

SHARPE'S LONGCLAW AND AFRICAN PEOPLE: CONSERVATION THROUGH CO-EXISTENCE IN KINANGOP GRASSLANDS, KENYA

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FINAL REPORT- PROJECT NO 11226
Sharpe's Longclaw and African People: Conservation Through Co-Existence in Kinangop Grasslands, Kenya

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The Aim of this Project was to strengthen the capacity of local residents to directly contribute to the conservation of Sharpe's Longclaw and its Grassland Habitat in Kinangop.

Project Timeline: 01 October 2023 – 30th September 2025

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A picture of the team members in one of the grasslands at North Kinangop, February 2024

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We gladly thank the residents, and most particularly the land owners of Kinangop Plateau who has remained committed to hosting and supporting the proposed interventions benefiting them and the biodiversity in their privately owned grasslands.

SUMMARY

This 2-year project was implemented from October 2023 to September, 2025 in the Kinangop Grasslands, an Important Bird Area linking the Aberdare Mountains and Lake Naivasha, Kenya. The plateau hosts the Sharpe's Longclaw (Endangered) and other key bird species such as the Grey-crowned Crane (Endangered) and the Aberdare Cisticola (Vulnerable), among nearly 200 bird species. With less than 5% of suitable grassland remaining, the major habitat threat is land-use change driven by conversion to cropland and settlements. The project sought to expand and improve grassland habitats by promoting traditional open livestock grazing, developing and operationalizing a Sharpe's Longclaw Conservation Action Plan, and enhancing community participation in sustainable grassland management. Achievements included establishing a participatory community-based Action Plan for the Sharpe's Longclaw, creating 12 sheep demonstration farms to promote sustainable grazing, and strengthening grassland and bird monitoring in 2024–2025. Additionally, 13,600 residents were trained and engaged on bird and grassland conservation. Overall, the project directly contributed to conserving 1,930 acres of grasslands while strengthening community stewardship and the long-term protection of Kinangop's unique birdlife and ecosystems.

PROJECT MEMBERS



Martin Mwangi (Team Leader)

Martin is a Conservation Scientist with a Bachelor's Degree in Community Development and Environmental Awareness. He has led many conservation and research projects volunteering for many years to conserve grasslands and threatened grassland bird therein.



John Gitogo, is a self-trained bird observer and researcher. He holds a Diploma in Technology; Environmental Resource Management. He currently leads Biodiversity Monitoring at FOKP and has worked in numerous conservation and research projects

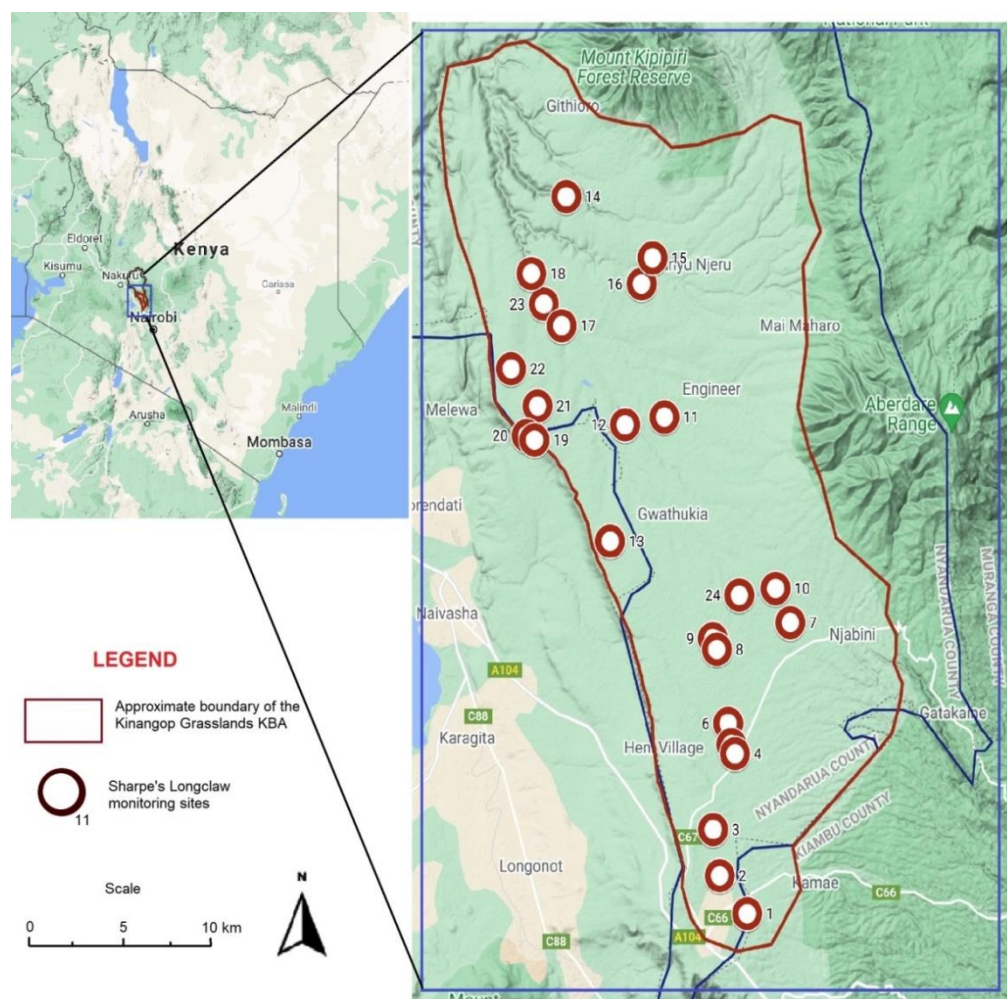


Monica Wanjeri, is livestock production specialist with a Bachelor's Degree in Livestock Production. She has experience in extension services and educating communities on sustainable agricultural practices. Besides that, she is passionate about birds and nature.

