



A REPORT ON A BASIN WIDE TOUR AS ARRANGED BY CETRAD IN COLLABORATION WITH THE WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY AND THE EWASO NG'IRO NORTH CATCHMENT AREA.

INTRODUCTION

The above bodies invited the Ngusishi WRUA employees and the Chairman to the Basin Wide Tour which started on **29th Feb to 3rd March 2012.**

This tour was preceded by a two days training workshop which was conducted at **KAWA FALLS HOTEL** in Nyahururu on **27th Feb to 28th Feb 2012.**

The invitation covered all WRUAs representatives within the Ewaso Ng'iro North Catchment Area and the main aim was to integrate all the WRUAs and to instill in them the objectives of WRUAs and more so the importance of having common intakes. Ngusishi Wrua was always taken as the leading example in many aspects.

TRAINING/WORKSHOP.

The training was crucial to all WRUAs since it incorporated the Water Sector Reforms. A lawyer in the water sector Miss Dena informed the participants that the Water Act 2002 has to be amended to conform with the current constitution.

The amendments and proposed changes have not been confirmed yet as they still have to undergo further refining by public consultation and vetting by the Constitution Implementation Commission and parliament. **A list of these proposals and details on Water Sector Reforms are in a soft copy.**

WRMA trained the Wrua participants on:

Formation and establishment process,

Roles and operations,

Relationships with the community and other institutions,

Emerging issues, experiences and challenges.

The following are some of the objectives of the Wruas as taught by WRMA;

To promote and control legal use of water,

To promote efficiency and sustainable use of water,

Protect and maintain reserve for the downstream,

Conflict resolution /management,

Promote catchment measures and ensure clean water.

THE TOUR.

After the indoor training, we started our excursion tour along the Ewaso Ng'iro river and below are the areas we covered in the four days tour;

Day 1, 29th Feb 2012.

Nyahururu – Ol Bollosat – Rumuruti – Nyahururu.

This day we were able to see the rivers feeding Lake Ol bollosat, settlements, wetland pegging, farming around the wetland, status of catchment area, Ewaso Narok swamp, and conservation efforts in place around the swamp.



Lake Ol bollosat

Day 2, 1st March 2012.

Nyahururu – Rumuruti – Kisima – Wamba – Isiolo.

We were able to see Lagas contributing to the Ewaso Ng'iro river, livelihood activities, dry season flow in Ewaso Ng'iro river, status of the catchment area, Upstream - downstream regulations.



Dry riverbeds of ngaremara

Day 3, 2nd March 2012.

Isiolo – Buffalo springs – Archer’s post – samburu game Reserve – Maua.

This day we made stops at Ngare Mara Laga, Buffalo Springs, checked the river flow at Archer’s post the proceeded to Samburu Reserve.



Day 4, 3rd March 2012.

Maua – Garbatula – Garfasa – Maua – Isiolo-Nanyuki.

This was the last day of the tour and we toured Garbatulla and observed the river flow and catchment status at Garfasa. NB: As we went down the river, the flow was decreasing and when we got to Garfasa the Fish Ponds along the river were completely dry and the fishes were fighting for survival in the drying mud.



Dying fish at Garfasa.

Everyone was touched by the fact that the lower zone has little or no water and this is endangering their lives, their livestock and aquatic lives as well.

They felt that the Government has to take a serious step and monitor people carrying out irrigation activities in the swamps and on the riparian land and as a result diverting the original course of the river.

They also saw the need and importance of common intakes.