



TARDA NEWS

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

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HIGHLIGHTS

TARDA Chair Visits Tana Delta Project



TARDA Board Chairman, Mr. Patrick Gichohi, led a high-level visit to the Tana Delta Irrigation Project (TDIP) — one of Kenya's flagship initiatives for food security and climate resilience.



**Redefining Climate Governance:
From Policy To Actionable Systems
At The Climate Action Summit 2025**



**Recalibrating Kenya's Regional
Development Agenda**



**Building Partnerships That
Power Purpose**

TARDA Board Chairman Visits The Tana Delta Irrigation Project (TDIP)

On 30th October 2025, TARDA Board Chairman, Mr. Patrick Gichohi, led a high-level visit to the Tana Delta Irrigation Project (TDIP) — one of Kenya's flagship initiatives for food security and climate resilience.

Spanning 31,000 hectares across Tana River and Lamu Counties, TDIP is transforming the Delta into a national food production and climate adaptation frontier.

During the visit, the Chairman, who was received by Managing Director Mr. Liban Roba, reviewed key achievements under the ongoing rehabilitation programme, including:

1. Rehabilitation of flood protection dykes and estate infrastructure
2. Resumption of rice production with 1,093 tonnes of paddy harvested this season
3. Installation of solar-powered fencing, water supply systems, and operational support facilities

He commended the TDIP team for their continued progress and reaffirmed the Board's support in scaling up production to 12,000 hectares, in alignment with the Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA).

This visit marks an important step in the lead-up to the CS's visit — underscoring TARDA's unwavering commitment to driving food security, community resilience, and sustainable basin development.



Redefining Climate Governance: From Policy To Actionable Systems At The Climate Action Summit 2025



TARDA was proud to be part of a three-day pivotal national and global dialogue on climate leadership from 28th to 30th October, taking place at the Kenya School of Government under the theme "Institutionalizing Climate Action in Kenya: Policy Alignment, Leadership Coordination, and Localized Implementation," the Summit brings together decision-makers, innovators, and practitioners shaping Kenya's climate future. Managing Director, Mr. Liban Roba, addressed the Summit on "Securing Climate Resilience through Integrated Water and Waste Management,"

highlighting how water anchors Kenya's adaptation strategy from flood control and irrigation to waste management and wetland restoration.

TARDA also featured prominently in thematic panels:

- Ms. Irene Ndavi – Climate Governance and Policy Alignment
- Mr. Peter Muli – Community Solutions and Inclusive Climate Action
- Eng. Boniface Magovi – Urban Resilience, Infrastructure, and Localized Delivery

At #Day2 of the #RoadtoCOP30 #ClimateActionSummit 2025 at the Kenya School of Government, Managing Director, Mr. Liban Roba, delivered a keynote address on: "Strengthening Mechanisms and Systems for Effective Climate Governance for Communities through Research."

In his remarks, he underscored that climate change has moved beyond an environmental issues it is now a governance and development imperative that demands integrated, data-driven, and community-led systems.



Mr. Roba emphasized that effective climate response requires:

- Institutionalized research-policy integration – ensuring scientific evidence directly informs national and county planning.
- Standardized data systems – to enable coordinated decision-making across agencies and counties.
- Community-driven climate governance – moving beyond token participation to real inclusion and accountability.
- Basin-based coordination frameworks – strengthening

institutional collaboration where resources cross administrative boundaries.

Drawing from TARDA's experience managing the Tana and Athi River Basins—which cover over 40% of Kenya's landmass across 19 counties—he highlighted the need for climate intelligence systems that bridge science, governance, and community action.

On #Day3 of the #RoadtoCOP30 #ClimateActionSummit2025 the spotlight turned to the power of people-driven innovation — and the TARDA was right at the center of it.

During the plenary on “Scaling Community Innovations for Climate Resilience,” TARDA's Mr. Peter Muli and Eng. Boniface Magovi shared compelling lessons from the Authority's basin-based programs — where scientific research, community ingenuity, and institutional coordination converge to build lasting resilience.

