

Project update: February 2024

This third phase of plastic monitoring campaign in River Sabaki was carried out between September 2023 and January 2024. During this period three sampling campaigns were organised in pre-selected riverbank sites identified during the first phase of the project kick off. However, due to the heavy rains that were experienced during this period a shift in plastic accumulation zones was observed, hence shift in plastic litter monitoring sites for opportunistic sampling and to maximise in plastic clean up initiatives with volunteers.

Therefore, it was observed that most of the accumulation zones were in the nearby riverine mangrove's vegetation zone. The high accumulation of plastic in these zones motivated the use of 1 m² quadrants for purposes of data collection followed by plastic litter clean-up of plastic. In addition, the plastic litter in water column was monitored using Bongo nets as the deployment of seine fishing net was not possible due to high water force due to rainfall from upstream sources.



Figure 1: Riverbank clean from plastic litter after a rainfall event in River Sabaki



Figure 2: Plastic litter monitoring and clean up in a nearby riverine mangrove accumulation site.



Figure 3: Bongo net deployment in River Sabaki water column for plastic litter monitoring.