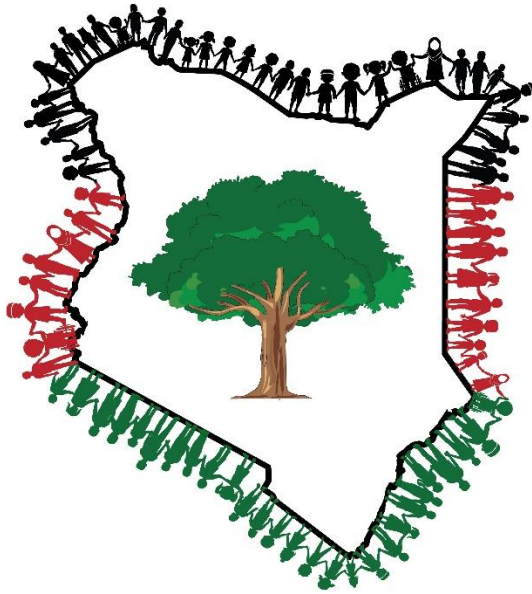




FIRST LADY'S
MAZINGIRA
AWARDS
MAZINGIRA YETU, JUKUMU LETU



FIRST LADY'S MAZINGIRA AWARDS:
BIODIVERSITY SCHOOL CATEGORY
2025 GUIDELINES

INTRODUCTION

Hey Young Environmental Champions! Have you ever stopped to notice all the amazing living things in your school compound or even your backyard? From the tall trees offering shade and the tiny ants marching on the ground, to the colourful birds singing and the buzzing bees collecting nectar – that's all part of something incredibly important called Biodiversity.

Simply put, biodiversity is the huge variety of all life on Earth. It's every plant, animal, insect, bird, fish, and even the tiny microbes you can't see. Think of it as Earth's vibrant "life team" where everyone has a role. This rich mix of life makes our planet truly beautiful, balanced, and super cool, providing us with all the food we love. Imagine your school without any trees, birds, or butterflies – it wouldn't be the same, right? That's why biodiversity matters so much!

WHY SHOULD YOU CARE ABOUT BIODIVERSITY?

It's not just about faraway forests or exotic animals; biodiversity directly impacts your daily life!

1. **Your Food:** The delicious sukuma wiki, sweet mangoes, and even the milk you drink all come from a diverse natural world. The more variety, the healthier and tastier our food!
2. **Source of medicine:** Many vital medications are derived from diverse plants and other natural sources, with many more potentially undiscovered.
3. **Clean Air & Water:** Trees are like nature's air purifiers, giving us fresh air to breathe. Healthy ecosystems filter water, ensuring you have clean water to drink and use.

4. **Building soil fertility:** Biodiversity contributes to the creation and maintenance of healthy, fertile soils essential for plant growth.
5. **Nature's Balance:** Every living thing has a job. Bees pollinate flowers, helping fruits grow. Worms keep the soil healthy for plants. Birds control insect populations. When one team member is missing, the whole system struggles!
6. **Fighting Climate Change:** Forests and green spaces are our superheroes against climate change! They absorb harmful gases, helping to keep our planet's temperature balanced.
7. **Awesome Discoveries & Ideas:** Spending time in nature sparks curiosity! It inspires new ideas for science projects, art, and even solutions to global problems. Nature is the ultimate classroom!

Protecting biodiversity means protecting our future, our health, and the amazing world we live in. That is precisely why the First Lady's Mazingira Awards (FLAMA) is super excited to invite all schools and learners across Kenya to step up, get creative, and become active Biodiversity Centres and Champions! This is your chance to make a real difference!

FLAMA 2025 PARTICIPATION GUIDELINES – BIODIVERSITY CATEGORY

Our Theme for 2025: ***"End Pollution Conserve the Environment – Komesha Uchafuzi Hifadhi Mazingira"*** calls on you to tackle pollution head-on and find creative ways to protect our precious environment.

Who Can Be a Champion?

- All Primary, Junior School and Secondary Schools and Special Need Learner Schools in Kenya are invited to participate.
- Schools **must** register to participate through the official FLAMA online portal www.flama.go.ke. Make sure you don't miss out!

What's Your Challenge? Here's What You Need to Do:

1. **Document a School Biodiversity Project:** This is where your school's creativity shines! Showcase what your School is currently doing or pick one or more of these exciting ideas:
 - **Tree Nursery Establishment:** Start a tree nursery or tree planting initiatives to green up your school and community.
 - **Create a Pollinator Garden:** Design a special garden for butterflies, bees, or birds with plants they love.
 - **Set up an Integrated School Garden:** Plant and grow different types of food crops together- think of a vibrant mix of vegetables, fruits, and herbs!
 - **Be a Waste Warrior:** Showcase methods of managing waste sustainably in your school such as composting, rainwater harvesting, or innovative ways to manage waste sustainably
 - **Document Your Local Heroes:** Identify and protect the unique plants and animals (local species) that live in and around your school. Show us how you're safeguarding them!

