



 DUTCH WATER
AUTHORITIES



BLUE DEAL TANA NEWSLETTER

1st Edition - July 2020

NOTE TO OUR READERS

This newsletter will be published every 3 months. It will inform you about the recent activities, planned events, meetings and outputs of the project.

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BLUE DEAL PARTNERSHIP; AN INTRODUCTION

The Blue Deal is a Dutch program to strengthen the three crucial elements of good water management: sufficient knowledge and expertise, a well-functioning organization and cooperation with key stakeholders.



Figure 1: Workshop on Water Allocation Plan Development process between DWA and WRA

The overall goal of the Blue Deal Program: “Helping 20 million people around the world to gain access to clean, sufficient and safe water. An ambitious goal behind the Blue Deal, the

international program of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and of Infrastructure and Water Management from The Netherlands and the Dutch Water Authorities”.

In Kenya the partnership between the Water Resources Authority and the Dutch Water Authorities, focuses on the Tana catchment. During the first phase of the partnership (2019 – 2022) we will work on the water availability/scarcity and water allocation in a limited area. In consultation with the local partners, it has been decided to focus on two sub catchments in the Thika river (Mid & Upper).

INTRODUCING THE BLUE DEAL TEAM COMPONENTS

Project Components WRA

Project Coordination – Day to day operations and coordination of project activities

Water Quality & Pollution Control – Water Quality Monitoring and Pollution Control

Water Rights – Water Allocation and Regulation

Surface Water – Surface Water Resources Monitoring and Data Collection

Groundwater – Groundwater Monitoring Resources Monitoring and Data Collection

Community Development – Stakeholder Relations, Community Empowerment & Participation

Data Base Management – Water Resources Data Analysis and Storage

DWA role and team member

Project Manager Blue Deal Partnership | Jacques van Alphen

Water governance and project management | Albert Vrieling

Hydrology expert | Epke van der Werf

Stakeholder engagement expert | Michelle Foolen

Hydrology and monitoring expert | Jeroen Bernhard

PROJECT PLANNING AND PROGRESS: FIRST VISITS AND THE WATER ALLOCATION PLAN



Figure 2: Field visit to a monitoring station

The Blue Deal Tana project officially kicked-off on the 1st of September 2019. The project started with a first official visit from the DWA to the WRA offices in Nairobi and Embu County. During this week, the project set-up and the annual plan 2020 were discussed and the planned activities were set out for the coming months.

In February 2020, there was a second visit from the DWA to the WRA offices in Kenya. Main goal of this visit was to set out an action plan that would determine the activities that are necessary to develop a solid and sustainable water allocation plan, one of the main outputs during the first phase of the project.

MEETINGS AND STAKEHOLDER WORKSHOPS: WRUA STAKEHOLDER MEETING

During DWA's last visit, February 2020 a lot of attention was paid to workshops on stakeholder involvement. For a water allocation plan to work, stakeholders must be sensitized, involved and committed to the plan. Therefore, we worked on a planning of when the stakeholders need to be informed and activated during the water allocation plan process.

The local WRUA's of Upper Thika and Thika Mid, play an important part in activating all stakeholders. Therefore, we had a meeting to discuss all of the stakeholders in the field. A lot of valuable knowledge was shared, that gives better insight in how to make sure all stakeholders are on board with the water allocation plan.



Figure 3: Field visit with the WRUAs

TECHNICAL HIGHLIGHTS: CATCHMENT DELINEATION

During the second visit in February, the team organized a workshop for the technical staff at the regional office in Embu. Purpose of this workshop was to get the staff familiar with using geographical information system tools (GIS) to delineate catchments.



Figure 4: Catchment delineation

Catchment delineation is based on topographic and river network analysed with GIS tools. Obtaining experience with this method improves the knowledge of the water system in the Upper-Thika and Thika Mid sub-catchments. This kind of basic information is important for the technical analysis as part of the preparation of the water allocation plan

COVID-19; IMPACT ON THE BLUE DEAL

Due to the Covid-19 virus, the DWA team is not able to visit Kenya now. Both WRA and DWA are trying their best to move forward with the project by keeping in touch via online (video)calls.

We'd like to express our hope and sympathies to everybody who is affected by the Covid-19 virus. Stay safe!