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A Quarterly Publication

October - December 2015

Nema

National Environment Management Authority

News



NEMA in surveillance against dumping



National Environment Management Authority (NEMA)

Has finalized the National Solid Waste Management Strategy. This is a strategy on solid waste management that seeks to deliver the country from the Waste menace by demonstrating how waste is a resource!



SEGREGATE YOUR WASTE

Towards a 7R oriented society
R-educe, **R-educ**e, **R-ecycle**,
R-fill, **R-efuse**, **R-eturn**,
R-ethink your waste

The Strategy creates wealth from waste, employment and at the same time reducing pollution to the environment.

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TOWARDS THE ZERO WASTE PRINCIPAL BY





Strategic Corporate Objectives

- ◆ To coordinate stakeholders and lead agencies in order to create synergy in management of the environment
- ◆ To ensure compliance with environmental legislation and policies in order to maintain a clean, healthy and sustainable environment
- ◆ To strengthen and develop institutional capacity for effective and efficient management of the environment
- ◆ To build and nurture strategic partnerships, aimed at enhancing sustainable management of the environment
- ◆ To enhance the use of communication as a tool to achieve the Authority's performance objectives





Heal the world; make it a better place

We all have one planet; whether you were born in the Northern hemisphere or Southern hemisphere; it is our collective duty to take care of the environment and hence the planet.

When the legendary king of pop music Michael Jackson sang *Heal the World*, he had a vision for a better world for our children devoid of sufferings. This could also mean a safe and secure environment for sustainable development.

With this understanding that most environmental issues are global, it has brought the need for the world to come together to tackle these concerns. In this regard, Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) are central in addressing regional and global environmental challenges.

We need to share experiences on how best to combat the vagaries of climate change, global warming and desertification. Proper and timely news dissemination is central to that strategy.

For this reason, Kenya hosted a major workshop attended by various international and local science journalists, communication professionals, scientists and policy makers to network and share ideas on the future of science journalism, and disseminate the latest in research and developments. They say Africa is the continent of the future, and we must begin claiming that future today.

To get there we must do our little things exemplary well. At NEMA, we are certainly doing that. The Authority received recognition as the winner in the statutory bodies sector of Champions of Governance (COG) Awards organized by the Institute of Certified Public Secretaries of Kenya (ICPSK).

The CoG award jury singled out NEMA's governance structures praising it for its role in supervision and coordination of all matters related to the environment. The award was preceded by a rigorous evaluation process focusing on key parameters such as transparency and disclosure compliance, adherence to laws and regulations, communication and public education and board of management independence as well as governance.

As a leading light in corporate governance, the Authority will no doubt continue to uphold the doctrines that won it the award.

Finally, why do some highly educated people zooming past in expensive cars throw litter out of their car windows only for the litter to be collected by the less educated? Does education and societal status not impart on us certain accountability ethos?

The Authority has in this quarter been waging a war against littering by the highways. A number of surveillance activities have been taken in major highways in the country so far. This will surely continue. Solid waste management is a concern for everyone and the Authority, working closely with the county governments came up with the National Solid Waste Management Strategy to address the solid waste menace in the country. You can download a copy from our website: www.nema.go.ke

Be part of the solution; not the problem in solid waste management!

Dear reader, for this and much more in this edition, please dig in.



Anthony Ngare
Ag. Chief Corporate
Communications Manager





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NEMA officers during the highway surveillance of Nairobi-Nakuru highway
PHOTO: ANTHONY NGARE/NEMA

Authority in surveillance against dumping

By Anthony Ngare & Agnes Kamiri

The surveillance on illegal waste disposal in hotspot areas in the Coast region was carried out between 8th and 12th February, 2016. The objective of the surveillance was to create awareness on solid waste management and also to access how counties in the coast region are managing their waste and the challenges they are facing.

The exercise is part of the implementation process of the waste management strategy. So far, the waste management section has completed two joint surveillance which were carried out in phase one and two. Phase I included, Naivasha, Nakuru, Kisumu, and the counties and towns nearby. The phase II included Mombasa, Kwale, Kilifi, Malindi and Taita Taveta.

The team held talks with NEMA County Directors of Environment (CDEs) in Mombasa, Kwale, Kilifi, and Taita Taveta Counties. The team also met County Executives in charge of environment in the counties and visited the dumpsites of each county.

The dumpsites visited in Mombasa was Kibarani, and Tamarind area where there has been illegal dumping direct to the sea. In Kwale, the dumpsites visited were Msabweni, Kinondo, and Matuga. Matuga is one of the illegal dumpsite in Kwale County. In Kilifi the team visited Kasorina dumpsite. In TaitaTaveta, the team visited Chakalali dumpsite and Voi septic disposal ponds.

Some of the challenges noted were that there is no clear demarcation between the sea and land in Mombasa. There is no collection schedule for trucks collecting waste in all the counties, hence delay in transportation. Waste transportation tracks owned by the county governments are not maintained, the super boys manning the dumpsites do not have personal protective equipment (PPEs). There are also slum presence in the dump site which poses a health hazard. Mombasa County generates approximately 800-1000 tonnes of waste per day. The waste is from households, industries, Hotels, Hospitals, Institutions, Markets, commercial entities among others. The team also visited some of the companies practicing best practices in Mombasa and TaitaTaveta. The team noted that the current status of waste management systems in the visited counties indicate that waste segregation at source, collection, transportation, recycling, and disposal is wanting.



NEMA Deputy Director Enforcement, Ms. Salome Machua, (R) talking with the Mr. Lewa Tendai Mtana (3rd L), from Mombasa County Government at Kibarani Dumpsite. Looking on is Mr. Stephen Wambua (2nd R) CDE Mombasa among other officers
PHOTO: AGNES KAMIRI/NEMA



Ms Salome Machua, hands over the Waste Management Strategy to the Mr. LewaTendai, County Executive Officer Mombasa County
PHOTO: AGNES KAMIRI/NEMA





Highway littering illegal

Surveillance along Nairobi-Kisumu-Eldoret



NEMA officers in night surveillance at Gioto dumpsite, Nakuru County.
PHOTO: GLORIA MICHIRA/ NEMA

NEMA has embarked on a national wide campaign against littering on highways and illegal dumping. The initiative involves undertaking joint inspections/ surveillance on known hot spot areas notorious for dumping and littering.

During this campaign, offenders will be named and shamed as the surveillance team is backed by two major media houses KTN and NTV who have been embedded in the exercise in order to capture every detail of the exercise.

By the end of last week several offenders were arrested and released on cash bail and will be charged in court in the course of this week.

The team pitched camp along Nairobi-Nakuru

highway as well as Mai Mahiu-Narok route and spent endless hours sensitizing the public especially in public vehicles against littering.

Private motorists are also guilty of feeding baboons especially on the stretch just past Naivasha and at Ntulelele. A number of private motorists were caught on camera and will be named and shamed.

As the point found out by feeding the baboons, the motorists have not only interfered with the primates' natural feeding habits but it is also a major risk as the baboons dart across the highway dangerously and this could quite easily lead to a serious accident.

The surveillance team also did surveillance at night in Nakuru's Gioto dumpsite to establish if there were people dumping waste at the dumpsite at night,

which is against the Waste Management Regulations. In the first phase the team is covering counties along the busy Nairobi-Kisumu-Eldoret and Kakamega highways.

Speaking to the media during the exercise, NEMA's Chief Compliance Officer Margaret Njuki urged the general public to desist from littering and violating other environmental regulations so as to preserve our environment.

Proper solid waste management is one of the major aspects that have been identified as a driver of the country's development blue print, the Vision 2030. Media coverage of the surveillance exercise was captured by both NTV and KTN during the prime time news for both 7 and 9 pm news bulletins.

The writers are NEMA's Ag. Chief Corporate Communications Manager & Corporate Communications Officer respectively





African journalists for environmental protection

By Samwel Irungu

The understanding that most environmental issues are global has brought the need for the world to come together to tackle these concerns. In this regard, Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) are central in addressing regional and global environmental challenges.

Towards this end, various international and local science journalists, communication professionals, scientists and policy makers held a workshop in Nairobi at Laico Regency Hotel on 15th and 16th October 2015 to network and share ideas on the future of science journalism, and disseminate the latest in research and developments.