From water-efficient irrigation and flood-mitigation systems to community-led restoration and climate-smart infrastructure, TARDA's work across the Tana and Athi Basins demonstrates that the most effective climate action begins at the grassroots — and scales through partnerships grounded in science and inclusion.

As the world looks ahead to COP30, TARDA continues to push the frontier of applied research, policy integration, and local innovation — translating evidence into impact, and empowering communities to lead Kenya's climate resilience story.

As TARDA, we remain committed to building strong governance mechanisms that ensure climate resilience, sustainable resource management, and equitable growth across our basins.

Recalibrating Kenya's Regional Development Agenda



TARDA Managing Director Mr. Liban Roba joined Cabinet Secretary for the Ministry of East African Community, ASALs, and Regional Development, Hon. Beatrice Askul, alongside the leadership of fellow Regional Development Authorities, for a high-level briefing on October 7th focused on progress, alignment, and impact.

These forums are important as they encourage genuine reflection and collaboration. Each discussion moves us closer to a unified development rhythm, where regional priorities align with national transformation. Across Kenya's basins, RDAs are doing more than executing projects; they are defining how the country responds to climate challenges, manages shared water resources, and drives inclusive growth from the ground up. Collaboration is not a checkbox it's how transformation actually happens.

TARDA Development Dialogues – October 2025 Edition

On 3rd October TARDA convenes the #OctoberEdition of the #DevelopmentDialogues with the theme:

“Leveraging Land, Water and Ecosystem Assets for Climate Finance and Sustainable Development.” The edition focused on how we can turn local assets into global opportunities through climate finance, innovation, and community-led action.

Rivers, soils and forests are not just natural assets — they are Kenya’s latent balance sheet. If we treat them as such, we can mobilize resources in climate finance to protect livelihoods, restore ecosystems and build a resilient economy. We hosted an exciting panel of practitioners, policy-makers, academia and community leaders to move the conversation from theory to action, mainly;

Speakers / Panelists –

1. Leonard Muchiri – Manager, Natural Resources & Conservation (TARDA)
2. Capt. Job D. Kareithi – CEO & Lead Consultant, Capacity Building Consultants Ltd.
3. Lilian Mwihiaki Mugi – Regional Projects Officer for East Africa, Plan Vivo
4. Gladys Warigia – Policy Advocacy Manager, Kenya Wildlife Conservancies Association (KWCA)
5. Denis Kiyeng – GIS and Remote Sensing Expert, TARDA
6. Esther Nthenya Muli – Deputy Director for Research, Lukenya University

Moderator

Denis Langat- Planning and Investments Expert- (TARDA)

Why this matters now:

- Climate capital is flowing — but it goes where risks are managed, returns are credible, and communities share benefits.
- Kenya’s river basins (Tana & Athi) are living laboratories: if we can package bankable projects here — from catchment PES and eco-charcoal to irrigation-anchored PPPs and verified carbon bundles — we create a model Africa can replicate.
- Technology (GIS, MRV, remote sensing, digital registries) now lets us measure and monetize natural capital with rigor — unlocking new revenue streams while safeguarding ecosystems.

The webinar was a practical roadmap for converting basin-level interventions into investment-ready pipelines.

We must turn ecosystems into engines of prosperity — not just for the next budget round, but for generations to come.



Building Partnerships That Power Purpose



The Authority represented by Tana Basin Regional Coordinator Mr. Joses Mugambi, held productive discussions with the Catholic Diocese of Embu, represented by Father James and Projects Coordinator Madam Josephine, alongside the Embu County Commissioner's Office, during a planning meeting for Mazingira Day celebrations.

The engagement went beyond event logistics, focusing on establishing a lasting partnership in key areas such as climate change adaptation and mitigation, food security, sustainable water management, technology transfer, and community health.

