



nema

mazingira yetu | uhai wetu | wajibu wetu

National Environment Management Authority



PROFILE

NEMA AT A GLANCE

ISO 9001:2015

BUREAU VERITAS
Certification



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Foreword

As the principal agency charged with the duty to exercise general supervision and coordination of all matters related to the environment in Kenya, the Authority has strived to enhance the cleanliness of environment in the country since 1st July 2002 when NEMA became operational under the Environmental Management and Coordination Act (EMCA) 1999 that had earlier in 6th January 2000 received Presidential Assent.

The environment agenda has been elevated by the Constitution of Kenya 2010 under the Preamble “Calls for all Kenyans to respect and protect our environment as our heritage”. Moreover, every person is accorded the right to a clean and healthy environment through the Bill of Rights.

Over the two decades, NEMA has developed a way of working a theory of change - Deepening partnerships and collaborations with stakeholders which is central to the delivery of our mandate

Authority made significant strides in all its areas of mandate by: improving the quality of the environment through undertaking ambient air quality monitoring in five Major urban centers, undertaking 3530 enforcement actions in all counties on the ban of plastic bags and issuing 50,228 various Licenses on EIA,EDL,



Dr. Mamo B. Mamo, PhD, EBS
Director General

Solid waste management and Air quality and supported reduction and monitoring of G.H.Gs emissions; restoring degraded and aquatic ecosystems; strengthening the regulatory framework for environmental management; and promoting public behavioral change in environmental management.

As we strive towards achieving a clean and healthy environment as envisioned in the Constitution, the Authority urges members of the public to develop positive behavioral attitude towards the environment, adopt best practices in their daily activities as well as sustainably use available resources.

With these concerted efforts, our national heritage will be safeguarded hence satisfy all our needs and aspirations as Kenyans.

Establishment

The National Environment Management Authority (NEMA) is established under Environmental Management and Coordination Act (EMCA) CAP 387 laws of Kenya, as the Principal instrument of government in the implementation of all policies relating to the environment. The Authority exercises general supervision and co-ordination over all matters relating to the environment.

Within the devolved system of government NEMA is operating both at national and county level, being mindful that some environmental management functions have been devolved for example noise and waste management. Despite the latter, environmental standards remain the same throughout the country and are still a national function

Mandate

NEMA is established under the Environmental Management and Coordination Act (EMCA) No.8 of 1999 to exercise general supervision and co-ordination over all matters relating to the environment. It is further mandated to be the principal instrument of government in the implementation of all policies relating to the environment.

Guiding principles

Vision

A clean, healthy and sustainably managed environment for a prosperous nation

Mission

To innovatively and responsibly coordinate, supervise, manage and report all environmental matters for sustainable development in Kenya.

Motto

Our Environment, Our Life, Our Responsibility

Core Values

- Environmental Stewardship
- Professionalism
- Integrity
- Innovativeness
- Customer Focus
- Team Work
- Inclusivity



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ENVIRONMENTAL
INSPECTOR

Statutory Functions

The object and purpose for which NEMA is established under EMCA is twofold: to ensure sustainable management of the environment through exercising general supervision and coordination over matters relating to the environment and; to be the principal instrument of government in the implementation of all policies relating to the environment.

Who We Serve

The Authority serves various stakeholders and clients

1. General Public
2. Private Sector
3. Government Ministries and departments (Lead Agencies)
4. County Governments

EMCA Institutions

5. National Environment Complaints Committee(NECC),
6. National Environment Tribunal(NET),
7. National Environment Council(NEC),
8. National Environment Trust Fund (NETFund)

Others

9. County Environment Committees
10. Parliamentary Committees
11. Mass Media
12. Civil Society Organizations(CSOs)
13. Development Partners/ Donors
14. Learning and Research Institutions



Our Services

1. Registration of Environmental Experts
2. Environmental licensing.
3. Environmental Auditing.
4. Environmental inspections.
5. Environmental Education and Awareness.
6. Domestication of Multilateral Agreements (MEAs).
7. Coordination of Environmental Planning and Research.
8. Environmental Reporting.
9. Development of curriculum for training of Strategic Environment Assessment (SEA), Environmental Impact Assessment/Audit Experts EIA/EA).
10. Promotion of best environmental practices