The trial was part of the team that successfully implemented the first level grant by Conservation Leadership Program, Future Conservationist Award that was completed in 2022.

1.0 BACKGROUND

Kinangop Highland Grasslands are internationally recognized Important Bird Area (IBA) and Key Biodiversity Area (KBA) in Kenya. They are home to specialized highland grassland species including Sharpe's Longclaw (Endangered), Grey Crowned Crane (Endangered), Aberdare Cisticola (Vulnerable), Jackson's and Long-tailed Widowbird (Range restricted) among a list of close to 200 other bird species. Despite their ecological importance, the highland grasslands are almost entirely in privately owned land and are thus not protected. These unique grasslands have seen a sharp decline in extent and quality over the last 30 years. Now, it is estimated that only less than 5% of the original 77,000 hectares of grasslands is remaining and may be suitable habitat for Sharpe's Longclaw. Change of land use from the traditional livestock grazing to crop cultivation, exotic tree plantations, weed invasion and overgrowing of tussock have been identified as the main serious threats, besides land fragmentation as human population increases.



Map of Kinangop Plateau with pre-identified grasslands (birds monitoring sites)

Parallel to the decline of grasslands are disproportionately higher declines of biodiversity and birds' populations including Sharpe's Longclaw. This decline of natural grasslands is also subjecting the local community to increased vulnerability to climate change.

Residents of Kinangop practice small scale intense agriculture most of which is not compatible with conservation of suitable quality and extent of grasslands for grassland specialist birds that prefer large plots with tussock and short grass; threatening the grassland habitat, reducing productivity as well as increasing community vulnerability to climate change. Strengthening open sheep value chain in this location is vital for grassland conservation. Practices for open sheep rearing is easily adoptable by neighboring areas in Kenya and thus a strong grassland conservation tool. The project design was informed by the fact that these grasslands are privately owned and there is limited capacity by the grassland owners and farmers to participate in conserving the grasslands and biodiversity in it. The grasslands and their threatened biodiversity have received limited conservation, monitoring and research efforts besides once from Friends of Kinangop Plateau, a community based conservation organization.

1.1 Aim and Objectives

The aim of the project was to strengthen the capacity of local residents to directly contribute to the conservation of Sharpe's Longclaw. This was delivered through the following specific objectives:

1. Develop and operationalize a consultative community-based Sharpe's Longclaw Conservation Action Plan for its stronghold habitat, Kinangop
2. Establish 10 demonstration sheep farms to showcase good sheep management and grassland conservation practices in Kinangop to reach to 10,000 residents
3. Strengthen birds and grasslands monitoring in Kinangop as per the newly developed monitoring protocol
4. Educate and create awareness to 15,000 Kinangop residents and team on birds and grassland conservation

1.2 Changes to Original Project Plan

The project was implemented in close collaboration between the project team and advisors which significantly contributed to the success of the planned interventions. Slight modification to some activities included:

1. Establishment of 12 sheep demonstration farms, 2 above the proposed 10 farms. The decision was reached so as to cover the 12 administrative wards of the Kinangop Plateau. This ensured all wards in Kinangop had one sheep farm for ease of locals to access these farms.
2. The project proposed a social economic survey to assess the income levels of cultivation and livestock rearing comparatively. Upon assessment of this proposed activity, the project team and the adviser agreed to modify this topic and assess in details, status, opportunities and challenges faced by sheep farmers. This considered topic was directly linked to the proposed intervention of sheep breed improvement.

2.0 METHODOLOGY

The project employed an integrated ecological and social science approach to strengthen the conservation of Sharpe's Longclaw and the Kinangop Grasslands ecosystem. Activities were implemented collaboratively with the Friends of Kinangop Plateau (FoKP), local government departments, national research institutions and community representatives.

Objective 1: Develop and operationalize a community-based Sharpe's Longclaw Conservation Action Plan- A participatory and inclusive planning approach was applied. Seven stakeholder workshops were organized, bringing together representatives from government agencies, NGOs, and community groups. Semi-structured questionnaires were administered to 27 key informants, including local leaders, elders, and institutional partners, to gather insights on conservation priorities, threats, and feasible interventions. Data from workshops and interviews were synthesized and used to develop a draft Conservation Action Plan. The draft underwent expert review and was presented in a multi-stakeholder validation meeting attended by 48 participants. Feedback from this session was incorporated into the final version of the Action Plan.

