

**Reconnaissance of Dakatcha Woodlands for Clarke's
Weaver *Ploceus golandii*,
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 bulliensis* 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 its 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 fasciolatus*, 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 its 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.

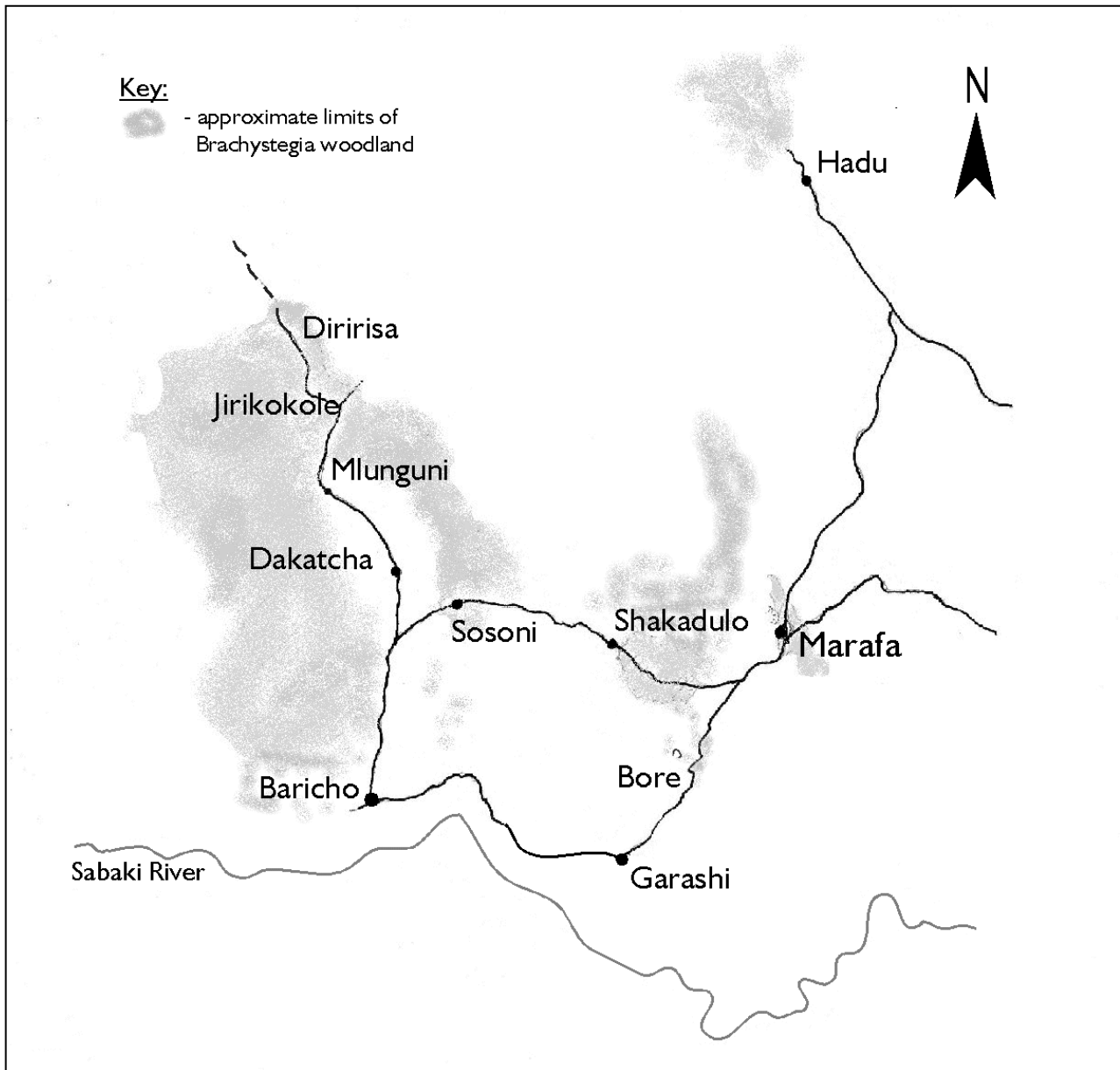
Route followed

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 on the edge of some mature Brachystegia woodland on the old road heading north towards Alango Shira which was the route that Tom Butynski and DN followed in 1995 but which is now totally overgrown and impassable north from 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 or Dererisa but marked on the 1:100,000 map used as 'Kasikini'. From there we back-tracked past Dakatcha to the Marafa-Baricho road we had turned off and took a right leading to Baricho itself. From Baricho we followed the 'road' heading almost due east 17km to Garashi. This road is in extremely poor condition particularly the first 10kms or so and only just passable in a small 4WD (probably less possible in a large one in fact). The main road leads north-east from Garashi towards Marafa but we stopped for the night at Bore at the base of a slope that has an impressive *nyari* in it – c.f. below.

