

REPUBLIC OF KENYA
COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF MARSABIT



The Marsabit County Water and Sanitation Services Sector Policy, 2016

August 2016

Simplified Version

The County Water Sector Vision

A county with sustainable, adequate and potable water for economic development.

The Mission

To effectively and efficiently develop and manage the county's water resources for sustainable, socio economic development

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1.0. Introduction

Under the overall county vision - ***To be a cohesive and prosperous county of choice***, the choice of the water sector, ***A county with sustainable, adequate and potable water for economic development*** neatly fits within the parameters set out in the County CIDP to ensure the improvement in livelihoods of the people of Marsabit County. The Mission of the water sector- ***to effectively and efficiently develop and manage the county's water resources for sustainable, socio economic development, clearly underlies this relationship.***

The County of Marsabit is located in the extreme part of Northern Kenya and has a total area of 70,961.2Km².

Key physiographic and natural characteristics of the county include;

- The Chalbi Desert which forms a large depression covering an area of 948 Km²
- There are no permanent rivers in the county, but four drainage systems exist
- Marsabit County lies in four main ecological zones namely: Ecological Zone 11-Forest Zones (Sub-Humid), Ecological Zone IV-Woodland Zone (Semi-Arid Area), Ecological zone V-Bush land Zone (Arid), Ecological zone VI-Dwarf scrubland Zone (Very Arid).
- Most parts of the county are arid with the exception of high potential areas around Mt. Marsabit, Mt. Kulal, Hurri Hills and the Moyale-Sololo escarpment

1.1. Administrative and Political Units

Administratively, the county is divided into four sub counties namely: Saku, Laisamis, North Horr, and Moyale. The sub counties also serve as constituencies and are further divided into 20 wards and administrative villages.

1.2. Demographic Features

From the 2009 National Population and Housing Census, the county's projected population was 316,206 people in 2012. The population is projected to increase to 343,399 persons by 2015 and further to 372,931 by 2017. This is an indicator of a growing population and the county therefore expects greater pressure on resources in future if the trend continues.

2.0. The National and County Governance Context

2.1. The Constitution of Kenya

Chapter 11 of the Constitution of Kenya 2010 provides for a devolved system of governance aimed at promoting democratic and accountable exercise of power, the equitable sharing of resources and responsive and effective delivery of services, while empowering citizen's participation through the process. The system created a two-tier level of government, each level having its own set of functions which though distinct require co-operative inter-relationships.

- The provision of water and sanitation services and the implementation of national policies in natural environment are two such key roles and

responsibilities bestowed on the County Government in Schedule Four of The CoK 2010.

- The Constitution further recognizes that access to safe and sufficient water is a basic human right. Under the economic and social rights in the Bill of Rights, Article 43 of The Constitution of Kenya provides that every person has the right to reasonable standards of sanitation as well as to clean and safe water in adequate quantities.
- The Constitution provides in Article 21(2) under the implementation of rights and fundamental freedoms that the State shall take legislative, policy and other measures, including the setting of standards, to achieve the progressive realization of the rights guaranteed under Article 43.

2.2. Vision 2030 and other National Policy Goals

Sessional Paper Number 10 of 2012 on Kenya Vision 2030 is the National Policy Economic Blueprint that entrenches Kenya Vision 2030 as the long term development strategy for Kenya.

Flagship projects under vision 2030 include the development of the LAPSSET Corridor of which Marsabit County is a key development player. This policy recognizes this opportunity as a major determinants of some of the priorities that the water sector has to respond to both in the medium and short term.

2.3. The Draft National Water Policy

The draft national water policy takes into account requirements of the Constitution of Kenya 2010 with regard to (1) consideration of water as a natural resource, and (2) the right to water by all; the Kenya Vision 2030; the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and other national policies and strategies. The policy therefore consolidates the highlights of previous Water Sector reforms and the key elements of the good governance initiatives in the sector over the past 10 years which include;

- Subsidiarity and decentralization
- Separation of service delivery, policy formulation and regulation to achieve higher efficiency and transparency.
- Increased equity achieved by aligning the sector with the human right to water and sanitation and by adopting a pro-poor approach in sector policies and strategies.
- Transparency and accountability measures include efforts by sector institutions reporting regularly to the public and by stronger enforcement of regulations and complaint mechanisms.
- The participation and empowerment of water users and consumers through more than 400 WRUAs, WAGs and mechanisms such as public hearings at community level.