NEMA Director General Dr. Mamo B. Mamo, EBS (C), Dr. John Mumbo and Salome Machua undertaking water testing at Isinya flower farm following complaints on water pollution

Law and Guidelines

The Environmental Management and Coordination Act (EMCA), 1999, is the framework law on environmental management and conservation. NEMA is empowered to develop regulations, prescribe measures and standards and, issue guidelines for the management and conservation of natural resources and the environment.

Guidelines

1. National Guidelines for the Management of Covid -19 waste, 2020
2. EIA/EA Guidelines
3. National Sand Harvesting Guidelines
4. Asbestos Guidelines
5. National Solid Waste Management Strategy
6. National Guidelines for Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Guidelines
7. Environment Action Plan guidelines
8. E-waste Guidelines
9. Emission License Guidelines



Dr. Mamo B. Mamo, EBS inspects some of confiscated plastic bags in Nairobi

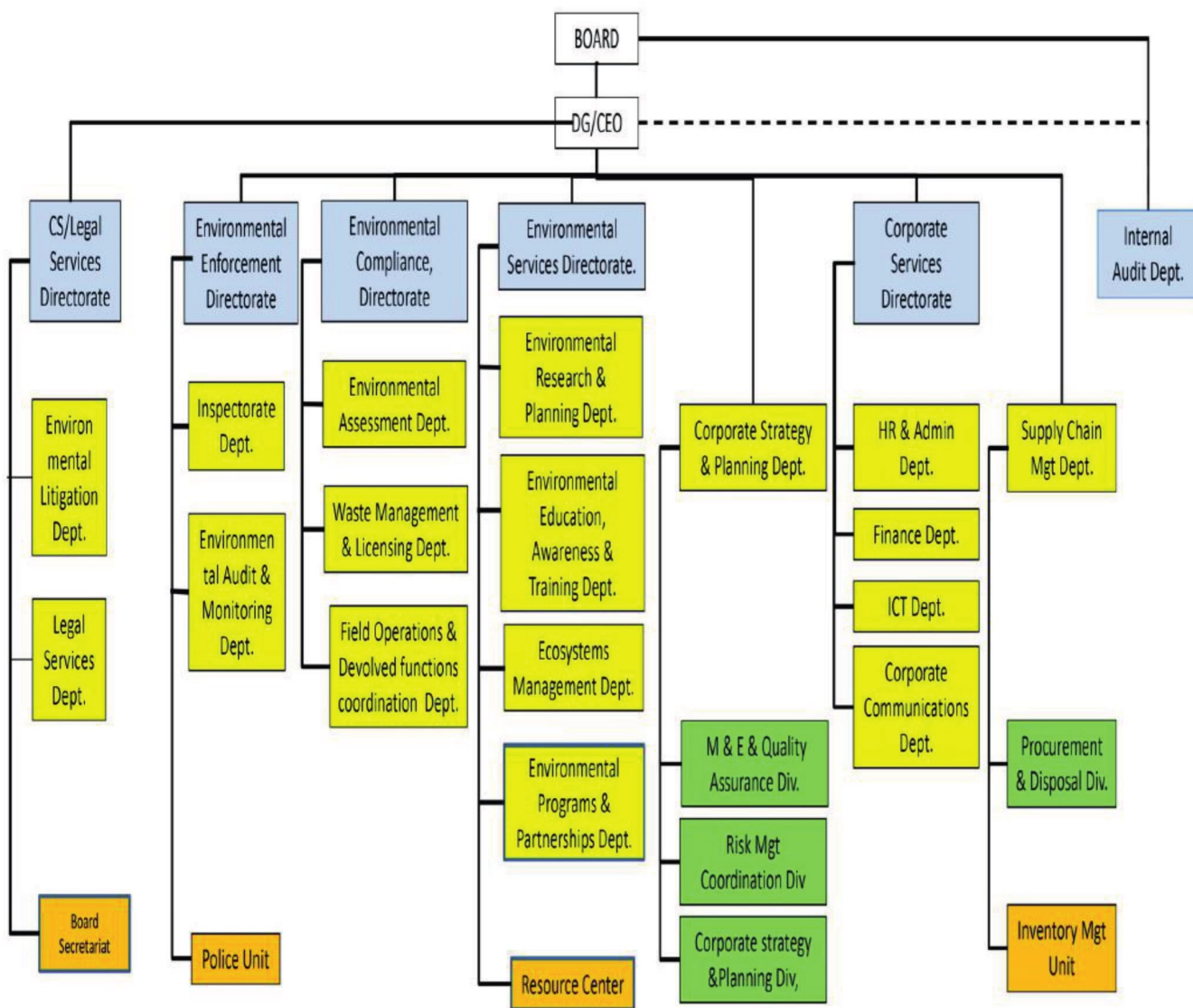
Kenya banned the use, manufacture and importation of plastic bags for commercial and household use that took effect on 28th August 2017 vide a gazette notice No. 2343 and 2356. NEMA has been implementing the ban since then resulting in over 95% compliance and visible environmental cleanliness. The Management and Control of Plastic Packaging Materials, 2024 regulations have also been gazetted

