

TARDA NEWS

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

ISSUE NO. 28

NOVEMBER 2025
HIGHLIGHTS

FY 2024/2025 PERFORMANCE CONTRACT EVALUATION DONE!



On 12th November 2025, TARDA successfully underwent its official Performance Contract (PC) Evaluation for FY 2024/2025 — marking the culmination of a year of tangible results and measurable impact across the Tana and Athi River basins.



TARDA Participates In The 1st Consultative Engagement With The Office Of The Chief Of Staff And Head Of PSC



Driving Basin Transformation Through Strategic Global Partnerships



TARDA And NAMICO Advance Strategic Partnership On Sustainable Mineral Exploration Within The Tana Basin

TARDA Successfully Concludes 2024/2025 Performance Contract Evaluation

The Tana & Athi Rivers Development Authority (TARDA) successfully concluded its official Performance Contract (PC) Evaluation for the 2024/2025 financial year on 12 November 2025, marking the end of a year defined by measurable progress and expanded impact across its areas of jurisdiction.

The evaluation, conducted by the State Department for Performance and Delivery Management under the Ministry of Public Service, Performance and Delivery Management, offered an independent assessment of the Authority's delivery on its annual commitments. The final Evaluation Report was formally received by TARDA's Managing Director, Mr. Liban Roba Duba.

During the period under review, TARDA registered notable achievements across key development priorities.

1. In drought mitigation, six water projects were completed and handed over, providing dependable domestic and irrigation water to communities in Tana River, Garissa, Machakos, Nyeri, and Murang'a counties. Additionally, solar-powered water systems installed at Kokona and Ngumu enhanced access to clean and sustainable water supply.
2. Food security efforts also recorded significant gains. At the Tana Delta Irrigation Project (TDIP), 14 kilometres of the Western Flood Protection Dyke were rehabilitated and major channels desilted — interventions that secured farmland, safeguarded livelihoods, and improved agricultural productivity.
3. Infrastructure upgrades further strengthened operational efficiency. TARDA Headquarters underwent renovation, while TDIP benefited from new solar-powered perimeter fencing and street lighting, improving safety and functionality for both staff and surrounding communities.

In line with the national food security agenda, the Authority also expanded its strategic footprint, mapping and surveying over 21,000 hectares at TDIP to unlock future agricultural development and economic growth.

Throughout the evaluation, the Performance Contract framework reaffirmed its central role in strengthening institutional accountability, optimising public resources, and aligning TARDA's work with Kenya's priorities on water security, food sovereignty, and climate resilience.

With the successful completion of the assessment, TARDA reiterated its commitment to continuous improvement and to delivering programmes that uplift communities. The Authority also reflected on its 50-year legacy of integrated development, noting that the milestone underscored a sustained journey of impact and national contribution.



TARDA Participates In The 1st Consultative Engagement With The Office Of The Chief Of Staff And Head Of Public Service



TARDA, represented by Board Chair Mr. Patrick Gichohi and Managing Director Mr. Liban Roba, on 13th November 2025 joined Principal Secretaries, Board Chairs and Chief Executives of State Corporations and Government-Owned Entities at the 1st Consultative Engagement convened by the Chief of Staff and Head of the Public Service, Mr. Felix Koskei.

Held at the KICC Kenya under the theme “Improving Performance; Measuring Impact; and Enhancing Visibility,” the engagement marks a milestone in strengthening

accountability and performance culture within the public service.

The forum provided a platform for dialogue on the Fact-Finding Self-Assessment Tool, aimed at aligning institutional performance, impact measurement, and visibility across the public sector.

For TARDA, participation in this inaugural forum underscores its continued commitment to results-oriented governance, institutional transparency, and sustainable service delivery — consistent with the Authority’s broader vision of transforming river basin resources for national development.

