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Ecoflash

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National Environment Management Authority

BEATING PLASTIC POLLUTION

Kenyan just like the rest of the world is being inundated by plastics where 400 million tonnes of plastics is produced annually half of which is designed to be used once. World Environment Day 2023 focused on solutions to plastic pollution.



NEMA begins restoring critical wetlands countrywide as strategy is launched

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Our Environment, Our Life, Our Responsibility

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- Launch of critical wetlands.....4
- Crackdown on banned plastics, EDL.....5
- World Environment Day.....6
- Going forward to plastic treaty.....9
- Dondori tree planting.....9
- NEMA board inaugurated.....10
- Princess crowns the Queen.....11
- Wetlands Restoration strategy launched.....12
- Kiambu rivers restoration.....15
- Bargasse recycling.....16
- Saving Lake Olbollossat.....17
- Restoring Mt. Kenya.....18
- Lamu Beat Plastic pollution.....19
- Conservation in Isiolo.....20
- Plastic pollution in Marsabit.....21
- On the nature trail.....22
- World Desertification and Drought Day.....22
- Kwale conservation.....26



Editorial

Rid the Country off plastics

This year's World Environment Day theme: 'Solutions to Plastic Pollution' resonated with one of the most critical environmental concerns that the world is dealing with today. This also came at a time when communities are now passionately taking up environmental concerns at heart.

It is indeed a saddening situation that the world is entangled into plastic pollution where more than 400 million tonnes of plastics is produced annually with little initiatives on recycling. This has resulted into massive environmental pollution worldwide.

The UNEP triple planetary crisis - Climate change, nature and biodiversity loss and waste and pollution in our communities today are intertwined, we cannot talk about climate change without nature and biodiversity loss popping out, and similarly waste and pollution without climate change. The recycling momentum has picked particularly for PETs, will we see suggestions and commitments on product redesigning and packaging, and can we initiate justice?

It's a no brainer that the effects of climate change have become a global crisis and affecting everyone. Men and women whether young or women in vulnerable communities are taking the strongest hit. Particularly, Women are the most affected. This was established during the commemorations of World Desertification and Drought Day held in Kitui County. A study conducted by NEMA showed that 71% of women in Kitui County do not have any land ownership status. Women were urged to actively participate in environmental conservation to combat desertification and drought.

During this period, the Ministry through NEMA unveiled the Wetlands restoration strategy to facilitate ecosystem restoration through the 15 billion tree growing programme, circular economy and climate action. To initiative the process, Toniaqo and Horri Ghudha wetlands were commissioned after being rehabilitated by NEMA through fencing and tree planting to allow them to regenerate. The wetlands offered a restoration model which will be replicated in the rehabilitation of other wetlands across the country.

The Authority has maintained momentum on enforcement of plastic bags with regular inspections countrywide in the bid to get rid of plastics in line with the 2017 ban.

The Authority was also privileged to welcome a new board during the period.

Enjoy the read!

Evans Nyabuto
Deputy Director Corporate Communications

Toniaqo, Horri Gudha Wetlands Launched

BY S. IRUNGU, F. MUSOMI & P. KERUBO



CS Environment, Climate Change and Forestry, Hon. Soipan Tuya commission the Horri Gudha Wetland in North Horr, Marsabit County. She is flanked by DG NEMA, Mamo B. Mamo, EBS and Women Rep Marsabit County Hon. Naomi Waqo.

INSET: Commissioning of Toniaqo Wetland



The Environment, Climate Change and Forestry Cabinet Secretary, Hon. Soipan Tuya commissioned the Toniqo and Horri ghudha wetlands on 5th and 6th July 2023.

The two wetlands are located in North Horr, Marsabit County and have been rehabilitated by NEMA through fencing and tree planting to allow them to regenerate.

The CS was accompanied by Director General, NEMA, Mamo B. Mamo, EBS, Chairman, Emilio Mugo and Marsabit Women Representative Hon. Naomi Waqo among other dignitaries.

Speaking during the event, the CS urged the North Horr residents to plant trees within their wetland areas to protect the water sources and improve their livelihoods. She added that everyone has a responsibility to plant trees and not leave it to the government alone.

She appreciated NEMA for rehabilitating the wetlands

in North Horr that offers model projects which will be emulated in protection and management of other wetlands countrywide in line with the recently launched Wetlands Restoration Strategy.

Further, CS Soipan stated that the wetlands offers a high opportunity to green the deserts and restore the degraded lands. She added that NEMA has already mapped out 8,000 wetlands that will be fenced and rehabilitated.

Toniqo and Horri Gudha wetlands will act as the models for rehabilitation of other wetlands countrywide.

NEMA DG Mamo B. Mamo urged the locals to guard their wetlands as they are their water sources for both their animals and people. NEMA will extend the wetlands acreage in North Horr through fencing to enhance their regeneration and protection.

CS Environment, Climate Change and Forestry, Hon. Soipan Tuya plants a tree at Tiniqo wetland. She is assisted by NEMA DG, Mamo B. Mamo, EBS, CDE Marsabit, Osoro Naftaly and a KFS official.



Crackdown on Banned Plastic Bags, EDL

BY S. IRUNGU, J. OCHIENO & A. KAMIRI

The nationwide enforcement on the banned plastic bags and Effluent Discharge License (EDL) was conducted in the month of May 2023.

The Authority's officials visited various Counties in bid to enforce the ban on the use, importation and manufacture of plastic bags as well as ensure compliance with the Effluent Discharge License as stipulated in the Water Quality Regulations, 2006.

The exercise aimed at enforcing the ban and apprehending the users, manufacturers and importers still in possession of the banned plastic bags. The Authority partnered with the National police and the judiciary to ensure that the culprits were arrested and prosecuted accordance to the law.

As result, several users and manufacturers were arrested in possession of the banned bags in several counties. In addition, companies using the bags without requisite exemption from NEMA were also apprehended as aided presence of the banned bags in the markets.

Particular cases of manufacturers making the bags and supplying to traders especially bakers who do not have exemptions from the Authority were also identified and dealt with.

According to NEMA Director General, Mamo B.

Mamo, EBS, the Authority is facing the challenge of presence of porous borders where a lot of plastics come across the borders. "We need to engage the regional Authorities and enforcement actors to ensure we stop smuggling of plastics across borders," the DG said in an interview with Flipflopi.

Speaking during an enforcement exercise in Eldoret town, NEMA Rift Valley Regional Director of Environment, Njoki Mukiri noted that most companies in the town have been manufacturing the bags for several bakers countrywide without having an exemption license from NEMA.

