Reconnaissance of Dakatcha Woodlands for Clarke's Weaver *Ploceus golandi*, Malindi District, 11-13 August 2000

*(without images)*

A Conservation Research Report

by

A Rocha Kenya

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SUMMARY
A reconnaissance survey was carried out between 11-13 August 2000 of the Dakatcha Woodlands and surrounding area to the north of the Sabaki River, Malindi District. The aim of this survey was to identify areas of potentially suitable breeding habitat for the Globally Threatened Clarke’s Weaver *Ploceus golandi* for further more intensive surveys during the suspected breeding season. This species is restricted world-wide to this area and the adjacent Arabuko-Sokoke Forest. The area is also known to hold other rare and endangered species but as yet there is little data on their populations.

The three-day reconnaissance proved very valuable and highlighted a number of issues summarised here.

HABITATS AND BIODIVERSITY
- There are still some significant areas of valuable forest and woodland habitat remaining in this area that are clearly important for their biodiversity conservation value. In particular are large tracts of Brachystegia woodland which hold a number of restricted-range species of flora and fauna. (c.f. sketch map, p.3)
- The Globally Threatened Sokoke Pipit, Malindi Pipit and Globally Near-threatened Fischer’s Turaco were recorded several times in just the three days spent in the area as well as other Regionally Important species (c.f. appendix I).
- The woodlands and other habitats found there held much potential for other threatened, restricted-range coastal species such as Amani Sunbird, East Coast Akalat, Sokoke Scops Owl, Southern Banded Snake Eagle, as well as being known to hold Clarke’s Weaver during the presumed breeding season (the nesting site having yet to be found).
- Some mammals of conservation value also occur including Elephant and potentially Golden-rumped Elephant Shrew.

ISSUES OF CONCERN
- Whilst there is still apparently quite large areas of woodland remaining, there was much evidence of serious illegal and destructive felling of trees and logging actively happening widely throughout the area.
  - Many felled trees were found and several photographed in the process of being sawn into planks (c.f. main report).
  - In the three days of surveying, no other vehicles were seen except two both of which were carrying illegally cut timber. This, over a weekend as well.
  - The main species found cut was *Brachystegia spiciformis* but were also told that *Brachylaena hulliensis* is also being cut at a fast rate to the north of where we reached. Both of these species are critical parts of the ecosystem that the restricted birds (and other taxa) require for their continued existence.
- Signs of illegal hunting and trapping were also found in some locations.

RECOMMENDATIONS
- **Further surveys** From this short survey it is clear that further, more detailed surveys are required to assess the full biodiversity value of the Dakatcha Woodlands area. These should be done sooner rather than later considering the rapid destruction of the unique habitats and the enormous risk of damaging populations of rare species beyond repair, in particular the Clarke’s Weaver. This highly restricted species is at risk of extinction should it’s breeding site be destroyed.
- **Gazettement and proper protection** It is critical that this mosaic of endangered woodlands, forest and coastal scrub be properly protected. From further surveys providing clear and full data, an appropriate area should be identified for gazettement and legislation put in place and enforced. Due to the clearly very high level of poaching in the area, alternative sources of income for local communities other than tree felling is urgently required along with much improved policing of the forests.
Introduction
The Dakatcha Woodlands are an extensive area of coastal woodland located some 50 km inland from Malindi to the north of the Sabaki River. It is mainly ‘Brachystegia woodland’ with some Cynometra webberi dominated habitat on the tops of low hills and areas of more open Acacia dominated ‘bush’. It is known to hold at least four Globally-threatened bird species, Southern-banded Snake Eagle Circaetus fasciatus, Fischer’s Turaco Tauraco fischeri, Sokoke Pipit Anthus sokokensis and Clarke’s Weaver Ploceus golandi, but relatively little has been documented of the avifauna of these potentially important woodlands. Furthermore it is thought very likely that the Clarke’s Weaver, endemic to Arabuko-Sokoke Forest and the Dakatcha-Marafa area, nests here though the actual breeding site is yet to be documented. For this threatened species, it is vital that it’s breeding grounds are discovered and safe-guarded.

The Dakatcha Woodlands and the area in general to the north of the Sabaki River has previously received relatively little attention by ornithologists (the atlas square that cover much of this area, QSD 90D, had received only 11-30% coverage for the Atlas fieldwork, Lewis & Pomeroy, 1989). Only one or two known visits have been made in the past 20-30 years and no extensive survey work has been carried out there. The only survey that is known to have taken place was a short expedition there in Nov 1995 (Tom Butynski unpubl. data) which confirmed the presence of Clarke’s Weaver there and generated some further new records from that area. The Brachystegia woodlands and Cynometra forest habitats are restricted to a relatively narrow strip along the Kenya coast yet are home to a high density of rare and endangered species of birds and other taxa (Collar & Stuart, 1988).

The area of woodland and forest that is likely to be of conservation value is yet to be properly surveyed and demarcated; the reconnaissance expedition being reported on here was undertaken in order to get a better idea of the area and access routes and to identify those areas that look the most promising for further surveying.

The reconnaissance was undertaken by myself, David Ngala, Wellington Kombe (both members of Arabuko-Sokoke Forest Guides Association, DN has visited the Dakatcha Woodlands twice before including the expedition with Tom Butynski in 1995), and Jeremy Harris (an A Rocha Kenya volunteer). It was part-funded by the Bird Committee for the East Africa Natural History Society, which was much appreciated, with other costs being covered by A Rocha Kenya. David and Wellington kindly gave their time voluntarily.

Bird names given here are taken from the Check-list of the Birds of Kenya, 3rd edition, EANHS, 1996.