Driving Basin Transformation Through Strategic Global Partnerships



On 12 November 2025, TARDA took part in the Belgian Business Mission to Kenya, an event that brought together over 30 Belgian companies exploring investment opportunities in the country. The Mission was opened by H.E. Peter Maddens, Ambassador of Belgium to Kenya, with support from senior officials of the State Department for Foreign Affairs. TARDA’s team was led by Managing Director Mr. Liban Roba.

Engagements with Belgian companies at the forefront of water engineering, river navigation technologies, environmental hydraulics, and advanced management systems signalled strong international interest in scalable basin-related projects. These interactions highlighted a shared recognition that the Tana and Athi River systems hold significant untapped potential for transformative development.

A notable highlight was TARDA’s meeting with Kris De Decker of OptiRiver, where discussions centred on the immense opportunities within Kenya’s river systems and the innovative technologies capable of unlocking them.

As TARDA continues to commemorate 50 years of integrated regional development, the Authority reaffirmed its commitment to cultivating partnerships that deliver commercial, social, and environmental impact—strengthening its position as a catalyst for sustainable growth in Kenya.

TARDA And NAMICO Advance Strategic Partnership On Sustainable Mineral Exploration Within The Tana Basin

On November 6th 2025 TARDA held a strategic meeting with the National Mining Corporation (NAMICO) to advance the implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between the two organizations on Minerals Exploration and Prospecting within the Tana Basin.

The NAMICO delegation was led by Chief Executive Officer Eng. Joseph Kamama Kitiliti, while the TARDA team was led by Director of Resource Planning and Development, Ms. Irene Ndavi. The discussions centered on developing a joint work plan and deliverables

framework to operationalize the MoU — ensuring mineral exploration efforts align with TARDA's basin-based development model and the national sustainability agenda.

This partnership represents a critical step in unlocking the mineral potential within the Tana Basin — promoting responsible resource utilization, community empowerment, and environmental stewardship. By bringing together the technical expertise of NAMICO and TARDA's integrated basin management approach, the collaboration aims to position Kenya as a regional leader in sustainable mineral development and value addition.



Youth Leading The Climate Agenda: TARDA Engages With Young African Action

On 19th November, 2025, TARDA hosted a consultative session with the Young African Action team following their proposal to roll out a beehive project within the Tana and Athi River Basins.

It was inspiring to see young leaders stepping forward with fresh ideas, practical models, and the drive to make environmental conservation a real economic opportunity for communities. Their approach aligns strongly with the next-generation shift toward nature-based enterprises that support both household incomes and sustainable value chains across the Basin.

TARDA remains committed to creating platforms where youth voices, innovation, and ambition can translate into tangible impact on the ground. Partnerships like this are key to accelerating ecosystem restoration and championing a climate-resilient future built by the young people who will inherit it.

We look forward to deepening this collaboration and advancing initiatives that make conservation a source of dignity, livelihoods, and long-term sustainability.



Strengthening Partnerships For A Greener, Resilient Meru



The Tana and Athi Rivers Development Authority led by Director of Resource Planning and Development Ms. Irene Ndavi, held a strategic engagement with the County Government of Meru, led by the CEC for Water, Environment, and Natural Resources, Hon. Baptista Muriuki.

This high-level meeting marked the beginning of a strong working partnership aimed at integrating TARDA's basin-based expertise with Meru County's development priorities under the CIDP 2023–2027 to drive sustainable impact.

Key areas of focus included:

- Water Security & Climate Resilience – Enhancing water harvesting, catchment protection, and climate-smart infrastructure to secure Meru's position as a key water tower in the Tana Basin.
- Environmental Conservation – Expanding reforestation and ecosystem restoration in Mt. Kenya and the Nyambene Hills through community-led conservation initiatives.
- Agricultural Transformation – Supporting farmers through sustainable agriculture, irrigation development, and value addition to strengthen food security and rural livelihoods.

This partnership aligns with the Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA), reinforcing the shared goal of people-centered, climate-smart development. Together, we are charting a new path toward a greener, more resilient future for Meru County and the Tana Basin region.