"Every manufacturer such as bakers should have an exemption license from NEMA for primary packaging of their merchandise. Their bags should indicate the name of their contracted manufacturer to facilitate the take back scheme," Njoki said. Proprietors of several Petrol Stations in various Counties who have not applied or renewed their Effluent Discharge Licenses were also arrested and prosecuted.

According to Environmental Management and Coordination Act (EMCA), Section 144, any person who contravenes the provision of the gazette notice shall be liable to a fine of not less than two (2) million Kenya Shillings, and not more than four (4) million Kenya shillings, or imprisonment of a term of not less than one (1) year but not more than four (4) years or to both such fine and imprisonment.



NEMA officers inspecting a bakery for plastic exemptions in Eldoret during an enforcement exercise in the County.

Beating plastic pollution

BY SAMWEL IRUNGU & CATHERINE ADWONG'A

The World Environment Day is celebrated annually on 5 June. This year, the theme #BeatPlasticPollution sends a spotlight to Solutions to Plastic pollution. The national event was held in Nakuru National Park, Nakuru County on 5th June, 2022.



Environment, Climate Change and Forestry CS, Hon. Soipan Tuyu, Governor Nakuru County, H.E Susan Kihika, PS Environment and Climate Change, Eng. Festus Ngeno, NEMA Director General, NEMA Mamo B. Mamo among host of other dignitaries visit the NEMA booth during the WED in Nakuru National Park, Nakuru County. NEMA's Anne Theuri received the guests.

The solutions to plastic pollution lies with us. Small acts like picking waste create great change. We need a systematic change at individual level that can inspire others. Refuse to use the plastic bags

Mamo B. Mamo, EBS
NEMA, Director General

The World Environment Day 2023 was commemorated at Nakuru National Park, Nakuru County on 5th June, 2023

This year's theme is on "solutions to plastic pollution". Global attention has been focused on plastics use and the damage they continue to wreck on the planet earth.

The theme for this year therefore brought to the attention of the world the pertinent question of how people interact with the plastics in terms of its production, consumption and disposal.

The event was graced by the Environment, Climate Change and Forestry, Cabinet Secretary, Hon. Soipan Tuyu who stated that as a country, we need to elevate the environmental agenda in the country. Moreover, she added that we need to adopt the behavior change to safeguard the environment in the country.

"Single use plastic bags are finding their way into our markets, i am directing NEMA to enhance the enforcement actions to get rid of plastic paper bags in the country," the CS said. She expressed her commitment to turn Kenya from linear to circular economy.

She informed the public that young people working in dumpsites will be put into cooperatives where they will be better organized to benefit economically.

This includes the greening and beatification plan throughout the County and rehabilitated Gioto dumpsite.

One of the most pressing environmental problems we face today is plastic pollution. According to the United Nations Environment Programme (2023), over 400 million tonnes of plastic are produced worldwide each year, with half of it being used only once and less than 10% being recycled.

The CS also sought the assistance of NEMA to gazette more environmental inspectors to support environmental enforcement actions by the County.

According to PS state department of Environment and Climate Eng. Festus Ngeno, Lake Nakuru Biodiversity Program is a national Program implemented in the county government of Nakuru that is supported by KFW and National government to look into the issues

The Governor Nakuru County H.E Susan Kihika stated that the County has established the Integrated waste management and Nakuru County Waste management Act.

She added that the County has also implemented the 10 minimum waste management points. Moreover, the County has grown 500,000 trees and plans to plant 500,000 acres by 2032.



NEMA Chairman, Emilio Mugo , Board Members planting a tree during the World Environment Day at Nakuru National Park

of solid waste management by expansion of sewer line so that we don't pollute Lake Nakuru.

The Chairman, NEMA Board of management, Emilio Mugo, since Kenya banned the single plastic paper bags, the Authority formulated a strategy for the implementation of the Ban on Plastic Carrier Bags. The Strategy identified enforcement actions, awareness creation and promotion of green economy as solutions to implementation of the ban.

NEMA Director General Mamo B. Mamo, EBS noted that the solutions to plastic pollution lies with us. Small acts like picking waste create great change. We need a systematic change at individual level that can inspire others.



Environment, Climate Change and Forestry CS, Hon. Soipan Tuya, Governor Nakuru County, H.E Susan Kihika, PS Environment and Climate Change, Eng. Festus Ngeno, NEMA Director General, NEMA Mamo B. Mamo among other dignitaries holding a tree during the WED celebrations at Nakuru National Park.

The DG urged the public to refuse to use plastic papers even if groceries are rapped with them. This is because, by using them, we offer a fodder for the black market of plastic bags to thrive.

The event was also attended by host of various leaders from the County who affirms the need to protect the environment as well participate in the 15 Billion tree planting campaign.

During the event, the Authority sought to promote innovations on recycling of plastic bags in line with the circular economy. Governments, companies and all stakeholders are called to scale up and speed up actions to solve the plastic pollution crisis.

Machakos, Migori, Enegi, Tambach, Igoji, Galata and Kamwenja Teachers Training Colleges were awarded for participating and winning the national teachers training college debate competition held countrywide on “to ban or not to ban plastic bottles”

The WED celebrations were conducted in all the 47 Counties led by our County Directors of Environment in conjunction with partners in County Government

and other stakeholders.

All activities were geared towards solutions to plastics pollution as well tree growing activities in line with the Governments 15 billion tree growing strategy.



Sherlyn Ruto Daughter to the President (L) awards Eregi Teachers Training College as she graced the World Environment Day at Nakuru National Park.

Going Forward to the Plastic Treaty

This years’ World Environment Day theme: ‘Solutions to Plastic Pollution’ resonates with one of the most critical environmental concerns that the world is dealing with today. This also comes at a time when communities are now passionately taking up environmental concerns at heart.

It is now not unusual to see environmental activists come out loudly on logging or waste and pollution concerns. Communities today have suffered and will continue to suffer the effects of human-induced environmental impacts.

The recent IPCC AR6 has reported that regardless of the efforts made towards emission control, the extent of warming will still bring effects to humanity, unfortunately for us, the effects are disproportionate. We must act now! And what must we do?

The UNEP triple planetary crisis - Climate change, nature and biodiversity loss and waste and pollution in our communities today are intertwined, we cannot talk about climate change without nature and biodiversity loss popping out, and similarly waste and pollution without climate change!

As we look forward to the Intergovernmental Negotiation Committee on Plastic Pollution engagements come November 2023 in Nairobi our interest focuses on the kind of submissions and discussions on the Plastic Treaty.

The recycling momentum has peaked particularly for PETs, will we see suggestions and commitments on product redesigning and packaging, and can we initiate justice?

As a country we have set the pace and made our share of initial commitments and achievements.

