

Project Update: January 2009

The project is proceeding despite many unforeseen hiccups. Chief among these has been the availability of enough quantities of bamboo seedlings and their high cost. I may have to cut down slightly on the numbers I had envisaged. There is no problem with indigenous tree which are in plant.

The other main problem is the severe drought gripping the country. The short rains which come between November when I wrote my last report ad December have completely failed.

My hope is now to plant during the long rains, expected normally between April and May and then we can plant at this time.

However, on the positive side, the bamboo to be planted along the swamp edges has already been acquired as have been the indigenous trees for the same swamp perimeter forest. But most of the bamboo seedlings were imported from Belgium and some from Ethiopia by the Kenya Forestry Research Institute which virtually doubled the initial budget. This will mean cutting down on some budget items which may not be crucial to the progress of the project. This may include getting only school children to plant the trees while excluding the women since they have already benefited from tree sales. I have also prepared a questionnaire to gauge how the community around the swamp perceives it and what socio-economic benefits they think they can drive from it. This will give an indication of whether they will have a sense of ownership of the swamp. I am currently preparing posters and these will certainly carry the Rufford Small Grants Foundation Logo and I am hoping to publish an online article on the interest the swamp has elicited.

List of birds in Ondiri Swamp, Kikuyu

| Dates of observation: 25 th Sept, 2008-January 2009 | | | |
|--|----------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| 5 Observers Time: 9.15-11.15 | | | |
| Family name | Scientific name | Common name | Bird Life Common name |
| Scopidae | <i>Scopus umbretta</i> | Hamerkop | Hamerkop |
| Ciconiidae | <i>Leptoptilos crumeniferus</i> | Marabou stork | Marabou stork |
| Threskiornithidae | <i>Threskiornis aethiopicus</i> | Sacred ibis | Sacred ibis |
| Accipitridae | <i>Buteo augur</i> | Augur buzzard | Augur buzzard |
| Accipitridae | <i>Milvus migrans</i> | Black kite | Black kite |
| Gruidae | <i>Balearica regulorum</i> | Grey crowned crane | Grey crowned crane |
| Columbidae | <i>Streptopelia semitorquata</i> | Red-eyed dove | Red-eyed dove |
| Columbidae | <i>Turtur chalcospilos</i> | Emerald-spotted wood dove | Emerald-spotted wood dove |

| | | | |
|---------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Apodidae | <i>Apus caffer</i> | White-rumped swift | White-rumped swift |
| Coliidae | <i>Colius streams</i> | Speckled moosebird | Speckled moosebird |
| Meropidae | <i>Merops oreobactes</i> | Cinnamon – chested bee eater | Cinnamon – chested bee eater |
| Picidae | <i>jynx ruficollis</i> | Red-throated wryneck | Rufous-necked wryuecl |
| Hirundinidae | <i>Hirundo daurica</i> | Red-rumped swallow | Red-rumped swallow |
| Hirundinidae | <i>Hirundo obbyssinica</i> | Rock martin | Rock martin |
| Hirundinidae | <i>Hirundo fuligula</i> | Common bulbul | Common bulbul |
| Pycnonotidae | <i>Pycnonotus harbatus</i> | Common stonechat | Common stonechat |
| Turdinae | <i>Saxicola torquata</i> | Cape robin chat | Cape robin chat |
| Turdinae | <i>Cossypha caffra</i> | Olive thrush | Olive thrush |
| Turdinae | <i>Turdus olivaceus</i> | White-eyed slaty flycatcher | White-eyed slaty flycatcher |
| Muscicapinae | <i>Dioptrornis fischeri</i> | Little rush warbler | Little rush warbler |
| Sylviinae | <i>Bradypterus baboccala</i> | Dark capped yellow warbler | Dark capped yellow warbler |
| sylviinae | <i>Chloropeta natalensis</i> | Singing cisticola | Singing cisticola |
| Sylviinae | <i>Cisticolar cantans</i> | Hunter’s cisticolar | Hunter’s cisticolar |
| sylviinae | <i>Cisticola hunteri</i> | Tawny flanked prinia | Tawny flanked prinia |
| Sylviinae | <i>Prinia subflava</i> | Abyssinian white eye | Abyssinian white eye |
| zosteropidae | <i>Zosterops abyssinicus</i> | Common fiscal | Common fiscal |
| Laniidae | <i>Lanius collaris</i> | Pied crow | Pied crow |
| Corvidae | <i>Corvus albus</i> | Bronze sunbird | Bronze sunbird |
| Nectariniidae | <i>Nectarima kilimensis</i> | Black headed weaver | Village weaver |
| ploceinae | <i>Polaccus encullatus</i> | Speke’s weaver | Speke’s weaver |
| ploceinae | <i>Ploceus spekei</i> | Holub’s Golden weaver | Holub’s Golden weaver |
| ploceinae | <i>Ploceus baglafedu</i> | Baglafecht weaver | Baglafecht weaver |
| ploceinae | <i>Euplectes capensis</i> | Yellow bishop | Yellow bishop |
| ploceinae | <i>Euplectes ardens</i> | Red – collared widowbird | Red – collared widowbird |
| Estrildidae | <i>Lagonostucta senegala</i> | Red-billed firefinch | Red-billed firefinch |
| Estrildidae | <i>Estrilda astrild</i> | Common wasbill | Common wasbill |
| Estrildidae | <i>Lonchura cucullata</i> | Brenze mannikin | Brenze mannikin |
| Fringillidae | <i>Serinus citrinelloides</i> | African citril | African citril |
| Fringillidae | <i>Serinus canicollis</i> | Yellow-crowned canary | Cape canary |
| Fringillidae | <i>Serinus striolatus</i> | Streaky seedeater | Streaky seedeater |

Vegetation species in Ondiri Swamp

| No. | Genus | Species name | Species authority |
|-----|---------------------------|--|-----------------------|
| 1. | <i>Typha</i> | <i>domingensis</i> | |
| 2. | <i>Phragmites species</i> | | |
| 3. | <i>Fossia</i> | <i>euspidata</i> | |
| 4. | <i>Cyperus</i> | <i>brevifolius syn</i> <i>Kyllinga</i> <i>brevifolia</i> | (Rotb) Hassl |
| 5. | <i>Leersia</i> | <i>hexandra</i> | Sw. (Rice) |
| 6. | <i>Eragrostis</i> | <i>exasperate</i> | |
| 7. | <i>Eriochloa</i> | <i>meyerana</i> | (Nees) Pilg. |
| 8. | <i>Polygonum</i> | <i>pulchrum</i> | Blume |
| 9. | <i>Biden</i> | <i>pilosa</i> | |
| 10. | <i>Oxygonium</i> | <i>simatum</i> | |
| 11. | <i>Sphaeranthus</i> | <i>gomphrenoides</i> | |
| 12. | <i>Melanthera</i> | <i>scandens</i> | (Shum & Thonn) Brenan |
| 13. | <i>Grevillae</i> | <i>robusta</i> | |
| 14. | <i>Lantana</i> | <i>camara</i> | |
| 15. | <i>Eucalyptus sp.</i> | <i>grandis/camaldulensis</i> | |
| 16. | <i>Jacaranda</i> | <i>mimosaeifolia</i> | |
| 17. | <i>Croton sp</i> | | |
| 18. | <i>Fieus sp</i> | | |
| 19. | <i>Acacia</i> | <i>melanoxylon</i> | |
| 20. | <i>Podocarpus spp.</i> | | |