



COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF NYERI

MUNICIPALITY OF NYERI

OFFICE OF THE MUNICIPAL MANAGER



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REPORT ON PUBLIC PARTICIPATION ON THE DRAFT NYERI COUNTY WETLANDS AND RIPARIAN POLICY

Venue: Wambugu Agricultural Training Centre (ATC)

Date: 6th May 2025



INTRODUCTION

The Nyeri County Government, through the Department of Water, Irrigation, Environment and Climate Change, in collaboration with the Nyeri Municipal Board, conducted a public participation forum on the Draft Nyeri County Wetlands and Riparian Policy on 6th May 2025 at Wambugu Agricultural Training Centre (ATC).

Public participation is a fundamental component of sustainable environmental governance. The forum provided an opportunity for stakeholders and members of the public to review the draft

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policy and provide input towards strengthening the conservation and management of wetlands and riparian ecosystems in Nyeri County.

The engagement marked an important milestone in the County's efforts to protect, restore, and sustainably manage wetlands and riparian areas, which are critical ecosystems supporting water resources, biodiversity, and local livelihoods.

IMPORTANCE OF WETLANDS AND RIPARIAN ECOSYSTEMS

Wetlands and riparian ecosystems are vital natural resources that contribute significantly to environmental sustainability and climate resilience.

These ecosystems play key roles including:

- Purification and filtration of water
- Regulation of river flows and mitigation of floods
- Carbon storage and climate regulation
- Supporting biodiversity and wildlife habitats
- Sustaining livelihoods through agriculture and ecosystem services

Despite their importance, wetlands are increasingly threatened by human activities and environmental pressures such as pollution, encroachment, and climate change. Their protection is therefore essential in ensuring long-term environmental sustainability and water security for current and future generations.

OBJECTIVES OF THE DRAFT NYERI COUNTY WETLANDS AND RIPARIAN POLICY

The Draft Policy aims to establish a comprehensive framework for the sustainable management and conservation of wetlands and riparian lands within Nyeri County.

The key objectives include:

1. Promoting innovative planning and integrated management approaches for wetlands and riparian ecosystems.
2. Enhancing monitoring systems for effective conservation and management of wetlands.
3. Establishing effective institutional, strategic, policy, and legal frameworks to guide wetlands management.

4. Promoting communication, education, and public awareness on wetlands conservation.
5. Enhancing resource mobilization and partnerships to support sustainable management initiatives.

STAKEHOLDER PARTICIPATION

The public participation forum brought together a diverse range of stakeholders representing government institutions, development partners, community organizations, and environmental groups.

Participants included representatives from:

- Community-Based Organizations (CBOs)
- Resource Oriented Development Initiative (RODI Kenya)
- Upper Tana Nairobi Water Fund
- Nyeri Water and Sewerage Company (NYEWASCO)
- Ward Climate Change Planning Committees
- Nyeri Municipal Board
- County Government of Nyeri officials
- Local community representatives

The meeting was also graced by key county leadership including:

- CEC Member for Water, Environment and Climate Change – Mr. Frederick Kinyua
- Chief Officer for Water – Mr. Bernard Kiama
- Chairman, Nyeri Municipal Board – Mr. Jeremiah Ichaura

The leaders emphasized the County Government's commitment to environmental conservation, sustainable water management, and climate resilience.

KEY CHALLENGES FACING WETLANDS AND RIPARIAN AREAS

Stakeholders identified several challenges affecting wetlands and riparian ecosystems within Nyeri County.

Environmental and Hydrological Challenges

- High seasonal fluctuations between low and high river flows
- Inadequate conservation and protection of water catchment areas

Human Activities Affecting Wetlands

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Participants noted that several human activities negatively impact wetlands and riparian lands including:

- Quarrying activities
- Sand harvesting
- Pollution from domestic and commercial activities
- Wildlife-human conflicts
- Poaching
- Encroachment into riparian areas

These activities contribute significantly to ecosystem degradation, reduced water quality, and loss of biodiversity.

