Format for the project manual

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Foreword

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Introduction

UNIT ONE: BACKGROUND TO THE PROJECT

Overview of the Project

Wetlands are places that are inundated with water temporarily, seasonally or permanently during a period of one year. These wet places include swamps and marshes, streams and rivers; flood plains and deltas, shallow lakes, dams, ponds and pans. These wetlands cover only a small proportion (4-6%) of Kenya's total land mass. Wetlands regulate stream flows and recharge underground aquifers making water available to people, livestock and wildlife. Water resources are, therefore, very critical to human activities and it is important to consistently monitor the quality of the same.

The Nairobi River ecosystem has been interrupted by the human activities along the river banks such as informal settlement, light industries, broken sewer lines causing water pollution and environmental degradation which have destroyed the river's ecosystem. Various efforts must be made towards restoration of the Nairobi river ecosystem. The project will focus on the upper course of the river under the supervision of the National Environmental Management Authority. The project aims to establish the environmental conditions of Nairobi River The will be undertaken through the use of miniSASS, a framework used to identify the key species of aquatic macro invertebrates the health of the river.

The project aims to collect information through Universities, Colleges and Secondary schools to collect data and foster environmental education and youth empowerment.

The selected schools will be in proximity of a section of the Nairobi river. The information gathered will guide the teams in determining appropriate methods they can use to restore the ecosystem in their region. This will be a major step in gradually restoring the river. It is envisaged that the results of this pilot project will be a basis for replication in replication in the many regions with water bodies to safeguard the countries vast and threatened water resources.

A river is a course of water that originates in the mountains and flows downwards until it reaches the sea. Rivers are of immense importance. They are vital carriers of water and nutrients to other areas. Rivers provide water, food, energy and resources among others. Kenya rivers are distributed in within five drainage basins: the Tana, Athi, Ewaso Ng'iro north, Rift valley and Lake Victoria Basins. Nairobi takes its name from the Maasai phrase "enkare nairobi", which means "a place of cold waters". This implies that Nairobi river has been the lifeline of Nairobi. The Nairobi River Basin comprises of 3 main rivers; Ngong-Motoine River; Nairobi River and; Mathare River and meanders through Nairobi city and connects to River Athi which flows to Indian Ocean. The restoration process will improve conditions for flora and fauna; ensure high water quality in the river system; provide ecosystem goods and services.

History of miniSASS and its success

MiniSASS is a simplified version of the South African Scoring System, a low technology, scientifically reliable technique for monitoring water quality in rivers and streams. It was developed in the mid 1990's and is based on the sensitivity of the various animals to changes in the environmental condition of the water. MiniSASS was chosen for its reliability and its ease of application, it does not need complex scientific equipment to implement and is easily understood by younger learners as well. It's been widely used in South Africa and has registered immense success.

Aquatic macro-invertebrates have different levels of sensitivity to change in the water conditions. The more sensitive ones will tend to either die or migrate from areas that have experienced changes in the water conditions. Example of such changes includes changes in temperature or levels of dissolved oxygen in the water or introduction of pollutants. Examples of such sensitive species include Stone flies Caddis flies and Mayflies. Some aquatic macro-invertebrates are more resilient and can withstand negative changes in the water conditions thus will be found even in streams and rivers that have poor water quality. Examples of such organisms are snails, flat worms and true flies.

The MiniSASS technology uses the types (composition) and numbers of organisms in a given sample (abundance) of macro-invertebrates in the river to assess stream health.

Problem Statement

The Nairobi River ecosystem has been interrupted by the human activities along the river banks such as informal settlement, light industries, broken sewer lines causing water pollution and environmental degradation, deliberate dumping, agricultural activities causing serious soil erosion and, effluent released into the river before pre-treatment. An aquatic ecosystem refers to those interactions which develop among the living creatures of a given climatic, geological and morphological context along a course of water. We find many different aquatic ecosystems along a river's course, and any interruption or alteration to their composition can cause serious problems indeed. Therefore, the Nairobi River ecosystem is completely interrupted. These issues have resulted from inadequate information about Nairobi River to the public, failure in law enforcement and crime, inadequate education & awareness and a culture of negligence by the public among others. The effect of this interruption which has occurred over the years has caused serious damage to the river ecosystem and those organisms which depended on the river ecosystem for food and shelter. This has totally reduced the significance, importance, health and integrity of Nairobi River which has become a threat to the inhabitants along the river banks causing Health problems such as increased water borne diseases, respiratory complications;

stress on immediate aquatic ecosystems as well as downstream; reduction of the economic value of premises along the river basin and; reduction in the natural beauty of the river basin among others. Therefore, action to resuscitate the Nairobi river ecosystem is inevitable.