TARDA reaffirmed its commitment to collaborate with faith-based, donor-supported, and county-led initiatives to advance climate resilience and sustainable livelihoods across the basin.

Both TARDA and the Diocese agreed to formalize their collaboration through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to guide joint programs and resource mobilization a partnership that truly embodies the spirit of Mazingira Day; shared environmental stewardship, cross-sector collaboration, and community-driven transformation.



Shaping Kenya's Development Agenda In ASALs And River Basins



TARDA's Athi Basin Regional Office joined The Office of Attorney-General and Department of Justice on 9th October for the official launch of the Machakos Legal Aid Centre a milestone in advancing access to justice and community empowerment.

The newly established Centre aims to provide critical support on land matters, children in conflict with the law, probate and administration, civil disputes, constitutional rights, and public litigation bridging the gap between justice and citizens.

TARDA was honored to be recognized as a key partner to the Attorney General's Office in environmental conservation, a collaboration that began in 2023 during the national tree planting drives.

To commemorate this important occasion, TARDA provided ceremonial and fruit trees planted within the center's grounds symbolizing justice rooted in sustainability.

The event was graced by the Solicitor General, Hon. Shadrack Mose, representing the Hon Attorney General and culminated in a tree-planting ceremony a fitting prelude to #MazingiraDay2025, celebrated on the 10th October across the country.



TARDA Joins The Nation In Celebrating #mazingiraday 2025

On 10th, TARDA, under the theme “Citizen-Centric Tree Growing and Environmental Stewardship,” joined Kenyans across the country in marking Mazingira Day by planting the seeds of a sustainable future under the #15BillionTrees initiative. Across the Tana and Athi River Basins, our teams are restoring degraded catchments, greening schools, and nurturing ecosystems that sustain both life and livelihoods. TARDA reaffirms its commitment to climate resilience, sustainable water management, and ecosystem restoration throughout the basins.



CS Hon. Askul at Lokichar Mixed Primary School, Turkana County

TARDA joined the Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of East African Community, ASALs & Regional Development @Hon Beatrice Askul Moe at Lokichar Mixed Primary School to mark Mazingira Day 2025 where she emphasized the importance of citizen-driven environmental action. She reminded Kenyans that the future of our ecosystems depended on collective responsibility every tree planted, every basin restored, every river protected adds up to a stronger, greener Kenya.



Tana Delta Irrigation Project Staff Mark #MazingiraDay 2025 With Community Tree Planting In Garsen

Staff at TARDA's Tana Delta Irrigation Project (TDIP) joined hands with local communities and institutions in Gamba and Wema, Garsen Sub-County, for a large-scale tree planting exercise as part of the Authority's wider #MazingiraDay2025 celebrations. The activity spanned Gamba GSU Camp, Gamba Primary School, and Reuben Mwewe Primary School-Wema, reinforcing TARDA's continued commitment to basin restoration, community partnership, and climate resilience across the Delta. Every tree we plant is more than a symbol- it is a step toward a cleaner, greener, and climate-secure Kenya.



Mazingira Day Celebrations at Ondiri Wetland

TARDA proudly joined Kenyans nationwide in marking #MazingiraDay2025 including Ondiri Wetland and Nyongara River, a key tributary of the Nairobi River. Over 10,000 trees were planted in a single day — each one a living investment in Kenya's green future. As the agency charged with safeguarding Kenya's vital water basins, TARDA continues to champion the #15BillionTrees initiative through reforestation, water conservation, and climate-resilient development — turning restoration into national renewal.



Athi Basin marks #MazingiraDay 2025 With Action On The Ground



TARDA's Machakos team led a fruit and tree planting drive along the TARDA Tree Nursery Weir riparian zones reinforcing our commitment to restoring Kenya's ecosystems one tree at a time.

As part of the TARDA Tree Nursery Expansion Programme, the team undertook large-scale potting, bed establishment, and upscaling activities engaging local communities to grow 500,000 assorted fruit trees that will enhance food security and support basin restoration.

