Kenya Industrial Water Alliance

Partnering to create a water-smart future

The Challenge: Quenching the thirst of industrial growth in Kenya
Water supply for Kenya’s major urban and industrial centers is insufficient to meet current demand. Today in Nairobi, for example, supply is 20 percent lower than required; and by 2035, it is expected to be more than 60 percent lower than projected demand. With industrial water demand predicted to increase by 125 percent between 2014 and 2030, addressing the challenges of unreliable and decreasing water supply, in addition to flooding, pollution, and catchment degradation, will be vital to ensuring the continued and sustainable industrial growth in Nairobi and other industrial centers.

Objectives: Driving action through partnership
The Kenya Industrial Water Alliance, known as KIWA, is a partnership of over thirty public, private and civil society organizations collectively addressing national major water-related risks to industrial growth. Spearheaded by the Kenya Association of Manufacturers and the Water Resources Authority, and supported by the International Water Stewardship Programme and the 2030 Water Resources Group, KIWA provides an action-oriented forum for stakeholders to discuss, plan, design and implement activities to increase water security. Launched in September 2016, KIWA is developing initiatives aimed at closing the water demand and supply gap and reducing water wastage.

Action: Towards a water-smart industrial future
To date, the following thematic areas have been identified for KIWA to tackle:

- Sustainable ground water management;
- Industrial water use efficiency; and
- Surface water quality management.

Kenya’s industrial water challenges are the result of a mix of regulatory, financial and capacity barriers. To address these barriers, examples of initiatives to be developed under the different thematic areas include:

- Improving ground water abstraction and surface water quality data management;
- Scaling-up existing initiatives to identify and implement cost-effective industrial water use efficiency measures;
- Promoting international and local best practice at the firm level; and
- Advocating more investment in water efficient and pollution prevention practices at the industry level.

KIWA Primary Focus Areas

- What is the source of your water?
- How do you use your water?
- What is the quality of water discharged?
Sharing best practices
One of KIWA’s aims is to share best practices on water use efficiency, waste water management and water sources protection, among industrial water users. Recently, KIWA helped facilitate a site visit to Nairobi Bottlers, Ltd., a subsidiary of Coca-Cola Beverages Africa, to learn about its journey in water resource management. Approximately twenty KIWA partners participated to learn about the water savings measures the bottler had taken in recent years. Creation of a water map and regular meter readings all helped the company to determine areas in which it could make easy affordable water savings, such as adding spray nozzles to all water hoses, and those which would require more capital intensive endeavors, such as upgrading its backwash recovery system. All efforts are aimed at helping Nairobi Bottlers reach its goal of producing at 2 liters per 1 liter of beverage by 2020 to achieve Coca-Cola’s “best in class” benchmark. More information is available in KIWA’s Leading by Example series.

Kiambu Water Stewardship Partnership
Initially focused in the Nairobi section of the upper Athi catchment, the KIWA partnership has broadened its scope to Kiambu County. Under the leadership of the Kiambu County Government, the Kiambu Water Stewardship Partnership is working to promote efficient water management practices among water service providers, the private sector and community members. It aims to strengthen water resources users associations and community forest associations to restore and protect the catchment area as well as the county’s water governance and policy implementation frameworks.