2. **Create an Awesome Documentary:** Tell your project's story in a short video!

- **Length:** Your video should be 3 - 5 minutes long and in MP4 format (audio visual).
- **Content:** Showcase your school's biodiversity project, explain what you did, why it matters, and most importantly, how learners like you were involved every step of the way.
- **Presentation:** Use simple narration or clear captions. Start with a brief intro from a teacher/ learner), then let one student or a group of students take over and shine as they present the project!
- **Tech Tip:** You can even use mobile phones with basic video functions to record your masterpiece!
- **Upload:** During upload, provide a title (10 words) and short description of the video (50 words)

3. **Show Off Your Skills (Core Competencies):**

- We want to see your creativity, your problem-solving skills, and your environmental responsibility in action!
- Highlight how students led, collaborated, and actively participated in all the activities.
- Did you partner with local community groups or other youth clubs? Tell us about it!

4. **Connect to Global Goals and FLAMA Goals:**

Your project isn't just local; it's part of a global movement! Show how your efforts link to at least 3 of these important Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):

- **SDG 4: Quality Education** (How did you learn and teach others?)
- **SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation** (Did you save water or manage it better?)
- **SDG 13: Climate Action** (How did your project help fight climate change?)
- **SDG 15: Life on Land** (This is all about biodiversity – protecting plants and animals!)
- **SDG 17: Partnerships** (Did you work with others to make your project happen?)

Mark Your Calendars! Submission Deadline! All projects must be submitted by Friday, **26th September 2025**. Don't miss out!

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION: WHAT'S IN IT FOR YOU?

Being a FLAMA champion comes with amazing benefits! Winning schools will receive:

- **Cool Resources:** Get valuable materials like water tanks, tree seedlings, garden tools, or nursery kits to help your school do even more for the environment.

- **National Spotlight:** Your school will get public recognition at the national FLAMA Awards ceremony – imagine your project being celebrated across Kenya!
- **Grow Your Green Skills:** Access special training and resources to expand your school's biodiversity practices and become even stronger environmental leaders.

Your Mission as a Learner: Key Focus Areas

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- **Protect Local Life:** Help preserve the unique plants and animals that belong to your area.
 - **Friendly Homes for Pollinators:** Create inviting spaces for bees, butterflies, and other vital pollinators.
 - **Farming with Nature:** Explore agroforestry (growing trees and crops together) and hands-on nature learning.
 - **Fight Pollution:** Find ways to stop pollution that harms our precious biodiversity.
 - **Smart Waste Management:** Become a pro at reducing, reusing, recycling, and composting.
 - **Water Wise:** Learn and implement systems for harvesting rainwater and using water responsibly.

SUBMISSION CATEGORIES: FIND YOUR SPOT!

FLAMA welcomes everyone to participate in these categories:

- **Category 1:** Primary and Junior Schools (Grade 1- 9)
- **Category 2:** Secondary School (Form 2-4)
- **Category 3:** Special Need Learner Schools

ARE YOU ELIGIBLE?

- Students from all public and private Primary, Junior, and Secondary Schools are welcome, including those from special/integrated/inclusive schools.
- Each school can submit only ONE entry in the Biodiversity category, so make it your best!
- Your school *must* be registered on the FLAMA online portal (www.flama.go.ke)

What Won't Count? (Ineligible Submissions):

- Entries not created by a registered school or learner.
- Projects that have been submitted before for similar awards.
- Submissions without geotagged photos (where possible) as proof of your school project. We need to see your amazing work in action!

How to Send in Your Awesome School Entries:

- **Video Format:** Your 3-5 minute audiovisual video must be in MP4 format and submitted on the FLAMA portal.
- **Simple Recording:** Don't worry about fancy equipment! You can use mobile phones with basic video functions.
- **Presentation Style:** Start with a brief teacher/learner introduction, then let either one student or a group of students take the lead in presenting the project.

- **Verification:** The winning schools in each category will receive a visit from our judges and consultants to confirm the authenticity of your incredible projects.

COMMUNICATION OF WINNERS & AWARDS CEREMONY: THE BIG REVEAL!

- **Winners Announced:** Keep an eye out! Winners will be communicated in **mid September 2025**.
- **Celebrate with Us!** The grand Awards Ceremony will be held on **8th October 2025 to celebrate Mazingira Day**. Get ready to celebrate your achievements!

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- **Enhanced biodiversity awareness** among Kenya's youth.
- **Scalable, community-linked solutions** for pollution control and biodiversity protection.
- **Sustainable use of biodiversity**, ensuring its utilization does not degrade ecosystems and is not harmful to human wellbeing.
- **Improved environmental practices** in schools (waste management, tree planting, water conservation).
- **Strengthened partnerships** between schools, communities, and policy actors.

For more information call: +254758112561 | www.flama.go.ke