

Project Update: September 2014

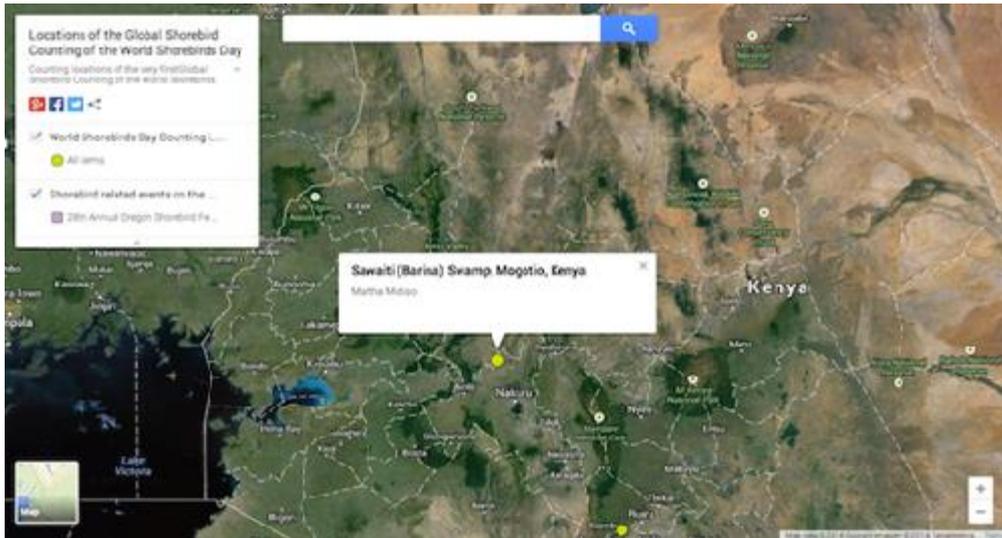
The following activities were carried out between the month of June and September 2014:

- i **Biodiversity surveys:** The team has done three biodiversity surveys at the swamp. During these surveys, the team was able to record new biodiversity including: Battersby's green snake, a species of snake which we found out that it's either found in highlands or lowlands; but in this case it was recorded on the boundary between a high and a low land; marsh otter (to confirm exact species), which unfortunately had been hunted by boys. The team is working with the community youth and elders and local authorities to address this. The team also added new birds to the existing checklist; these were African crowned eagle, lesser flamingo and black-tailed godwit.



Marsh otter, fulvous whistling duck and red-knobbed coot hunted by young boys. The team is working with the community youth, elders and authorities to address this.

- ii **Water quality testing:** The team, in collaboration with the Water Resource Management Authority (WARMA), collected and tested the wetland water for chemicals to assess possible pollution and subsequent effect on wetland birds if any. The results are currently being analysed and will be submitted as a separate report.
- iii **Global Shorebird Counting:** The team took part in the first World Shorebird Counting exercise that was pioneered by the African Bird Club, with an aim to raise awareness for the importance of regular bird monitoring as the core element of bird protection and habitat conservation. This included counting all the water birds in the wetland. The data was shared with the local community, Mid Rift Tourism Information Office, Lake Bogoria National Reserve Education Office and the National Museums of Kenya, Ornithology Section. The data was also submitted at Ebird, an online bird checklist program. The data can be accessed at <http://ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist?subID=S19771532>.



A screenshot of our registered Global shorebird counting site and team on Google maps ©2014 Google imagery

- iv **Capacity building:** The team carried out a field capacity building for the Friends of Sawaiti Conservation Group at the wetland. The team shared skills on environmental education, data collection, record keeping, biodiversity monitoring and wetland scouting to curb biodiversity hunting by young boys. The team also introduced various community members in filling out a Wetland Action Plan questionnaire, the results are currently being analysed and will be submitted as separate report.