



REPUBLIC OF KENYA

REGULATORY IMPACT STATEMENT

FOR

THE HYDROLOGISTS (GENERAL) REGULATIONS, 2026

AUGUST 2026

This Regulatory Impact Statement (RIS) has been prepared by the Ministry of Water, Sanitation and Irrigation pursuant to Section 6 and 7 of the Statutory Instruments Act (Cap. 2A).

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This Regulatory Impact Statement (RIS) has been prepared for the Hydrologists (General) Regulations, 2026. The Regulations are made pursuant to the Hydrologists Act (Cap. 372B) and are intended to operationalize the statutory mandate of the Hydrologists Registration Board. The Regulations provide the administrative, technical and professional framework required for the registration, licensing, supervision and development of hydrology practice in Kenya.

The RIS establishes that regulation of hydrology practice is necessary and justified. Hydrological information and professional hydrological advice are used in decisions on water allocation, flood and drought planning, water harvesting and storage infrastructure, public water works, drainage, environmental assessment, climate adaptation and disaster risk reduction. These decisions affect public safety, water security, infrastructure reliability, environmental protection and the constitutional right to clean and safe water in adequate quantities.

The Regulations address a public-interest regulatory gap. Before the effective operationalization of the Hydrologists Act (Cap. 372B) through subsidiary legislation, there is limited enforceable control over who may hold themselves out as hydrologists, the competency requirements for professional practice, the certification of hydrological reports, continuing professional development, professional ethics and disciplinary accountability. These gaps increase the risk of inconsistent hydrological reporting, weak professional accountability, poor-quality technical inputs to public decisions and reduced confidence in hydrological services.

The Regulations strengthen the Hydrologists Registration Board as the statutory professional regulator for hydrology. The Board is established by law to regulate, coordinate and oversee the practice of hydrology. Through these Regulations, the Board will be able to administer registration categories, annual practising licences, official identification documents, continuing professional development, complaints and disciplinary procedures, recognition of institutions offering hydrological programmes, report certification and professional ethics. These are normal and necessary regulatory functions for a statutory professional body.

The RIS further finds that the Regulations complement existing water-sector institutions. The Water Resources Authority regulates water resources and water-use permits; the National Environment Management Authority oversees environmental impact assessment and environmental compliance; the Engineers Board of Kenya regulates engineering practice; and county governments undertake local water, stormwater, drainage and disaster-management functions. The Hydrologists Registration Board does not replace these institutions. It strengthens the professional competence and accountability of hydrological inputs used by these institutions.

Implementation of the Regulations will require administrative, technical and operational resources. These include digital registration and licensing systems, staffing, stakeholder sensitization, continuing professional development administration, hydrological report certification, complaints handling, inspections, recognition of institutions offering hydrological programmes and coordination with relevant institutions. These resource requirements are necessary for the effective operationalization of the Hydrologists Act (Cap. 372B) and for the delivery of transparent, efficient and accountable regulatory services. Fees prescribed under the Regulations facilitate cost recovery and sustainability of the Board's regulatory functions, while remaining subject to periodic review, stakeholder consultation and public participation in accordance with the Statutory Instruments Act, (Cap. 2A).

The preferred regulatory option is the adoption and implementation of the Hydrologists (General) Regulations, 2026. Non-regulatory measures and voluntary guidelines alone do not provide an enforceable framework for public protection, professional accountability, title assurance, report certification or disciplinary control. The Regulations provide the most effective mechanism for achieving the statutory objectives of the Hydrologists Act and strengthening Kenya's water governance and climate resilience framework.

Key RIS element	Finding in this statement
Need for regulation	Hydrological work affects public water security, infrastructure safety, climate resilience and environmental protection. Regulation is necessary to protect the public interest.
Role of HRB	HRB is the statutory professional regulator established to regulate, coordinate and oversee hydrology practice. The Regulations provide the tools needed to discharge this mandate.
Main regulatory effect	The Regulations establish registration, licensing, CPD, hydrological report certification, equipment standards, complaints and discipline, professional titles, official documents and ethical obligations.
Expected benefits	Improved professional accountability, better hydrological report quality, stronger public confidence, better water-resource decisions and support for climate-resilient infrastructure.
Expected costs	Administrative and compliance costs for HRB, practitioners, public and institutions. These costs are necessary for cost recovery, regulatory sustainability and public protection.
Regulatory conclusion	The Regulations are necessary, reasonable and aligned with the Hydrologists Act, the Constitution, the Water Act, the Climate Change Act and the Statutory Instruments Act.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	2
1. INTRODUCTION	6
2. REGULATORY IMPACT STATEMENT	6
2.1 WHAT IS REGULATORY IMPACT STATEMENT?	6
2.2 REQUIREMENTS OF THE STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS ACT	7
2.3 REGULATORY-MAKING AUTHORITY AND THE LEGAL MANDATE	8
3. STATEMENT OF THE OBJECTIVES OF THE PROPOSED LEGISLATION AND THE REASONS FOR THE PROPOSED REGULATIONS	8
3.1 Purpose of the Hydrologists (General) Regulations, 2026.....	8
3.2 Objectives of the Regulations	9
4. BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT OF THE HYDROLOGISTS (GENERAL) REGULATIONS, 2026	9
4.1 Background to the Hydrologists Act (Cap. 372B) and the Board	9
4.2 Hydrology and National Water Security	10
4.3 Climate variability, floods and droughts.....	10
4.4 Surface water and infrastructure decisions	10
4.5 Linkage with water harvesting, storage and flood-control infrastructure	11
4.6 Benchmarking.....	11
4.7 Benchmarking findings.....	12
5. EVALUATION OF THE PROBLEM	12
5.1 Existing scenario.....	12
5.2 Nature of the Problem.....	13
5.3 Quantitative and evidence dimension.....	13
5.4 Consequences of not regulating	14
6. POLICY AND LEGAL FRAMEWORK FOR THE PROPOSED REGULATIONS.....	14
6.1 The Constitutional of Kenya, 2010	15
6.2 The Hydrologists Act (Cap. 372B).....	15
6.3 The Water Act, 2016	15
6.4 Climate Change Act, 2016 and Climate Policy	16
6.5 Statutory Instruments Act, (Cap. 2A)	16
6.6 Institutional Framework.....	16
7. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AND CONSULTATIONS	17
7.1 LEGAL BASIS FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AND CONSULTATIONS.....	17
7.2 THE PROCESS OF PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AND CONSULTATIONS.....	18
7.3 <i>Public Consultation Approach and Methodology</i>	19
7.4 <i>Analysis and Feedback</i>	20
8. OVERVIEW OF THE PROPOSED REGULATIONS	20
8.1 Scope of the Regulatory Framework.....	20