Route followed
11th August. From Sabaki we took the road marked Baricho immediately after the bridge that leads to Marafa. From Marafa we followed the Baricho road, turning right at the junction for Garashi (fig.1 below) but which now appears to be different to that on the government maps; this took us through Shakadulo and Sosoni soon after which we turned right for Dakatcha. We passed Dakatcha and continued to Jirikokole where we camped.

12th August. We took another track that led north-west and that apparently leads to Dakawachu and Galana Ranch though apparently it is again impassable some kilometres north of where we reached having been washed out during the El Niño floods in 1998. We continued for about 6km into an area known as Diririsa but marked on the 1:100,000 map u

13th August. From Bore we returned to Marafa and then took the road that leads almost due north to Adu. Some of this has changed route from when maps were drawn but it is a fairly straightforward and little-used road that is in pretty good condition. We passed Adu by approx. 3km which was all we had time to do. From Adu, the road south to join the main Malindi-Garissa road at Fundisa is well used and in quite good condition.
THE RECONNAISSANCE

Comments by site/section

SABAKI TO MARAFA

Road — a well-used road which has got quite rutted in some sections but otherwise is pretty good and in dry conditions is easily passable by a 2WD with reasonable clearance.

Habitat — the first section up to Magarini Primary School [WP001] is mostly shamba with patches of degraded coastal scrub. From Magarini shambas are less dense and there is a large area of thicket and scrub dominated by *Acacia* stretching away particularly to the north of the road. One or two small pools with water lilies visible from the road, notably one at [WP002 – c.80m across]; approx. 1km before reaching Marafa there is a relatively major (seasonal) river valley (River Marafa) where the bridge has been washed away and you drive round the edge of it. Here there is the first patch of Brachystegia woodland that you come across, though quite heavily degraded, mainly to the south of the road. We walked to the end of the patch to the south reaching shambas again at WP005.
Clarke’s Weavers in Dakatcha Woodlands Reconnaissance Report — Aug 2000

Observations of note:
Marafa River Brachystegia woodland [WP004]:
- African Hawk Eagle (nesting)
- Madagascar Pratincole (8 overhead)
- Fischer’s Turaco
- Crowned Hornbill
- Scaly Babbler
- Peter’s Twinspot (2)
- Collared Sunbird (nest w/ young)

Human impact — the patch of Brachystegia woodland at Marafa is heavily degraded. There has been quite some logging and thinning of habitat and it is not very extensive any more (compared with what is shown on the maps). It however still holds some interesting species and may prove to hold more if surveys were conducted earlier in the day (we were there at 11:00a.m. when is was already hot and bird activity low). The rest of the section was very degraded in terms of natural habitat except for the area of Acacia thicket / woodland though even here there were obvious signs of charcoaling going on.

Recommendations — The Marafa River Brachystegia Woodlands would be worth further surveying; the fact that it holds a breeding pair of African Hawk Eagles suggests that it is still a viable patch of habitat and does in fact form part of the mosaic of Brachystegia woodlands in the overall area.

MARAVA TO DAKATCHA ROAD JUNCTION [WP011]
Road — The road after Marafa deteriorates somewhat and is quite rough with some sections that are badly rutted. Progress is slow but it is easily passable when dry. In wet conditions it would be very slippery and there are one or two small river valleys that would be ‘interesting’!

Habitat — There are many fewer shambas after Marafa. Turning right at the Baricho / Garashi junction, you soon come to the edge of an area of quite ‘nice’ Brachystegia woodland; where it starts there is some open grassland with islands of thicket/woodland which held some birds (see appendix). The Brachystegia is not continuous along this section and is interspersed with areas of wooded bushland and grassland. Shakadulo [WP009] has more of an open Acacia woodland habitat and then the Brachystegia starts in again in quite good condition at Sosoni [WP010].

Comments — At Sosoni we talked with a lady who reported that the Brachystegia is continuous from here to Dakatcha, a distance that would take ‘about 2 hours on foot’. Sosoni now has a police outpost and is a more substantial village than Shakadulo or Dakatcha.

Observations of note:
Some 3km east of Shakadulo where DN saw Clarke’s Weaver in 1995[WP008]; this site is 3.65km NNE of the Bore nyari visited on 12th August; c. 3:30p.m. for 30 mins:
- Chestnut-fronted Helmet-shrike (flock of c.30) – the only ones seen during the whole safari

Human impact — Whilst there is quite a lot of Brachystegia woodland left, it is however being cleared and at a site 3km east of Shakadulo, a relatively large area had been recently cleared and turned into shambas. A few of the larger Brachystegia trees were left standing but it was clear that there was pressure on the land for shambas.

Recommendations — It would be valuable to survey the Brachystegia woodland both at the site 3km east of Shakadulo and between Sosoni and Dakatcha. The extent and quality of these woodlands would appear to be quite good and it is likely that in season would hold Clarke’s Weaver.

DAKATCHA ROAD JUNCTION [WP011] TO JIRIKOKOLE [WP014]
Road — The road from the junction runs along a slightly elevated ridge of land on red soil right up to well beyond Dakatcha centre where the white soil starts again. The road along all this section is clearly quite regularly used and is in quite good condition except for a few kms beyond Dakatcha leading up to where the white soil starts where is it is quite rough and gullied. Dakatcha Primary School is to the west of the road [WP023] and to the north, still on the red soil, is Mlunguni Primary School [WP022]. The road peters out at Jirikokole (‘Girekokole?’) [WP014] becoming totally overgrown and impassable much beyond where we camped [WP015].