World Environment Day Commentary By Catherine Atieno Adwong’a, Senior Environment Officer – NEMA Nakuru

Dondori Forest Tree Planting

The tree planting at Dondori Forest in Nakuru County. The multi stakeholder activity was undertaken today to buildup towards World Environment Day to be held on Monday, 5th June, 2023 at Nakuru National Park, Nakuru County.

The team also proceeded to Subukia where 12,000 tree seedlings were planted. In total, 19,000 tree seedlings were planted.



RDE Rift Valley Region, Njoki Mukiri planting a tree with Ann Theuri and Catherine Adwonga at Dondori Forest



Kenya Military officers base at Lanet collecting plastic tubes after planting trees at Dondori Forest

Princess Crowns the Queen

BY RICHARD MWANGI & NEMA NYERI TEAM

Beside a quiet and cool Chania River at the Nyeri section, melodious chirping birds on high grevillea trees and scaups diving joyous in three treated waste water lagoons unperturbed by the crowd and chilly weather and elusive sunshine, the queen receives her crown.

Do not be hasty to know who the queen is and the territory she will have dominion over. Walk with me step by step as the story unfolds.

The princess started by demonstrating how the crown is made from “the cursed gold and gemstones”.

Under the guidance of their butler, they skillfully turn “the curse” into precious blessings under the gazing eyes of the crowd which wondered how this could be. The senior prince was also amazed as he received a golden try but rejected golden wine glass.

The princess is none other than members of Environmental Club from Gatugi Girls High School in Othaya and their butler is the Club’s Patron, Mrs. Joyce Mwangi.

They had earnestly booked a slot to participate in the

World Environment Day 2023 as early as in March this year.

Little did we know that they would steal the show. The event was held at Nyeri Water and Sanitation Company Limited-Kangemi.

The princess presented a skit on how waste plastic bottles, buckets and papers can be used to make slippers, wine glasses, ear rings, neck-laces, belts, pencils and pens pouches among other items.

To participants were shocked to learn how one of the students had made a beautiful crown from an old cracked plastic bucket.

They crowned County Government of Nyeri-Chief Officer-Solid Waste Management Unit Ms. Violet Koigi as the Queen of the event and gifted Deputy Governor- the chief guest representing the Governor with a beautiful tray made from recycled plastic material.

During the event participants also drank tea made from bamboo leaves.



Joyce Mwangi, Patron Gatugi Girls High school Environmental club wearing a crown made from recycled plastics during the World Environment Day 2023 celebrations in Nyeri County

Kenya’s Wetlands Restoration Strategy Unveiled

BY CAROL MURIUKI & AGNES KAMIRI



CS Environment, Climate Change and Forestry Hon. Soipan Tuya, PS State department of Environment and Climate Change, Eng. Festus Ngeno with NEMA officials and stakeholders during the Conference at Panari hotel

Environment, Climate Change and Forestry Cabinet Secretary Soipan Tuya on Thursday unveiled Kenya’s wetlands restoration strategy with a call for more participation of local communities including youth, women and children in environmental conservation activities.

The inaugural Restoration Conference brought together Regional & County Directors of Environment; County Conservators of Forests; County Executive Committee Members (CECM) in charge of Environment, and Nature Conservancy took place in Pride Inn Hotel Mombasa on 18th and 19th May, 2023.

Speaking at a meeting of Regional and County Directors of Environment and Conservators of Forests as well as County Executive Committee Members (CECMs) for Environment, Hon Tuya said her Ministry had adopted a catchment approach to restoration of wetlands as opposed to localised interventions which often fail.

“Restoration and rehabilitation of wetlands is a priority and should be done on a catchment scale

or as a basin. I am happy this is the approach that the State Department for Environment and Climate Change has taken.

“Wetland restoration that is done at local scale is often negated by degradation upstream or downstream, and when it is done in this uncoordinated manner, it is shortlived and the benefits are not fully realized,” Hon Tuya said.

On greater participation of local communities in environmental conservation including wetlands restoration, the Cabinet Secretary said their involvement would help create jobs in line with the Kenya Kwanza administration’s bottom-up economic model.

“We can be inspired by one of the most successful wetlands restorations initiatives, the Working for Wetlands in South Africa, a 20-year wetlands restoration program that resulted in the generation of 37,000 jobs mostly for youth and women. This can also be done here in Kenya,” Hon Tuya said.

The objectives of the conference as highlighted by NEMA Director General, Mamo B. Mamo includes;

- To have a Conversation on elevation of environmental agenda
- 15Billion tree campaign alignment
- Common front in addressing loss of ESA's including measures to protect and conserve wetlands in the country
- Coordination and supervision of environment matters and specifically creation of coordination frameworks at county level
- Fostering behavior change towards environmental management.

The PS Eng. Ngeno presented the restoration strategy which is aimed at bringing together county level leadership to take center stage in ensuring sustainability of their wetlands ecosystems by initiating restoration of the catchments. The focus areas in the strategy as outlined are;

- Promote restoration and rehabilitation of all degraded wetland,
- Harmonise and gazette wetlands riparian areas,
- Promote wetlands friendly alternative livelihoods,
- Put in place monitoring frameworks to ensure maintenance of wetlands integrity,
- Promote market based instruments and incentives for PES,
- Map, delineate and publicize all wetlands boundaries
- Identify wetlands for designation and gazettement as conservation areas,
- Develop and implement appropriate management plans through a participatory process,
- Promote education, awareness on wetlands resources,



CS Environment, Climate Change and Forestry Hon. Soipan Tuyu, PS State department of Environment and Climate Change, Eng. Festus Ngeno (L) with NEMA DG Mamo B. Mamo, EBS in a tee a tee during the wetlands restoration Conference at Panari Hotel, Nairobi



PS State Department of Environment and Climate Change, Eng. Festus Ngeno with NEMA Chairman, Emilio Mugo, DG Mamo B. Mamo, EBS, management RDEs, CDEs during the Wetlands restoration conference at Panari

The Cabinet Secretary said her Ministry had prioritized wetlands restoration as part of the Government's flagship project of expanding Kenya's tree cover from the current 12.3 to 30 percent by the year 2032 by growing 15 billion trees over the decade.

"So, this strategy that the State Department for Environment and Climate Change has taken, will satisfy amongst others, the dual role of meeting the 15 billion national tree growing and restoration target but also help the country in combating climate change," she said.

At the meeting convened by the NEMA, Hon Tuyu also spoke about her Ministry's priority areas of ecosystem restoration through the 15 billion tree growing programme, circular economy and climate action. She said her Ministry was in the process of amending the Climate Change Act to "deliver a carbon markets framework that is transparent and has integrity" because of the market's great potential to finance Kenya's climate change mitigation and adaptation programs.