8.2	Statement of effect of the proposed Regulations	21
8.3	Justification for the Regulations	21
9.	REGULATORY AND NON-REGULATORY OPTIONS AND REASONS WHY OTHER OPTIONS ARE NOT APPROPRIATE	23
9.1	THE ALTERNATIVES	23
9.1.1	<i>Option one: status quo</i>	<i>23</i>
9.1.2	<i>Option two: Application of administrative measures</i>	<i>23</i>
9.1.3	<i>Option Three: Adoption of the Proposed Regulations</i>	<i>23</i>
9.2	SOCIAL-ECONOMIC, ENVIRONMENTAL AND GOVERNANCE IMPACTS. 24	
9.2.1	<i>Impact on Hydrology Professionals</i>	<i>24</i>
9.2.2	<i>Impact on Project Proponents</i>	<i>24</i>
9.2.3	<i>Impact on Public Institutions</i>	<i>24</i>
9.2.4	<i>Impact on Communities and Water Users</i>	<i>24</i>
9.2.5	<i>Environmental and Climate Impacts.....</i>	<i>24</i>
9.3	COST BENEFIT ANALYSIS.....	25
9.3.1	<i>Overview</i>	<i>25</i>
9.3.2	<i>Implementation Costs</i>	<i>25</i>
9.3.3	<i>Indicative Public Implementation Cost Range</i>	<i>26</i>
9.3.4	<i>Benefits of the Regulations.....</i>	<i>27</i>
9.3.5	<i>Net Benefit Statement</i>	<i>28</i>
9.4	PREFERRED OPTION	28
10.	COMPLIANCE AND IMPLEMENTATION	29
10.1	Implementation approach	29
10.2	Compliance and enforcement tools.....	30
10.3	Coordination with Related Institutions.....	30
10.4	Monitoring, Evaluation and Review.....	31
11.	CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION	32
11.1	Conclusion.....	32
11.2	Recommendation.....	33

1. INTRODUCTION

This Regulatory Impact Statement assesses the anticipated impact of implementing the Hydrologists (General) Regulations, 2026. It is prepared to support the making of subsidiary legislation under the Hydrologists Act (Cap. 372B) and to demonstrate that the proposed regulatory framework is necessary, proportionate and in the public interest.

Sections 6 and 7 of the Statutory Instruments Act require a regulation-making authority to prepare a regulatory impact statement where a proposed statutory instrument is likely to impose significant costs on the community or a section of the community. The statement is required to state the objectives of the proposed legislation, explain its effects, identify practicable alternatives, assess costs and benefits, provide reasons for rejecting alternative means, and support public participation and parliamentary scrutiny. The Hydrologists (General) Regulations, 2026 affect hydrologists, hydrological assistants, consultant hydrologists, temporary registrants, public institutions, project proponents, training institutions and the public. The Regulations therefore require a clear statement of their purpose, effect, costs, benefits and implementation arrangements.

This RIS has been prepared through a review of the Hydrologists Act (Cap. 372B), the draft Hydrologists (General) Regulations, 2026, the existing Hydrologists Regulatory Impact Statement, relevant Kenyan legal and policy frameworks, and international professional-regulation models. The assessment also considers the functions of institutions that interact with hydrological practice, including the Water Resources Authority, National Environment Management Authority, Engineers Board of Kenya, Water Harvesting and Storage Authority, County governments and training institutions. The assessment uses both qualitative and quantitative reasoning. Quantitative evidence is used where available, including national water-demand projections and implementation cost ranges. Where precise administrative data are not yet available, the RIS identifies the data gap and incorporates monitoring indicators to guide future review.

2. REGULATORY IMPACT STATEMENT

2.1 WHAT IS REGULATORY IMPACT STATEMENT?

RIS is a systematic policy tool used to examine and measure the benefits, costs, and effects of new or existing regulations. A RIS is an analytical report to assist decision makers. As an aid to decision making RIS includes an evaluation of possible alternative regulatory and non-regulatory approaches with the overall aim of ensuring that the final selected regulatory approach provides the greatest net public

benefit. Typically, the structure of a RIS should contain the following elements:

- (a) title of the proposal;
- (b) the objective and intended effect of the regulatory framework;
- (c) an evaluation of the policy problem;
- (d) consideration of alternative options;
- (e) assessment of all their impacts distribution;
- (f) results of public consultation;
- (g) compliance strategies, and
- (h) processes for monitoring and evaluation.

RIS is usually conducted before a new government regulation is introduced to provide a detailed and systematic appraisal of the potential impact of a new regulation to assess whether the regulation is likely to achieve the desired objectives. RIS promotes evidence-based policymaking as new regulations typically lead to numerous impacts that are often difficult to foresee. The RIS should confirm whether a proposed regulation is welfare-enhancing, in that, the benefits will surpass costs. RIS therefore has objectives of improving understanding of the real-world impact of regulatory action, including both the benefits and the costs of action, integrating multiple policy objectives, improving transparency and consultation; and enhancing governmental accountability.

2.2 REQUIREMENTS OF THE STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS ACT

The Statutory Instruments Act, (Cap. 2A) is the legal framework governing the conduct of RIS in Kenya. Sections 6 and 7 require that *if a proposed statutory instrument is likely to impose significant costs on the community or a part of the community, the regulation-making authority shall, prior to making the statutory instrument, prepare a regulatory impact statement about the instrument.*

The Act further sets out certain key elements that must be contained in the RIS namely:

- (a) statement of the objectives of the proposed legislation and the reasons;
- (b) statement explaining the effect of the proposed legislation;
- (c) statement of other practicable means of achieving those objectives, including other regulatory as well as non-regulatory options;
- (d) an assessment of the costs and benefits of the proposed statutory rule and of any other practicable means of achieving the same objectives; and

- (e) the reasons why the other means are not appropriate.

Section 5 of the Act requires a regulation-making authority to conduct public consultations drawing on the knowledge of persons having expertise in fields relevant to the proposed statutory instrument and ensuring that persons likely to be affected by the proposed statutory instrument are given an adequate opportunity to comment on its proposed content.

2.3 REGULATORY-MAKING AUTHORITY AND THE LEGAL MANDATE

Section 35 of the Hydrologists Act (Cap. 372B), provides that the Cabinet Secretary, may make regulations generally for the better carrying out of the provisions of the Act and more specifically, regulations that provide for the issue of certificates of registration and annual licences; the fees to be paid for anything which may be done under this Act; the forms to be used under the Act and the prescribing of anything which may be prescribed under the Act.

The proposed Hydrologists (General) Regulations, 2026 is a statutory instrument which seeks to operationalize the Hydrologists Act and strengthen professional regulation of hydrology practice in Kenya. The Regulations intend to protect the public by ensuring that hydrological services and reports are provided by competent, licensed and accountable practitioners and support water security, climate resilience, infrastructure safety, environmental protection and public confidence in water-sector decisions.

The Cabinet Secretary has prepared this Regulatory Impact Statement (RIS) and undertaken public consultations, in partial fulfilment of the requirements of the Statutory Instruments Act, (Cap. 2A). These Regulations have financial implications which are likely to impose costs on a sector which plays a key role in Kenya's socio-economic development.