In collaboration with the local administration and NGAOs, TARDA also sold 300 assorted fruit seedlings to Athi River Sub-County Primary School, supporting the Nairobi River Commission's initiative for greener learning spaces.

At KMC Primary School, TARDA joined the Mavoko Sub-County Administration led by DCC Mr. Odidi Otieno, alongside representatives from NGAO, Kenya Forest Service (KFS) and the Nairobi River Commission, to commemorate this year's Mazingira Day.

Together, the team planted 300 assorted fruit trees within the school compound, a powerful symbol of community-driven environmental stewardship and the national call to grow a greener, healthier Kenya.

Turning Climate Ambition Into Action In Kenya's Drylands



TARDA is proud to have taken part in the high-level climate finance readiness workshop convened by the State Department of ASALs and Regional Development in partnership with @BioInt_CIAT and @AGNES_Africa from the 21st to 24th October, 2025, in Machakos.

This forum brought together Regional Development Authorities including Kerio Valley Development Authority, Coast Development Authority, Ewaso Ng'iro South River Basin Development Authority, Ewaso Ng'iro North

Development Authority, and Lake Basin Development Authority to transform climate intent into bankable projects that attract real investment for resilience.

For TARDA, this isn't just training it's about engineering solutions that turn floods into opportunity, drought into innovation, and ecosystems into engines of growth.

Climate finance isn't abstract; it's the bridge between vision and implementation and Kenya's ASALs are where that bridge must hold strongest.

TARDA Leadership Champions Inclusivity And Transparency At The Senate



On October 28th 2025 the Authority under the leadership of Managing Director Mr. Liban Roba, appeared before the Senate Standing Committee on National Cohesion, Equal Opportunity, and Regional Integration led by Marsabit County Senator Sen. Mohamed Said Chute.

The engagement underscores TARDA's unwavering commitment to the principles of diversity, equity, and inclusion as cornerstones of our organizational culture. TARDA presented a comprehensive account of staff composition, detailing the proactive

measures and progress in ensuring fair representation of women, youth, persons with disabilities, and all ethnic groups within our workforce.

The presentation highlighted:

- **Data-Driven Demographics:** A transparent breakdown of our workforce reflecting Kenya's rich diversity.
- **Robust Inclusion Mechanisms:** The active policies and frameworks we have instituted to promote equal opportunity.
- **Affirmative Action in Action:** Our tangible steps in empowering women, youth, and PWDs in recruitment and leadership pathways.
- **Compliance and Beyond:** Our adherence to statutory requirements, including the Public Procurement and Asset Disposal Act, and our commitment to exceeding them.

At TARDA, we believe that our strength lies in our people and that a truly inclusive workforce is fundamental to delivering on our mandate of integrated development for the Tana and Athi River Basins.



TARDA Joins Hands In Launching The Iveti Community Forest Eco-tourism Site



TARDA on 31st October, 2025 joined the Kenya Forest Service, Nema Kenya, Machakos County Government, and members of the Iveti Community Forest Association (CFA) for the groundbreaking ceremony of the Iveti Community Eco-Tourism Site — a flagship model for sustainable forest conservation through community-driven ecotourism.

The TARDA Team was led by Ms. Nancy Owande, Ag. Manager, Natural Resources Conservation, and Mr. Gibson Mwakideu, Regional Coordinator, alongside technical officers.

The event marked a pivotal step in advancing sustainable forest use, community empowerment, and the integration of conservation-based enterprises within the Iveti Forest ecosystem. Participants took part in a nature walk and the unveiling of a new picnic site — symbolizing a shift toward non-exploitative, livelihood-supporting forest practices.

Ms. Owande, speaking on behalf of Managing Director Mr. Liban Roba, commended the strong collaboration between KFS and the Iveti CFA, noting that “partnerships like these embody the spirit of shared stewardship — where conservation and community development reinforce each other.”

