



**nema**  
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# Ecoflash

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National Environment Management Authority

## **NEMA WINS PUBLIC SERVICE CONTINENTAL AWARDS**



**The Authority received the Africa's Best Environmental Agency of the Year Award and the Best Digital Transformation in Environment Regulatory Award. The Director General, Dr. Mamo B. Mamo, EBS for the second time in a row was honored as Africa's Best Environmental Agency CEO of the Year.**

**Create a nexus between environment, climate change and health: Nairobi hosts Pan-African conference on environment, climate change and health**





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# Editorial

## **NEMA feting reflects improved environmental management**

**A**t a time when public institutions are under increasing pressure to deliver efficient, transparent, and citizen-centered services, NEMA has demonstrated that meaningful reform is both possible and necessary. Its recent continental recognition is not just an honor, it is a call to sustainable environmental management in Kenya.

At the center of this transformation is the Environmental Information System (ENVIS), NEMA's integrated digital platform that is redefining how environmental licenses and permits are processed. By consolidating applications, approvals, and revenue collection into a single and interconnected system, ENVIS directly addresses long-standing challenges of delays and opacity. For citizens and investors, this shift promises predictability, accountability and improved access to services of good governance that can no longer be optional.

The significance of these reforms was affirmed at the 6th Africa Public Service Conference & Awards (APSCA 2025) in Cape Town, where NEMA received three prestigious continental awards, including Africa's Best Environmental Agency of the Year and Best Digital Transformation in Environment Regulatory Award. The recognition of Dr. Mamo B. Mamo, EBS, as Africa's Best Environmental Agency CEO for the second consecutive year further reinforces the value of consistent, reform-oriented leadership.

Yet, digital systems alone do not guarantee institutional excellence. NEMA's leadership rightly acknowledges that people remain the engine of transformation. The ongoing review of human resource instruments, as highlighted by NEMA Chairman Mr. Emilio Mugo, is a critical step towards aligning staff roles with responsibilities, enhancing fairness and improving morale. These reforms are not administrative formalities they are essential investments in productivity and integrity. An institution that values its workforce is better positioned to serve the public effectively. Placing staff at the center of institutional operations is not a luxury but a necessity for sustainable performance and service excellence.

Digital transformation must be matched with strong leadership and deliberate human capital development. When these elements work together, institutions become more responsive, more credible, and more trusted by the citizens they serve.

As Kenya confronts mounting environmental challenges from climate change and pollution to unsustainable development pressures the country cannot afford inefficient environmental governance. NEMA's progress offers a blueprint that should be protected, supported, and scaled. Sustaining these reforms will not only strengthen environmental regulation but also reaffirm public confidence in state institutions.

**Evans Nyabuto,  
Deputy Director Corporate Communications**



**NEMA Chairman, Emilio Mugo speaking during the Pan-African conference on environment, climate change and health at Ole Sereni, Nairobi**

## **Kenya hosts Pan-African Conference on Environment, Climate Change and Health**

**The 4th Pan-African Conference on Environment, Climate Change and Health brought together over 500 delegates including scientists, policymakers, health professionals, environmental experts, civil society, youth, and development partners from across Africa and beyond, who called for stronger collaborative networks to strengthen integrated solutions, accelerate financing, and promote knowledge co-production and sustained impact, under the unifying banner, “One Africa – One Environment – One Climate – One Health.”**

Curtains came down on a successful 4th Pan-African Conference on Environment, Climate Change and Health in Nairobi with a clarion call to create a nexus between environment, climate change and health as a critical link to solve the planetary crisis. The conference was held from 21st to 24th October, 2025.

The conference was held under the theme “Harnessing Science, Policy, and Partnerships for Environmental Sustainability and Climate-Health Resilience.” It offered a holistic platform for countries to share ongoing actions, progress, and challenges in addressing the climate–health nexus.

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financing, and promote knowledge co-production and sustained impact, under the unifying banner, “One Africa – One Environment – One Climate – One Health.”

The four-day conference provides a vital platform for Africa to champion fair climate financing, equitable technology transfer and stronger local research capacity, ensuring our continent’s priorities shape the global climate–health agenda.

The event was officially opened by the cabinet secretary for Health Hon. Aden Duale and closed by the Cabinet Secretary for Environment, Climate Change and Forestry, Dr. Deborah Baraza. The two CS emphasized the need to integrate environmental health into all sectors, from agriculture and education to healthcare and urban planning, while investing in innovation and community-led strategies to strengthen resilience and promote equity.

**NEMA Director General, Dr. Mamo B. Mamo, EBS speaking during the Pan-African conference on environment, climate change and health at Ole Sereni, Nairobi**





**CS Environment, Climate Change and Forestry, Dr. Deborah Barasa flanked by other participants showcasing the 4th Pan-African conference on environment, climate change and health outcomes at Ole Sereni, Nairobi**

According to CS Aden Duale, the conference marked a symbolic handover of the baton of stewardship to Kenya, reaffirming Africa’s shared commitment to advancing the climate–health agenda and amplifying a unified continental voice in global negotiations. He added that, “We take pride in launching two landmark frameworks; the Kenya Climate Change and Health Strategy (2024–2029) and the Kenya Household Air Pollution Prevention Strategy (2024–2029), aimed at strengthening climate-resilient health systems and safeguarding vulnerable communities”

“A healthy planet is the foundation of healthy people,” Dr. Mulongo noted. “We must ensure that environmental health considerations are embedded in every policy and sectoral plan. Only through collaboration, innovation, and community-driven solutions can we build a truly resilient and equitable future.”

