



TARDA NEWS

TANA AND ATHI RIVERS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

ISSUE NO. 17 | DECEMBER 2024 HIGHLIGHTS

MINISTRY OF EAC, THE ASALS AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE



On 3rd December 2024, TARDA's Managing Director, Mr. Liban Roba had the privilege of meeting with Jules Caron, CEO and Co-Founder of Iroko Analytics—a company dedicated to identifying and developing the top 1% of reforestation sites in Sub-Saharan Africa. Our discussions revolved around innovative strategies and potential collaborations to scale up reforestation efforts, restore degraded ecosystems, and enhance climate resilience across the Tana and Athi River Basins. As champions of environmental conservation and sustainable development, TARDA is committed to forging partnerships that amplify our impact on the ground. This meeting marks the beginning of what we hope will be a transformative collaboration, combining TARDA's regional expertise with Iroko Analytics' cutting-edge data-driven approaches to reforestation.

FORGING PARTNERSHIP FOR A GREENER FUTURE: TARDA AND LUKENYA UNIVERISTY SIGN MOU FOR TREE PLANTING AND ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY



11th December marked a significant milestone in environmental stewardship as TARDA, through our Machakos and Athi Basin Regional Teams led by Ms. Beatrice Muringi and Mr. Gibson Mwakideu and **Lukenya University** formalized our partnership through the signing of an MOU.

This collaboration aims to plant and nurture 50,000 trees and establish a joint tree nursery, furthering our shared commitment to mitigating the impacts of climate change and enhancing biodiversity.

The partnership is rooted in impactful initiatives with 20,000 Trees Planted so far:

1. 10,000 during the National Tree Planting Day on November 13, 2023.
2. 10,000 during the Lukenya University 10 Million Trees Marathon held on March 24, 2024.

TARDA's conservation milestones, such as the regeneration of Kathiani Catchment and Machakos tree nurseries, demonstrate our focus on reclaiming degraded lands, improving soil fertility and combating desertification.

Following the MOU signing, the day was commemorated with a symbolic tree-planting event, reflecting our joint dedication to a sustainable future.

As we say in the spirit of collaboration, "Kidole kimoja hakivunji chawa"—our collective efforts will transform these landscapes and communities.

Together with partners like Lukenya University, TARDA remains steadfast in building a legacy of resilience, sustainability, and environmental responsibility.

SOWING SEEDS OF SUSTAINABILITY: COLLABORATIVE EFFORTS RESTORE MARANIA



In a significant step toward environmental restoration, the Marania Forest in Meru County became the focal point of a large-scale tree-planting initiative, convened by the State Department of Regional Development on 4th December 2024. The event marked a collaborative effort to combat climate change and restore degraded ecosystems, with 12,500 tree seedlings planted on the day as part of a broader target of 92,700 seedlings for the area.

The event's Guest of Honour, Madam Rosemary Kamau, representing the Principal Secretary, ASALs and Regional Development, Mr. PS Kello Harsama emphasized the Government's commitment to environmental conservation. Her address highlighted the vital role of partnerships in achieving sustainable development goals.

The initiative brought together a diverse group of leaders and agencies, including Canon Chemtai from the Kenya Defence Forces, Mr. Jacob Ouma, County Commissioner, The County Government of Meru, and Mr. W. Daka, County Conservator for the Kenya Forest Service.

These leaders, along with representatives from TARDA, Ewaso Ngiro North Development Authority, Kenya Wildlife Service, and Ministry officials, underscored the strength of a united approach to ecological restoration.

TARDA's contribution was led by Mr. Joses Mugambi, the Regional Coordinator for the Tana Basin, with a remarkable donation of 10,234 tree seedlings. ENNDA, represented by Madam Esther, and Ministry staff, including Madam Maureen and Madam Miriam, played key roles in organizing and executing the initiative.

This tree-planting event is more than an ecological exercise; it is a symbol of hope and resilience. It reflects a commitment to nurturing the environment for future generations, restoring forest cover, and improving biodiversity. The Marania Forest initiative stands as a shining example of what can be achieved through collective effort and a shared vision for a greener Kenya.

ADVANCING RESILIENCE IN THE TANA DELTA



On 17th December 2024 TARDA's Managing Director, Mr. Liban Roba, visited the Tana Delta Irrigation Project (TDIP) to inspect the progress of ongoing rehabilitation works aimed at enhancing the region's resilience and sustainability.

These works include the development of flood management infrastructure to safeguard farmlands and communities from recurring floods and the construction of boreholes to improve access to clean water for households and support local livelihoods.

Through these critical interventions, TARDA is driving transformative change in the Tana Delta, ensuring that communities are better equipped to face environmental challenges while fostering sustainable growth.

EXPLORING NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS FOR CLIMATE MITIGATION



TARDA Managing Director Mr. Liban Roba had the privilege of being hosted by the Presidential Advisor on Climate Change and Special Climate Envoy, Mr. Ali Mohammed, alongside Mr. Igor Akhmerov, CEO of AIM Carbon on December 16th 2024. The discussions centered on unlocking the vast potential of bamboo agroforestry as a nature-based solution for climate change mitigation and rural development. With TARDA's expansive jurisdiction spanning 138,000 km² across 19 counties, the focus on restoring riparian zones and degraded landscapes in the Tana and Athi River Basins is a strategic move to combat land degradation, floods and droughts.

✔ Why Bamboo?

- 1 It is fast-growing, sequesters significant CO₂ and prevents soil erosion.
- 2 Bamboo provides economic opportunities through industries like construction, furniture, textiles and renewable energy.
- 3 It aligns with Kenya's Presidential 15 Billion Tree Campaign and global climate goals, while offering promising carbon credit investments.