In line with last year's Sustainable Waste Management Act, Hon Tuyu said her Ministry was working on developing a vibrant circular economy that will transform the over 8 million metric tonnes of waste Kenya generates annually into raw material for industrial production.



NEMA DG Mamo B. Mamo, EBS making his remarks during the meeting at Panari

out of the 15 billion tree growing programme, and challenged counties to emulate national government institutions and private sector by adopting degraded forests and virgin acreage in their jurisdictions for reforestation and afforestation.

"As county governments, your governors at the last summit in Naivasha committed to allocating 20% of FLOCCA funds to the 15 billion national tree growing programme. As officers in charge of the sector, please use your good offices to ensure that these commitments are realised," the CS told the CECM's.

Hon Tuyu said that as Cabinet Secretary she was determined to ensure that collaboration between her Ministry and Counties in environmental conservation was strengthened, and thanked NEMA for organizing the inaugural two-day inter-governmental meeting on environmental conservation.

"As Cabinet Secretary, I acknowledge the work that Counties do in environment, climate change and forestry, and it is for this reason that I will seek to strengthen the partnership between the Ministry and county governments in the life of my administration. This meeting is one such, and many more will follow.

"Our coming together as national and county governments is important for the environment function. These meetings and conferences should not be ad hoc. They should be part of the policy implementation continuum to help deliver the country's environment mandate and promise," the CS said.

At the same time, Hon Tuyu directed the State Department of Environment and Climate Change to fast-track the enactment of an inter-governmental coordination framework to ensure proper coordination of the environment function between the Ministry and Counties.

Further, the Cabinet Secretary directed NEMA, working with Counties, to ensure the gazettement and operationalization of all county environment committees as well as appointment of more county-based environment inspectors.

Other speakers on the first day of the two-day meeting were Principal Secretary for Environment and Climate Change Eng Festus Ngeno who presented the wetlands restoration strategy, and the Director General of NEMA, Mamo B Mamo.

PICTORIALS



Director Smachs Foundation, Charlene Ruto awards participants from Machakos Teachers College for participating in debate on plastic ban. NEMA DG, Mamo B. Mamo, EBS looking on.



NEMA Deputy Director Field Operations Robert Orina (L) gifts Board member, Prof. Charles Kibanani. Board member, Bishop Dr. Paul Mwaura looking on.



Governor Kitui County, Hon. Dr. Julius Malombe signs the Kitui County Climate Change Action Plan during the WDD celebrations in Kitui



NEMA, Researchers from Nairobi University undertaking air quality monitoring for the ongoing AEHPM World Bank Project in Nakuru County



From L: NEMA DG, Mamo B. Mamo EBS, Woman Rep, Marsabit Hon. Naomi Waqo, CS Environment, Hon Soipan Tuya, NEMA Board Chairman, Emilio Mugo and Vice Chair, Sophia Matura at Tiniqo wetland in Marsabit

From L: NEMA RDE Nakuru Njoki ,Mukiri, Catherine Adwong'a, EO Nakuru and Anne Theuri planting a tree at Dondori forest during the WED celebration



CS inaugurates NEMA Board



FRONT ROW: CS Environment, Climate Change and Forestry, Hon. Soipan Tuya (2nd L) walks into NEMA offices. She is accompanied by PS Environment and Climate Change, Eng. Festus Ngeno (C), NEMA Chairman, Emilio Mugo (2nd R), DG Mamo B. Mamo (L) and Board Member, Amos Andama.

The Cabinet Secretary for Environment, Climate Change and Forestry, Hon. Soipan Tuya, CBS presided over the inauguration of the NEMA board on 4th July 2023 at NEMA headquarters.

She was accompanied by the PS for Environment and Climate Change, Eng. Festus Ngeno.

The CS was taken on a tour of critical NEMA infrastructure including the Licensing centre, GIS Lab and Mobile air quality monitoring.

Speaking during her visit, the CS pointed out various key priority areas for the environment including; ecosystem restoration, climate action and sustainable waste management. She urged NEMA staff to come up with solutions for handling the priority areas.

The CS challenged the NEMA board to work on improving the work environment for staff both at the head office and Nema county and regional offices.

The NEMA board chair, Mr. Emilio Mugo affirmed the Boards support to the ministry's vision as well as provide a conducive work environment for the NEMA

staff. "Nema has a great staff; we have all it takes to deliver," said Mr. Mugo.

The Director General, Mamo B. Mamo, EBS assured the CS of the management and staff commitment to the implementation of the 19 mandates as bestowed by the Environmental Management and Coordination Act, 1999 and resultant regulations.



CS Environment, Climate Change and Forestry, Hon. Soipan Tuya with the NEMA board and management

NEMA acts to save Lake Olbollossat

BY NEMA NYANDARUA TEAM

Lake Olbollossat serves as the main source of water for the Ewaso Narok River and contributes a lot on the flow of Ewaso Ng'iro River downstream within Nyandarua, Laikipia, Samburu, Isiolo and Wajir Counties.

It is characterized by different physiological features and diverse species of flora and fauna. One of the peculiar features is that the lake has both fresh and saline water, which does not mix at any one time.

Its water resources support the livelihoods in five counties namely; Nyandarua, Laikipia, Samburu, Isiolo and Wajir. It also supports tourism-related activities in these counties including among others the scenic 75m Thomson falls, hotels and globally renowned conservancies such as Olpajeta and Lewa Down.

Despite the critical nature of the lake to the millions of the population downstream, it is on verge of extinction due to uncontrolled human activities.

The lake Olbollossat is registered with the Land's Registration department of Nyandarua County as a wetland under the National Government. The surrounding areas were allocated as Land settlement scheme by the National Government under the Settlement Funds Trustees (SFT) within the Ministry of Lands. In addition, there are some individuals with title deeds issued by the Lands department and others without titles but still living within the Lake's riparian areas.

The lake is currently facing human activities and climate change threats which are impacting a lot on the water resources. These threats are namely: farming activities along the Lake Catchment and riparian areas, illegal abstractions from the feeder springs and streams, deforestations of the Lake riparian catchment areas, allocation of Lake Catchment and riparian land areas for settlement by Lands department, unplanned grazing patterns within the Lake Catchment and riparian land areas, human and Wildlife conflicts and climate change.

The only remaining water with vegetation in the lake where Hippos and birds could be located at Manguo. It was observed that the downstream of the lake has no

water flow; this is as a result of climate change and the growing of eucalyptus trees along the riparian areas. The spatial outlay of the lake looked quite impacted by human activities which essentially constitute encroachment. The natural serenity of the lake and its surrounding is adulterated by conflicting activities.

