



TARDA NEWS

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

ISSUE NO. 26

SEPTEMBER 2025
HIGHLIGHTS

TARDA Welcomes New Board Members



On 17th September, at our Headquarters, TARDA warmly inducted incoming Board Members — Mr. Hussein Dida Sora, Ms. Margaret Lotukoi Nasilo, and Mr. Alex Kiratu — leaders who now carry the responsibility of safeguarding our river basins, strengthening institutional credibility, and steering TARDA's sustainability roadmap *(Continues in Pg. 2).*



Turning Ideas Into Impact: Tarda & Lukenya Unite For Climate Action



Transforming Water Scarcity Into Shared Opportunity



Driving Bold Climate Solutions Ahead Of Cop30

TARDA Welcomes New Board Members

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Board Chair Mr. Patrick Gichohi (CBS) chaired the hands-on session designed to ground members in the Authority's mandate and strategic direction. The program provided an in-depth look at TARDA's role in integrated river basin management, food security interventions, and climate-resilient development, while also walking through governance responsibilities and the Board's oversight role in resource stewardship and institutional sustainability.

The induction further explored TARDA's flagship projects — from irrigation schemes and catchment conservation to renewable energy linkages — highlighting the Authority's impact and opportunities for scaling. Importantly, the session set the tone for strengthened alignment between management, led by Managing Director Mr. Liban Roba, who also shared his vision for the Authority, and the Board in delivering on national development priorities. The engagement provided an opportunity to affirm the vital role of the Board in guiding our path toward institutional growth and impact.

The day was also special as we celebrated the service of Dr. Alfred Mungai, Alternate Director to the Principal Secretary, State Department of ASALs and Regional Development. We bade him a warm official farewell, with gratitude for his dedicated contribution and commitment to the Authority over the years.

With fresh leadership energy and a strong foundation of service, TARDA is well-positioned to accelerate its mission of delivering sustainable solutions across the river basins.



TURNING IDEAS INTO IMPACT: TARDA & LUKENYA UNITE FOR CLIMATE ACTION



On 16th September 2025, TARDA and Lukenya University marked more than the signing of an MoU — we reignited a shared vision for climate action, community empowerment, and river basin sustainability.

Our Managing Director, Mr. Liban Roba, was warmly received by the University's Vice Chancellor, Council, and Board of Trustees — a powerful symbol of the shared commitment between academia and government in driving solutions that matter. *(Continues in Pg. 3)*



In his remarks, Mr. Roba reminded us that learning institutions are not simply centers of knowledge — they are engines of innovation and resilience. Together with TARDA, they are turning research and ideas into lasting impact for communities and ecosystems.

Already, this partnership has delivered tangible outcomes — from restoring the riparian zones of River Athi with over 50,000 seedlings, to championing the bold 10 Million Trees Marathon and reforestation in Kibwezi East. And this is just the beginning.

This MoU is more than paperwork — it is a renewed commitment to action: to harness science, community spirit, and innovation in safeguarding rivers, restoring ecosystems, and securing Kenya's climate future. The trees planted during the ceremony were not just symbolic; they were living promises of resilience for generations to come.

TRANSFORMING WATER SCARCITY INTO SHARED OPPORTUNITY

On 3rd September 2025 TARDA joined hands with local administration, area leadership and the community at Kathiani Primary School, Katothya, Machakos County, to roll out a transformative drought mitigation project. Through a community sensitization program, we engaged the community on the life-changing impact of a Project that will soon deliver water where drought has long dictated hardship.

The Project will construct intake works and a storage tank to serve 1,200 households of Ngetani and Kathiani Primary School itself. For the community, this is more than infrastructure. It is the power to irrigate, the chance to secure food, and the assurance that children can learn in an environment where water is not a luxury but a guarantee.

In drought-stricken areas, a reservoir is not just concrete and pipes it's a lifeline. A reservoir that will secure water, sustain farms, and keep children in school without the daily disruption of water scarcity. By situating it at a school, we anchor the future directly where it matters most: with the next generation.

Resilience is built where it matters most: at the community level, with the community at the center.



DRIVING BOLD CLIMATE SOLUTIONS AHEAD OF COP30



On September 4th 2025, TARDA led by Managing Director Mr. Liban Roba, is honoured to have participated in the high-level Climate Action Summit 2025 Breakfast Meeting convened by Expo Events Services in collaboration with the Kenya School of Government and the Nairobi Rivers Commission.