Reaffirming Kenya’s commitment, Dr. Barasa in her remarks highlighted ongoing initiatives such as the 15B tree campaign, clean energy programmes, and climate resilient community projects. She expressed confidence that Africa can lead the world toward a greener, healthier, and more sustainable future, a sentiment echoed throughout the conference

deliberations.

Speaking during the launch ceremony, the NEMA Director General, Dr. Mamo B. Mamo, EBS stated that NEMA as the lead agency responsible for coordinating and supervising environmental matters in Kenya, continues to play a central role in promoting sustainable environmental management.

Dr. Mamo said that agencies in the environment, climate change and health have been working in silos, an approach that has proved ineffective. He noted that it is important to rally the public behind environmental and climate action initiatives, ensuring that no one is left behind in the journey toward sustainable development.

He underscored the importance of strong partnerships between the public and private sectors in driving the environmental management agenda. He also called on the public to actively participate in environmental activities such as community clean-ups and tree planting. The conference concluded with a Pan-African Call to Action , urging all African nations to rise in unity and build a resilient, healthy, and sustainable continent through enhanced leadership in Health, Environment, and Climate Action (HECA

NEMA Chairman, Emilio Mugo stated that the conference offered a platform for Africa, where funding for research is often constrained and scientific publications remain inaccessible to many policymakers to work together to enhance scientific research particularly on environment. “The conference such as this provide an invaluable platform for sharing scientific insights, building professional networks, and enhancing access to data that can guide evidence-based policy and regulatory decisions,” he stated.

He remarked that NEMA in recognition of the critical role of research in guiding sound environmental management, the board has established and empowered department of Research to collect and analyze scientific evidence to inform environmental policy formulation, in line with NEMA’s mandate under the Environmental Management and Coordination Act (EMCA).

Despite notable progress, delegates acknowledged persistent challenges. Frameworks and networks aimed at increasing motivation around climate and health solutions remain fragmented and inadequately anchored in collaborative, transformative practice. Implementable solutions at the national and local levels are still scarce, underfunded, and unevenly distributed. Participants stressed the need to strengthen localized action and better link global and regional ambitions with national and community-level implementation.

NEMA Board Members, Dr. Loice Kipkiror and Dr. Amos Andama, were panelists during the plenary session on “Healthy Environment for Population Health” at the ongoing Pan-African Conference on Environment, Climate Change and Health in Nairobi. Dr. Kipkiror underscored the need for environmental experts to critically examine Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) reports as key indicators of the state of the environment. She reiterated that good ESIA lead to better environmental outcomes and healthy populations. She also underscored the importance of a robust public participation in baseline studies, to give communities a voice.

Dr. Andama stated that “we only have one planet, and we must take care of the environment for both current and future generations.” He also highlighted that NEMA has developed an online system to enhance integration and efficiency in environmental licensing.

The plenary was chaired by the Ag. Director of Environmental Services, Dr. Charles Lange.



**NEMA Board Member, Dr. Loice Kipkiror speaking during the Pan-African conference on environment, climate change and health at Ole Sereni, Nairobi**

The conference culminated in a tree-planting exercise at St. Mary’s hospital, Langata, symbolizing a shared commitment to environmental stewardship. This was followed by community engagement activities in Laini Saba, Kibera, where delegates interacted with Weather Mtaani, a local youth-led group that helps residents interpret weather forecasts and prepare for climate-related health risks such as water contamination and flooding. The group also organizes regular clean-up drives to clear drainage channels and improve water flow within the informal settlement. By using Swahili and Sheng to communicate, Weather Mtaani makes climate and health information relatable, accessible, and actionable for the local community.

The conference was co – convened by KEMRI, MoH, Ministry of Environment, Climate Change & Forestry, Africa Research & Impact Network (ARIN), National Environment Management Authority (NEMA), AMREF Health Africa, The Aga Khan University Institute for Human Development, CHANCE Network and the Africa CDC.

# Key Regulations Subjected to Public Participation

|| **Pauline Kerubo**

One of the key fundamentals in the 2010 Constitution which is also clearly evident in Environmental Management and Coordination Act, 1999 (EMCA) is public participation. Public participation can be interpreted as a process where the public and stakeholders get to voice their opinions and concerns in regards to issues which may directly or indirectly affect them.

NEMA carried out public consultation meetings in different regions under the World Bank funding to get views, opinions and identify gaps on the draft regulations. The said regulations were the Electrical and Electronic waste management regulations, 2025 and Environmental strategic impact assessment and audit regulations 2025.

It's evident that the consumption of electronic materials in the country is on the rise from hand held devices to home appliances which at the end of their life cycle if not well disposed poses serious environmental risk. According to the Kenya National bureau of statistics data (2024) Kenya generates around 51,300 tonnes of E-waste Annually, 1-5% is formally recycled with most ending up in landfills like Dandora. With such voluminous amount of E-waste Kenya lacks appropriate infrastructure to address this.