The meeting was attended by more than 40 journalists from Kenya, Ethiopia, Rwanda, Burundi, Ghana, Nigeria, Tanzania and Uganda mainly those involved in covering science journalism in particular environment. The workshop set stage for capacity building exercise for the journalism to Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs). The meeting was organized by Environmental Compliance Institute (ECI), Media for Environment, Science, Health and Agriculture (MESHA), UNEP and NEMA.

While opening the workshop, Executive director ECI, Mr. Gerphas Opondo introduced the journalists to various MEAs and the process in which they are made. Already, handbook on Multilateral Environmental Agreements for African journalists has already been developed and participants were required to give their input towards the end of the workshop.

Opondo stated that MEAs are made through negotiations for the benefit of the parties involved. According to Opondo, such agreements are mostly dominated by United States, Latin America and Europe while Africa in most cases have low bargaining power due to various factors such as poor prior organization or lack of a common voice. Opondo expressed optimism that the handbook will be pivotal in promoting environmental compliance not only in the region but in the entire Africa. NEMA's senior compliance and enforcement officer, MsSelelahOkoth made a presentation on Africa's environmental challenges and existing response platforms. MsSelelah castigated journalists for concentrating on negative environmental stories. "Don't focus on failures, also consider the success achieved." Okoth stated. She urged media to be involved in awareness creation by sensitizing the public on environmental matters through their publications.

NEMA's chief enforcement officer, Mr. Robert Orina did a presentation on the domestication of MEAs and the role of compliance and enforcement. He highlighted the role of non-governmental actors and media in to promotion of multilateral agreements to ensure that they are implemented. He informed the African journalists that media is critical when it comes to enforcement of the agreements. This is achieved by providing information to relevant stakeholders in the most simplified forms. He highlighted some instances where MEAs have been



Mr. Gerphas Opondo, EANECE Regional Coordinator making a presentation during the workshop
PHOTO: SAMWEL IRUNGU/NEMA

Journalists and trainers in a group photo
PHOTO: SAMWEL IRUNGU/NEMA



NEMA's Director Compliance and Enforcement, Mr. David Ongare making presentation during the training
PHOTO: SAMWEL IRUNGU/NEMA

urged media not only to communicate but do so to trigger action. He informed the media that environmental communication should be action oriented so that people can change attitude in order to take the necessary action.

instrumental in the execution of the enforcement such as in the case where importation of illegal gases was banned, where toxic waste was imported from UK and intercepted before it was disposed among instances.

NEMA's Deputy Director Environmental Education, Information and Public Participation, Mr David Ongare did a presentation on perspectives on environmental communication. "We know there is a problem, why are we then not doing something" Ongare said while challenging the participants on environmental communication. "We may need different countries to take collective action but countries may have different priorities which is a challenge to taking collective action on environmental communication." Ongare stated. He

On the other hand, media wanted to know what is doing to empower counties especially in the devolved function of noise. Responding to this, MrOngare stated, "A complete document was drawn for devolution of these functions in terms of regulations to counties." He added that devolution was not a question of just dropping the function. NEMA continued to work with counties on the devolved functions, he asserted.

The writer is NEMA's Corporate Communications Officer





By Michael Nderitu & Samwel Irungu

Her passion for a clean and healthy environment drove her to choose air pollution as the topic for her project for the Miss Earth 2015 global competition. This after she subjugated other contestants to win the much coveted Miss Earth Kenya 2015 at an event held on August 8th 2015.

Linda Gatere, Miss Earth Kenya 2015 is pursuing a Bachelor's degree in Economics and Finance at Kenyatta University. Miss Gatere believes that if awareness was created well, the effects of global warming and climate change we are witnessing today would be minimal. "Kenya is not fully aware of global warming", she asserts.

In an interview with Ecoflash, Miss Gatere alludes to ignorance as one factor that results to high levels of air pollution. The rural folks believe that they have nothing to do with climate change yet they use firewood, charcoal in their daily activities. "This is the kind of notion I want to rid of as I will promoting clean energy", says Miss Gatere.

Essentially, air pollution is a major cause of respiratory diseases that kills thousands of people globally. Despite this grave reality, not much has been done to arrest this. Miss Gatere believes that if air pollution is reduced, the ripple effects that causes respiratory diseases will be reduced.

Miss Gatere will be contesting at global level with delegates from several other countries at Vienna, Australia on December 5, 2015. Consecutively, whoever wins, will be crowned Miss Earth and will be the spokesperson for the Miss Earth Foundation, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and other environmental organizations. She expresses great optimism that she is going to win at the global level, something that will enable her to realize her dreams as the champion for environment, not only in Kenya but all over the world. Her topic on air pollution is guided by the theme "A Clean Environment, A Healthy You."

Miss Gatere plans to undertake several initiatives including, advocating the use of clean cook stoves, engaging schools in environmental conservation activities, tree planting and collaboration with County Governments in regulating air pollution among others.

This comes at an opportune time when the Air Quality Regulations 2014 were gazette in April 2014 and hence the Authority has the necessary legal instrument for the control of emissions into the atmosphere which comprise largely the greenhouse gases that contribute to global warming.

It is clear that NEMA has something to do with Miss Earth Kenya 2015 and Linda Gatere in particular. As we assist Linda to prepare for her global competition to attain the full title, the Authority will hopefully use the opportunity to kick-off the much awaited sensitization on the Air Quality Regulations especially through media engagements. The theme for Miss Earth is, "Global warming and climate change" which sets stage for about 81 contestants to talk about this topic global as the world heads to Paris for COP21 in December.

Miss Earth is driving on a 5Rs which translates to Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Rethink and Respect. With this initiative, the world would be a better place to live in devoid of poor drainage systems, polluted air, floods among other effects being witnessed as a result of climate change.

Beauty for environment



Miss Earth Kenya, Linda Gatere when she visited NEMA headquarters
PHOTO: GLORIA MICHIRA/ NEMA

Miss Earth Kenya, Linda Gatere and Deputy Director Environmental Awareness, Mrs Betty Nzioka pose for a photo
PHOTO: MICHAEL NDERITU-NEMA

The interview was conducted through the partnership of deputy director Environmental Awareness and Public Participation, Mrs Betty Nzioka and corporate communications. Indeed, "a clean environment, a healthy you" cannot be better placed than in this context.

The winner gets the opportunity to tour the world advocating for environmental conservation and sound management of natural resources. This clearly resonates with the NEMA mandate to supervise and coordinate all environmental activities Kenya.

Each of the contestants is expected to formulate an individual project of national importance for presentation during the global competition. To my pleasant surprise, Linda has selected to focus her personal project on "Reducing Air Pollution in Kenya" guided by the motto, "A Clean Environment, A Healthy You."

"At this level, I will be able to implement my project on awareness creation in matters of environment in particular air pollution", she states. Her dream is to see school kids being taught environmental conservation, drive the environmental agenda for Kenya, conduct workshops on environment as well as be the force behind some crucial bills in relation to environment.

The writers are an intern and Corporate Communications Officer respectively





Let us pull together, DG urges staff

By Anthony Ngare

Let us build a cohesive Authority and together we will move forward. That was the rallying clarion call issued by NEMA Director General Prof Geoffrey Wahungu when he spoke to County Directors of Environment last week in Naivasha.

The DG was speaking during the traditional annual CDEs conference to establish targets and activities to be carried out by the field officers in the financial year. This annual meeting is critical as it affords management and the managers in the county offices to discuss a number of pressing issues that need to be addressed for the smooth operations in the field offices. Besides, the meeting is also a forum for exchange of ideas and innovations is exploring how to continually improve efficiency in meeting the Authority's mandate.

On devolution, he pointed out that already; the Authority was working closely with county governments as officers from the county governments had been incorporated in the Authority's capacity building programmes. The DG also urged the CDEs to move fast and operationalise the County environment Committees for smooth operations of environmental matter at the counties.

It was noted that these committees are vital for the smooth execution of various roles especially those that have already been devolved into the counties such as waste management and control of noise pollution. At the meeting it was pointed out that since developments continue to come up, management urged the officers in the fieldsto brace themselves for more workload in order to meet the expectations of the regulated communities.

Prof Wahungu further gave an update of the discussions and deliberations that had so far taken place towards adopting an EIA cap fee of Ksh 40M for large scale developments. The DG was categorical on the need to address keenly incident management in the fields saying that few incidents could be tracked and its completion traced within the Incident Management cycle. The complete cycle of incident management involves incident reportage, acknowledgement of receipt of the incidence, incident resolution and finally reporting back to the complainant of the resolution of the reported case. "It is important to fully manage the incidences as they impact on customer satisfaction and consequently on the general brand reputation of the Authority" he said.

