PARTICIPANTS IN ENVIRONMENTAL CRIME

The characteristics of those involved in environmental crime depend on whether the crime is intentional or not, and whether it is commercial (has some economic benefit) or subsistent.

As with other crimes, those involved in environmental crimes can be characterised largely into four groups:

**Individuals:** They act of their own accord and are mainly subsistent. Most of these crimes are committed out of negligence, lack of alternatives or the need to survive. Examples are waste disposal in slums and snaring of wildlife for own consumption. This group is difficult to apprehend or control.

**Small, independent groups:** These are small, largely independent and semi-permanent groups of persons who are subsistent in their operations, and meet only to actualise the crime, for example, snaring or hunting of animals. They are hard to control, especially if they are irregular operators. Regular groups are easier to apprehend, since they operate in the same areas and use similar tactics.
Organised groups: They operate in networks and are always commercial in their exploits. In organised groups, different people play different roles, and this makes it difficult to control or apprehend them. In rare cases, some links to the long chain may be arrested, especially those involved in the initial crime (actual killing of wildlife or undertaking illegal logging), or those involved in transportation. The real leaders of organised groups are well connected with politicians and security personnel, and are rarely arrested as they do not do the actual work, but only facilitate the movement of the illegal goods from one point to another.

Corporate bodies: They are involved mainly in business or other commercial activities and their crimes are related primarily to pollution and non-compliance to statutory obligations such as undertaking environmental impact assessments and audits. Their main interest is economic, and they pollute to save costs, by, for example, not treating their effluent before discharging into water bodies. These are easy to apprehend with strict enforcement.

ENVIRONMENTAL CRIMES IN THE FORESTRY SECTOR

Illegal trade in sandalwood (Santalum Album)

This is currently the most popular commercial illegal trade in flora. A five-year presidential ban on harvesting sandalwood was imposed in February 2007. Sandalwood contains essential oils with a fragrant scent and is used in the manufacture of cosmetics. The essential oils are more concentrated in the roots than in the stem, and as a result the whole tree is uprooted. The species has male and female plants, with the latter being favoured for its fragrance.

Currently, there is a ‘rush’ for sandalwood because it fetches very good prices on the international market: 1kg of essential oils sells for about US$ 1 500. These prices are not reflected locally, where farmers sell sandalwood to middlemen for between KSh. 80 and 200 (US$ 1 – US$ 2.50) per kg. Sandalwood was originally sourced from Chyulu Hills, and from Tsavo West in protected areas. It was then ‘discovered’ in the western and eastern parts of the country, with key areas including Baringo, Pokot, Samburu and Naivasha districts.

Kenyan sandalwood is exported mainly to India and China and is ordinarily sent abroad as wood. The key dealers are politicians and traders of
Asian origin. However, since the ban and subsequent awareness of it export, sandalwood now is exported through Tanzania. There is a chain to facilitate passage from the village where middlemen buy it, to its transportation by road to Namanga and the larger Kajiado district, from where it smuggled into Tanzania. On 6 October 2008, 40 tonnes harvested in Maralal (Samburu district) were netted at Namanga. An estimated similar amount had already crossed into Tanzania. KWS has already netted about 20 tonnes in 2009 and made 40 arrests.

With transportation becoming increasingly difficult, traders are now semi-processing sandalwood into chips and sawdust. It is then transported, and even exported, in these forms packaged in packets the size of cigarette packs. Some are sent as ‘free samples’ and are thus exempt from duty.

Although the tree would assist communities to generate revenue and improve their lives, the present method of uprooting the whole tree is not sustainable as the tree is slow growing. Additionally, the plant is parasitic and it requires a host to support its growth. To make the growing of sandalwood sustainable and commercial, KEFRI is currently researching its propagation, but the main problem has been to find a suitable host.

**Illegal logging**

This is rampant in most forests, especially as a result of the presidential ban on logging in government forests. Illegal loggers targets mainly indigenous species although exotics are also illegally harvested.

*Figure 1 Abandoned trailer in Mau forest*

Source: Kamfor Company Limited (2005)
Small-scale illegal logging is done using seesaws, and power saws in some areas, and is done mainly at night. Large-scale illegal logging is done using power saws and is undertaken by timber merchants in collusion with government authorities responsible for the resources.