During the public engagement some of the key issues which were raised in regards to E-Waste include: Low Awareness, Weak policy & Enforcement, Inadequate Infrastructure and Informal handling. Lack of awareness remains a key point to be addressed in order for Kenya to tackle e-waste. Citizens often mix e-waste with general waste due to lack of understanding about hazards and disposal methods. This tied to weak policy & Enforcement where laws aren't enforced under the sustainable Waste Management Act and Extended Producer Responsibility where manufactures aren't responsible for end-of-life products are a key recipe for disaster.

Through the Africa Environmental Health and Pollution Management Programme (AEHMP), NEMA has established collection centers for E-waste in Nairobi, Nakuru, Kisumu and Mombasa. This is aimed at promoting circular economy providing environmentally sound collection, dismantling data destruction, and recycling of electronics in Kenya.

The Strategic Assessment, Integrated Impact Assessment and Audit regulations 2025 were subjected to public participation. The regulation aims to streamline licensing, expert registration, public participation, and ensure compliance with EMCA Cap 387. NEMA as the regulator needs to ensure that all the fundamentals on SEAs are strictly adhered to minimize adverse impacts on the environment and reduces risks. If a proper EIA is carried out, then the safety of the environment can be guaranteed.

It's important to note that in order to conduct an effective SEA public participation, there needs to be some considerations such as two public consultation meetings where the venue is accessible and appropriate notices published and posters to be placed on strategic places. People responding to the questionnaire of the study report must be people who are affected by the project and records must be kept. High risk projects needs to be undertaken by a firm of experts who will sign on the project and take accountability of how they prepared the report.

Effective public participation is an essential tool for all environmental regulations because it helps to mitigate environmental consequences and bring the general public and stakeholders on board which help to streamline the decision making process in the regulatory policy making process.



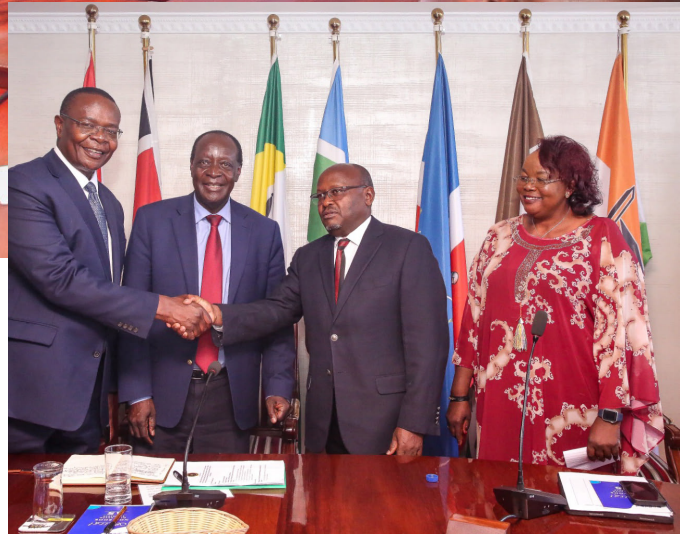
**Participants during a public consultation forum at Egerton University in Nakuru.**

# NEMA, CoG partnership

|| By Samwel Irungu



**Consultative meeting with Council of Governors in progress at Delta Towers. INSET: Vihiga Governor and Chair of the CoG Environment and Climate Change Committee, H.E. Dr. Wilber K. Ottichilo, E.G.H (2nd L) and Busia Governor, H.E. Dr. Paul Otuoma welcomes NEMA Chairman, Emilio Mugo accompanied by Dr. Loice Kipkiror**



The Constitution of Kenya 2010 established two levels of government-the County and national. The fourth schedule establishes several environmental functions that are devolved including; control of air pollution, noise pollution and solid waste management.

Over the years, the National Environment Management Authority (NEMA) has been working closely with the County Governments especially through the Council of Governors to build their capacity as well as to create a more harmonious relationship in smooth implementation of various environmental functions.

NEMA Board of Management and Management Team, led by Chairman Emilio Mugo, held a consultative meeting with a delegation from the Council of Governors (CoG) led by Vihiga Governor and Chair of the CoG Environment and Climate Change Committee, H.E. Dr. Wilber K. Ottichilo, E.G.H on 7th November, 2025 at the CoG offices in Westlands Nairobi.

The NEMA Director General was represented by the Director of Environmental Compliance, David

Ongare.

The meeting deliberated on several key issues, including: devolved environmental functions; Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for county projects; public awareness and participation in national environmental legislation; gazettement of Environmental Inspectors; implementation of new regulations such as the Sand Harvesting Regulations, 2024; strengthening collaboration and synergy between CoG and NEMA; carbon markets, with NEMA serving as the Designated National Authority (DNA); transition from a linear to circular economy, particularly in waste management and segregation; and climate change financing mechanisms such as the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and Adaptation Fund.

The two institutions agreed to establish a technical working group to address the priority areas identified, especially on EIA processes, waste management, and carbon markets. The meeting was also attended by Busia Governor, H.E. Dr. Paul Otuoma, alongside other technical officers from various counties.