Gazetted Regulations

1. **Environmental Impact (Assessment/Audit) Regulations, 2007.**
2. **Water Quality Regulations, 2024.**
3. **Waste Management Regulations, 2024.**
4. **Biodiversity Regulations, 2006.**
5. **Ozone Depleting Substances (ODS) Regulations of 2007.**
6. **Air Quality Regulations 2024.**
7. **Management of Toxic and Hazardous Chemicals and Materials, 2024**
8. **Wetland regulations**
9. **Noise regulations, 2014**
10. **Extend Producer Responsibility (EPR), 2024**
11. **Sand Harvesting regulations, 2024**
12. **Management and Control of Plastic Packaging Materials, 2024**
13. **Controlled Substances Regulations, 2025.**



ORGANOGRAM



STRUCTURE OF NEMA

To fulfill its strategic objectives and mandate, the Authority is structured into six Directorates and two Departments reporting to the Director General.

The six Directorates are;

1. Environmental Compliance,
2. Environmental Services,
3. Environmental Enforcement,
4. Corporate Services,
5. Internal Audit, and
6. Legal Services.

There are two departments that report directly to the Director General namely; Corporate Strategy and Planning, and Supply Chain Management.



NEMA headquarter offices in Nairobi

Environmental Compliance

The Compliance Directorate is established pursuant to Section 9 (2) Part V1, VII, V11, IX, X, and X111 of EMCA 1999 and is responsible for Processing of environmental licensing, developing regulations, standards & guidelines and enforcement of those standards.

It has three departments namely:

1. Environmental Assessment;
2. Waste Management and Licencing
3. Field Operations and Devolved Functions Coordination



Licensing Regime

No.	Regulations	License Issued
1	Environmental Impact Assessment / Audit, 2003	EIA license EIA/EA experts licence EA Improvement Notice
2	Waste Management Regulations, 2024	Waste Transportation licence Operation of disposal site/treatment plant/ incinerator/Recyclers
3	Water Quality Regulations, 2024	Effluent Discharge License
4	Conservation of Biological Diversity and Resources, Access to Genetic Resources Benefit Sharing Regulations, 2009	Access to Genetic Resources and Benefit Sharing permit
5	Controlled Substances Regulations, 2025	Licensing of controlled substances
6	Sand Harvesting regulations, 2024	Transportation Permit
	Noise regulations, 2014	Excessive noise and vibrations
7	Extend Producer Responsibility (EPR), 2024	Registration and licensing of producers
	Air quality Regulations, 2024	Emission license
8		
9	Management and Control of Plastic Packaging Materials, 2024 Management of Toxic and Hazardous Chemicals and Materials, 2024	Primary packaging Plastic exemption license
10	Management of Toxic and Hazardous Chemicals and Materials, 2024	Registration and licensing of toxic and hazardous chemicals
11	Ozone Depleting Substances (ODS) Regulations of 2007.	

