



Tana and Athi
Rivers Development
Authority (TARDA)

TARDA NEWS

TANA AND ATHI RIVERS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
MINISTRY OF EAC, THE ASALS, AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

ISSUE NO. 25

AUGUST 2025
HIGHLIGHTS

Resilient ASALs, Stronger Kenya



On 2nd August, Principal Secretary Kello Harsama engaged the National Assembly Departmental Committee on Regional Development Authorities, chaired by Hon. Peter Lochakapong', in discussions on advancing development in Kenya's Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (ASALs). The PS presented the State Department's roadmap prioritizing infrastructure, basin-wide water resource development, and cross-county projects to reduce...
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TARDA Engaged In Critical Eastern Nile Flood And Drought Strategy Talks



TARDA Participated As Strategic Partner At Landmark PPP Symposium



TARDA joined The ACEK 4th Annual Conference

ADVANCING DEVELOPMENT IN ASALs: BUILDING STRONGER REGIONAL DELIVERY SYSTEMS

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...disparities in ASAL regions. He emphasized the central role of Regional Development Authorities (RDAs) in delivering basin-focused, climate-resilient interventions, while calling for stronger collaboration between national and county governments to ensure equitable service delivery and climate resilience.

TARDA, led by Managing Director Mr. Liban Roba, submitted its input to the Committee, outlining mandate implementation, institutional challenges, reform priorities, achievements across the Tana and Athi basins, and legislative proposals to strengthen RDAs. The session concluded with a shared commitment to inclusive growth and sustainable transformation of ASAL regions.



BUILDING CROSS-BORDER SOLUTIONS: TARDA ENGAGES IN CRITICAL EASTERN NILE FLOOD AND DROUGHT STRATEGY TALKS

At the invitation of the Eastern Nile Technical Regional Office (ENTRO), TARDA through our Managing Director, took part in a landmark regional workshop in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, between 18th and 20th August 2025, focused on developing a Regional Strategy for Flood and Drought Management under Climate Uncertainty in Eastern Nile Basin countries.

The workshop brought together experts and stakeholders from Ethiopia, Sudan, and Egypt, as well as basin authorities, regional institutions, and international agencies. Sessions covered flood risk mapping, early warning systems, water modeling, infrastructure resilience, and community adaptation measures, with the aim of building synergies and refining national inputs into a shared strategy. Participants began with a visit to the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD), Africa's largest hydropower project, set for inauguration in September. GERD, with a capacity of 6,450 MW and 74 billion cubic meters of storage, represents a defining milestone in regional water infrastructure.

Kenya's voice at the workshop is represented by, among other national voices, TARDA, which has been closely engaged in ongoing dialogues on transboundary water management, climate resilience, and integrated river basin development. During the workshop, participants are engaging in thematic sessions covering flood risk mapping, early warning systems, water resource modeling, infrastructure resilience, and community adaptation measures.

Technical representatives are sharing national experiences, while regional experts are facilitating alignment into a common framework that strengthens collaboration across borders. TARDA's participation reflects part of Kenya's commitment to shaping collective responses to shared water challenges, ensuring that the realities of the Tana and Athi basins inform the broader Eastern Nile basin strategy.



TARDA Participates As Strategic Partner At Landmark PPP Symposium

On 11th August 2025, the TARDA, led by Managing Director Mr. Liban Roba, participated in the High-Level #PPPSymposium convened by the National Treasury's Public Private Partnerships (PPP) Directorate in Nairobi. The forum, presided over by the Cabinet Secretary for the National Treasury, brought together senior government officials, county representatives, development partners, and private sector players to strengthen trust in the PPP framework through transparency, open communication, and leadership engagement. A new pipeline of bankable projects was also unveiled, signaling readiness for private sector investment.

For TARDA, the symposium provided an opportunity to showcase its strategic agri-industrial projects within the national PPP agenda. Discussions centered on flagship initiatives in the Tana Delta, including the Tana Delta Irrigation Project (TDIP), the Tana Integrated Sugar Project (TISP), and the BETA Feedlots, which are currently being structured in partnership with the PPP Directorate. The engagement reaffirmed TARDA's alignment with government priorities and advanced conversations with potential investors on projects that aim to transform agriculture, boost food security, create jobs, and enhance climate resilience.

SHAPING THE FUTURE OF ENGINEERING: TARDA AT THE ACEK 4TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The Tana and Athi Rivers Development Authority (TARDA) was honored to join PS Water & Sanitation Julius Korir and sector leaders at the 4th Annual Conference of the Association of Consulting Engineers of Kenya (ACEK), which explored the transition from Industry 4.0 to Industry 5.0, held from the 18th to 20th August 2025.