# Strengthening Partnerships for a Sustainable E-Waste Future

|| By Christina Mwaura

In today's fast-evolving digital age, technology powers our homes, offices, and institutions. Yet behind every upgrade lies a growing and often overlooked challenge: what happens to the devices we discard? At the National Refurbishing Assembly & E-Waste Management Centre, this question is more than a policy concern—it is an environmental priority demanding urgent, coordinated action.

In line with its mandate to safeguard the environment and promote sustainable waste management, the National Environment Management Authority (NEMA), in collaboration with the National Refurbishing Assembly & E-Waste Management Centre, recently hosted a delegation from the World Bank for a facility tour and strategic engagement. The visit underscored the importance of partnerships in advancing Kenya's e-waste management agenda.

## When Waste Tells a Story

The delegation's walk through the facility offered a powerful visual narrative. Stacks of obsolete computers, discarded printers, broken phones, and tangled cables filled the storage areas—each item a reminder of the rapid pace of technological change and its environmental footprint.

Questions flowed naturally.

“How did so much equipment accumulate?” one delegate asked.

The Centre's ICT team explained that many individuals and institutions retain non-functional devices for years, often due to sentimental attachment or fear of losing personal data. This hesitation, though understandable, significantly delays proper disposal and contributes to the growing volume of e-waste.

Within a single year, the Centre had received e-waste volumes exceeding available storage capacity. The visit brought into sharp focus the urgent need for improved systems, expanded infrastructure, and behavioral change.

## Driving Sustainable Solutions

The tour transitioned into an open and solution-oriented discussion on the future of e-waste management in Kenya. NEMA emphasized the importance of long-term, scalable approaches that not only address current challenges but also anticipate future growth in electronic waste.

A key area of consensus was public awareness. Improper disposal of e-waste poses serious risks to human health and the environment, including soil and water contamination from hazardous substances. Effective e-waste management, the team noted, must therefore go hand in hand with sustained public education and compliance.

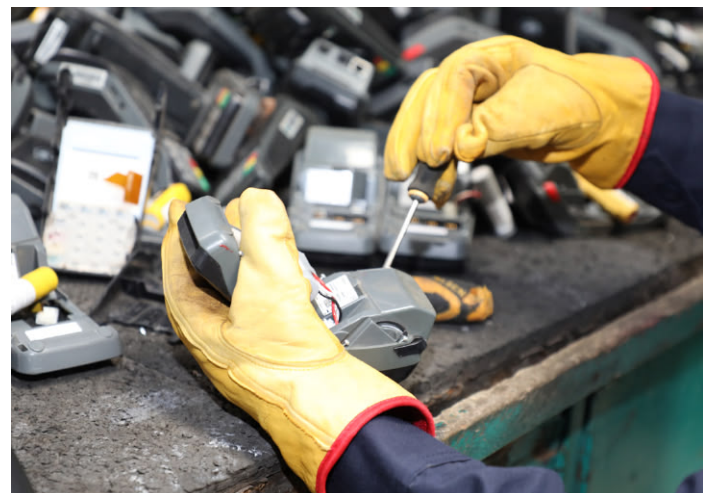
The World Bank delegation expressed strong interest in supporting initiatives that strengthen public awareness, enhance infrastructure, and promote circular economy principles such as refurbishment, reuse, and responsible recycling.

## Partnerships for a Greener Future

The engagement reaffirmed a fundamental truth: sustainable e-waste management cannot be achieved by a single institution working in isolation. It requires strong partnerships between government agencies, development partners, the private sector, and the public.

As the delegation concluded its visit, there was a renewed sense of optimism and shared purpose. Through strengthened collaboration and collective responsibility, NEMA continues to champion environmentally sound e-waste management—protecting ecosystems, safeguarding public health, and advancing Kenya's green growth agenda.

Together, we are shaping a cleaner, safer future—one responsibly managed device at a time.



**A trader dismantling an ewaste at WEEE Center offices in Nairobi.**

# NEMA Wins Public Service Continental Awards

|| By Evans Nyabuto



**NEMA Chairman, Emilio Mugo (C) and Director General, Dr. Mamo B. Mamo, EBS receives APSA award from CEO Instinct Wave Group, Mr. Akin Naphtal during the awards ceremony in Cape Town, South Africa**

The National Environment Management Authority received a continental recognition, winning three prestigious awards at the 6th Africa Public Service Conference & Award (APSCA 2025) ceremony held in Cape Town, South Africa.

The Authority received the Africa's Best Environmental Agency of the Year Award and the Best Digital Transformation in Environment Regulatory Award. The Director General, Dr. Mamo B. Mamo, EBS for the second time in a row was honored as Africa's Best Environmental Agency CEO of the Year.

NEMA was celebrated for its leadership in introducing an integrated digital system, ENVIS which is being implemented to enhance the system architecture into integrated modules that creates a single module system for all the environmental license/ permits application processing, revenue collection for efficient service delivery to the Citizens.