TARDA At The National Carbon Offsetting Workshop | Building A Resilient, Climate-smart Future



TARDA participated in a Carbon Offsetting Training held from 17–20 November 2025, convened by the State Department for ASALs and Regional Development in partnership with Namati and IMPACT Kenya. The workshop brought together government agencies, development partners, academics, and community organizations to strengthen understanding of climate policies, carbon markets, land rights, community safeguards, and opportunities for ASAL communities to benefit from carbon finance. TARDA's involvement highlighted its commitment to advancing nature-based solutions, supporting climate governance, and ensuring communities within its areas of operation benefit from emerging climate finance opportunities. The closing session was graced by Principal Secretary Mr. Harsama Kello, CBS, who reaffirmed the government's support for inclusive, community-driven climate action. TARDA remains dedicated to promoting partnerships, science-based solutions, and climate-smart investments that protect ecosystems and improve local livelihoods.



The Silent Engine Of Food Security: How Beekeeping Is Rebuilding Resilience In Kenya



TARDA on November 4th 2025 joined the National Beekeeping Institute this past Monday for the graduation of Kenya's newest apiculture professionals — an inspiring event graced by Mr. Bishar Fille Elmi, Director of Livestock Production, under the theme “Advancing Beekeeping for Food Security and Livelihood.”

Bees are silent workers with extraordinary impact. They pollinate over 70% of key food crops — from rice and maize to fruits — directly driving higher yields, better nutrition, and a healthier planet. Every hive is a small engine of growth, bridging the gap between climate resilience, ecosystem health, and rural prosperity.

At the event, TARDA showcased how beekeeping is more than conservation — it's empowerment. Across the Tana and Athi basins, communities are embracing apiculture to diversify income, empower youth and women, and restore ecological balance.

The day closed with the symbolic planting of bee-friendly trees — a living pledge to protect pollinators and advance nature-positive food systems for Kenya's future.



TARDA At The Public Service Inter-generational Dialogue Conference 2025

TARDA participated in the Public Service Inter-Generational Dialogue Conference hosted by the Kenya School of Government from 26th–28th November 2025 — a platform focused on future-proofing the public service through innovation, institutional memory, digital transformation, and people-centred leadership.

Our participation aligned squarely with our transformation agenda: strengthening institutional sustainability, building agile teams, advancing digital readiness across our core mandates, and positioning TARDA for next-generation service delivery.

Key conversations we plugged into included:

1. Bridging experience and innovation for stronger institutions
2. Competency-based leadership and career mobility
3. Public finance innovation and digital accountability
4. Ethical leadership and values transmission
5. AI, emerging tech, and data governance in public service
6. Wellness, psychosocial support, and human-centred performance

As TARDA accelerates its reforms, these insights reinforce our commitment to modernizing river basin management, driving climate-resilient development, and investing in a capable, future-ready workforce. A stronger public service means stronger institutions — and stronger impact for communities across our basin.



TARDA Meets PowerChina International On Strategic Investment Opportunities

TARDA, led by the Director for Resource Planning & Development, Irene Ndavi, on 20th November 2025 held an engagement with PowerChina International Group Limited in an exploratory meeting focused on potential collaboration within the Tana Delta Irrigation Project and the Tana Integrated Sugar Project—both priority initiatives in the national Public-Private Partnerships pipeline.

The PowerChina delegation expressed strong interest in understanding TARDA's project frameworks and exploring areas where their global expertise in agriculture, civil works, and large-scale infrastructure can help unlock value for the basin and surrounding communities.

The discussions set the stage for structured follow-up engagement with the relevant technical departments to further assess partnership opportunities.