3. STATEMENT OF THE OBJECTIVES OF THE PROPOSED LEGISLATION AND THE REASONS FOR THE PROPOSED REGULATIONS

3.1 Purpose of the Hydrologists (General) Regulations, 2026

The purpose of the Hydrologists (General) Regulations, 2026 is to operationalize the Hydrologists Act (Cap. 372B) by establishing a clear, enforceable and administratively workable framework for regulating hydrology practice in Kenya. The Regulations prescribe requirements for entry into the profession, annual licensing, professional conduct, report certification, continuing professional development, complaints handling, program recognition and related matters necessary for effective professional

oversight.

3.2 Objectives of the Regulations

The objectives of the Regulations are to:

- (a) provide clear procedures for registration and licensing of hydrology professionals.
- (b) promote professional competence, accountability and ethical conduct in hydrology practice;
- (c) establish a reliable framework for preparation, signing, stamping, submission and certification of hydrological reports used in public-interest decisions;
- (d) promote continuous professional development to maintain and improve professional competence;
- (e) provide mechanisms for complaints, inquiry, discipline, review and appeal in accordance with fair administrative action;
- (f) support standardization of hydrological equipment, data, reporting and professional documentation;
- (g) strengthen public confidence in hydrological services and protect the public from unqualified or unethical practice; and
- (h) support sustainable water resources management, climate resilience, disaster risk reduction and safe water infrastructure.

4. BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT OF THE HYDROLOGISTS (GENERAL) REGULATIONS, 2026

4.1 Background to the Hydrologists Act (Cap. 372B) and the Board

The Hydrologists Act (Cap. 372B), establishes the Hydrologists Registration Board as the body responsible for regulating, coordinating and overseeing the practice of hydrology in Kenya. The Act provides for the registration and licensing of hydrologists and for connected purposes. Section 35 empowers the Cabinet Secretary to make regulations for the better carrying out of the provisions of the Act.

The Hydrologists (General) Regulations, 2026 give practical effect to the Act. They prescribe the procedures, categories, forms, fees, professional obligations and administrative mechanisms required for effective regulation. Without these Regulations, important provisions of the Act remain difficult to

implement in a consistent, transparent and enforceable manner.

The Board's regulatory role is especially important because hydrology is a public-interest profession. Hydrological studies and reports are used to support water permits, infrastructure design, water harvesting and storage, drainage works, flood-risk assessment, drought planning and environmental decision-making. Professional regulation therefore supports public safety, sustainable water management and responsible investment.

4.2 Hydrology and National Water Security

Kenya's water security depends on sound hydrological knowledge. Hydrological assessments are used to estimate water availability, catchment yield, flood peaks, drought severity, water storage requirements, environmental flows and infrastructure design parameters. These assessments guide decisions by government agencies, counties, utilities, developers, communities and courts.

The National Water Master Plan 2030 shows that Kenya's water demand is increasing substantially. It projects total annual water demand rising from approximately 3,218 million cubic meters per year in 2010 to approximately 21,468 million cubic meters per year in 2030. This increase raises the importance of reliable hydrological planning, allocation and infrastructure decisions. As demand grows, errors in hydrological assessment create larger public and economic consequences.

4.3 Climate variability, floods and droughts

Kenya experiences recurrent droughts and floods. Climate variability affects rainfall patterns, runoff generation, storage reliability and water demand. Hydrological expertise is therefore essential for climate adaptation, early warning, drought planning, flood-risk mapping, reservoir operation and design of resilient infrastructure.

Professional regulation supports climate resilience by ensuring that hydrological assessments used in planning and design are prepared by competent practitioners who apply current methods, disclose assumptions and are accountable for their work. It also supports continuing professional development in emerging areas such as climate-risk analysis, remote sensing, hydrological modelling, hydroinformatics and uncertainty assessment.

4.4 Surface water and infrastructure decisions

Surface water systems require technical assessment before development or allocation. Hydrological and reports are used in water-use permitting, borehole development, aquifer assessment, river abstraction,

water pans, dams, reservoirs, stormwater systems, drainage and flood-control works. Weak hydrological input can result in failed investments, unsafe infrastructure, unsustainable abstraction, environmental harm and disputes among users.

The Regulations contribute to improved decision-making by establishing a professional accountability framework for the hydrological inputs used in these activities. They do not determine the final regulatory approvals made by Water Resources Authority, National Environmental Management Authority, counties or other authorities. They ensure that the hydrological work submitted to those authorities is prepared by identifiable, licensed and accountable professionals.

4.5 Linkage with water harvesting, storage and flood-control infrastructure

Hydrological competence is especially relevant to water harvesting and storage infrastructure. Dams, reservoirs, water pans, flood-control channels, stormwater systems and hydraulic structures depend on accurate estimates of catchment yield, design flood, runoff, sedimentation, storage reliability, drainage characteristics and extreme-event risk. Professional regulation of hydrologists strengthens the quality of the technical inputs used in such works.

The Regulations therefore complement the regulatory framework for national water harvesting and storage. They provide the professional assurance needed for hydrological studies that support water storage, flood management, drought resilience and public water works. This improves public confidence in infrastructure planning and reduces the risk of poorly supported design or siting decisions.

4.6 Benchmarking

Benchmarking confirms that the regulation of technical professions involved in water, environment, geoscience, infrastructure and public safety is common internationally. Different jurisdictions use different institutional models, but the underlying regulatory tools are similar: registration, protected titles, competence standards, CPD, public registers, ethics and discipline.

Jurisdiction / model	Regulatory approach	Relevance to the Hydrologists Regulations
South Africa - SACNASP	Statutory registration of natural science practitioners by field of practice, including water-resources-related fields.	Demonstrates that statutory professional regulation of scientific practitioners is an accepted public-interest model in Africa.
Canada - Professional	Provincial regulation of	Shows the value of public

Geoscience Regulation	professional geoscientists with education, experience, ethics and public-register requirements.	registers, protected professional status and competence-based entry for water-related geoscience work.
United Kingdom - CIWEM and BHS	Professional chartership, additional registrations and consultant registers for water and environmental professionals.	Provides a benchmark for CPD, professional review, ethical standards and public identification of competent practitioners.
Australia - Professional Accreditation Models	Competency-based recognition and professional registration in geoscience and engineering-related fields.	Supports competency assessment, continuing development and public confidence in technical professionals.
California - Certified Hydrogeologist Model	Specialized certification and public lookup within a broader geology licensing framework.	Demonstrates the use of specialty certification and public verification for water-related technical expertise.

4.7 Benchmarking findings

The benchmarking exercise confirms that Kenya’s approach is consistent with recognized professional-regulation practice. Hydrology may be regulated through different institutional models in other countries, but the core regulatory principles are consistent. Public authorities require reliable technical professionals where scientific work affects public safety, natural resources, infrastructure and public investment.