Some illegally mined timber is exported to Singapore, China, India and the Middle East, which favour mainly the indigenous species of cedar, podo and camphor. Although exotic, cypress is also popular, mainly in the local market.

KFS and KWS staff patrol and make arrests and seizures of some of the illegally harvested timber and the vehicles carrying it. However, the areas are large and the staff few. Corruption is also rampant, especially with the timber merchants.

Key areas are the Mau and Mt Elgon. The problem has declined in the Aberdares due to the fencing project and because various groups are active in this area. In October 2008 alone, six trucks were apprehended in Mau forest, and in Transmara district, an average of one lorryload of illegal timber is seized each month.

Illegal trade in other flora

This involves mainly endemic species such as the African orchid flower, which looks like leopard skin, in Tiwi and Kwale; and the African violet in the Taita Hills. The African Violet Society in the USA has clones of the African violet that it admits were sourced from Kenya.
There is also the African aloe which is listed under CITES and is now exported as resin, and *Prunus africana*. Additionally, there is bioprospecting and biopiracy of undetermined extent. Some cases, however, are well known and followed up. These include the bacteria from Lake Bogoria, sourced from Kenya,\(^3\) and used in an enzyme for the production of faded jeans.

There is also theft of indigenous knowledge, especially of the use and values of certain herbs and medicinal herbs. Benefits sharing as enshrined in the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) have not been actualised, although Kenya is a signatory to this convention.

**Forest excisions**

Forests have in the past been excised illegally, even without the necessary degazettement. Key areas have included water catchments such as the Mau complex. The excisions have been done mainly with a view to settling indigenous communities such as the Ogiek, who have lived in the Mau all their lives, but the bulk of the land is hijacked by politicians and administrators. The ‘illegal’ beneficiaries then sub-divide their large parcels of land and then sell tracts to unsuspecting members of local communities.

In the Mau complex alone, 35,000 ha have been excised in eastern Mau, 22,000 ha in south western Mau and 1,000 ha in Molo. About 15,000 ha have been settled on in the Maasai Mau.\(^3\) There are about 20,000 persons now settled in the Mau, but only 1,962 have title deeds.\(^3\)

Excisions especially in the water catchment have resulted in loss of ecosystem goods and services, leading to flash floods during and just after the rainy seasons, and lower base flows during other times. With increasing human populations in the upper catchments, communities downstream experience water shortages, which leads to conflicts. In the Mau complex alone, 12 rivers are threatened. Excisions have also resulted in loss of biodiversity.

The new Forest Act of 2005 has adequately addressed the issue of forest excisions. It provides that no forest excisions will be done without an EIA and the approval of parliament. If these provisions are enforced, the Act will enhance the preservation of gazetted forests.

In areas such as the Mau, a land audit is being undertaken by a taskforce appointed by the prime minister in 2008. After the audit the taskforce, which
includes both public and private sector actors, will give recommendations on measures to preserve the Mau.

**Forests encroachment**

This is rampant in most forest areas with the most common areas being the Mau forest complex, Marmanet forest, Marakwet forest, and Ol rabel, Gakanga and Mandusuna near Arabuko Sokoke at the Coast Province.

Encroachment takes different forms with the key forms being illegal cultivation of food crops, cutting of fodder, beekeeping, and firewood collection (the most common). Collection of firewood and fodder is allowed in some forests for a token fee. These issues are addressed in the new Forest Act.35

Most encroachment results from the ending of the Shamba system, through which communities were allowed to farm on condition that they plant and tend young seedlings.

There have also been illegal assemblies of people and training of warriors in forests. An example is Mt Elgon, where militias hide in caves and take part in transboundary crime, terrorising the local communities and taking cover in Uganda.36

**Illegal grazing**

This is a crime in both forests and wildlife conservation areas and is closely tied to encroachment. It is a major problem especially in the Tsavos, Mau complex and Mt Kenya regions. Countrywide, about 500 000 animals are poached annually, with the Tsavos accounting for about 80%. The KWS alone arrests in the region of 1 000 persons a year.37 Others are arrested by KFS and the police for trespassing on private property.

The problem is difficult to manage as the boundary between the protected areas and forests has no barriers. The local communities, mostly pastoralists with high regard for their animals, also feel they have a ‘right’ to graze their animals anywhere. Illegal grazing also occurs in Laikipia, where pastoral communities invade private, agricultural and ranching farms.