In an event marked with pomp and colour, the Authority was applauded for providing a digital platform where the citizens can submit comments regarding Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) reports,

thus enhancing public participation in the ESIA process. The Chief of Staff and Head of Public Service, Felix Koskei, EGH was represented by Dr. Linda Musumba, MBS, Head -Audit, Legal and Regulatory Compliance, Office of Chief of Staff and Head of the Public Service, Executive Office of the President.

APSCA is a forum for government ministries, departments, and agencies across Africa that provides a unique platform to engage with peers across the continent, showcase national reforms,

and learn best practices in governance, digitization, policy innovation, and sustainable development. "NEMA's digital innovations can be replicated across the continent to create a new era of environmental conservation in the public sector." Remarked Akim Naphtal, the APSCA Chief Executive Officer.

The chairman, NEMA Board of Directors, Mr. Emilio Mugo hailed the awards as a collective achievement made possible by the members of the Board and Management.



The awardees in a group photo during the APSCA awards ceremony in Cape Town South Africa Public Service, Executive Office of the President. representatives from the offices of Internal Security and National Administration, Foreign Affairs, Office of Cabinet Affairs and Head of public Service; and heads of various ministry agencies from Kenya, Ghana, Tanzania, Nigeria and South Africa.

**The awardees in a group photo during the APSCA awards ceremony in Cape Town South Africa**

## Public Service Awards

**N**EMA was also feted three awards during the 2025 End of Year Public Service Reflection Dinner and Agenda-Setting Retreat for 2026 at the Tom Mboya Labour College, Kisumu on 5th December 2025.

The awards ceremony attended by the chairman of NEMA Board of Management, Mr. Emilio Mugo and the Director General, Dr. Mamo B Mamo, EBS had been organized by the office of the Chief of Staff and Head of Public Service. The awards involves measuring performance, impact and enhancing visibility in service delivery. Themed- “A highly performing, efficient, effective and people-centric Public Service.” The event offered a moment for reflecting on 2025’s achievements and challenges, and shaping a focused agenda for 2026.



**Education CS, Julius Ogamba (L) hands over an award to NEMA Chairman, Emilio Mugo (C) and Director General, Dr. Mamo B. Mamo, EBS during the end of year public sector awards at Tom Mboya Labour College**

**NEMA Finance and Accounts officers led by Director Corporate Services, Dr. Kennedy Ochuka pose with an award feted to the Authority as Second Runners Up under the Regulatory Agencies during the Financial Reporting (FiRe) Awards held in Nairobi.**



# The Waste Burden in Makueni County

|| By NEMA Makueni Team

**M**akueni County continues to grapple with an escalating challenge of solid and liquid waste management, driven by population growth, urbanization, and inadequate infrastructure. From uncollected waste in town markets to overflowing pit latrines during heavy rains, the county's environment faces increasing pressure that calls for urgent and coordinated action.

Makueni County currently lacks a centralized sewer system. Most households depend on pit latrines, septic tanks, or soak pits, many of which are poorly designed or constructed. During heavy rains, these systems overflow or leak, leading to contamination of groundwater—a major source of domestic water for many residents.

On solid waste, the Makueni County Integrated Development Plan (CIDP 2023–2027) notes that most waste is generated in urban centres such as Wote, Emali, Makindu, and Kibwezi, with a high proportion being organic and plastic waste.

Waste collection remains inconsistent. It is mainly transported using open trucks, handcarts, or donkey carts and is often dumped at undesignated open sites. Urban centres produce between 25–30 tonnes of solid waste daily, much of which remains uncollected.

As the county headquarters, Wote Town bears the heaviest burden. Its dumpsite is located upstream next to Nduenguu Stream, which drains into the Kaiti River, posing a significant pollution risk to downstream users. Minimal segregation means recyclables, organics, and hazardous materials are often mixed, undermining efforts toward circular waste management.

The county has made strides in managing wastewater. One Decentralized Treatment Facility (DTF) is under construction in Wote Town, with another planned for Emali Town, to improve safe effluent treatment and disposal. Additionally, Kibwezi area hosts the county's only operational sewage treatment plant, which serves as a model for future wastewater infrastructure.

It is also worth noting that Emali and Kyevale towns were recently upgraded to municipalities, and are

expected to experience increased waste generation from expanding businesses, households, and institutions, further intensifying the need for proper solid and liquid waste management systems.

The Makueni County Environment Action Plan (CEAP 2025–2029) identifies waste management as one of the county's top environmental priorities and outlines several interventions: Establishment of Material Recovery Facilities (MRFs): Major towns will host MRFs for sorting, composting, and recycling; construction of Sewerage Systems: Wote, Emali, and Mtito Andei are targeted for decentralized sewer and treatment systems; Enforcement of Waste Segregation: Households will be required to use green bins (organic), blue bins (recyclable), and black bins (general waste) in line with NEMA's directives and promotion of Circular Economy Models: Composting, biogas generation, and recycling enterprises will be incentivized to create green jobs and minimize landfill use.

These actions align with the Sustainable Waste Management Act (2022) and the National Sustainable Waste Management Policy (2021), which seek to transition Kenya toward a circular and resource-efficient economy.