The Hydrologists (General) Regulations, 2026 incorporate these principles through registration categories, annual licensing, public identification, Continuing Professional Development programs, report certification, complaints handling, discipline and ethics. The Regulations adapt these principles to Kenya’s statutory context, water-security needs and climate-resilience priorities.

5. EVALUATION OF THE PROBLEM

This Part identifies the problem to be solved, giving evidence of its nature and the magnitude, and explaining why it has arisen.

5.1 Existing scenario

Hydrology is already embedded in public and private decision-making in Kenya. Hydrological reports and assessments support applications for water-use permits, infrastructure planning, environmental

approvals, drainage works, water storage projects and disaster-risk planning. However, the profession requires a fully operational regulatory framework to ensure that the individuals preparing and certifying such work meet recognized standards of competence, ethics and accountability.

The existing situation creates uncertainty for clients, regulators and the public. Without a robust register and licensing system, it is difficult to verify whether a person presenting themselves as a hydrologist is properly qualified, licensed, up to date with professional development and subject to disciplinary control. Without clear report certification requirements, there is limited traceability of responsibility for hydrological conclusions used in public-interest decisions.

5.2 Nature of the Problem

The problem has five dimensions. First, there is information asymmetry: clients and public authorities may not have the technical capacity to assess the quality of hydrological work before relying on it. Second, there are externalities: poor hydrological work can affect communities, downstream users, ecosystems and infrastructure users who are not parties to the consultancy contract. Third, there is an accountability gap: without enforceable registration, licensing, stamping, complaints and discipline, professional responsibility is harder to trace.

Fourth, there is a challenge of competence and skills-development. Hydrology is increasingly data-driven and requires modern tools such as GIS, remote sensing, hydrological modelling, climate-risk assessment and hydroinformatics. Continuing professional development is necessary to maintain competence. Fifth, there is an institutional coordination challenge because hydrological work intersects with water-resource regulation, environmental approvals, engineering design, geology, county planning and public works.

5.3 Quantitative and evidence dimension

The available national evidence demonstrates the significance of the regulatory problem. Kenya's projected increase in water demand between 2010 and 2030 substantially raises the need for reliable hydrological analysis. WRA processes water-use allocations and relies on technical assessments for water-resource decision-making. Public water infrastructure, water harvesting and storage, flood-control works and climate-resilience programmes all depend on credible hydrological information.

At the time of this draft RIS, a complete public baseline was not available for the number of active hydrologists, the annual number of hydrological reports prepared, the number of reports submitted to public agencies, the frequency of report rejection or the number of complaints relating specifically to

hydrological practice. The Regulations address this gap by creating the institutional basis for systematic data collection through registration, licensing, report certification, CPD records, complaints handling and annual reporting.

Evidence area	Available indication	Regulatory relevance
National water demand	National planning documents project major growth in water demand between 2010 and 2030.	Higher demand increases the public value of competent hydrological planning and allocation.
Water abstraction/obstruction/use permitting	Water-resource management decisions depend on hydrological and related technical assessments.	Registered and licensed professionals improve traceability and reliability of technical submissions.
Water infrastructure	Water harvesting, storage, flood-control and drainage works require hydrological inputs.	Report standards and professional accountability reduce the risk of unsafe or inefficient works.
Climate variability	Droughts, floods and rainfall variability affect water availability and infrastructure safety.	CPD and professional standards support modern climate-risk and hydrological methods.
Professional baseline	Publicly complete data on active practitioners, report volumes and complaints are limited.	The Regulations create the regulatory data system required for future monitoring and review.

5.4 Consequences of not regulating

If the Regulations are not implemented, the Hydrologists Act (Cap. 372B) remains only partially operational. The Board lacks the detailed procedures needed to administer registration, licensing, CPD, report certification and discipline. The public continues to rely on a fragmented professional environment in which competence may be difficult to verify and accountability may be weak.

The consequences include continued inconsistency in hydrological reporting, higher risk of unqualified practice, weak enforcement of professional ethics, limited mechanisms for continuous professional development, difficulty in tracing professional responsibility and reduced confidence in hydrological inputs used in public decisions. These outcomes are inconsistent with Kenya's constitutional, statutory and policy obligations on water, environment and climate resilience.

6. POLICY AND LEGAL FRAMEWORK FOR THE PROPOSED REGULATIONS

An evaluation of the legal and policy framework related to the Hydrologists (General) Regulations, 2026

is intended to answer the question whether there is a legal basis for developing the proposed regulations. It is also intended to bring out the context and legal environment within which the proposed regulations are being developed. Statutory instrument proposals should be structured so that all regulatory decisions rigorously respect the principles of rule of law, that is, there must be explicit responsibility demonstrating that a proposed Statutory Instrument is authorized by the respective Act of Parliament and is consistent with the Constitution as well as any treaty or international convention that Kenya is party to. In addition, a proposed Statutory Instrument must complement other legal requirements and be in statutory harmony with the entire statute book.

6.1 The Constitutional of Kenya, 2010

The Regulations are anchored in the Constitution of Kenya. Article 43 recognizes the right to clean and safe water in adequate quantities. Article 21 requires the State to take legislative, policy and other measures to achieve the progressive realization of socio-economic rights. Article 10 requires public participation, accountability, transparency and sustainable development in public governance. Article 69 requires sustainable management and conservation of natural resources and systems of environmental assessment, audit and monitoring.

Hydrological regulation contributes to these constitutional obligations by improving the professional quality and accountability of work that informs water-resource management, infrastructure planning, environmental protection and climate adaptation.

6.2 The Hydrologists Act (Cap. 372B)

The Hydrologists Act (Cap. 372B) provides the immediate statutory basis for the Regulations. It establishes the Hydrologists Registration Board and provides for registration and licensing of hydrologists. The Regulations operationalize the Act by prescribing the categories of registration, application procedures, licensing requirements, fees, official documents, CPD requirements, report certification, complaints handling, disciplinary procedures and the code of conduct.

6.3 The Water Act, 2016

The Water Act, 2016 provides the broader water-resource governance framework. It establishes institutions and mechanisms for water-resource regulation, water-use permitting, conservation and planning. Hydrological studies and reports support implementation of the Water Act by providing the technical basis for decisions on water availability, allocation, abstraction, catchment condition, flood and drought risk systems.

6.4 Climate Change Act, 2016 and Climate Policy

The Climate Change Act requires climate-change considerations to be mainstreamed into planning and decision-making. Hydrological expertise is central to climate adaptation because droughts, floods, water storage, groundwater recharge, catchment yield and design storms are hydrological matters. The Regulations strengthen the professional capacity required to support climate-resilient water planning and infrastructure.

6.5 Statutory Instruments Act, (Cap. 2A)

The Statutory Instruments Act governs the making, scrutiny and implementation of subsidiary legislation. This RIS is prepared to support compliance with the Act by explaining the objectives, effects, alternatives, costs and benefits of the Hydrologists (General) Regulations, 2026. The RIS also supports transparency, public participation, proportionality and parliamentary scrutiny.

