

MODELLING E-WASTE MANAGEMENT IN KENYA

The Authority seeks to establish a model e-waste handling facility at Konza Technopolis at the acquired land through the support of World Bank-Africa Environmental Health and Pollution Management project





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Enhancing Collaboration with Counties

|| BY BRENDA OBURA & S. IRUNGU



NEMA Director General, Mamo B. Mamo, EBS (L) with Governor Vihiga County, H.E. Dr Wilber K. Ottichilo when he paid him a courtesy call at his office in Vihiga.

DEVOLVED ENVIRONMENTAL FUNCTIONS

Devolved environmental functions being undertaken by the County Government as stated in the Fourth Schedule of the Constitution of Kenya 2010 includes; control of air pollution, waste management, noise pollution, other public nuisances and outdoor advertising.

The National Environment Management Authority and Counties works together on various devolved environmental functions to enhance environmental management in the Country. Some of these critical functions includes; waste management, noise and air pollution.

To better this collaboration, the NEMA Director General, Mamo B. Mamo, EBS on 12th March, 2023 called on Vihiga Governor, H.E. Dr Wilber K. Ottichilo for a meeting to address salient environmental issues facing the County. Governor Ottichilo chairs the Environment and Climate Change Committee at the Council of Governors.

Vihiga County sought to partner and collaborate with NEMA on various environmental fronts among them; Access to climate financing-Adaptation fund, aggregation and recovery of waste and Carbon markets.

Climate change causes existential threat to our existence, the DG stated. He added that the Authority will partner and collaborate with Counties on environmental management.

The Authority recently completed the adaptation fund project on- “Integrated Programme to Build Resilience to Climate Change and Adaptive Capacity of Vulnerable communities in Kenya” that was undertaken in 14 Counties in Kenya . NEMA has also been accredited to access the Green Climate

Fund (GCF)- to address the climate change induced challenges. NEMA is also the Designated National Authority (DNA) for Carbon Markets in the country.

The Governor stated that the County Government of Vihiga will work together with NEMA for joint inspections on sand harvesting, artisanal mining, noise pollution, plastic bags and eucalyptus. He added that the County will allocate NEMA a piece of land to build a Green point in Vihiga-as it has done in several other Counties.

On noise licensing, the Director General requested the Governor to give noise licenses with conditions to be adhered to by the licensees and if violated should be revoked.

The DG also noted that the Authority seeks to designate some markets as plastic free markets. He urged the Counties to ensure market managers get rid of plastic within their markets.

“We currently have dumping sites and as a country we are seeking to transition from linear to circular economy through Established of Material Recovery Facilities (MRFs) and phase out dumping sites,” NEMA Director General said. He added that the Authority is currently implementing the Sustainable Waste Management, Act, 2022-the Producer Extended Responsibility (EPR) to encourage producers to manage their end products waste and hence avoid polluting the environment.



NEMA DG Mamo B. Mamo, EBS, Governor Vihiga, H.E Wilber Ottichilo, NEMA and County staff during the meeting in the county.

NEMA has also developed national guidelines on establishment of Material Recovery Facilities (MRFs) and has come up with prototypes for MRFs-Mechanical and Manual depending on the nature of waste to be handled. The site for the MRFs has also to undergo an Environment and Social Impact Assessment to address the environmental and social concerns.

A Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) is a solid-waste management plant that processes recyclable materials to sell to manufacturers as raw materials for new products. An MRF will facilitate circularity as opposed to dumping sites.

The County will develop a concept through the guidance of NEMA to access Green Climate Fund for funding on various environmental areas.

The Director General also inspected the 7-acre piece of land set aside by the County for establishment of a waste recycling facility in Luanda South, Vihiga County.

The County is seeking to establish a Material Recovery Facility at the site. Speaking during the exercise, the DG noted that 60% of waste is organic and can be recycled for reuse into several purposes.

He also visited gold artisanal mining sites in Vihiga County. A multi-agency technical team through the Environmental Governance Programme coordinated by NEMA has developed the artisanal mining guidelines. The guidelines are meant to streamline artisanal mining operations to enhance safety and sound environmental management in the country.



NEMA Vihiga CDE, Hesbon Monda (R) briefing the Director General, Mamo B. Mamo, EBS (L) accompanied by other staff during a site visit to an artisanal mining in Vihiga County.



Artisanal gold mining /cleaning in Vihiga County by the locals

NEMA partners with manufacturers to promote Circular Economy

NEMA hosted a side event on the sidelines of the Sixth United Nations environment Assembly (UNEA-6) themed, “circular economy and Extended Producer Responsibilities in addressing pollution control.”



Panellists during the Side Event at UN Complex Nairobi

|| BY S. IRUNGU



In line with the Sustainable Waste Management Act (2022) that commits to promote use of recyclable items by requiring all producers to bear mandatory extended producer responsibility (EPR) obligations to prevent pollution and environmental impacts of the products they introduce into the Kenyan market and waste arising therefrom. The radical shift to circular economy model will help to recover over 95% of its waste through segregation at source, further sorting at Material Recovery Facilities and recycling.

Mamo B. Mamo, EBS
NEMA Director General

The National Environment Management Authority (NEMA) hosted a side event on the sidelines of the Sixth United Nations environment Assembly (UNEA-6) on 29th February, 2024. The side event was themed, “Circular Economy and Extended Producer Responsibilities in Addressing Pollution Control.”

The Principal Secretary for Environment and Climate Change, Eng. Festus Ngeno informed the delegates that all producers in Kenya have begun the process of depositing their Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) plans with NEMA. Further, the government has commenced punishment for those whose products are found polluting our rivers.

This is in line with the (SWM Act, 2022) that commits to promote use of recyclable items by requiring all producers to bear mandatory extended producer responsibility (EPR) obligations to prevent pollution and environmental impacts of the products they introduce into the Kenyan market and waste arising therefrom. He remarked that the radical shift to circular economy model will help to recover over 95% of its waste through segregation at source, further sorting at material recovery facilities and recycling.