Environment Incident Management

0786 - 101 100

0741 - 101 100

incidence@nema.go.ke

Environmental Enforcement

The Enforcement Directorate is established pursuant to Section 9 (2) Part V1, VII, IX, X, and X111 of EMCA 1999. Enforcing environmental laws is a central part of NEMA strategic plan aimed at ensuring a clean and healthy environment. The enforcement team works to ensure compliance with environmental requirements and standards set in EMCA 1999 and its subsidiary. Enforcement at NEMA is undertaken by environmental inspectors gazetted under section 117 of EMCA 1999.

Through inspections and investigations, environmental inspectors will initiate criminal enforcement action against violators of environmental laws. The Directorate ensures a coordinated and a consistent approach towards enforcement across the country. Compliance to the Authority's environmental requirements is a key delivery point for NEMA to register its presence in the whole country. The enforcement includes both criminal and preventative/remedial responses. For every offence, enforcement action is normally undertaken and enhanced by the NEMA Police Unit, a police force seconded to NEMA by the Inspector of Police.

It consists of two departments namely:

- 1. Inspectorate**
- 2. Environmental Audit and Monitoring**



Internal Audit

Internal Audit Department is created pursuant to Section 73 (1) (a) of the Public Finance Management Act of 2012. This department is responsible for providing assurance on the internal control systems, risk management framework and the governance processes.

Legal Services

The Department is responsible for formulation and implementation of policies and strategies on legal and advisory services of the Authority.

The main functions of the Department include:

1. Advise the Director General and the Board of Management on legal issues that arise in the operations of the Authority;
2. Ensure Departments in NEMA make legally informed decisions;
3. Advise the Authority and the Government of Kenya on legislative and other measures for the sound management of the environment and their implementation;
4. Advise the Authority and the Government of Kenya on regional and international environmental conventions, treaties and agreements to which Kenya should be a party, and follow-up the implementation of such agreements where Kenya is a party including enactment or revisions of necessary legislation for domestication of Multilateral Environmental Agreements;
5. Draft and prepare for formalization/gazettement of environmental regulations, guidelines and standards that facilitate proper implementation of the Act;
6. Co-ordinate the litigation and prosecution of cases for or against the Authority including liaison with external lawyers where legal services have been outsourced;
7. Establish and maintain a database on Multilateral Environmental Agreements that Kenya is party to;
8. Collaborate with the various departments and institutions of the Authority, lead agencies and civil society in increasing awareness on environmental law in the country.

Environmental Services

The Environmental Services Directorate is established pursuant to Sections 9, 42, 44 & 55 of the Environmental Management and Coordination Act 1999 and is responsible for conducting environmental education and awareness, management of aquatic, terrestrial & aerial ecosystems.

It has four departments namely; Environmental Planning and Research Coordination, Environmental Education Awareness and Training, Ecosystems Management and Environmental Programmes and Partnerships.

Environmental Education, Awareness and Training

The Department provide strategies for Education and awareness creation activities as well as services for the authority.