Objective 2: Establish demonstration sheep farms for grassland conservation- A purposive sampling approach was used to select 12 farmers, each representing one of the 12 administrative wards in Kinangop. Two intensive two-day training sessions were delivered to 34 farmers focusing on sustainable sheep husbandry, rotational grazing, and grassland restoration practices. A survey of sheep farmers across the project area was conducted to identify challenges and opportunities; findings from this assessment informed the design and implementation of the demonstration farms. Each selected farm was set up with upgraded sheep sheds, fenced paddocks, and one breeding ram to enhance productivity. Periodic deworming and veterinary assessments were conducted, and two exchange visits facilitated peer learning. Regular monitoring by the project team and FoKP evaluated adherence to sustainable grazing practices and progress in sheep production.

Objective 3: Strengthen bird and grassland monitoring- Standardized ecological surveys were carried out annually in April–May 2024 and 2025 using the newly developed monitoring protocol (Attached in Appendix 4 and 5). A stratified sampling design was applied to ensure coverage of representative grassland habitats. Within each site transects were established to record bird species abundance, with particular attention to Sharpe's Longclaw, alongside measurements of vegetation structure and habitat condition. Field observations were compiled into species lists (attached in Appendix 6) and habitat assessment reports. All survey procedures followed consistent methods to allow long-term comparison and trend analysis.

Objective 4: Educate and create awareness among Kinangop residents- Education and outreach activities integrated community meetings, school engagements, and distribution of awareness materials. Twenty-seven community barazas were organized to deliver conservation messages and gather community feedback. Fourteen schools were visited for interactive

environmental education sessions involving students and teachers. Printed materials including calendars, leaflets, and branded T-shirts were produced and distributed to reinforce key messages. Capacity building was incorporated through GIS training for three team members to strengthen spatial data collection and management skills.

2.1 Outputs and Results

Objective 1: Develop and operationalize a community-based Sharpe's Longclaw Conservation Action Plan A comprehensive community-based Sharpe's Longclaw Conservation Action Plan was developed, validated, and operationalized.



Stakeholder engagement meeting on Sharpe's Action Plan at South Kinangop

Seven stakeholder workshops and a multi-stakeholder validation meeting were successfully conducted. The draft plan was refined through an iterative review process and finalized. Thirty-five printed copies were produced and distributed to key implementing partners. The process strengthened stakeholder engagement, improved shared understanding of conservation priorities, and established a clear roadmap for coordinated action to protect Sharpe's Longclaw (Summary in annex 1).

Objective 2: Establish demonstration sheep farms to promote sustainable grassland management Twelve fully operational demonstration sheep farms were established across all administrative wards of Kinangop.



A sample grassland in one of the demonstration farms in North Kinangop

Thirty-four farmers received targeted training, improving knowledge in sustainable sheep management and grassland conservation. The survey report informed farm design and management interventions. Each demonstration farm was equipped with improved infrastructure and a breeding ram, contributing to better livestock performance. Routine veterinary support and farmer exchange visits strengthened practical skills and collaboration. Monitoring confirmed improved grazing discipline, enhanced sheep productivity, and early adoption of conservation-friendly practices within the participating farms.

Objective 3: Strengthen bird and grassland monitoring Annual ecological surveys were successfully carried out and completed for 2024 and 2025.



Part of a monitoring team in one of the grasslands of South Kinangop (April 2025)

Comprehensive species lists were produced, providing baseline and comparative data for grassland bird communities. Monitoring data for Sharpe's Longclaw and associated vegetation parameters were systematically documented. Trend analysis and interpretation of species occurrence and habitat change are scheduled for completion after the 2026 monitoring cycle to ensure a robust dataset suitable for publication.

Objective 4: Educate and raise awareness on grassland and bird conservation A total of 2,430 community members were reached.



Sheep farmers and grassland owners training at FoKP hall, South Kinangop

Through 27 barazas, improving local understanding of grassland conservation issues. Fourteen schools, involving 700 students and 19 teachers, participated in environmental education sessions, increasing youth engagement in conservation. Awareness materials distributed included 500 calendars, 300 leaflets, and 40 T-shirts, enhancing visibility of project messages. Three trained team members gained GIS competency, improving the project's ability to manage and apply spatial data in planning and reporting. (Pictures in Appendix 7)

2.2 Communication and Application of Results

At local level, project progress and results were shared through community barazas, stakeholder workshops, school visits, and printed materials to ensure wide understanding and application.

A post on the project and bird monitoring in Kinangop was published in Nature Net Magazine. The Magazine publishes update in Kenyan Key Biodiversity Areas owned by Nature Kenya – Birdlife official partner in Kenya.

The Sharpe's Longclaw Conservation Action Plan was launched and distributed to 15 partner institutions, guiding coordinated conservation in Kinangop. Findings from the sheep farmers' socio-economic survey were presented to the County Government of Nyandarua to inform livestock and grassland management.

The results of the project continue to be communicated locally in meetings and in the sheep farms. These farms now serve as learning centers promoting rotational grazing and habitat restoration.

Monitoring data from the project and beyond will be analyzed for publication and used to refine conservation actions. The communication process has strengthened collaboration, policy engagement, and long-term community ownership of grassland conservation.