He expressed Kenya’s commitment to managing pollution as strongly demonstrated in 2017 when the ban on the use, manufacture and importation of plastics bags for commercial and household packaging was gazetted.

Subsequently, in 2019, the government expanded its efforts by banning single use plastics bottles, straws and related products within protected areas, demonstrating our commitment to preserving our natural heritage. The PS was representing the Cabinet Secretary for Environment, Climate Change and Forestry, Hon. Soipan Tuyu.

According to NEMA Director General, the government through NEMA has developed and implemented a host of robust guidelines, standards, and permits aimed at promoting circular economy practices such as waste reduction, recycling, and sustainable resource management. In addition, through the Sustainable Waste Management Act, 2022, the Authority has brought producers together to deal with Extended Producer Responsibility to ensure a clean and healthy environment for all.

He added that the Kenyan Constitution, Article 42 gives Kenyans the right to a clean and healthy, however, he noted that the right comes with responsibilities for citizens to keep the environment clean. We have to take responsibility for our waste as we are the waste generator.

“United, we are a formidable force for good. Let us unite in our commitment to support national initiatives, paving the way for a future where sustainability is not just a choice but a fundamental principle guiding every action and decision,” Eric Lindebjerg from WWF International stated.

Board Director of the Kenya Association of Manufacturers, Mucai Kuniya stated that the journey towards a circular economy is not without challenges, but it is worth undertaking for benefit of all Kenyans.

By aligning profit with purpose and embracing circular economy principles, the country can create a future where prosperity is synonymous with sustainability of the environment and the economy in general, stated Ms. Emily Waita of KEPSA

“True change begins at the grassroots level. In the heart of our communities lies the pulse of transformation. We need to empower the youth with knowledge, resources, and tools to become champions of environmental stewardship and guardians of our planet’s future,” Ms. Mary Mwiti, Chief Executive Officer, Council of Governors commented.



PS Environment and Climate Change, Eng. Festus Ngeno speaking during the NEMA UNEA6 Side Event at UN complex, Nairobi

UNEP Africa Regional representative, Dr. Cyrille-Lazare Siewe stated that bearing in mind that climate change poses an existential threat, then the circular economy and greening imperative should equally be prioritized and justified by evidence-based research that builds on change from business-as-usual scenario, and its GHG emissions and the 1.5°C scenario by 2040. It is now time for investors, Multinational corporations and technology companies to shift strategic investments to reduce their pollution footprint.

The UN Environment Assembly is the world's highest decision-making body on the environment. Its membership includes all 193 UN Member States. It meets biennially to shape global environmental policy.

The theme for the UNEA-6 is “Effective, inclusive and sustainable multilateral actions to tackle climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution”, which offers a moment to advance the global environmental agenda, building on the pledges made at the fifth session (UNEA-5).

More than 7,000 delegates from 182 UN Member met for UNEA-6. The Assembly had 19 resolutions and two decisions under discussion that covers a range of issues, including circular economy; effective, inclusive, and sustainable multilateral actions towards climate justice; solar radiation modification; sound management of chemicals and waste, and sand and dust storms.

“This is where the global community gathers to think big and dream bigger. To reimagine how we can work better, smarter, harder and faster – together. To hold the future that we want in our mind's eye and make it happen”- Inger Andersen, Executive Director of UNEP.

The side event was organized by the NEMA, Kenya Association of Manufacturers (KAM), Kenya Private Sector Alliance (KEPSA) and World-Wide Fund for Nature (WWF).



NEMA Chairman, Emilio Mugo (R), NEMA DG Mamo B. Mamo, EBS (2nd L), Board Member, Dr. Loice Kipkiror with a dignitary during the UNEA6 at UN Complex, Nairobi

NEMA Receives Land Title to Develop an E-Waste Centre at Konza Technopolis

|| BY S. IRUNGU



NEMA Chairman, Emilio Mugo (R), DG Mamo B. Mamo, EBS (2nd L) and Vice Chair Sophia Matura (2nd R) receives a land title for NEMA to construct an MRF at Konza Technopolis from Chief Manager Strategy, Stella Muhoro on behalf of the CEO KoTDA

The National Environment Management Authority (NEMA) is implementing the Africa Environmental health and Pollution Management Project, which is a five years Global Environment Facility sixth framework funded project in five African countries notably; Kenya, Tanzania, Zambia, Ghana and Senegal with World Bank as the Implementing Agency. In Kenya, NEMA is the Executing Agency and the project main objective is to strengthen institutional capacity to manage and regulate e-waste and related Unintentional Persistent Organic Pollutants (UPOPS) in Kenya.

The Authority on 14th March, 2023 achieved a major milestone in its quest to enhance e-waste management in the country.

The Authority received the title on 14th March, 2024 for the land it was allocated by the Konza Technopolis Development Authority. The delegation was led by the NEMA Chairman, Emilio Mugo and Director General, Mamo B. Mamo, EBS, Vice Chair, Ms. Sophia Matura and the project team.

The KoTDA a team was led by the Chief Manager-Strategy, policy and Research, Stella Muhoro, who was representing the KoTDA Chief Executive Officer.

“Authority will be developing an e-waste demonstration pilot and a National Environmental Reference Laboratory with support from Global Environment Facility through the World Bank’s Africa Environmental Health and Pollution Management Project,” NEMA Chairman, Emilio Mugo said.

The Chairman added that the project is seeking to bring new approaches in e-waste management popularly known as circular economy which will indeed create major transformative change in the sustainable management of solid waste in Kenya thereby promoting environmental conservation and management.

The Director General echoed the Chairman sentiments that e-waste continues to be one of the major emerging solid waste streams and only sound management strategies will get us out of the challenge. He pointed out that e-waste will grow exponentially once Konza Technopolis City is up and running fully.