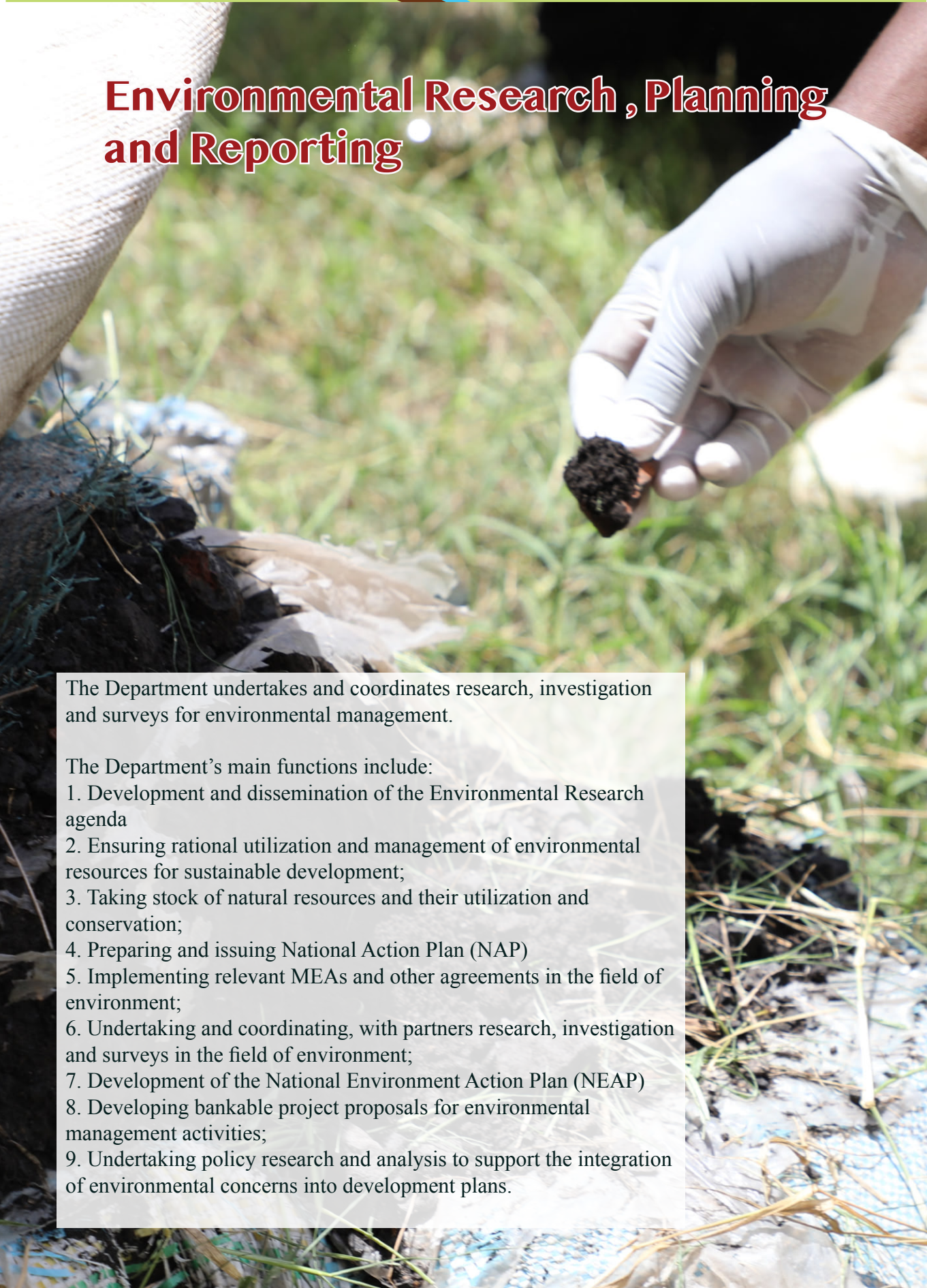
Kenya's ability to meet environment threats at home and abroad is inextricably linked with the priority it places on environmental education/awareness programs. Environmental issues are frequently complex and contested. Without a firm, educated basis of knowledge and understanding, progress on environmental issues becomes haphazard, uncertain and unlikely.

The department addresses provisions of EMCA 1999, as contained in part 3 sections 9(m) which mandates NEMA to "Undertake cooperation with lead agencies, programmes intended to enhance environmental education and public awareness about the need for sound environmental management as well as for enlisting public support and encouraging the efforts made by other entities regarding the same.

Functions

1. Develop and publish and disseminate environmental education and these materials are supplied during public engagement meetings such as the ASK shows and trade fairs, environment days, public service week, among others, awareness materials. Posters, Brochures and stickers.
2. It also publicizes environmental matters and facilitate public participation and partnerships in environmental management programs
3. It also organizes environmental events such as World Environment Day.
4. The department has an environment capacity building program.

