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Navigating Climate Challenges through Communication Strategies for Conserving and Restoring Nairobi River Water Resources in Nairobi City, Kenya

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Abstract

This study examines the significance of communication strategies in enhancing conservation and restoration efforts for the Nairobi River, a vital Kenyan freshwater resource increasingly threatened by urbanisation, pollution, and climate change. It identifies key barriers to progress, including inconsistent messaging, limited community climate literacy, and fragmented stakeholder coordination, underscoring the need for a unified communication approach to foster collective action. Employing a mixed-methods design, the research integrates quantitative content analysis of policy documents to identify trends in water resource management with qualitative thematic analysis to explore stakeholder motivations and contextual complexities. Data were collected through a systematic review of 25 relevant publications, including national policies, stakeholder reports, and media, selected using PRISMA guidelines. Findings reveal that participatory communication, digital media campaigns, and culturally relevant messaging significantly boost community engagement and interdisciplinary collaboration. The study concludes that integrating adaptive communication strategies with climate science is critical for sustaining Nairobi River restoration efforts.

Key terms: Communication strategies, community engagement, conservation, Nairobi River, restoration.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Nairobi River faces a multitude of challenges that threaten its ecological integrity and the well-being of the populations that depend on it. Industrial waste continues to be discharged into the river from nearby factories, turning it into a toxic stream that endangers aquatic life, plants, and the people who depend on its waters (Bagnis et al., 2019). Additionally, the rampant discharge of untreated sewage exacerbates the situation, particularly in densely populated areas where sanitation infrastructure is often inadequate (Downham et al., 2024).

The consequences of such environmental degradation are dire, manifesting not only in the deterioration of water quality but also in increased incidences of waterborne diseases, which disproportionately affect vulnerable populations. Climate change compounds these issues by introducing further variability in rainfall patterns, leading to prolonged droughts and intense flooding events that strain already overburdened water resources (Leach et al., 2010; Evans et al., 2016). As these changes disrupt the hydrological cycle, there is a requirement for flexible and cohesive approaches to water management strategies that becomes increasingly urgent (Kasperson et al., 2003).

Climate change makes things worse by causing unpredictable rain, leading to more droughts and floods that strain water supplies (Leach et al., 2010; Evans et al., 2016). This study, therefore, aims to examine how communication is used to support the conservation and restoration of the Nairobi River. It looks at how information is shared and understood among different groups, connecting environmental science, public awareness, and policy action in a climate-affected setting. Effective communication is not just a tool used for awareness campaigns; it is a fundamental component of environmental governance, facilitating dialogue, aligning interests, and transforming scientific data into actionable policy (Hussein, 2024).

The study further examines public outreach campaigns, community engagement initiatives, and digital communication platforms that enhance participation in conservation efforts. By understanding the dynamics of communication related to the Nairobi River, this research identifies best practices that can strengthen restoration outcomes and promote sustainable water resource management amid ongoing climate challenges. Ultimately, this study underscores the importance of a multifaceted communication approach that not only informs but also enables communities to participate actively in the stewardship of their natural environment.

2.0 LITERATURE REVIEW

Water resources are vital for the sustenance of life, ecosystems, and socioeconomic progress. In areas such as Nairobi, where rapid urbanisation and climate change present considerable challenges to the availability and quality of water, the implementation of effective communication strategies is crucial for the conservation and restoration of these resources. The Nairobi River, which once served as a crucial resource for the city, is now suffering from degradation due to pollution, encroachment, and unsustainable practices. This literature review examined the significant role that communication plays in tackling the complex challenges associated with the conservation and restoration of the water resources of the Nairobi River.

The expansion of Nairobi has placed immense pressure on the Nairobi River basin, making it increasingly difficult to satisfy the growing demands for water, sanitation, and industrial use. Water pollution, fueled by urban development, industrial effluents, and poor waste management practices, has severely impacted the river's condition. Additionally, climate change intensifies these challenges by causing erratic rainfall patterns and heightening the risks of droughts and flooding. As a result, the health of the Nairobi River is closely intertwined with the welfare of the city and its inhabitants. Efforts to conserve and restore the river are essential not only for preserving the integrity of the ecosystem but also for protecting public health and promoting sustainable development. Effective communication serves as the key player for mobilising communities, engaging stakeholders, and influencing policy decisions in the conservation and restoration of the Nairobi River. This literature review delved into the existing communication strategies, best practices, and the challenges that impede the success of these initiatives. It also drew on theories and empirical evidence to offer insights into how communication could bridge the gap between scientific knowledge, community engagement, and policy implementation.

