

ASSESSING ROLE OF SATELLITE WETLANDS AROUND LAKE OL' BOLOSSAT, KENYA FOR THE CONSERVATION OF ENDANGERED GREY CROWNED CRANE

3RD QUARTER PROJECT FIELD REPORT



Creating awareness to learners at St.Benedict Muthiga primary school,Nyandarua county Kenya

DAVID WARUI KIRUGUI

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SCHOOL AWARENESS PROGRAMME

1. Merryland primary school

An educational and awareness session was held at Merryland Primary School, where we interacted with 55 members of the Wildlife Club of Kenya and four teachers. During the session, the learners were educated about the conservation of the endangered Grey Crowned Crane. They were informed about the various threats facing this species, including the collection of eggs and chicks, illegal capture of live birds, and habitat destruction.

The learners were encouraged to refrain from disturbing waterfowl eggs and chicks during their holidays. Additionally, they were urged to spread awareness among their peers about the importance of protecting these birds and their habitats.

2. St.Irene Secondary School

The awareness program was conducted at St. Irene Secondary School, with the participation of 200 students and seven teachers, including the head teacher. The topics covered during the program included conservation efforts for the Grey Crowned Crane, focusing on its population, threats, and the role of learners in conserving this endangered bird. Additionally, discussions were held on the functions and roles of the Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) in conserving wildlife in Kenya, particularly in Nyandarua County.

During the program, learners were given the opportunity to ask questions about the topics taught. Posters containing Grey Crowned Crane and wetlands were used to enhance the learning experience. The learners demonstrated attentiveness and keen interest in the topics discussed, indicating a clear comprehension of the material presented.

The lack of power connectivity limited our presentation to oral delivery and the use of awareness materials. During the program we were unable to show animal videos, which would have enriched the learning experience.

Successes and Achievements

The learners expressed a strong desire to learn more about animals and pledged to take care of cranes and other birds. They also promised to report cases of wildlife poaching. Additionally, it was noted that St. Irene Secondary School is a special institution that admits students from impoverished backgrounds who have scored low marks. The school also rehabilitates inmates with capital offenses by offering technical courses. Despite relying on well-wishers for financial support, the school continues to make a positive impact in the community.

3. St.Benedict Muthiga Primary School

We Conducted awareness program at Muthiga Primary School with the participation of 160 learners and eight teachers, including the head teacher. Grey Crowned Crane Conservation: Discussed the conservation of Grey Crowned Cranes, including their population, threats, and the role of learners in conserving this endangered bird.

Question and Answer Session: Provided learners with the opportunity to ask questions about the topics covered.

Poster Presentation: Utilized posters displaying Grey Crowned Crane image and why it is endangered and functions of wetlands in supporting waterfowls survival to engage participants.

Participants were attentive and displayed keen interest in the topics discussed, indicating a clear comprehension of the subject matter

Lack of Power Connectivity: Limited our presentation to oral delivery and awareness materials, preventing the use of visual aids such as animal videos.

Success and achievements

Increased Interest in Animals: Learners expressed a desire to learn more about animals and promised to take care of cranes and other birds.

Commitment to Wildlife Conservation: Participants assured to report cases of wildlife poaching, demonstrating a commitment to wildlife conservation efforts.

4.Elite school Nyahururu

An educational and awareness session was held at Elite School Nyahururu, where we interacted with 24 members of the Wildlife Club of Kenya and five teachers including the coordinator. During the session, the learners were educated about the conservation of the endangered Grey Crowned Crane. They were informed about the various threats facing this species, including the collection of eggs and chicks, illegal capture of live birds, and habitat destruction.

The students were encouraged to have the urge of knowing more about bird watching since it is a fascinating experience.Understanding about birds being good indicators of health environment,there were also enlightened on keeping the environment clean.

5. Nyandarua athlectic forum

Games serve as an effective tool for teaching ecological concepts to both teachers and learners.On 9th March 2024, Nyandarua County organized a forum that gathered participants from all ten sub-counties. These participants hailed from areas surrounding satellite wetlands and were already familiar with cranes but lacked an understanding of why these birds are endangered

During the forum, we engaged with the participants and provided enlightenment on their role in conserving the species. We emphasized the importance of reducing threats facing the birds and urged them to become ambassadors in their respective areas. Through interactive discussions and activities, we aimed to empower them with the knowledge and motivation needed to actively contribute to the conservation of these endangered birds.