6.6 Institutional Framework

The Regulations operate within a multi-institutional water and environmental governance framework. The Hydrologists Registration Board regulates professional competence and conduct in hydrology. WRA regulates water resources and water-use permitting. NEMA regulates environmental impact assessment and environmental compliance. EBK and GRB regulate adjacent engineering and geoscience professions. Counties and water agencies implement water, drainage, storage and disaster-risk functions. The Regulations enhance this institutional framework by ensuring that hydrological inputs are prepared by accountable professionals.

Institution	Role in water/environment governance	How the Regulations complement the role
Hydrologists Registration Board	Regulates, coordinates and oversees hydrology practice.	Provides professional registration, licensing, CPD, report certification, discipline and public verification.
Water Resources Authority	Regulates water resources, water-use allocation and monitoring.	Receives stronger hydrological inputs from licensed and accountable professionals.
National Environment Management Authority	Oversees environmental assessment and compliance.	Benefits from standardized hydrological inputs in environmental studies.
National Water Harvesting and	Develops and manages national water storage and related public	Relies on competent hydrological analysis for storage, yield and flood-

Storage Authority	works.	control planning.
Engineers Board of Kenya	Regulates engineering practice.	Receives clearer separation between hydrological analysis and engineering design responsibility.
County governments	Responsible for local water, drainage, stormwater and disaster-risk functions.	Gain access to verified hydrological professionals for county-level planning and projects.

7. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AND CONSULTATIONS

Public participation is the process by which citizens, as individuals, groups, or communities (also known as stakeholders), take part in the conduct of public affairs, interact with the state and other non-state actors to influence decisions, policies, programs, legislation and provide oversight in service delivery, development and other matters concerning their governance and public interest, either directly or through freely chosen representatives.

An evaluation of the public consultation process is necessary to ascertain whether all interested parties had the opportunity to present their views. Regulations are developed in an open and transparent fashion, with appropriate procedures for effective and timely input from interested parties such as affected businesses, interest groups, professional bodies and other government ministries, departments, agencies, and counties.

7.1 LEGAL BASIS FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AND CONSULTATIONS

According to Article 10 of the Constitution of Kenya, 2010, participation of the people, inclusivity, transparency, and accountability are constitutional requirements whenever the State or public officer applies the Constitution, enacts any law, or makes or implements a public policy. This requirement is premised on the sovereignty principle which vests all sovereign power to the people of Kenya. This power entitles the people to unfettered access to the process of making public decisions through their involvement.

Regarding the subsidiary legislation making process, the Statutory Instruments Act, (Cap 2A) requires that the regulatory making authority undertakes public consultations before making statutory instruments and particularly, where the proposed Regulations are likely to have a direct or a substantial indirect effect on business or restrict competition. The Act provides that in determining whether any consultation that was undertaken is appropriate, the regulation making authority shall have regard to all relevant matters, including the extent to which the consultation: drew on the

knowledge of persons having expertise in fields relevant to the proposed statutory instrument; and ensured that persons likely to be affected by the proposed statutory instrument had an adequate opportunity to comment on its proposed content.

The Statutory Instruments Act (Cap. 2A) further requires that the persons to be consulted should either directly or by advertisement through representative organizations be invited to make submissions by a specified date, which should not be lesser than fourteen days or be invited to participate in public hearings concerning the proposed instrument.

7.2 THE PROCESS OF PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AND CONSULTATIONS

In line with the Constitutional requirements on public participation and the Statutory Instruments Act which obligates a regulation making authority to undertake appropriate consultations with persons likely to be affected by the proposed instruments, the Ministry in consultation with the Hydrologists Registration Board continuously engaged the public and private stakeholders in the preparation of the draft Regulations. Pursuant to section 5 of Cap 2A, the Ministry identified specific stakeholders whom it engaged in a consultative process. These include the main institutions and individuals who will be directly or indirectly affected by the proposed statutory instrument.

The stakeholders identified for engagement for purposes of developing the proposed Regulations are as shown below –

Stakeholder group	Issues addressed through consultation	How input informs the Regulations
Hydrologists and hydrological assistants	Registration categories, licensing, CPD, fees, titles and transition.	Improves fairness, affordability and professional acceptance.
Consulting firms	Report certification, timelines, professional liability and service standards.	Improves practicality and clarity of compliance obligations.
Water Resources Authority and water agencies	Use of hydrological reports, water permits, data and technical standards.	Improves coordination and avoids duplication of regulatory processes.
NEMA and environmental practitioners	Hydrological inputs to environmental assessment and audits.	Clarifies professional roles in environmental approval processes.
Engineering professionals Board	Overlap with engineering designs and planning	Supports professional boundary clarity and collaboration.
County governments	Drainage, stormwater, water projects and disaster risk	Ensures county implementation needs are considered.

	management.	
Academic institutions	Programme recognition and professional competency outcomes.	Aligns training pathways with professional expectations.
Public and civil society	Water security, safety, environment and accountability.	Strengthens public legitimacy and responsiveness.

The stakeholder response matrix below provides the format for recording consultation issues and the way they are addressed in the final Regulations and implementation instruments.

Issue raised	Stakeholder source	Regulatory response	Status
Registration categories and transition for existing practitioners	Practitioners and professional bodies	Transitional provisions and clear application requirements are provided in the Regulations.	To be completed after final consultation.
Affordability and fee levels	Practitioners, firms and project proponents	Fees are structured to support cost recovery and service sustainability, with periodic review and public participation.	To be completed after final consultation.
Coordination with WRA, NEMA, EBK and GRB	Public agencies and professional regulators	Coordination mechanisms and role clarity are incorporated into implementation arrangements.	To be completed after final consultation.
Report certification timelines	Practitioners, firms and agencies	Service standards and digital submission processes are included in implementation arrangements.	To be completed after final consultation.
CPD requirements	Practitioners and academic institutions	CPD framework is linked to continuing competence and professional development.	To be completed after final consultation.

7.3 Public Consultation Approach and Methodology

The Ministry adopted the following methodology for purposes of public participation:

- (a) posting of draft copies of the Draft Regulations and the Regulatory Impact Statement onto the Ministry's website inviting representations generally and specifically from the identified stakeholders;

- (b) notification of the stakeholders of the ongoing process and inviting them to give their submissions on the draft regulations within a specified reasonable period;
- (c) publication of a notice of the intended stakeholder engagement in the Kenya Gazette;
- (d) posting of an advertisement in a newspaper with national circulation inviting any person or institution to make their submissions within a specified date and directing them on where they can get copies of the regulations; and
- (e) physical and virtual engagements with select stakeholders where possible.

Based on the above approach, a series of meetings were held between the Ministry and key stakeholders where several written presentations were also received.

7.4 Analysis and Feedback

The Ministry, through the Hydrologists Registration Board, ensured that:

- (a) all responses are carefully and independently analysed;
- (b) the final decision on the Fees is made widely available to the public through the Ministry website including the reasons for the decision taken; and
- (c) the disclosure of the reasons for the public to understand and evaluate the decision made.