PROPOSED CONSERVATION MEASURES

To address these challenges, the County Government proposed several measures to strengthen conservation and sustainable management of wetlands and riparian ecosystems.

Community-Based Conservation Initiatives

The County will promote community-based conservation programs aimed at empowering local communities to actively participate in wetlands protection and restoration.

Institutional Partnerships

The County Government will strengthen partnerships with key institutions including:

- National Environment Management Authority (NEMA)
- Water sector agencies
- Environmental organizations
- Development partners

Community Empowerment

The policy aims to empower local communities through:

- Capacity building and training
- Community-led environmental initiatives
- Support for sustainable land and water resource management practices

Public Awareness and Education

The County will implement public awareness campaigns to educate residents on:

- The ecological importance of wetlands
- Sustainable environmental practices
- Compliance with environmental laws and regulations

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

During the discussions, several issues requiring further engagement and clarification were raised.

Key matters included:

1. The need to convene a consultative meeting with the Department of Lands, Housing and Physical Planning to align land use planning with the Wetlands and Riparian Policy.
2. Concerns regarding washing of vehicles and motorbikes in rivers, which contributes to pollution and degradation of water sources.
3. The need to organize public barazas and community sensitization forums to educate residents about the policy and its implications.
4. Clarification on the riparian reserve distance required under NEMA regulations for wetlands and riverbanks.

WAY FORWARD

The following actions were agreed upon as part of the way forward:

1. The Nyeri County Government will conduct additional public participation forums at the village level to gather further community input.
2. The County Government will encourage the establishment of Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) between Nyeri County and neighboring counties to enhance regional cooperation in wetlands conservation.
3. The County will strengthen public education and sensitization programs, particularly targeting drivers and community members on the environmental impacts of washing vehicles in rivers.
4. Continued collaboration between the Department of Water, Irrigation, Environment and Climate Change and the Nyeri Municipal Board will be maintained to support sustainable management of wetlands and riparian areas within urban and peri-urban areas.

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CONCLUSION

The public participation forum provided an important platform for *stakeholders and community* members to contribute to the development of the Nyeri County Wetlands and *Riparian Policy*.

The discussions reaffirmed the need for collaborative efforts among government institutions, communities, and partners to ensure the protection and sustainable management of wetlands.

The Nyeri County Government and the Nyeri Municipal Board aims to ensure that wetlands and riparian ecosystems are protected, restored, and sustainably managed for the benefit of present and future generations.

As emphasized during the forum: "When we protect nature, we protect our future."

Report Compiled By



Dagra Lengasha

PHO Intern





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ATTENDANCE SHEET

PURPOSE: PUBLIC PARTICIPATION ON THE DRAFT WETLANDS AND RIPARIAN LAND POLICY.

VENUE: WAMBUGU ATC

DATE: 6th MAY 2025

NO.	NAME	GENDER		PWD		ID NUMBER	WARD	NAME OF ORGANIZATION	SIGN
		M	F	YES	NO				
1	Caroline T Matlaga		✓			2		Rodi Kenya	
2	Maria Nding'u	✓				3		NAROWASCO	
3	JANE MURAGURI		✓			2		THIGU	
4	EPHRAIM GITONGA	✓				1	MIRU WEST	(MIRU WEST) CBD	
5	JEREMIAH JEREMIAH	✓			✓	1	NYERI WEST	NYERI MUNICIPAL BOARD	
6	Bernard Kama					2		CO-UPA CGN	
7	Simon Karuri					2	Conquer	Rudare ward	
8	Moses Mbiri	✓				0	RODI	RODI-Kenya	
9	Francis Ndirangu		✓		✓	1	OCA	CGN	
10	Therese Kiguna	✓				9	Rulwaa	Chap	
11	Edith Bell		✓		✓	1	RODI	RODI Kenya	



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VENUE: WAMBUGU FARM A.T.C.