3.0. Strategic Goals and Guiding Principles

The vision of the water sector in Marsabit County is derived from the overall County vision and other development challenges

Strategic Goals

The Strategic Goals of this policy will be;

1. To integrate environment conservation measures for better water resources management.
2. To enhance provision of adequate, accessible, affordable and potable water, and sanitation services in rural and urban areas.
3. To provide adequate, safe, affordable and accessible water for the livestock.
4. To provide adequate and quality water for efficient use in irrigation.
5. To promote good hygiene practices and improve sanitation coverage.
6. To improve the provision and access to safe water and proper sanitation services in public institutions.
7. To provide adequate and quality water to facilitate trade, tourism and industry in the County.
8. To improve planning, coordination and management of the water sector.

Guiding Sector Principles

The implementation of this policy will be guided by the following principles enshrined in the National Water Policy that include;

- Right to water with a pro-poor orientation
- Autonomy of service providers
- Sustainability of water and sewerage service delivery
- Stakeholder participation
- Gender mainstreaming in the management of WSIs and safeguarding of water
- Socially responsive commercialization for service delivery
- Professionalizing the sector
- Autonomy of WSIs
- Good governance practices on all levels
- Ring fencing of income as long as universal access to rights are not

4.0. Water Resources

What is the current situation of the water resources?

The people and livestock in Marsabit County rely on surface or ground water as there are no permanent rivers.

- The overall hydrological status in the County indicates that ground water is adequate in the low lands but quality is low in many places.
- Climate change has also affected the county's bimodal rainfall pattern. It's now difficult to predict the onset of the short and the long rains.

Current Challenges on Water Resources and Environment

- Low yielding boreholes with high salinity
- High cost of exploiting and maintaining groundwater sources
- Negative impacts of climate change on climate and livelihoods
- Drying up of springs due to climate change
- Increased degradation of environment due to prolonged and recurrent drought

What is the county government doing to address these challenges?

- Focused on rehabilitation of degraded areas through planting of trees and grass, community mobilization and sensitization on environmental conservation, protection of water points and conducting research and feasibility studies

4.1. Policy Goal, Objectives and Measures

What is the county's strategic goal for water resources?

To integrate environment conservation measures for better water resources management

In order to realize this goal, the county will pursue the following policy objectives:

1. To improve the restoration and protection of ecological systems and biodiversity in water catchments
2. To protect catchment and riparian areas
3. To establish and develop water conservation structures and systems
4. Enhance planning to ensure that drainage is sufficient to prevent flooding, and in taking remedial action in collecting run off.
5. Promote rain water harvesting to increase household water security

Key Policy Measures

- Promote use of renewable energy
- Promote low maintenance water technologies
- Ensure sound environmental management
- Develop the potential for payments to communities for environmental services,
- Support Water Resources Users Association in catchment and riparian areas protection activities;

5.0. Domestic Water Supply

What is the current situation in domestic water supply in the county?

The water supply in Marsabit Town can be described as inadequate due to limited water sources and hence everybody depends on Marsabit Urban Water Supply which is the only public piped water supply system.

- The source of the public water system is Bakuli spring which is unreliable.
- The water coverage is estimated at about 15% since the average water produced is 600m³/day against a water demand of about 3,795m³/day.
- Bakuli 3 Concrete Dam has a capacity about 60,000m³ currently supplies 543m³/day
- The current rural water sources include shallow wells, boreholes, pans, rock catchments and springs.

Current challenges on Domestic Water Supply

- Inadequate water supply
- Contaminated water sources
- Current rural schemes are dilapidated and operate at less than 50% of their design capacities
- Rural water supply schemes are poorly managed with operational inefficiencies
- Need for more education and dissemination of knowledge in PPP areas to all stakeholders

What is the county government doing to address these challenges?

- There are opportunities to enhance on operational efficiencies, reduce cost of service delivery and to enhance sustainability through private sector participation and partnerships. The county government is open to public private partnerships to increase access to water coverage and enhance service delivery.