This engagement set the stage for Africa's voice and vision to be amplified at the Climate Action Summit 2025 taking place from 23–26 September, Nairobi) — a defining platform in the run-up to #COP30 in Belém, Brazil. *(Continues in Pg. 4)*

For TARDA, this conversation is more than climate dialogue. It is about practical solutions— from integrated water resource management to basin-wide conservation, from irrigation for food security to green energy futures. As custodians of the Tana and Athi River Basins, TARDA stands ready to anchor Kenya's contribution to global climate action with solutions rooted in our ecosystems and communities. The Summit is not just about commitments. It is about turning them into coordinated, inclusive, and impactful outcomes. Africa's climate future starts here.

FLOWING FUTURES: *Water Access Driving Food Security In Nyeri*



This week, the Tana and Athi Rivers Development Authority teams are on the ground advancing two landmark water projects in Kieni and Mukurwe-ini:

1. Kamburaini-Irighathi Borehole (Kieni Constituency): Project works have commenced that will unlock clean, reliable water for 600 households, improving learning outcomes, food security, and livelihoods across the community.

2. Thiha-Kiruka Smallholder Irrigation Project (Mukurwe-ini Constituency): Community sensitization marked the next phase of a Project that will serve 500 farmers and open up 165 acres of irrigated farmland. From intake rehabilitation to new distribution pipelines, this initiative is about turning potential into productivity.



These efforts reflect TARDA's commitment to inclusive planning, sustainable livelihoods, and resilience-building—ensuring that water access fuels both households and agriculture.

SEEDING A CLIMATE-RESILIENT FUTURE: *TARDA Advances Discussions With Mama Doing Good To Transform Communities Through Fruit Tree Economies*



At the Tana and Athi Rivers Development Authority, we believe that climate action must go beyond planting trees—it must plant futures. Today, our team led by Director, Resource Planning and Development Ms. Irene Ndavi engaged with MaMa Doing Good, led by Manager, Strategic Partnerships, Office of the First Lady Kenya Mr. Peter Ngeli, to advance a partnership that redefines environmental restoration as a vehicle for prosperity.

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What this collaboration means:

1. From Nurseries to Engines of Growth: TARDA's flagship Masinga and Kiambere nurseries will be upgraded into centers of excellence capable of producing 500,000 climate-smart fruit tree seedlings annually.

2. Food on the Table, Income in Pockets: Beyond greening landscapes, these fruit trees will diversify household nutrition, generate income, and spur local enterprise.

3. Scaling National Commitments: This initiative directly accelerates Kenya's 15 Billion Tree Campaign while anchoring community-driven climate resilience across TARDA's 19 counties of mandate.

4. Green Jobs for a New Generation: Tree growing becomes a catalyst for youth employment, innovation in agroforestry, and sustainable resource-based livelihoods.

This is more than a nursery upgrade. It is a strategic investment in people, nature, and future economies—proof that climate resilience is strongest when rooted in communities. Together with Mama Doing Good, TARDA is setting the pace for nature-based development models that integrate conservation, livelihoods, and resilience into one powerful ecosystem of impact. The message is clear: trees are not just for shade—they are for sustenance, dignity, and shared prosperity.



STRENGTHENING NATIONAL WATER SECURITY: *Tarda & NWHSA Join Forces For Masinga Dam*



On September 11th 2025 held a strategic meeting with the National Water Harvesting & Storage Authority to deliberate on collaboration for the dredging of Masinga Dam.

The meeting focused on addressing the long-standing impacts of upstream land-use practices that have led to soil erosion, siltation, and reduced storage capacity—challenges affecting hydropower generation, domestic water supply, and flood management.

Leading the TARDA Team representing the Managing Director, was Director of Resource Planning & Development Ms. Irene Ndavi, while NWHSA was led by the CEO Eng. Julius Mugun. Both authorities reaffirmed their commitment to sustainable water resource management and agreed to establish a joint technical working group to coordinate efforts, share data, and ensure the dredging project maximizes operational efficiency while safeguarding critical services.

This collaboration underscores a shared vision for resilient water infrastructure, optimized hydropower, and strengthened regional water security. TARDA looks forward to translating this strategic partnership into tangible benefits for Kenya's people and economy.



TARDA Team with National Water Harvesting and Storage Authority

SHAPING KENYA'S DEVELOPMENT AGENDA IN ASALS AND RIVER BASINS



On September 14th, TARDA joined other Regional Development Agencies under the State Department for ASALs and Regional Development during the presentation of the State Department's Programme Performance Review (PPR) and Programme-Based Budget (PBB) for FY 2026/2027.

This platform brought together key stakeholders across the various State Agencies to review achievements, interrogate planned targets, and strengthen delivery frameworks for the year ahead.

For TARDA, this engagement reaffirms our role as a strategic implementing agency—advancing basin-based development, water resource management, climate resilience, and livelihoods transformation across the Tana and Athi basins.