8. OVERVIEW OF THE PROPOSED REGULATIONS

The Regulations establish a complete operational framework for the hydrology profession. Their provisions cover registration, licensing, hydrological reports, hydrological programmes and institutions, equipment standardization, research coordination, continuing professional development, official documents, complaints, review and appeal mechanisms, official titles, transitional provisions and the code of conduct and ethics.

8.1 Scope of the Regulatory Framework

The Regulations apply to persons and institutions involved in the provision, supervision, certification or use of professional hydrological services in Kenya. The regulatory framework covers professional categories, hydrological services, hydrological studies, hydrological reports, professional documents, continuing professional development, complaints handling, equipment standardization, recognition of academic institutions offering hydrological programmes and collaboration with other relevant

institutions.

The persons directly covered by the Regulations include hydrological assistants, hydrologists, consultant hydrologists and persons with temporary registration. The activities covered include collection, analysis and interpretation of hydrological data; preparation of hydrological studies and reports; hydrological inputs to water infrastructure; roads infrastructure flood and drought analysis; water-resource assessments; and other professional services falling within hydrology practice under the Act.

The institutions affected include the Hydrologists Registration Board, the Ministry responsible for water, water-sector regulators, county governments, public water works institutions, environmental regulators, engineering and geoscience regulators, academic institutions, project proponents, professional associations and members of the public who rely on hydrological expertise.

8.2 Statement of effect of the proposed Regulations

The Hydrologists (General) Regulations, 2026 establish the operational framework for regulating hydrology practice in Kenya. The effect of the Regulations is to prescribe the categories of hydrology professionals, set the requirements for registration and annual licensing, provide for issuance and renewal of practicing licences, regulate use of professional titles and official documents, and create public verification mechanisms through registers, certificates, identification documents and stamps.

The Regulations also establish requirements for hydrological studies and reports. They provide for preparation, signing, stamping, submission and certification of hydrological reports by persons licensed or otherwise authorized under the Act. This creates a traceable chain of professional responsibility for hydrological work used in regulatory approvals, water-resource decisions, infrastructure development, environmental assessment and public planning.

The Regulations further provide for continuing professional development, recognition of academic programmes, calibration and standardization of hydrological equipment, coordination of research and surveys, handling of complaints, disciplinary procedures, review and appeal mechanisms, and a code of conduct and ethics for hydrology practice. Through these measures, the Regulations strengthen competence, integrity, accountability and public confidence in hydrology practice.

8.3 Justification for the Regulations

The Regulations are justified because hydrological practice affects public goods and public risks. Water resources, flood safety, catchments, wetlands, dams, drainage works and roads and water infrastructure are not private matters only. Decisions based on hydrological analysis often affect communities, ecosystems, investors and public institutions. The absence of enforceable professional standards creates risks that cannot be addressed adequately through voluntary guidance alone.

The Regulations are also justified because the Hydrologists Act (Cap. 372B) requires operational procedures and prescribed matters. Registration, licensing, CPD, report certification and discipline cannot be administered effectively without subsidiary legislation that defines requirements, processes, forms, documents, fees and institutional responsibilities. The Regulations therefore provide legal certainty, transparency, predictability and enforceability.

Regulatory area	Main content	Expected effect
Registration	Creates categories for hydrological assistants, hydrologists, consultant hydrologists and temporary registrants.	Establishes clear pathways into the profession and protects public confidence in professional titles.
Annual licensing	Provides for annual practicing licences and renewal requirements.	Ensures ongoing authorization, current professional status and regulatory visibility.
Hydrological reports	Regulates preparation, signing, stamping, submission and certification of hydrological reports.	Creates traceability and accountability for technical work used in public-interest decisions.
Academic programmes	Provides for recognition of hydrological programmes.	Links training pathways to professional competency expectations.
Equipment standardization	Provides for equipment calibration and standards.	Improves reliability of hydrological data and measurements.
Continuing professional development	Creates a framework for CPD and accreditation of trainers.	Maintains and improves competence in a changing technical field.
Official documents	Provides for identification cards, stamps and public verification mechanisms.	Reduces impersonation and improves public confidence.
Complaints and discipline	Provides procedures for complaints, inquiry, disciplinary action, review and appeal.	Promotes fair administrative action and professional accountability.
Code of conduct	Sets ethical and professional obligations.	Promotes integrity, public safety, environmental protection and responsible practice.

9. REGULATORY AND NON-REGULATORY OPTIONS AND REASONS WHY OTHER OPTIONS ARE NOT APPROPRIATE

In this part, alternatives to addressing the problem are evaluated. The options are maintenance of the status quo, putting in place alternative administrative measures and promulgating new Regulations. Based on the evaluation of each option, the best government action is recommended. This is in line with section 7 (c) of the Statutory Instruments Act, (Cap. 2A) which provides that other practicable means of achieving the objective, including regulatory and non- regulatory options, are explored.

9.1 THE ALTERNATIVES

9.1.1 *Option one: status quo*

Under the status quo, the Hydrologists Act (Cap. 372B) remains only partially operational, and the Board lacks complete procedures for implementation of its statutory functions. This option avoids immediate compliance costs but leaves the public without an effective system for verifying practitioners, enforcing CPD, certifying hydrological reports and disciplining misconduct. The option does not achieve the objectives of the Act and does not adequately protect the public interest.

9.1.2 *Option two: Application of administrative measures*

Under this option, the Board may issue administrative guidelines, templates, voluntary CPD guidance and professional advisories. These measures can improve awareness and practice but do not create enforceable registration, licensing, protected professional titles, mandatory CPD, report certification, complaints handling or disciplinary control. Guidelines are useful implementation tools, but they do not provide a sufficient substitute for regulations made under the Act.

9.1.3 *Option Three: Adoption of the Proposed Regulations*

Under this option, the Regulations are adopted to operationalize the Hydrologists Act (Cap. 372B). This option creates a legally enforceable framework for registration, licensing, CPD, hydrological report certification, official documents, complaints, discipline, review, appeals, programme recognition and professional ethics. It provides legal certainty to practitioners, public agencies, clients and the public. This option is the most effective means of achieving the objectives of the Act and protecting the public interest.

9.2 SOCIAL-ECONOMIC, ENVIRONMENTAL AND GOVERNANCE IMPACTS

9.2.1 Impact on Hydrology Professionals

Hydrology professionals will benefit from clear professional categories, recognition of titles, public verification, CPD opportunities and improved professional standing. Registration and licensing obligations create compliance costs, but these costs are linked to professional recognition, public trust and accountability. The Regulations also provide clear pathways for hydrological assistants and hydrologists, supporting entry into the profession and professional progression.