Scholars emphasise communication as a catalyst for environmental action (Cox, 2013). Theories like the Two-Way Communication Model stress dialogue over one-way messaging, fostering trust and collective problem-solving (Burgess et al., 2018). In fact, looking into other already published works that addressed rivers, the case study in Brazil's Tietê River restoration highlights participatory workshops and social media's role in raising awareness. As Moser already underscored in his 2016 far-reaching works, effective climate communication requires localised narratives that resonate with cultural values (Moser, 2016). In Kenya, Maathai's Green Belt Movement demonstrated the power of storytelling in mobilising communities (Njuguna, 2019). However, gaps persist in translating global climate data into context-specific solutions for urban rivers.

Research on the application of ICTs to climate-related problems in water source management has been done through scoping studies. These studies have looked at prediction, mitigation, monitoring, and increasingly, adaptation, as well as the development of institutional or national strategies (Heeks & Ospina, 2009; Houghton, 2009). Particular emphasis had been placed on the necessity of creatively integrating ICTs into water source management systems' mitigation, monitoring, adaptation, and strategic planning (Kalas & Finlay, 2009). Ospina and Heeks's comprehensive approach reveals areas of existing research gaps and upcoming subjects that require more investigation. Given the shifting goals and viewpoints, the interdependence of ICTs, climate change, and the fragility of water systems and populations, these findings are especially relevant for Kenya. The demand for collaboration and knowledge exchange across institutions, governments, and communities is growing as a result of the problems that information and communication technologies (ICTs) provide in the context of climate change and its effects on numerous sectors, including the water sector.

Finlay and Adera (2012) highlighted that the goal of implementing ICT platforms, tools, and protocols is to make it easier for different stakeholders involved in water management to communicate and provide feedback on how best to collect, store, analyse, distribute, and use data. These ICT instruments might be anything from basic mobile phones to robust and sophisticated field sensors, telemetric data transfer, and satellite-based remote hydrological condition monitoring. The selection of tools is contingent upon several aspects, including the amount of digital data to be transferred and the geographic coverage. With the use

of these technologies, water consumers and system administrators may better understand the state of their water systems and anticipate future events.

Prior studies document pollution levels and policy gaps (Onyango et al., 2021), but few address communication dynamics. According to a 2022 UNEP report, there is weak public awareness and participation when it comes to projects aligned with this river, which obviously then underscores the dire need for inclusive strategies. Message design has a direct bearing on how successful advertising communications are; it may affect the trustworthiness and effectiveness of the communication. The messaging technique may arouse feelings, depending on message design and presentation. According to Pulizzi (2012), social media technologies have enabled content marketing and highlighted the importance of narrative, which is now a crucial component in attracting and maintaining clients. According to Padgett and Allen (1997), storytelling is a type of narrative that helps people digest information and builds a stronger bond with a business. Effective communication in advertising relies heavily on storytelling. Water utilities ought to think about taking on the role of storytellers and explaining the science, engineering, and financial commitments that go into creating sustainable water sources. This type of communication successfully elicits an emotional reaction from the audience, mostly through factual or poignant tales (Wearn & Shepherd, 2020).

Theoretical Frameworks

The Dialogue Model, as articulated by Hemmati (2019), emphasises the importance of two-way knowledge exchange between stakeholders. This model is specifically relevant in contexts where local knowledge and scientific expertise must be integrated to achieve sustainable outcomes. For instance, community-led flood resilience programs in Bangladesh exemplify this approach, demonstrating that engaging local communities can result in solutions that are both more effective and culturally pertinent. The success of such programs underscores the necessity of fostering dialogue rather than imposing top-down solutions.

Stakeholder theory plays a crucial role in identifying and understanding the interests of various actors involved in environmental management, including communities, non-governmental organisations (NGOs), government entities, and industries. Effective stakeholder engagement is crucial in enabling conservation efforts to be sustainable and equitable. The Thames River cleanup project serves as an illustrative example of how inclusive decision-making processes can enhance project sustainability by incorporating diverse perspectives. In the African context, initiatives such as South Africa's Working for Water program further emphasise the importance of local empowerment and community involvement in environmental conservation.