2.3 Monitoring and Evaluation

Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) were integrated throughout the project to track progress, measure outcomes, and guide adaptive management. The project team conducted four quarterly review meetings to assess activity implementation, budget utilization, and community feedback. Each objective had clear indicators, including the number of people trained, acres of grassland managed, and progress in sheep farm establishment amongst others.

Two rounds of bird and grassland monitoring (April–May 2024 and April–May 2025) were conducted following a standardized protocol, involving local monitors and institutions. Data was collected on bird abundance, vegetation structure, and habitat condition.

Additionally, project monitoring visits were conducted jointly by Friends of Kinangop Plateau (FoKP) and advisors to verify field progress. Lessons from M&E informed project adjustments, ensuring activities remained effective, inclusive, and conservation-focused.

2.4 Achievements and Impacts

1. 1,930 acres of grassland are now conserved and sustainably managed, directly benefiting Sharpe's Longclaw and other grassland species. The project established 12 demonstration sheep farms with a total of 727 acres of grasslands in 12 administrative wards of Kinangop Plateau. This demonstration farms are currently being managed to optimize sheep production and grassland conservation which in turn conserves birds and other grassland taxa. Other grassland owners with a total of 1203 acres have been trained through different activities of this project and are sustainably managing their grasslands.
2. The project strengthened capacity and stewardship among a total of 13,600 people through its different approaches spanning from community meetings, trainings, workshops, school outreaches, print materials and demo farm visits. Considering that Kinangop grassland plateau is privately owned and decisions are made based on local's knowledge, this is a great achievement for ensuring locals make conservation sound decisions on their land. This information also creates a stable platform for designing and implementing future conservation activities
3. The project significant outputs:
 - The Sharpe's Longclaw Action Plan for Kinangop Plateau is great tool for informing decisions for future conservation actions in the Plateau.
 - The sheep farmers survey report, documenting opportunities and challenges of sheep farmers and grassland conservation will also support conservation of the plateau
4. Establishment of sheep farming demonstration site is a great achievement for the project and the farmers in the area. This is because the farms have availed better breeds which creates more income from sheep wool and meat an aspect that is likely to attract more open grazing sheep farmers significantly increasing the extent and quality of grasslands over time

2.5 Capacity Development and Leadership Capabilities

The project greatly enhanced the technical capacity and leadership skills of the team members through hands-on implementation, mentorship, and structured training. Team members gained advanced skills in grassland and bird monitoring, data collection and analysis using standardized ecological protocols, improving their ability to design and lead scientific conservation studies.

A three-day GIS training equipped three team members with spatial mapping and data management skills, enabling them to produce maps for monitoring and reporting. Continuous mentorship sessions with project advisors strengthened competencies in project management, financial accountability, reporting, and stakeholder engagement.

Leadership capabilities were built through the coordination of community meetings, workshops, and school outreaches, where team members led discussions, facilitated trainings, and represented the project in stakeholder forums. This boosted their confidence, communication, and decision-making abilities.

By managing partnerships with government departments, NGOs, and local communities, the team developed strong collaborative leadership and conflict resolution skills. They also learned adaptive management using feedback from monitoring and evaluation to refine project activities.

2.6 Problems Encountered and Lessons Learnt

- ***Which project activities and outcomes went well and why?***

Learning from the CLP 1, the project ensured all activities had the strongest possible local community engagement. Trainings, awareness, action plan engagements and sheep farms establishment were smoothly implemented because the youth, farm owners and grassland owners were engaged and felt the necessity of attending and participating in the activities.

- ***Which project activities and outcomes have been problematic and in what way, and how has this been overcome?***

Selecting farmers to participate in demo-farm establishment was a bit difficult for the selection team. This was because many more farmers (over 75) wanted to be participants which led to an unhealthy competition. The selection team solved this by laying down the requirements and following them in selection of participants.

As identified in CLP 1, “Grassland owners (in some selected monitoring sites) wanted to benefit with hard cash in return for grassland bird conservation. It was difficult but we offered no monies as it would have adverse impacts to conservation in feature and instead educational materials we used to convince them of the conservation benefits”. This was still encountered although in very few sites.

- ***Please state important lessons which have been learnt through the course of the project so far.***

Science based projects: Implementing of scientific based projects ensures that the results and impacts are positive and minimizes chances of negative impacts to the participants and other local residents

Locally acceptable and priority interventions: Project that proposes activities that are accepted and a priority to the participants and beneficiaries are smoothly accepted and implemented. Our project’s sheep improvement aspect is an example of this.

Stakeholder engagement and maintenance: A s strengthened partnership before, during and after project, was critical in designing, implementing and sustaining the activities and impacts of this project

2.7 Project Sustainability

To ensure sustainability beyond the grant period, the project will hand over implementation of key activities to the Friends of Kinangop Plateau (FoKP) and the County Government of Nyandarua, which have both committed to continue supporting grassland and bird conservation. The 12 demonstration sheep farms will remain as long-term community learning sites, where farmers will continue rotational grazing, improved breeding, and knowledge-sharing. The Sharpe's Longclaw Conservation Action Plan will guide continued habitat restoration and policy engagement, with stakeholder review after 5 years to track progress.