Illegal grazing, other than destroying the forests and protected areas’ ecosystems, causes conflicts between pastoralists and farmers, and pastoralists and
the government (KFS and KWS), and also leads to animals contracting diseases such as east coast fever from the close interaction with wildlife.

Illegal forest fires

Lighting of fires is forbidden in government forests, but this rule has been routinely ignored and fires started for land preparation, honey hunting, charcoal burning and cigarette smoking. Other fires are started maliciously or through carelessness in throwing away matches or cigarette butts. For example, a total of 200 acres of the Ontulili forest in the Mt. Kenya region was destroyed by fire in August 2008.

Growing of bhang

This was common in the Mt Kenya forest, where large-scale plantations had been established and transported using even helicopters. This has now been curbed somewhat, but there are still small pockets of bhang being planted. The crop takes about six months to mature.

This crime escalates during the rainy season when it is difficult to patrol the forests. However, the perpetrators collude with certain government officials, which make the crime difficult to eliminate.

Illegal charcoal making

This crime is akin to illegal logging, as trees in government forests and trust land are felled and converted into charcoal. It is very common in the arid and semi-arid lands (ASALs) where it is a fallback economic activity when it is too dry to farm or raise livestock. It is also common in areas under civic authorities as they are more easily accessible and rarely manned.

In dealing with the problem, charcoal kilns found are usually destroyed and bags of charcoal seized. In the Mau forest alone since the taskforce was formed, 11 031 bags of charcoal have been seized, whilst in Transmara District, there is an average of eight lorryloads of charcoal a month and 90 donkeys that carry charcoal from the forests each day. Mangroves are also harvested for charcoal burning.
ENVIRONMENTAL CRIMES IN THE WILDLIFE SECTOR

Illegal trade in wildlife and their products

It is illegal in Kenya to handle wildlife or wildlife products without a licence. Illegal trade involves mainly African grey parrots and lovebirds, most of which originate from Congo and Uganda. Most are sourced from trailer drivers at about Ksh. 40 000 a pair. Most buyers are Asians.

There are about 4 000 illegal parrots and KWS has, through a public notice, given citizens the chance to keep the birds by registering them. The response has been very poor, however, with only 25 people responding. Those who registered their birds were given letters of authenticity to foster the birds on behalf of KWS. They will, however, not be able to export them.

Other illegal trade involves snakes such as puff adders, cobras, black mambas, mountain vipers and pythons, which are all traded as pets. Others include crocodile and tortoise (leopard tortoise found in Ukambani, Baringo, Koibatek and Kajiado districts and pancake tortoise commonly found in Mwingi district). Recently, 18 crates of snakes and terrapins were impounded at Jomo Kenyatta International Airport (JKIA). A similar consignment had already flown out, but was intercepted in Frankfurt, Germany, with assistance from Interpol.

There is also illegal trade in bush meat from zebra, buffalo, giraffe and other animals. This is sold mostly in Nairobi and other major towns. The main outlets are hotels and restaurants, where the meat is cut into small pieces and cooked, rather than places such as butcheries where meat is displayed. The trade in bush meat is receding, but it has been a tough battle for KWS.

There have also been a few cases of ivory trade involving Chinese nationals.

Poaching

Poaching is either commercial or subsistence. Commercial poaching involves bush meat, elephants (for ivory), rhino (for their horn) and cats, namely leopard and lion (for their skin, claws and teeth). Commercial poaching is rife on the northern frontier where there are many illegal firearms. Key areas are Tana River, Lamu, Isiolo, Samburu, Marsabit and Garissa districts.

Subsistence poaching involves use of dogs, blinding by powerful torches and stupefying with blow horns, bows and arrows, and snares (wire, string, and
noose). It is widespread and more than 95%\(^4\) occurs outside protected areas where more than 60% of wildlife is found. The main problem areas are wildlife dispersal areas and corridors, and where KWS presence is thin. Most of these areas are controlled by local authorities. The main animals targeted are antelopes, zebra, buffalo, gazelles, dik dik and other small animals, and the main problem areas are the Tsavos, Taita Taveta and Machakos areas. This year alone KWS has removed about 5 000 snares, 80% from the Tsavos, whilst the African Network for Animal Welfare (ANAW) removed 171 snares in four days in Machakos and estimates that about 8 000 animals have been killed in a 23 km\(^2\)

**Figure 3** Elephant tusks

![Elephant tusks](Source Interpol – www.interpol.org)

**Figure 4** Poacher arrested and jailed for five years after killing giraffe

![Poacher](Source ANAW (2008))
area in Machakos alone\textsuperscript{50}. In Transmara district, an average of fifty snares are removed every month.\textsuperscript{51}

Subsistence poaching is also undertaken by settler communities that have not lived side by side with wildlife. This is common in former ranges in Samburu, Laikipia and Taita districts.