The DG further postulated that Kenya generates 17,000 tonnes of e-waste annually. As a result, the e-waste facility at Konza will be a step to address the

e-waste in the country.

The significance of the facilities to be developed at the NEMA site in Konza will help to advance sound management of e-waste. Generally, e-waste continues to be one of the major emerging solid waste streams and only sound management strategies will get us out of the challenge.

The team also planted trees around the NEMA plot at the Konza. NEMA Chairman, Emilio Mugo (R), DG Mamo B. Mamo (2nd L), EBS and Vice Chair Sophia Matura (2nd R) receives a title for NEMA to construct an MRF at Konza Technopolis from Chief Manager Strategy, Stella Muhoro on behalf of the CEO KoTDA.



NEMA and KoTDA staff led by NEMA Chairman, Emilio Mugo (3rd R), DG Mamo B. Mamo, EBS (C) holding a dummy key for the Konza land title.



NEMA Chairman, Emilio Mugo (L), DG Mamo B. Mamo, EBS (C) and Vice Chair Sophia Matura (2nd R) planting a tree during the land title handing over at KoTDA.

Enhancing Environmental Management in Marsabit

|| BY S. IRUNGU



The NEMA Board, management and KRA officials during the visit to Moyale One Border point office in Marsabit County

The NEMA Board of Management undertook an environmental engagement in Marsabit County to assess the status of various activities and projects being undertaken by the Authority. The visit further sought to engage various partners and stakeholders such as Kenya Revenue Authority and Kenya Forest Service, Kenya Wildlife Service, Kenya Prisons and National Security to tighten the grip on environmental management in the County especially the plastic bags ban enforcement.

The Board visited Moyale Border Point -Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA) Customs office. The Board met the officials as it seeks to come up with a more stringent modalities to stop plastic bags being smuggled into the country through the porous border with Ethiopia.

Moyale One Stop border station manager, Isack Njoka expressed the need to have an incinerator in Moyale to dispose off condemned goods mainly fuel and food stuffs.

NEMA designates incinerators by private entities to be used to dispose off safely hazardous commodities. As a result, the Authority committed to facilitate the customs office to establish an incinerator through

COMESA.

NEMA will also establish an office in Moyale to enhance enforcement with KRA of the banned plastic bags. This will be done through the Border Management Committee (BMC) to get rid of possible routes and suppliers of the banned plastic bags through the porous borders. Mr. Njoka assured the members that they do not allow plastic bags to get into the country through the border.

The board also paid courtesy to the Governor's office Marsabit County-H.E Mohamud Mohammed Ali. The team was received by the Deputy Governor, Solomon Gubo. The NEMA team was led by the Vice Chair, Sophia Matura.

The visit aimed at enhancing environmental management in Marsabit County including; plastic bags ban enforcement, waste Management, illegal gold mining in Hillo, tree growing, climate change and gazette of County Environment Committee (CECs). Among the issues discussed includes gazette of environmental inspectors and enforcement of plastic bags ban.

The NEMA Board launched the Marsabit Green Point office. The event was led by the board Vice Chair, Sophia Matura.

A Green Point is a one stop shop for all NEMA activities and advisory at the County level, a demonstration and learning centre for green innovations.

The Green points have been conceptualized in order to practically interpret the green economy concept in our context here in Kenya. The Authority has already established Green Points in 15 Counties.

The Board also paid courtesy call to the Deputy County Commissioner (DCC), Moyale-Benedict Munyuoki and members of multi-agency committee in the sub county comprises of Kenya Forest Service, Kenya Wildlife Service, Prisons and National Security.

Among the issues to be discussed includes; tree planting, border control against banned plastic bags and illegal mining. The board spoke on the need to enhance tree planting and cleanup within Moyale town.

The DCC stated that they had a challenge when disposing the possessed bhang through open burning which is prevalent in the town due to the porous borders as it is smuggled from Shashamane in Ethiopia. He requested for the need to establish an incinerator to undertake the burning of bhang as ordered by the courts.

Environmental degradation through the illegal mining of gold is another challenge in the county. This has caused wanton destruction of the environment coupled with charcoal burning. The team also requested for enhanced border control to ensure banned plastic bags do not enter the country.

The Board also undertook a tree planting exercise at Tiigo Pirmay School located in Chalbi Desert, Marsabit County. The Authority had adopted the school in 2020 by donating two-10,000 litres water tanks, waste bins and planting 1000 seedlings. The Authority will be working with school administrators to improve their access to water so that the pupils can grow the trees.



NEMA Board of Management during the launch of Marsabit Green Point

Greening Tiigo Primary School

Tiigo primary school was established in 2016. Most people refer to it as “the school in the middle of nowhere” as it is the only school located 50 kilometres radius in a harsh, larva rubble, dry North Horr Sub County in Marsabit County. The school is located in an area known for very harsh weather, sporadic inter-ethnic clashes.

Tiigo school impacts pupils from poor nomadic communities with quality holistic education. The school currently has 406 pupils-most of whom are boarding. Working with its partners who have given the ‘seed funds’ to establish and nurture the school, it has attracted pupils from Marsabit County as well as neighbouring counties.

Being the only school in the region, the demand for the admission at this school is very high. Yet, it is severely limited in terms of infrastructure leading to turning back of hundreds of needy pupils seeking education in the harsh environment.

For this, the school has to increase its facilities to be able to accommodate more pupils. For instance, its dormitory occupancy is already overstretched which causes congestion and unsafe living environment that negatively affects the health of the young children.

The school depends on well-wishers support to supplement the little fee that parents from the

neighbouring communities can afford. The pupils therefore end up paying drastically subsidized fees-which majority struggle to pay within the term.

Notably, many girls undergo dehumanising female genital mutilation and end up into early marriages when they are not schooling. Being a boarding school, Tiigo school has acted as a rescue centre and given hope to many girls and boys who otherwise have to migrate with their parents in search of pasture and miss school all together.