9.2.2 Impact on Project Proponents

Project proponents will benefit from improved certainty on who may prepare, sign and certify hydrological reports. This reduces procurement uncertainty and improves confidence in technical submissions. Compliance costs may arise from engaging, licensed professionals and submitting reports for certification where required. These costs are justified by the public-interest nature of hydrological work and the need for reliable technical inputs in water and infrastructure decisions.

9.2.3 Impact on Public Institutions

Public institutions will benefit from a reliable register of hydrology professionals and standardized report certification. WRA, NEMA, counties, water works agencies and other public bodies will be able to rely on technical reports prepared by identifiable, licensed and accountable practitioners. This improves administrative efficiency, reduces uncertainty and supports better decision-making.

9.2.4 Impact on Communities and Water Users

Communities and water users benefit indirectly through improved water-resource planning, safer infrastructure, better flood and drought management, and stronger accountability in hydrological decisions. The Regulations support the public interest by ensuring that hydrological work affecting water access, safety and environmental sustainability is prepared by competent practitioners.

9.2.5 Environmental and Climate Impacts

The Regulations support environmental protection by improving professional standards in hydrological assessments used for catchment management, wetland protection, environmental impact assessment and climate adaptation. They support climate resilience by strengthening professional capacity in flood estimation, drought analysis, water availability assessment and climate-sensitive infrastructure planning.

9.3 COST BENEFIT ANALYSIS

9.3.1 Overview

Implementation of the Regulations will generate both costs and benefits. The costs include administrative, technical and compliance costs required to operate a statutory professional regulatory framework. The benefits include improved professional accountability, stronger hydrological report quality, better regulatory decisions, safer public infrastructure, enhanced public confidence in hydrology work, improved water resources governance and stronger climate resilience.

9.3.2 Implementation Costs

Implementation will require resources for digital registration and licensing systems, staffing, stakeholder awareness, CPD administration, report certification, complaints handling, inspections, programme recognition and institutional coordination. These costs are necessary to enable the Hydrologists Registration Board to discharge its statutory mandate effectively and to provide predictable, transparent and accountable regulatory services to practitioners, public institutions and the public.

The fees prescribed under the Regulations support cost recovery and service sustainability. They enable the Board to process applications, issue licenses, maintain registers, administer CPD, review reports, handle complaints, conduct inspections, recognize programmes and enforce professional standards. Periodic review and public participation ensure that the fee structure remains reasonable, proportionate and aligned with the cost of services provided.

Cost area	Nature of cost	Purpose of expenditure
Digital systems	Development and maintenance of registration, licensing, CPD, payment and verification systems.	Creates efficient public-facing regulatory services and a reliable practitioner database.

Staffing and administration	Technical, administrative, legal and registry personnel.	Supports timely processing, professional review, compliance monitoring and public service delivery.
Stakeholder sensitization	Public notices, workshops, guidance, outreach and training materials.	Promotes compliance and awareness among practitioners, agencies and the public.
CPD administration	Programme design, trainer accreditation, CPD tracking and audits.	Maintains professional competence and updates practitioners on new methods.
Report certification	Technical review systems, templates, document management and certification processes.	Improves quality and traceability of hydrological reports used in public-interest decisions.
Complaints and discipline	Complaint intake, inquiry committees, hearings, records and decisions.	Provides due process and professional accountability.
Inspections and compliance	Field/site verification, document checks and enforcement operations.	Supports adherence to the Act, Regulations and professional standards.
Institutions recognition	Assessment of academic programmes and training pathways.	Aligns education and professional competence requirements.

9.3.3 Indicative Public Implementation Cost Range

Based on the likely administrative and technical functions required, the initial implementation cost is expected to fall within a moderate public-sector range. The actual budget will depend on the scale of digital systems, staffing model, number of practitioners, number of reports submitted and intensity of compliance monitoring. For planning purposes, one-off setup costs may fall within the range of KSh 15-25 million, while annual recurrent costs may fall within the range of KSh 20-40 million. These costs are consistent with the establishment and operation of a statutory professional regulatory function.

Cost component	Indicative setup or recurrent cost range	Explanation
Digital register, licensing and verification portal	KSh 5 million setup	Covers online applications, public lookup, licence records, payment integration and document verification.
Staffing and regulatory administration	KSh 10-25 million annually	Covers registry, technical review, legal, finance, compliance and administrative capacity.
CPD and programme recognition administration	KSh 3-8 million annually	Covers CPD records, trainer accreditation, programme assessment and audits.
Report certification and technical review	KSh10 million annually	Covers technical panels, document management, review workflows and certification records.
Complaints, discipline and inspections	KSh 3 million annually	Covers inquiry committees, field verification, legal support and records.
Public awareness and stakeholder engagement	KSh 2-5 million setup and periodic renewal	Covers consultation, guidance materials, stakeholder forums and public communication.

9.3.4 Benefits of the Regulations

The benefits of the Regulations are substantial and extend beyond the profession. The public benefits include improved water-resource decisions, safer infrastructure, better climate adaptation, reliable flood and drought planning, improved surface water governance and stronger environmental protection. Professional benefits include recognition, clearer entry requirements, CPD pathways and improved public confidence. Institutional benefits include better traceability of technical submissions, improved coordination and stronger regulatory decision-making.

Benefit category	Expected benefit	How the Regulations deliver the benefit
Public safety	Reduced risk of poor hydrological input into infrastructure and flood-control works.	Licensed professionals, report certification, standards and professional accountability.
Water security	Improved assessment of surface water, catchments and storage needs.	Competency requirements and standardized hydrological reporting.

Climate resilience	Better drought, flood and climate-risk planning.	CPD, modern methods and accountable technical practice.
Environmental protection	Improved protection of wetlands, rivers, aquifers, catchments and ecosystems.	Ethics, reporting standards and hydrological inputs to environmental assessment.
Economic efficiency	Reduced risk of failed or poorly planned water investments.	Better-quality studies, traceable responsibility and improved regulatory confidence.
Professional development	Stronger professional identity, training and recognition.	Registration categories, annual licensing and CPD requirements.
Institutional governance	Clearer coordination between HRB and related agencies.	Registers, certified reports, coordination frameworks and public verification.

9.3.5 Net Benefit Statement

The benefits of the Regulations outweigh the implementation and compliance costs. The costs are necessary to operationalize the Hydrologists Act (Cap. 372B) and support the functioning of a statutory professional regulator. The benefits are broad, affecting water security, climate resilience, professional accountability, infrastructure safety, environmental protection and public trust. The preferred option therefore provides a positive net public benefit.

9.4 PREFERRED OPTION

The preferred option is the adoption and implementation of the Hydrologists (General) Regulations, 2026. The Regulations provide the necessary legal, professional and administrative framework for effective regulation of hydrology practice. Non-regulatory measures and voluntary guidance remain useful as implementation tools, but they do not provide adequate enforceability. The Regulations therefore provide the greatest net public benefit.