FoKP will maintain annual bird and grassland monitoring, integrating trained community monitors and local schools to ensure long-term data collection and youth engagement. The project team will seek additional support from partners to scale up the sheep improvement scheme and replicate the model across neighboring grassland Wards.

Future work will focus on restoring degraded grasslands and developing a sustainable livestock market system that rewards conservation-friendly practices. Strengthening youth involvement and linking conservation to local livelihoods will remain central to ensuring long-term protection of Kinangop's grassland ecosystems and the Sharpe's Longclaw.

3.0 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 Conclusion

The project successfully achieved its central aim of strengthening local capacity to conserve the Sharpe's Longclaw and its grassland habitat in the Kinangop Plateau, one of Kenya's most threatened ecosystems. Through participatory planning, the project produced and launched the first community-based Sharpe's Longclaw Conservation Action Plan, now serving as a guiding framework for coordinated conservation interventions and policy discussions in the region.

The establishment of 12 demonstration sheep farms across the 12 administrative wards led to improved livestock management, restoration of 1,930 acres of grassland, and practical evidence that sustainable sheep farming can coexist with biodiversity conservation. These farms have become active learning centers promoting rotational grazing, improved breeds, and income diversification.

Annual bird and grassland monitoring provided the most up-to-date data on Sharpe's Longclaw occurrence and habitat condition, establishing a foundation for long-term ecological trend analysis. The project also revealed critical socio-economic insights, highlighting that enhancing the sheep value chain can reduce habitat conversion pressure while improving local livelihoods.

Community engagement reached over 13,600 residents, greatly improving awareness and stewardship of the Kinangop grasslands. Overall, the project has demonstrated that conservation success in privately owned landscapes is possible when science, livelihoods, and community priorities are integrated providing a replicable model for grassland conservation in Kenya and beyond.

3.2 Recommendations for Further Interventions

1. **Expand the demonstration sheep farming model-** to more private farms in Kinangop Plateau to increase conservation impact.
2. **Establish a Sheep Gene Bank in Kinangop-** to preserve and improve local sheep breeds suited for open grazing systems, supporting both income generation and biodiversity conservation.
3. **Strengthen market linkages-** for wool, meat, and other sheep products to encourage adoption of conservation-friendly farming practices.
4. **Integrate project outcomes into County Development Plans-** to institutionalize grassland and bird conservation within local governance framework

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APPENDICES

APPENDIX 0: CLP Monitoring and Evaluation Measure Table

Output	Number	Additional Information
Number of CLP Partner Staff involved in mentoring the Project	4	3 CLP officers and 1 Birdlife International Officer in Kenya
Number of species assessments contributed to (E.g. IUCN assessments)	1	Sharpe's Longclaw
Number of site assessments contributed to (E.g. IBA assessments)	1	Kinangop Plateau
Number of NGOs established	0	
Amount of extra funding leveraged (\$)	2985	For youth trainings on conservation from ABC
Number of species discovered/rediscovered	0	
Number of sites designated as important for biodiversity (e.g. IBA/Ramsar designation)	0	
Number of species/sites legally protected for biodiversity	0	
Number of stakeholders actively engaged in species/site conservation management	6	County Government of Nyandarua, Nature Kenya, Kenya Wildlife Services, Crane International, Natural Africa Concern and National Museums of Kenya
Number of species/site management plans/strategies developed	1	Sharpe's Longclaw Action Plan
Number of stakeholders reached	13600	Local residents and partner representatives
Examples of stakeholder behaviour change brought about by the project.	1	Sustainable grassland management
Examples of policy change brought about by the project	0	
Number of jobs created	25	8 permanent jobs in strengthened demonstration farms, 17 temporary jobs created by the project activities
Number of academic papers published	0	To be done in 2026 – CLP will be recognised as main donor
Number of conferences where project results have been presented	2	International Conference on Science, Knowledge and Society – Karatina University 2 nd Kenya Wildlife Research Institute International Scientific Conference

APPENDIX 1: Sharpe's Longclaw Conservation Action Plan in Kinangop Plateau



SHARPE'S LONGCLAW CONSERVATION ACTION PLAN IN KINANGOP PLATEAU

Macronyx sharpie



June 2024 – May 2034



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Sharpe's Longclaw (*Macronyx sharpei*) is a species highly specialized to the unique highland grasslands. It is endemic to Kenya and is listed as endangered in the IUCN Redlist. It is primarily found in montane grasslands at altitudes of 1,900–3,600 meters asl, with much of its population outside the protected area. It appears to coexist with livestock; it is dependent on short grass with tussocks for nesting and predator concealment. BY 2009, its global population was estimated between 1,800 and 2,000 individuals, which is rapidly declining due to habitat loss, land use changes, overgrazing, infrastructure development, and agricultural expansion. The bulk of its population is concentrated in the Kinangon Plateau, Mau Narok, and the Timau grasslands on the northern and northeastern slopes of Mount Kenya.