TARDA was represented by Director of Resource Planning and Development, Irene Ndavi, who participated as a panelist in the session on Advanced Engineering, Smart Manufacturing, and Automation. She emphasized that the future of engineering lies in breaking silos by linking policy, technology, and sustainability into one convergent strategy. Her key points included:

- Policy as an enabler – creating guardrails and incentives that unlock inclusive innovation
- Technology as a force multiplier – embedding AI, IoT, and smart systems into infrastructure
- Sustainability as the anchor – making climate-smart practices and resilient infrastructure the baseline
- Partnerships & equity as the engine – ensuring fair, ethical, and future-ready development.



Conference highlights also underscored digital innovation across sectors, embedding sustainability in engineering, and strengthening public-private partnerships for research and capacity development.

TARDA aligns with PS Korir's call for engineers to embrace emerging technologies while delivering solutions that serve both rural and urban communities. Our participation reaffirmed our commitment to engineering innovation that safeguards water, powers development, and strengthens climate resilience.

TARDA At The Forefront For A Climate-resilient Future



The 4th Annual Daystar University Conference on Climate Change for Planetary Health saw three days between 13th and 15th August 2025 of bold dialogue and solutions to humanity's most pressing challenge. The Tana and Athi Rivers Development Authority was represented by Mr. Gibson Mwakideu, Regional Coordinator for the Athi Basin, who brought over 25 years of experience in water and environmental conservation. His presentation on Day 3, under the theme Green Energy and Community Climate Mitigation, highlighted TARDA's practical interventions, including:

- Restoring riparian zones along River Athi
- Advancing community-led agroforestry and catchment protection
- Supporting climate-smart livelihoods for resilience

In his remarks, Mr. Mwakideu emphasized that planetary health is a movement driven by empowered communities, innovation, and strong partnerships.

Through initiatives that restore ecosystems and safeguard water resources, TARDA continues to build resilience and improve livelihoods, ensuring communities are equipped to thrive in the face of climate change.

TRANSFORMING COMMUNITIES THROUGH WATER ACCESS IN KIENI: TARDA UNLOCKS WATER ACCESS FOR 600 HOUSEHOLDS IN IRIGITHATHI



TARDA convened a stakeholder engagement meeting in Kieni Constituency, Nyeri County to advance the drilling and equipping of the Kamburaini Irigithathi Borehole. The initiative, part of the 2024/2025 programme, will provide over 600 households with clean, reliable water for domestic use and small-scale farming.

The meeting, held on 7th August 2025, brought together community leaders, county representatives, local water user groups, and TARDA technical teams to align on implementation timelines, sustainability, and local ownership.

Beyond access to water, the project is expected to improve learning outcomes for children, create opportunities for women and youth in agriculture, and enhance food security for small farms.

This initiative reflects TARDA's commitment to basin-based, people-centered development that strengthens resilience and ensures no one is left behind.

The Irigithathi Borehole stands as a model of inclusive planning and sustainable community development.

Over 500 Farmers Set To Benefit From New Thiha-kiruka Project In Mukurwe-ini As TARDA Expands Irrigation Access



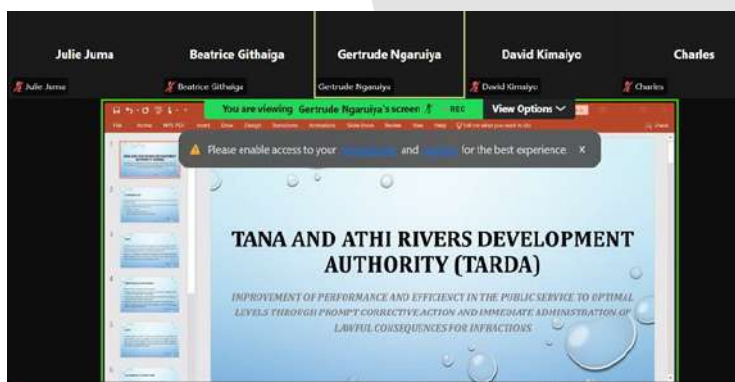
A community engagement visit by the Authority was held in Mukurwe-ini Constituency, Nyeri County, the future home of the Thiha-Kiruka Smallholder Irrigation Project. Taking place on 8th August 2025, the session focused on advancing plans that will benefit more than 500 smallholder farmers across 165 acres of irrigated land.

The project aims to expand agricultural potential and restore confidence in rural livelihoods affected by erratic rainfall and shrinking yields. Its proposed scope includes:

- Rehabilitation and expansion of the intake structure
- Repair and upgrading of the existing mainline
- Rehabilitation of Kanyangate, Gitondo, and Gatitu feeder lines
- Extension of the Gatiko–Usawa feeder
- Laying of new distribution pipelines

Once complete, the initiative will guarantee year-round irrigation, supporting consistent crop production, higher incomes, and a shift from subsistence to surplus farming.

