



World Environment Day 2015  
**Seven Billion Dreams.  
One Planet.  
Consume with Care.**  
June 5



## World Environment Day Ministry of Environment, Water and Natural Resources



**Theme:** "Seven Billion Dreams. One Planet. Consume with care" **Venue:** Maasai Girls Secondary School in Narok Town, Narok County **Date:** June 5, 2015

# Natural resources critical for social-economic growth

**W**orld Environment Day (WED) was created in 1972 at the United Nations General Assembly, and has since continued to be used as an opportunity for educating the public on the importance of the environment, while appreciating the achievements made towards preservation of the same by diverse stakeholders.

Through these celebrations, the Ministry is able to document, recognise and demonstrate best practices, share lessons and experiences on sound environmental management, and renew the government's commitment and political goodwill towards sound environmental management at all levels.

The theme for this year's event is, **"Seven Billion Dreams. One Planet. Consume with Care"**. It is focusing on the increasing global population, currently estimated at 7 billion people, who draw their livelihoods from dwindling environmental resources.

Kenya's population now stands at 42 million. This population has its own dreams, visions



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and expectations, which need to be protected through a sustainably managed environment. The environment, being a common resource, calls for collective responsibility by all to safeguard.

This year, Narok County is hosting the national WED celebrations. This county is home to the Maasai Mara game reserve, which is a magnificent wildlife

reserve harbouring exceptional variety of biodiversity as well as outstanding natural beauty and spectacular scenes, such as the wildebeest migration – one the Wonders of the World.

The Government of Kenya recognises the critical importance of our natural resources to the social-economic well-being of the people. It is also aware of the numerous challenges facing sustainable resource exploitation. These include land use change, such as conversion of forest land into agricultural parcels, encroachment and draining of wetlands, unplanned urban developments, invasion of alien species, pollution of water bodies through human activities and the negative impacts of climate change. There is therefore an urgent need to embrace the slogan formulated for this year's WED celebration – **"Save it or perish"** – to reverse these negative trends.

My ministry has formulated various policies and legislations with the aim of conserving our natural resources for sustainable development. The ministry's strategic plan is aligned to the Kenya

vision 2030, where issues of environmental management are well covered. It has produced the Kenya biological diversity atlas, which is due to be launched. It has also compiled the natural capital of Kenya.

The climate change Bill once enacted, will guide on our coping mechanisms and mitigation measures to the effects of climate change. The long awaited Environmental Policy is also in parliament. Once enacted, it will inform all sectors on their respective roles in ensuring sound environmental management. Additionally, sectors are responding with interventions relating to their sectors on climate change as outlined in the National Climate Change Response Strategy.

The Kenya Forest service has doubled efforts in re-forestation programmes, which have increased the country's forest cover to the current seven per cent, up from the previous 1.7 per cent. The ministry, through the Kenya Wildlife Service, ensures conservation and management of wildlife resources, while dealing with the serious poaching threats being experienced in the country.

## We have to surmount challenges

**T**he Mission of the Ministry is to facilitate good governance in the protection, restoration, conservation, development and management of environment, water and natural resources for equitable and sustainable development. The ministry is committed to promote, monitor, conserve, protect and sustainably manage the environment for national development.

Sustainable environment is a fundamental pre-requisite for national development, poverty eradication and improved livelihoods. In order to achieve its mandate, the ministry has established institutions that are fully operational and working towards enhanced environmental and natural resources protection.

The National Environment Management Authority is mandated to exercise general supervision and coordination of all matters relating to the environment.

The ministry also provides meteorological data to key sectors, including agriculture, forestry, water resources management and civil aviation, as well as to the private sector for the benefit of industry and commerce.

Through Kenya Forest Service, the ministry is mandated to conserve, develop and sustainably manage forest resources for Kenya's social-economic development. Consequently, it undertakes conservation and management of wildlife in Kenya. Through enforcement of relevant laws and regulations, the ministry has made



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strides in the conservation of the environment.

However, several environmental challenges have been experienced, mainly due to over-exploitation of natural resources. Some of the key challenges include pollution, deforestation, global warming and climate change, land use changes and waste management, among others. The Ministry is currently implementing various projects to educate and raise awareness on environmental issues to all Kenyans, and to encourage the participation of all stakeholders in environmental conservation and management.

The Ministry is implementing various programmes with a focus on the Environmental Policy and Management Component. This is to support the realisation of Vision 2030 in the areas of environmental planning and governance.

## Narok County: A most valued ecosystem for Kenya

Narok County is situated in the Great Rift Valley. It is named after River Enkare Narok, which flows through Narok town. The county occupies 17,944 sq km, and has a population of approximately 850,920 people.

