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WATERFUND SPEARHEADS KSH 2.5 BILLION PROGRAMME SET TO TRANSFORM WATER SECURITY IN THE EWASO NG'IRO BASIN

For generations, the Ewaso Ng'iro Basin has sustained communities, nourished agricultural production, supported wildlife, and driven local economies across central and northern Kenya. Today, however, the basin faces growing pressure from the impacts of climate change, prolonged droughts, catchment degradation, population growth, and increasing demand for water. These challenges threaten not only the basin's ecological integrity but also the livelihoods and resilience of the millions who depend on its resources.

Recognising the urgent need for coordinated action, the Government of Kenya, in partnership with the Government of Denmark through the Royal Danish Embassy, officially launched the Ewaso Ng'iro Basin Water and Climate Resilience Programme (EWCP), a five-year flagship initiative with a total investment of KShs 2.5 billion. The programme aims to strengthen water security, restore degraded ecosystems, and build climate resilience through integrated basin management, ecosystem restoration, and community-driven interventions. The Water Sector Trust Fund (WaterFund), as the financing institution, will oversee the implementation of the programme in Laikipia, Nyandarua, Nyeri, Meru, and Isiolo counties as part of the broader partnership between the Governments of Kenya and Denmark.

The programme reached a significant milestone on 3rd July, 2026, when Eng. Eric Muriithi Mugaa, the Cabinet Secretary for the Ministry of Water, Sanitation and Irrigation (MWSI), officially launched the Ewaso Ng'iro Basin Water and Climate Resilience Programme as the Chief Guest. He was accompanied by Mr. Julius Korir, CBS, Principal Secretary, State Department for Water and Sanitation, MWSI, and Eng. S.A.O. Alima, Water Secretary, MWSI, reaffirming the Government's commitment to strengthening water security and climate resilience in the basin. In his keynote address, the Cabinet Secretary highlighted that the initiative will support the restoration of catchments, wetlands, riparian ecosystems, and rangelands, thereby enhancing biodiversity while advancing Kenya's climate adaptation and mitigation efforts.

In attendance were representatives from the Royal Danish Embassy, Mr. Jørgen Erik Larsen, Water Counsellor, and Ms. Nancy Njenga, Programme Manager. In their remarks, they reaffirmed Denmark's commitment to supporting Kenya's water security and climate resilience agenda, expressing confidence that the programme will deliver lasting benefits for communities and ecosystems across the Ewaso Ng'iro Basin.

Speaking during the launch, Dr. Erick Rutto, Chairperson of the WaterFund's Board of Trustees, reaffirmed WaterFund's commitment to ensuring that every investment under the programme delivers measurable impact. He called on all implementing institutions to execute interventions efficiently, transparently, and with the highest standards of accountability. Echoing these remarks, Mr. Willis Ombai, Chief Executive Officer of WaterFund, noted that programme resources would be strategically directed to priority hotspot areas where interventions are expected to generate the greatest environmental, social, and economic benefits. He added that this targeted approach will ensure programme investments are effective, equitable, transparent, and responsive to local needs.

A key highlight of the launch was the signing of Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) between WaterFund and the County Governments of Laikipia, Nyandarua, Nyeri, Meru, and Isiolo. The agreements laid the foundation for coordinated implementation of the Ewaso Ng'iro Basin Water and Climate Resilience Programme (EWCP), fostering stronger partnerships between the National Government, County Governments, Water Resources Users Associations (WRUAs), Community Forest Associations (CFAs), Community Conservancies, and other stakeholders to deliver sustainable water and climate resilience interventions across the basin.

Ultimately, this reflects a shared commitment by the Governments of Kenya and Denmark, WaterFund, County Governments, and local communities to safeguard the Ewaso Ng'iro Basin, ensuring that it continues to sustain livelihoods, ecosystems, and economic growth for generations to come.



Eng. Eric Mugaa, CS, MWSI, leads the ribbon cutting ceremony during the launch of EWCP



Eng. Eric Muriithi Mugaa, CS, MWSI, delivering his keynote address



Mr. Julius Korir, CBS, PS, SD-WS, MWSI, addressing the guests



Eng. S.A.O. Alima, Water secretary, MWSI, giving his remarks



Mr. Jørgen Erik Larsen, Water Counsellor, Royal Danish Embassy



Ms. Nancy Njenga, Programme Manager, Royal Danish Embassy



H.E. Joshua Irungu, EGH, Governor, Laikipia County, addressing the audience



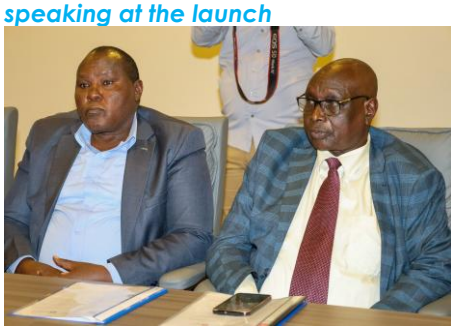
H.E. Dr. Kiarie Badilisha, EGH, Governor, Nyandarua county speaking at the launch



H.E. Linda Gakii, Deputy Governor, Meru County, making her remarks



Dr. Erick K. Rutto, Chairman, WaterFund, Board of Trustees making his remarks



Hon. Andrew Mbithe (left), and Hon. Lucas Chepkitony (right), Members of the WaterFund's Board of Trustees, in attendance during the launch



Mr. Willis Ombai, CEO, WaterFund, addressing the guests during the launch





Signing of the Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) between WaterFund and the implementing Counties

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