As Kenya prioritizes inclusive growth in ASAL regions, our commitment is clear:

- 1. Aligning projects with national priorities**
- 2. Building climate-smart interventions that secure communities**
- 3. Driving cross-county and cross-sector collaboration**
- 4. Ensuring sustainable impact through evidence-based planning**

The 2026/27 PPR & PBB are not just planning tools—they are blueprints for resilient development and equitable service delivery. TARDA is proud to be part of this collective journey.

WORLD CLEAN UP DAY 2025 - TARDA IN ACTION

On September 20, 2025, the Tana and Athi Rivers Development Authority (TARDA) joined national and local partners in commemorating World Clean-Up Day 2025, an event hosted by the Ministry of Environment, Climate Change & Forestry and the Machakos County Government, with support from UN-Habitat, NEMA Kenya, and other key stakeholders. The clean-up exercise took place in Sokoni, Machakos Town, from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., followed by the official celebrations at the Machakos University Amphitheatre, graced by the Cabinet Secretary for Environment, Climate Change & Forestry as the Chief Guest. This year's global theme, "Tackling Textile and Fashion Waste through Circular Fashion," spotlighted the urgent need to address the growing challenge of textile waste and promote sustainable fashion choices. TARDA made a tangible contribution by donating 2,000 assorted tree seedlings to support the region's greening efforts. As custodians of the Tana and Athi River Basins, TARDA emphasized that its role in waste management extends beyond clean-up activities. The Authority continues to drive long-term environmental and social impact through initiatives such as:

1. Supporting tree planting and riparian restoration to reduce riverbank pollution.
2. Engaging youth and communities in sustainable waste practices that protect rivers from textile and plastic runoff.
3. Linking conservation with livelihoods, ensuring that climate action delivers real socio-economic benefits.

"By participating in today's clean-up, TARDA reinforces its mandate — keeping rivers healthy, ecosystems resilient, and communities empowered," said a TARDA representative. "Together with partners, we are turning awareness into measurable impact — ensuring that rivers remain lifelines, not dumping lines." In addition to the Machakos event, TARDA also participated in a community-led clean-up exercise organized by the Ruai Environment Group. The event brought together local residents, traders, pupils, and leaders at Ruai Market and later Ruai Primary School for a day dedicated to environmental action and awareness.

Activities included market clean-up exercises, waste segregation demonstrations, and awareness talks that unpacked the hidden costs of textile waste and its effects on ecosystems. Practical sessions on circular fashion — reuse, repair, and redesign — showcased how small lifestyle changes can transform waste into valuable resources. Beyond the physical clean-up, the Ruai event served as a platform for strengthening collaboration among government agencies, NGOs, and private sector players to embed sustainable waste management practices within Ruai and beyond. For TARDA, the day's activities underscored a broader vision — embedding environmental stewardship into everyday community life. The Authority remains committed to connecting waste management with river basin protection, livelihood improvement, and the pursuit of a sustainable future where responsible living becomes second nature.



PLANTING THE SEEDS OF KNOWLEDGE

Tarda Takes Bee Awareness To Schools



In today's fast-changing world, it has become more important than ever to educate young learners about sustainability, biodiversity, and environmental responsibility. At Tana and Athi Rivers Development Authority, we believe one of the most powerful ways to do this is by raising awareness about bees and the vital role they play in our ecosystems.

As part of our #SchoolGreeningProgramme, TARDA conducted a bee awareness session on 16th September 2025 at Grand Mark Primary School in Kitui County. Pupils and teachers were guided not only on the ecological importance of bees in pollination and food security, but also on practical

safety measures—how to calmly respond when stung, and why staying composed during a bee attack can save lives. Bees may be small, but their contribution to sustaining life on earth is immense.

This initiative is only the beginning. Working with beekeepers, TARDA will be installing observation beehives in schools to serve as living educational tools—bringing lessons on ecology, pollination, and conservation to life. Alongside this, pollinator gardens will be planted to create outdoor classrooms where students can directly observe and learn about biodiversity in action.

By planting the seeds of knowledge today, we are nurturing a future generation that is informed, responsible, and empowered to protect the environment. When we teach children about bees, we are not just talking about insects—we are inspiring environmental leaders of tomorrow.