This region is where the County Government of Nyandarua had done a trench in 2021 in an effort to control the ever-increasing Human-Wildlife Conflicts. NEMA issued a restoration order dated 17th August 2021. Though the need to address human-wildlife conflict was, and is still high, it was observed that this might not have been the best idea and that implementation was not well thought out. Apart from harming the Hippos and being a potential hazard to humans and livestock, it was also observed that the trench interferes with surface water runoffs and may be acting as a barrier to water inflows into the lake resulting into poor lake replenishing.

There was evident of irregular subdivision inside the lake area. Encroachment was noted to be quite high with a building constructed just right inside the Lake even past the trench towards the lake, indicating that the house was constructed amid increasing awareness of the lake degradation which was not NEMA licensed.

Eucalyptus trees dominated the area from private entities, some going inside the lake riparian land. These amongst other factors have caused the lake to completely dry on this particular site. Check dams in the upper part also have played a great impact in the reduction of water in the lake as outlined by some few citizens neighboring the lake.

During the time of the visit, the vegetation was very dry and all the riparian areas were heavily overgrazed. This notwithstanding, over 100 cows and over 200 sheep and goats were observed grazing inside the lake and the riparian areas. Only a handful of fauna was observed in the form of grassland birds and a raptor.

However, the Lake can be rehabilitated through growing of water friendly tree species like Ficus cycomorus, Syzygium guineense, Dombeya torrid and Bamboo Species which clean turbid water. All the unfriendly water tree species.

Tackling Plastic Pollution in Marsabit County

BY OSORO NAFTALY & DUB KORME, MARSABIT

As we marked the World Environment Day, 2023 themed “Solutions to Plastic Pollution” challenges posed by plastic pollution is a matter currently under global discourse.

As a Country, strides have been made through the ban on use of plastics (polythene) in 2017 and, subsequently, an extension in 2019 at National Parks and Game Reserves, the purposes of this ban was to ensure environmental conservation and adherence to the constitutional requirement for provision of clean and safe environment for all.

The challenge that Kenya’s faces is of neighbors that haven’t embraced the ban of single use plastics. This makes it possible for their infiltration and getting their way to Kenya Markets through unscrupulous traders.

This Year World Environment Day in Marsabit County was commemorated in Moyale Town. This is a border town and a clear example on how infiltration of banned carrier bags gets into the Country from our neighbours hence the need for a Global Plastic Treaty that will legally bind countries on the need for regulation of plastics.

A global discussion on regulation of plastic pollution, and the need of a single voice has made environmental players work towards having a Global Plastic Treaty.

The treaty is in its Second Round of Negotiations (INC-2), discussion that were held on 29th May & 2nd June, 2023 at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris.

The First Round of Negotiations (INC-1) was held in June, 2022. The INC-1 majorly focused on discussion & procedure rules. The Third Round of Negotiations (INC-3) are planned for in Nairobi sometimes in November, 2023.

So far, strides have been made in the Second Round of Negotiations (INC-2), which concluded with an adoption of a “zero draft” to be used for the next round of meetings.

The “Zero Draft” has identified 12 possible core obligations that include encouraging the “reduction, reuse & repair” of plastic products and packaging; promoting the use of safe and sustainable alternatives and substitutes; eliminating the release and emissions of plastics to water, soil and air; addressing existing plastic pollution; facilitating just transition; and protecting human health from adverse effects of plastic pollution.

Focus has also been made on means of implementation, including development of National Action Plans (NAPs,) information exchange, stakeholder engagement, awareness raising and education.

Nearly 180 states are attending the talks, 135 are explicitly calling for binding global rules that apply equally to all countries, rather than voluntary agreement in which governments have a choice of actions to take.

Once this treaty comes into place, countries and environmental regulatory agencies such as NEMA will have made strides in matters environmental conservation and in ensuring adherence to the constitutional requirement for Kenyans on the provision of clean and safe environment for all.



A PET bottles recycling facility in Nakuru town

NEMA Kiambu on Rivers Restoration

BY MICHAEL NJIRU, EO KIAMBU

On the Southern lower edge of Aberdare ranges is a blessing to the Athi water ecosystem.

Within the interlocking spurs of the intensely dissected steep ranges emanate little springs that trickle down in streams of cool clean water enhancing the famous Athi waters quenching the vast arid lands of Kenya up to the coast diluting saline Indian ocean waters.

At Keraita forest, NEMA team and Kiambu community joined hands to enhance Kamahindu Block of Uplands Forest station in the Aberdare Forest.

The tree planting aimed at rehabilitating a landslide at Wang’are spring that feeds Kamayuni, a tributary of Gatamaiyu stream that empties into Ruiru River, a major tributary of Athi river.

The tree planting exercise achieved 5000 indigenous trees seedlings on 24th day of May 2023. The team planted Syzygium, Podo, Olea, Pinus, and bamboos. The event was graced by the Kiambu CDE Mr. Stephen Wambua and the ecosystem conservator Mr. Thomas Kiptoo.

During the event the C.F A chairman saw commended as good gesture for a government institution partnering with the community to grow trees. He wished it started decades ago that Kenya would be a Forest Island in Africa.

Speaker after speaker commended the activity and forecasted an end to global warming with a reserved climate change.

They wished “What a beautiful world at year 2070 with cool clean waters flowing to the coast, “the dream for

Wanamazingira.

To ensure the trees sustainability, the community will adopt the planted area to ensure its growth to eternity. The CDE, EC-KFS, and chairman Keraita forest made an agreement with the farmers who cultivated the 5 acres area under PELIS (plantation establishment livelihood improvement scheme) to conserve the landslide prone valleys.



CDE Kiambu County Stephen Wambua is assisted to plant a tree during the tree planting session

A Gully that NEMA targets to conserve in the Abadares forest



Women Urged to Protect their Land from Desertification

BY S. IRUNGU & ORAS MUREITHI

71% Number of Women in Kitui County who do have any land ownership status, a research conducted by NEMA in 2023 shows



From L: CS Environment, Climate Change and Forestry, Hon Soipan Tuya, CS Tourism, Hon. Peninah Malonza, Governor Kitui County, H.E Dr. Julius Malombe, PS Environment and Climate Change, Eng. Festus Ngeno and NEMA DG Mamo B. Mamo, EBS display the Kitui County Climate Change Action after the launch during the World Desertification and Drought Day in Waita, Mwingi, Kitui County

The national celebrations for World Desertification and Drought Day focused on strengthening women rights to own land as well as raise awareness of the presence of desertification and drought, highlighting methods of preventing desertification and recovering from drought.