Narok is marked as one of the crucial counties for the achievement of the economic pillar of Kenya's Vision 2030. A UN research supports this. Key contributions to its economy are the tourism sector through the Maasai Mara Game Reserve, and the agricultural sector through livestock and crop farming. The latter contributes 89 per cent of the total household incomes. Other economic activities in the county include Mining and sand harvesting. Narok County contributes 10 per cent of the country's livestock products.

The Maasai Mara Game Reserve is an intriguing ecosystem. It offers one of the world's most important habitat areas for a great variety of wild animals. The Masai Mara ecosystem plays host to one of the most spectacular wildlife sceneries: the great wildebeest migration. The Mara River water, which originates from the Mau forest, gives life to the ecosystem. The game reserve is a vital income earner for not only Narok County, but also for Kenya through revenue collected from tourism.

With time, the wider Narok County has witnessed its fair share of drought and famine due to



**Hon. Samuel Ole Tunai**  
Governor, Narok County

changes in climate patterns of the area, caused by massive deforestation and environmental degradation of the Mau Forest. Environmental Conservation measures are, however, underway.

Another challenge is the human-wildlife conflict, which has been aggravated by rapid changes in the lifestyle of local communities from pastoralism to crop farming and other incompatible land-use practices. This is affecting biodiversity and is a threat to tourism too.

According to the Kenya Wildlife Service, conflict in areas surrounding the Maasai Mara Game Reserve is mainly attributed to increased human

population and loss of wildlife habitat due to uncontrolled human activities, especially crop farming, charcoal burning and human settlement. There is thus the challenge to create a sustainable situation that protects the interests of all.

Advancing technology has seen the local community embracing clean energy technology, introduced by the Kenya Community Development Foundation (KCDF).

KCDF awarded Nguzo Africa, a community based organisation in Narok, the task of providing clean energy for cooking and lighting to the residents of Narok. This has seen the installation of Biogas systems and solar lighting equipment, which includes a lantern, transistor radio and a mobile charging unit. Nguzo Africa and the Narok community have come together with a common need – environmental conservation.

In summary, Narok County is a rich ecosystem that has seen man, livestock and wildlife compete for the existing natural resources. The county government of Narok, in collaboration with concerned parties and well-wishers, is actively working towards sustainability and conservation.







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## Seven Billion Dreams, Only One Planet

The World Environment Day (WED) will be marked today, in accordance with the global calendar of environment events. The theme for this year's event as released by UNEP is, **"Seven Billion Dreams. One Planet. Consume with care"**.

The theme focuses on the increasing global population, currently estimated at seven billion people, who draw their livelihoods from dwindling environmental resources. The theme is therefore emphasising the need to embrace sustainable exploitation of resources in order to live within the planet's limits, thus

the need to "consume with care". NEMA has formulated a national slogan to serve as the rallying call. It is, **"Save it, or Perish"**.

At the national level, the theme relates to our local circumstances. Kenya's population is steadily increasing, now estimated at 42 million people, accounting for 0.6 per cent of the global population.

The population is largely dependent on the environment and natural resources for their livelihoods and survival. Subsequently, the destruction of ecosystems and natural resources can cause catastrophic effects to mankind.

Based on relevance of the theme to the country, NEMA has selected **Narok County**

to host the national marking of WED 2015.

The county has contributed immensely to conservation efforts and tourism industry over the years. It is home to important ecosystems, such as Maasai Mara Game Reserve, whose wildebeest migration is the 8<sup>th</sup> Wonder of the World.

The Maasai Mau Forest block and Mara River comprise the lifeline of the region. These ecosystems are under constant threat from human encroachment, and can be depleted if there are no concerted efforts to conserve the same.

A panel discussion on the environment was held on May 21, 2015 at Maasai Mara University as a build-up event. It involved

policy-makers, elected leaders, researchers and the general public. They deliberated on lasting interventions to be implemented in the region to avert future environmental disasters, such as the recent floods witnessed in Narok Town.

County-level WED events have also been planned for the rest of the counties, and will be spearheaded by the NEMA County Directors of Environment.

The National Event will be held at the **Maasai Girls Secondary School in Narok Town, Narok County**.

Holding the national ceremony in Narok County is expected to trigger positive environmental interventions and commitments by the county government and other relevant stakeholders.

## Authority has continually improved

The mandate of the National Environment Management Authority is to ensure a clean, healthy and sustainable environment. It coordinates various environmental management activities undertaken by lead agencies, and promotes the integration of environmental considerations into development policies, plans, programmes and projects, with a view to ensuring the proper management and rational utilisation of environmental resources.

