

Project Update: August 2023

During this period the volunteers were further familiarised with the project goals and protocols to be used for plastic litter data collection, this was done in each of the two-sampling campaign carried out within the period (May and August 2023). This periodic activity per visit was important as it makes sure the volunteers/local communities are self-aware on the reasons and importance of participating in the plastic monitoring exercise, hence serve as a motivation on why they should participate. This adds value in their contribution and hence their involvement from an individual perspective in plastic pollution reduction.

To capitalise on opportunistic sampling among fishermen during their regular fishing activities, a plastic capture using fishing net campaign was done on river Sabaki water column with selected fishermen volunteers during the two-sampling campaign (May and August 2023). This process is important as the fishermen are able to separate plastic from their fishing expedition capture and record the plastic data at landing site. This is forwarded later to our team during the next follow up visit, or in case they have access to smartphone a developed macroplastics mobile app was used to relay the data. The Involvement of fishermen is sustainable in the long term as it will provide participation avenue way beyond the project life span.



Figure 1: Plastic capture using fishing net set up by fishermen volunteers.



Figure 2: Checking and picking of plastic litter captured by fishing net by volunteer.



Figure 3: Sorted Plastic item captured from the fishing net deployed.