For the CDEs who spoke in the meeting they expressed great optimism and pledged to cultivate good working relationships with the county governments and other lead agencies. "It is by working together that we can achieve what we intend to achieve for this great country" noted Deputy Director, In charge of Field Operations Mr Kodia Bisia.

He also requested CDEs to work harmoniously with Environment Officers under them so that productivity at all NEMA offices countrywide remains high; for the Authority to achieve the targets set and overly met the expectations of the general public. Mr Kodia also reminded the CDEs to keenly take up monitoring ensure adherence to EIA conditions by proponents.



A section of NEMA's County Directors of Environment during the meeting
PHOTO: ANTHONY NGARE/NEMA



NEMA Director General, Prof Geoffrey Wahungu addressing the County Directors of Environment during the meeting
PHOTO: ANTHONY NGARE/NEMA

"Let us be vigilante and ensure that the proponents keep their word and do not violate license conditions as stipulated in the EIA license." He said. It has been noted that some proponents are disregarding the EIA conditions set out in the EIA license and therefore compromising the integrity of our environment. "Such people must be reminded of the commitments they signed up to during the application of licenses and if they cannot uphold the conditions, then remedial measures must be effected" Prof Wahungu maintained.

In conclusion the DG urged all NEMA staff to always conduct themselves professionally and serve all Kenyans fairing and diligently, this way the Authority will continue to safeguard its reputation and enhance customer satisfaction.

The writer is the Ag. Chief Corporate Communications Manager





PHOTO Courtesy: NEMA

Denmark, Kenya launch Green Growth Programme

By Anthony Ngare

The Cabinet Secretary in the Ministry of Environment, Natural Resources and Regional Development Authorities, Prof. Judi Wakhungu, has lauded the Danish Government for its support through the promotion of green growth opportunities that are geared towards stimulating growth based on green solutions and employment generation in the country.

The Green Growth and Employment (GGEP) country programme for Kenya was officially launched at the Strathmore Business School on 18th December 2015 in a ceremony presided over by Denmark's Minister for Foreign Affairs Mr. Kristian Jensen and the Cabinet Secretary, Prof. Judi Wakhungu. In attendance were high profile dignitaries including Denmark's Ambassador to Kenya, H.E. Mette Knudsen, Deputy Ambassador Lars Bredal, NEMA Director General Prof. Geoffrey Wahungu, Environment Secretary Dr. Alice Kaudia, and the Dean of Strathmore's Business School, Dr. George N. Njenga.

The new country programme will have nine partner institutions in Kenya including NEMA and will have a consolidated budget of about Ksh7 billion.

Speaking during the signing ceremony at the Climate Change Innovation Centre, Strathmore Business School, Nairobi Cabinet Secretary, Prof. Judi Wakhungu expressed her gratitude to the government of Denmark for support to Kenya over the years (2006- date) noting that environment is a cross cutting issue in all sectors and lies at the foundation of Kenya's developmental aspirations.

Prof. Wakhungu noted that, the programme, that will see Denmark provide financial and technical support worth Ksh. 7 Billion, will deliver on inclusive greener growth with higher employment in Kenya and will focus on sustainable growth and jobs from investment and trade, and sustainable use of natural resources/ community resilience.

On his part, the Foreign Affairs Minister, Government of Denmark, Mr. Kristian Jensen noted that 'Green' and 'growth' are not mutually exclusive but rather can support each other. "Poverty reduction and environmental need innovative

approaches to build resilient communities" noted Mr Jensen. He further noted that 2015 has been the year of great summits from the Sustainable Development Goals (United States); Climate Change conference (France) and the World Trade Organization (Kenya) all geared to betterment of society at large. Mr Jensen insisted that global realities point to the need for us to work together with partnerships, leadership, and financing needed to move our collaborations forward.

Jensen noted that, Denmark will continue to help Kenya achieve its green growth agenda through reducing poverty and improving livelihoods through climate mitigation and adaptation of green technologies, business advocacy, trade facilitation, market access, building up competitiveness, productivity and promotion of green value chains in the country.

He pointed to the development partners that "The only acceptable yardstick for the new programme will be tangible results". Mr Jensen concluded by paying glowing tribute to Kenya's contribution to the Global Green Growth Forum (3GF)

The writer is the Ag. Chief Corporate Communications Manager





Cancer is real, get tested

By Carol Achillah & Samwel Irungu

Pink October is the international breast cancer awareness month. In this regard, the National Environment Management Authority in conjunction with Alexander Forbes organized a forum to raise cancer awareness among the staff. The forum took place at the Authority's headquarters on 23rd October, 2015.

During the forum, the consultants from afyayangu shed light on the various forms of cancer, their triggers, symptoms as well as treatment. Cancer has been ranked as the third cause of deaths due to disease after infectious diseases and heart diseases. Every part of our bodies is said to be subject to cancer except the nails and the hair.

The main forms of cancers include; breast, cervical, lung, colon, esophageal, prostate among others. Most cancers occur in both sexes except prostate cancer which affects the men. Research has shown that there is a distinct difference in the occurrence of cancer between the whites and the people of color for example Africans. It is often more likely for Africans to succumb to death faster due to advanced cancer as compared to the whites. This therefore means that we should be well informed, watch our lifestyle and ensure we get frequent check-ups as a prevention measure.

Cancer, as we learnt is treatable when detected early; stage one and two. At these stages, the cancerous cells can easily be removed and one can be cancer free. However at stage three and four, the cancer will often have spread to other cells making it almost impossible to remove them. At these stages, palliative care is often the only option for the patients.

Most of the cancer triggers are individual's lifestyle including alcoholism, consumption of tobacco, not breastfeeding, obesity, gender, age, family history and bad eating habits. Focusing on breast cancer for instance, it is predominant in women. One of its triggers is failing to breastfeed one's baby. Women are also advised to conceive their first baby before the age of 30 to reduce the risk of getting breast cancer.

Be breast aware. It is crucial to perform self examination at least once a month. This examination includes watching and touching to monitor any changes or feel for any lumps. However, it is important to note that not all lumps are cancerous therefore once detected it is advisable to seek medical help. Some of the signs of breast cancer include; lumps, inverted nipples, change of skin texture, any fluid, redness of the skin and swelling of the armpit. If detected early, breast cancer is treatable by surgery.

To prevent breast cancer one can engage in physical activity, increase intake of fruits and vegetables in their diet, decrease fatty foods and breastfeed newborns up to at least two years of age. Breastfeeding is seen to reduce the contraction of breast cancer by 46%.

Though cancer is highly feared by many, there are various myths that are misguided and are often non-factual. For example it is important to note that: breastfeeding only applies to one's own baby, miscarriages do not increase your risk of infection, one can have cancer even if it has not been recorded in the family history, use of sprays and deodorants do not cause cancer and it is a curable disease.

During this awareness month, it is important to use the opportunity to get tested because various hospitals offer free or highly subsidized tests for various cancers. To support people living with cancer in Kenya, we were advised to donate professional, vocational services, voluntary services and financial assistance to the Faraja Cancer Support Trustand Cancer Care Kenya. This goes a long way in assisting those living with cancer to cope and live with less pain being able to access palliative care.



Kisumu staff trained on service delivery



Corporate Communications Officer, Ms Agnes Kamiri with a section of Kisumu county staff during the sensitization exercise
PHOTO: SAMWEL IRUNGU/NEMA

By Samwel Irungu

Resolution of public complaints is an indicator used by the Commission on Administrative Justice (CAAJ) for all public institutions to address service delivery to the public.

To this effect, the commission issues guidelines which must be followed in the resolution of public complaints.

The guidelines entail the following: establishment of complaints-handling infrastructure mechanism and submitting information on the same in the prescribed format, report on awareness creation of the institution's complaints, handling system and citizen service delivery charters, a status report on the implementation of CAJ recommendations, report on capacity development on effective complaints management for complaints handling officers, staff and top management as well as actual resolution of complaints received and reported in the prescribed format.

Corporate communications is charged with the duty of sensitizing staff on service charter and resolution of public complaints which go hand in hand. This financial year, a number of Counties have been earmarked to be sensitized on the new guidelines issued by CAJ on resolution of public complaints as Counties are integral in the new reports done to CAJ.

Speaking during the sensitization exercise in Kisumu, Corporate communications officer, Ms. Agnes Kamiri praised the Counties for their contribution in the quarterly reporting which has seen the score go high. "This first quarter 2015/16, we have scored 91 percent, a 7 percent rise from last quarter's score" she said.

