



 DUTCH WATER
AUTHORITIES



BLUE DEAL TANA NEWSLETTER

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NOTE TO OUR READERS

This newsletter will be published every 4 months. It will inform you about the recent activities, planned events, meetings, and outputs of the project.

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INTERVIEW WITH A TEAMMEMBER

Interview with Pauline Nyamu

Last year, in the 2nd edition (November 2020 chapter) of the Blue Deal newsletter, I was introduced as one of the local Young Experts from the YEP programme to join the Blue Deal partnership. I want to share how the journey has been since then. I joined the Blue Deal partnership in the modelling & GIS components of the project.

So far, the virtual journey has been exciting. It is phenomenal how people develop robust connections virtually. This has been the reality through this hard covid-19 times. Firstly, I have been able to meet a wonderful team. They are cordial, value of diversified perspectives is great and the enthusiasm to share their expertise is incredible. The saying of a candle loses none of its light when it lights another is well inscribed. With Epke van der Werf, the modelling expert am looking up to him to improve my modelling skills. My mentor, Jeroen Bernhard, I draw so much inspiration. He is so much passionate about his work and the guidance and constructive feedback I receive is superb. Moreover, my fellow YEPers, Sam Robroek and Cloy Anyango, working together is great and the whole Dutch and local team led by my Supervisor, Philip Munyua.

I have learnt the art of teamwork. Being the team leader for the local modelling group, I have been able to initiate and share responsibilities and making follow-ups within timelines. This is

immensely developing my leadership skills, which is one of my YEP learning goal in the Personal development plan. With bi-weekly online sessions on modelling and monitoring work, I am sharpening my presentation skills. I am always good at doing things behind the scenes in projects, and shy away from making presentations. However, so far, my presentation competence is surpassing my expectations. Thanks to the Blue Deal partnership. It has also built my acumen by challenging me to think critically and analytically. This is what modelling is all about, thinking outside the box to bring everything into perspective. This is not only building me career-wise, but also aligning me to venture into the entrepreneurial world, which requires such discipline and brainpower. Recently, sharing my remarkable pictures as a shutterbug has been amazing. This is revitalizing and apropos to my knack. We hope for more success stories throughout the project, and pray that we shall all be safe from the Covid-19 disease.

MID-TERM REVIEW

The Mid Term Review of the Kenya Tana Blue Deal project, issued by an independent researcher, aimed to assess the progress since the start in 2019. The review focused on the challenges, opportunities and innovations realized during its implementation including the highly disruptive COVID-19 , and the prospects that it will achieve the expected outcomes in the current and subsequent phases.

The report is based on desk review of project reports, interviews of the collaborating organizations' project managers and a Focus Group Discussion that included officials of the Dutch Embassy, the Water Resources Authority of Kenya and the Dutch Water Authority (World WaterNet) leading the project.

Conclusively, the Kenya Tana Blue Deal has been transformative for the WRA officers on the ground, generating exceptional personal commitment and a clear understanding of what effective management of water resources is in the context of high and increasing competition among water users, and reducing pollution.

So far the project has managed to prepare an Action Plan for WAP development, creating a reality check and vehicle for implementation of national WRA guidelines. The WRA staff involved at regional and sub-catchment level have been trained on catchment delineation in GIS and hydrology and water resources management as well, with the result that a SWAT model for the Thika River has been established to assess water resources availability, estimate actual abstractions, and to create and improve water balances.

Moving forward, there will be need to consolidate the training with more action on the ground in using the knowledge gained to influence water allocation and improve monitoring, enforcement and control of pollution.

FIELD VISIT FROM THE EMBASSY OF THE KINGDOM OF THE NETHERLANDS

On the 2nd and 3rd of March, the first secretary of food security & water (Pim van der Male) and the policy officer for food security & water (Rose Makenzi) of the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands Kenya paid a visit to the Blue Deal Tana Project. The Blue Deal Tana project is co-funded by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Water & Infrastructure and the Dutch Water Authorities.



Figure 1. Group photo at the Embu Regional Office: Left to right: Sam Robroek, Philip Munyua, Pim van der Male, Rose Makenzi

The visit provided an opportunity for the Embassy to familiarise with the project implementation and the stakeholders that are involved in the project. The visit included several meetings at the Water Resources Authority headquarters where the progress of the project and developments were discussed. After this we travelled to the Murang'a sub-regional office to set for a meeting with the Mid-Thika Water Resources User Association. The meeting took place with a few representatives of the Mid-Thika WRUA including the chair. Topics that were discussed included the management of the WRUAs, challenges, projects and opportunities. The meeting took place around a spring that served as important water source for the communities close to the spring.



Figure 2. Meeting with the Mid-Thika WRUA

The next day there was an early meeting at the Tana Basin Area office in Embu where the project was discussed more in detail with the Regional Manager.

MONITORING & WEAP SESSIONS

WRA, together with DWA, have formed a WEAP Modelling Working Group. The aim of the working group is to develop a WEAP model of the Thika Chania river system. This model will be used to calculate water availability and water demand in the area, including the transfer of water to Nairobi. This is part of the technical analysis that is needed for the development of the Water Allocation Plan. The working group meets every two weeks online to discuss the modelling process and the progress made. Pauline Nyamu of WRA is the lead modeller, and the working group is coordinated by Epke van der Werf of DWA. The Dutch private consultant Future Water provides external reviews of the modelling activities.

WEAP ("Water Evaluation And Planning" system) is a user-friendly software tool that takes an integrated approach to water resources planning. Allocation of limited water resources between agricultural, municipal and environmental uses requires the full integration of supply, demand, water quality and ecological considerations. The Water Evaluation and Planning system, or WEAP, incorporates these issues into a practical tool for integrated water resources planning. WEAP is developed by the [Stockholm Environment Institute's U.S. Center](#). The tool is widely used for climate change adaptation studies, and has been applied by researchers and planners in hundreds of organizations worldwide.