Shaping Kenya's Future: Instilling National Values In Children And The Youth



TARDA, represented by its National Values Committee joined other key stakeholders at the Kenya Railways Headquarter for the Launch of the Initiative on Nurturing National Values in Children and Youth in an event presided over by the Principal Secretary, State Department for Parliamentary Affairs, Aurelia Chepkirui Rono on behalf of the Principal Secretary State Department for National Government Coordination, Hon. Ahmed Abdisalan Ibrahim. The launch of the Manual provides parents, teachers and caregivers with a comprehensive guide of how they can impart these national

values as articulated in Article 10 of the Constitution, 2010. The launch, spearheaded by the Directorate of National Cohesion and Values, was preceded by an awareness procession around the city as a symbol of the need for collective effort towards raising a generation that is socially and morally grounded.

At TARDA, the promotion of national values goes beyond a constitutional obligation, as it aligns with our mandate which focusses on promoting sustainable development that is also inclusive of all regardless of their age. We believe that by investing in the younger generation, we are investing in future citizens who are socially responsible, environmental conscious and committed to nation building.

TARDA X Dominion Cycling Cbo — Accelerating Community Impact Through Active Mobility & Environmental Action



On 21st November 2025, TARDA was thrilled to host a strategic engagement with Dominion Cycling Community-Based Organization — a dynamic youth-focused group leveraging cycling as a platform for health, inclusion, skills development, and environmental stewardship.

Dominion Cycling's work with children and young riders under 21 aligns squarely with TARDA's mandate on community-centred development, climate resilience, and sustainable natural resource

management.

Our conversation surfaced several high-value collaboration pathways that can create scalable, community-owned impact across the Tana and Athi River Basins:

'Ride for the Basin' Environmental Campaigns

Co-designing basin-focused clean-up rides, tree-planting events, and restoration campaigns that tie cycling to measurable ecological outcomes — building on Green Miles concept.

Youth Skills & Enterprise Development

Partnering on bike maintenance, eco-tour guiding, and micro-enterprise training for young people — integrated with TARDA's broader livelihood and community development initiatives.



Safety, Climate & Water Awareness Rides

Embedding targeted sensitization on water stewardship, catchment protection, and climate resilience into their monthly group rides and kids' races, transforming sport into a powerful public education tool.

Community Mobilization for Climate Action

Aligning Dominion Cycling's high-energy youth networks with TARDA-led environmental days, basin clean-ups, and community outreach programs to deepen participation and local ownership.

This partnership represents the kind of community-driven innovation we need to scale climate-smart behavior, youth empowerment, and environmental protection.

TARDA will continue strengthening partnerships that translate local passion into basin-wide impact.

TARDA Engages K-HaKI On Rights, Youth Empowerment & Climate Justice

On 20 November 2025, the Tana & Athi Rivers Development Authority (TARDA) held a strategic engagement with Kituo cha HAKI (K-HAKI), a youth-led human rights and social justice organisation based in Kibra. The meeting focused on strengthening citizen participation and advancing inclusive approaches to sustainable development.

Discussions centred on key areas including rights-based environmental governance, climate and environmental justice, digital rights and safe civic engagement, youth mobilisation through creative platforms, and community psychosocial resilience. Both institutions explored opportunities to enhance public participation in water, climate, and natural resource initiatives, while ensuring that vulnerable and marginalized groups remain at the forefront of resilience-building efforts.

K-HAKI's innovative model of citizen empowerment was noted as closely aligned with TARDA's commitment to people-centred development. The engagement opened avenues for collaboration in civic education, climate justice campaigns, and youth-driven environmental programs across TARDA's project areas. The meeting underscored a shared understanding that sustainable development is strongest where rights, community voice, and local participation converge.



TARDA AND CARITAS EMBU GROW GREEN LEGACIES ACROSS COUNTIES

In a powerful show of partnership for the planet, TARDA's Tana Region staff recently joined the Diocese of Embu Caritas team on November 8th 2025 at the Tana Bridge Nursery, planting 300 tree seedlings to strengthen local ecosystems and restore degraded landscapes.

TARDA also donated 800 seedlings — 500 to Caritas Embu for wetland and institutional planting, and 300 to the Sisters of Mercy for reforestation efforts in Kiambu County.