The NEMA board of management first visited Tiigo primary school on 23rd October, 2019 to launch a tree planting campaign for the short rains in Marsabit County. This was followed by another visit by the board the following year on 11th September, 2020.

During the visit then, the board in 2019, planted over 1,000 tree seedlings at the school, donated two -1000 litres water tanks were donated to the school and branded waste bins were also donated to the school.

In March 2024, the current board of management visited Tiigo Primary School on to take stock of the status of the school. The board led by the Vice Chair, Sophia Matura met the school principal and discussed how to continue working with the school to enhance greening and environmental conservation.



NEMA Vice Chair, Sophia Matura planting a tree with pupils at Tiigo Primary School in Marsabit County

GEF 7 SFM Project Inception Meeting



NEMA, IUCN and the project stakeholders during the inception workshop at a Narok hotel

The Global Environmental Facility (GEF) cycle 7 funded project, “Strengthening Forest management for improved biodiversity conservation and climate resilience in the Southern Rangelands of Kenya” is being implemented by NEMA in coordination with the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and other partners.

It is a 4-year project under the broader umbrella of the Dryland Sustainable Landscapes Impact Programme (DSL-IP) which aims to avoid, reduce and reverse further degradation, desertification and deforestation of land and ecosystems in drylands, through the sustainable management of production landscapes.

The objectives of the projects includes:

- To develop Community enterprises and livelihood value chains based on sustainable use of natural resources in the drylands.
- To improve effective governance of land resources through strengthening of community-level organizations, National and County governments.
- Implementation of local resource management and restoration plans by the community units and local authorities.
- To coordinate the management on an integrated

dryland landscapes knowledge exchange and management platform.

The Key Components of the project entails:

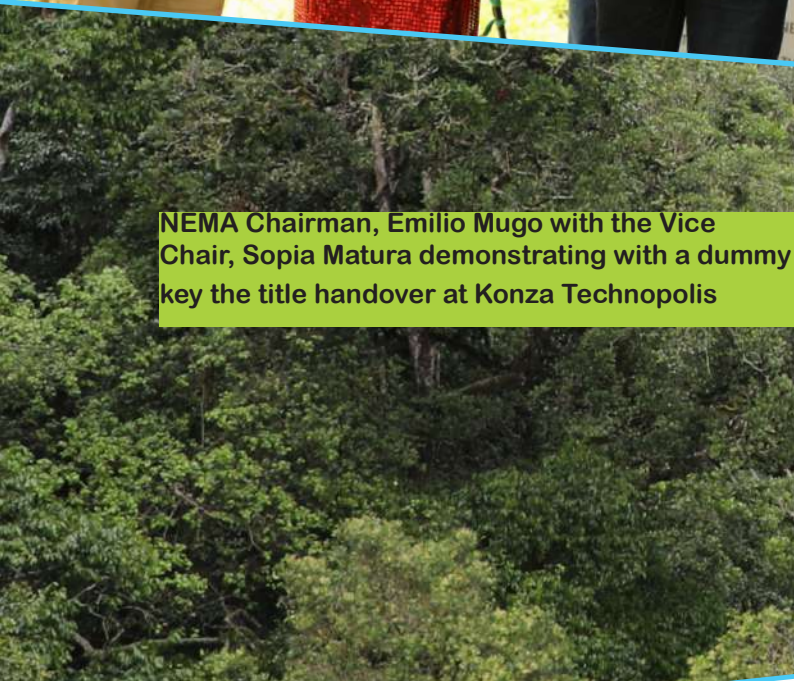
- Strengthening the enabling environment for the sustainable management of drylands;
- Investment in scaling up sustainable dryland management;
- Programmatic coordination, monitoring and knowledge management.

The project is being implemented in Kajiado and Narok counties. The goal of the project is to restore degraded rangeland resources- forests, wildlife, soils and water thereby restoring the integrity of the ecosystem, improving wildlife conservation, improving people’s livelihoods and enhance resilience (of both livelihoods and ecosystem) to climate change.

Other primary stakeholders includes; KALRO, NETFUND, Department of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries, Department of Water, Irrigation, Environment and Natural resources; County Environment Committees, TATA Chemicals, Meat Naturally, African Conservation Centre (ACC) and International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI).



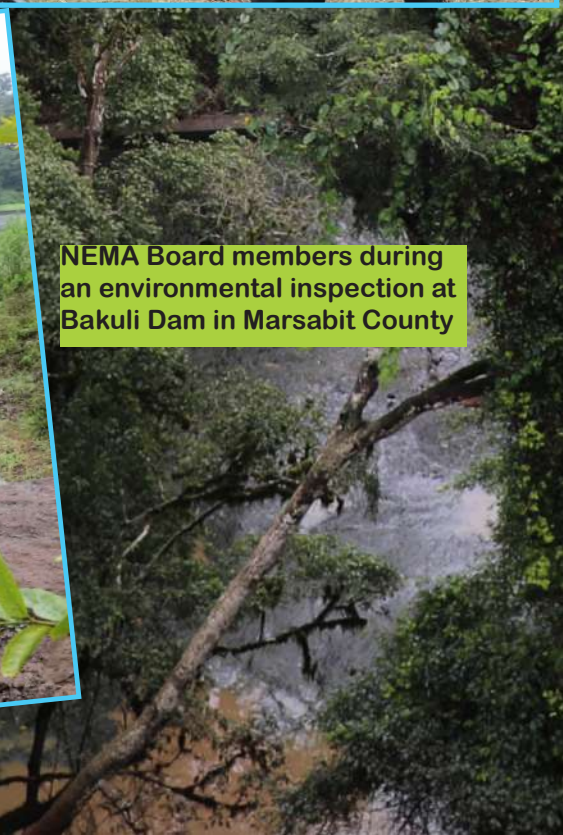
Environment and Climate Change PS Eng. Festus Ngeno accompanied by Governor Uasin Gishu County, H. E. Jonathan Bii award a certificate to Miss Environment Faith Murugi during the WWD celebrations.



