

CONCEPT NOTE

KENYA WATER CONFERENCE & EXHIBITION ON NON-REVENUE WATER MANAGEMENT 2026

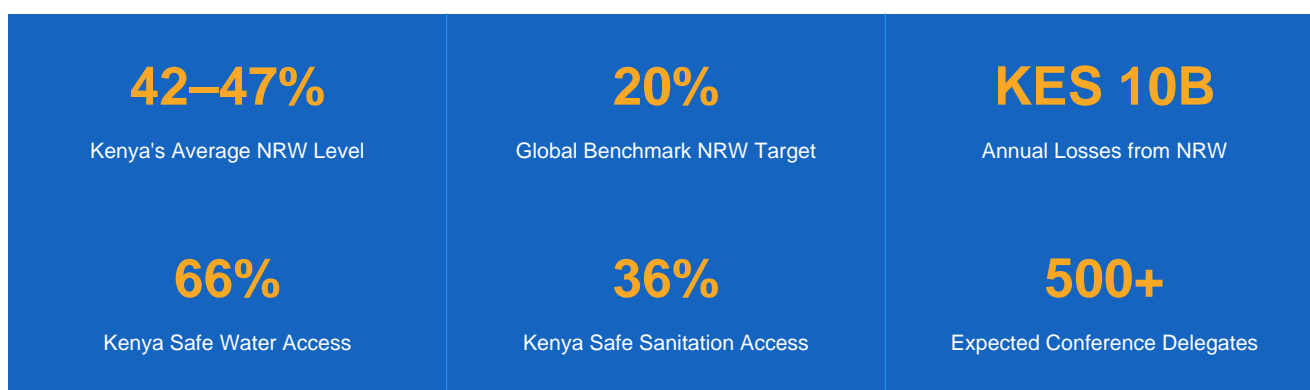
Theme: Improving NRW Management by Leveraging Technology & Innovations

DATE:	June 30 – July 3, 2026
VENUE:	Lake Naivasha Resort, Naivasha, Nakuru County
PARTICIPANTS:	500 In-person 50 Exhibitors Live Streaming
FORMAT:	Hybrid – Physical & Live Streaming

INTRODUCTION

Access to Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) is a fundamental human right recognized by the United Nations and central to **Sustainable Development Goal 6 (SDG 6)**, which aims to ensure safe and sustainable water and sanitation for all. These issues are closely linked to broader challenges such as climate change, health, poverty, and food security.

However, progress toward SDG 6 is significantly off-track globally. About 1 in 4 people lack safe drinking water at home, and nearly half the world lacks safe sanitation. In Kenya, only **66%** of people have access to safe water and **36%** to safely managed sanitation. Climate change is worsening water scarcity, making efficient water use increasingly urgent.



THE NRW CHALLENGE IN KENYA

Kenya has expanded access to water services, but high Non-Revenue Water (NRW) — caused by leakages, illegal connections, metering errors, and inefficiencies — remains a major challenge. National NRW levels average **42–47%**, far above the global benchmark of 20%, undermining utility finances, increasing costs, and reducing water availability (*WASREB 2025 Impact Report*).

Rapid urbanization in cities like Nairobi, Mombasa, Kisumu, Nakuru and Eldoret is putting additional strain on water systems. Aging infrastructure, limited network mapping, and inadequate monitoring systems drive physical losses, while illegal connections, inaccurate metering, billing inefficiencies and weak customer management systems undermine revenue collection. Sustainable NRW reduction requires an **integrated approach** combining technology, financing, governance, and technical capacity.

POLICY & GOVERNANCE IN NRW MANAGEMENT

Kenya has undertaken extensive policy and governance reforms since sector reforms in 2002 and 2006, establishing independent regulation with NRW as a key performance indicator. The **2022 NRW Management Guidelines and Handbook** strengthened technical, commercial, and managerial practices. WASREB plays a central role in setting KPIs, monitoring utility performance, and promoting sector-wide improvements through benchmarking and policy guidance.

Enforcement has been strengthened through multi-agency teams targeting illegal connections and infrastructure vandalism, supported by development partners including the **World Bank, JICA, SNV**, and the **African Development Bank**.

LEVERAGING TECHNOLOGY TO ADDRESS NRW

Advances in technology offer a major opportunity for Kenya to reduce NRW to **below 20% by 2030**, in line with Vision 2030. Key technologies include:

- **Smart Meters & IoT Sensors** — Real-time monitoring of water use, quick leak detection, optimized distribution and improved billing.
- **Acoustic Sensors & Satellite Imaging** — Accurate leak location within networks, enabling proactive rather than reactive maintenance.
- **Pressure Management Systems** — Precise control of network pressure to reduce physical losses.
- **Energy-Efficient Solutions** — Renewable energy-powered systems, energy recovery from waste, and low-energy purification technologies to reduce carbon footprint.