The event was held today at St. Paul's Waita Secondary School, Mwingi central, Kitui County. The event was celebrated under the theme, 'Her Land, Her Rights.'

Speaking during the event, the CS Ministry of

Environment, Climate Change and Forestry, Hon. Soipan Tuya stated that women are at the core of the Ministry's ecosystem restoration efforts through the 15bn national tree growing program, especially in the propagation of fruit and nut tree seedlings to support the agroforestry component of the climate change mitigation initiative.

The CS urged Kitui County residents to intensify tree growing and actively participate in environmental activities aimed at combat desertification.

NEMA through the Ministry has developed the, "Green Boma", that involves planting of fruit trees within households to be rolled in semi-arid and arid areas to help achieve nutritional and economical value and boost tree cover, she said.

She added that the ministry will focus on protection of wetlands. She commended NEMA for the recently launched Wetlands Restoration policy. She posed that, "Even as we focus on tree planting, why cant protect what we already have to protect land from degradation.

"A study conducted by NEMA shows that 71% of women in Kitui County do have any land ownership status. Women are critical in safeguarding the land as a critical community resource. As a result, Women and children disproportionately suffer due to water scarcity," Mamo B. Mamo, EBS, DG NEMA stated.

"This year's theme largely calls upon all players to focus on upscaling efforts towards advancing Gender Equality and participation in Land Restoration efforts. Sustainable Development Goal 15 - Life on Land calls for the protection, restoration and sustainable management of land-based ecosystems," Mamo noted.

He further postulated that target 15.3 specifically

calls for collective action for us to achieve a land degradation-neutral world by the year 2030 and given the role women play in environment, this will easily be realized if we mainstream women land rights as advocated on this year's theme.

"Whereas women land rights are not popular in most parts of our country, it is encouraging to note that there are emerging opportunities that are advocating for gender equity and therefore, we need to find the prospects of how these opportunities align with embracing gender inclusivity, including women land rights and environment conservation," Mamo said.

The Governor Kitui County, H.E Dr. Julius Malombe stated that despite women lacking appropriate documents to own land, women are the ones who till land, plant trees and guard their land. He added that environmental conservation should be given a priority.

The CS for Tourism, Wildlife and National heritage, Hon. Peninah Malonza urged the locals to plant trees to meet the country's target of 15 billion trees in the next 10 years. She further encouraged to work hard and protect their land from continued desertification.



CEO Smart Foundation Charlene Ruto (R) presents some beehives donated to women in Waita Mwingi, Kitui county during the Desertification and Drought Day. She is accompanied by CS Environment, Hon. Soipan Tuya (4th R), CS Tourism, Hon. Peninah Malonza (4th L), Governor Kituo, H.E Dr. Julius Malombe (2nd R), NEMA DG, Mamo B. Mamo, EBS, (3rd L) PS Festus Ngeno (3rd L) among others

The NEMA Chairman, Emilio Mugo noted that the Authority has undertaken targeted research on women land rights in Kitui County to inform policy and NEMAs possible areas of intervention.

Some of the interventions by the Authority include training and capacity building of schools and communities on the growing of grafted mangoes and growing of faster growing indigenous trees suited to the ASAL areas.

The Authority has also mobilized resources from stakeholders to enhance resilience of the selected communities and schools in Kitui County. Therefore, investing in women's equal access to land and associated assets is a direct investment in their future and the future of humanity. The chair was represented by Board Member, Sophia Matura.

"An effective drought management lies on establishing a global policy instrument that focuses on drought. During the global community during the 15th conference of Parties in Abdijan, Ivory Coast made specific decision to provide a process for developing policy options for presentation during the 16th Conference of parties in Saudi Arabia in 2024," Mr. Mugo stated.

The CS presided over the launch of a sand dam that will provide livelihoods for over 1400 households. The CS also launched Kitui County Climate Change Action Plan. The Authority also donated bee hives, Water tanks and tree seedlings for planting.

The event was graced by the Environment, Climate Change and Forestry CS Hon. Soipan Tuya her counterpart CS Tourism, wildlife and national heritage, Hon. Peninah Malonza, Governor Kitui County, H.E Dr. Julius Malombe, PS Environment and Climate Change, Eng. Festus Ngeno, NEMA DG Mamo B. Mamo, Chair represented by Board member, Sophia Matura, CEO Smart Foundation, Charlene Ruto among other dignitaries.



CS Environment, Climate Change and Forestry Hon. Soipan Tuya (R) launch the Mwanja Sand Dam in Kitui County.



NEMA Board Vice Chair, Sophia Matura making her remarks on behalf of NEMA Board Chair, Emilio Mugo during Desertification and Drought Day in Mwingi, Kitui County



NEMA Board, John Kimondi making remarks during WDDD in Mwingi, Kitui County. He is flanked by Board Members Bishop Dr. Paul Mwaura and Baraka Qatamur

Sustainable Environmental Management in Kwale

GODFREY W. WAFULA (CDE) AND DUNCAN OKOTH (EO)

Kwale County is located in the coastal region of Kenya. The county covers an area of about 8270.2 sq. kms of which 62% is water surface. The area excludes the 200 ms2 coastal strip known as the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). The County is well known for its rich biodiversity, cultural heritage and stunning landscapes. However, like many regions around the world, it faces various environmental challenges that threatens its sustainability

Major urban centers are Kwale, Ukunda/Diani, Msambweni, Lunga Lunga, Kinango, Samburu and Taru.

It is a major tourism destination with attractions including Diani beach, Kisite Mpunguti Marine Park, Shimba Hills National reserve, Mwaluganje elephant sanctuary, and the islands of Chale, Wasini and Funzi.

The county has a population size of 866,820 persons comprising of 425,121 males and 411,681 females and 18 intersex based on 2019 population and housing census.

The county is underlain by the Karoo sediments also known as the Duruma sandstones consisting of the Taru formation, the Maji ya Chumvi formation and Mazeras formation. The county comprises of the following topographic features.

A strip of land of width 3 to 10 kms and stretches from Likoni to Vanga. The coastal strip consists of corals, sand and alluvial deposits. There are three (3) islands in this area including Chale, Funzi and Wasini

The area comprises of many sandstone hills, including Shimba, Tsimba, Mrima and Dzombo hills. The zone is underlain by basement rock system with exception of reddish sand soils.

The environmental challenges facing Kwale County include: deforestation, industrialization, inadequate waste management, water scarcity, declining biodiversity and the impacts of climate change. These challenges not only endanger the fragile ecosystems but also affect the livelihoods of the local communities who depend on the natural resources for their sustenance. These challenges are leading to: Decline in forest cover, Increased emission of greenhouse

gases, Increased environmental pollution and Loss of wildlife.