There is a significant gap in understanding Sharpe's Longclaw's specific habitat needs, including preferred grass species, food sources, and nesting microhabitats. Furthermore, there is insufficient up-to-date data on the bird's population size, distribution, and trends, complicating efforts to track its decline. The impact of climate change on its montane grassland habitat, particularly shifts in rainfall and temperature, remains unclear, and the effectiveness of existing conservation efforts has not been fully assessed.

Additionally, limited knowledge of how smallholder farming and livestock grazing impact the bird's habitat and how these practices can be harmonized with conservation goals. The role of invasive plant species in degrading these grasslands is poorly documented, and there is a lack of community awareness regarding human-induced habitat degradation. Moreover, limited funding and weak policy enforcement hinder effective conservation measures.

This action plan focuses activities aimed at restoring and protecting critical grassland habitats by mapping key areas, promoting habitat restoration, and engaging local communities in conservation efforts. It emphasizes sustainable agricultural and livestock management practices, encouraging farmers to adopt bird-friendly and rational grazing techniques to balance farming activities with species conservation. The plan also addresses climate change impacts through grassland restoration and climate-smart agriculture to build resilient ecosystems. Additionally, it advocates for policies that protect grasslands from industrial development, ensuring the long-term preservation of natural habitats.

The plan will be implemented collaboratively, involving national and county governments, NGOs, research institutions, and other stakeholders. A multi-disciplinary and multipronged approach will be applied to safeguard the future of Sharpe's Longclaw and similar species, contributing to broader grassland ecosystem conservation efforts.

APPEDIX 2: Report on Sheep Farmers Survey in Kinangop and Kipipiri, Nyandarua County



REPORT OF SHEEP FARMERS SURVEY IN KINANGOP AND KIPIPIRI, NYANDARUA COUNTY, KENYA

(Status, Challenges, and Opportunities)

Prepared by: Friends of Kinangop Plateau,

In Partnership with:



April, 2025

Summary

Between September 2024 and April 2025, the Friends of Kinangop Plateau and partners embarked on a survey to understand the status, challenges and opportunities of sheep farming as a grassland conservation tool in Kinangop Plateau: Kinangop and Kipipiri, Nvandarua County. All the 12 County Wards in Kipipiri and Kinangop Constituencies were visited and 928 sheep farmer interviewed. The results showed that 93% of sheep farmers also practice cow grazing. Over 80% of farmers had corridale sheep breed. 95% of interviewed farmers have never received any training on sheep farming and management nor grassland management and do not keep sheep records. In the previous year, 91% did not sell sheep wool for lack of market and those who did, sold a kilogram of wool at less than Ksh100. The meat market was readily available with 60% selling sheep for meat in the previous year. Poor breeds, poor market and lack and limited management knowledge were identified as major challenges. 98% of respondents prioritized availing high quality sheep breeds, sheep management trainings, and wool market as recommendations for sheep farming improvement in Kinangop Plateau.



Appendix 3: Nature Net Magazine media post

Kinangop youth step up to save an Endangered bird

■ By David Magoma

Youth are key to protecting the future of Kinangop's tussock grasslands, and the endangered Sharpe's Longclaw that depends on them.

To build this connection, Friends of Kinangop Plateau teamed up with Nature Kenya and the Nyandarua County Government. Their goal? To pass on vital birding skills, spark local conservation careers, and inspire a new generation of citizen scientists.

On 17 April 2025, 34 young people from Kinangop took part in a practical birding and conservation

training. The session introduced them to bird identification, habitat protection, and field skills. They also learned how to use birding equipment, understand species diversity, and appreciate the role birds

play in healthy ecosystems.

The training was more than just theory. It opened minds to the idea of conservation as a career and a way of life. The participants explored

the challenges facing local wildlife, including the threats to the Sharpe's Longclaw, and discussed how they could take part in protecting it.

As part of the follow-up, the young birders, under the guidance of the Friends of Kinangop Plateau Site Support Group, will now lead monthly bird walks. The first walk is set for Saturday 10 May 2025.

This is just the beginning. The energy, curiosity, and passion these young people bring could make all the difference for the survival of both the grasslands and the Sharpe's Longclaw. 🐦



APPEDIX 4: Monitoring Protocol

SHARPE'S LONGCLAW MONITORING STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES

Aim

The aim of monitoring is to improve natural resource management, Sharpe's Longclaw and other biodiversity conservation and to build institutional knowledge.

Objectives

1. Assess species and habitats to determine presence and relative abundance
2. Establish the status and trends in population of Sharpe's Longclaw and habitat indicators
3. Provide early warnings on the condition of species and habitats to help management in developing mitigation strategies
4. Monitor Sharpe's Longclaw and habitats to understand their natural and human-induced dynamics and conditions

Indicators/ Variants

- Abundance of species
- Population per species
- Habitat status

Scope/ Area

Monitoring will happen in selected grasslands within Kinangop Plateau

Baseline

Kinangop Plateau was initially continuous native grassland. Fragmentation, cultivation, establishment of woodlots and grassland degradation has been rampant since human occupation in 1963 leaving less than 10% of the plateau as grasslands.

Monitoring had happened since 2004-2010 without a standardized way of data collection. This resumption will use the ‘good’ sites as of April 2021.

