

## NICKSON OTIENO CV

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### PERSONAL DETAILS

**Name:** NICKSON ERICK OTIENO **Sex:** MALE **Nationality:** KENYAN **Mailing Address:** P.O. Box 40658 Nairobi 00100 KENYA Tel. +254 20 3742161/242 Cell. +254 726 797 884  
**E-mail:** neotieno@yahoo.com

### EDUCATION

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**2007:** Master of Science, Conservation Biology, University of Nairobi, Kenya

**1998:** Bachelor of Science in Wildlife Management (2nd Class, Upper Div), Moi University, Kenya

### Other professional training

**2008, March:** Biological Information Management Systems, (Global Biodiversity Information Foundation) Athi River, Kenya.

**2007:** Ecological data analysis techniques (University of Mainz, Germany)

**2007, June-July:** Course in Ethno-ecology and Community-based Conservation, Port Elizabeth, South Africa.

**2002, April:** Intensive course on design, techniques, set-up and execution of interactive public exhibitions (Johannesburg, S. Africa)

**2001:** Certificate, Tropical Forest Research: birds. (Earthwatch Institute).

**2000:** Certificate, Tropical Ecology (Tropical Biology Association, Naivasha Kenya)

### Computer literacy

Microsoft office XP Pro (Microsoft Word; Microsoft Excel; Microsoft Powerpoint); Windows XP Professional; Introduction to the use of GIS for ecological research; Use of statistical softwares (*Statistica*, *JMP* and *Distance*); Proficiency in Database management using *Ms Access* and *SPECIFY*

**Languages:** English, Luo, Kiswahili (Proficient in all three)

### RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

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#### Current:

- Documentation of plants of medicinal importance in and around Kakamega forest, Kenya (The Conservation Foundation)
- Does illegal logging affect density of the endangered Turner's Eremorela in South Nandi Forest?: (funding: The British Ornithologists Union)

**2007/2008:** Influence of human activities on density and distribution of birds around Sabaki River estuary, Kenya (funding: Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association)

**October 2006-April 2007:** The role of farm structure on density and diversity of bird communities around Kakamega forest, Kenya (funding: Biota East African and KAAD, Germany).

**July-October 2006:** Population and distribution of the endangered Taita Thrush *Turdus helleri* in the Taita Hills forest (funding: Royal Society for Protection of Birds, UK).

**February-June 2005:** The role of the invasive Cactus *Opuntia vulgaris* on invertebrate distribution in Kruger National Park, South Africa (funding: NSF Centre of Excel. for Invasion Biology, Univ of Pretoria)

**August-September:** Effect of logging on population of Abbott's Starling in the Kikuyu Escarpment Forest, Kenya (funding: African Bird Club).

**February 2002-February 2003:** Aquatic biodiversity and saline lakes: production of benthic invertebrates and some aquatic bird species in Lake Bogoria, Kenya (funding: Earthwatch Rift Valley Lakes project)

## **JOB/WORK EXPERIENCE**

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### **Currently:**

- Research Scientist and Database manager (National Museums of Kenya, Ornithology Section)
- Co-coordinator of specimen collection data management project for Zoology Department, NMK (since 2008)
- Co-coordinator on the NMK-African Conservation Centre bio-informatics project on biological collections species of significance for climate change modeling

**April 2004-June 2008:** Research Fellow (National Museums of Kenya, Ornithology).

**January 2002 to March 2003:** Important Bird Area Research Fellow (Nature Kenya and Dept. of Ornithology, National Museums of Kenya).

**April 2000-December 2001:** Conservation Education Officer, largely voluntary (Elsamere Field Study Centre, Naivasha, Kenya).

**August 1998-April 2000:** Volunteer high school teacher (Hawinga High School, Kenya)

## **AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS**

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**July 2001:** Fellowship, Tropical Ecology and Conservation field course, Naivasha Kenya. (funding: Tropical Biology Association)

**April 2002:** Use of animation tools in interactive exhibition – an intensive training course in Johannesburg, South Africa. (funding: The French Cultural Centre, Nairobi)

**September 2001:** Field study on habitat fragmentation and avian ecology in Usambara, Tanzania. (funding: Earthwatch Institute, Europe).

**May 2005:** Scholarship award to undertake an MSc in Conservation Biology at the University of Nairobi, Kenya. (funding: The Catholic Academic Exchange Service, KAAD, Germany)

**June 25th-29th 2007:** Fellowship for short course in Ethno-ecology and Community-based Conservation, Port Elizabeth, South Africa. (funding: The Global Diversity Foundation).

## **INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS**

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**August 2009:** Anthropogenic activities affecting distribution of birds in the Sabaki River estuary, Kenya (6th Symposium of Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association, La Reunion Island)

**May 2009:** Variation in bird density with farmland tree density, available hedge and proximity to a tropical rainforest (2nd conference of Ecological Society for Eastern Africa ESEA, Kampala Uganda)

**July 2008:** farm structure as a function of density and diversity of birds around a tropical rainforest in Kenya (the 22nd annual meeting of the Society for Conservation Biology, Chattanooga, Tennessee, USA). Funded by SCB.

- July 2007:** The role of constructed wetlands as a refuge for waterfowl: the case of sewage ponds (the 21st Annual Meeting of the Society for Conservation Biology, SCB at the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University, South Africa). Funded by SCB.
- March 2006:** Use and non-use values of the Yala Swamp to the local community (the 20th Annual Meeting of the Society for Conservation Biology, University of San Jose, USA). Funded by SCB.
- November 2004:** Population status and distribution of Abbott' Starling (*Pholia femoralis* in the Kikuyu Escarpment forest, Kenya (the 11th Pan African Ornithological Congress in Djerba, Tunisia). Funded by BirdLife International Africa Partnership.