NEMA Kwale County office has recognized the importance of sustainable environmental management and has taken significant steps to address the challenges it faces. Several initiatives have been implemented to protect and restore the region's natural resources and promote sustainable practices. They include:

- **Reforestation and afforestation;**

To combat deforestation and restore degraded lands, reforestation programs have been initiated in Kwale County by NEMA- Kwale County, Kenya Forest Services- Kwale, Base Titanium, Kenya wildlife services – Kwale and the local communities are actively involved in planting trees and promoting afforestation to increase forest cover and preserve biodiversity.

- **Waste management;**

Inadequate waste management is a significant challenge in Kwale County. To tackle this issue, NEMA-Kwale County licenses all the waste handlers in the county for proper waste pick-ups and disposals. It also licenses companies, industries and hotels to ensure that they manage their effluent discharges. Other stakeholders like Kwale Recycling Center pick up plastic wastes and recycle them into useful products

- **Sustainable Agriculture;**

Agriculture is a vital sector in Kwale County, and promoting sustainable agricultural practices is crucial. Initiatives such as organic farming, agro-ecology, and crop diversification are being encouraged to reduce reliance on harmful chemicals, conserve water resources and resources and enhance soil fertility.

- **Renewable Energy;**

Kwale County has recognized the potential of renewable energy sources to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and promote sustainable environmental development. The county has invested in solar power projects, harnessing the region's abundant sunlight to generate safe, clean and renewable energy

- **Conservation and Biodiversity;**

The unique biodiversity of Kwale County, including its coastal and marine ecosystems, is under threat. To protect these valuable resources, community-based conservation projects have been established. These projects engage local communities in the preservation of biodiversity hotspots, promote sustainable fishing practices, and create alternative livelihood opportunities such as ecotourism.

Bargasse Recycling

BY DUNCAN OSALE, EO BUSIA

Busia sugar mills crushes more than 400 thousand tons of sugarcane to produce 40,000 tons per year. In average its 10% of sugar produced per ton of sugarcane. The factory is located in Busia County.

The main wastes from the process are: bagasse, filter mad, ash, effluent discharge and thrash.

Bagasse has always been heaped into the bagasse house, heating the boilers and spreading into the decommissioned ponds. The bagasse can also be used in rehabilitation of decommissioned quarries. This heap has always been a cause of fire outbreaks leading to loss of machinery and damage to property.

As part of managing the bagasse, the company has commissioned the establishment of briquette making.

The establishment is operational and briquette making is contributing to the circular economy.

The first production is mainly targeting institutions. This will result in the institutions reducing the need for fuel wood.

The briquette would be sold at an affordable price as a source of fuel. It would serve two purposes; to reduce the excess bagasse at the factory site and introduce an environmentally safe and clean cooking method within rural communities in western region. The process underwent on EIA and was duly licensed.

With this adoption, it's expected to reduce the bagasse menace as the company also plans to re-use for paper and chip board manufacturing.

Addressing Climate change in Kakamega

BY JOHN MANIAFU, CDE KAKAMEGA

COVID-19 really showed that we should be mindful of what happens on the other side of the earth. Just like COVID, climate change, biodiversity loss to mention a few, you may not care because the effects aren't felt around you but certainly slowly but surely they are at the heel of your feet open your eyes and see. Try to change before it's too late. Only one earth together we can protect it.

Our understanding of how our planet works is always advancing daily as we discover new things and ideas. We have better understanding how life intricate complexity is essential for our own survival.

"Billions of individuals, millions of organisms and uniqueness working together in harmony to benefit from the energy of the sun and the minerals of the earth leading lives that interlock in such a way that they sustain each other. We rely entirely on this finely tuned life support machine and it relies on its biodiversity to run smoothly".

Whether it is to be utopia or oblivion, will be a touch and go relay race up to the final moment. As seconds go by so does a part of the green lush environment goes with it that will lead to a tragedy that we barely notice

at the moment. Global warming contributing to ice melting in arctic and Antarctica, oceans are rising; a mass extinction events are evidents of this tragedy. The earth's environmental instability currently witnessed wasn't so for thousands of years despite minor alterations with temperatures of $\pm 10C$ that enabled civilization to prosper and the planet thrived in a period called Holocene.

Day by day we irreversibly lean more into collapsing of the 9 planetary boundaries that make earth inhabitable. Scientist recently declared that the holocene has ended and now we have entered the Anthropocene.

Overexploitation of resources due to need to survive and greed is the main cause of deforestation and species extinction. We drain swamps and cut trees to create more land for cultivation in order to sustain the world's population. Humans see other species to be worth more financially when dead than alive. Such cases could lead to amazon forest releasing 200 billion tonnes of carbon in the next 30 years.

NEMA is teaming up with other groups such as Youth Action Kenya to increase tree cover percentage in Kenya.

On the Right Trail

BY FRANCIS KAMAU, EO, NAKURU

Celebrated on June 3rd annually, the World Bicycle Day (WBD) was declared by the United Nations General Assembly in April 2018 to draw the people's attention on the importance of bicycles in fostering sustainable transportation and also to acknowledge the versatility and positive impact of bicycles on individuals and communities worldwide.

The observance of this day aims to encourage governments, organizations, and individuals to promote and adopt cycling as a means of transportation, recreation, and exercise.

The timing for this day could not have been set aside in a better period considering that it is commemorated just two days prior to the World Environment Day (WED) thereby making it ideal for a build-up event. Everyone may do their part and participate in the day by celebrating in unique and fun ways.

Nakuru County being the host for this year's WED national event, NEMA Naivasha office in collaboration with Lake Naivasha Riders and other stakeholders organized a 60 km cycling event around Lake Naivasha creating awareness on WED's theme while at the same time encouraging communities to embrace cycling as a fun, safer, greener, healthier, cheaper and more efficient means of transport.

In the process, the cycling team also created awareness for the motorists and pedestrians about the necessity of sharing the road amidst the ever-present fears by cyclists of colliding with reckless drivers.

The team's campaign was also about changing the cycling culture in Kenya and moving beyond the narrow conception of cycling as an addition to a planning framework for auto mobility with availability of infrastructure and equal rights for cyclists on the roads. As such, inclusion of bicycle lanes on Kenya's road designs and planning is long overdue.

The event was flagged off by planting of 1,000 assorted tree seedlings at Longonot DEB School in line with the government's 15-billion national tree growing goal and climaxed with a talk show on "solutions to plastics pollution" held at Buffalo Mall grounds in Naivasha town.

Recently, cycling has been making headway and gaining support from influential personalities including the First Lady who has been spearheading a campaign dubbed "share the road" focusing on cycling to aid in achieving zero carbon emission by 2050.