**NEMA Director of Enforcement, Dr. Ayub Macharia, in discussion with the County Director of Environment, Makueni, Jimmy Owiti, on the state of the dumpsite.**

# Promoting Circular Economy in Kenya

Kenya has had a gradual but notable journey in attempting to shift its production models from the conventional ‘take-make-dispose’ to more circular models that enable re-using, recycling or even upcycling of waste.

The Circular Economy Conference & Plastics Summit 2025 marked a decade of circular thinking and sustainable innovation in Kenya. For long, the country has been championing a sustainable future.



**NEMA DG, Dr. Mamo B. Mamo, EBS making his remarks during the 1-th Circular economy conference**

The Conference held on 19th and 20th November 2025 at the Nairobi Street Kitchen was more than an annual gathering; it was a moment of reflection, renewal, and bold reimagining for Kenya’s circular economy movement.

Designed as a zero-waste event, attendees experienced sustainability first-hand: vegan meals, refillable water stations, reusable notebooks, and an encouragement to carry personal pens and bottles. It set the tone for a conference that demonstrated what a circular future can look like in practice.

NEMA Director General, Dr. Mamo B. Mamo, EBS attended the 10th KEPSA Circular Economy Conference at Nairobi Street Kitchen in Westlands, Nairobi County. The conference was presided over by Environment and Climate Change Principal Secretary, Dr. Eng. Festus K Ng’eno.

The event was organised by KEPSA Foundation and

Sustainable Inclusive Business Kenya (SIB-K) under the theme “Reimagining Waste: Driving Kenya’s Transition to a Circular and Climate-Resilient Economy”

The objective of the conference is to; review waste management policies and infrastructure, promote green entrepreneurship, explore circular economy solutions, fostering partnerships for behavioral change as well as Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR).

The conference explored how circular systems, regenerative design, and sustainable business models can shape Kenya’s next decade of growth — one that’s inclusive, innovative, and waste-free.

While making his remarks at the conference, Dr. Mamo emphasized the need for a circular and green economy as a critical component for transitioning the country from linear to circular economy. “Waste generators should take responsible for their waste and segregate it at source in line with the national colour codes for waste bins,” Dr. Mamo added. He further mentioned that EPR which gives producers the obligation to their waste streams should be inculcated into citizens to enhance the right to a clean and healthy environment.

The Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) framework under the Sustainable Waste Management Act 2022 mandates every producer to bear extended producer responsibility to reduce pollution and environmental impacts of the products they introduce into the Kenyan market and waste arising therefrom.



**NEMA exhibitors at the circular economy conference at Nairobi Street Kitchen**

# Review of NEMA HR Instruments Retreat

|| By A. Kamiri & S. Irungu



**CS Environment, Climate Change & Forestry, Dr. Deborah Barasa is received by NEMA Chairman, Emilio Mugo and Director General, Dr. Mamo B. Mamo, EBS and board members at KSG during the retreat**

The Environment, Climate Change and Forestry CS, Dr. Deborah Barasa joined NEMA Board of Management and Management team in a retreat with technical officers from the Public Service Commission (PSC) on review of NEMA Human Resource instruments at Kenya School of Government (KSG) in Nairobi on 27th November, 2025.

Dr. Barasa described the exercise as a major step toward strengthening efficiency, accountability and service delivery, reaffirming the Ministry's commitment to improved government protocols and better services through the Bottom-Up approach to create jobs and uplift community livelihoods. She also highlighted the Ministry's bold, people-centred agenda, noting that the #15Billion Tree Initiative remains central to national restoration efforts, while wetlands restoration continues to be a key presidential priority.

The CS emphasized the need to enhance public awareness of carbon markets, support green job creation, promote the circular economy and deepen collaboration with county governments to accelerate green growth, sustainability and community empowerment. Leadership, she noted, must continue driving strategic, well-coordinated, and forward-looking environmental action.

Reiterating her open-door policy, Dr. Barasa affirmed her commitment to inclusive and transparent

engagement with partners and institutions to strengthen environmental governance and climate action.

CS Barasa affirmed her support for NEMA to deliver on its mandate especially on issues of climate change, carbon markets and asbestos management. She added that as the country prepares to host UNEA-7, NEMA will be critical in spearheading necessary engagements with other partners and governments.

In his remarks NEMA Chairman, Mr. Emilio Mugo noted that the Authority is in the process reviewing its HR instruments with the aim to improve the morale of staff and the working environment. He said that the review will align staff according to their duties and responsibilities. He recognized the significance of the exercise, noting that it will enhance fairness, in organizational processes and motivate staff. He added that the outcomes will not only affect employees but also positively impact the quality of services delivered to the public.

The Director General, Dr. Mamo B. Mamo, EBS underscored the vital role NEMA plays in coordination and implementation of matters relating to environment in the country. He noted that the Authority has a vast mandate with 19 functions which requires sufficient resources and staffing for adequate productivity. The DG added that staff should be placed centrally in the running of the Authority and take care of their welfare for enhanced productivity and optimized service delivery.



**CS Environment, Climate Change & Forestry, Dr. Deborah Barasa, NEMA Board and management during the retreat at Kenya School of government.**

# Promoting Sustainable E-waste Solutions

|| By A. Kamiri

**N**EMA in collaboration with the WEEE Centre, is participating in the 5th International E-waste Conference, that took place from 16th to 17th October 2025 at PrideInn Paradise, Mombasa.