Habitat — Along the red soil, the habitat is low, quite dense woodland and scrubland with denser stands of thicket interspersed with open grassy areas. Shambas are restricted to a handful of sites tending to be nearer the
centres of settlement. Brachystegia woodland starts again at the white soil [WP013] and is in apparently good condition with many large trees and continuous woodland. It is a very beautiful area of woodland.

Comments — Dakatcha itself is a very small settlement consisting of basically a primary school and a posho mill with a few ruined buildings from a shifta attack some years back. Jirikokole is a small centre with a handful of kiosks as shops. C.f. next section for further comments relating to Jirikokole area.

Observations of note — At Jirikokole a single adult Martial Eagle passed overhead.

Human impact — A pickup passed us heading south near Mlunguni that was fully (over) loaded with Brachystegia planks that had apparently come from further north of Jirikokole. The fact that the road is quite well-used and that there is not a lot out there to attract vehicles, it would appear that there is quite removal of timber occurring. Other than that, there is relatively little extensive impact noticeable in this section other than once into the Brachystegia woodland where there are a lot of signs of logging of Brachystegia trees.

Recommendations — Most of this section is not of particular interest for this survey as regards Brachystegia woodland and potential habitat for Clarke’s Weaver. For comments on the Brachystegia woodland Jirikokole and beyond, see next section.

JIRIKOKOLE NORTH TO DIRIRISA [WP021]

Road — 0.5-1km back from where we camped, a track branched off to the west which we followed. This appeared to be more of a logging track than a road of any sort though is the main track now to Dakawachu (if indeed it is passable further on). There were a number of small junctions at different points which were unclear as to which was the main route. As it was we ended up losing the main track for Dakawachu and instead found ourselves on a very minor (logging?) track (fig.2, WP021). All of these tracks were easily passable and whilst a little bumpy in places were generally fine. Nearly all of them from Jirikokole were tracks with grass running down the middle.

Habitat — The road followed through what was nearly all mature Brachystegia woodland with areas of more open wooded bushland on what appeared to be more clayey soil. Figs.3 and 4 show some of this habitat [WP020].

Comments — At Jirikokole we spoke to Jackson Safari and later the chief of the area who informed us that there were quite a lot of people living in the area now, mainly trying to farm. The Brachystegia woodland apparently stretches some way westward to Gerujo and Kalaluwe towards a large rocky hill called Dakabuko. There are not many villages in these areas. To the east it is not extensive and at Denisa gives way presumably to grassland and thicket(?) To reach Denisa, there is a road from either just west of Sosoni at a place called Waka or between Shakadulo and Marafa at Majengo wa Akala (depending on who you speak to!). To the north, scrubland takes over from Brachystegia but at Alango Shira there is apparently a lot of it and no villages. Beyond Adu to the north and east, there is also a lot of Brachystegia. Reported knowing of ‘weavers’ but are more likely to be P. cucullatus rather than golandi. This area is also likely to hold Southern Banded Snake Eagle.

Observations of note:

- Madagascar Pratincole (16 total)
- Trumpeter Hornbill
- Retz’s Helmet-shrike (5)
- Fischer’s Turaco
- Mombasa Woodpecker
- Mouse-coloured Sunbird
- African Barred Owlet
- Sokoke Pipit – calling overhead on two occasions
- Fiery-necked Nightjar
- Wahlberg’s Honeybird (1)
- Northern Crombec
- Retz’s Helmet-shrike

Diririsa Brachystegia woodlands [WP020], fig.4; 11:30a.m. for 30 mins:

- Thick-billed Cuckoo
- Wahlberg’s Honeybird (1)
- Pale Batis (female)
- Retz’s Helmet-shrike

Human impact — There was a lot of evidence of logging of Brachystegia spiciformis as is shown by the accompanying photographs (fig.5-7, & 8-9[WP018], & fig.10[WP019]) despite the habitat being in otherwise generally reasonable condition. This is a serious issue considering it is currently illegal in Kenya and is totally unmanaged. There were not only actually cut trees but also many more that were marked by having a notch taken out of them that DN thought was likely to be marking them for later logging. In just 6 kms, four recently cut trees were seen and a number of others that were a little longer since they were cut. Urgent action is
required to save this piece of rare habitat. One young Brachystegia tree was found stripped of all its bark for use as binding, but thus killing the tree (fig.11). There were very few other signs of human activity other than one or two small shambas.

**Recommendations** — The Brachystegia woodland around Jirikokole is probably the main expanse of this habitat in the area. It would be very valuable to survey it for Clarke’s Weaver and other Brachystegia-related species. No Amani Sunbirds were recorded which is interesting considering the habitat looks perfect for them. From vegetation maps of this area, the Brachystegia woodlands around here extend northwards in a long ‘finger’ from Diririsa and to the west some distance.

Considering it is under threat from extensive, unmanaged and illegal logging, there is an urgent need to survey this area to assess its importance for its biodiversity conservation.

**Dakatcha Junction to Baricho [WP024]**

**Road** — this is a short section back on the Marafa-Baricho road. It is in quite reasonable condition with only a little gullying. It basically descends from the junction down to Baricho close to the Sabaki River.

**Habitat** — there is quite an extensive area of shambas along this road, particularly to the east and south. To the west there is evidence of more Brachystegia woodland extending further west but not immediately adjacent to the road. From vegetation maps, this is potentially quite a large extent of this habitat.

**Comments** — DN said that he visited at least part of this area of Brachystegia woodland with Tom Butynski in 1995. From personal observations from an aeroplane flying over this area, there are some what are plantations (apparently pineapple) some distance to the west of this section of road (near Boyoni?) and areas that have been cleared of the natural habitat.