NEMA Chairman, Emilio Mugo with the Vice Chair, Sophia Matura demonstrating with a dummy key the title handover at Konza Technopolis



NEMA Board members during an environmental inspection at Bakuli Dam in Marsabit County



Director Enforcement, Dr. Ayub Macharia collecting some of plastic packaging materials at Ngong river as a part of EPR enforcement.



NEMA CDE Kajiado, Mark Angwenyi explaining a point during the GEF-SFM inception workshop in a Narok hotel.



NEMA Board, Directors taking a look at model development of the Konza Technopolis during the title handing over ceremony

EPR to Thank for Cleaner Nairobi Rivers

BY TRACY MBITI & JOEL WANGO



NEMA Director Enforcement, Dr. Ayub Macharia, E.O Grace Ndanu look into one of the products waste packaging material that was found within Ngong river during the inspection.

NEMA swung into action to enforce environmental pollution from synthetic items based on on section 13 of the Sustainable Waste Management Act 2022 which requires all producers bear extended producer obligations to reduce pollution and environmental impacts of the products they introduce into the Kenyan market and waste arising therefrom.

On 30th August 2023, through a public, NEMA asked producers to submit their Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) plans to ascertain that they had put in place appropriate mechanisms to reduce environmental pollution based on their products.

NEMA enforces EPR through an assisted compliance approach model involving feedback loops or cycles of planning, reflection, action and observation. On 18th January 2024, inspectors undertook crucial inspections across the Ngong River catchment area. It was distressingly clear that numerous companies had neglected their Extended Producer Responsibility

obligations leading to leakage of their products into the river.

In response to these violations, Environmental Restoration Orders were promptly issued in accordance with Section 30(1) of the Sustainable Waste Management Act, 2022. These orders compel the implicated companies to undertake comprehensive cleanup efforts and restore the affected sites to their original, unspoiled state, thereby mitigating the adverse environmental impacts of their actions. The Restoration Orders informed the producers that Products and Packaging bearing their identity were found polluting Nairobi Rivers.

They were given thirty (30) days commencing 22nd January, 2024 to clear these items from the river and restore the affected sites to their original, unspoiled state, thereby mitigating the adverse environmental impacts of their actions.

Further, they were directed to submit an Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) Plan indicating their preventive actions to ensure reduction of pollution and environmental impacts of their products and waste arising therefrom within Nairobi River Catchment.

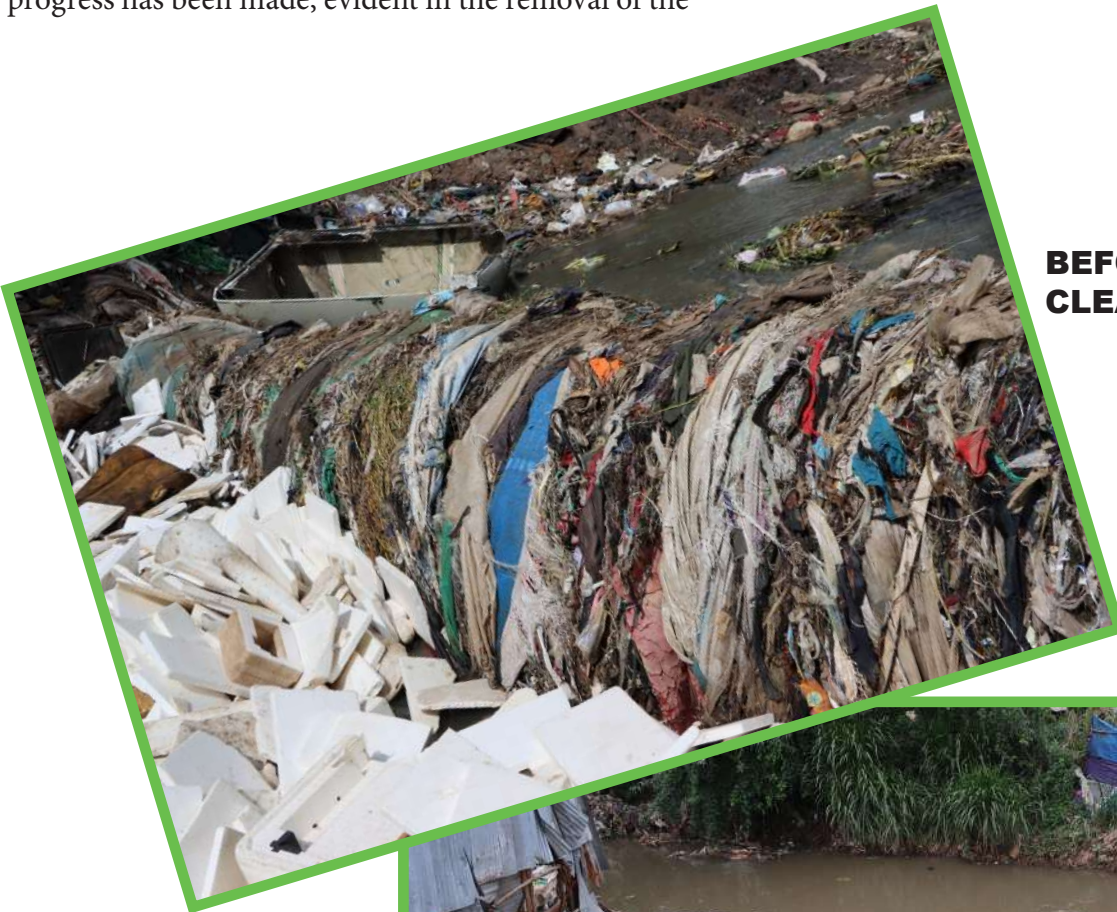
On 27th March 2024, the Authority did a joint inspection with the 29 companies to assess cleanliness of the 3 sites upon which an inspection report was shared with all players. NEMA shared the joint inspection report with all the 29 companies. Some sites were adequately restored while further works were needed in some sites. We are optimistic that clean sites will be handed over to NEMA soon.

