



**Figure 1 Water sampling locations**

A water quality monitoring programme was carried out over a seven-week period during August and September 2000. This coincides with the end of the dry season when irrigation is widely practiced. Following several years with lower than average rainfall, river levels were particularly low during the monitoring period.

Five sampling sites were selected to provide an indication of the variation in water quality used for irrigation within the peri-urban zone. The focus of the study was on the Nairobi River, where three of the sampling stations were located: at Mau Mau Bridge, Kimathi and Njiru. Kimathi is located a few kilometres east of the city centre and just downstream of the main industrial area where crop irrigation occurs. Njiru is situated 20 km east of the city centre on the downstream edge of the zone defined by this project (figure 1). Weekly samples were also taken from a shallow well at Thiboro and at Maili Saba. Thiboro is semi-urban, highly densely populated with subsistence crop and animal agriculture taking place.

## Questions

1. What are the types of contaminants you anticipate might be present, and what indicators of contamination should be used in this case study?
2. Five sites were selected in this case study. Do you think that these were representative and how many would you recommend? Give your reasons-
3. What effect would the weather have on the degree of water contamination?
4. What public health issues may arise as a result of contamination at the Thiboro as compared to Njiru Bridge?