DATE: 6th May, 2025

NO.	NAME	GENDER		PWD		ID NUMBER	WARD	NAME OF ORGANIZATION	SIGN
		M	F	YES	NO				
1	Torom Njeri Kibicho	✓				03	NYERI CENTRAL	ZION VALLEY CBO	<i>[Signature]</i>
2	Gregory Maina	M							
3	Gregory Maina					05	162 Nyeri Kieni	Zion V. CBO	<i>[Signature]</i>
4	Dixon Kutoonga-M.	M				25	Nyeri Range	NGDO Nyeri	<i>[Signature]</i>
5	BETH NIERI GITAHINI		✓			60	MWEIGA	W.R. CLIMATE C. MWEIGA	<i>[Signature]</i>
6	KIHARA M-BERNARD	M				72	IRIAANI	T.S.C	<i>[Signature]</i>
7	KENNETH NDUATI	✓			✓	2	NYERI CENTRAL	COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF NYERI	<i>[Signature]</i>
8	JOHN N KARBU	✓				10	QATTU/M.	NYERI TOWN	<i>[Signature]</i>
9	Edwin Wakibani	✓				36	RURINGU/CBO	KIUNYU DAM CONSERVATION PROGRAM	<i>[Signature]</i>
10	Elisabeth N. Ngokho		F			24	-	NEMA NYERI	<i>[Signature]</i>
11	Denson Nguni Wanjiku	M				70	Makori Wanjiku	Wetcc	<i>[Signature]</i>



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VENUE: KAMBUGU FARM. A.T.C.

DATE: 6th MAY, 2025

NO.	NAME	GENDER		PWD		ID NUMBER	WARD	NAME OF ORGANIZATION	SIGN
		M	F	YES	NO				
1	LUCY WANGARI WACHILI		✓				WANGARUA	WCCPC	Lucy
2	ELUD GATHEKI MURUKI	✓					KONYU		Elud
3	Jeremiah Ndungu	✓						RDDI	Jeremiah
4	LUCY MWIHAKI GITHAIGA		✓				GIKONDI	WCCPC	Lucy
5	DAVID KABACIA MAINA	✓					MATHARI/KISANJO	RIVERSIDE TREES	David
6	MARY KABACIA		✓				MATHARI	//	Mary
7	Bryan Mwangi	✓						NTEWARO	Bryan
8	CHARLES MICHAI KINORI	✓					ENDANGISHA/MWIYOGO	WCCPC	Charles
9	Simon N. Waelwira	✓					Central	Self	Simon
10	PETER GITAU MATHA	✓					Central	Self	Peter
11	STEPHEN KOGI MURIMI	✓					MAGITHU	SAIT	Stephen



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VENUE: WAMBUGU ATC

DATE: 6TH MAY 2025

NO.	NAME	GENDER		PWD		ID NUMBER	WARD	NAME OF ORGANIZATION	SIGN
		M	F	YES	NO				
1	GEORGE G. MUKANGI	✓			✓	2	KONW	WAR ADMIN CGN	
2	Josphat Mburia	✓			✓	3	NYERI	CGN	
3	NICHOLAS B. MAETHE	✓				5	ACWITI/GAKU	WARDS ADM.	
4	James Ihuthia Karau	✓	✓		✓	3	NYERI	CGN	
5	Juster K. Murugara		✓			7	NYERI	Climate Change	
6	Maurine Maina		✓		✓	3	NYERI	CGN	
7	Dennis Mungai Ng'ang'ang	✓			✓	3	NYERI	CGN	
8	Freshiah W Gathura		✓		✓	1	NYERI	CGN	
9	DERRICK MIANO	✓				3	NYERI	CGN-W ECC	
10	Anthony Ndirangu	✓					NYERI	CGN-W ECC	
11	Taita N. Mwangi		✓			8	MUKURWEINI	CGN - WECC	



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VENUE: KAMBUGU FARM ATC

DATE: 6th May, 2025.

