in the south again and the herds begin their long trek back down to the Serengeti plains in Tanzania to have their young.

Leading Threats

- The threats facing the various populations differ in each area.
- The leading causes of decline are poorly planned agricultural expansion, fences, settlements, urban centers, roads and other infrastructure, poaching and competition with livestock for food, space and drinking water. Government policy in Kenya also encourages private over communal land tenure. This promotes land subdivision.

- Fences, for example, are expanding fast in the Mara-Loita ecosystem. This was driven by the splitting up of former group ranches – communally owned land – and the formation of some wildlife conservancies.
- Ultimately, the threats are

driven by increasing human and livestock numbers. The way land is used (from former grazing areas to farmland) is changing and there's also more human-wildlife conflict as more animals come into contact with people.

- So, there have been failures on a number of fronts. These include policies that don't regulate where people settle, as well as wildlife conservation and management policies.
- A key government wildlife policy failure in Kenya is that it has focused primarily on protected areas. But these areas cover only 8% of the country's land surface and support only 35% of the wildlife. The other 65% is

occupied by private lands, which all the four threatened wildebeest migrations cross.

Interesting Facts

1. Wildebeest are also called Gnu because of the grunts they make which sound like "gnu" "gnu",
2. Wildebeest young are almost all born during a three week period (an estimated 400,000 each year). This overwhelming supply of potential food for predators means more of them survive,
3. Wildebeest are born to run. They can run alongside their mothers just minutes after they are born,
4. Zebra and wildebeest graze in harmony because each animal prefers a different part of the same grass,
5. No two zebra look exactly the same.
6. It is estimated that around 250,000 wildebeest die while on the migration circuit.
7. The migration is a natural phenomenon that only started in the 1960's.



Mr. James Kapoto, the article writer, lives and works in the Maasai Mara. He works with the Naboisho Conservancy and supports the work of Africa Nature Organisation in the Mara ecosystem.

Manage the Environment or it will Fight Back

On 23rd September 2019, Kenya woke up to the shocking and saddening news of the collapse of Precious Talent School in Nairobi that resulted in the death of 8 children. This came a year after the Patel Dam tragedy at Solai in

government agencies who have not taken up their duties with zeal. At the national level, the National Environmental Management Authority (NEMA) has been the focus. This is the agency that is responsible for



The Patel Milmet Dam was a privately owned embankment dam located near the township of Solai, Nakuru County, in Kenya's Rift Valley. The dam burst amid heavy rains on 9 May 2018, killing at least 48 people.

Nakuru where 48 people died. Besides these, other loss of human life and property due to human induced environmental disasters in the country have occurred, continue to occur and will do so in the future if appropriate preventive measures are not put in place.

These disasters have been attributed to blatant negligence by national and county

environmental protection through enforcing compliance to environmental laws.

Kenya has a progressive and robust Constitution and environmental law: the Environmental Management and Coordination Act (EMCA) 1999, which was further strengthened by Environment (Impact Assessment and Audit) Regulations, 2003. These

environmental legal frameworks provide for mechanisms to avert environmental disasters. Despite this, twenty years later, laxity still exists on the implementation of environmental laws. This then begs the question as to why the public and private development projects are a major threat to environmental security in the country. If we have appropriate policy frameworks in place, where then is the disconnect?

Projects or activities that are likely to have an impact on the environment are approved after an Environment Impact Assessment (EIA). However, there are many complaints regarding the manner in which EIAs are carried out in Kenya. In addition, it seems that the EIA regulations of 2003 are no longer responsive to today's demand for accountability on actors who wish to carry out activities that exploit the natural resources found in the environment. Examples of this exploitation are found in construction, quarrying, mining and water harvesting.

The EIA regulations of 2003 are not comprehensive enough to address emerging environmental issues brought about by development projects. For example, these regulations do not address the impunity of unscrupulous private developers who take advantage of local communities.