The Authority normally receives a compliance certificate at the end of a financial year which is an aggregate of the four quarters in a year.

The writer is NEMA's Corporate Communications Officer.



A section of NEMA Kisumu County staff during the sensitization exercise
PHOTO: SAMWEL IRUNGU/NEMA

Ombudsman urges institutions to resolve complaints on time

By Agnes Kamiri

The regional training for Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) was held on 28th to 30th October, 2015, at the Great Lakes Hotel in Kisumu. The training was conducted by the Commission on Administrative Justice, (office of the Ombudsman), who were the organizers of the training.

The "Resolution of Public Complaints" is an indicator in the Performance Contract. As per the 12th Cycle PC guidelines FY 2015/16, all Government Agencies are required to submit quarterly reports detailing complaints received and action taken. Based on these, the Commission rates each institution and issues a certificate showing performance in percentage, which guides the overall national rating of the institutions.



Participants in a group photo.
PHOTO: COURTESY

The indicator on service delivery is the key to performance contracting, since it carries 15 marks. The Indicator "Resolution of public complaints" carries 5%. It is therefore worth noting the weight the indicator carries in terms of performance contracting.

During the training, Institutions were encouraged to comply with service delivery Charters and resolve complaints within the timelines as stipulated in the service charters. The Commission also urged institutions to create more awareness at the regional and county level and should establish complaints desks in each County office.

The training was attended by the three Ministry and their SAGAs (State and Government Agencies), namely Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources and SAGAs, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock & Fisheries and SAGAs, and Ministry of Devolution & Planning and SAGAs.

The Commission had clustered public institutions in that manner depending on the nature of their functions so that they can share their experiences and lessons learnt in implementing the indicator. NEMA officers who attended the training were Eric Ngondi and Agnes Kamiri.

The writer is NEMA's Corporate Communications Officer



Parliament approves vital policies

By Samwel Irungu

The National Assembly has approved three policies namely Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) policy, National Wetlands Policy and Kenya Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) policy.

The policies were spearheaded by the National Environment Management Authority (NEMA). The approval by the parliament implies that the policies are now operational.

Kenya ratified the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands in 1990. Therefore, the National Wetlands Policy will be crucial in mitigating the impacts of high human population increase, escalating pressure on land and natural resources.

For a long time, wetlands conservation in Kenya has been cross-sectoral in nature with no specific institutions charged with the management. A number of government agencies, NGOs and community based organizations have in various capacities implemented wetlands conservation, management and utilization in a manner that has not always been consistent with previous or existing efforts due to the absence of a coordinated National Wetlands Policy.

The policy will also go a long way in providing a vision to mitigate the diverse challenges that affect wetlands conservation and wise use. The Ramsar Convention on wetlands has been in force in Kenya

since 1990, and an environment-friendly Constitution was promulgated in 2010. The Environment Management and Coordination Act and its by-laws contain a number of innovative wetland provisions. In addition, the government is in the process of introducing a holistic national environmental policy that deal with challenges facing wetlands.

According to UNEP director, Achim Steiner, the millennium ecosystem assessment estimated that wetlands provide services worth \$15 trillion worldwide, including food, water, disaster regulation, climate regulation and cultural recreational values.

Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) is one of the tools for attaining sustainable development in Kenya through appropriate learning, capacity-building programmes and development of skills insustainable use of resources at all levels.

Essentially, ESD inculcates environmental values among the citizenry aimed at influencing informed decisions on various aspects. The policy therefore proposes a broad range of measures and actions responding to key educational issues and challenges. It also seeks to re-orient education to ensure that the citizenry attain life-long learning principles towards sustainable development.

Kenya Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) is intended to guide actions and policies related to

the use and management of Kenya's coastal zoneresources, including their protection and restoration.

The ICZM Policy recognizes the inter-relationship and interconnectedness of the coastal environment, and that the myriads of threats facing the coastal zone require the attention of multi-sectoral partners collaborating in an integrated approach to identify and implement intervention to address the threats and promote sustainable development in the coastal area. It is rooted in the understanding that the coastal and marine environment is a limited spatial area and a distinctive system in which a range of environmental and socio-economic interest interconnect in a manner which requires a dedicated and integrated management approach.

Notably, one of the main underlying causes of environmental degradation along the Coast is due to institutional failures.

The policy identifies the failures of the market system, such as pollution, over-extraction of resources, influential vested interests and inadequate property rights, are all contributing to increased pressure on the coastal environment, inappropriate economic growth policies among others. Approval of the policies is now crucial in application of remedies to these scenarios.

The writer is NEMA's Corporate Communications Officer





Thro' NEMA Lenses



Director compliance and enforcement, Mr. David Ongare making a presentation during the african journalists workshop
PHOTO: SAMWEL IRUNGU-NEMA



Deputy Director HRA Esther Chege (L) , Director Finance, Mr. Kennedy Ochuka receives the newly appointed Director, Compliance and enforcement Mr. David Ongare
PHOTO: SAMWEL IRUNGU-NEMA



A section of Compliance and Enforcement Department staff during the reception of their new director, David Ongare
PHOTO: SAMWEL IRUNGU-NEMA



National Environment Management Authority (NEMA)

Has finalized the National Solid Waste Management Strategy. This is a strategy on solid waste management that seeks to deliver the country from the Waste menace by demonstrating how waste is a resource!



Thro' NEMA Lenses



NEMA staff cutting a cake during the end of year staff party
PHOTO: ANTONY MWANGI-NEMA



Senior Environmental Awareness Officer, Ms Anne Theuri chairing the NEMA, Brookside meeting
PHOTO: ANTONY MWANGI-NEMA



NEMA's Mr. Emmanuel Wekesa making remarks during the staff-board meeting
PHOTO: CAROL ACHILLAH-NEMA



NEMA board of magement chairman, Mr. Maluki Mwendwa introducing other board members during the end of year party
PHOTO: ANTONY MWANGI-NEMA



NEMA's Embu County officers follow up the training by Agnes Kamiri on Service Charter
PHOTO: SAMWEL IRUNGU-NEMA



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NETFUND's Green Innovations Awards



NEMA's Senior Environmental Awareness Officer, Ms Anne Theuri (left) as she received the NETFUND drop box
PHOTO: MICHAEL NDERITU-NEMA

By Ann Theuri

Environmental awards are a great way of inculcating self-regulation ideals in environmental management. It is a strategy designed to appreciate the achievements in enhancing compliance to environmental regulations by various sectors aimed at improving the quality of the environment.

The National Environment Trust Fund (NETFUND) has been hosting the Green Innovations Award which is now in its third phase. NETFUND envisages a future where all Kenyans take personal and communal responsibility for environmental management.

The third phase of the GIA was launched on the 24th November 2015 at the Radisson Blu Hotel Upper hill by the Cabinet Secretary for Environment & Natural Resources, Prof Judi Wakhungu in a colorful event attended by the director general of NEMA, Prof Geoffrey Wahungu among other guests.

The NETFUND GIA identifies, recognizes and rewards innovative projects and ideas in

environmental management. The award has a comprehensive awareness program that reaches all levels of the society with particular focus on the bottom of the pyramid (BOP).

Each year NETFUND GIA identifies particular themes and categories for the competition. The NETFUND GIA focuses on the thematic areas of agribusiness, water, energy and waste management.

Initiatives entering the award fall under these thematic areas. The award is being run under the theme "Promoting and strengthening innovative green initiatives" with a vision of an environmentally responsible and motivated society embracing best practices for a clean, healthy and productive environment.

Some of the objectives encompassed in the NETFUND's Green Innovations Award include enhancing public awareness on green growth initiatives, promoting an enabling environment for green growth initiatives and supporting the development of green enterprises.

Under the partnership with NEMA, NETFUND will use the 47 county offices as collection points for the entry forms. The delivery of these forms will be facilitated by NETFUND using the services of the Kenya Postal Cooperation.

NEMA will be tasked with sensitizing the field officers on the guidelines of application and the general information pertaining to the award in order to ensure that the correct information provided by NETFUND is passed on to all applicants.

This award comes with several benefits. For instance, winners will get a platform to showcase their initiatives while participants will be granted an opportunity of recognition while. At the same time they receive grants, trophies and certificates. On the other hand, the award will open up new opportunities for investors to fund the most viable green initiatives.