5.1. Policy Goal, Objectives and Measures

What is the County's Strategic goal in the provision of domestic water?

To enhance provision of adequate, accessible, affordable and potable water, and sanitation services in rural and urban areas

In order to realize this goal, the county will pursue the following policy objectives:

1. Provide the regular minimum, necessary quantities of potable water and minimum standards of sanitation services to all users in the county.
2. Expand the water supply in rural areas to ensure universal access.
3. Mobilize additional sources of funding and investment support to improve coverage for both rural and urban water
4. Improve the quality of urban drainage both in its initial provision and its maintenance
5. Promote the participation of private sector players in provision of water and sanitation services

Key Policy Measures

- Increase connectivity and reticulation in urban areas.
- Facilitate private sector participation in service delivery especially in rural water supply
- Undertake regular audits of community water supply entities
- Increase the capacity of the County government to supervise the performance of WSPs
- Build the capacity of water management committees for community managed water services
- Guarantee minimum supply of domestic water for marginalized and absolute poor households

6.0. Water for Livestock

What is the current situation of water for livestock?

Livestock keeping is the main economic activity in the county with the main livestock bred including cattle, goats, sheep, camels, donkeys and poultry.

- 88% of the households keep livestock, which is the main driver of the economy of the county.
- An estimated 95% of the land is used by pastoralists;
- Good water quality and cleanliness can increase water intake and improve livestock production. Limited access or reduced water consumption can result in dehydration, which can be fatal to livestock.

Current Challenges on Water for Livestock

- There is scarcity for the available water which is insufficient for both livestock and crop requirements

6.1. Policy Goal, Objectives and Measures

What is the County's Strategic goal in the Provision of Water for Livestock?

To provide adequate, safe, affordable and accessible water for the livestock

In order to realize this goal, the county will pursue the following policy objectives:

1. Promote sustainable use of water resources for livestock
2. Improve the availability and reliability of water supply for livestock
3. Establish adequate well spread watering points
4. Construct and rehabilitate livestock watering structures
5. Regularly monitor water qualities with establishment of hygiene facilities at livestock watering points.

Key Policy Measures

The above policy objectives will be achieved through the following policy measures:

- Provide enough water through development of water sources.
- Provide and ensure that quality water is used for livestock
- Enhance management capacity of livestock water committees
- Strengthen community participation in development and management of strategic livestock water resources
- Minimize livestock water related conflict.

7.0. Water for Irrigation

What is the current situation for water for irrigation?

Crop farming in the county does not thrive well because of erratic climatic conditions.

- The population working in agriculture is estimated to be about 2 per cent.
- Only two per cent of the county population practice crop farming.
- Irrigation is mainly carried out in irrigation schemes of Songa and Kalacha and small water harvesting projects.

- The three main crops grown under irrigation are maize, tomatoes and kales

Current Challenges on Water for Irrigation?

- Severe water scarcity
- Area under irrigated maize has reduced slightly attributed to lack of seeds and reduced area under food crops in Kalacha irrigation scheme where fodder is preferred.

What is the county government doing to address these challenges?

- Seeks to invest more in irrigation to increase acreage under crops.
- Promotion of irrigation modernization policies to increase efficiency in water use

7.1. Policy Goal, Objectives and Measures

What is the county's strategic goal in the provision of water for irrigation?

To provide adequate and quality water for efficient use in irrigation.

In order to realize this goal, the county will pursue the following policy objectives:

1. Improve the productivity of the County's water resources for irrigation
2. Improve irrigation water storage infrastructure
3. Strengthen the involvement of local community stakeholders in operation and maintenance of irrigation systems.
4. Promote pro-poor intervention strategies for irrigated agriculture
5. Improve on utilization of modern irrigation technology
6. Promote adoption of water efficiency crops

Key Policy Measures

- Protect irrigation water sources against pollution
- Enhance on-farm irrigation efficiencies and maximizing the agricultural output
- Construct, develop and rehabilitate water infrastructure
- Develop rules and regulations to demarcate irrigation areas
- Development of water resources, including groundwater for irrigation

8.0. Water for Sanitation and Hygiene

What is the current situation for water for sanitation and hygiene?