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.

MAP of Area Surveyed



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.

Observations of note:

Marafa River Brachystegia woodland [WP004]:

African Hawk Eagle (nesting)

Crowned Hornbill

Peter's Twinspot (2)

Madagascar Pratincole (8 overhead)

Scaly Babbler

Fischer's Turaco

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 it 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.

MARAFI 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 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 Wakala 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:

Jirikokole, edge of *Brachystegia* woodland with wooded bushland [WP015]; dawn to 8:30a.m.:

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	
Fiery-necked Nightjar	two occasions	

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

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

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 gullyng. 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 gullyng. 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 gullyng; 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 bulliensis* 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:

Eurasian Honey Buzzard (1)
Madagascar Pratincole
Fischer's Turaco (4-5)

Sokoke Pipit (on ground in mixed
forest-type near bottom of
escarpment)

Scaly Babbler
Black-headed Apalis

Human impact — there was plenty of evidence of old logging activity of *Brachylaena bulliensis* 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 its 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 [WP006]

Geis, (Kabiboni 1° Sch. & jctn with road to Adu): [WP003] Zanzibar Red Bishop

Marafa River Brachystegia woodland [WP004]:

African Hawk Eagle (nesting)	Common Scimitarbill,	Tropical Boubou
Madagascar Pratincole (8 overhead)	Crowned Hornbill	Black-headed Oriole
Emerald-spotted Wood Dove	Zanzibar Sombre Greenbul	Collared Sunbird (nest w/ young)
Fischer's Turaco	Common Bulbul	Lesser Masked Weaver
White-throated Bee-eater	Scaly Babbler	Peter's Twinspot (2)
Lilac-breasted Roller	Tawny-flanked Prinia	Black-and-white Mannikin

Just past Garashi-Baricho junction [WP007]; at c.2:00 p.m. for 40 mins:

Madagascar Pratincole (5 overhead)	Yellow-bellied Greenbul	Violet-backed Starling (flock of c.30 with the other starlings)
Palm Swift	African Golden Oriole	
White-throated Bee-eater	Black-bellied Starling	
Black-collared Barbet	Greater Blue-eared Starling	

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:

African Goshawk (1)	Retz's Helmet-shrike (c.5-10)	Black-headed Oriole
Palm Swift	Chestnut-fronted Helmet-shrike (flock of c.30)	Amethyst Sunbird
Green Wood-hoopoe (3)	Black-backed Puffback	Black-headed Weaver
Crowned Hornbill	Common Drongo	
Greater Honeyguide		

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

Ring-necked Dove	Common Drongo	Greater Blue-eared Starling
Green Wood-hoopoe (nesting)	African Golden Oriole	
Yellow-bellied Greenbul	Black-headed Oriole	

Jirikokole [WP014]

Martial Eagle – single bird overhead

Jirikokole Campsite [WP015]

Madagascar Pratincole	Green Wood-hoopoe	Pale Flycatcher
Ring-necked Dove	Common Scimitarbill	Eastern Bearded Scrub Robin
African Green Pigeon	Von der Decken's Hornbill	Siffling Cisticola
Emerald-spotted Wood Dove	Crowned Hornbill	African Paradise Flycatcher
Red-eyed Dove	Trumpeter Hornbill	Retz's Helmet-shrike
Fischer's Turaco	Black-collared Barbet	Black Cuckoo-shrike
Yellowbill	Red-fronted Tinkerbird	Tropical Boubou
White-browed Coucal	Mombasa Woodpecker	Black-headed Oriole
Narina Trogon	Sokoke Pipit	Black-bellied Starling
African Wood Owl	Zanzibar Sombre Greenbul	Violet-backed Starling
African Barred Owlet	Northern Brownbul	Mouse-coloured Sunbird
Fiery-necked Nightjar	Yellow-bellied Greenbul	Collared Sunbird
White-throated Bee-eater	Eastern Nicator	Black-headed Weaver