Fast forward to the most recent site visit at the Likoni Bridge section of the Ngong River. Significant progress has been made, evident in the removal of the

obstructive barriers that previously impeded the river's flow. Today, water cascades freely, uninterrupted by the remnants of human neglect.

NEMA officials on the ground have noted a remarkable improvement in the site's condition following the diligent cleanup efforts undertaken by the implicated companies. This positive development shows the importance of collective action in safeguarding our precious natural resources for future generations.

While this progress is certainly cause for celebration, it's imperative to recognize that our journey towards sustainable environmental management is far from over. NEMA is keen to deliver clean rivers in Kenya through EPR.



**BEFORE PROs
CLEANUP**

**AFTER PROs
CLEANUP**



Conservation of Wetlands

BY SOLOMON KIHU & JOEL WANGO

This year, the national World Wetlands Day was celebrated at Lake Narasha in Uasin Gishu County to rally the community about the need to conserve the lake. Similar events were held countrywide coordinated by NEMA.



Lake Narasha/Timboroa dam in Uasin Gishu County

On the shores of Lake Narasha, nestled within the landscapes of Uasin Gishu and Baringo County, a significant gathering unfolded on World Wetlands Day. It was a day to honour and celebrate the invaluable ecosystems that wetlands provide and to reaffirm commitment to their restoration and conservation.

Leading the ceremony was Cabinet Secretary Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and Forestry, Hon. Soipan Tuya, embodying the government's dedication to environmental preservation. Alongside her stood Environment and Climate Change PS Eng. Festus Ng'eno, a strong advocate for sustainable development.

The event, organised by NEMA and supported by Uasin Gishu County leadership led by Governor Dr. Jonathan Bii and Senator Jackson Mandago, drew a distinguished assembly of government leaders and other private stakeholders.

Among them were Hon. Julius Rutto, the esteemed

MP of Kesses Constituency, and Hon. Musa Sirma, representing the neighbouring Eldama Ravine Constituency. The presence of members from the National Assembly Committee on Environment, Forestry, and Mining underscored the national significance of the occasion.

As the ceremony began, CS Hon. Soipan Tuya, flanked by Governor Bii, officially commissioned the fencing of Lake Narasha/Timboroa Dam. This critical step was pivotal in protecting the wetland from encroachment and littering, ensuring its natural regeneration and enhancing its benefits for surrounding communities.

The CS stated that NEMA's effort to conserve wetlands is giving very promising results. She gave examples of two wetlands that have regenerated in Chalbi after NEMA's intervention to fence including Toniqo and Horri Ghuda as well as Kalacha. Fencing is critical as it protects the wetlands from human and animal encroachment.

“NEMA has mapped out 10,000 wetlands countrywide -the conservation of these wetlands has been guided by various wetlands restoration policy frameworks developed by the Authority and stakeholders. Moreover, the Wetlands and ecosystem restoration strategy seeks to protect the wetlands through fencing them and creation of awareness to help Communities protect wetlands,” NEMA DG stated.

The DG informed the gathering that NEMA had developed robust environmental framework to manage wetlands including; wetlands regulations, Wetlands management plans, National Marine Litter Action Plan among others.

Echoing these sentiments, NEMA Chairman Emilio Mugo emphasised the transformative impact of wetlands and ecosystem restoration efforts. The commitment of NEMA to implement restoration strategies nationwide resonated strongly, emphasising community involvement as integral to success. The chairman added that rehabilitation of wetlands is a great achievement for NEMA. He noted that landscapes and ecosystem restoration efforts has impacted the environment countrywide. The NEMA board will implement the wetlands and ecosystems restoration strategy countrywide by encouraging Communities to adopt a wetland near them

PS Festus Ngeno emphasised the importance of informed decision-making regarding land use changes, stressing the need to consider the diverse benefits and values that wetlands offer to both people and biodiversity. He advocated for prioritising the protection of naturally functioning wetlands in decision-making processes.

Senator Mandago extended a cordial invitation to CS Hon. Soipan Tuya, urging her to visit his county. Expressing his appreciation for the government’s efforts in environmental conservation, he sought to enhance their collaboration by inviting the CS to witness first-hand the initiatives underway in his jurisdiction. Additionally, Senator Mandago requested bamboo seedlings from the CS to grow, supporting the President’s initiative to further increase tree cover in Kenya, demonstrating his commitment to sustainable land management practices and biodiversity conservation in his county.

CS Tuya emphasised the pivotal role of wetlands within the framework of the 10-year National Landscapes and Ecosystems Restoration Strategy, a cornerstone of the Government’s ambitious 15 billion National Tree Growing Programme. She underscored the government’s commitment to prioritising the restoration of wetlands due to their significant ecological benefits, which serve as vital sources of livelihoods for communities and catalysts for Kenya’s socioeconomic advancement.

Under the banner of “Wetlands and Human Wellbeing,” the theme emphasised the symbiotic relationship between healthy wetlands and thriving communities. As the fencing rose, it symbolised not just a physical barrier but a commitment to safeguarding nature’s treasures for generations to come.

World Wetlands Day is an international celebration held every 2nd February to raise global awareness about the vital role of wetlands for people and planet.



Environment, Climate Change and Forestry CS, Hon. Soipan Tuya launches the Timboroa Dam fencing during the WWD celebrations at the Dam in Uasin Gishu County



Environment and Climate Change PS, Eng. Festus Ngeno accompanied by the DG NEMA Mamo B. Mamo, EBS flags off the Timboroa run as a buildup towards World Wetlands day 2024

Interventions to conserve Lake Narasha

NEMA plays a critical role in spearheading interventions for the restoration of wetlands in the country. These interventions include facilitating adoption of wetlands through 'Adopt-a-wetland initiative', policy development, regulatory enforcement, Biodiversity restoration, community awareness programs and collaboration with other stakeholders.