There is low attention given to rural sanitation and hygiene, thus access to improved sanitation is extremely low.

- 35.4% of households in Marsabit are reported to have access to improved sanitation compared to a national average of 55% in urban areas.
- Waste/garbage disposal is done by public garbage heap burning disposed by the County Government.
- In rural areas, sanitation coverage is only between 5-10%.

Challenges in the Provision of Water for Sanitation and Hygiene

- Inadequate and improper disposal of human excreta
- Poor personal hygiene practices and improper handling and treating of household water
- Water related disease burden in the county is high

What is the county government doing to address these challenges?

- Implementation of community total led sanitation in various villages
- Strengthening community health services
- Promotion of household water treatment and improved hygiene practice at a household level

8.1. Policy Goal, Objectives and Measures

What is the county's strategic goal in the provision of water for sanitation and hygiene?

To promote good hygiene practices and improve sanitation coverage

In order to realize this goal, the county will pursue the following policy objectives;

1. Increase access to sustainable, safe water and environmental sanitation in the county and especially among vulnerable groups
2. Reduce the prevalence of WASH-related diseases through the promotion of personal hygiene and environmental practices
3. To support the health sector in effectively addressing water- and waste-related disease burdens and in engaging others in its reduction.
4. Improve and maintain infrastructure for proper waste management
5. Promote the reduction of water- and waste-related disease and the optimization of the health benefits of sustainable water and waste management.
6. To assist non-health sectors in understanding and acting on the health impacts of their actions in sanitation and hygiene.
7. Strengthen local community private sector value chains in water, sanitation and hygiene

Key Policy Measures

For urban sanitation;

- Minimize the rate of waste generation
- Disposal and storage sites protection
- Establish & improve safe waste management infrastructures
- Strengthen inter-sectoral collaboration and private sector participation in WASH value chains

For rural sanitation and hygiene;

- Integrate health and hygiene promotion activities and programs with all water supply projects

- Build partnerships with stakeholders to promote safe hygiene and promotion practices.
- Promote Community Led Total Sanitation (CLTS)

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9.0. Water for Schools and Health Institutions

What is the current situation for water for schools and health institutions?

Marsabit County has a total of 320 pre-schools, over 270 primary schools, five (5) colleges, 51 health centres and several market centres.

Current Challenges on Provision of Water for Schools and Health Institutions

- Learning time of students wasted fetching water from river
- Negative health impacts resulting in increased absenteeism of school children
- Limits the effectiveness of treatment provided in health centres,
- Lack of sufficient and private, appropriate, gender separated sanitation facilities
- Lack adequate and safe water sources in markets, schools and health centres

9.1. Policy Goal, Objectives and Measures

What is the county's strategic goal in the provision of water for schools and health institutions?

To improve the provision and access to safe water and proper sanitation services in public institutions

In order to realize this goal, the county will pursue the following policy objectives;

1. To strengthen the provision of safe water and sanitation services in public institutions especially schools and health facilities
2. To improve and maintain infrastructure for proper waste management in public facilities
3. To influence communities to participate in planning, construction, use and maintenance of user friendly water, sanitation and hygiene facilities for schools and communities
4. To improve hygiene practices among school children, their families and communities
5. To improve water, sanitation and hygiene facilities for better health and well-being for school children.
6. Increase safe water storage in schools and health centres

Key Policy Measures

- Increase investment in WASH facilities in public institutions
- Invest in a database on water and sanitation hygiene in schools and other public institutions
- Improve the development of roof rainwater harvesting facilities and connection to proximal boreholes.
- Promote School Led Total Sanitation (SLTS) approach
- Promotion of open defecation free communities within school catchments

10.0. Water for Trade, Tourism and Industry

The county has no manufacturing or agro-processing industries despite its abundant and high potential for livestock products.

The county has major tourist attractions including Lake Turkana, Chalbi Desert, Lake Paradise, Central and Southern islands, the petrified forests, Marsabit National Park

and Mount Marsabit tropical rainforest, world famous elephant, “Ahmed” among other wildlife

The county has a great cultural diversity hosting at least 14 indigenous ethnic groups.