Thirdly, the two-way symmetrical model of communication, proposed by Grunig (2002), promotes dialogue over one-way messaging. This model is particularly relevant in urban settings where diverse stakeholders must collaborate to address environmental challenges. Integrated frameworks, such as the International Union for Conservation of Nature's "Nature for All" strategy, combine education and participation to foster community engagement. However, these frameworks often lack adaptations for urban-centric situations, highlighting the necessity for customised strategies that take into account the distinct challenges encountered by urban areas. In fact, the restoration of Cheong Gyecheon Stream in Seoul serves as a compelling case study in stakeholder collaboration and public awareness campaigns.

Through a participatory approach, the project successfully transformed a neglected waterway into a vibrant public space, improving both ecological health and community engagement. This case highlights the potential for urban waterways to serve as focal points for community revitalisation when stakeholders work together effectively.

Conversely, the Ganges River restoration efforts in India present mixed results, primarily due to top -down approaches that often overlook local engagement. This case underscores the necessity of incorporating local knowledge and addressing the needs of communities directly affected by environmental degradation. The contrasting outcomes of these two case studies emphasise the importance of context-specific strategies in environmental management.

Conceptual Frameworks

The fundamental element of the conceptual framework consists of communication strategies, which dictate how information regarding the conservation of the Nairobi River is made available to and received by various stakeholders. This part will evaluate the efficacy of certain ways of communicating, including channels, messaging, and forms, in engaging awareness to action. The framework will also draw from communication theories, including the Diffusion of Innovations theory, which describes how new ideas and practices are disseminated and adopted among members of a society.

This included developing specific messaging for different stakeholder groups, using digital platforms to extend mainstreams of outreach, and integrating local knowledge and cultural narratives within communications. The study investigates the effects of these strategies on stakeholder involvement and participation in conservation efforts, particularly of river ecosystems, to support healthy river systems.

How the Nairobi River is governed is intrinsically linked to conservation, from how we define its value to how people can engage with it. The second part of the framework will analyse the policies, regulations, and institutional arrangements that govern river management. It will draw upon governance theories, including adaptive governance, recognising the key role of adaptive thinking and adaptive actions in effective resource management strategies amid uncertainties and changing systems.

Through analysing the interactions between governance structures and stakeholder dynamics, the framework aims to highlight best practices for improving collaboration and accountability in river management. In this way, the broad conceptual framework for this research on communicating Nairobi River conservation as equitable stakeholder engagement can be viewed as a comprehensive lens for the investigation of environmental conditions, social structures, modes and means of communication and governance arrangements.

This framework connects relevant theories and concepts to support research towards organising diverse practices into effective stakeholder engagement ways and successful conservation outcomes. Finally, it will guide the formulation of practical solutions useful in the conservation of the Nairobi River and similar urban rivers. This research aims to enhance the understanding surrounding the challenges of river conservation and the importance of effective communication in building a coalition working toward river conservation.