TARDA is dedicated to producing 12.5 million seedlings annually as part of its commitment to environmental restoration and climate resilience. This ambitious effort also targets key areas for bamboo rehabilitation, including acreage around Masinga and Kiambere Dams and the Tana Delta. By restoring these critical ecosystems, TARDA aims to mitigate land degradation, enhance biodiversity and improve the livelihoods of local communities.

EMPOWERING KITUI RURAL THROUGH BEE KEEPING



Beekeeping is transforming the Kitui Rural Community into a hub of sustainability and resilience! With minimal investment, this practice is boosting food security, enhancing livelihoods, and paving the way for environmental conservation.

Bees are not just honey producers; they are biodiversity champions and climate warriors. By supporting agricultural activities, they help sequester carbon and mitigate the effects of climate change. This vital contribution underscores the role of beekeeping in securing a greener future for the region.

With TARDA's collaboration with CBOs, we're equipping young people with modern beekeeping skills and technologies. From honey harvesting and farm management to marketing bee products, our young beekeepers are driving innovation and sustainability.

TARDA is keen on turning Kitui into a model of rural transformation, ensuring economic empowerment and environmental harmony.

STRENGTHENING COLLABORATION FOR A GREENER FUTURE



On December 14th 2024, TARDA welcomed a multi-agency team to our Machakos Regional Office and the Machakos Tree Nursery Project. The visit focused on fostering collaboration and sharing insights on advancing environmental restoration and regional development initiatives.

The visit culminated in a significant tree planting exercise at the TARDA Machakos Tree Nursery Project's Weir Riparian zones, symbolizing our collective commitment to conservation and sustainable ecosystems.

This engagement underscores the power of partnerships in driving impactful change for a greener and more sustainable future.

CONGRATULATIONS, REBECCA BOR!

NEWS STAR PERSON OF THE YEAR

INFLUENTIAL FIGURE

From hospitality to environmental hero: Bor's journey of passion and purpose

Her work has not only transformed riparian lands, but also earned her recognition

AGATHA MOTHÉ

At the heart of the city, along Nairobi and Ngara ya Kuni, a quiet revolution is taking place. It's not just about the water, but about the people who are making it happen.

Rebecca Bor's passion and sense of purpose have transformed the riparian lands of Nairobi from a neglected area into a vibrant green space. Her work has not only transformed riparian lands, but also earned her recognition as the 2024 News Star Person of the Year.

Her work has not only transformed riparian lands, but also earned her recognition as the 2024 News Star Person of the Year.



Rebecca Bor, News Star Person of the Year 2024.

Rebecca Bor speaking at a community meeting.

Her work has not only transformed riparian lands, but also earned her recognition as the 2024 News Star Person of the Year.

Her work has not only transformed riparian lands, but also earned her recognition as the 2024 News Star Person of the Year.

Her work has not only transformed riparian lands, but also earned her recognition as the 2024 News Star Person of the Year.

Her work has not only transformed riparian lands, but also earned her recognition as the 2024 News Star Person of the Year.

Her work has not only transformed riparian lands, but also earned her recognition as the 2024 News Star Person of the Year.

Her work has not only transformed riparian lands, but also earned her recognition as the 2024 News Star Person of the Year.

Her work has not only transformed riparian lands, but also earned her recognition as the 2024 News Star Person of the Year.

Her work has not only transformed riparian lands, but also earned her recognition as the 2024 News Star Person of the Year.

Her work has not only transformed riparian lands, but also earned her recognition as the 2024 News Star Person of the Year.

Her work has not only transformed riparian lands, but also earned her recognition as the 2024 News Star Person of the Year.

Her work has not only transformed riparian lands, but also earned her recognition as the 2024 News Star Person of the Year.

Her work has not only transformed riparian lands, but also earned her recognition as the 2024 News Star Person of the Year.

Her work has not only transformed riparian lands, but also earned her recognition as the 2024 News Star Person of the Year.

Her work has not only transformed riparian lands, but also earned her recognition as the 2024 News Star Person of the Year.

Her work has not only transformed riparian lands, but also earned her recognition as the 2024 News Star Person of the Year.

Her work has not only transformed riparian lands, but also earned her recognition as the 2024 News Star Person of the Year.

Her work has not only transformed riparian lands, but also earned her recognition as the 2024 News Star Person of the Year.

Her work has not only transformed riparian lands, but also earned her recognition as the 2024 News Star Person of the Year.

Her work has not only transformed riparian lands, but also earned her recognition as the 2024 News Star Person of the Year.

Her work has not only transformed riparian lands, but also earned her recognition as the 2024 News Star Person of the Year.

Her work has not only transformed riparian lands, but also earned her recognition as the 2024 News Star Person of the Year.

Her work has not only transformed riparian lands, but also earned her recognition as the 2024 News Star Person of the Year.

Her work has not only transformed riparian lands, but also earned her recognition as the 2024 News Star Person of the Year.

Her work has not only transformed riparian lands, but also earned her recognition as the 2024 News Star Person of the Year.

Her work has not only transformed riparian lands, but also earned her recognition as the 2024 News Star Person of the Year.



A group of people performing a cultural dance.

A moment of pride for TARDA family as Rebecca Bor was among 10 nominees for the Star Person of the Year Award! Her dedication, hard work and impactful contributions continue to inspire us all. You can read all about her story in the December 22nd 2024 Edition of The Star, Kenya Newspaper Edition on Page 22

Rebecca, your achievement is a testament to excellence and the enduring legacy of TARDA. Wishing you continued success as you shine brightly in all you do!