**Human impact** — a relatively large area has been converted into shambas; the Brachystegia woodland was not visited in order to assess what impact if any there is within it.

**Recommendations** — the area of Brachystegia woodland to the west of this section would be well worth further investigation. It is likely that it is quite extensive judging from vegetation maps, and being closer to the Sabaki River might hold good numbers of Clarke’s Weaver and potential nesting sites.

**Baricho to Bore [WP028] via Garashi [WP027]**

**Road** — From Baricho to Bungale [WP026] is in extreme condition and was only just passable when dry. Any rain and it would be impassable with heavy gullying. From Bungale to Garashi it is perfectly reasonable for a vehicle with good clearance. The Garashi-Bore (and on to Marafa) road is a major road and in good condition. At c.5km from Baricho at UTM 0590941/9658331 is a path leading south from the road that apparently goes to a lake near the Sabaki River. At UTM 0592065/9659575 is another path heading north that takes you to Sosoni about an hour away on foot. At WP025 a path to the south leads to Lake Lukole at a point in the road where there is a bad gully though not long after some extremely serious gullying; there was a large maize field on the left at this point.

**Habitat** — there is no Brachystegia woodland along this section. It is mostly wooded bushland and grassland with much more open country than to the north (fig.12). There are quite a number of shambas and particularly after Bungale getting towards Garashi as well as to begin with near Baricho. The habitats are fairly undisturbed in the central section and at Swingale there is an NMK Kaya Forest. Between Garashi and Bore again the natural habitat is quite dense bushland and thicket and at Bore itself where we camped it is thick bush at the base of a steep slope/escarpment.

**Comments** — This section is hard work to move along. The one or two lakes or pools we were told about may be worth investigating further. Towards Garashi there is a fair amount of thicker, taller canopy forest which has been mostly cleared from near the road but can be seen further back. Unlikely to hold Clarke’s Weaver but may be of interest for other species.

**Observations of note** — c. 5km from Baricho UTM 0590941/9658331 a single *Martial Eagle*; Bungale [WP026] Fischer’s Turaco.
**Human impact** — The forest and woodland habitats are gradually being cleared and degraded for shambas. No signs of direct logging were seen though we didn’t stop and go into the woodland at all.

**Recommendations** — Whilst there is no Brachystegia woodland immediately obvious within this section, it would be of value to survey the wetlands that we were told about. Several reports from local people has suggested that Clarke’s Weaver nests beside or over-hanging water bodies and it would be worth following up these leads.

**Bore [wp028]**

**Road** — a footpath leads along the base of the escarpment to a long narrow pool nestling at the base of the slope. Another path leads directly and steeply up the slope through Cynometra forest (fig.13) to the plateau at the top [WP029]. Halfway up the slope another path leads off eastwards at a gentle angle across the contours to join with the one along the bottom only a few 100m from the campsite. From the top of the escarpment a path leads west for 300m where it comes out on the edge of an extremely impressive ‘nyari’ (see fig.14) [WP030]; from here you can see the nyari to the south of the River at Jilore to the south. To the north it is only 3.65 km as the Clarke’s Weaver flies to reach the point near Shakadulo (c.f. above). Another path leads down the slope nearer the nyari [WP031] to some more pools [WP032] in the same line as the first one reached at the base of the slope. The path continued south from these pools but we didn’t follow it any further.

**Habitat** — thick bushland along the base of the escarpment gives way on the slope to *Cynometra webberi* dominated forest with a few specimens of *Brachylaena huliiensis* also present stretching to the top, a distance of only 3-400m. Along the ridge at the top there are a few *Brachystegia spiciformis* and patches are present along the slope at different spots. On the plateau at the top the habitat is very dense thicket with some *Cynometra webberi*, a similar structure to the habitat around the nyari view point in ASF.

**Comments** — The *Cynometra* forest on the slope looked like potentially good habitat for Sokoke Scops Owl and East Coast Akalat. The pools along the base of the escarpment had no Brachystegia woodland around them nor any obvious sign of weavers nests. The nyari is almost a complete circle and much deeper and more impressive than any in ASF.

**Observations of note:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Eurasian Honey Buzzard (1)</th>
<th>Sokoke Pipit (on ground in mixed forest-type near bottom of escarpment)</th>
<th>Scaly Babbler</th>
<th>Black-headed Apalis</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Madagascar Pratincole</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fischer’s Turaco (4-5)</td>
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**Human impact** — there was plenty of evidence of old logging activity of *Brachylaena huliiensis* on the slope in the *Cynometra* forest; along the path descending to the pools nearer the nyari there was a relatively freshly felled *Brachystegia spiciformis* tree and evidence of other logging having happened in the recent past. A large, recently constructed trap for Civet Cats etc. was found and destroyed near the edge of the nyari (see photograph). Another snare was found and removed along the rim of the nyari in the dense thicket.

**Recommendations** — The *Cynometra* forest would be worth a visit to check for Sokoke Scops Owls and East Coast Akalat. The Brachystegia woodland is too thin and scattered to really be viable for Clarke’s Weavers but would all the same merit a second visit when Clarke’s are expected in the area. From the Nyari it would be easily possible to walk to the Marafa – Baricho road where there is Brachystegia woodland present.