The Nairobi River ecosystem has been interrupted by the human activities along the river banks such as informal settlements, light industries, deliberate dumping, agricultural activities and broken sewer lines, releasing effluent into the river before pre-treatment. This has caused water pollution soil erosion and environmental degradation of the river catchment. These human activities have also affected the aquatic ecosystems and disrupted the natural patterns and processes of different species as they do not have the ability to adapt to the rapid changes to their environment.

The interruption of the Nairobi River ecosystem is a result of inadequate information about Nairobi River to the public, failure in law enforcement, inadequate education & awareness and a culture of negligence by the relevant institutions and the public. The effect of this interruption which has occurred over the years has caused serious damage to the river ecosystem and a reduction in the organisms which depended on the river ecosystem for food and shelter. Subsequently, this has resulted in stress on immediate aquatic ecosystems as well as those downstream; reduction of the economic value of premises along the river basin and; reduction in the natural beauty of the river basin.

Additionally, the adjacent populations experience health problems such as increased water borne diseases and respiratory complications among others. Therefore, action to resuscitate the Nairobi river ecosystem is inevitable. Learners in secondary schools and tertiary institutions have studied content on wetlands in Geography and different aquatic life forms in Biology. This pilot project aims at providing a practical approach to river restoration, based on the content taught, through adoption of a section of the river. The project seeks to engage learners in secondary schools, colleges and universities close to the river in the restoration and conservation of the Nairobi River river ecosystems. The project will establish the status of the River with reference to the health of the river and water quality, which will eventually lead to establishment of the gap for the restoration of the river.

Objectives of the Program

The overall objective of the project is to restore the Nairobi river ecosystem.

The specific objectives of the project are:

- i. to determine the environmental conditions of Nairobi River using aquatic macro invertebrates.
- ii. to introduce the use of miniSASS and the dichotomous key in identification of key wetland health indicator species

- iii. To foster environmental education by empowering youth in the Universities colleges and Secondary schools in methods of river restoration
- iv. To build the capacity of the youth in secondary schools and universities in using miniSASS and the dichotomous key in identification of key wetland health indicator species

Justification

Given the importance of water resources to human activities it is important to consistently monitor the quality of the same to ensure that they are allocated in the most efficient manner, and pose no threat to human health and welfare. The Nairobi river water cannot be consumed in its present form due to heavy pollution and degradation.

Various topics in the secondary Biology, Geography, Chemistry and Agriculture syllabuses provide the theoretical basis on which this project is anchored. In this project, aquatic macro invertebrates will be used to monitor river health as they are known to be a cheap and reliable means of monitoring water and environmental conditions.

Methodology

The project focuses on the aquatic ecosystem of Nairobi River. The initial phase of the study will occur on the upper course of the river. With the assistance of NEMA, the activity points were identified and mapped using Global Position System. The target population is students in secondary and tertiary institutions which are in close proximity to Nairobi River. The sample population will be students involved in Environmental and Wildlife related Clubs. The reporting and analysis framework is based on, MiniSASS is a South African Scoring System that measures the health levels of the river through monitoring the invertebrates in the aquatic ecosystem.

The following steps will be used in project implementation

Step 1: Identification and determination of study area(s). These are points along the Nairobi River. A description of the river conditions should be given and pictures of the area and observable environmental phenomenon taken

- Step 2: Obtain the relevant sampling apparatus, including (pond net, white trays, dissecting kit, sampling bottles, hand lenses, dichotomous key).
- Step 3: Sampling methods (under miniSASS e.g. rocks, floating part of a plant and water column).
- Step 4: Preservation of the identified organisms
- Step 5: Take pictures of organisms invertebrates
- Step 6: Record the presence of identified species
- Step 7: calculate the average sensitive score
- Step 8: Send a copy to (NEMA)
- Step 9: Sharing of experiences amongst schools (project team to organize)

Note: the project will be constantly monitored by a project team comprising of NEMA, KICD, KNATCOM, MoEST. A monitoring framework to guide the process has been developed and is attached as Appendix...... An evaluation of the project will be undertaken after 6 months/1 year of implementation.

UNIT TWO: WETLANDS AND HEALTH INDICATORS

This unit provides the focus of the pilot project.