This year's conference, themed "Adapting to Global E-waste Trends: Challenges and Opportunities," aims to address the escalating global e-waste crisis, with a special focus on Africa. The event provides a critical platform for dialogue on sustainable solutions to mitigate the environmental and social impacts of e-waste.

As electronic waste continues to rise globally, the conference focuses on how regions can align their policies, Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR), technologies, and practices with emerging international trends. The event brings together key stakeholders, experts, policymakers, and industry leaders from around the world to tackle the pressing challenges of e-waste management and explore sustainable, innovative solutions.

NEMA, under the World Bank-supported Africa Environmental Health and Pollution Management Project (AEHPMP), used the platform to raise

awareness on the gazetted Environmental Regulations of 2024, the Proposed E-waste Regulations, and the establishment of e-waste collection facilities, among other initiatives geared toward sound e-waste management in Kenya.

Speaking on behalf of the Principal Secretary, Dr. Sally Kimosop, Environment Secretary, emphasized the importance of joint efforts, stating: "Together we can turn e-waste into green growth in Africa." Mr. David Ong'are, Director of Environmental Compliance at NEMA and AEHPMP Coordinator for Kenya, represented the Director General of NEMA at the event.

Conference participants engaged with the NEMA exhibition stand to learn more about the AEHPMP's achievements in:

- Capacity building of various stakeholders
- Policy and regulatory frameworks
- Technological demonstrations aimed at the reduction of Unintentional Persistent Organic Pollutants (UPOPs) from e-waste

The conference marks a significant step in reinforcing Kenya's and Africa's commitment to environmentally sound e-waste management, innovation, and policy alignment with global standards.



**Director Environmental Compliance, David Ongare speaking in a panel discussion during the e-waste conference in Mombasa**

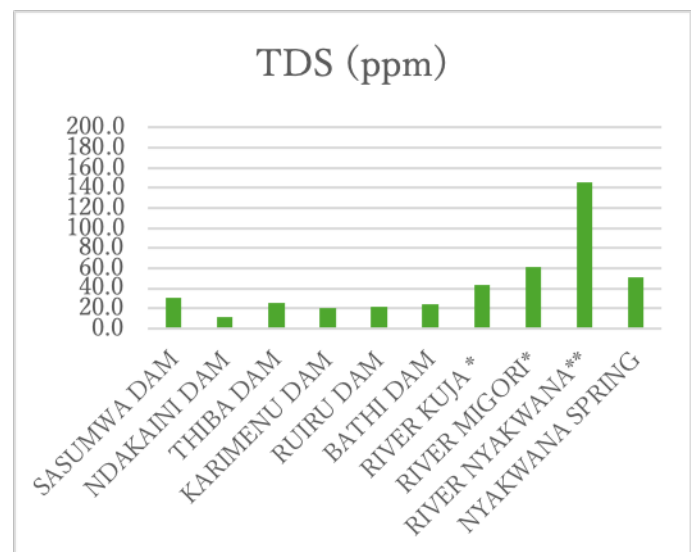
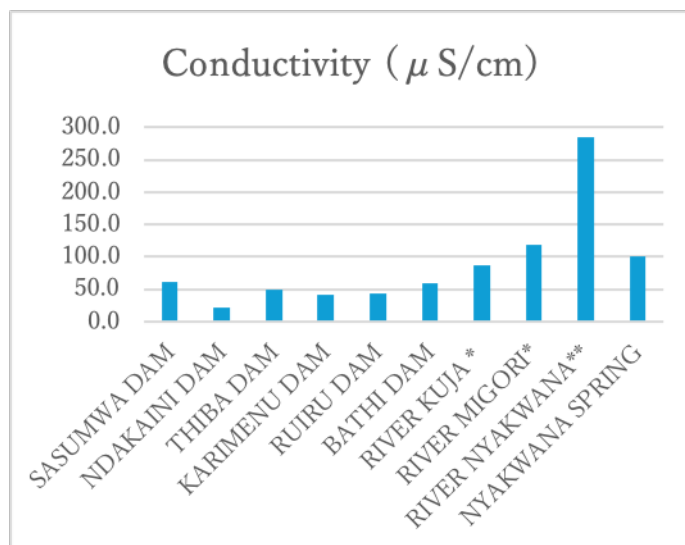
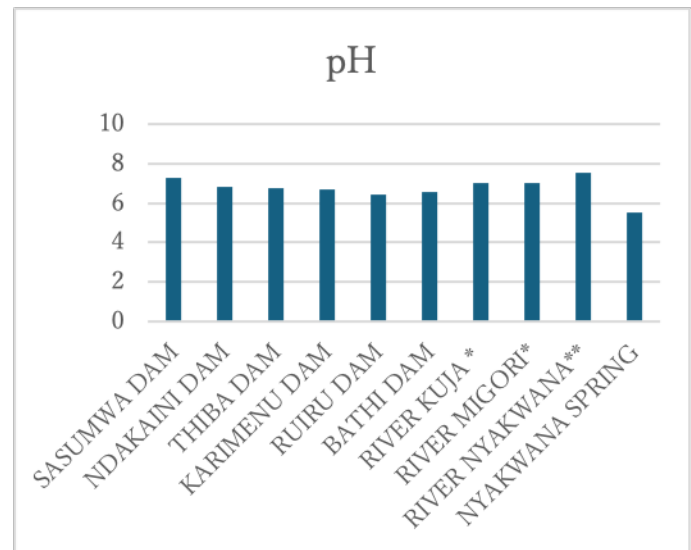
# Monitoring Water Quality

By Marcellah Ojiambo and Manami Sawatani

Human health and aquatic ecosystems are seriously threatened by water pollution, to identify contaminants and evaluate the state of water bodies, routine water quality monitoring is crucial.