TARDA AT THE MACHAKOS COUNTY PARTICIPATORY SCENARIO PLANNING (PSP) FORUM



TARDA took part in the Participatory Scenario Planning (PSP) Workshop held on 23–24 September 2025 at Gelian Hotel, Machakos, organized by IGAD Secretariat, ICPAC, and the Kenya Meteorological Department (KMD). The forum brought together government agencies, county representatives, private sector actors, NGOs, CBOs, and the media to co-develop

advisories for the October–December (OND) 2025 rains. Represented by the Athi Basin Regional Office, TARDA contributed insights from the Tana and Athi River basins, focusing on water use, crop planning, and disaster preparedness for downstream communities. The Machakos County forecast indicates below-average rainfall with uneven distribution, making the advisories key in guiding farmers and planners during the short rains season. The workshop reinforced TARDA's commitment to turning climate data into practical solutions that support livelihood resilience and sustainable basin management.

WORLD ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH DAY 2025

On 26th September 2025, the Tana and Athi Rivers Development Authority (TARDA) joined partners and the Machakos County Government in commemorating World Environmental Health Day 2025, themed **“Clean Air, Healthy People.”** The event underscored the vital link between air quality, public health, and environmental resilience, emphasizing that protecting clean air is essential for safeguarding life. Air pollution remains one of the most pressing environmental health risks, contributing to respiratory illnesses, cardiovascular diseases, and the worsening impacts of climate change. In line with the day’s message, TARDA reaffirmed its commitment to:

1. Safeguarding catchments and river basins that regulate air and water quality.
2. Supporting afforestation and reforestation as natural air filters.
3. Promoting climate-smart, sustainable practices across its projects.
4. Partnering with communities and institutions to strengthen environmental stewardship.

Through these initiatives, TARDA continues to champion cleaner air, healthier people, and a sustainable future for Kenya and beyond.



TARDA BUILDING RESILIENCE IN NYANDARUA



In Kamrembo, Gathara Ward – Njabini, the Tana and Athi Rivers Development Authority (TARDA) partnered with The Green Belt Movement (GBM) for a hands-on community program focused on building climate resilience through sustainable land and water management. The initiative brought together farmers, local leaders, and environmental champions for practical sessions on climate-smart agriculture, afforestation and reforestation, and organic farming—all aimed

at strengthening community adaptation to shifting weather patterns. Participants also engaged in dialogues that empowered them to become active stewards of their land and water resources. The exercise was led by Racheal Muna (GBM Coordinator), Samuel Bakari (Director, Nyandarua County), and Eng. Henry Maina (TARDA), demonstrating how collaboration between government, civil society, and communities can transform knowledge into action. Through such partnerships, TARDA continues to translate its sustainable basin management mandate into real community impact, ensuring that local action drives national climate goals.

TARDA EMPOWERING YOUTH INNOVATION FOR CONSERVATION

In Embu County TARDA is actively supporting youth-driven environmental innovations and community empowerment. Through our Embu Regional Office, we are supporting a dynamic youth group from Kiriaini, Manyatta, to establish a community tree nursery, fish ponds, and an entertainment group that fuses creativity with conservation. Among their standout innovations is the design of an M3 fighter jet model, branded in TARDA colours — Black (Kenyan resilience), Blue (our rivers and rainfall), and White (a clean environment). This model jet was unveiled at Embu Stadium as a bold symbol to accelerate national climate action. Just as a fighter jet is built for speed and precision, the youth used this model to emphasize the urgency of fast-tracking the Presidential directive to plant billions of trees for climate resilience. By linking innovation, symbolism, and environmental action, TARDA continues to empower the next generation to drive sustainability in creative and impactful ways.



TARDA MOURNS THE PASSING OF MR. JOHN MUTIA MANGICIA



Mr. John Mutia Mangicia

Sunrise : 22nd August 1964
Sunset : 27th September 2025

The Tana and Athi Rivers Development Authority (TARDA) family is deeply saddened by the passing of Mr. John Mutia Mangicia, who passed away on Saturday, 27th September 2025, following a short illness. His death has been received with great sorrow across the Authority.

Mr. Mangicia faithfully served TARDA for 28 years, beginning his journey as a Driver and, through hard work and commitment, rising to the position of Senior Driver at the Kibwezi Office, where he served until his passing.

Throughout his career, Mr. Mangicia was known for his integrity, humility, and professionalism. He approached every task with quiet excellence and teamwork, earning the respect and affection of colleagues across departments. His dedication to service and his example of reliability leave a lasting mark on the TARDA community.

In a message of condolence, the Managing Director, Mr. Liban Roba, extended heartfelt sympathies to the late Mangicia's family, friends, and colleagues, noting that his passing leaves "an irreplaceable void — not only within the organization but also in the hearts of all who had the privilege of knowing and working alongside him." As the TARDA fraternity mourns this loss, we stand in solidarity with his family during this difficult time. May his legacy of service continue to inspire us all.

May His Soul Rest In Eternal Peace.

#END