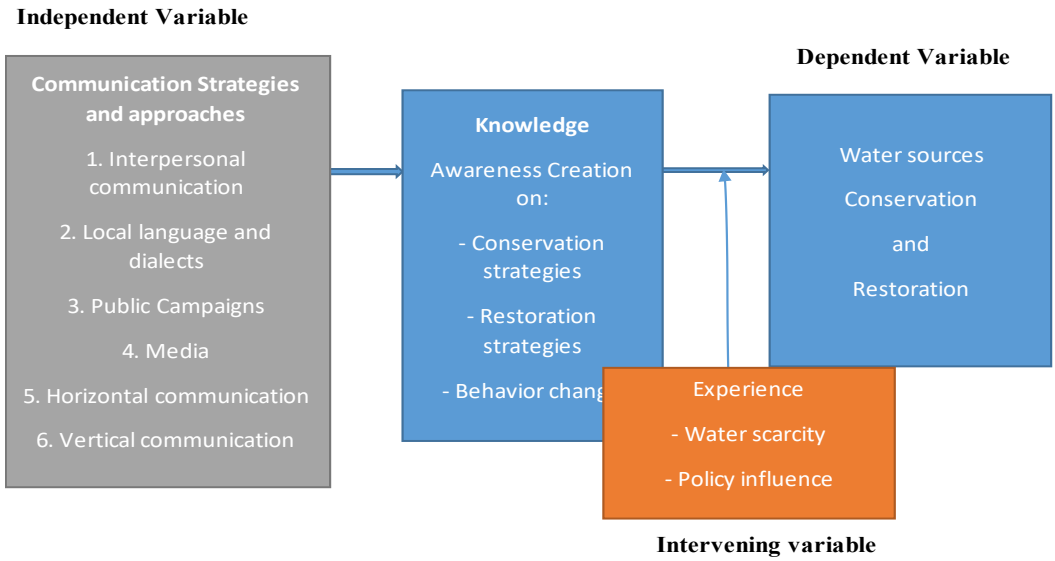

Figure 1: Conceptual Framework for Effective Stakeholder Engagement in Nairobi River Conservation

The figure above presents a research framework where the independent variables focus on various communication strategies and approaches that aim to influence water conservation and restoration efforts. These strategies include interpersonal communication, the use of local languages and dialects, public campaigns, and different forms of communication such as horizontal and vertical communication. Each of these strategies plays a crucial role in effectively conveying messages about water conservation to diverse audiences, thereby fostering community engagement and awareness.

The dependent variable in this framework is water sources conservation and restoration, which is the ultimate outcome that the research seeks to understand and promote. By examining how different communication strategies impact efforts to conserve and restore water sources, researchers can identify the most effective ways to encourage sustainable practices within communities. This relationship highlights the importance of tailored communication approaches to address specific local needs and cultural contexts.

Intervening variables, such as experience with water scarcity and policy influence, serve to mediate the relationship between the independent and dependent variables. For instance, individuals who have experienced water scarcity may respond more positively to communication efforts aimed at conservation, while existing policies can either facilitate or hinder these initiatives. Understanding these intervening factors is essential for researchers and practitioners to develop comprehensive strategies that not only promote awareness but also lead to actionable change in water management practices.

3.0 METHODOLOGY

This study utilised a mixed-methods approach, integrating quantitative and qualitative analyses to explore water resource management policies, focusing on the Nairobi River. A systematic review design was utilised to synthesise existing policies, strategic plans, project reports, and media publications. Thematic

analysis identified recurring themes and patterns related to water management, emphasising preventive measures, penalties, and stakeholder roles. The target population included documented Kenyan water management policies and related reports from 1999 to 2022. Using the PRISMA framework, 76 publications were retrieved; 48 were excluded (22 for irrelevant themes, 12 for focusing on non-river ecosystems, 3 for being outside the study period, and 11 for lacking a Kenyan water protection context). The remaining 25 publications underwent qualitative thematic analysis to assess water protection approaches, challenges, stakeholder involvement, and sanctions.

Quantitative analysis involved counting theme occurrences to identify trends. Data collection entailed gathering online materials, scrutinising them for thematic cues, and applying textual analysis to code and compare data. Sampling followed a purposive approach, with no fixed criteria for unit size, guided by study objectives. Themes were coded and analysed to draw meaningful conclusions about stakeholder actions and policy effectiveness, providing a roadmap for improved water resource management through enhanced communication and collaboration.

4.0 FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

The study revealed that communication strategies specifically designed for the local context significantly improved community participation in conservation efforts concerning the Nairobi River. Effective communication was identified as a cornerstone for engaging local populations, fostering a sense of ownership, and promoting sustainable practices.

The use of local languages and culturally relevant messages was paramount in ensuring that conservation messages resonated with the community. These strategies enabled more effective communication of the significance of water conservation and the role each individual could play in preserving the Nairobi River. By framing messages in a way that reflected local values and traditions, the campaigns were able to connect with diverse demographic segments, thus enhancing their impact.

The integration of traditional media, such as radio and television, with digital platforms, including social media and mobile applications, proved particularly effective in reaching a broad audience. This multifaceted approach allowed for the dissemination of information across various channels, ensuring that different segments of the community were informed and engaged. For instance, radio programs tailored to local dialects reached those with limited access to digital technology, while social media campaigns targeted younger audiences who are more active online. This combination not only amplified outreach efforts but also facilitated dialogue and feedback between stakeholders and community members.