NO.	NAME	GENDER		PWD		ID NUMBER	WARD	NAME OF ORGANIZATION	SIGN
		M	F	YES	NO				
1	ENOCH NGUTHI	✓				1	KIRIMUKUYU	CDDC	
2	David Nyaga	✓				2		PROI	
3	Samuel Kariuki	✓				25	GUJARAKWA	W.C.C.P.C	
4	FRANCIS MAINA	M		✓		3	MUGUNDA	W.C.C.P.C	
5	LINET WANGARI		✓			15		CGN	
6	Rosebell Wambui	✓	✓			35		CGN	
7	STEPHEN WANJIRU	✓				10	AGUTHI	IKAGAI	
8	ABDALLA ZAINABU		✓			38	TETU	F.G	
9	MARGARET WANGICHU		✓			30	KARI MA	F.G	
10	Simon Rulworo					86	TETU	farmers REP	
11	ROSEMARY KARIUKI	✓				30	GIKONDI	WCCPC	



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3	Samuel KARIUKI	✓					GAIRAKWA	W.C.C.P.C	<i>[Signature]</i>
4	FRANCIS MAINA	M		✓			3 MUGUNDA	W.C.C.P.C	<i>[Signature]</i>
5	LINET WANGARI		✓					C G N	<i>[Signature]</i>
6	Rosebell Wambui	✓	✓					CGN	<i>[Signature]</i>
7	STEPHEN WANJIRI	✓					9 AGUTHI	IKAGAI	<i>[Signature]</i>
8	ABDALLA ZAINABU		✓				2 TETU	F.G	<i>[Signature]</i>
9	MARGARET WANGICHU		✓				2 KARI MA	F.G	<i>[Signature]</i>
10	Simon Rulworo						9 TETU	farmers REP	<i>[Signature]</i>
11	ROSEMARY KARIUKI	✓					2 GIKOMBI	WCCPC	<i>[Signature]</i>



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		M	F	YES	NO				
1.	DENNIS G. MACHINA	✓		✓			IRIAINI	WCPCC	
2.	JEREMIAH G. MUTHUI	✓			✓		RWARE	Delwenge Church Meri	
3.	Mary Mwangi M		✓		✓		Ruguru	WCCPC	
4.	Ghadya Watoru W		✓		✓		Mabiga	WCPCC	
5.	REBECCA KPHIRI		✓				IRIAINI	COMMUNITY BEACONER	
6.	JEMIMAH W. RUHENI		✓		✓		IRIAINI	GOVERNOR'S 8 OFFICE (ADMIN)	
7.	GLADWELL N. KARANJA	✓		✓			CHINGA	WCCPC	
8.	Anastacia Wajira		✓				Kieni	CBO Rep to Community	
9.	Catherine Wanjau		✓		✓		Central	Githungiri for Njuki Wetland Conservation	
10.	CHARLES K. WANJAU	✓					D. Kimathi	S-LMC	
11.	SAMUEL GICHERU	✓					GAKI	CBO REP.	



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1.	GRACE WANGUI		✓		✓		2 RURINGU	AGRIC / UTNWF	
2.	GEORGE NJUGI	✓			✓		KAMUKUNJI/MUKARU	UTNWF	
3.	PETER DOUGLAS	✓			✓		KAMUKUNJI/MUKARU	WCCD	
4.	PETERSON KAMWARO	✓			✓		KAMUKUNJI/MUKARU	ZION VALLEY CBO	
5.	DAVID LIOTA-JONES	✓			✓		11 ——— 11	ZION VALLEY CBO	
6.	Godfrey I. Kamungu	✓					GILKONDI	WCCPC	
7.	LYDIA WANGARI	✓	F				M. CENTRAL	WCCPC	
8.	BENNETT WACHARA	✓					RWARA	WCCPC	
9.	MATHIAS KIMWARI	✓					KARIMA	WCCPC	
10	SYMON KIMENJU			✓			KABARU	WCCPC	
11	MARGARET MERI		✓		✓		RIMUKURU	WCCPC	