

### **Project Update: March 2023**

The project kicked off in January 2023. During this fieldwork, a total of four water column monitoring sites were selected along the river (i.e., two sites near the river mouth, and two sites 2.5 km upstream from the river mouth). The sites were selected due to their ease of accessibility to enable subsequent periodic plastic pollution monitoring and clean-up initiatives with local fishermen volunteers. In addition, three riverbanks were selected adjacent to water column monitoring sites.

Another fieldwork trip was organised in March 2023. During this fieldwork, a clean-up initiative was organised with volunteers at the previously selected riverbank sites. This was accompanied with training volunteers on how to collect, sort, and record plastic data in a standardised format. This is important as the selected local volunteers will be instrumental in periodically mobilising the local community on the clean-up of River Sabaki. And data collected through this initiative can be relied through an already-developed mobile app.



**Figure 1:** Mapping of River Sabaki near the mouth to identify suitable water column sites for periodic monitoring.



**Figure 2:** Plastic litter collection in one of the selected riverbank sites.



**Figure 3:** Taking volunteers through sorting and recording of plastic litter data in a standardized format.