Community-led initiatives, such as cleanup drives and educational workshops, demonstrated positive outcomes in raising awareness and encouraging sustainable practices. These initiatives were often spearheaded by local leaders and organisations, ensuring that they were culturally relevant and contextually appropriate. The active participation of community members not only empowered them but also created a sense of collective responsibility for the river's health.

The involvement of women and young adults in decision-making processes was crucial, as these groups played pivotal roles in water management and conservation at both the household and community levels.

Women, often responsible for water collection and household management, brought unique perspectives on water usage and conservation strategies. Similarly, engaging youth fostered a sense of agency and responsibility among younger generations, ensuring that conservation efforts were sustained over time.

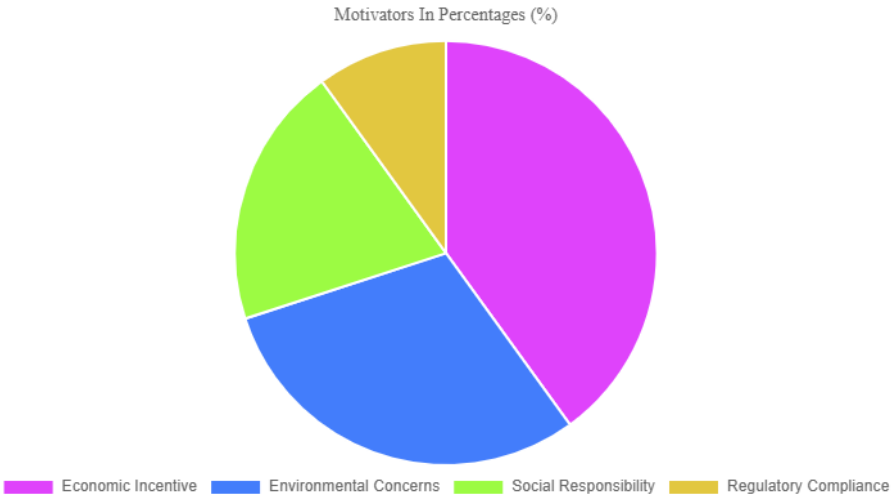

Figure 2: Pie Chart showing the Distribution of Different Motivators Behind Stakeholder Behaviours

The pie chart above shows the distribution of different motivators behind stakeholder behaviours in the context of Nairobi River conservation. Each segment of the pie represents a specific category of motivation, with the size of each segment corresponding to the proportion of stakeholders who identified that motivator as significant in their decision-making processes.

The largest segment represents the largest portion of the pie chart, indicating that a significant number of stakeholders are motivated by economic factors. This includes financial benefits such as job creation, revenue from eco-tourism, and potential funding for conservation projects. Stakeholders who prioritise economic incentives are likely to engage in conservation efforts that promise tangible financial returns.

The second largest segment reflects stakeholders who are primarily driven by environmental considerations. This includes concerns about pollution, biodiversity loss, and the overall health of the ecosystem. Stakeholders in this category are driven by a wish to safeguard the natural world and guarantee sustainable practices that benefit both the river and the communities that depend on it.

This third segment represents stakeholders who feel a moral or ethical obligation to engage in conservation efforts. These individuals or organisations may be motivated by a responsibility to safeguard the planet for the benefit of future generations or to contribute positively to their communities. Social responsibility can also encompass advocacy for marginalised groups affected by environmental degradation.

The smallest segment of the pie chart indicates that a minority of stakeholders are motivated primarily by the need to comply with regulations and policies related to water resource management. This may include

adherence to environmental laws, permits, and guidelines set by government authorities. While important, this motivator appears to be less influential compared to the others.

The distribution of motivations shown in the pie chart provides valuable insights into the factors that drive stakeholder engagement in the conservation of the Nairobi River. Understanding these motivators is crucial for developing targeted communication strategies and policies that effectively engage stakeholders.

For instance, by recognising that economic incentives are a primary motivator for many stakeholders, conservation initiatives can be designed to highlight the financial benefits of sustainable practices. Similarly, addressing environmental concerns directly in communication efforts can resonate with stakeholders who prioritise ecological health.