**Bore to Adu [wp036] via Marafa and to Fundisa**

**Road** — from Bore to Marafa the road is good. From Marafa north to Adu (c.27 km) it is not very well-used and as such is somewhat overgrown with grass in some areas but is otherwise in good condition and easily passable when dry. After leaving Marafa, there are no hills or valleys so even in wetter conditions it would be sticky but not too bad. The road joins the Adu – Fundisa road at Ramada where there is a large primary school [WP035]. Prior to this, the road meets up with the road coming up from Geis (where Kabiboni Pri. School is – c.f. the section Sabaki – Marafa) at [WP034]. Beyond Adu we drove for about 2 km to where the first Brachystegia trees start appearing [WP037]. This road here is only a track with grass down the middle and is somewhat rough with sandy patches as well. This road apparently leads to a place called ‘Gabu’ by the man we spoke with in Adu, some 3 hours drive to the north (and west?). The road back down to Fundisa is a major
road and recently graded. One or two spots have been churned up and deeply rutted by (logging — apparently) lorries, but otherwise it is in good condition. It took approx. an hour to reach Fundisa from Adu.

**Habitat** — Much of this area is wooded bushland and grassland with the Brachystegia woodland around Marafa but none to the north until you reach Adu. After this the Brachystegia woodland reappears but is quite thin at the point we reached with a lot of scrub and some patches of mixed forest particularly along water courses. DN thought these habitats may be potential sites for Spotted Ground Thrushes. ‘Gabo’ where the road leads to apparently has a lot of muhuhu (*Brachylaena bulliensis*). There is a large pool (c.80x50m) with water lilies not far past Ramada [WP038].

**Comments** — At Adu we spoke with Nathaniel Kathengi a resident of Adu who told us that the Brachystegia woodland stretches a long way north of Adu. He also told us of Gabo and said there were Brachylaena logs 50-60cm wide coming out of there. This is the area we were informed about at Jirikokole.

**Observations of note:** Ramada Primary School (on the playing field) — Malindi Pipit

**Human impact** — On the road from Ramada to Adu, a Canter lorry passed going the other way loaded up with *Brachylaena* logs. At Adu we were informed that this was a regular occurrence (and indeed WK saw a lorry loaded with logs entering Malindi from that direction only a week later). There is clearly a lot of logging going on in the area north of Adu — too far from Marafa where the Forester is based and who has not transport anyway. There is also a significant amount of Brachystegia logging going on as well.

**Recommendations** — The area of Brachystegia woodland to the north of Adu seriously needs surveying as little fieldwork if any at all has been done there. From vegetation maps of the area, there appears to be patches of Brachystegia woodland extending 25 km north of Adu, some with seasonal pools beside them. These would be well worth visiting and obtaining baseline biodiversity data. The habitats at ‘Gabo’ are clearly of real interest but are entirely unknown as far as I can discover. If these are anything like the Cynometra – Brachylaena forest in ASF, then there is a good chance that Sokoke Scops Owl may occur there as well.

**GENERAL COMMENTS**

There is clearly an urgent need for further surveying of these unique woodlands. Not only are they likely to be the breeding site for the endemic and Globally threatened Clarke's Weaver *Ploceus golandi*, but there are also a number of other globally and regionally endangered bird species and very likely other taxa as well.

The amount of very obvious and open logging that is going on is of great concern. The national ban on the cutting of indigenous timber is clearly being totally ignored and the fact that we saw two vehicles in just three days loaded up with timber goes to show that this is a major activity in the area. This unchecked logging can only be detrimental to what is otherwise a very beautiful and rich area for it’s biodiversity. There was evidence and reports of elephant and buffalo in the area which adds to the value of the area.

Of interest was the lack of certain species that are commonly recorded in similar habitat in Arabuko-Sokoke Forest just to the south of where we were — such as Green Barbet, Little Yellow Flycatcher, Plain-backed Sunbird or Amani Sunbird. There are clearly some major differences in the habitat that preclude these species but that are not immediately obvious to the human eye and further investigation would be valuable.
### APPENDICES

#### I. Species lists for each site

**Marekebuni:** Greater Blue-eared Starling  
**Kaembeni:** Wahlberg's Eagle, African Hawk Eagle  
**Magarini:** Mottled Spinetail, Mouse-coloured Sunbird  
**Geis** (Klabiboni 1° Sch. & jctn with road to Adu): Zanzibar Red Bishop

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Site</th>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tr>
<td>Marafa River Brachystegia woodland [WP004]:</td>
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<tr>
<td>African Hawk Eagle (nesting)</td>
<td>Common Scimitarbill, Black-headed Oriole</td>
<td>Tropical Boubou</td>
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<tr>
<td>Madagascar Pratincole (8 overhead)</td>
<td>Crowned Hornbill, Black-headed Oriole</td>
<td>African Golden Oriole</td>
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<tr>
<td>Emerald-spotted Wood Dove</td>
<td>Zanzibar Sombre Greenbul</td>
<td>Collared Sunbird (nest w/ young)</td>
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<td>Fischer's Turaco</td>
<td>Common Bulbul</td>
<td>Lesser Masked Weaver</td>
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<tr>
<td>White-throated Bee-eater</td>
<td>Tawny-flanked Prinia</td>
<td>Peter's Twinspot (2)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lilac-breasted Roller</td>
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<td>Black-and-white Mannikin</td>
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**Just past Garashi-Baricho junction [WP007]:** at c.2:00 p.m. for 40 mins:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Site</th>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Madagascar Pratincole (5 overhead)</td>
<td>Yellow-bellied Greenbul</td>
<td>Violet-backed Starling (flock of c.30 with the other starlings)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Palm Swift</td>
<td>African Golden Oriole</td>
<td>Black-headed Oriole</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White-throated Bee-eater</td>
<td>Black-bellied Starling</td>
<td>Amethyst Sunbird</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black-collared Barbet</td>
<td></td>
<td>Black-headed Weaver</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**c.3 km east of Shakadulo (UTM 0600892/9662922) where DN saw Clarke’s Weaver in 1995; this site is 3.65km NNE of the Bore nyari visited on 12th August, c. 3:30p.m. for 30 mins:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Site</th>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>African Goshawk (1)</td>
<td>Retz’s Helmet-shrike (c.5-10)</td>
<td>Black-headed Oriole</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Palm Swift</td>
<td>Chestnut-fronted Helmet-shrike (flock of c.30)</td>
<td>Amethyst Sunbird</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Green Wood-hoopoe (3)</td>
<td>Black-backed Puffback</td>
<td>Black-headed Weaver</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crowned Hornbill</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greater Honeyguide</td>
<td>Common Drongo</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Sosoni [WP010]:** at 4:30 p.m. for 15 mins:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Site</th>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ring-necked Dove</td>
<td>Common Drongo</td>
<td>Greater Blue-eared Starling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Green Wood-hoopoe (nesting)</td>
<td>African Golden Oriole</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yellow-bellied Greenbul</td>
<td>Black-headed Oriole</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Jirikokole [WP014]**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Site</th>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jirikokole Campsite [WP015]</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Madagascar Pratincole</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ring-necked Dove</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>African Green Pigeon</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emerald-spotted Wood Dove</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Red-eyed Dove</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fischer’s Turaco</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yellowbill</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White-browed Coucal</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Narina Trogon</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>African Wood Owl</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>African Barred Owlet</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fiery-necked Nightjar</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White-throated Bee-eater</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Track towards Diririsa from Jirikokole [WP017]:** Brachystegia woodland;