By the end of this unit the learner should be able to:

- 1. Define a wetland
- 2. State the significance of rivers
- 3. Explain how various activities pose threats to rivers
- 4. Explain the physical, chemical and biological indicators of wetland health
- 5. Explain why macro invertebrates are used in monitoring wetland health
- 6. State the importance of river restoration
- 7. Give examples of the methods use in river restoration.
- 8. Participate in restoration of the river

Overview of wetlands

Wetlands are places that are flooded with water temporarily, seasonally or permanently during a period of one year. These wet places include swamps and marshes, streams and rivers; flood

plains and deltas, shallow lakes, dams, ponds and pans. These wetlands cover only a small proportion (4-6%) of Kenya's total land mass but they are important as natural sponges that absorb, store and filter water.

Wetlands regulate stream flows and recharge underground aquifers making water available to people, livestock and wildlife.

They absorb rain water and run-off from the adjacent landscape thereby moderating the quantity and quality of water available in rivers and wells. Wetlands also support an enormous variety of plants and animals, some which are economically important to people. The plants include papyrus reeds, sedges, grasses and a wide variety of floating and submerged plants. The animals include small organisms, frogs, fish, reptiles, birds and mammals. Because of their multiple resources, wetlands are magnets for people, livestock and terrestrial wildlife. People living near wetlands exploit the resources to meet their livelihood and economic needs.

Definition of a river

A river is a course of water that originates in the mountains and flows downwards until it reaches the sea. On its perpetual journey, river water crosses land, hills and plains. Starting in the mountains, the water is at first torrential because of rainfall and the melting of ice. Sometimes land levels shift and change abruptly, causing the formation of waterfalls where the water picks up speed and strength. Then, as it reaches the plains, it flows more slowly and if it encounters any obstacles it will flow around them, forming twists and bends (like those of roads) called "meanders".

Significance of rivers

Rivers are of immense importance geologically, biologically, historically and culturally. Rivers are vital carriers of water and nutrients to other areas. They are critical components of the hydrological cycle, acting as drainage channels for surface water. They provide habitat, nourishment and means of transport to countless organisms; their powerful forces create majestic scenery; they provide travel routes for exploration, commerce and recreation; they leave valuable deposits of sediments, such as sand and gravel; they form vast floodplains where many of our cities are built; and their power provides much of the electrical energy we use in our everyday lives. Rivers provide water, food, energy and resources. Rivers are central to many of the environmental issues that concern society.

Distribution of rivers in Kenya

Kenya's surface water resources are distributed within five drainage basins: the Tana, Athi, Ewaso Ng'iro north, Rift valley and Lake Victoria Basins. The following are the five main drainage basins and the rivers within the basins:

1. Lake Victoria Rivers include: the Sio, Nzoia, Yala, Nyando, SonduMiriu, North Awach, South Awach and Gucha-Migori rivers.

- 2. Rivers in the Rift Valley basin include: the Turkwel and Kerio rivers
- 3. The Tana basin has: the The Tana River
- 4. Ewaso Ngiro Basin include: The Ewaso Ng'iro river
- 5. Athi basin include: The Nairobi river, The Athi River

History of Nairobi River

Nairobi takes its name from the Maasai phrase "enkare nairobi", which means "a place of cold waters". At the turn of the 19th Century the Maasai Community habited Nairobi area bordering the present Kiambu County. The area was originally grazing land and a livestock watering point and there was no permanent African settlement. This implies that Nairobi river has been the lifeline of Nairobi.

The Nairobi River Basin comprises of 3 main rivers

- The Ngong-Motoine River
- The Nairobi River
- The Mathare River

The river flows through Nairobi the capital city of Kenya. The rivers join east of Nairobi prior to merging into the River Athi past Thika town and eventually flows to the Indian Ocean. These rivers are characterised by narrow river channels, rapid flow and steep banks with the channel widening and the gradient of the banks reducing as the rivers merge and meander through the landscape past Nairobi towards River Athi.

Activities along the river

The nature of economic activities and settlements along the river changes as the river flows from the source and onwards through the city. Areas near the source such as Kikuyu are mainly agricultural areas with characterised by small scale farming, but as the river approaches the city centre, it is marked by informal settlements along the banks and economic activities such as carwashes and garages. Past the city centre, the river flows past industries and more informal settlements.

Some economic activities pose a threat to Nairobi River. People living in Nairobi's informal settlements such as slums usually find themselves in the city's most fragile areas such as flood plains, steep slopes river valleys or adjacent to sewers or dump sites. The rivers receive heavy nutrient loading as they pass through informal settlements such as Kibra (Ngong-Motoine River) and Mathare (Nairobi and Mathare Rivers). They also receive heavy loads of chemical pollutants as they flow through downtown Nairobi (Nairobi River) where garages are located and in Areas such as Mathare and Kariobangi where there are light manufacturing industries.