Sampling

A scientifically standard sample size of 24 Sites with good grasslands habitat for habitation of Sharpe’s Longclaw will be selected across the plateau. This will ensure most sites had the target species at the start of monitoring.

Monitoring Frequency and timing

Monitoring will be done yearly between 15th and 30th of April.

Field Method

Data collection- Transects of 50m width along the sites will be established and the monitoring team will walk observing and identifying birds for larger sites. Birds identified will be recorded in data sheet specified for each site. Monitoring will happen between 6am and 12pm.

Monitoring team- At-least 3 team members will be present in all monitoring sessions to ensure a standard observation error. More volunteers will be invited encouraged to ensure sustainability of action

Equipment- At-least 3 participants each with a binoculars and at-least one guide book will be needed for monitoring in each site

Data Management

After each monitoring day, data sheets will be verified and submitted to the central person(s) to key in the data for the whole exercise.

Data entry will be done in a soft template similar to the hardcopies used for data collection.

The data collated data will be shared to the monitoring heads at our 4 FOKP branches.

Any person or organization intending to use this data will be required to officially request for it and subsequent publication from the data will need to identify and acknowledge that it is from the Friends of Kinangop Plateau.

Budget

In all the monitoring sessions, a budget of not lower than Ksh. 81,000 will be to cater for participants’ transport, lunch and data entry.

APPENDIX 5: Monitoring data collection tool**SHARPE'S LONGCLAW (SLC) SURVEY & MONITORING DATA SHEET**

Plot No _____

Plot Name _____ GPS

Coordinates _____

Area: _____

Original Category _____

Size _____

Date: _____ Start Time _____ End Time _____

Weather

%Cloud Cover	Rain (Tick)			Wind (Tick)				Temperature (Tick)		
	None	Light	Heavy	Calm	Slightly Windy	Windy	Very Windy	Cold	Moderate	Hot

Habitat Assessment

Current Land Use	
Habitat Code	
%grass Cover Now	

Species Assessment

Species	Tally	Total	Comment

<u>Names of Observers</u>	<u>Email</u>	<u>Mobile</u>
	<u>Number</u>	

Appendix 6: Kinangop Birdlist 2023-2025

BIRD LIST (Common Names) OF KINANGOP PLATEAU (2023-2025)

Abdim's Stork	Kikuyu White-eye
Abyssinian Thrush	Kittlitz's Plover
African Black Duck	Klaas's Cuckoo
African Black-headed Oriole	Knob-billed Duck
African Citril	Lanner Falcon
African Dusky Flycatcher	Lesser Gray Shrike
African Firefinch	Lesser Jacana
African Fish-Eagle	Levaillant's Cisticola
African Grass-Owl	Little Egret
African Gray Flycatcher	Little Grebe
African Harrier-Hawk	Little Stint
African Hobby	Little Swift
African Hoopoe	Long-crested Eagle
African Jacana	Long-tailed Cormorant
African Marsh-Harrier	Long-tailed Widowbird
African Openbill	Malachite Kingfisher
African Palm Swift	Malachite Sunbird
African Paradise-Flycatcher	Marabou Stork
African Pied Wagtail	Marsh Sandpiper
African Pipit	Martial Eagle
African Sacred Ibis	Mosque Swallow
African Snipe	Mottled Swift
African Spoonbill	Mountain Buzzard
African Stonechat	Mountain Wagtail
African Swift	Mountain Yellow-Warbler
Amethyst Sunbird	Northern Anteater-Chat
Amur Falcon	Northern Fiscal
Angola Swallow	Northern Shoveler
Arrow-marked Babbler	Northern Yellow White-eye
Augur Buzzard (Augur)	Nyanza Swift
Baglafecht Weaver	Osprey
Barn Owl	Pectoral-patch Cisticola
Barn Swallow	Pied Avocet
Black Goshawk	Pied Crow
Black Kite	Pied Kingfisher
Black Sawwing	Pink-backed Pelican
Black Stork	Pin-tailed Whydah
Black-chested Snake-Eagle	Plain Martin
Black-headed Heron	Purple Grenadier
Blacksmith Lapwing	Purple Heron
Black-tailed Godwit	Quailfinch

Black-winged Kite
Black-winged Lapwing
Black-winged Stilt
Blue-billed Teal
Brimstone Canary
Bronze Mannikin
Bronze Sunbird
Brown Woodland-Warbler
Brown-crowned Tchagra
Cape Crow
Cape Robin-Chat
Cape Wagtail
Capped Wheatear
Cattle Egret
Cinnamon Bracken-Warbler
Cinnamon-chested Bee-eater
Common Bulbul
Common Buzzard (Steppe)
Common Chiffchaff
Common Quail
Common Ringed Plover
Common Sandpiper
Common Snipe
Common Swift
Common Waxbill
Corn Crake
Crowned Lapwing
Dideric Cuckoo
Dusky Turtle-Dove
Eastern Double-collared Sunbird
Egyptian Goose
Eurasian Blackcap
Fischer's x Yellow-collared
Lovebird
Fork-tailed Drongo
Gabar Goshawk
Garganey
Giant Kingfisher
Glossy Ibis
Golden-winged Sunbird
Gray Crowned-Crane
Gray Heron
Gray-backed Camaroptera
Gray-backed Fiscal