Monitoring of breeding pairs

The 2023/2024 breeding season ended and the following table show number of nest recorded Grey Crowned Crane sighted in the wetland and monitoring during of breeding process until the chicks fledged.

- Number of the nest that were recorded during the 2023/2024 breeding season- 31
- Number of chicks that fledged-29

| No | Locality | Observation | No. of Nest | No.G CC | No.Chicks | Fledged chicks | Threats during the breeding process |
|----|---------------|----------------------------------|-------------|---------|-----------|----------------|--|
| 1 | Laimutia | Pair sighted with fledged chicks | 1 | 2 | 2 | 2 | No threat the pairs were in private farm |
| 2 | Gwa Chege dam | Pair sighted in the dam | 1 | 2 | 1 | | Predation Not confirmed |

| | | | | | | | |
|----|-------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 3 | Limunga wetland | A pair with two fledged chicks sited in a maize plantation A pair sighted in the wetland | 1 | 4 | 2 | 2 | No threat community sensitization |
| 4 | Limunga dam | Pair sighted in the dam, | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | eggs collection empty nest |
| 5 | Nyairoko riverine | Pair sighted with two chicks | 1 | 2 | 2 | 2 | |
| 6 | Kirii wetland | Three pairs sighted in the wetland | 3 | 6 | - | - | Three nests were flooded due to heavy rains |
| 7 | Captain | Pair sighted with two chicks | 1 | 2 | 2 | 1 | One chick went missing before fledging |
| 8 | Njunu riverine | Two fledged chicks sighted | 1 | 2 | 2 | 2 | |
| 9 | Loitanet wetland | Two pair sighted; a pair sighted with chick | 1 | 4 | 1 | - | The chick was reported to have been taken from the wetland for trade. |
| 10 | Sironi dam | A pair sighted sitting on eggs | 1 | 2 | - | - | Report of predation of eggs in the wetland was reported |
| 11 | Ol'Jabet dam | A pair sighted with three chicks | 1 | 2 | 3 | 3 | |
| 12 | Huhirio wetland | Two pair sighted in the wetland | - | 4 | | | The pair could not successful breed due to disturbance of livestock |

| | | | | | | | |
|-----|--------------------|--|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | | | and people |
| 13 | Mathakwa wetland | Two pair sighted in the wetland | 1 | 4 | - | - | Collection of eggs was reported by the locals |
| 14 | Manyatta dam | A pair sighted in the dam with one chick | 1 | 2 | 2 | 2 | |
| 15 | Robert dam | Four pair sighted sitting on eggs; a pair hatched two chicks | 3 | 8 | 2 | 2 | Two nest flooded due to heavy rains |
| 16 | Kingi dam | A pair sighted in the dam | 1 | 2 | - | - | Disturbance by livestock and human beings |
| 17 | Mugamba Chiura dam | A pair sighted feeding in the nearby farm | 1 | 2 | - | - | Eggs were collected this could be due to fishing activities in the dam. |
| 18 | Smith dam | A pair sighted in the dam incubating but later the nest destroyed by the hippo | 1 | 2 | - | - | |
| 19 | Gathara wetland | | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | |
| 20 | Silale wetland | A pair sighted in the wetland | 1 | 2 | - | - | The breeding process did not start due to livestock and human disturbance |
| 21 | Losogwa wetland | A pair sighted in the wetland | 1 | 2 | - | - | |
| 22. | Mukindu dam | A pair sighted with a nest in the wetland | 1 | 2 | 2 | - | The nest was washed |

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| | | | | | | | away by floods |
| Other wetland monitored during the project | | | | | | | |
| 1 | Kamwan a dam | Pair sighted sitting on eggs and two chicks hatched successfully | 1 | 2 | 2 | 2 | |
| 2 | Maili saba wetland | Pair sighted sitting on eggs | 1 | 2 | - | - | The nest was unsuccessful due to burning of habitat. |
| 3 | Igwamiti river | Pair sighted with two fledged chicks | 1 | 2 | 3 | 3 | |
| 4 | Mbarakira area | Pair sighted with fledged chicks | 1 | 2 | 2 | 2 | |
| 5 | Jericho (ngomon go river) | Pair sighted with two fledged chicks | 1 | 2 | 2 | 2 | |
| 6 | River side | Pair sighted with two fledged chicks | 1 | 2 | 2 | 2 | |