Wetland health indicators

These are parameters that are used to show the health status of a water body. A healthy wetland ecosystem can be defined as a wetland, including all of its biological, chemical and physical parameters and their interactions that are providing ecological and economic functions. Examples of such indicators: include biological, chemical and physical indicators.

| Physical indicators | Chemical | Biological indicators | |
|----------------------------|--------------------|---|--|
| | indicators | | |
| Bank erosion and stability | Water conductivity | Type and structure bank and aquatic | |
| | | vegetation | |
| Nature of bottom substrate | Water pH | Algae growth and concentration | |
| Water Colour, smell and | Dissolved oxygen | Chlorophyll a and diatoms | |
| clarity | | | |
| Water flow rate | Total dissolved | Fecal coliform | |
| | solids | | |
| Water turbidity | Total phosphorus | Aquatic insects and other invertebrates | |
| Water temperature | Reactive phosphate | Functional structure of communities of | |
| | Total nitrate | fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds and | |
| | | mammals | |

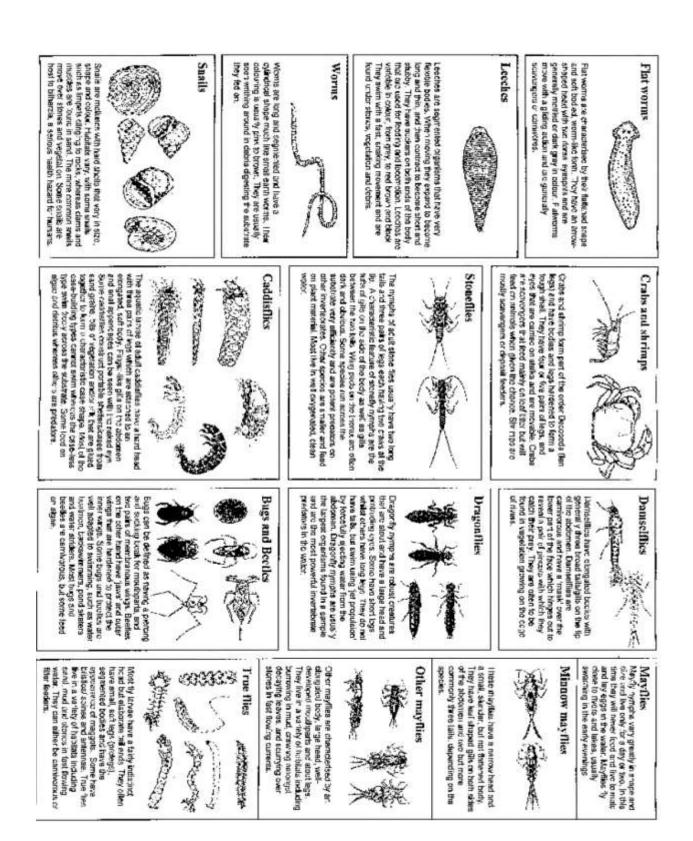
Some common indicators of wetland health and water quality

The use of aquaticmacro- invertebrates in biomonitoring

Aquatic Macro invertebrates are animals that have no backbone and can be seen with the naked eye and they are found in water bodies. These macro invertebrates are used to indicate the health of wetlands for the following reasons:

- i. Different macro invertebrates have different sensitivities to pollution.
- ii. They are generally easy to collect and identify.
- iii. They are relatively inactive which allows the source of pollution to be detected.
- iv. They integrate the water quality conditions at a site, providing an overall measure of the "health" of a river.
- v. They can provide a picture of the historical water quality at a sit

Some of the commonly used macro invertebrates are as shown in the table below:



Restoration of rivers:

River Restoration is the action of improving the health of a river in attempts to take it back to its original state. River restoration is motivated by the degraded states of present day rivers. Habitat restoration is based on the assumption that if adequate physical habitat is available to support flora and/or fauna, then healthy populations should follow.

River Restoration is intended to:

- a) Improve conditions for flora and fauna;
- b) Ensure high water quality in the river system;
- c) Improve the basis for outdoor leisure (aesthetics and recreation).