Rattling Cisticola
Red-backed Shrike
Red-billed Duck
Red-billed Firefinch
Red-billed Quelea
Red-capped Lark
Red-cheeked Cordonbleu
Red-chested Cuckoo
Red-collared Widowbird
Red-eyed Dove
Red-knobbed Coot
Red-rumped Swallow
Red-throated Pipit
Reichenow's Seedeater
Ring-necked Dove
Rock Martin
Ruff
Rufous-naped Lark
Rufous-necked Wryneck
Scarlet-chested Sunbird
Sharpe's Longclaw
Speckled Mousebird
Speckled Pigeon
Speke's Weaver
Spur-winged Lapwing
Squacco Heron
Stout Cisticola
Streaky Seedeater
Superb Starling
Tacazze Sunbird
Tawny Eagle
Tawny-flanked Prinia

Thick-billed Seedeater
Three-banded Plover
Tropical Boubou
Variable Sunbird
Wattled Starling
Western Yellow Wagtail
Whiskered Tern
White Stork
White Winged Widowbird
White-browed Robin-Chat
White-eyed Slaty-Flycatcher

Great Cormorant
Great Egret
Great White Pelican
Greater Blue-eared Starling
Greater Painted Snipe
Green Sandpiper
Hadada Ibis
Hamerkop
Harlequin Quail
House Sparrow
Hunter's Cisticola
Intermediate Egret
Jackson's Widowbird
Kenya Rufous Sparrow

White-faced Whistling-
Duck
White-rumped Swift
Willow Warbler
Winding Cisticola
Wing-snapping Cisticola
Wire-tailed Swallow
Wood Sandpiper
Yellow Billed Kite
Yellow Bishop
Yellow-bellied Waxbill
Yellow-billed Duck
Yellow-billed Stork
Yellow-breasted Apalis
Yellow-crowned Canary
Yellow-throated Longclaw

Appendix 7: Project Pictorials



Grassland owner trainings pictures



Participants in sheep and grassland management



Participants in the GIS Training



Youth training on grassland and birds conservation



Practical session for youth trainings



Farmer experience of a sheep shed at a demo-sheep farm during an exchange



Stakeholder engagements during the Action Plan formulation process



Stakeholder engagements during the Action Plan formulation process



One of the 3 newly built sheep shed in North Kinangop



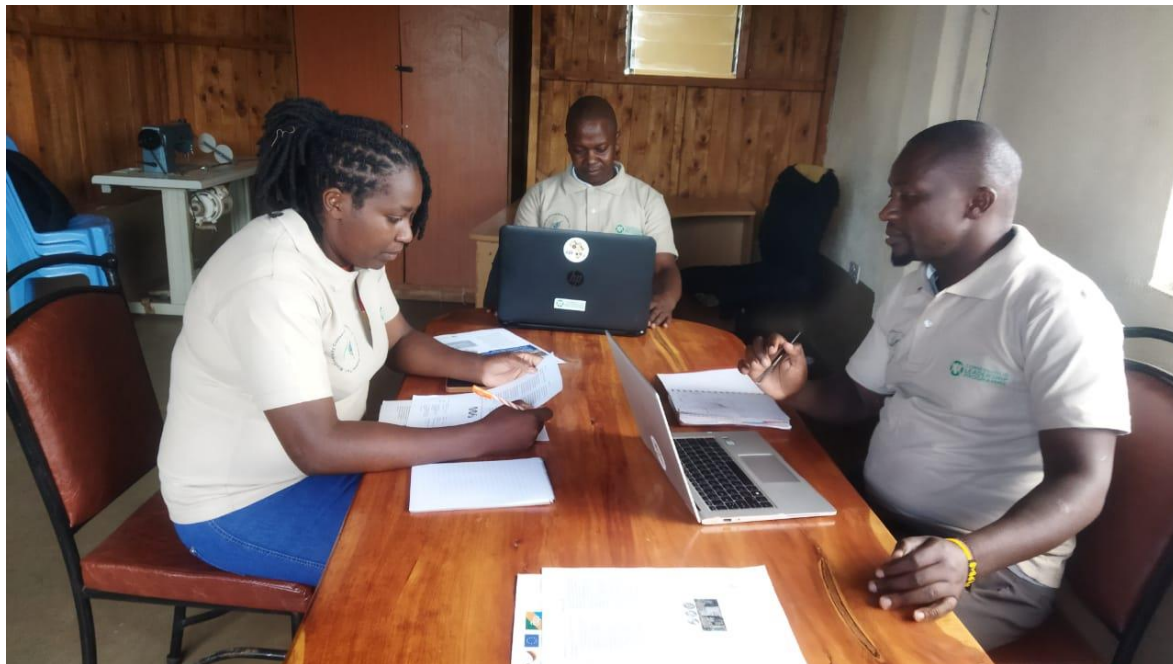
Project leader with students during an environmental education engagement



Environmental outreach in different schools



A branded calendar used to create awareness about the grassland and birds of Kinangop



Project team in branded T-shirts



Grasslands and birds monitoring team in different days



A monitoring team walking in a grassland during monitoring