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Site</th>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bateleur</td>
<td>Brown-breasted Barbet</td>
<td>Northern White-crowned Shrike (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coqui Fracolin</td>
<td>Scaly-throated Honeyguide</td>
<td>Black-crowned Tchagra</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emerald-spotted Wood Dove</td>
<td>Lesser Honeyguide</td>
<td>Grey-headed Bush-Shrike</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ring-necked Dove</td>
<td>Mombasa Woodpecker</td>
<td>African Golden Oriole</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brown-headed Parrot</td>
<td>Green-backed Woodpecker</td>
<td>Greater Blue-eared Starling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White-browed Coucal</td>
<td>Bearded Woodpecker</td>
<td>Collared Sunbird</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Striped Kingfisher (pair)</td>
<td>Grey-backed Camaroptera</td>
<td>Amethyst Sunbird</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Green Wood-hoopoe</td>
<td>White-crested Helmet-Shrike (c.6 birds of ssp. <em>vaccinigularis</em>)</td>
<td>White-headed Buffalo-Weaver</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Red-fronted Tinkerbird</td>
<td></td>
<td>Red-billed Buffalo-Weaver</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black-collared Barbet</td>
<td>Retz’s Helmet-Shrike</td>
<td>Yellow-fronted Canary</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
c.1 km Further along Diririsa track, Wooded bushland;
Flappet Lark (displaying)
Black-collared Barbet
Greater Blue-eared Starling

At logged tree [WP018], thin Brachystegia woodland;
Brown Snake Eagle  Brown-headed Parrot
Coqui Francolin  Lilac-breasted Roller

Diririsa / Kasikini [WP020]; mature Brachystegia woodland (photo **)
Ring-necked Dove  Wahlberg's Honeybird  Black Cuckoo-shrike (M & F)
Thick-billed Cuckoo  Mombasa Woodpecker  Common Drongo
African Palm Swift  Northern Crombec  African Golden Oriole
White-throated Bee-eater  Pale Batis  Black-headed Oriole
Common Scimitarbill  Retz's Helmet-Shrike  Black-bellied Starling
Crowned Hornbill  Northern White-crowned Shrike  Greater Blue-eared Starling
Black-collared Barbet  Black-crowned Tchagra  Collared Sunbird
Brown-breasted Barbet  Grey-headed Bush-Shrike  Red-billed Buffalo-Weaver
Scaly-throated Honeyguide  Black-backed Puffback

On Dakatcha road [UTM 0587243/9658331]
Violet-backed Starling

5 km from Baricho towards Garashi [UTM 0590941/9658883]
Black-shouldered Kite
Lizard Buzzard
Martial Eagle
White-throated Bee-eater

Bungle [WP026]
Fischer's Turaco

Bore [WP028]; thicket and dense wooded bushland, Cynometra forest on slope, some scattered Brachystegia,
Purple Heron (1)  African Palm Swift  Scaly Babbler
African Open-billed Stork  Brown-hooded Kingfisher  Red-capped Robin-Chat (many)
Eurasian Honey Buzzard (1)  Green Wood-hoopoe  Eastern Bearded Scrub Robin
African Goshawk  Crowned Hornbill  Tawny-flanked Prinia
Brown Snake Eagle (1)  Mombasa Woodpecker (in 'mixed forest')  Grey-backed Camaroptera
Wahlberg's Eagle  Lesser Striped Swallow  Black-headed Apalis
Crested Guineafowl  Sokoke Pipit - on the ground near base  African Paradise Flycatcher
Madagascar Pratincole  African Golden Oriole
Emerald-spotted Wood Dove  of slope to east of nyari.  Collared Sunbird
Red-eyed Dove  Zanzibar Sombre Greenbul  Olive Sunbird
Fischer's Turaco (3-4)  Northern Brownbul (in scrub near pools)  Green-backed Twinspot
White-browed Coucal  African Grey Hornbill (2)  Common Waxbill
African Wood Owl  Yellow-bellied Greenbul  [Also Spotted Hyena calling at 5:00 a.m.]
Fiery-necked Nightjar (3-4)  Eastern Nicator