Environmental Research , Planning and Reporting

A close-up photograph of a person's hand wearing a white nitrile glove, holding a small, dark, irregular soil sample. The background is a blurred outdoor scene with green grass and a pile of discarded plastic waste, including a clear plastic bottle and other debris.

The Department undertakes and coordinates research, investigation and surveys for environmental management.

The Department's main functions include:

1. Development and dissemination of the Environmental Research agenda
2. Ensuring rational utilization and management of environmental resources for sustainable development;
3. Taking stock of natural resources and their utilization and conservation;
4. Preparing and issuing National Action Plan (NAP)
5. Implementing relevant MEAs and other agreements in the field of environment;
6. Undertaking and coordinating, with partners research, investigation and surveys in the field of environment;
7. Development of the National Environment Action Plan (NEAP)
8. Developing bankable project proposals for environmental management activities;
9. Undertaking policy research and analysis to support the integration of environmental concerns into development plans.

Ecosystems Management

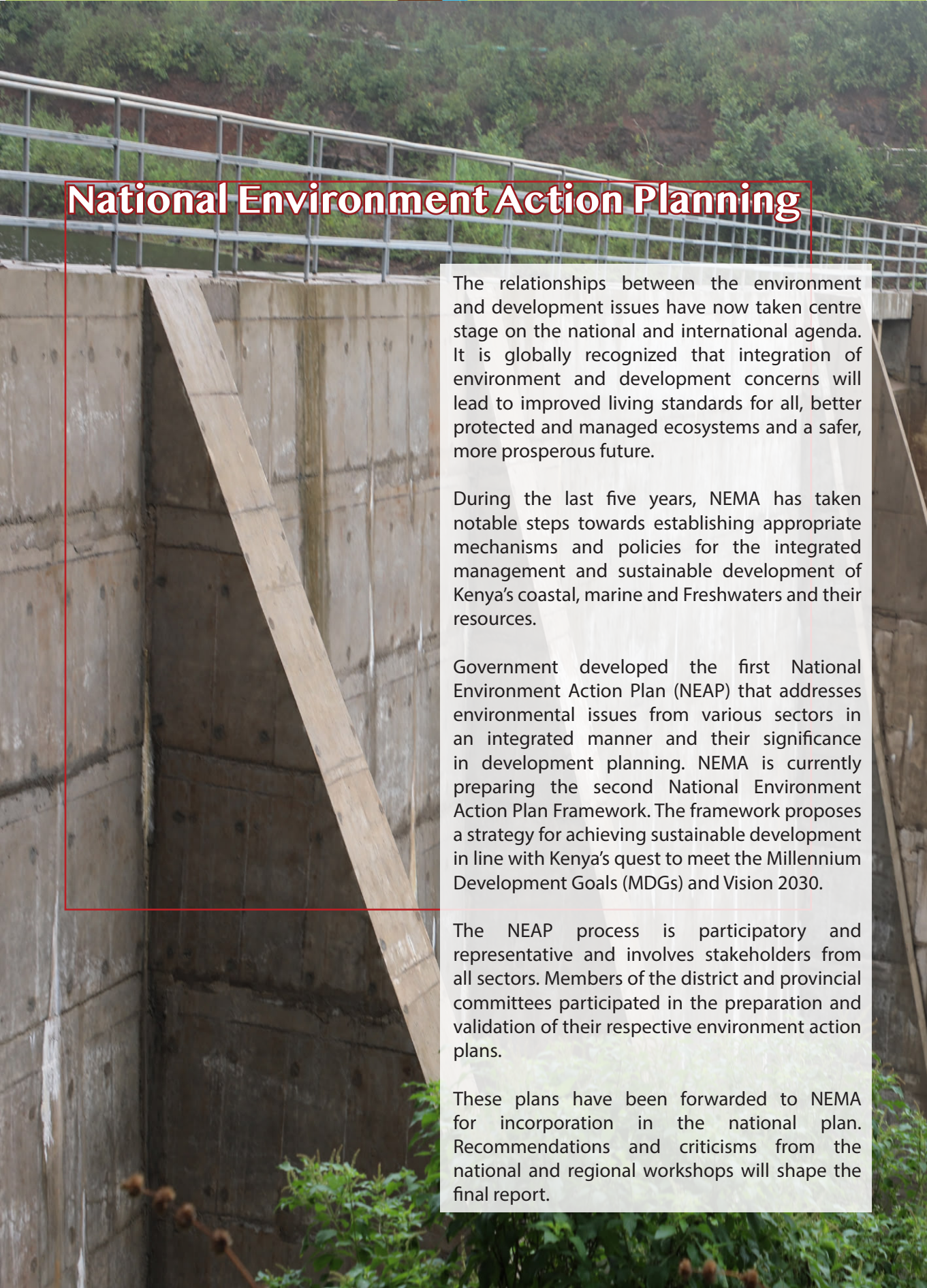


**Ondiri Wetland in Kiambu County.
INSET: Eco-Toilet developed by NEMA
at the wetland.**

This is a sub-department under the Directorate Department and draws its mandate from Sections 42 & 55 of EMCA that deal specifically with management and conservation of rivers, lakes and wetlands; and coastal and marine environments respectively to address issues of fresh water, coastal and marine ecosystems.

The main functions of the sub-department include:

1. Promoting conservation and sustain able utilization of coastal, marine and freshwater resources (CMF),
2. Implementation of relevant MEAs, and development and implementation of a National Wetlands Policy;
3. Coordinating and harmonize CMF conservation and management activities, including those of lead agencies, the private sector, NGOs and communities;
4. Developing and supervising the implementation of management plans for the sustainable utilization and conservation of the coastal zone and inland aquatic ecosystems through the development of the Integrated Coastal Zone Management plan (ICZM).
5. Collaborating with the relevant partners to ensure monitoring and inventories of aquatic ecosystems
6. Coordinating the coastal and marine sub-theme under the KCDP Environment Initiative; leading NEMA's participation in shared aquatic ecosystem processes.
7. Coordination the commemoration of the World Wetlands Day.



National Environment Action Planning