Additional information on this award, eligibility, grants and prize money to be won and where to get and return filled entry forms can be found in all our 47 counties.

The writer is NEMA's senior environmental awareness officer



NEMA Board of Management Chairman, Mr. Maluki Mwendwa making his remarks during the meeting
PHOTO: GLORIA MICHIRA/ NEMA



A section of NEMA staff during the staff-board of management meeting
PHOTO: CAROL ACHILLAH/ NEMA



NEMA Board of Management during the meeting
PHOTO: CAROL ACHILLAH/ NEMA

The Staff meets Board of Management

By Anthony Ngare & Gloria Michira

An introductory meeting was held at NEMA headquarters for the staff at to meet the new board of management members on 28th October, 2015. In attendance were staff from the headquarters, Nairobi County office and the board of management. The staff were eager to meet the new board as well as hear the plans the board has put in place for the Authority. The Director General Prof. Geoffrey Wahungu introduced the board of management Chairman Mr. MalukiMwendwa who further introduced his team. He acknowledged that he had been a part of the board for ten years and was grateful for the opportunity to serve.

The chairman informed the staff that board has been revising a number of committees and now has three instead of the previous four committees. These include; the Environment Management and Conservation Technical Committee headed by Prof. Mitaru, the Audit Committee whose vice chair is Dr. Susan Mwamlole and the Human Resource Committee headed by Mr. Ngatia. He added that these committees are vital for efficiency in decision making and policy formulation.

On his part, Prof. Mitaru stated that, "We must make sure our environment is here for the generations to come." Mr. Charles Oluchina acknowledged that we can only move forward if we all work together.

Mr. Maluki outlined a number of issues they intend to undertake as a board. Firstly, they intend to implement the NEMA strategic plan that has been in progress since 2013. "Being that we have a new constitution, NEMA needs a new structure which will enable the institution to perform its mandate efficiently," Maluki stated.

He further stated that this has enabled the institution to have more and larger offices out in the field in the Counties as compared to how they used to be before. The chair also added that the institution has to be congratulated for achieving a higher Appropriation in Aid.Now, the human resource issues such as large employee turnover are being dealt with. Also, the institution is now categorized under 6A which is an improvement from previous category.

Mr. Maluki informed the staff that the board has approved the car loan scheme, and a promise that the mortgage scheme is currently under consideration. Prof. Wahungu thanked the chair for continually supporting the institution even when there was no board. "You have come at the right time when we are reviewing our strategy. We have highly skilled staff and we too want to see change," he assured the board.

The writers are NEMA's Ag. Chief Corporate Communications Manager & Corporate Communications Officer respectively





By Francis Inganga

Some of Kenyan delegates consulting during the COP12
PHOTO: FRANCIS INGANGA-NEMA

NEMA participates in UNCCD COP 12

By Francis Inganga

Decision makers from 195 member states attended and discussed solutions to issues related to Desertification, land degradation and drought (DLDD) from 12th-23rd October, 2015 at Ankara, Turkey.

The Executive Secretary of the UNCCD Monique Barbut noted that Land rehabilitation is one of the pathways to sustainable development, by rehabilitating degraded land, many of the sustainable development goals (SDGs) would be more attainable.

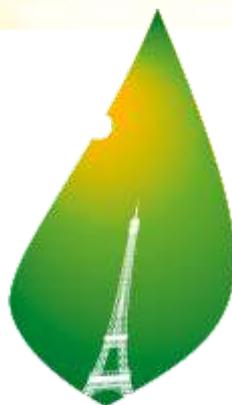
Land that is properly nurtured fosters food and water security and reverses negative climate change impacts such as forced migration, by cultivating opportunities for growth and ensuring stability.

To invest in the land is to invest in sustainable livelihoods therefore the goal of COP12 is to provide practical steps to make the rehabilitation of degrading land areas a reality. The Parties were asked to identify ways to contribute to success of the 2015 Climate Change Conference in December in Paris.

NEMA was represented by Dr Kennedy Ondimu the Director Planning and Research Coordination and Mr Francis Inganga the Acting Deputy Director Environmental Research who is also the National Science and Technology Correspondent. The head of the delegation was Mr Richard Mwendandu of the Director of MEAs at the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources



L-R: Anja Thust, UNCCD Secretariat; Richard Mwendandu, Chair of the CRIC (Kenya); Jullyette Ukabiala, Secretary of the CRIC
PHOTO: MICHAEL NDERITU-NEMA



COP21 - CMP11
PARIS 2015
UN CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE





NEMA participates in UNCCD COP 12

(MENR) as appointed by the Cabinet Secretary. The others from various MDAs and CSOs were as follows: Mutie Nzau, Humphrey Rutto, B. Manyonge, Silas Mulehi, Julius Mwangi, Dr Warugute, Andrew Machora, E. Osoro, Dan Marangu Kithinji, Gibson Kiragu, Frank Msafiri (CSO), George Orina, Dr Jane Wamuongo and Geoffrey Nyamasege. It was the biggest delegation ever participated in UNCCD COP from Kenya.

Mr Inganga, Dr Wamuongo and Julius Mwangi attended and participated in the Committee on Science and Technology (CST -12) meetings and many side events one of which Mr Inganga was a panelist. They also joined the others to participate in the Africa Group meetings almost on daily basis to contribute to the African region position on most of the issues to be negotiated. Mr Mwendandu, Dr Ondimu, Dr Warugute and Dan Kithinji among others participated in the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (CRIC-14).

During the side event in which Mr Inganga was a panelist he presented a paper entitled: "Drought Risk Management Policies for Sustainable Development: The Kenyan situation" emphasizing the RISKS AND vulnerability of communities in the drylands.

Dr Mohammed Swazuri, the Chair of the National Land Commission (NLC), also attended the COP. Three Members of Parliament led by the Deputy Speaker Joyce Laboso attended the Parliamentary sessions. Mr Kilonzo Kiema the Ambassador of Kenya to Turkey was also present and assisted the delegates greatly.

It was agreed that the Kenya delegation members should strive to attend all sessions, side events and most important the Contact Groups meetings and Round Table Meetings. Therefore it was agreed during the preparatory meetings that the delegation was hold meetings while in Ankara to strategize on full participation.

Kenya delegation carried the message that the successful twelfth session of the COP will depend on right strategies and tactics of the negotiators. Good teams need to be put in place for negotiations on identified issues of importance for the African (read Kenya) Group. Africa and world community should keep the momentum at the COP level and be open to new positive ideas and proposals for implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals adopted recently.

Finally, Kenya was guided in its position by the result of the Africa regional meeting held in Pretoria in

preparation for the COP12. Noting that, the African Group, together with G77 and China, will continue to work towards strengthening the implementation of the Convention in close cooperation with other Parties as well as in partnership with NGOs and other components of the civil society.

COP12 report

UNCCD COP 12 opened on Monday the 12th 2015, in Ankara, Turkey. The high-level segment took place on Tuesday, the 20th and Wednesday the 21st of October 2015. During the high level segment, the Ministers and other head of states held round-table discussions to identify possible solutions to water scarcity, land degradation and desertification while upholding efforts to mitigate the effects of drought and preventing further degradation. It was also noted that through policy implementation, achieving a land degradation neutral (LDN) world is within reach. The round tables had the themes: "the climate change", "the relationship of the desertification with the water and drought" and lastly "land degradation neutrality".

On the 12th, during the opening ceremony, Prof Veysel Eroglu, Minister of Forestry and Water Affairs, Turkey as the COP12 President took over after endorsement from Pohamba Shifeta, Minister of Environment and Tourism, Namibia, the President of the COP 11. In his speech Prof Veysel stressed that Climate Change, desertification and drought are among the foremost global challenges today directly affecting over 1.5 billion people. He challenged everybody to plant one tree seedlings towards addressing these problems.

Welcoming participants, UNCCD Executive Secretary Monique Barbut after leading the delegates in a minute of silence for the victims of terrorist bombing in Ankara on Saturday the 10th of October, she said that the convention is an "organization in motion" and noted the increased recognition of land issues at the global level, highlighting the inclusion of the Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) target in the SDGs and acknowledgement of the role of land in climate change negotiations. She reiterated that achieving a LDN is key to achieving progress on other issues, including the water-energy-food nexus and eradication of extreme poverty. She expressed hope for guidance to enhance the scientific base of the Convention, a target-setting approach, and monitoring action programmes at all levels.