Bore Nyari [WP030]; mixed thicket on plateau
White-throated Bee-eater  Fan-tailed Widowbird (in rank grass  Black-headed Apalis
Red-fronted Tinkerbird  at bottom of nyari)  Fiery-necked Nightjar (flushed from ground)
Greater Honeyguide  Flappet Lark

At WP033 & a 2nd spot c.500m further on Bore – Marafa road; first site a small strip of Brachystegia woodland
as the road leaves red soil; 2nd site — shambas and open bushed grassland

African Fish Eagle  Yellowbill  Siffling Cisticola
Emerald-spotted Wood Dove  African Grey Hornbill (2)  Black-headed Oriole
Ring-necked Dove  Red-fronted Tinkerbird

Baricho – Garashi junction:
Brown-headed Parrot

Marafa
Madagascar Pratincole (50+)
African Harrier Hawk
Along road from Marafa to junction with Geis [WP034]; open bushed grassland

- Emerald-spotted Wood Dove
- White-browed Coucal
- Flappet Lark
- African Pied Wagtail

Common Bulbul
- Pale Flycatcher
- Northern White-crowned Shrike
- Long-tailed Fiscal

Common Drongo
- Red-billed Buffalo-Weaver
- Red-cheeked Cordon-bleu

Ramada Primary School [WP035]; playing field

- Malindi Pipit – 1 singing
- Greater Blue-eared Starling

Adu (2 kms beyond): start of scattered Brachystegia woodland with some ‘mixed forest’ along water courses and bushland.

- Emerald-spotted Wood Dove
- White-throated Bee-eater
- Red-capped Robin Chat

Ramada Pool (4.2 km south east of Ramada Pri. Sch.); seasonal pool with water lilies

- Little Grebe
- White-faced Whistling Duck (80+)
- African Jacana
- Little Stint (2)

Wood Sandpiper (2)
- African Palm Swift
- Mangrove Kingfisher (1)

Malachite Kingfisher
- Grosbeak Weaver

II. Threatened, near-threatened and regional responsibility species mentioned in this Report.

- East Coast Akalat Sheppardia gunningi
- Spotted Ground Thrush Zoothera guttata
- Martial Eagle Polemaetus bellicosus
- Sokoke Scops Owl Otus ireneae
- Malindi Pipit Anthus melindae
- Sokoke Pipit Anthus sokokensis
- Amani Sunbird Anthreptes pallidigaster
- Clarke’s Weaver Ploceus golandi
- Purple Heron Ardea purpurea
- Southern Banded Snake Eagle CIRCAETUS fasciolatus
- Fischer’s Turaco TURACO fischeri
- Chestnut-fronted Helmet-Shrike PRIONOPS scopifrons
- Mombasa Woodpecker CAMPESTRA mombassica
- Zanzibar Red Bishop EUPLECTES nigriventris
- Madagascar Pratincole GLAROLA ocularis
- Brown Snake Eagle CIRCAETUS cinereus