The Board of Management has provided the necessary leadership and policy direction for the Authority to enable it perform its functions. The recent gazettement of the new Board members has rejuvenated the board to strive

to higher levels of performance. Among the priorities of the board is the operationalisation of the third Corporate Strategic Plan for the 2013-2018 period. The plan endeavours to coordinate stakeholders and lead agencies in order to create synergies in the management of the environment, as well as ensuring compliance with environmental legislation and policies in order to maintain a clean, healthy and sustainable environment.

The strategy also seeks to strengthen and develop institutional capacity for effective and efficient management of the environment, build and nurture strategic partnership, and embrace the use of communication to achieve the Authority's performance objectives.

The strategic plan has aligned the Authority's operations to the Constitution of Kenya and the medium



**Mr. Maluki Mwendwa**

*Chairman, Board of Management, NEMA*

term Plan II of the Government's Vision 2030. More specifically, it provides strategic direction on addressing emerging environmental issues, such as climate change and other environmental challenges.

The Authority has decentralised

administrative and operational structures to all the 47 Counties in conformity with the constitution to guarantee effective delivery of quality and timely services to citizens. In addition, it has also devolved the waste management, noise licensing and management as well as the air quality functions to the county governments, also in line with the constitution.

The Board is working with relevant authorities towards enhancing the Authority's capacity to fully handle its operations. For optimal operations, the Authority is mobilising resources to increase staff members to about 900, and to build their capacity and boost retention.

As a way of leading by example, the Authority has established Green Centres, dubbed **"Green points"**, in Five (5) strategic counties: Taita Taveta, Homabay, Embu, Isiolo and Kilifi. This is a way to improve and expand the advisory role of NEMA in

the Counties, and to demonstrate sound environmental management through initiatives that promote the green economy.

The Green Points, funded by Danida, will serve as demonstration centres for public-private partnerships in collaboration with the communities – a policy direction that the government supports. They will enhance the concept of decentralised environmental management in line with the new Constitution. Other centres are proposed for Nairobi and other parts of the country, and will be established in due course.

The board will continue to mobilize more resources to ensure that the Authority executes its mandate. The Board appreciates various partners that have supported the Authority in various programmes geared towards environmental protection, conservation and management.



**Prof. Geoffrey Wahungu**  
*Director General, NEMA*

The Authority's core mandate is to supervise and coordinate of all matters relating to the environment. It is the principle arm of the government in implementation of policies relating to the environment for sustainable management and efficient use of environmental resources.

Under the Environmental

## NEMA keen to work with private sector

Management and Coordination Act, the Authority has formulated and enforced gazetted regulations to enhance environmental and natural resources governance. These include: Environmental Impact Assessment and Environmental Audit Regulations, Water Quality Regulations, Waste Management Regulations, Wetlands Regulations, Biodiversity Regulations, Controlled Substances Regulations, among others. Enforcement of these legislations ensures adherence to environmental quality standards, failure to which penalties are served.

Other Regulations drafted and awaiting gazettement include: Waste Tyre Management Regulations, Air Pollution Regulations and e-waste Regulations.

In addition, the Authority plays a major role in educating and creating

awareness on various aspects of the environment, as well as mobilising stakeholders to participate in activities that promote sustainable management and efficient use of environmental resources. One of the key areas is awareness creation on adaptation and mitigation measures on effects of climate change at National and county levels.

NEMA has enhanced its role of resourcemobilisationforenvironmental management. Towards this end, the Authority obtained accreditation as the National Implementing Entity for the Global Adaptation Fund under Kyoto Protocol. Through this, NEMA has secured substantial funding to finance concrete climate change adaptation projects in 14 counties in Kenya. These projects are on water, food security, coastal management and

disaster risk reduction in vulnerable communities in Kenya. The Authority is currently pursuing Green Climate Fund Accreditation to facilitate flow of climate finance into the country.

The Authority recognises the vital role played by the private sector in environmental conservation. It has continuously engaged the private sector in planning, identification and promotion of projects and programmes that contribute to a cleaner and healthier environment for all. These initiatives, among others, are aimed at safeguarding the livelihoods of the local communities and utilisation of natural resources in a sustainable manner.

In conjunction with other Lead Agencies, the Authority prepares Environment Action Plans for National and County governments to guide

the integration of environmental considerations into the overall development agenda.

In interpreting the theme for this year's World Environment Day celebration, the Authority focused on the larger Mara ecosystem within Narok County, having diverse environmental goods and services that are threatened due to human activities. The social-economic activities of the region have continued to impact negatively on the vulnerable ecosystem.

Conservation of the Mara system continues to be a priority of both the National and county government. The Authority, through the Environmental Impact Assessment process, has instigated necessary controls to deter rampant development within the ecosystem.



## 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!



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