Through the Participatory Forest Management Plan (PFMP), the Iveti CFA holds user rights under the Ecotourism component, enabling local communities to benefit directly from responsible forest management.

In FY 2023/24 and 2024/25, TARDA rehabilitated 25.07 acres within the catchment area, achieving an impressive 85% survival rate. To further strengthen conservation outcomes, TARDA introduced a Conservation Tournament between the Authority and the CFA — an innovative approach to build ownership and sustain reforestation momentum.

The day culminated in a tree planting exercise at the new eco-tourism site, symbolizing renewed commitment to restoration, collaboration, and climate resilience.

Together, we are proving that conservation and community prosperity can thrive side by side — when vision meets partnership.



Honouring A Legacy, Growing A Future — TARDA Joins The Dedan Kimathi 105th Birthday Tree Planting In South Kinangop



In the spirit of patriotism, resilience, and environmental stewardship, the Tana and Athi Rivers Development Authority (TARDA) joined the Dedan Kimathi Foundation, the Kenya Defence Forces (KDF), and other partners in marking the 105th posthumous birthday of Field Marshal Dedan Kimathi through a monumental tree planting exercise at South Kinangop Forest, Kiburu Ward held on 31st October, 2025.



Led by Eng. Henry Maina, TARDA's Njabini team stood shoulder to shoulder with national institutions and local communities — contributing to the planting of over 50,000 trees in celebration of a hero whose courage continues to inspire national renewal.

The event, graced by Dedan Kimathi Foundation CEO, Madam Wanjira Kimathi, symbolized more than remembrance — it was a powerful reminder that true freedom must now include freedom from environmental degradation.

For TARDA, this collaboration reinforces our commitment to catchment restoration, community partnerships, and sustainable ecosystem recovery across Kenya's critical watersheds.

TARDA Participates In Workshop On Data Collection Survey On Flood Control In Kenya

The Ministry of Water, Sanitation and Irrigation, with support from JICA, commissioned a consulting team to undertake a Data Collection Survey on Flood Control in Kenya. Conducted over a period of six months, the study engaged key stakeholders through questionnaires, interviews, and follow-up visits to gather comprehensive insights on flood management practices across the country.

From these engagements, the consultants developed policy recommendations for a proposed policy, National Integrated Flood Management Plan (NIFMP), aimed at shifting Kenya's flood management approach from reactive to proactive. The proposed policy seeks to address governance fragmentation, climate change impacts, and resource limitations through three key pillars:

- i. Policy Framework
- ii. Infrastructure Investment
- iii. Early Warning Systems

The proposed NIFMP further emphasizes data-driven decision-making, integrating GIS, AI, and machine learning to enhance accuracy and resilience, rather than relying solely on expert opinion. It was notably highlighted that every \$1 invested in risk reduction saves up to \$15 in post-disaster recovery, underscoring the need for proactive measures.

TARDA was privileged to participate in this important exercise that was held on 15th October, 2025. As a river basin authority—and custodian of major flood control structures such as Masinga and Kiambere Dams—TARDA provided valuable input to the study.

The stakeholder seminar provided a platform to validate the draft policy recommendations and ensure that all relevant perspectives in the flood management sector were captured. Regional Development Authorities (RDAs), including TARDA, were recognized as key institutions, given that the river-basin approach remains the most effective framework for sustainable flood management.

We extend our sincere appreciation to the Ministry of Water, Sanitation and Irrigation for spearheading this timely initiative. As TARDA, we remain committed to supporting and ensuring the successful implementation of the National Integrated Flood Management Plan towards a safer and more resilient Kenya.



Strengthening Environmental Leadership Through Strategic Collaboration



On 16th October, 2025 TARDA's Tana Basin Regional Coordinator, Mr. Joses K. Mugambi, represented the Managing Director, Mr. Liban Roba, at a consultative meeting convened by the Principal Secretary for Environment, Climate Change and Forestry, Mr. Gitonga Mugambi,

During the session, the PS extended his appreciation to TARDA's MD and staff for our strong participation in Mazingira Day celebrations across various counties, noting the Authority's growing footprint in community-centered environmental action.