The developers have become used to corruption and buying their way out at the expense of the lives of many Kenyans. To be sure, the outcry from the public is regularly ignored by national and county governments, until disaster strikes. Thereafter, a flurry of activities takes place, including a few arrests. A week later, there is a lull and it is business as usual until another disaster strikes. The adage that history teaches people nothing, seems to hold true.

In 2018, NEMA through a collaborative process with line ministries, private sector and civil society organisations drafted the Environmental (Strategic Assessment, Integrated Impact Assessment and Audit) Regulations, 2018 that were meant to replace the Environment (Impact Assessment and Audit) Regulations, 2003.

These new draft regulations are in line with the amended EMCA, Cap 387 which was amended in 2015. Further, they are designed to address emerging issues such as Strategic Environmental Assessments (SEAs), environmental and safeguard procedures, climate change, devolved governance structures, rapid land use changes and new technological advancement.

Many stakeholders have been waiting for the gazette of these new regulations. Instead of this, many stakeholders were shocked, when at the beginning of 2019 the Cabinet Secretary for Environment and Forestry published Legal Notice 32, amending just one sub-regulation

of the EIA regulations of 2003. This has made many wonder if the draft Environmental (Strategic Assessment, Integrated Impact Assessment and Audit) Regulations, 2018 have been shelved altogether.

Noting the inadequacy of the 2003 regulations, and the extensive efforts put into the drafting of new regulations to address these loopholes, The National Environment Civil

for the protection of the environment. For example, it has introduced the concept that “Low Risk” and “Medium Risk” projects can be approved without having to undertake a comprehensive EIA.

This then leaves the approval of such projects in the hands of officials who have not done an exemplary job in the past. NECSA Kenya is therefore calling for the withdrawal of Legal



Ms. Hellen Njeri Kuria, centre, the article writer, seen here with other National Environment Civil Society Alliance of Kenya representatives during a retreat to review the article and develop an advocacy roadmap for the adoption of the draft Environmental (Strategic Assessment, Integrated Impact Assessment and Audit) Regulations, 2018..

Society Alliance of Kenya (NECSA Kenya) wishes to urge the Cabinet Secretary to gazette the regulations. Legal Notice 32 is very porous, is inadequate and has numerous inconsistencies.

The notice gives room for continued negligence on the part of national and county government officers responsible

Notice No. 32 and the gazette of the Environmental Strategic Assessment, Integrated Impact Assessment and Audit Regulations 2018.

The article was first published in K24 News on 14th November 2019 (<https://www.k24tv.co.ke/opinion/manage-the-environment-or-it-will-fight-back-necsa-kenya-12163/>)

WELCOME HOME!

In 2019, the People4Nature Global network grew by 134 members. They were from Bangladesh (1), Cameroon (2), Ghana (1), Kenya (115), Tanzania (5), South Africa (1), Uganda (1), USA (5), Zimbabwe (2). Out of the 133 members registered, 32 were children (the Young People4Nature) from Bangladesh (1), Kenya (22), Tanzania (3), USA (4), and Zimbabwe (2). Welcome **HOME!**



Rifah Nanjiba Sneha, with her mother Dr. Muktarun Islam Prity, at Sylhet, Bangladesh. She joins the YP4N fraternity.



Ms. Sally Titoyia Sengeny works with the Africa Nature Organization and part of the of the Mara-WE-Team, tasked to nurture women nature based enterprises in the Maasai Mara ecosystem.



Mama Noonkuta Enole Dorop, P4N-462, Narok County is our first registered member of Oloinyototo Women Enterprise Initiative, Maasai Mara ecosystem.

She was instrumental in the formation of the group and allowed the group to use an acre of her farm for suitable nature-based enterprises.

Through her and the Oloinyototo Team, they registered 80 new members in quarter 4 of 2019.

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).

THE SUMMIT

1. Silvanus Uunona – Chairman,
2. Yaa Tiwaah – 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.

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