The relationships between the environment and development issues have now taken centre stage on the national and international agenda. It is globally recognized that integration of environment and development concerns will lead to improved living standards for all, better protected and managed ecosystems and a safer, more prosperous future.

During the last five years, NEMA has taken notable steps towards establishing appropriate mechanisms and policies for the integrated management and sustainable development of Kenya's coastal, marine and Freshwaters and their resources.

Government developed the first National Environment Action Plan (NEAP) that addresses environmental issues from various sectors in an integrated manner and their significance in development planning. NEMA is currently preparing the second National Environment Action Plan Framework. The framework proposes a strategy for achieving sustainable development in line with Kenya's quest to meet the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and Vision 2030.

The NEAP process is participatory and representative and involves stakeholders from all sectors. Members of the district and provincial committees participated in the preparation and validation of their respective environment action plans.

These plans have been forwarded to NEMA for incorporation in the national plan. Recommendations and criticisms from the national and regional workshops will shape the final report.

NEMA as Designated National Authority (DNA) for Carbon Markets

NEMA as the **Designated National Authority (DNA)** for Kenya's carbon markets, playing a crucial role in regulating and approving carbon projects. This role is vital for facilitating the development and implementation of carbon projects, ensuring compliance with the Paris Agreement, and managing the national carbon market registry.

This is in line with the Climate Change Act, 2023 and the Climate Change (Carbon Markets) Regulations, 2024, which outline the rules for participating in carbon markets. These regulations cover the framework for carbon projects, a national carbon registry, and potential fiscal and non-fiscal incentives.

The country has also established the Multi-Sectoral Technical Committee (MSTC) under Regulation 9 of the Climate Change (Carbon Markets) Regulations, 2024 to provide technical advice to the Designated National Authority on carbon project assessment.

Environmental Crime Investigations (Police Unit)

The Authority in partnership with the National Police Service has established an Environmental Police Unit through the deployment of police officers to NEMA. Stationed at NEMA headquarters, the unit assists in enhancing the enforcement capacity of the Authority while providing security to Environmental Inspectors.