NEMA has currently adopted the Narasha wetland and the following intervention has been made:

- Biodiversity restoration by planting bamboo and indigenous trees to allow them to regenerate.
- Fencing of Lake Narasha to prevent the encroachment of the wetland
- Sensitization of the neighboring community on the importance of conserving Lake Narasha and involvement of the Community Forest Users association and Water resource users' association in

the conservation program.

- Collaboration with Kenya Forest Service, KEFRI, Nature Kenya, International Cranes foundation and other stakeholders to ensure Lake Narasha is conserved.

Lake Narasha stands as a lifeline for the communities it serves, providing water for various needs and supporting the surrounding ecosystems. Preserving this essential resource requires a collective commitment from residents, local authorities, and environmental organizations.

NEMA aims to ensure the sustainability of this ecosystem for current and future generations, contributing to overall environmental health and biodiversity conservation in Kenya.

Kitui wetlands conservation efforts

|| BY KITUI TEAM

World Wetlands Day is an environmentally related celebration which dates back to 1971 and seeks to raise awareness about the importance of wetlands.

H. E. Dr. Julius Makau Malombe graced the World Wetlands Day 2024 celebrations in Kitui County. The event was held at Ngomano Wetland, a confluence of River Thua and River Mui in Zombe/Mwitika Ward Kitui East sub-county.

Accompanied by several CECs, members of county assembly, regional directors and County directors drawn from the National Environment Management Authority, Water Resources Authority, Kenya Forest Service, departmental heads, administrators drawn from both the National and County Governments, the governor pledged his commitment to conserve and protect wetlands in Kitui.

The threats of Climate Change, nature and biodiversity loss, are very much alive in Kitui County and will overtime hinder access to safe and clean water. Several wetlands have emerged as a source of conflicts between communities and neighbouring pastoral communities.

This was of great concern to the County Government

of Kitui and several interventions had been spearheaded through multiple programs to promote ecosystem restoration.

Wetlands are special ecosystems that must be protected to maximise access to clean and safe water both for domestic and agricultural use.

The governor's effort to ensure sustainable and accessible sources of water had seen the targeted development of sand dams across the 40 wards in Kitui. Areas where the projects had been completed had indicated success stories of community's continuous access to clean drinking water and irrigated agriculture. Communities were urged to maximise water resource to build livelihoods for their economic sustenance. Communities were also urged to participate in environmental conservation and desist from deforestation and charcoal burning, so that the catchment areas can be restored.

Through the FLOCCA program the county had undertaken spring protection and rehabilitation in Nuu and Mutitu forests. The County was also committed to the 15 Billion trees growing program through the initiative of Duka Moja – Miti Tatu and Boma Moja – Miti Ishirini.



Governor Kitui County, H. E. Dr. Julius Makau Malombe planting a tree to mark WWD 2024 in the County.

Cleanup of Nakuru City

|| BY ENOCK NYAMIRA – INTERN, NEMA NAKURU OFFICE

The Constitution of Kenya 2010 provides the right to a clean, healthy and safe environment. The provision confers the responsibility for maintaining a clean environment to the county government, and the national government, through the Environmental Management and Coordination Act of 1999 and other applicable laws.

Nakuru City, widely recognized for its booming region and stunning scenery, has set up a monthly cleanup and tree-planting programme. This innovative program seeks to improve the city's attractiveness, address the degradation of the environment triggered by littering, and nurture an acute sense of communal responsibility among the residents of Nakuru city.

Even with its appealing charm, Nakuru City has drawbacks such as excessive garbage and inadequate tree cover. Inappropriate disposal of waste has deteriorated the environment, which affects the health of the populace and diminishes the attractiveness of the city. To mitigate the effects of garbage and safeguard and restore Nakuru's environment, immediate intervention is called for.

The Nakuru City Board, along with the County Department of Environment, Natural Resources, Energy, Water, Sanitation, and Climate Change, planned the monthly Nakuru City Clean-Ups and Tree Planting Initiative. The event, inaugurated on 10th February, 2024 brought together a variety of stakeholders from both the private and public sectors, as well as local environmental conservation organizations. These encompassed the National Environment Management Authority (NEMA), Environment Institute of Kenya-Rift Valley Chapter, Egerton University, Nakuru business community, Stima Sacco, Valley Hospital, Chakula Centre, Lions Club of Nakuru, Unga Farm Care, Milango Fiti, Kenya Association of Residents' Association (KARA), Credible Investment CBO, Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS), Sisi Wote CBO, Kenya Malaria Youth Corps, Green Villages Globally CBO, YALI and Rotaract Club of Menengai, among other stakeholders.

H.E. Deputy Governor David Kones, who represented the Governor, launched the city's first cleanup campaign at Pipeline area, Nakuru East Constituency,

Nakuru County. The event started at 8am till 12noon. The event raised awareness and inspired individuals

to take action about garbage management. The guest stressed that coordinated actions were desperately needed to solve environmental challenges. Apart from highlighting the necessity of regaining the city's reputation as a clean city, his statements prompted people to think about their responsibilities in safeguarding the area's attractiveness. The excellent exercise, which drew prominent partners and enthusiastic members of the public, highlighted a shared commitment to creating an environment that is healthier and cleaner for all.

County Executive Committee Member (CECM) from the Department of Environment, Natural Resources, Energy, Water, Sanitation, and Climate Change Dr. Nelson Maara reaffirmed the DG's remarks, saying that, 'such cooperative efforts not only improved the city's beauty but also highlight the community's commitment to environmental stewardship and sustainable living'.

Throughout the exercise, participants from all backgrounds came together in a sense of solidarity, highlighting the common responsibility to ensure the significant endeavor goes well. Future partnerships were sparked with the event, and preparations are now in place for regular clean-up activities and educational campaigns to raise environmental consciousness across the city.