**ENVIRONMENTAL CRIMES IN THE TOURISM SECTOR**

**Blockage of access to natural resources**

Tourist facilities, especially hotels and lodges at the coast, block access paths to beaches, making it difficult for local communities to access these important recreational facilities. In some instances, tourist facilities also block fish landing sites in the name of security of tourists. Other than blocking access to beaches, tourist facilities impact on the landscape and block the beach view and sea breeze to those behind the facilities.

**Aesthetic pollution**

Some tourist facilities are built totally out of character with their surroundings, with materials and colours not in harmony with the natural environment. This is mainly so in and around wildlife protected areas.
Offroad driving

This is common in national parks and reserves, where tour operators drive offroad in search of animals to for tourists to view and photograph. This degrades the vegetation causes soil erosion. Offroad driving also disturbs animals, with many tourist vehicles congregating around single animals, especially the big cats.

Destruction of marine, lacustrine and river ecosystems

Many tourist facilities along the Kenya coast and the major rivers (Tana, Athi, Ewaso Ng’iro) are built too close to the water bodies in contravention of the law requiring a distance of 6m – 30m from the highest water mark.
Built too close to water bodies, these facilities contribute to soil erosion and sometimes discharge liquid and solid wastes directly or indirectly through infiltration. The facilities also expose guests to the dangers of flooding.

At the coast, these facilities also interfere with marine life, especially turtles, which breed on the beaches and which are disoriented by light and glare. The facilities also contribute to beach erosion, especially through construction of beach walls, and sometimes encroach on the beaches.

**Poor waste disposal**

Tourist facilities are wanting in terms of both solid and effluent disposal, with some facilities discharging their wastes directly into water bodies. Poor disposal of solid wastes by the tourist facilities is evident from the many marabou storks seen hovering around their waste disposal sites. The facilities also contribute to beach littering and pollution, and impact on wildlife, which become dependent on waste food.

**ENVIRONMENTAL CRIMES IN THE WATER SECTOR**

**Diversion of water bodies**

This is illegal in Kenya and is done mainly for irrigation. In some instances, it has led to significant adverse environmental impacts and water use conflicts, especially between communities upstream and downstream. An example is the Rumi River in Taveta, which originates from the Kilimanjaro hills and flows to Lake Jipe from where another river, Ruvu, starts. Earlier, water had been diverted using blockages so that it flowed directly to Ruvu River, bypassing Lake Jipe, which was in danger of drying up completely. Water from Ruvu River flows to Nyumba ya Mungu dam and then goes on to generate power. As the Ruvu is in Tanzania, the issue is actually transboundary in nature. Rivers have also been diverted for fish farming.

The diversion of water bodies is closely tied with over-abstraction of water. Most water abstracted is not metered. Further, the abstraction occurs all year in contravention of laid-down regulations, which mandate the construction of reservoirs for storage.
Water pollution

This is rampant and includes discharge of effluent directly into water bodies. The most common illegal source of pollution is discharge of raw sewerage from municipalities that lack adequate systems for sewerage treatment and disposal. Other polluters are industry and hotels. Illegal discharge is also done by those who do not meet the required standards.55

Landlords and real estate developers also discharge wastewater illegally, when their properties are not connected to sewers or septic tanks as is required by law. Others may have septic tanks that cannot handle the amount of waste generated mainly because they have changed the original building plans. Through a notice issued through the newspapers, these persons are usually given one month’s notice by NEMA to put up adequate septic tanks and exhaust them regularly, or come together and set up an effluent treatment plant. Failure to do so results in their buildings being condemned.56

Other environmental crimes include anthropogenic activities such as car-washing on shores and in rivers.