## CONSULTANCIES AND OTHER ACHIEVEMENTS

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- January-March 2010: Co-reviewer for paper abstracts** for presentation at the 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Society for Conservation Biology in Edmonton, Canada, July 2010.
- September/October 2009:** Trans-boundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA) on coastal bird conservation for the Marine Ecosystem Diagnostic Analysis (MEDA) component of the Aghullas and Somali Currents Large Marine Ecosystems project (ASCLME).
- April-May 2009:** Baseline review of status of taxonomic and associated information about pollinators towards mobilizing support for human well being and ecosystem health in Eastern Africa (UVIMA project of BIONET East Africa).
- November 2007:** Design of a bird-watching trail at the Paradise Lost coffee farm in Kiambu, Kenya (Paradise Lost Farm management).
- August 2005:** Formulation of a pioneer modality for annual national reporting on the status of Kenya's birds and their habitats.
- February-March 2003:** Organization, set-up and execution of an interactive public exhibition highlighting genesis and of climate change and ozone layer depletion including propositions for mitigation and adaptations (The French Cultural and Co-operation Centre, Nairobi Kenya).

## PUBLICATIONS

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- Otieno, E. N., Gichuki, N and Kiboi, S. (2008).** Factors affecting diversity and abundance of birds on farmland around Kakamega forest Kenya. MSc. Thesis. University of Nairobi, Kenya.
- Otieno, E.N., Muchai, S.M. and Karimi, S. (2007).** Effect of logging on the population status of Abbott's Starling *Pholia femoralis* in the Kikuyu Escarpment forest, Kenya. *Ostrich* **78(2)**: 299-305.
- Mulwa, R. K., Musina, J., **Otieno N.**, Musila, S. N, Mwangi, S. N., Kiragu A. M. Omolo D., (2007). Monitoring of threatened bird species and their habitats by local communities. The case of Kinangop grasslands IBA, Kenya. *Ostrich* **78(2)**: 160
- Otieno, E. N. (2004).** The Yala Swamp: Use values and conservation issues. *Nature East Africa*. **34(1)**:7-12.
- Otieno, E. N., Bennun, L. A., Ng'weno, F., Matiku, P. Mwangi, S. N., Musila, S. N. and Mulwa, R. N. (2004).** Kenya's Important Bird Areas: Status and trends 2004. Nature Kenya – The East Africa Natural History Society. Nairobi.
- Harper, D. M., Childress, R. B., Harper, M. M, Boar, R. R., Hickley, P. C. M, **Otieno, N.**, Drane, T., Ekkehard, V., Nasirwa, O., Wanjiru, E. M., Darlington, J. P. E. C. & Escut'e-Gasulla, X.

2003. Aquatic biodiversity and saline lakes: Lake Bogoria National Reserve, Kenya. *Hydrobiologia*. **500**: 259-276.

**Otieno, E. N. and Gatimu, L. (1998)**. Effect of water quality on dispersal of waterfowl around sewage ponds. BSc desertation, Moi University, Kenya.

#### ***Under-review***

**Otieno, N. E., Oyieke, H. and Kochei J.** Influence of anthropogenic activities and habitat structure on density and distribution of birds around Sabaki River estuary, Kenya. *WIOMSA Journal of Marine Science*

**Otieno, N. E., Gichuki, N. and Kiboi, S.** The role of farm structure on bird assemblages around a Kenyan tropical rainforest. *African Journal of Ecology*

#### **PROFESSIONAL CLUBS/SOCIETIES MEMBERSHIP**

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The Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association (WIOMSA); Kenya national task team on Trans-boundary Diagnostic Analysis for MEDA project of ASCLME; Ecological Society for Eastern Africa (ESEA); Society for Conservation Biology (SCB); The British Ecological Society (BES); Tropical Biology Association (TBA) Alumni Network; Alumni: Earthwatch African Fellowships Programme

#### **HOBBIES**

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Travelling and back-packing; Reading novels and other popular literature; Listening to music; Dancing; African theatre

#### **REFEREES**

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**Dr. Nicholas Oguge**, Director, Earth Earthwatch Institute Kenya P.O. Box 47840 Nairobi, Kenya.

**Dr. Samuel Muchai**: Head, Zoology Department, National Museums of Kenya. P. O. Box 40658 Nairobi. Email: mmuchai@yahoo.com

**Prof. Nina Farwig**, Biologie, Philips-Universitat Marburg, Karl-von-Frisch-Straße 8, D-35043 Marburg, Germany. farwig[[@](mailto:farwig@staff.uni-marburg.de)]staff.uni-marburg.de

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**LIST OF PUBLICATIONS**

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- Otieno, E. N., Gichuki, N and Kiboi, S. (2008).** Factors affecting diversity and abundance of birds on farmland around Kakamega forest Kenya. MSc. Thesis. University of Nairobi, Kenya.
- Otieno, E.N., Muchai, S.M. and Karimi, S. (2007).** Effect of logging on the population status of Abbott's Starling *Pholia femoralis* in the Kikuyu Escarpment forest, Kenya. *Ostrich* **78(2)**: 299-305.
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- Harper, D. M., Childress, R. B., Harper, M. M, Boar, R. R., Hickley, P. C. M, **Otieno, N.**, Drane, T., Ekkehard, V., Nasirwa, O., Wanjiru, E. M., Darlington, J. P. E. C. & Escut`e-Gasulla, X. 2003. Aquatic biodiversity and saline lakes: Lake Bogoria National Reserve, Kenya. *Hydrobiologia*. **500**: 259-276.
- Otieno, E. N. and Gatimu, L. (1998).** Effect of water quality on dispersal of waterfowl around sewage ponds. BSc desertation, Moi University, Kenya.