More than infrastructure, this is an investment in people and their capacity to adapt and thrive. The voices of the Mukurwe-ini community, shared during the engagement, reaffirmed the value of inclusive planning, local knowledge, and shared responsibility in building resilience.



Driving Compliance And Accountability In Public Service

At TARDA, integrity is more than compliance—it is the cornerstone of sustainable development. On 22nd August 2025, our teams participated in a session on the Matrix of Lawful Consequences for Infractions in the Public Service, reinforcing accountability, transparency, and ethical conduct.

This exercise goes beyond policy enforcement; it fosters a culture where responsibility, public trust, and clear consequences guide every action. As custodians of Kenya's vital natural resources, we reaffirm our commitment to good governance, efficient service delivery, and responsible stewardship in the Tana and Athi basins. Strengthened by these values, TARDA moves forward accountable and prepared to deliver.

AWOMM IN ACTION: *Transforming Waste Into Power And Possibility In Mukuru*



A multi-agency mission to Mukuru, South B pushed forward the Advancing Women-led Organic Waste Management for Methane Reduction (AWOMM) Project. In partnership with Latewa CBO and Fresh Life, the initiative seeks to convert organic waste into biogas and fertilizer while creating green jobs for women and youth.



The visit, held on 5th August, included stops at Nairobi South Primary, St. Catherine Complex, and Mlima Dumpsite, where discussions focused on;

- Land access
- Methane capture
- Community training opportunities

Local leaders pledged support, reinforcing the project's goal of inclusive, climate-smart development.

Next steps involve;

- Engagement with Kenya Railways, Nairobi County, and NEMA, alongside waste audits, site designs.
- Training programs expected to benefit over 400 residents.

AWOMM aims to turn waste into opportunity, restore dignity, and build resilience in one of Nairobi's most underserved settlements.

Driving Community Impact In South Imenti



On 15th August 2025, Regional Coordinator for Tana Basin, Joses Mugambi, joined a consultative meeting at the Igoji Subcounty DCC offices with Area MP Hon. Dr. Shadrack Mwiti, government representatives, and community leaders.

The session focused on equipping the new subcounty offices with basic logistics and recognized TARDA's role in tree planting across Mt. Kenya Forest, schools, and roadsides, in support of the Presidential directive on forest cover.

Hon. Dr. Mwiti commended planned projects in Meru and pledged to champion the Iraru-Mweru Water Project in Parliament. Engagements with Uwezo Fund also opened doors for partnerships to empower youth and women through apiculture and green financing models for climate-smart livelihoods.

This collaboration reflects TARDA's commitment to sustainable development, conservation, and inclusive opportunities for local communities.

TARDA At The Kenya Meat EXPO 2025

The Kenya Meat Expo 2025, held on 6th–8th August at KICC under the theme “Driving Sustainable Growth Across the Meat Value Chain,” brought together farmers, processors, innovators, regulators, investors, and other industry players. TARDA’s participation was in line with Strategic Objective 3 of its 2023–2027 Strategic Plan on enhancing food systems and value chains.

Over the three days, the Expo featured panel discussions, exhibitions, masterclasses, and networking sessions. For TARDA, this was an opportunity to learn, exchange ideas, and explore partnerships. Key takeaways included the importance of linking the value chain more strongly, from farmers to markets, adopting climate-smart production and innovative feedlot designs, and strengthening cooperatives and traceability systems. There was also emphasis on investing in modern abattoirs, cold chain facilities, and value addition.

Branding Kenyan meat as organic, grass-fed, and halal-compliant stood out as a gateway to regional and international markets. The masterclasses gave practical insights into silage production, strip grazing, fodder quality management, abattoir design, and livestock nutrition. Emerging opportunities were equally exciting: expanding value-added products such as sausages and ready-to-cook packs, eco-friendly certification to capture niche markets, and exports to the Middle East and Asia.

For TARDA, the most relevant lessons centred on feedlot development, fodder quality, and market integration. These insights will shape future livestock projects and help strengthen value chains within the Tana and Athi River basins.



Wheels, Wind & Water Views: BMW Owners Club Takes On Masinga!



In late July 2025, Masinga DAM Resort was the perfect blend of torque and tranquility as we welcomed the BMW Owners Club of Kenya for an unforgettable drive and destination experience.

From the scenic arrival across the Tana basin to the friendly drag races, riverside BBQ, and soul-refreshing dam walk, the weekend was a celebration of shared passions—performance, people, and the open road.

The team didn’t just drive; they connected, laughed, explored, and unwound. That’s what Masinga is built for.

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