INNOVATIVE FINANCING TO REDUCE NRW

Kenya's National Water and Sanitation Investment Plan (NAWASIP) estimates a **46% budget deficit** of the KES 995 billion required to meet Water and Sanitation Sector goals. Kenya loses an estimated **KES 10 billion annually** from NRW, hindering financial sustainability and investment potential. Bridging these financing gaps requires:

- Enhanced government budget allocations
- Public–Private Partnerships (PPPs) and Private-Initiated Projects (PIPs)
- Blended finance models and green bonds
- Domestic commercial lending markets
- Improved utility efficiency to reduce non-revenue water

CAPACITY STRENGTHENING FOR NRW MANAGEMENT

Capacity development is essential for successful technology adoption. Utilities need skilled personnel to operate digital systems, analyze data, and manage complex networks. The **Kenya Water Institute (KEWI)** has established an NRW Center of Excellence to promote advanced solutions including smart metering and leak detection. Training institutions are updating curricula with specialized NRW programs, supported by industry contributions to TVET. The Government of Kenya/JICA project has already strengthened NRW management skills across multiple utilities.

CONFERENCE PROPOSAL

It is against this background that the Ministry of Water, Sanitation and Irrigation, WASPA, and KEWI, together with the Council of Governors and County Government of Nakuru, propose to host the **Kenya Water Conference & Exhibition on Non-Revenue Water Management 2026**.

CONFERENCE DETAILS

OVERALL GOAL	Convene experts, policy makers, regulators, water service providers, industry leaders, researchers, community organizations and other relevant stakeholders to share best practices, showcase technological innovations and foster partnerships to accelerate NRW reduction in Kenya.
THEME	Improving Non-Revenue Water (NRW) Management by Leveraging Technology & Innovations
DATE	June 30 – July 3, 2026 (3 days conference + 1 day technical excursion)
VENUE	Lake Naivasha Resort, Naivasha, Nakuru County
FORMAT	Hybrid — Physical & Live Streaming
PARTICIPANTS	500 In-person delegates 50 Exhibitors

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

01	Technology Showcase Showcase innovative technologies and digital solutions to enable reduction of Non-Revenue Water.
02	Policy Dialogue Advance policy dialogues and commitments to strengthen governance, enhance accountability and performance management in NRW reduction.
03	Sustainable Financing Highlight financing models including PPPs, PiPs and blended finance to mobilize resources and accelerate infrastructure improvements.
04	Partnerships & Collaboration Foster partnerships between technology providers, public sector actors, research & academia, and development partners to accelerate NRW reduction.

CONFERENCE SUBTHEMES

ST1

Policy Innovation & Governance

Accountability and performance management in NRW reduction through governance reforms and regulatory frameworks.

ST2

Innovative Financing & Investment

Public–Private Partnerships (PPPs), Private-Initiated Projects (PIPs), blended finance models and green bonds to reduce NRW.

ST3

Innovations & Technologies

Market opportunities, digital solutions, smart metering, IoT and emerging technologies to accelerate NRW reduction.

ST4

Research & Capacity Strengthening

Building institutional and human capacity, knowledge-sharing platforms, and academic collaboration for sustainable NRW management.

CONFERENCE FORMAT & PROGRAMME

Day	Date	Activity
	Tuesday, June 30	Registration & Exhibition Setup
	Wednesday, July 1	Conference Day 1 (Morning) Opening Ceremony with Chief Guest, High-Level Panel & Cocktail (Afternoon)
	Thursday, July 2	Conference Day 2 — Technical Sessions & Exhibitions
	Friday, July 3	Technical Excursion Day Exhibitions throughout the conference period

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS, CASE STUDIES & EXHIBITORS

Submissions are welcome for Exhibitions, Abstracts & Case Study presentations. Applications for pre-formed/convenor sessions are also welcome.

Milestone	Date
Open Call for Abstracts, Case Studies & Exhibitions	April 24, 2026
Deadline for Abstracts, Case Studies & Exhibitions	May 25, 2026

Notification of Acceptance	May 29, 2026
Deadline for PowerPoint Submissions (Oral)	June 15, 2026
Conference Dates	July 1–3, 2026

CONFERENCE ORGANIZING PARTNERS

LEAD ORGANIZERS

- Ministry of Water, Sanitation and Irrigation (MWSI)
- Water and Sanitation Providers Association (WASPA)
- Kenya Water Institute (KEWI)

PARTNERS

- Council of Governors (COG)
- County Government of Nakuru