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

Bateleur	Brown-breasted Barbet	Northern White-crowned Shrike (3)
Coqui Francolin	Scaly-throated Honeyguide	Black-crowned Tchagra
Emerald-spotted Wood Dove	Lesser Honeyguide	Grey-headed Bush-Shrike
Ring-necked Dove	Mombasa Woodpecker	African Golden Oriole
Brown-headed Parrot	Green-backed Woodpecker	Greater Blue-eared Starling
White-browed Coucal	Bearded Woodpecker	Collared Sunbird
Striped Kingfisher (pair)	Grey-backed Camaroptera	Amethyst Sunbird
Green Wood-hoopoe	White-crested Helmet-Shrike (c. 6 birds of ssp. <i>vinaceularis</i>)	White-headed Buffalo-Weaver
Red-fronted Tinkerbird	Retz's Helmet-Shrike	Red-billed Buffalo-Weaver
Black-collared Barbet		Yellow-fronted Canary

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

Bungale [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 of slope to east of nyari.	African Paradise Flycatcher
Madagascar Pratincole	Zanzibar Sombre Greenbul	African Golden Oriole
Emerald-spotted Wood Dove	Northern Brownbul (in scrub near pools)	Collared Sunbird
Red-eyed Dove	Yellow-bellied Greenbul	Olive Sunbird
Fischer's Turaco (3-4)	Eastern Nicator	Green-backed Twinspot
White-browed Coucal		Common Waxbill
African Wood Owl		[Also Spotted Hyena calling at 5:00 a.m.]
Fiery-necked Nightjar (3-4)		

Bore Nyari [WP030]; mixed thicket on plateau

White-throated Bee-eater	Fan-tailed Widowbird (in rank grass at bottom of nyari)	Black-headed Apalis
Red-fronted Tinkerbird	Flappet Lark	Fiery-necked Nightjar (flushed from ground)

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	Common Bulbul	Common Drongo
White-browed Coucal	Pale Flycatcher	Red-billed Buffalo-Weaver
Flappet Lark	Northern White-crowned Shrike	Red-cheeked Cordon-bleu
African Pied Wagtail	Long-tailed Fiscal	

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	Wood Sandpiper (2)	Malachite Kingfisher
White-faced Whistling Duck (80+)	Common Sandpiper (1)	Grosbeak Weaver
African Jacana	African Palm Swift	
Little Stint (2)	Mangrove Kingfisher (1)	

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

East Coast Akalat <i>Sheppardia gunningi</i>	GVu, REn
Spotted Ground Thrush <i>Zootbera guttata</i>	GEN, REn
Martial Eagle <i>Polemaetus bellicosus</i>	RVu
Sokoke Scops Owl <i>Otus ireneae</i>	GVu, GRR, RVu, RR
Malindi Pipit <i>Anthus melindae</i>	GNT, RVu
Sokoke Pipit <i>Anthus sokokensis</i>	GVu, GRR, RVu, RR
Amani Sunbird <i>Anthreptes pallidigaster</i>	GVu, GRR, RVu, RR
Clarke's Weaver <i>Ploceus golandi</i>	GVu, GRR, RVu, RR
Purple Heron <i>Ardea purpurea</i>	RNT
Southern Banded Snake Eagle <i>Circaetus fasciolatus</i>	GNT, RNT
Fischer's Turaco <i>Tauraco fischeri</i>	GNT, GRR, RNT, RR
Chestnut-fronted Helmet-Shrike <i>Prionops scopifrons</i>	RNT
Mombasa Woodpecker <i>Campethera mombassica</i>	GRR, RR
Zanzibar Red Bishop <i>Euplectes nigroventris</i>	RR
Madagascar Pratincole <i>Glareola ocularis</i>	RR
Brown Snake Eagle <i>Circaetus cinereus</i>	RNT

Key:

GEN — Globally Endangered	REn — Regionally Endangered
GVu — Globally Vulnerable,	RVu — Regionally Vulnerable
GNT — Globally Near Threatened	RNT — Regionally Near Threatened
GRR — Globally Restricted Range	RR — Regionally Responsible