Option	Ability to achieve objectives	Cost implications	Regulatory conclusion
Status quo	Low. The Act remains under-operationalized and the public-interest gaps continue.	Low immediate cost but high long-term public risk.	Not preferred.
Guidelines and	Moderate. Useful for	Low to moderate	Useful as

voluntary measures	awareness and standardization but weak on enforceability.	costs.	supporting measures, not sufficient alone.
Hydrologists Regulations	High. Provides enforceable registration, licensing, CPD, reports, discipline and ethics.	Moderate implementation and compliance costs.	Preferred option.

10. COMPLIANCE AND IMPLEMENTATION

10.1 Implementation approach

Implementation of the Regulations will be led by the Hydrologists Registration Board. Implementation will be phased to allow practitioners, institutions and the Board to transition into the new regulatory framework in an orderly manner. The first phase focuses on operational systems, guidance, sensitization and registration. Later phases focus on full licensing, CPD compliance, report certification and enforcement.

Phase	Timeline	Implementation Activities	Output
Phase 1: Legal and administrative readiness	3 months	Prepare operational guidelines, forms, service standards, internal procedures and public communication materials.	Regulatory framework ready for implementation.
Phase 2: Digital systems and stakeholder sensitization	3 months	The HRB has already established a digital registration and licensing portal, payment systems, CPD log and public verification platform; conduct stakeholder sensitization.	Operational digital and public-facing systems.
Phase 3: Transitional registration and licensing	4 months	Receive applications from existing practitioners, issue registration decisions and publish public register.	Registered professional database and public verification mechanisms.

Phase 4: CPD and Institution recognition	12 months	Operationalize CPD requirements, trainer accreditation and recognition of hydrological programmes.	Continuing competence and training framework.
Phase 5: Report certification and compliance monitoring	1 month	Start administering certification of hydrological reports, inspections, complaint handling and enforcement.	Operational accountability and report-quality system.
Phase 6: Review and consolidation	12 months	Assess performance, costs, turnaround times, stakeholder feedback and regulatory effectiveness.	Evidence-based improvement of implementation.

10.2 Compliance and enforcement tools

The Regulations will be implemented through a combination of administrative, digital, professional and enforcement tools. These tools include the professional register, annual licences, official identification documents, professional stamps, CPD records, hydrological report certification records, inspection powers, complaints procedures, inquiry committees, disciplinary decisions and review and appeal mechanisms.

Compliance will be strengthened through transparent service standards, online verification, stakeholder guidance and coordination with institutions that receive or rely on hydrological reports. Enforcement will focus on ensuring that persons who offer hydrological services comply with registration, licensing, CPD, reporting and ethical requirements.

10.3 Coordination with Related Institutions

Institution	Coordination area	Expected coordination outcome
Water Resources Authority	Water-use permits, hydrological assessments, water-resource data and report requirements.	Reports submitted for water- resource decisions are prepared by licensed and accountable professionals.

NEMA	Hydrological components of environmental assessment and audit.	Environmental decisions receive reliable hydrological inputs.
National Water Harvesting and Storage Authority	Water storage, dam, reservoir, flood-control and water harvesting projects.	Hydrological studies supporting storage works meet professional standards.
Engineers Board of Kenya	Hydrological inputs to engineering design and hydraulic structures.	Clear distinction and coordination between hydrological analysis and engineering design.
County governments	Drainage, stormwater, local water projects and disaster-risk planning.	Counties access qualified hydrological expertise for local planning and projects.
KENHA, KURA, KERRA	Hydrological inputs for highways, urban, and rural roads — bridges, culverts, drainage, flood-risk control.	Road infrastructure at all levels consistently integrates qualified hydrological expertise, ensuring resilience against flooding, sustainable drainage, and safety for communities.

10.4 Monitoring, Evaluation and Review

Monitoring and evaluation are necessary to ensure that the Regulations achieve their objectives and remain efficient, proportionate and responsive. The Board will maintain regulatory data on registration, licensing, CPD compliance, report certification, complaints, disciplinary decisions, processing timelines, programme recognition and stakeholder feedback.

Indicator	Purpose	Reporting frequency
Number of registered practitioners by category	Measures professional coverage and implementation progress.	Annual
Number of annual practicing licenses issued and renewed	Measures active compliance and professional status.	Annual
Number of hydrological reports certified	Measures report-certification workload and public-interest use.	Quarterly and annual
Average processing time for registration and licensing	Measures service efficiency.	Quarterly
Average processing time for report certification	Measures efficiency and identifies delays.	Quarterly

CPD compliance rate	Measures continuing professional competence.	Annual
Number and nature of complaints received	Measures accountability issues and public use of complaints mechanism.	Annual
Number of disciplinary actions and review decisions	Measures enforcement and due process.	Annual
Stakeholder satisfaction and feedback	Measures quality of regulatory services.	Annual or biennial
Fee revenue and cost recovery	Measures financial sustainability and proportionality.	Annual

A formal review of the Regulations will be undertaken after an initial implementation period. The review will assess whether the Regulations have improved professional accountability, report quality, public verification, CPD compliance, coordination and public confidence. The review will also assess affordability, processing timelines and the adequacy of fees in relation to the cost of services provided.

11. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

11.1 Conclusion

Based on the above analysis, the following matters are apparent:

- (a) Regulatory-Making Authority and the legal mandate: Section 35 of the Hydrologists Act (Cap. 372B) provides that the Cabinet Secretary may make regulations generally for the better carrying out of the provisions of this Act including making regulations for the issue of certificates of registration and annual licences; the fees to be paid for anything which may be done under this Act and prescribing anything which under the Act which may be prescribed.
- (b) Requirements of the Statutory Instruments Act (Cap. 2A): Section 5 requires a regulation-making authority to conduct public consultations, drawing on the knowledge of persons having expertise in fields relevant to the proposed statutory instrument; and to ensure that persons likely to be affected by the proposed statutory instrument had an adequate opportunity to comment on its proposed content. Sections 6 and 7 require that a RIS be prepared where a statutory instrument is likely to impose significant costs on the community.

The RIS must contain certain key elements namely:

- (i) a statement of the objectives of the proposed legislation and the reasons;
- (ii) a statement explaining the effect of the proposed legislation;
- (iii) statement of other practicable means of achieving those objectives, including other regulatory as well as non-regulatory options;
- (iv) an assessment of the costs and benefits of the proposed statutory rule and of any other practicable means of achieving the same objectives; and
- (v) the reasons why the other means are not appropriate.

The public consultation and RIS content requirements have been fully met.

- (c) Other existing legal frameworks: The proposed Regulations do not propose to have any new legislation to be enacted or any of the existing laws to be amended. They harmonize with other laws making their implementation effective.
- (d) The proposed Regulations as drafted are clear, consistent, comprehensive, and comprehensible enough to cover all matters.

11.2 Recommendation

This Regulatory Impact Statement concludes that the proposed Hydrologists (General) Regulations, 2026 are necessary to operationalize the Hydrologists Act (Cap. 372B) and strengthen professional regulation of hydrology practice in Kenya.

It is recommended that these proposed Regulations be adopted.