Reclamation of wetlands

Wetlands are protected by law57 and by international convention.58 However, most wetland areas are being reclaimed for agriculture, whilst some in the cities are being used for construction, with resultant flooding during the rainy season. Key wetlands impacted include the Yala Swamp.

Figure 10 Open sewer drain into Indian Ocean in Lamu (2006)

Figure 11 Carwash in Lake Victoria, Kisumu (2007)
Illegal development in riparian areas

Due to increasing competition for land, people have encroached on riparian reserves for economic activities. There is also a tendency in towns and cities for developments to occur along rivers and other water bodies. This is more so in towns such as Nairobi, where there are many developments along the Nairobi River. Naivasha is another town where several horticultural farms have encroached on the riparian reserve. The Nairobi River is currently being mapped with a view to moving any developments out of the riparian section.

ENVIRONMENTAL CRIMES IN THE FISHERIES SECTOR

Illegal trade in ornamental fish

Ornamental fish are collected among the coral reefs and exported to international markets. It is very lucrative and there are some licensed dealers, but also several illegal traders who are difficult to net because most licensed operators hire local fishermen to collect fish for them, creating a grey area in terms of which fishermen are contracted by licensed dealers.

Even for licensed dealers, there are no limits on amounts and species collected. All licensed dealers do is declare their fish to the fisheries department for royalty purposes. The beach management units operating in the various ports, which are made up of locals, have, however, raised complaints with the department about the quantities and sizes of ornamental fish, and even the methods used.59

Illegal fishing methods

Both dynamite and poisons are used in the fishing industry contrary to laid-down regulations.60 Dynamite is used to scare fish (mainly lobsters) from crevices in coral rocks and results in the destruction of coral reefs that may have been formed over many years. This is undertaken mainly by the Wapemba from Tanzania. Other illegal fishing methods include the use of irregular gear comprising mainly small/restricted nets in certain water bodies, and the use of fishing crabs among mangroves.

Illegal fishing also involves the use of leaves and other materials which sedate or kill fish, which then float in the water and are easy to catch. Other
fisherfolk use water gas, which removes fish (mainly lobsters) from their crevices. Poisoned fish are easily identifiable from bleeding gills.61

In Malindi, the use of ringnets for fishing has been a very controversial subject and a source of a fierce resource-use conflict between artisanal fishermen and the commercial ringnet fishermen. However, ringnet fishing targets only fish moving in shoals and its destructiveness arises from its catching of fish en masse. Due to fierce opposition from local fishermen, the fisheries department has ordered this method suspended in the district.

Other illegal fishing methods include use of undersize nets, monofilament nets, spear guns, harpoons, beach seines and herbal poison (locally called *mkanga*). Although these methods are illegal, some persist due to poor enforcement by the fisheries department.

**Illegal fish farming**

Although fish farming is highly encouraged in the country, a new, illegal form that involves blocking of creeks along the Kenyan coast. There is no farming per se, but the fish are trapped in these ‘ponds’ and then harvested. The activity is done in groups and is now rampant in the Kwetu area along the coast.

**Illegal trawling**

Trawling is banned in Lake Victoria but allowed in the Indian Ocean62 where there are some licensed dealers. However, there are several unlicensed trawler operators who come into Kenyan waters (200 nautical miles from the shore) for trawling purposes, mostly for prawns. This is a very destructive method of fishing, as it catches other fish, which are later discarded as bycatch. This bycatch, on average, constitutes a ratio of 8:1 of the total catch by weight. That means for every a tonne of prawns caught, there are eight tonnes of bycatch. Artisanal fishermen are strongly opposed to trawlers because they argue that trawler operators destroy the fish that would constitute their catch. Most trawlers are of Japanese and Korean origin and it is said that the piracy on the Gulf of Eden actually started with armed gangs protecting the Somali waters from these trawlers.

Even for licensed operators, the amounts netted are not known, as the ships do not dock and some process their catch aboard. It is also not clear whether the trawlers release unintended catches as required.
Another challenge is that trawlers destroy local fishing gear such as boats and fishing nets, which contributes to impoverishment of artisanal fishermen. Furthermore, although trawlers are fitted with turtle exclusion devices (TEDs), they are not effective and deaths of turtles and dugongs from trawlers are always reported by fishermen.

Foreign fisherfolk

Many foreigners, notably the Wapemba from Tanzania, fish illegally in Kenyan waters and also use the wrong fishing methods. That said, Kenyan fisherfolk are often arrested and jailed by both Ugandan and Tanzanian authorities for fishing outside Kenya waters.