Current Challenges on Water for Trade Tourism and Industry

- Untapped potential in tourism, trade and industry;
- Lacks capacity in harnessing opportunities in trade, tourism and industry;

What is the county government doing to address these challenges?

- Partnered with MSEA and KIE to equip Jua kali sheds and business incubation services.
- Linked up cottage industries involved in light manufacturing and with Export Promotion Council for product value addition to make them competitive
- Capacity building programmes for MSMEs to make them competitive
- Positioning county to reap from tourism.

10.1. Policy Goal, Objectives and Measures

What is the county’s strategic goal in the provision of water for trade, tourism and industry?

Strengthen the capacity of the department and county stakeholders to deliver on their mandates in the sector.

In order to realize this goal, the county will pursue the following policy objectives;

1. Improve the provision of adequate, affordable and quality water supplies for industry and trade to support the county economy.
2. Develop reliable water and sewerage infrastructure for trade, tourism and industry both in rural and urban areas.
3. Strengthen the involvement of trade, tourism and industry stakeholders in decision making on water service delivery in the county.
4. Promote the utilization of efficient modern technologies in water use for trade, tourism and industry.

Key Policy Measures

- Invest in development of new and upgrading of existing infrastructure to meet water demands for trade and tourism and industry.
- Develop and ensure adherence to regulations that prohibit water resources from being wasted
- Encourage water recycling, reuse and treatment of wastewater for industrial processes
- Develop and implement water efficiency standards for hotels
- Develop and implement incentives to encourage low water consumption

11.0. Water Sector Governance and Coordination

There is a growing need for a more consolidated, harmonized and coordinated water management institution/s, backed by a strong legal/regulatory framework especially within the IWRM approach.

The table below gives a summary of the main national and county level institutions responsible for water resources and services delivery in Kenya and in Marsabit County.

Sector	Name of institution/ platform incl. NSAs	Current roles and function
Water Resource Management	Water resource management authority (WRMA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management and regulation • Issuance of permits • Capacity building of WRUAS
	Water Resources User Association (WRUA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protection of catchment areas • Capacity building of water users • Provision of water and sewerage in rural areas • Management and maintenance of water and sewerage systems in rural area • Sensitization and awareness to users
County Government	County Department of Water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy development • Oversight of water service delivery • Sector leadership & financing • Provision & maintenance of water & sewerage services in urban centres • Infrastructural development • Capacity building WSPs
Financing	Marsabit County Govt.	Coordination & planning; setting priorities; CIDP; resource mobilization; (co)financing; regulations; capacity building of partners; supervision; M&E; internal audits
	NSA's / CBO's / Donors / Private individuals / Private sector	Resource mobilization; capacity building at grassroots level; direct implementation; support
	National Government -WSTF	Cash transfer program to pro poor
	National Drought Management Authority (NDMA)	Contingency planning and interventions

Financing

During FY 2014/15, the amount allocated to the Department of Water, Environment and Natural Resources was Ksh. 635.85M or 11% of the overall County Budget. In the following year, the FY 2015/16 Ksh. 752.9M or 12.9% was allocated to the Water, Environment and Natural Resources which was a marginal increase from the previous year's allocation.

Current Challenges on Water Governance and Coordination

- No system to support knowledge management, monitoring and evaluation

- Inadequate human and physical infrastructure
- Lacks of a consolidated capacity development plan to capture all aspects of their human resource needs.

11.1. Policy Goal, Objectives and Measures

What is the county's strategic goal in water sector governance and coordination?

To improve planning, coordination and management of the water sector.

In order to realize this goal, the county will pursue the following policy objectives;

1. Strengthen the institutional framework for better coordination and governance of the water sector
2. Establish and build relevant water sector institutions to improve service delivery
3. Establish and effective monitoring and evaluation system for the sector
4. Strengthen community participation in governance of water service delivery, resources management
5. Mobilize additional resources from the water sector

Key Policy Measures

- Strengthen structures for leadership and coordination of the county water sector
- Set up an entity for all urban water supply in the county
- Establish a department to supervise and manage rural water service providers
- Invest into intensive capacity building for sector leadership and other players
- Increase synergy and partnership with other partners/stakeholders through collaborations
- Establish a public charter for accountability in delivery of water services