Hence as a requirement by the Environmental Management and Coordination (Water quality) Regulations 2024, the Authority sampled water for monitoring in July 2025 from six dams (central region) and two rivers (Migori Country).

NEMA's laboratory undertook analysis of the water from dams and rivers which are water sources. The results of analysis results were as follows;



Sam pling Point	County	GPS location
SASUMWA DAM	Nyandarua	-0.762034, 36.680784
NDAKAINI DAM	Murang'a	-0.0822007, 36.851622
THIBA DAM	Kirinyaga	-0.530164, 37.234296
KARIMENU DAM	Kiambu	-0.9929927, 36.869156
RUIRU DAM	Kiambu	-1.04688, 36.75565
BATHI DAM	Kiambu	-0.961815, 36.630816
RIVER KUJA*	Migori	-0.988036, 34.250455
RIVER MIGORI*	Migori	-0.988036, 34.250455
RIVER NYAKWANA**	Kurutyangi	-1.142056, 34.580551
NYAKWANA SPRING	Kurutyangi	-1.132846, 34.583776

Water Quality Regulations prohibits everyone from any action that directly or indirectly cause water pollution.

The objective of the regulation is to safeguard water sources by preventing and abating pollution.

You need to apply for Effluent Discharge License (EDL) from NEMA to discharge into the environment.

# Promoting water access in the Southern rangelands of Kenya



**NEMA Board of Management with locals and staff at Olodungoro Primary School in Kajiado West, Kajiado County during the visit.**

**|| By S. Irungu**

The Southern rangelands of Kenya are part of the world's savannah scrubland and grasslands, which make up more than 83% of the country. Most of these areas are in Northern Kenya, and they are home to about 4 million pastoralists, who make up over 10% of Kenya's population, along with other rangeland users. Pastoralists also occupy most of Kenya's border areas, with pastoral groups straddling borders with Ethiopia, Somalia, Sudan, Uganda, and Tanzania.

With a total size of 7000 km<sup>2</sup>, the Southern Kenya rangeland ecosystem is made up of six interconnected sub-ecosystems that extend from Tanzania to Mt. Suswa, Ewaso Ng'iro, and Maasai Mara. The habitat is semi-arid in two-thirds, with an average annual rainfall of 620 mm for the previous 55 years. The worst droughts, with 188 mm of precipitation, were in 1965 (345 mm), 1984 (358 mm), 2000 (280 mm), and 2009. Extensive traditional livestock production, subsistence agriculture, and wildlife conservation are the main land use systems in the southern rangelands

The southern rangeland is 50% degraded and 40% highly eroded, with hard pans, bare ground, and the

intrusion of invasive species being the main indicators of land degradation. There are many invasive species, primarily *Ipomea carnea*, *Ipomea hildebrandtii*, *Gutierrezia (Erlangea)*, *Prosopis juliflora*. Livestock is trending upward while wildlife is trending downward. By 2016, there were about thirteen times as many livestock as there were wild animals. Kajiado and Narok counties are categorised as badly deteriorated in the 2016 national SLM report. Over the previous 20 years, excessive logging, overstocking, and intensive farming have caused the disappearance of native vegetation. Analysis of satellite imagery from 1985 to 2015 reveals that while shrubland and woodlands declined around Suswa, bare land, grassland, and agricultural land continued to grow.

The National Environment Management Authority is executing a four-year GEF-7 cycle National Child Project (2023-2027) on "Strengthening Forest Management for Improved Biodiversity Conservation and Climate Resilience in the Southern Rangelands of Kenya" in close coordination with the implementing agency, International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN). The project covers Narok and Kajiado Counties.

One of the specific objectives of the project is to address common management challenges in the Rangeland and savannahs ecosystems by identifying the capacity needs such as provision of water.

The project has constructed a 10 thousand litres masonry water tank at Olodungoro Primary School in Kajiado West, Kajiado County. The project is aimed at assisting the school and nearby communities to access clean water for their household needs.

Members of the NEMA Board of management visited the school on 16th December, 2026 to inspect the project and its status. The project will aid in water harvesting, storage and access infrastructure at the school.

The GEF-7 SFM project's goal is to support a functioning and resilient dryland forest landscape that supports a sustainable economic/food production through integrated natural resource management.

The project is being implemented in Kajiado and Narok Counties.



**The masonry 10,000L water tank constructed at Olodungoro Primary School through GEF-7 project.**



**NEMA Board of Management with staff and teachers at Olodungoro Primary School in Kajiado West, Kajiado County during the visit.**



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