HAZARDOUS WASTES

Hazardous wastes, which include medical wastes, are generated in industries producing consumer products such as tobacco, beer, rubber, tyres and steel, and in oilwell drilling, medical institutions and agriculture.

There is much concern about radioactive pollution, including radioactive wastes dumped on uncontrolled landfill sites without inspection by local governments. This may affect the health of garbage-processing workers and scavengers. Radioactive materials dumped on the coast may affect the natural environment, and there is the international transport of nuclear wastes. Some 20 years ago, the Kenya Grain Growers Cooperative Union complained about dumping of radioactive wastes by oil-drilling companies in Wajir and in Athi River, Ngurumani and Menengai. In other incidents, 13 lorries carrying suspicious materials (claimed to be scrap metal) were stopped in Garissa.

Transportation and disposal of hazardous wastes is also not uncommon at the port of Mombasa, where occasionally, damaged or leaking cargo is send back to the ship. In one incident last year, two leaking containers of nitric acid were returned to the ship. Ideally, the cargo should have been stripped and salvaged at the ship owner’s cost before going back to the ship, the owner refused to comply and the nitric acid was dumped into the sea. The vessel owner has been sued.

Given the rising concern about hazardous wastes, NEMA has developed regulations to govern waste disposal mechanisms and procedures, including those for e-waste, which is considered hazardous waste due to its content.
As per the new regulations, the major environmental ‘criminals’ are municipal and town councils that are required to have designated sites for waste disposal where sanitary landfills are to be used. None of the councils has fulfilled these conditions. Others are large multinational firms that do not see the need to conform to the stringent environmental standards they follow while operating in western countries. What matters to them are costs and the result is adverse impact on the environment.

Other violators include medical clinics and hospitals without incinerators to burn their waste as required and that dump medical and solid waste together. Others are transporters of solid waste, who have to be registered, have covered vehicles, and the required personnel.
CRIMES DUE TO NON-COMPLIANCE

These are new crimes arising out of new legislation, namely the Environmental Management and Coordination Act and the various regulations prepared under the Act.

The key offences here include those related to inspection (for example, blocking of environmental inspectors), failing to carry out environmental impact assessment and environmental audits, not keeping records as required, not operating according to laid-out standards, offences related to hazardous wastes, pollution, and non-compliance with restoration orders, easements and conservation orders.

OTHER CRIMES

Use of banned substances

Although several chemicals, especially persistent organic pollutants (POPS) have been banned in the country, they are still used and traces found in water bodies, agricultural produce and soil samples.67

Global warming

Contributing to global warming is a new crime due to the grave impacts of the phenomenon. The chemistry department of the University of Nairobi is currently monitoring climate change in the country especially its impact on malaria, which is currently shifting to the highlands. Here, its impact is severe as the residents do not have natural resistance to the disease.68

Illegal mining

Mining involves construction materials and gemstones and is done in both protected and non-protected areas. Most mining in Kenya is open cast and in some cases uses ammonium nitrate dynamites for blasting.

Most illegal mining is undertaken for gemstones (green, purple and red granites and rubies), whilst most operators in the construction sector operate without licences. Other illegal activities in mining include use of licensed
blasters. Mining in protected areas and forests requires special consent from KFS and KWS.

Non-rehabilitation of mines

This is widespread in both protected and non-protected areas and goes against the Mining Act, which mandates those who carry out mining to rehabilitate the mining areas on abandonment. In practice, however, miners move to new sites without rehabilitating the old mines. With gemstones, the main issue is the technology used, with old mines being left open ‘in case’ more minerals will be found later.

Non-rehabilitation of mines causes land degradation and is an eyesore, especially as most mines in Kenya are open cast. Their non-rehabilitation also causes accidents and provides breeding grounds for mosquitoes and other pests. NEMA is piloting new guidelines for miners in the eastern province.

Sand harvesting

Sand harvesting, although legally undertaken, is done unsustainably in the country. Harvesting in river beds has led to change even in river courses with resultant adverse impacts on livelihoods, particularly among women who now have to walk longer distances to fetch water. Sand harvesting has been banned in many areas, but the local civic authorities are not keen to enforce the ban as they get cess from the sand transporters.