On behalf of the MD, our Regional Coordinator delivered TARDA's Mazingira Day statement and briefed the PS on our expanding role in environmental stewardship, climate adaptation, and youth-led conservation initiatives implemented alongside CBOs and grassroots partners. The meeting yielded several high-value commitments from the PS:

- 1 Support to TARDA and community groups to scale up seedling production across our tree nurseries.
- 2 Approval and development of a joint working concept between TARDA and the Kenya Forest Service (KFS) to deepen forest restoration efforts.
- 3 Support for TARDA's beekeeping initiatives along forested landscapes to enhance restoration, strengthen CFA and CBO capacity, and drive technology transfer and innovation.

Following the meeting, our Regional Coordinator toured modern raised tree nurseries under the Nairobi KFS Region—benchmarking best practices that are cost-effective, climate-smart, and easier to manage. The Nairobi KFS Region Coordinator also provided sample seedlings for TARDA and committed to supplying additional seedlings on request.

TARDA remains fully aligned with the Ministry's vision and is accelerating collaborative actions that restore ecosystems, empower communities, and build climate resilience across the Tana and Athi basins.



Unlocking The Power Of Forest Landscapes Through Beekeeping Innovation



As part of TARDA's expanding climate-smart livelihood and restoration agenda, our Tana Basin Regional Coordinator visited the Lenana National Beekeeping Institute on 16th October 2025 to advance discussions on a strategic collaboration focused on beekeeping and forest restoration.

The visit explored a joint initiative to establish TARDA-supported bee-friendly tree nurseries along forested areas—an approach that strengthens biodiversity, supports pollination, and enhances community income streams.

During the engagement, the Principal of the Institute, Madam Mercy Mwangi, expressed full support for partnering with TARDA and committed to allocating space at Lenana—including an area with piped water and an unused greenhouse—to kickstart a dedicated tree nursery for indigenous and bee-friendly species.

The Principal further requested TARDA to fast-track a draft Working MoU to operationalize the collaboration immediately, ensuring training, research exchange, and capacity-building can commence without delay. The Regional Coordinator also toured the Institute's key facilities, including:

1. The workshop and honey processing unit
2. Candle, shampoo, and soap production lines
3. The apiculture laboratory and innovation areas

In recognition of TARDA's active engagement and participation in their training programs, the Institute invited both the TARDA Managing Director and the Regional Coordinator to attend the upcoming graduation ceremony. This collaboration represents a major step toward advancing sustainable beekeeping, forest restoration, and community empowerment across the Tana and Athi basins, fostering an ecosystem where innovation, nature, and economic opportunity thrive together.

Thiha-Kiruka Irrigation Project: Investing In Farmers, Securing The Future.

In Kariara, Rutune, Rugi Ward – Mukurwe-ini Sub-County, Nyeri County, TARDA joined stakeholders and the community in a Public Participation forum on the ongoing Thiha-Kiruka Irrigation Project led by MP Mukurwe-ini, Hon John Kaguchia P.G, MP and local administration on October 2nd, 2025.

The project aims to expand irrigation coverage from 33 hectares to 65 hectares, directly benefiting 500 farming households and indirectly reaching over 2,500 people.

The scheme is designed to:

- Enhance agricultural productivity through reliable, year-round irrigation.
- Support youth and women in modern farming.
- Strengthen household incomes and local food security.
- Build resilience against climate variability.

TARDA's technical team engaged farmers on the project's scope, design, and work plan, addressing stakeholder concerns and reinforcing the importance of community ownership in project implementation.

The Thiha-Kiruka Irrigation Project is a flagship example of how basin-level interventions can deliver tangible socio-economic transformation while contributing to Kenya's national food security and climate resilience agenda.



Public Participation for Thiha-Kiruka Irrigation Project

#END