This collaboration embodies what sustainable action looks like — faith communities and government institutions uniting to restore forests, protect river catchments, and champion climate resilience across the Tana Basin and beyond.

Each tree planted is a promise to the generations that follow: a greener, safer, more sustainable Kenya.



Remember. Support. Act. TARDA Joins National Commemoration Of World Day Of Remembrance For Road Traffic Victims

On 16th November 2025, TARDA's Athi Basin Region Team joined NTSA KENYA, Kenya National Highways Authority, Kenya Urban Roads Authority, among other government agencies, and the Machakos County Government community for the #WorldDayofRemembranceforRoadTrafficVictims—an essential day to honour lives lost and spotlight the urgent need for safer roads.

The commemoration began with a solemn procession from Machakos University to Machakos Bus Park, united under the global theme “Remember. Support. Act.” and the “Lost Talent” campaign—a powerful reminder of the dreams, potential, and futures abruptly cut short by road crashes. Every life lost represents not only personal tragedy but a collective loss for our nation.

We acknowledge and appreciate all those who support victims and their families as they navigate the traumatic aftermath of road crashes. Their work is vital, and so is the need to continuously build public awareness on safe road use. Road safety is a shared responsibility—every one of us has a role to play.

This year's observance also highlighted our ongoing collaboration with NTSA. Since FY 2022/23, TARDA and NTSA have been implementing a joint MOU on environmental conservation focused on the restoration of the Maruba Dam and Manza River riparian zones, where the TARDA–Machakos Tree Nursery Project and Weir are located.

The event culminated in a tree-growing exercise at the riparian zones and at the NTSA Regional Offices compound—a symbolic and practical act of remembrance, restoration, and hope.



Celebrating The Next Generation Of Thinkers And Doers

On 10 November 2025, TARDA was honoured to attend Lukenya University's 7th Graduation Ceremony as a Special Guest, celebrating the theme “From Knowledge to Action in Building a Just, Innovative and Healthy Society.” The message strongly reflects TARDA's mission, recognising that the future of the Tana and Athi regions depends not only on development projects but also on the skilled professionals stepping forward.

Congratulations, class of 2025



TARDA Building Climate-smart Value Chains At The Community Level



TARDA conducted a targeted capacity-building session for 50 members of the Musekavo Community Forest Association (CFA) in Kitui Central on 20 November 2025, introducing modern beekeeping as a strategy for environmental conservation and climate-resilient income generation under Phase I of its 2025/26 Performance Contract.

The training provided hands-on, technical skills, including colony management, apiary setup, hive placement, disease prevention, quality assurance for market-ready honey, and an understanding of bee biology, behaviour, and ecosystem dynamics. Participants also learned how biodiversity and bee flora influence hive productivity.

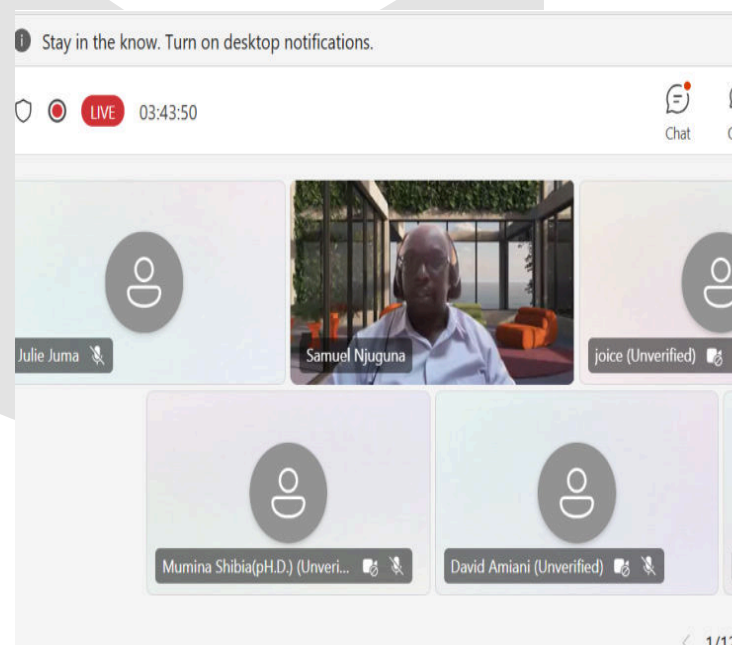
The initiative forms part of TARDA's broader approach to positioning natural resources as economic assets while reducing pressure on forests and supporting ecosystem restoration. The workshop received support from the County Forest Conservator's office, CFA leaders within the Eastern Conservancy, NGAOS, and local administrators, ensuring coordination with existing governance structures.