After the round-table meetings, the General Assembly Ministerial Session agreed that the decisions of the COP will be presented to the Climate Change Summit that will be held in Paris in December 2015, by the Cop12 president.

Decisions of the COP

Approximately 6,000 participants of the COP adopted 35 decisions following deliberations on agenda items related to desertification, land degradation and drought (DLDD), including how to pursue the target to achieve land degradation neutrality (LDN) and how to align the UNCCD's goals and parties' action programmes with the recently adopted Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Parties also considered messages for the Paris Climate Change Conference, which will take place from 30th November to 11th December 2015.

It is worth pointing out that all the 35 decisions of the COP12 will have far reaching ramifications on affairs of this country in terms of addressing issues of the SDG number 15 and especially the target 15.3. The country needs to move with speed to implement the recently developed National Action Programme (NAP) 2015-2025 for the next 15 years by involving everybody at national and county levels.

Recommendations and way forward

It is crucial that Kenya links UNCCD activities with climate change and biological diversity activities in Kenya (a forum be established where the three UN conventions matters can be transacted in an integrated manner) for the domestication of the same, Equally for synergetic approach to the three Rio Conventions (UNFCCC, UNCCD and UNCBD) especially as it touches on implementation and reporting, NEMA and the government should support the participation of all the desk officers in all the COPs of the three conventions for them to understand their interrelationships and Kenya to adopt all the 35 decisions arrived at during the COP12 and its related subsidiary bodies.

Moreover, after alignment of the NAP to The Strategy, Kenya shall have to set aside funds for reviewing the same in the next few years to align it to the SDGs especially the SDG 15 with its target 15.3. The Government of Kenya to support implementation of the NAP through allocation of funds to the relevant sectors including involvement of CSOs. In addition, the Government of Kenya to support documentation of Best/ good Practices in various parts of the country with a view of reporting on the same to the UNCCD through the PRAIS system next reporting cycle next year 2016. It was recommended that there should be enhanced information sharing between sectors in the area of DLDD and SLM as well as lobby the government to allocate resources towards meeting the newly adopted SDGs especially the one on LDN.

The writer is NEMA's Chief Environmental Research Officer



Learning from the best

By Shieni Koiyet

NEMA's Ngong dumpsite project has positively transformed the lives of the communities in the area. This has been possible due to devotion of Nuru Youth Group that works at the dumpsite. For this reason, they have gained national recognition as other waste segregators seek to learn best practices in waste management from them.

In this regard, Nuru Youth Group in Ngong had rare visitors from Mwakirunge dumpsite in Mombasa who came to learn from them on the success of the waste recovery business on the 25th August 2015. This was after a visit by a team from NEMA Nairobi Regional Office in July on a survey mission who shared with the group on the success of the Ngong group.

The Mombasa group was comprised of three groups working within the Mwakirunge area on matters concerning the dumpsite. The groups included; Usafi ni Uhai, Pickers and Bamburi Environmental Watchdog. Usafi ni Uhai group is an advocacy group on safe waste disposal in the area.

Bamburi Environmental Watchdog works in the location to advocate on environmental concerns of the people and is involved in environmental

conservation. Pickers is a group based at the dumpsite doing sorting and recovery of materials for sale.

During their visit to the NEMA headquarters, the Director Environmental Education Information and Public participation, Dr. Ayub Macharia took the opportunity to welcome the groups to Nairobi. He said this was a great opportunity for the group because the Ngong Project was action oriented. He gave the background of the Ngong project and the successes achieved so far.

The achievements include; increased waste recovery, improved livelihoods for segregators, better market for recovered materials, improved capacity, less social conflicts and improved compliance to environmental standards.

The Ngong group has been linked with recyclers after a successful meeting and afterwards visited some of the recycling plants. They also had an exchange visit with DAJOPEN group in Kitale to learn on composting of organic fertilizer.

The group started a pig project which has boosted their earnings. He went ahead to say NEMA has

constructed a store, sorting shade and a toilet for the Ngong group to improve on their working environment.

Dr. Macharia said the future plans for the project is to increase technologies of waste recycling and value addition. The ultimate goal is to make the Ngong project an informal learning centre for waste segregators and recyclers.

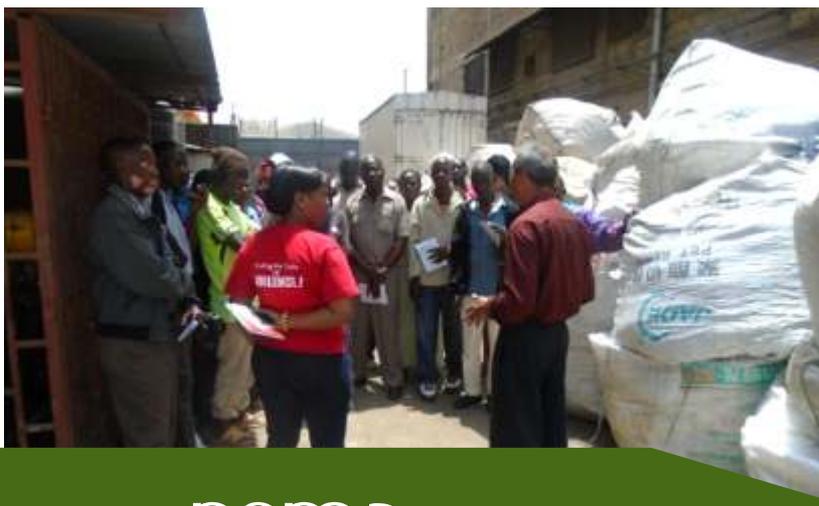
He remarked that the challenges the project experiences are data collection and dynamic nature of the group. He said secret to success involves 3 main issues; being organized and registered with relevant government institution, registering good membership and applying for funding from government agencies and others to support group activities.

The Nuru group has a total of 132 members, 91 females and 41 men. The waste is normally received from Karen, Kiserian, Rongai and Ngong town. The group markets the waste recovered itself hence avoiding brokers. Within the umbrella group there are other smaller groups who are engaged on different activities.

Continued Pg 21



The Mwakirunge group tour Kamongo Paper Recycler in Industrial Area, Nairobi where waste is sorted and baled.
PHOTO: NEMA



The group toured Friendly Polymers Limited which is involved in plastic recycling
PHOTO: NEMA



Exchange programme bears fruit

The following day, the Mombasa group visited 3 recycling plants to observe firsthand the recycling process and secure a market for their materials. The first plant was Kamongo Paper recyclers who are specialized in buying, sorting and bailing waste for sale to local recyclers and also for export. Mr. Norbert Agesa on behalf of the company offered to buy brown and white paper as well as old gunny bags from the visiting group.

The second plant was Friendly Polymers Limited that is specialized in recycling polythene bags and hard plastics. Mr. Nitin Shah offered to organize for purchase of plastics collected by the group. The group also visited Pan African Paper Mills who recycle brown and white paper for book covers and tissue paper. Mr Timothy Rop and Mr. Ndungu lead the group in tour for the plant.

Finally the tour came to the end with the Mombasa group going home with the challenge of collecting enough materials to supply to the secured market, hence "Turning waste into cash"



The writer is a Regional Coordinator Nairobi Region

Visit at Pan African Paper Mills where they saw the various categories of waste paper and met the Managing Director, Mr. Markesh.

PHOTO: NEMA

NEMA scoops COG Award

By Samwel Irungu

The National Environment Management Authority (NEMA) was awarded for its commitment to uphold high corporate governance standards and ethics at a ceremony held at Intercontinental Hotel in Nairobi on the evening of Friday 8th November, 2015.

The Authority received recognition as the winner in the statutory bodies sector of Champions of Governance (COG) Awards organized by the Institute of Certified Public Secretaries of Kenya (ICPSK). This year, 44 organizations had participated both at private and public levels.

The ICPSK Champions of Governance award jury singled out the profile of NEMA praising it for its role in supervision and coordination of all matters related to the environment. The institute together with other stakeholders inaugurated the annual governance excellence award in 2010 to recognize organizations and individuals that exhibit high standards of practice of governance. This was the sixth edition of the awards having experienced increase in the number of companies participating.

The award was preceded by a rigorous evaluation process focusing on key parameters such as transparency and disclosure compliances, adhere to laws and regulations, annual general meetings and other members meetings, investors' relations, communication and public education and board independence as well as governance.

The Governance award aims at segregating governance issues and focusing on them separately as key issues that organizations and individuals in the business world have to grapple with.