Overall, this pie chart not only quantifies the diverse motivations of stakeholders but also emphasises the need for a multifaceted approach to conservation that considers economic, environmental, social, and regulatory factors.

Limited access to information emerged as a critical barrier, affecting approximately 30% of respondents. This lack of information hindered community awareness and participation, preventing informed decision-making regarding conservation efforts. Many community members expressed a desire for more accessible information about the state of the river, conservation strategies, and their roles in these efforts.

Insufficient funding was another major obstacle, impacting about 25 per cent of the initiatives. The lack of financial resources restricted the implementation of conservation projects and limited the capacity for community engagement activities. This financial shortfall often resulted in the inability to sustain long-term initiatives, undermining the momentum gained from initial community efforts.

The study also highlighted the lack of coordination among stakeholders, which accounted for 20% of the challenges faced. Fragmented efforts and the duplication of activities led to inefficiencies in resource allocation and hindered the overall effectiveness of conservation strategies. A more coordinated approach among government agencies, NGOs, and community organisations was identified as essential for maximising impact.

Misinformation and misconceptions about water conservation posed significant challenges, affecting 25% of the surveyed population. These barriers not only undermined trust in conservation initiatives but also complicated effective communication. Continuous education and awareness programs were deemed necessary to address false information and promote a better-informed community.
The study found that implementing early warning systems, alongside climate-resilient infrastructure, significantly enhanced the resilience of local communities. By providing timely information about climate-related risks, communities were better equipped to respond to potential threats to their water resources.

Moreover, integrating traditional knowledge with scientific information improved the effectiveness of climate adaptation measures. Local communities possess valuable insights and practices that have evolved

over generations, and combining these with modern scientific approaches creates a more holistic framework for addressing climate challenges.

The study recommended establishing multi-stakeholder platforms for information sharing and joint decision-making. These platforms would foster collaboration and promote the sharing of information, resources, and effective methods among stakeholders. Clear communication and transparency in stakeholder interactions were emphasised as vital for building trust and cooperation, ultimately leading to more sustainable outcomes.

In light of the findings, the study advocates for an all-encompassing strategy for managing water resources that prioritises community engagement, addresses barriers to participation, and leverages collaborative networks. Future initiatives should focus on enhancing access to information, securing funding for conservation projects, and promoting coordinated efforts among stakeholders. Continuous education and awareness programs must be implemented to dispel misinformation and empower communities to take active roles in the stewardship of the Nairobi River.

The results of this research highlight the important function of tailored communication strategies, community engagement, and joint initiatives in the preservation and rehabilitation of the Nairobi River's water resources. By tackling the recognised obstacles and utilising the strengths of local communities, stakeholders can work towards sustainable water management practices that ensure the health of the river and the well-being of those who depend on it.

Discussion

The results of this research emphasise the important function of tailored communication strategies in fostering community participation in conservation efforts, particularly concerning the Nairobi River. Unlike previous research that may have emphasised generic communication approaches, this study highlights the importance of local context, demonstrating that strategies such as the use of local languages, culturally relevant messages, and multimedia platforms significantly enhance engagement and effectiveness. This localised approach contrasts with existing literature, which often adopts a one-size-fits-all methodology, neglecting the unique cultural and social dynamics of specific communities. By focusing on the nuances of the Nairobi context, this research provides a fresh perspective that challenges the conventional wisdom of previous scholars who have not adequately accounted for the diversity of community experiences and needs in conservation communication.

Moreover, the study reveals that community engagement and empowerment are not merely beneficial but essential for fostering a sense of ownership and responsibility toward environmental conservation. The participation of women and young people in decision-making processes surfaced as a key finding, aligning with the work of scholars like McKinney et al. (2019), who have emphasised the importance of inclusive governance in environmental management. However, this study extends their work by providing empirical evidence from the Nairobi context, illustrating how local initiatives, such as cleanup drives and educational workshops, can effectively raise awareness and promote sustainable practices. This focus on grassroots involvement challenges previous narratives that often overlook the potential of local communities as active agents of change, instead portraying them as passive recipients of externally imposed conservation

strategies. Despite these advancements, the study also identifies significant challenges and barriers that resonate with findings from other research in the field. Limited access to information, insufficient funding, and lack of coordination among stakeholders are persistent issues that have been documented in various studies. However, what sets this study apart is its emphasis on the necessity of adaptive communication strategies to address these barriers. By integrating traditional knowledge with scientific information, the study illustrates a pathway for enhancing the resilience of local communities in the face of climate change impacts. This dual approach not only validates previous scholarship that advocates for the inclusion of indigenous knowledge in environmental management but also offers a practical framework for implementation that has been lacking in prior studies.

