



**REPUBLIC OF KENYA**  
**MINISTRY OF ROADS AND TRANSPORT**  
**STATE DEPARTMENT FOR ROADS**

**CLIMATE RESILIENT ROADS:  
GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE**

Eng. James M. Kung'u

**CHIEF ENGINEER  
ROADS**

MARCH, 2025

# AFRICA & KENYA

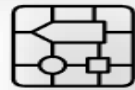


## AFRICA AT A GLANCE

- **Geography:** Second-largest continent spanning 30.4 million km<sup>2</sup>, with 54 countries across diverse ecological zones
- **Population:** 1.4 billion people (2023), the world's youngest population with median age of 19.7 years
- **Regional Integration:** AfCFTA (African Continental Free Trade Area) success depends on quality transportation networks
- **Economic Growth:** 5 of the world's 10 fastest-growing economies, with infrastructure development as a key enabler. Key Sectors include Mining, Energy production, services sector, Tourism and Hospitality



## Kenya At a Glance



### Strategic Position

Gateway to East Africa, key hub for the 177M-strong EAC market  
Nairobi: Regional diplomatic and business hub



### Geography

580,367 km<sup>2</sup> with diverse landscapes (coastal plains, highlands)  
53.8M people (2023), 28% urban concentration.



### Economy

Leading in agriculture, tourism, and tech innovation ("Silicon Savannah")  
Mombasa: Major port and trade gateway to East Africa



### Infrastructure Vision

240,000 km road network 11% paved, 42% Gravel and 47% Earth  
Development guided by SDG 3,9 and 11  
Kenya Vision 2030 BETA & AU Agenda 2063.

# Key issues and challenges on the infrastructure development in Kenya.



## 1. Physical Risks

- **Heat Damage:** Joint buckling, bitumen deterioration, surface dressing failures.
- **Storms & Flooding:** Overwhelmed drainage, infrastructure damage.
- **2024 El Niño:** Bridge overtopping, road section washouts; \$287M (KES 37.3Bn) repairs.

## 2. Transitory Risks (EV Adoption)

- **Fuel Levy Loss:** Less fuel consumption affects Roads Maintenance Fuel Levy (RMFL).
- **Vehicle & Battery Disposal:** Environmental & logistical challenges.

## 3. Geographical Disparities

- **Poor Road Access:** Northern regions Rural Access Index (RAI) 11 vs. national 60.

## 4. Materials Shortage

- **Gravel Depletion:** 42% of roads rely on gravel, but supplies are dwindling



# Key issues and challenges on infrastructure development in Kenya.

## 5. Funding Gaps

- 20-30% budget deficits in annual road development budgets.

## 6. Aging Infrastructure & Standards

- Outdated design standards don't fully address climate change.
- Limited use of alternative materials & methods.

## 7. Knowledge & Human Capacity Gaps

- Few experts in climate resilience & modelling.
- Limited road user education on climate adaptation.

## 7. Road Safety

- ~3,000 fatalities annually due to poor safety infrastructure

## 8. Rural Connectivity

- Last-mile access remains a challenge in farming areas.



# Vision & New initiatives

## 1. Roads Sector Investment Programme (2023-2027)

- Medium-term plan for National & County roads.
- Shifts from reactive repairs to proactive maintenance.

## 2. Climate-Resilient Bridges Project

- Strengthens national trunk roads to withstand heavy rains.
- Upgrades 22 bridges and desilts culverts for better drainage.

## 3. Climate Change Integration in Road Projects

- Vulnerability assessments now included in road planning.
- Isiolo-Mandera Road assessment provides key adaptation insights.

## 4. Tree Planting Initiative

- Kenya targets 15 billion trees by 2032.
- Ministry of Roads & Transport to plant 5.6 million trees annually.

## 5. Transition to Electric Mobility (By 2050)

- 5,000 EV charging stations to be deployed.
- 10,000 EV government vehicles in service.
- 10,000 electric buses for public transport.
- 30% of new vehicle registrations to be Evs

## 6. Development of new Road Design Manuals

- New Road & Bridge Design manuals that integrate climate change consideration currently under development



# Successful example and best case

## Isiolo-Mandera Road Project (740 km)

- Isiolo-Mandera Road Corridor (HoAGDP) is a critical transport link in arid Kenya. Project is ongoing under World Bank funding. Security concerns near the Somali border may hinder maintenance.
- **Climate Change Hazards & Impacts**
  - **Flooding:** Frequent washouts, waterlogging, and impassable roads
  - **Erosion & Scour:** Degradation of embankments and road base
  - **High Temperatures:** Accelerated pavement wear and maintenance issues\*
  - **Rainfall Increase:** 3-6% rise in daily maximum rainfall projected by 2090\*
  - **Storm Frequency:** 100-year storms could occur every 85 years by 2050\*

\*World Bank. (2018). *Increasing Climate Resiliency of Kenya's Road Network: Interim Report 2*. August 2018.

# Successful example and best case



- **Priority Adaptation Interventions**

- **Flood Protection:** Gabion installations, stone pitching, and improved drainage
- **Bridge Reinforcement:** Geotextiles and riprap to prevent scour damage
- **Overtopping Prevention:** Raised roadways and additional culverts
- **Sedimentation Control:** Routine maintenance to clear sand deposits
- **Lorian Swamp Stability:** Geo-textiles and gentle embankment slopes (1:3).

