

WHV – Kakemega Rain Forest and Isukuti Dance

The Kakemega Forest, Kenya

Natural property inscribed on the Tentative List (2010)

PROJECT DATES

17 August - 27 August 2024

THE SITE - Kakemega Forest is a mid-altitude tropical rainforest, the easternmost outlier of the Congo Basin forests. Its West African affinities are unique in Kenya, and the forest contains many species found nowhere else in the country. It is an important and significant natural habitat for conservation of avifauna as it currently provides a habitat for the highest number of forest-dependant bird species in Kenya. The undulating terrain with steep sided river valleys gives the forest its exceptional natural beauty and acts as an important catchment for Isiukhu and Yala Rivers, and it's one of Kenya's top bird-watching destinations.

OBJECTIVES - The project aims at raising the awareness of the local communities about the need to protect Kakemega Forest as a potential World Heritage site, to encourage the local and international volunteers to preserve, promote and conserve the Isukuti culture.

ACTIVITIES - The volunteers will participate in forest walks and biodiversity monitoring programmes to discover the site's biodiversity, and they will share knowledge and exchange experience with local students regarding World Heritage preservation. Additionally, they will carry out hands-on activities to maintain tree and nursery facilities, assist in the farming of butterflies, and facilitate the construction of traditional houses. The project will incorporate some elements of the Intangible Cultural Heritage and provide volunteers a chance to experience it, such as the Isukuti culture and dance.

PARTNERS - Kenya Wildlife Service, Kakemega Forest Reserve Guide Association, Kenya National Commission for UNESCO, Kenya National Commission for UNESCO Youth Forum, UNESCO Regional Office for Eastern Africa.

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