

## **April Update of the Watamu Association**

WAC has been sharing the WA updates on its membership newsletter.

The KWS has proposed sweeping and vague ways of raising park fees for various activities. This is seen as a threat to all tourist-based enterprises as well as resident's rights. A petition against the rise is being circulated and the WA has put it on its social media and will be putting it on its website. Gathering ideas on how the KWS can raise funds in other ways and writing a letter to The Minister of Tourism, Balala, were discussed.

Wallas Garland, the committee member for Power, has been diligently gathering data on power outages for a very long time. The committee asked him to find a way to follow up on the letter sent to KPLC at the last AGM and to ascertain if a repair crew could be based in Watamu, helping facilitate quicker repair times and possibly saving the KPLC money on transport costs.

Steve Trot is the committee member for waste Management. He told the meeting that EcoWorld is successfully collecting rubbish from private homes and hotels in Watamu and has plans to expand to other areas in Kilifi County.

He told the committee that the WMA and Ecoworld Recycling are through to the finals of the Afri-Plastics Challenge, which is a Canadian government funding initiative to support governments and organizations working to reduce marine litter and plastic pollution in sub-Saharan Africa. From 234 applicants, the Watamu team is now in the final 15 which is a great accolade for Watamu Waste Management and all of its efforts. The plan is to now scale up plastic recycling in Watamu and Kilifi County towns.

Steve Trot will send information to the WA social media and website on how households can sign up for the EcoWorld recyclable collection. He will also send information to the WA media explaining that the WA sponsors waste clean-up for the main road and that if people want to have a specific site cleaned up, they can contact Ecoworld to pay for that area to be cleaned.

Soon Ecoworld will be collecting e-waste, such as printers, lap tops and other electronics.

The number to contact EcoWorld is: 0722 724 569

Steve Trot told the meeting that the KWS is working with Little Gardens of Kenya on procurement of Starlicide to help eradicate the crows.

Emma Wilkenson has had a WA membership drive poster made and will be posting them at various shops, hotels and property management companies as well as the WA social media.

Mtana Kasinya informed the committee that members have been asking him to pay their rates and other service-related issues. Please be advised that the WA does not provide personal services of that kind.

Eric van der Linden kindly offered the assistance of WAC employee, Perris, to help confirm which WA members have paid their dues and which have not.

Sharif Athman Said suggested that work on roads, street lights and crow control will probably be delayed until after the elections in August.