- **Road Network Management & Institutional Strategies**

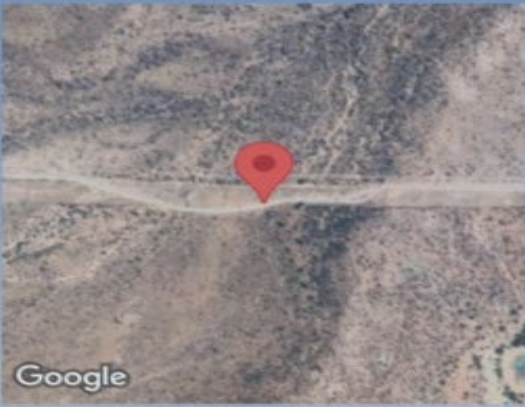
- **Data Collection:** Install monitoring stations for rainfall and streamflow.
- **Emergency Response Plans:** It is proposed to stockpile repair materials at Mado Gashi and Mandera depots.
- **Resilient Asset Management:** Update hydrological models to factor in climate change.

# Successful example and best case



- **Socio-Economic Benefits**
  - **Reduced Economic Losses:** Prevents costly road closures and trade disruptions.
  - **Long-Term Cost Savings:** Investing in resilience lowers future maintenance expenses.
  - **Regional Connectivity:** Ensures sustainable development and infrastructure longevity.





Network: 27 Feb 2025 11:48:28 GMT+03:00  
Local: 27 Feb 2025 11:48:30 GMT+03:00  
37N 475373 63188  
242° SW  
Isiolo - Mandera Road  
Isiolo County  
Altitude:363.7m  
Speed:0.0km/h



- Culverts in series km 140-141



- Raised Embankment



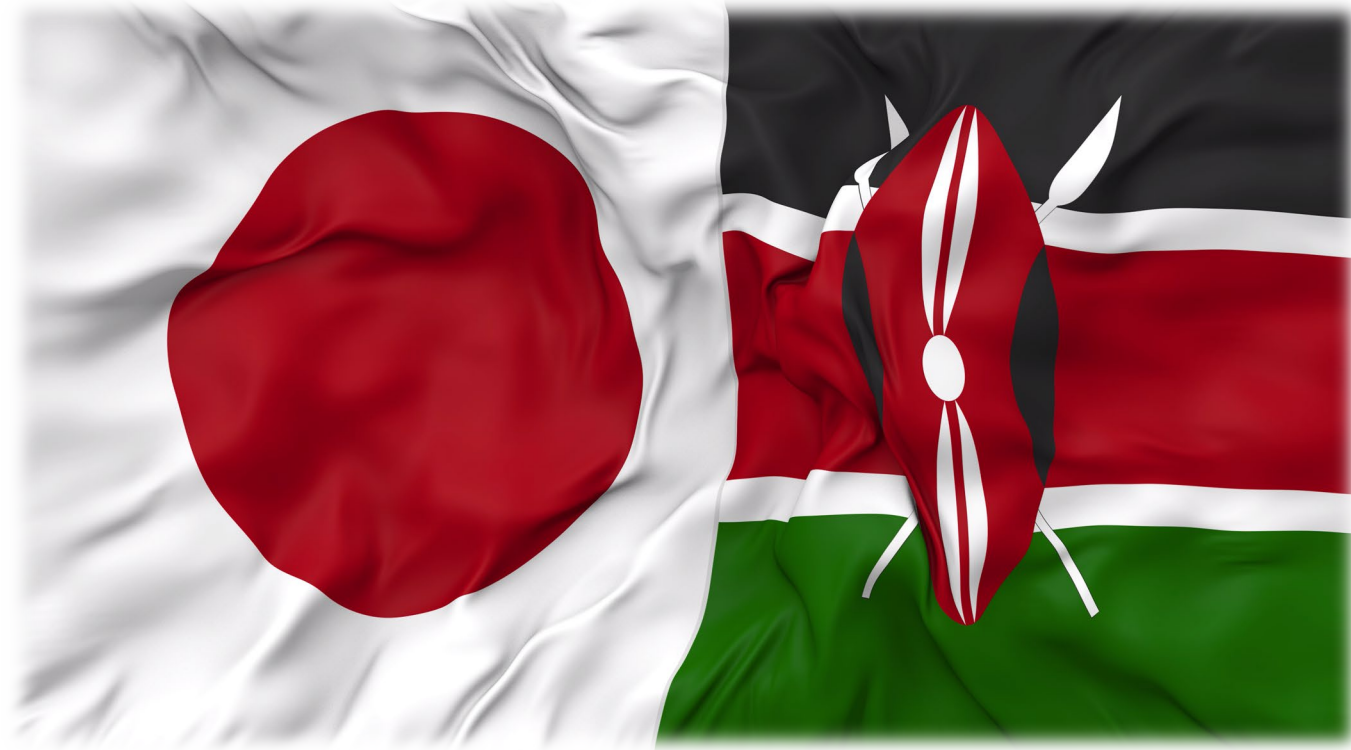
Network: 27 Feb 2025 11:53:08 GMT+03:00  
Local: 27 Feb 2025 11:53:10 GMT+03:00  
37N 475028 63239  
121° SE  
Eldera  
Isiolo County  
Altitude:363.5m  
Speed:0.0km/h



- Triple cell box culvert

# Expectations from the workshop

- **Knowledge Exchange:** Learn international best practices in climate-resilient road technology
- **Technology Assessment:** Identify cost-effective smart infrastructure solutions suitable for developing economies
- **Partnership Development:** Connect with potential development partners and technology providers
- **Capacity Building:** Enhance expertise in emerging road management technologies



**AHSANTE SANA!  
ARIGATŌ GOZAIMASU!  
THANK YOU VERY  
MUCH!**