Furthermore, the results highlight the importance of effective collaboration among government agencies, non-governmental organisations, local communities, and the private sector. While previous works have acknowledged the significance of multi-stakeholder collaboration (e.g., Ostrom, 1990), this study provides concrete recommendations for establishing platforms for information sharing and joint decision-making specific to the Nairobi context. By advocating for clear communication and transparency in stakeholder interactions, the research challenges earlier studies that have not sufficiently addressed the mechanisms through which trust and cooperation can be fostered among diverse actors. This focus on practical strategies for collaboration is crucial, as it moves beyond theoretical discussions to provide practical recommendations that can result in more sustainable conservation results.

This contributes to the existing body of literature by emphasising the importance of context-specific communication strategies, community empowerment, and adaptive approaches to overcoming barriers in conservation efforts. While it aligns with previous research highlighting the need for inclusivity and collaboration, it challenges scholars to rethink traditional methodologies and frameworks that have often failed to account for the complexities of local contexts. By providing empirical evidence from the Nairobi River case study, this research not only fills a gap in the literature but also serves as a model for future studies aiming to enhance community engagement in environmental conservation.

Let it be enough to note that the findings from this study provide valuable insights into the role of communication strategies in enhancing community participation in conservation efforts. By emphasising the importance of local context and adaptive approaches, this research challenges existing paradigms and provides a nuanced insight into the interactions occurring in the Nairobi River's conservation efforts. As climate change increasingly threatens water resources, the findings from this study can inform future initiatives aimed at fostering sustainable practices and empowering local communities in their stewardship of natural resources. Future research should continue to explore the interplay between communication, community engagement, and environmental conservation, building on the foundational insights presented in this study.

Investing in communication infrastructure, such as community radio stations and mobile communication networks, to improve information access and real-time communication. Developing mobile apps and online platforms for information dissemination and community engagement. Implementing training programs for community leaders, local government officials, and other stakeholders to enhance their communication skills and knowledge of water conservation and climate adaptation. Promoting peer-to-

peer learning and knowledge exchange among communities. Developing policies and regulations that support effective communication and stakeholder engagement in conservation efforts. Offering financial and technical assistance to community members and organisations involved in conservation activities.

5.0 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Conclusion: The results show that using context-sensitive communication strategies, such as involving vernacular languages and locally specific messages, considerably improves community engagement and ownership perception by the locals. With emphasis on both conventional and digital media channels, this has the potential to engage a wider range of stakeholders to broaden the conversation around water resource management. Additionally, the engagement of local communities in conservation strategies, including women and youth, has been crucial for promoting sustainability in these efforts. These initiatives not only raise awareness about the state of the river but also bring residents together with a common purpose of taking initiative towards accountability as custodians of the Nairobi River, thus strengthening conservation.

But the study also highlights crucial obstacles that need to be addressed in order to enhance the efficiency of conservation. It does not come without serious hurdles. Limited access to information, poor funding, insufficient coordination among relevant actors, and the pervasiveness of misinformation are steep challenges that can stymie progress. Multi-stakeholder platforms for collaboration and information sharing should be established to address these barriers. Such platforms allow synergising of top-down and bottom-up approaches for pooling diverse expertise, optimising resource allocation, and enabling joint decision-making, leading to environmentally sound and just conservation strategies. Given the effects of climate change on this source, communicative strategies should be adaptive. When combining indigenous practices with Western knowledge, it stretches the response of communities working with environmental factors. Thus, it is essential to establish ongoing education and awareness initiatives to provide communities with the information and resources they require for making informed choices.

Recommendations: Overall, the results of this study highlight the significance of comprehensive water resource management that includes community engagement, considers existing barriers, and encourages collaboration between different sectors. These strategies will be a big step towards a sustainable future for the Nairobi River and the communities that rely on its vital resources. The future of conservation on the Nairobi River will depend on the engagement and dedication of different players so that the river can continue to be a source of life.

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