III. Grid references for waypoints given in report. *Note: Not all have lat/long references.*

Waypoint	UTM / UPS readings:		Grid ref. (lat/long – degrees, mins, seconds):		Details
	Easting	Northing	Latitude	Longitude	
WP001	0619184	9663909			Magarini Pri. Sch.
WP002	0624829	9652878	S 03° 08' 14.853"	E 040° 07' 21.140"	pool near Sabaki
WP003	0613503	9667758	S 03° 00' 10.640"	E 040° 01' 13.776"	Geis – junction with road to Adu
WP004	0607399	9665205	S 03° 01' 33.958"	E 039° 57' 56.142"	Af. Hawk Eagle' s nest, Marafa Brachystegia
WP005	0607995	9664799	S 03° 01' 47.150"	E 039° 58' 15.435"	southern end of Brachystegia patch, Marafa
WP006	0617477	9665785			Magarini Acacia thicket and bushland
WP007	0603571	9662871	S 03° 02' 50.074"	E 039° 55' 52.201"	Mixed woodland on edge of Brachystegia
WP008	0600892	9662922			Clarke' s Weaver seen here in 1995 by DN
WP009	0598105	9663838	S 03° 02' 18.747"	E 039° 52' 55.114"	Shakadulo
WP010	0591305	9665201	S 03° 01' 34.499"	E 039° 49' 14.809"	Sosoni
WP011	0588488	9663639	S 03° 02' 25.468"	E 039° 47' 43.600"	Junction for Marafa-Baricho road with Dakatcha
WP012	0588185	9667057	S 03° 00' 34.144"	E 039° 47' 33.694"	Track heading east from Dakatcha road
WP013	0585946	9671469	S 02° 58' 10.508"	E 039° 46' 21.063"	Start of Brachystegia woodland beyond Dakatcha
WP014	0587604	9673350	S 02° 57' 09.206"	E 039° 47' 14.730"	End of Dakatcha driveable road
WP015	0587819	9673577	S 02° 57' 1.8"	E 039° 47' 21.7"	Campsite at Jirikokole
WP016	0586746	9672689	S 02° 57' 30.741"	E 039° 46' 46.941"	Where Diririsa track turns off left from Dakatcha Rd
WP017	0585678	9674267	S 02° 56' 39.385"	E 039° 46' 12.334"	Stop for birding in Brachystegia woodland (c.f. list)
WP018	0585124	9675145	S 02° 56' 10.782"	E 039° 45' 54.375"	Pit sawing of Brachystegia tree; photo' d with DN
WP019	0585410	9675236	S 02° 56' 07.808"	E 039° 46' 03.606"	2 nd pit sawing site; photo with CJ' s cap
WP020	0585555	9676298	S 02° 55' 33.236"	E 039° 46' 08.298"	Birding site in Brachystegia; c.f. list & fig 2
WP021	0585332	9677400	S 02° 54' 57.351"	E 039° 46' 01.037"	Furthest point reached going north
WP022	0585886	9670619	S 02° 58' 38.184"	E 039° 46' 19.151"	Mlunguni Primary School
WP023	0588294	9666458	S 03° 00' 53.650"	E 039° 47' 37.247"	Dakatcha Primary School
WP024	0587165	9656964	S 03° 06' 02.882"	E 039° 47' 00.883"	Baricho Chief's office
WP025	0593663	9657244	S 03° 05' 53.592"	E 039° 50' 31.398"	path to south leading to ' Lake Lukole'
WP026	0594605	9655596	S 03° 06' 47.246"	E 039° 51' 01.948"	Bungale centre
WP027	0599106	9653839	S 03° 07' 44.357"	E 039° 53' 27.809"	Garashi centre
WP028	0602498	9658610	S 03° 05' 08.862"	E 039° 55' 17.556"	Campsite at Bore
WP029	0602039	9658927	S 03° 04' 58.567"	E 039° 55' 02.687"	Point where path up hill reaches top, Bore.
WP030	0601804	9659093	S 03° 04' 53.160"	E 039° 54' 55.077"	Bore Nyari – south-eastern point (c.f. photo)
WP031	0601948	9658999	S 03° 04' 56.211"	E 039° 54' 59.732"	Junction in paths where 2 nd path descends to pool
WP032	0601669	9658751	S 03° 05' 04.304"	E 039° 54' 50.694"	Pool near base of Bore Nyari
WP033	0603625	9661726			On Garashi-Marafa rd, where some Bra. wdlnD
WP034	0612551	9672656	S 02° 57' 31.147"	E 040° 00' 42.781"	Junction with road from Geis leading to Adu
WP035	0613647	9680352	S 02° 53' 20.456"	E 040° 01' 18.064"	Ramada Primary School – Malindi Pipit site
WP036	0609001	9685833	S 02° 50' 22.513"	E 039° 58' 47.435"	Adu centre
WP037	0607973	9687510	S 02° 49' 27.513"	E 039° 58' 14.103"	Furthest point north reached from Adu
WP038	0617334	9678359	S 02° 54' 25.272"	E 040° 03' 17.544"	"Ramada Pool"
WP039	0626297	9674920	S 02° 56' 16.963"	E 040° 08' 07.932"	Fundisa — junction of Adu rd with Malindi-Garissa
WP040	0604565	9663139	S 03° 02' 41.3"	E 039° 56' 24.4"	Junction for Baricho-Garashi

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