The award also seeks to ingrain sound corporate governance within organizations, evaluates focus on shareholder value enhancement; corporate social responsibility; creativity and innovation; corporate strategy; management and human resources issues as well as financial reporting.

The writer is NEMA's corporate communications officer



Lamu's Sand Dunes

By Cliff Barkatch (CDE LAMU) & Moses Ombogo



Lamu sand dunes are 11 km long about 3 km wide in Kizingoni and 700 m at Shela area
PHOTO: NEMA



Dune system
PHOTO: NEMA



Genesis of Sand dunes
PHOTO: NEMA

Lamu Old Town was ratified as a World Heritage site in 2004 by United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). One of the key factors that enabled Lamu old town to be listed is the reliable supply of fresh water to the inhabitants of the town. The source of which is 30 shallow wells located within the catchment zone.

The Lamu sand dunes act as the only fresh water catchment for most of the settlements on Lamu Island especially the historic town of Lamu and the neighbouring Manda and Shela villages. They extend from Kizingoni where they are 3 KM wide and wedges out to 700 metres at Shela area.

The water catchment consists of a continuous series of sand dunes that acts like a sponge capable of filtering and storing rain water. Sand dunes also act as a buffer of fresh water from saline intrusion.

Genesis of the sand dunes

Dune system form on sheltered beaches protected from severe wave action and where there is a plentiful supply of sand and prevailing onshore winds. Dry sand is blown landwards and deposited above the high water mark, where it is trapped by strand-like plants and dune building grasses.

As the sand accumulates along the shore, fresh incoming sand is pushed up the front or seaward facing slope and trapped by vegetation forming what is called the fore dune. Behind this system there can be several back dunes, depending on the slope of the coast and the history of development.



Catchment Rehabilitation Day

The seventh April the year two thousand and fifteen will be remembered as the day the water resources management authority(WRMA) with other stakeholders such as the county government of Lamu,National Museums of Kenya,Kenya Forest Service,NEMA,WRUAs together united in the declaring their commitment in protection,management and conservation of the Lamu sand dunes.

All agreed that the sand dunes are the source of fresh water for the Lamu residents without which life will be impossible and just like Takwa village in Lamu which was abandoned following the disappearance of fresh water,Lamu too will be abandoned if the water source is degraded.

Lamu County is gearing to host the second harbor after the one of Mombasa. Lamu will therefore need a lot of fresh water to support the ballooning workforce who will be taking up jobs at the new port. Also another mega project of generating power from coal is expected in Lamu. This too will attract a workforce that will need large quantities of fresh water. However,these water resources are already over-stretched as evidenced by recent protests by residents. As if this is not enough, scientific evidence indicates that shallow wells near the sea shore are becoming saline as a result of salt intrusion.

Sand dunes are fragile ecosystems; meaning that small changes like over-abstraction of the ground water, encroachments from settlements, vegetation removal, wrong farming practices or natural causes can have a great effect on the sustainability of water catchment areas. Sand dune systems are of considerable economic importance due to the large deposits of sand and associated heavy metals. Stable dunes can be destabilized as a result of overgrazing and removal of natural vegetation. Where the mantle of vegetation is broken, the dune movement is accelerated to a point where plant growth cannot keep pace with the shifting sand.

Threats to sand dunes

Some of the threats to Lamu sand dunes include: encroachment from settlements, over-abstraction of water and beach developments.

Possible interventions to threats facing the Lamu sand dunes include:

- i. Gazettement of the entire catchment zone covering an area of about 19.7 square kilometres as a 'ground water conservation area
- ii. Sensitize the local community and the nation at large on the significance of the catchment area
- iii. All stakeholders to forge concerted efforts to conserve the entire catchment area from encroachment
- iv. Planting the right species of vegetative cover along the catchment areas
- v. Prohibiting land activities on catchment areas which are likely to impact negatively on water resources such as constructing buildings along sand dunes
- vi. All those plots which were illegally allocated in the water catchment area be revoked. Already, the chairman of the National Land Commission has declared that this will be done (we will watch this space!).

The writers are NEMA's Lamu Environment Officers

Lamu's Sand Dunes



Settlements encroaching into the Lamu Sand dunes
PHOTO: NEMA



Impact of beach resorts.
PHOTO: NEMA



Kind of plant species which can survive in sand dunes
PHOTO: NEMA



NEMA hosts new Denmark ambassador



H.E. Amb Mette Knudsen (3rd left) and Nema DG Prof Geoffrey Wahungu (2nd left) together with other members from NEMA and Royal Danish Embassy after the meeting.

PHOTO: ANTONY MWANGI/ NEMA

By Anthony Ngare

The newly appointed Denmark's ambassador to Kenya Her Excellency Ms. Mette Knudsen recently made a visit to NEMA to familiarize herself with some of the projects that her country's funding arm Danida is taking in the country. During her visit, she held a lengthy discussion with Nema Director General Prof Geoffrey Wahungu featuring a number of areas of mutual interest to both parties.

Her Excellency pointed out that Denmark was keen and happy to continue with the partnership and good work in fields of environmental management. "NEMA has implemented the agreed projects well and we are happy to continue with the next phase of the programme" said H.E Knudsen. The ambassador was also keen to establish from the Authority, how it envisaged its public-private co-operation both at county and national levels.

On his part, the DG Prof Wahungu reiterated that programmes with Denmark have been quite fruitful throughout the implementation period. He added that he was happy with the work plan activities that are earmarked for the incoming programme funded by Danida. Prof Wahungu explored his optimism with the incoming programme, focusing on Green Growth and Employment to be funded by Danida. "We are very excited with the new programme as it will bring new dimensions" noted the DG.

He also informed her Excellency that the geographical spread of the existing green points was informed by ecological zones. "Clustering is important when establishing the green points even as we work towards establishment of more green points" noted the DG. Prof Wahungu also shared

the Government's initiative dubbed 'Ease of doing businesses under KenInvest. He informed the ambassador that this was a national initiative to help streamline permitting for investors in the country.

He particularly pointed out that counties are keen on getting investors to come and deal with waste management issues. He also added that counties are already working on spatial planning and this has greatly helped to encourage organized development. Additionally, the DG pointed out that the technical assistance received under the current programme by Danida has been quite supportive.

Ambassador Mette Knudsen presented the Letter of Credence by which Her Majesty Queen Margrethe II of Denmark nominates her as Ambassador of Denmark to Kenya, to the President of Kenya, His Excellency Uhuru Kenyatta on 15th September 2015.

Ambassador Mette Knudsen is a distinguished career diplomat in the Danish Foreign Service and has previously served as Danish Ambassador to Greece and Cyprus (2012-2015), Ethiopia and the African Union and ECOWAS (2004-2007). She has been Head of the Africa Department (2007 - 2012) and has also had postings in Zambia (2002-2004) and Tanzania (1995-1998).

The writer is NEMA's Ag. Chief Corporate Communications manager



NEMA DG Prof Geoffrey Wahungu (right) hands over a gift hamper to Denmark's Ambassador H.E. Mette Knudsen

PHOTO: ANTONY MWANGI/ NEMA



NEMA gets a new Director for Compliance and Enforcement

It doesn't matter the position you hold, what matters is your desire to serve, that was the opening statement from the director compliance and enforcement, Mr. David Ongare when Ecoflash sought an interview with the newest director at the Authority. Ongare joined the Authority in 2008, as the Deputy Director Environmental Education, Information and Public Participation till his appointment as the Director Compliance and Enforcement in October 2015.

As the Deputy Director EEL & PP, he has achieved a lot not only internally but in his engagement with donors and development partners in various projects. Under his watch, this programmes have raised the profile of the Authority. Essentially, compliance and enforcement, being the largest department in the Authority forms the interface between the clients and the Authority.

In this regard, Ongare states that he will focus on promoting an amicable relationship with the public. "Together with other departments and sections, we wish to strengthen our outreach areas such as incidence management and response to issues and complaints raised by "Wanjiku". This will be coupled by reviewing and addressing feedback from the public.

Internally, Ongare, believes in teamwork to harness available human resource, which is critical in the Authority's brand management especially in issues of compliance and enforcement. Interlinking of departments and sections in terms of communication also plays a critical role in the overall delivery of service to the public. This, in the end result into informed Environmental Impact Assessment reports, audits among other deliverables. Harnessing synergies among the staff, Ongare believes, will lead to improved competences,



NEMA's director C & E, Mr. David Ongare during the interview with Ecoflash.
PHOTO: MICHAEL NDERITU-NEMA

in the long run build stronger teams. Ongare remarked that his department has able officers with two deputy directors, chiefs and staff who have been and will continue to be instrumental in addressing enforcement and compliance matters in the country.

