

SHEEP FOR SHARPE'S LONGCLAW



BACKGROUND

The Kinangop high altitude grasslands (IBA) are home to globally endangered unique fauna and flora. They are the stronghold for the endangered Sharpe's Longclaw (*Macronyx sharpei*). The grasslands are found in privately owned agricultural land. Sharpe's Longclaw therefore will only survive if we can develop ways of managing their habitats in a manner that is consistent, rather than in conflict, with the needs of the agricultural community.



APPROACH

- To establish a sheep loan scheme; starting with an initial capital of 10 breeding rams of high quality breed purchased and distributed to an initial set of farmers who will then assist in monitoring of the Sharpe's Longclaw.
- Each farmer from the initial set will surrender one offspring ram lamb that will be passed on to another farmer for sustainability.
- Create awareness to farmers and the youth/students on the importance of the grasslands for biodiversity, provision of ecosystem services and livelihoods.

ACHIEVEMENTS

- Conducted seminars and consultation meeting with 20 farmers;
- Developed an agreement between the Njabini Wool Crafters Society and the farmers;
- 10 farmers have been handed over with good quality ram breeds (Corriedale);
- 22 youths were engaged in environmental conservation activities through Friends of Kinangop Plateau.



WHAT NEXT?

- Document lessons learnt regarding the impacts of the sheep loan scheme for grassland biodiversity conservation and disseminate them.
- Conduct a follow up monitoring surveys to the selected farms with the high quality breeds
- Establish a system for sustaining the scheme.



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