The cleanup at Nakuru city

Environmental Advocacy



NEMA Staff, journalism and stakeholders showcasing trees for planting during the event.

|| BY DAISY MAINA

During World Press Freedom Day 2024, the National Environment Management Authority (NEMA) Meru County office joined forces with journalists to discuss a critical question on how journalism be the voice nature needs to combat environmental threats and create a healthier planet?

The urgency is clear-Climate change, biodiversity loss, and air pollution are taking a heavy toll on human lives. These issues not only endanger planet but also has a direct impact human and health.

The meeting, themed “A Press for the Planet: Journalism in the Face of Environmental Crisis,” brought together environmental experts, stakeholders, and journalists in Meru County who planted trees and explored the role journalism can play in environmental conservation. Discussions centered on investigative reporting that sheds light on environmental issues, raising public awareness and prompting action.

Investigative reports can expose environmental wrongdoings and hold polluters accountable.

Highlighting new and upcoming conservation projects and technologies can inspire hope and provide mitigative actions. Journalism’s role goes beyond mere reporting. Journalism gives voice to the voiceless – our environment and the communities most affected by environmental degradation – journalists can prompt action from policymakers and the public alike.

The discussions emphasized on collaboration – NEMA, with its environmental expertise, and journalists, with their storytelling power, can form a powerful alliance. This united front can give nature a much-needed voice, leading us towards a future where we can breathe easier, live healthier, and coexist with a thriving biodiversity for a sustainable future.

Strengthening Kajiado and Narok Green Points

|| BY JUDITH OCHIEÑO & TRACY MBITI

The Sustainable Forest Management project implemented in Kajiado and Narok counties, funded under GEF (Cycle 7) and executed by NEMA Kenya, aims to promote environmental conservation, implement environmental restoration plans, strengthen environmental governance, enhance community livelihoods, and empower community enterprise, especially through women in the region.

One of the tangible contributions the project is expected to realize is boosting innovation through green points and dynamic knowledge management. A Green Point is a one stop shop for all NEMA activities and advisory at the County but also a demonstration and learning centre for innovation.

They have been conceptualized in order to practically interpret the green economy concept in the Kenyan context. The design and function is meant to lead to a small ecological footprint as possible. NEMA current has about 15 Green Points in various Counties.

The NEMA project technical team together with officials from County Governments of Kajiado and Narok Counties, stakeholders in sustainable dryland management from both counties convened in respective counties to brainstorm on strategies to strengthen the two green points by conducting a comprehensive assessment and status of the technical and infrastructural capacities and resources available at the green point.

Specifically, the teams sort to Identify gaps in infrastructure at the green points; training needs related to information management; propose ideas for improving the green points and engagement with different stakeholders; and further confirm ideas floated during project design and identify what is relevant.

The objective of this initiative is to enhance the technical capacities of the Green Points as the project's information and resource centers. These centers will serve as hubs for environmental education, outreach, and community engagement, fostering sustainable development practices and promoting environmental

conservation. They serve as hubs for disseminating knowledge, implementing environmental restoration plans, and promoting sustainable practices.

Stakeholder during the meeting unanimously proposed setting up of demonstrations area within the green points. Dedicated spaces will be set up to demonstrate sustainable forest management practices and rangelands conservation, such as tree planting, soil conservation, pasture farming techniques suitable for the local environment in project Counties among other activities. These areas will serve as practical learning hubs for community members.

Integrating the server into Green Point's infrastructure will enhance NEMA's daily work by providing a robust platform for data management, communication, information sharing, monitoring, and capacity building. This will support NEMA work while also contributing to the achievement of the project's objectives in sustainable forest management and community engagement.

As part of the project, a server will be set up at the green point to facilitate data management, communication, and knowledge sharing. The server will serve as a central repository for all project-related data, digital resources, including training materials, research reports, and community-generated content.



The NEMA Green Point

UPCOMING EVENTS



We cannot turn
back time...

But we can turn back into
fertile lands...

WE ARE
#GenerationRestoration


REPUBLIC OF KENYA


UN
environment
programme


nema
mazingira yetu | uhai wetu | wajibu wetu

World Environment Day

5 JUNE 2024
UNIVERSITY OF EMBU

Theme:
Land Restoration, Desertification & Drought Resilience

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OUR LEGACY.
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DESERTIFICATION AND
DROUGHT DAY • 17 JUNE 2024

DOL DOL, NANYUKI, LAIKIPIA COUNTY



United Nations
Convention to Combat
Desertification



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AIR QUALITY REGULATION

Smoke from fire may not bother you, but it could be a real problem and a serious health threat.

7 Million deaths occur annually globally due to air pollution.

Avoid Open Burning of Waste!

All industries must put in place measures to prevent and control air pollution for a clean environment.

Ensure your **air pollution control systems** are well maintained to reduce air pollutants.

Regulated facilities operating emitting equipment must have a **VALID NEMA EMISSION LICENSE**.





nema

mazingira yetu | uhai wetu | wajibu wetu

National Environment Management Authority

Environmental Management and Coordination Act (Noise & Excessive Vibrations) (Control) Regulations

Every person has a right to live in a serene surrounding free from excessive noise. A facility or an activity should not exceed the allowable noise levels and should provide for mitigating measures for the reduction of noise.

Noise Control is a devolved environmental function whose implementation is undertaken by the County governments.

However, the oversight role still remains with NEMA.

DO NOT ALLOW loud, unreasonable, unnecessary or unusual noise which annoys, disturbs, injures or endangers the comfort, repose, health or safety of others and the environment.

Report noise related incidents to **your county government.**

The County government may grant you a temporary permit allowing emission of noise in excess of established standards for such activities as fireworks, demolitions, firing ranges.



@NemaKenya



nema.go.ke

Report Environmental Incidents / Complaints through



0741 101 100 | 0786 101 100 |



incidence@nema.go.ke