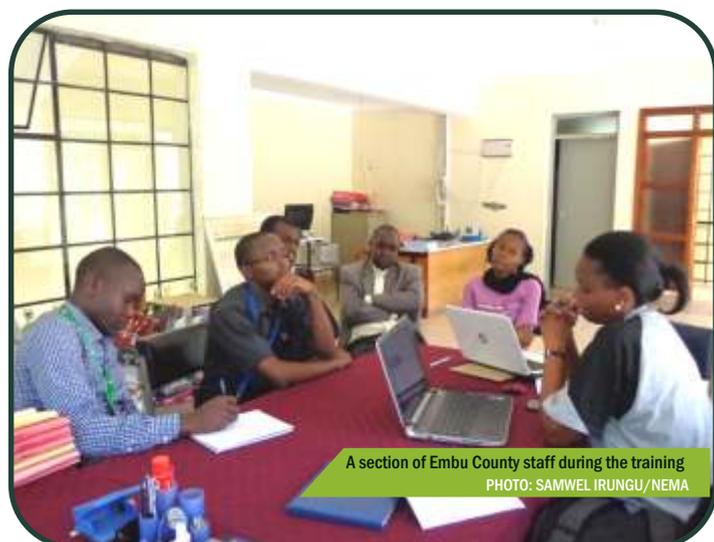
Of course, every task comes with its own challenges, in response to this, Ongare stated that although it is not easy to please everyone, it is possible to make logical decisions. Such decisions should be informed by the need to address the populace needs. However, he asserts that there is need to

regularly address the feedback from our clients and respond to complaints in time. Most importantly, the Authority should be able to communicate to the public its endeavors to avoid communication breakdown or misunderstanding.

As a parting shot, Ongare believes that it is always a privilege to serve and this is the mentality we should all hold as we will not sit in offices forever. He states, "make a contribution for the wellbeing of the institution or whichever office you hold" he adds, "whatever position you have, you have a limited window and the choice is yours"

The writer is NEMA's corporate communications officer

Embu staff trained on public complaints



A section of Embu County staff during the training
PHOTO: SAMWEL IRUNGU/NEMA

The commission issues guidelines which are followed by institutions in dealing with the public and resolving complaints. The guidelines entails the following; establishment of complaints-handling infrastructure mechanism and submitting information on the same in the prescribed format, report on awareness creation of the institution's complaints handling system and citizen service delivery charters.

The guidelines also requires that a status report on the implementation of CAJ recommendations, report on capacity development on effective complaints management for complaints handling officers, staff and top management as well as actual resolution of complaints received and reported developed in the prescribed format.

Corporate communications is charged with the duty of sensitizing staff on resolution staff on service charter and resolution of public complaints. The section gathers incidences and complaints from the county offices and headquarters and prepares a report that is sent to CAJ on quarterly basis. At the end of a financial year, the Authority is certified by Ombudsman which carries the average from the scores of the four quarters.

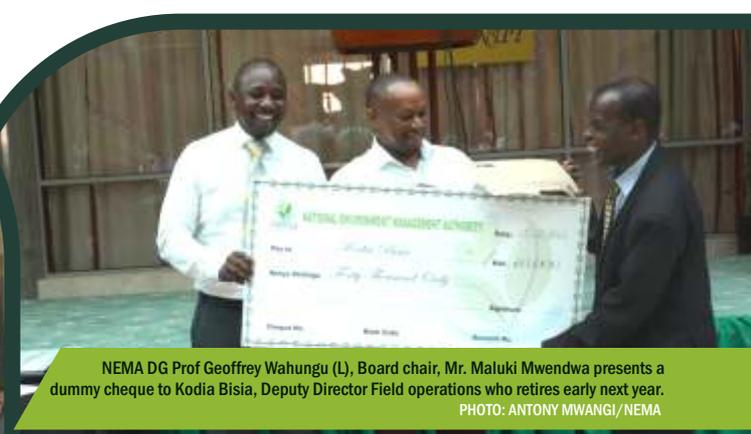
During the training in Embu, Corporate communications officer, Ms. Agnes Kamiri stated that Counties have been pivotal in addressing and reportage of complaints since they are mostly in contact with the members of the public.



NEMA Staff get together party



NEMA Director General, Prof Geoffrey Wahungu in a jovial mood as he introduces the management team during the event
PHOTO: ANTONY MWANGI/NEMA



NEMA DG Prof Geoffrey Wahungu (L), Board chair, Mr. Maluki Mwendwa presents a dummy cheque to Kodia Bisia, Deputy Director Field operations who retires early next year.
PHOTO: ANTONY MWANGI/NEMA



NEMA Board chairman, Mr. Maluki Mwendwa introducing other board members
PHOTO: MICHAEL NDERITU-NEMA

By Carol Achillah & Samwel Irungu

The National Environment Management Authority (NEMA) held its end of year get together staff party on 18th December, 2015 at Panari Hotel. The party saw staff from the headquarters and counties, board of management and the management team gather together not only to celebrate but also to reflect on some of the achievements made throughout the year.

In his keynote address, the board of management chairman, Mr. Maluki Mwendwa delved on some of the notable achievements achieved by the Authority in the year 2015 such as revision of EMCA 1999, approval of three policies by parliament which include; Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) Policy, National Wetlands Policy and Kenya Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) Policy. The chairman was recognisant of the gallant efforts put by members of the NEMA fraternity in actualizing these policies.

While acknowledging that waste management is a menace, the board chairman said, "The Authority has been working closely with the county governments in the development and implementation of the solid waste management strategy." The chairman added, "As we await its official launch, let us continue to work closely to support the county governments in solid waste management."

The chairman also had come good news for the staff among them being the Authority's Re-categorization. He informed the staff that the Authority was re-categorized from 6B to 6A, something that will see the Authority revise its basic salary upwards. Another good news was the car loan scheme which the Board of management has already approved. He also hinted that the Board and the management intend to implement Mortgage scheme in the next financial year.

On his part, the NEMA Director General Prof Geoffrey Wahungu informed the staff that the Authority had been working towards enhancing employee satisfaction. This was reflected in the Authority improved performance as it was able to score 2.961 as compared to last years which is an improvement of 0.0466 in the performance contracting rating.

The Director General informed the staff that the Authority has had a breakthrough in the Adaptation funding. He also stated that Green Growth and employment programme has also been launched by Kenya and the Government of Denmark which will be critical for the Authority and 9 other partner institutions in matters of environmental conservation. He noted that the Authority will have a consolidated budget of about Ksh 7 billion.

Mr. Eliud Wasike, the invited motivational speaker, urged the staff to come out of their comfort zones as they seek new strategies, in a bid to 'get to the next level'. He stated that with no vision, we all lose a

sense of direction. His speech was followed by awards that saw several departmental staff, interns and auxiliary staff bag various presents.

The awards included long serving staff, ISO internal auditors, drivers, environmental officers and field operations. With all these to book, the day was truly a success.

Towards the end of the event, the Authority recognized and awarded a number of staff who have worked hard throughout the year. However, he stated, "due to resources constraints, the Authority cannot afford to award all the deserving cases. Even the few who will be awarded today have excelled because they have worked alongside their colleagues".

Some of the categories awarded are the officers who are to retire next year, staff who had performed exemplary, internal ISO auditors as well as officers who had been voted by other staff in various categories.

The writers are NEMA's intern and Corporate Communications Officer respectively



Core Services

The services offered by Authority include:-

- Registrations of Environmental Experts
- Environmental Licensing
- Environmental Auditing
- Environmental Inspection
- Environmental Education and Awareness
- Environmental Reporting
- Environmental Planning & Research
- Development of Curriculum for Training of Strategic Environment Assessment/Audit experts (EIA/EA)
- Administration of an Environmental Awards scheme
- Environmental Incident Management





VISION

- 🌿 To be a world-class Environmental Management Authority

MISSION

- 🌿 To ensure a clean, healthy and sustainable environment in Kenya through supervision and coordination of all matters relating to environment

MOTTO

- 🌿 Our Environment, Our Life, Our Responsibility
Mazingira Yetu, Uhai Wetu, Wajibu Wetu



REPORT ENVIRONMENTAL INCIDENTS TO:

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Email: incidence@nema.go.ke

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