This is in addition to the growing number of cycling groups that have been established in Kenya including Kenya Cycling, Critical Mass Bikers, Extra- Milers Cycling Club, A-104 Cycling, Lake Naivasha Riders and "Cycle to Bloom" among others. The latter is a Kericho based cycling team cofounded by author and 22 other cyclists from the six sub counties of Kericho County. Cognizant that the elephant in the room presently is climate change, and that tackling the impacts thereof cannot be done in isolation, the elephant' has to be, eaten' part by part.

In our own small way, the team "cycle to bloom" has been spearheading a campaign dubbed "Mau's life matter" and has participated in numerous tree planting activities in Western Mau complex, a stone throws away from the team's scenic bike trails within tea fields. Mau forest complex is the largest indigenous montane forest in East Africa with an area of 273,300 hectares. More tree planting activities have been scheduled where different Rift Valley based cycling clubs will collaborate to cover more blocks of Mau. In a world which is always on the move, increasing attention is being given to the practice of cycling and its potential contribution to a more sustainable re-configuration of everyday living and mobility with no gas money required.

For instance, "Een auto minder" is a Dutch phrase that loosely translates to "one less car" inferring that every single bike ride takes away one car by converting car drivers into cyclists in the Netherlands where on-motorized transport has been enhanced and cycling has been made irresistible.

Basic, as it is, there's no denying that cycling comes with numerous benefits and the positive impact on the climate and one's health simply can't be overlooked. It's a sustainable means of transportation and it's something that we need to do more if we want to protect the world against the ravages of unsustainable CO2 production with the projected urban sprawl.



Inaugural International Day On Zero Waste

Participants during international day on zero waste at UN Complex, Nairobi

The right to a clean and healthy environment enshrined in the Constitution 2010 comes with a responsibility that everyone has a duty to manage their waste within their surrounding, NEMA Director General, Mamo B. Mamo, EBS stated.

The Director General added that before the plastic bags ban in 2017, supermarkets chain used to release 100 million bags annually. The Authority has made great strides to eliminate the use, manufacture, and importation of the banned bags. The DG was speaking during the International Day on Zero Waste held at United Nations Complex Nairobi on 30th March 2023.

He added that the ban has increased awareness campaigns and recycling initiatives towards creation of a sustainable future reversing the previous status where used plastic bags used to manifest in every city. “We must continue to work together, as a community, to create a sustainable future for ourselves and for generations to come,” the DG The United Nations General Assembly’s (UNGA) seventy-seventh session on 14 December 2022.

adopted the resolution of “Promoting zero-waste initiatives to advance the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development” and which proclaimed 30 March as the International Day of Zero Waste (hereafter Zero Waste Day), to be observed annually.

The resolution was put forward by Türkiye with 105 other countries; Kenya being one of them and was adopted unanimously by the UNGA.



NEMA Director General, Mamo B. Mamo, EBS samples some of the baskets made from recycled papers during the Zero Waste conference at UN Complex

NEMA DG accompanied by Ambassador, Subutay Yüksel, Embassy of the Republic of Türkiye in Kenya read the joint statement of the Government of Kenya and Türkiye on declaration on Zero Waste.

The statement further affirmed the Governments of Kenya and Turkey and their commitment to tackling this critical issue by drawing upon each other’s expertise and strategies and working together to promote zero waste and environmentally sound and responsible waste management practices.

Through the establishment of a shared vision and partnership to overcome this challenge, we encourage other governments and stakeholders to support the progressive transition towards zero waste.

NEMA DG was representing the Cabinet Secretary Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and Forestry CS, Hon Soipan Tuya.

In its seventy-seventh session, the United Nations General Assembly unanimously adopted a resolution

12 submitted by Türkiye, along with 105 other countries – including Kenya – encouraging the implementation of zero-waste initiatives at all levels.

In this case, the two countries appreciated the need for the member states recognizing the importance of collaboration in passing this Resolution.

The Governments of Kenya and Türkiye urged all stakeholders to build upon this momentum by engaging in activities aimed at raising awareness of national, subnational, regional and local zero-waste initiatives and their contribution to achieving sustainable development.

Through this initiative, Kenya and Turkey will work with the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Human Settlements Programme to generate and disseminate knowledge, best practices and technology in collaboration with stakeholders – including other governments, the private sector, academia, philanthropists and civil societies.



NEMA Director General, Mamo B. Mamo, EBS accompanied by Ambassador, Subutay Yüksel, Embassy of the Republic of Türkiye in Kenya reads the joint statement of the Government of Kenya and Türkiye on declaration on Zero Waste during the event at UN Complex, Nairobi



Ondiri Wetland Management Plan Launched

The Ondiri Wetland Integrated Management Plan has been launched on 29th January 2023.

The launch event was marked by the NEMA Director General, who stated that the Authority's 2nd annual run for the environment was the culmination of the 2nd Ondiri Wetland Conservation Run. The run was held today as a buildup to World Wetlands Day, which was held on Thursday, 2nd February 2023 at Enkongu Enkare in Narok County.

Environment and Climate Change, Principal Secretary, Eng. Festus K. Ng'eno flagged off and took part in the 10km race.

The run provided participants with a view of the beautiful Ondiri wetland, which the community around it is working to protect and conserve.

The run started from the Ondiri Information Center and included three categories: 10km, 5km, Family fun run, and the finishing was at Alliance High School Rugby Pitch.

Ondiri Wetland is a protected wetland and peatbog

that is the source of the Nairobi River near Kikuyu, Kenya in Kiambu County. The wetland is under pressure because of water extraction, encroachment, deforestation and accelerated erosion.

He noted that the few elements still polluting the river will be addressed soon through the collaborative effort of various government agencies.

He stated that the Ondiri management plan will guide in the protection of the ecosystem to ensure it is protected.

The event was also attended by CEC Kiambu County, David Kuria, who expressed the Kiambu County's resolve to protect the wetland.

Board member Charles Mulila stated that NEMA will seek to have Ondiri Wetland gazetted as one of the Ramsar sites in the country to accelerate its protection for posterity.

Winners of the 3KM, 5KM and 10 KM race categories were awarded with medals.



My Ministry through NEMA has prioritized wetlands restoration as part of the Government's flagship project of expanding Kenya's tree cover from the current 12.3 to 30 percent by the year 2032 by growing 15 billion trees over the decade.

**Hon. Soipan Tuya, CBS
CS Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and Forestry
During Commissioning of Wetlands in Marsabit County**

Vision

A clean, healthy and sustainable environment

Mission

To coordinate, supervise and manage all matters relating to the environment in Kenya

Motto

Our Environment, Our life, Our Responsibility

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