The officers also conduct regular surveillance to detect environmental crimes as well as apprehending and prosecuting environmental offenders. In this regard, the NEMA police Unit has strengthened prosecutions of environmental cases across the country while serving as deterrent to potential environmental offenders.



NEMA police officers deployed to NEMA. INSET: A NEMA police officer during an enforcement exercise in Nairobi.



The Green points have been conceptualized in order to practically interpret the green economy concept in our context here in Kenya.

The design and function is meant to lead to as small an ecological footprint as possible. This will be achieved by incorporating aspects such as rainwater harvesting, waste water recycling technologies, low energy consumption, among other features. The green points are intended to improve and expand the advisory role of NEMA in the counties especially on issues related to the promotion of sound environmental management that can support the green economy, in conjunction with the private sector.

This will demonstrate the public-private partnership spirit in the communities - a policy direction that the government has been advocating for. A Green Point therefore is a one stop shop for all NEMA activities and advisory at the county but also a demonstration and learning centre for innovation.

Currently, 15 Green Points in 15 Counties have been developed and operationalized.

Services Green Points

1. NEMA operational functions such as review of Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) applications and inspections.
2. Advisory functions to county government, business people, and the wider community on environmental issues.
3. Exhibitions of appropriate green technologies/innovations by the local business community.
4. Host academic visits.
5. Act as an environmental information resource centre.

The Green Points have been strategically put up across the country; in Homa-Bay, Isiolo, Embu, Taita Taveta, Kajiado, Kilifi, Marsabit and Lamu. Plans are underway to develop others across Kenya. These Green Points have been constructed through funding from Danida.

All Green Points in Kenya will combine “normal NEMA office functions and facility” – with an open public meeting information and demonstration area; the design is based on a functional, accessible and open concept including:

1. Eco-friendly and creative architecture
2. Design responds to local conditions – Climate and Geography
3. Open space for various exhibits
4. A culturally acceptable design
5. Functional quality – a maintenance friendly design based on solid local materials



Milestones

- Prepared the 2019-2021 and 2022-2024 State of Environment report
- Undertook ambient air quality in Five (5) major towns (Nairobi, Mombasa, Kisumu, Nakuru and Eldoret)
- Undertook 3530 inspections in all counties on enforcement of single-use plastic ban leading to 87 percent reduction of the banned single-use plastic in the environment
- Issued 50,228 various Licenses (SPR: 4310,PSR: 14668,SR: 500,EDL: 2500, WMT/D/Ex:5000 Others: ABS, ODS, AEL: 750,EAE: 22500) and undertook 19,814 inspection reports to regulate facilities
- Undertook 12,403 No. of Environmental Audits
- Re-accreditation under the ISO 9001: 2015
- Enhanced operations of NEMA County offices
- Decentralized of licensing regimes to the County offices to enhance efficiency including, EIA licenses (low and medium risk projects) and Effluent Discharge Licenses (EDL)
- Formulation of over twelve policies various aspects to provide effective governance systems. The most recent including; Monitoring and Evaluation Policy,
- NEMA Branding Policy, NEMA SCR Policy. Other strategies include; Strategy on implementation of Air Quality Regulations 2014, Devolved Environmental Functions and ICT Strategies respectively.
- Developed criteria for vetting Environmental Experts
- Developed and submitted for gazettment 12 integrated wetlands management plans
- Review of EMCA 1999
- Gazetted over 8 environmental regulations
- Developed strategic relations and partnerships with ten existing and new climate funding entities
- Developed and strengthened 15 green points in 15 counties
- Developed and submitted 8 environmental management plans for Gazettment, encompassing areas like Taita Hills Forests and Embu ESAs
- 10 ESAs were inventoried
- 47 degraded water bodies inventoried
- 10 aquatic ecosystems restored and rehabilitated





Report any air pollution incidents through:

📞 0741 101 100, 0786 101 100 or ✉ incidence@nema.go.ke

Contact Us On

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