Strategies and methods of river restoration

Strategies of river restoration include:

- a) Education and public awareness: by participating in river conservation campaigns, sensitizing their fellow students and neighbouring communities on importance of river conservation, encourage proper land use practices
- b) Reporting incidences of pollution into the rivers to the relevant authorities.
- c) Law enforcement by the relevant authorities through arresting the law breakers, Stopping discharges from garages and the informal settlements into the river, Minimize river channelization

UNIT THREE: DATA COLLECTION AND MANAGEMENT

- MiniSASS is a simplified version of the South African Scoring System, a low technology, scientifically reliable technique for monitoring water quality in rivers and streams. It was developed in the mid 1990's and is based on the sensitivity of the various animals to changes in the environmental condition of the water. It's been widely used in South Africa and has registered immense success.
- Aquatic macro-invertebrates have different levels of sensitivity to change in the water conditions. The more sensitive ones will tend to either die or migrate from areas that have experienced changes in the water conditions. Example of such changes includes changes in temperature or levels of dissolved oxygen in the water or introduction of pollutants. Examples of such sensitive species include Stone flies Caddis flies and Mayflies.
- Some aquatic macro-invertebrates are more resilient and can withstand negative changes in

the water conditions thus will be found even in streams and rivers that have poor water quality. Examples of such organisms are snails, flat worms and true flies.

It uses the types (composition) and numbers of organisms in a given sample (abundance) of macro-invertebrates in the river to assess stream health. MiniSASS was chosen for its reliability and its ease of application, it does not need complex scientific equipment to implement and is easily understood by younger learners as well.

How data will be collected

i. Identification of aquatic invertebrates using the dichotomous key

The students will be required to identify and classify various aquatic macro invertebrates using a dissecting microscope and the dichotomous key provided and compile the data obtained in table form.

ii. Compilation of data in miniSASS predesigned sheets.

The students will key in the data obtained from step (i) in the miniSASS predesigned sheets and score the location based on the formula provided.

Average Score = Total Score ÷ Number of groups

iii. Calculation of the miniSASS ecological score

Average Score = Total Score ÷Number of groups

iv. Interpret the score

Based on the score obtained for the site sampled, the health of the site can be determined. The higher the score, the healthier the site.

- v. Identify or suggest probable threats and intervention measures
- vi. The school and the community can identify threats the possible physical and social economic factors negatively affecting the health of the river and propose solutions.
- vii. Dispatch of data summaries to NEMA
- viii. The summarised data should then be verified by the teacher or supervisor at school or community level and once deemed satisfactory sent to NEMA for uploading to the overall river health map for Nairobi river.

Procedure for interpretation of river conditions using macro invertebrates (miniSASS)

- 1. On the table below, circle the sensitivity scores of the identified insects.
- 2. Add up all of the sensitivity scores.
- 3. Divide the total of the sensitivity score by the number of groups identified.

| GROUPS | SENSITIVITY SCORE |
|---|-------------------|
| Flat worms | 3 |
| Worms | 3 |
| Leeches | 2 |
| Crabs or shrimps | 7 |
| Stoneflies | 14 |
| Minnow mayflies | 6 |
| Other mayflies | 13 |
| Damselflies | 4 |
| Dragonflies | 7 |
| Bugs or beetles | 6 |
| Caddisflies | 9 |
| True flies | 2 |
| Snails | 4 |
| TOTAL SCORE | |
| NUMBER OF GROUPS | |
| AVERAGE SCORE (Divide 'Total' by 'Number of groups') | |

4. The result is the average score, which can be interpreted below.

4.4 Interpretation of the miniSASS score

- Although an ideal sample site has rocky, sandy, and vegetation habitats, not all
- habitats are always present at a site. If your river does not have rocky habitats
- use the **sandy type** category below to interpret your scores.

| Ecological category (Condition) | River Category | |
|--|----------------|------------|
| | Sandy Type | Rocky Type |
| Unmodified (NATURAL condition) | > 6.9 | > 7.9 |
| Largely natural/few modifications (GOOD condition) | 5.8 to 6.9 | 6.8 to 7.9 |
| Moderately modified (FAIR condition) | 4.9 to 5.8 | 6.1 to 6.8 |
| Largely modified (POOR condition) | 4.3 to 4.9 | 5.1 to 6.1 |
| Seriously/critical modified (VERY POOR condition) | <4.3 | <5.1 |

UNIT FOUR: MONITORING AND REPORTING.

The purpose of this unit is to:

- 1. Receive feedback from project implementers (learners)
- 2. Monitor the progress of the programme

Templates for reports will be developed and provided by NEMA. However, the report should take the form of an experiment, with the following headings:

- a) Aims
- b) Objectives
- c) Achievements
- d) Challenges
- e) Lessons learnt

The lessons learnt should include possible causes of poor water quality or if the water quality is good then reasons for this should also be given.

The results should be sent to the project coordinating entity (NEMA) for uploading.

NEMA should also authenticate the progress of data collection on the ground.

□ Timeframe

UNIT 5 RESTORATION PROJECTS

References

Secondary Syllabus Volume ii subjects mathematics, physics, chemistry, biology agri

Appendix

Dichotomous Key

Macro Invertebrates Classification Chart

Reporting Schedule

Map with Selected Points