Key:
- GEn — Globally Endangered
- GVu — Globally Vulnerable
- GNT — Globally Near Threatened
- GRR — Globally Restricted Range
- REn — Regionally Endangered
- RVu — Regionally Vulnerable
- RNT — Regionally Near Threatened
- RR — Regionally Responsible
### III. Grid references for waypoints given in report. **Note: Not all have lat/long references.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Waypoint</th>
<th>UTM / UPS readings:</th>
<th>Grid ref. (lat-long – degrees, mins, seconds):</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WP001</td>
<td>0619184 9663909</td>
<td>S 03° 08' 14.853&quot; E 040° 07' 21.140&quot;</td>
<td>Magarini Pri. Sch.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WP002</td>
<td>0624829 9652878</td>
<td>S 03° 00' 10.640&quot; E 040° 01' 13.776&quot;</td>
<td>near Sabaki</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WP003</td>
<td>0613503 9667758</td>
<td>S 03° 01' 33.958&quot; E 039° 57' 56.142&quot;</td>
<td>Geis – junction with road to Adu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WP004</td>
<td>0607399 9665205</td>
<td>S 03° 01' 47.150&quot; E 039° 58' 15.435&quot;</td>
<td>Af. Hawk Eagle’s nest, Marafa Brachystegia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WP005</td>
<td>0607995 9664799</td>
<td>S 03° 01' 47.150&quot; E 039° 58' 15.435&quot;</td>
<td>southern end of Brachystegia patch, Marafa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WP006</td>
<td>0617477 9665785</td>
<td>S 03° 02' 50.074&quot; E 039° 55' 52.201&quot;</td>
<td>Magarini Acacia thicket and bushland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WP007</td>
<td>0603571 9662871</td>
<td>S 03° 02' 50.074&quot; E 039° 55' 52.201&quot;</td>
<td>Mixed woodland on edge of Brachystegia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WP008</td>
<td>0600892 9662922</td>
<td>Clarke’s Weaver seen here in 1995 by DN</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WP009</td>
<td>0598105 9663838</td>
<td>S 03° 02' 18.747&quot; E 039° 52' 55.114&quot;</td>
<td>Shakadulo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WP010</td>
<td>0591305 9665201</td>
<td>S 03° 01' 34.499&quot; E 039° 49' 14.809&quot;</td>
<td>Sosoni</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WP011</td>
<td>0588488 9663639</td>
<td>S 03° 02' 25.468&quot; E 039° 47' 43.600&quot;</td>
<td>Junction for Marafa-Baricho road with Dakatcha</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WP012</td>
<td>0588185 9667057</td>
<td>S 03° 00' 34.144&quot; E 039° 47' 33.694&quot;</td>
<td>Track heading east from Dakatcha road</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WP013</td>
<td>0585946 9671469</td>
<td>S 02° 58' 10.508&quot; E 039° 46' 21.063&quot;</td>
<td>Start of Brachystegia woodland beyond Dakatcha</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WP014</td>
<td>0587604 9673350</td>
<td>S 02° 57' 09.206&quot; E 039° 47' 14.730&quot;</td>
<td>End of Dakatcha driveable road</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WP015</td>
<td>0587819 9673577</td>
<td>S 02° 57' 1.5&quot; E 039° 47' 21.7&quot;</td>
<td>Campsite at Jirikokole</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WP016</td>
<td>0586746 9672689</td>
<td>S 02° 57' 30.741&quot; E 039° 46' 46.941&quot;</td>
<td>Where Diririsa track turns off left from Dakatcha Rd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WP017</td>
<td>0585678 9674267</td>
<td>S 02° 56' 39.385&quot; E 039° 46' 12.334&quot;</td>
<td>Stop for birding in Brachystegia woodland (c.f. list)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WP018</td>
<td>0585124 9675145</td>
<td>S 02° 56' 10.782&quot; E 039° 45' 54.375&quot;</td>
<td>Pit sawing of Brachystegia tree; photo'd with DN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WP019</td>
<td>0585410 9675236</td>
<td>S 02° 56' 07.808&quot; E 039° 46' 03.606&quot;</td>
<td>2nd pit sawing site; photo with CJ’s cap</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WP020</td>
<td>0585555 9676298</td>
<td>S 02° 55' 33.236&quot; E 039° 46' 08.298&quot;</td>
<td>Birding site in Brachystegia; c.f. list &amp; fig 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WP021</td>
<td>0585332 9677400</td>
<td>S 02° 54' 57.351&quot; E 039° 46' 01.037&quot;</td>
<td>Furthest point reached going north</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WP022</td>
<td>0585866 9670619</td>
<td>S 02° 58' 38.184&quot; E 039° 46' 19.151&quot;</td>
<td>Mungrungu Primary School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WP023</td>
<td>0588294 9666458</td>
<td>S 03° 00' 53.650&quot; E 039° 47' 37.247&quot;</td>
<td>Dakatcha Primary School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WP024</td>
<td>0587165 9669364</td>
<td>S 03° 06' 02.882&quot; E 039° 47' 00.883&quot;</td>
<td>Baricho Chief’s office</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WP025</td>
<td>0595663 9657244</td>
<td>S 03° 05' 53.592&quot; E 039° 50' 31.398&quot;</td>
<td>path to south leading to ‘Lake Lukole’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WP026</td>
<td>0594605 9655506</td>
<td>S 03° 06' 47.246&quot; E 039° 51' 01.948&quot;</td>
<td>Bungale centre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WP027</td>
<td>0599106 9653839</td>
<td>S 03° 07' 44.357&quot; E 039° 53' 27.809&quot;</td>
<td>Garashi centre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WP028</td>
<td>0599049 9658610</td>
<td>S 03° 05' 08.862&quot; E 039° 55' 17.556&quot;</td>
<td>Campsite at Bore</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WP029</td>
<td>0602098 9658927</td>
<td>S 03° 04' 58.567&quot; E 039° 55' 02.687&quot;</td>
<td>Point where path up hill reaches top, Bore.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WP030</td>
<td>0601004 9659093</td>
<td>S 03° 04' 53.160&quot; E 039° 54' 55.077&quot;</td>
<td>Bore Nyari – south eastern point (c.f. photo)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WP031</td>
<td>0601948 9658909</td>
<td>S 03° 04' 56.211&quot; E 039° 54' 59.732&quot;</td>
<td>Junction in paths where 2nd path descends to pool</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WP032</td>
<td>0601669 9658751</td>
<td>S 03° 05' 04.304&quot; E 039° 54' 50.694&quot;</td>
<td>Pool near base of Bore Nyari</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WP033</td>
<td>0603625 9661726</td>
<td>S 02° 57' 31.147&quot; E 040° 00' 42.781&quot;</td>
<td>On Garashi-Marafa rd, where some Bra. woods</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WP034</td>
<td>0612551 9672656</td>
<td>S 02° 57' 1.5&quot; E 039° 47' 21.7&quot;</td>
<td>Junction with road from Geis leading to Adu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WP035</td>
<td>0613471 9680352</td>
<td>S 02° 53' 20.456&quot; E 040° 01' 18.064&quot;</td>
<td>Ramada Primary School – Malindi Pipt site</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WP036</td>
<td>0609001 9685833</td>
<td>S 02° 50' 22.513&quot; E 039° 58' 47.435&quot;</td>
<td>Adu centre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WP037</td>
<td>0607973 9687510</td>
<td>S 02° 49' 27.513&quot; E 039° 58' 14.103&quot;</td>
<td>Furthest point north reached from Adu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WP038</td>
<td>0617334 9678359</td>
<td>S 02° 54' 25.272&quot; E 040° 03' 17.544&quot;</td>
<td>&quot;Ramada Pool&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WP039</td>
<td>0626297 9674920</td>
<td>S 02° 56' 16.963&quot; E 040° 08' 07.932&quot;</td>
<td>Fundisa — junction of Adu rd with Malindi-Garissa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WP040</td>
<td>0604565 9663139</td>
<td>S 03° 02' 41.3&quot; E 039° 56' 24.4&quot;</td>
<td>Junction for Baricho-Garashi</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

_Colin Jackson,_  
_A Rocha Kenya,_  
_PO Box 383,_  
_Watamu_  

_November 2000_