By the end of the session, the Musekavo CFA members had gained practical skills to generate sustainable income while safeguarding the forests surrounding their community—demonstrating basin development in action through skills transfer, environmental stewardship, and improved livelihoods.

TARDA Participates In SRC-SCAC Sensitization On The Public Service Productivity & Performance Framework

TARDA participated in a virtual sensitization session on 27 November 2025, convened by the Salaries and Remuneration Commission (SRC) and the State Corporations Advisory Committee (SCAC). The meeting introduced the new Framework for Recognizing Productivity and Performance in the Public Service, which links financial rewards to measurable results, efficiency, and value delivered. The engagement supports TARDA's ongoing efforts to strengthen performance metrics, accountability, and results-based service delivery. TARDA has already taken key steps in the process, including attending the briefing, registering on the SRC portal, and submitting its input through the framework review questionnaire.



Celebrating 67 Years Of Combined Service To Tarda

Last month, we honoured two remarkable colleagues whose commitment has shaped the backbone of this institution: Mrs. Josephine Kiniga and Mr. B.K. Kamau.

Mrs. Kiniga caps 39 years of dedicated service, closing her tenure in the Natural Resource Conservation Department. Her steady leadership, calm problem-solving style, and uncompromising professionalism have anchored some of our most critical conservation efforts. She leaves behind a legacy of consistency, competence, and quiet excellence.

Mr. Kamau retires after 28 years in Human Resource & Administration, where his integrity, fairness, and deep sense of responsibility became hallmarks of how we support our people. His door-always-open approach and commitment to institutional order have guided staff across generations.

Together, they have given TARDA 67 years of loyalty, impact, and institutional memory — contributions that cannot be overstated.

As they transition to a new chapter, we celebrate their service, thank them for their stewardship, and wish them health, fulfilment, and abundant peace in the years ahead.

Ceremony Highlights in Pictures



Hongera!
God bless you
Mr. Kamau & Mrs. Kiniga!



SENSITIZATION SECTION

NATIONAL VALUES AND PRINCIPLES OF GOVERNANCE

National values shape how a country thinks, acts, and progresses. They define the standards a society stands for and set the tone for public conduct. In Kenya, these values are not optional—they are constitutional imperatives anchored in Article 10, binding on:

- *State organs,*
- *State officers,*
- *Public officers, and*
- *All persons when interpreting the Constitution, applying the law, or making and implementing public policy.*

Kenya's National Values and Principles of Governance include:

- A) Patriotism; national unity; sharing and devolution of power; the rule of law; democracy; and public participation.*
- B) Human dignity; equity; social justice; inclusiveness; equality; human rights; non-discrimination; and protection of the marginalized.*
- C) Good governance; integrity; transparency; and accountability.*
- D) Sustainable development.*

Why these values matter:

1. They build a strong national identity and shared sense of purpose.
2. They foster cohesion and respect for human rights across our diverse communities.
3. They enhance fairness in resource allocation and expand opportunities for all Kenyans.
4. They safeguard the future by anchoring development in sustainability.

In our upcoming newsletters, we will unpack each value—what it means, how it applies, and why it is critical for institutional performance and national transformation.

#END