



TARDA NEWS

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

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HIGHLIGHTS

TARDA Partners to Scale Landscape Restoration Impact



...TARDA took another decisive step on the Road to 15 Billion Trees by 2032. The December tree-planting drive was successfully rolled out across the Tana and Athi River Basins, with the Nairobi leg officially flagged off by Mr. Liban Roba, Managing Director, TARDA.



TARDA Advances The Road To 15 Billion Trees Across The Tana And Athi Basins



Scaling Up For A Greener Kenya



Empowering Communities, Growing Forests

TARDA Engages The Global Peace Foundation & Chandaria Foundation On Scaling Landscape Restoration Impact

On 3rd December 2025, the Tana and Athi Rivers Development Authority (TARDA) held a strategic engagement with Global Peace Foundation (GPF) Kenya, in partnership with the Chandaria Foundation, to explore collaborative approaches for accelerating Kenya's landscape restoration agenda. The engagement comes against the backdrop of the Presidential Directive to grow 15 billion trees, under which TARDA has already facilitated the planting of 8 million trees across the Tana and Athi River basins, supporting watershed protection, community resilience, and green employment opportunities for youth.

Building on this progress, the Authority is now positioning for the next phase, targeting the establishment of 13 million additional trees in the coming years. Discussions during the meeting focused on key priority areas, including the expansion of community-based tree nurseries, leveraging GPF and Chandaria Foundation's experience in school- and community-led nursery models to strengthen seedling production along the Tana and Athi ecosystems. The parties also emphasized youth-centred climate action models, integrating peacebuilding, livelihood creation, and environmental stewardship, with youth identified as central drivers of restoration initiatives within TARDA's areas of jurisdiction.

In addition, TARDA and GPF agreed on the need to develop joint programmes for basin-scale restoration, combining technical watershed management with strong community engagement to ensure sustainable impact from upstream catchments to river mouths.

The collaboration marks an important step toward a structured, multi-institutional partnership aimed at advancing national climate commitments while creating tangible socio-economic benefits for communities within the two basins. The partnership is firmly oriented toward implementation, focusing on practical actions that deliver measurable restoration outcomes and strengthen the long-term ecological and economic value of the Tana and Athi River basins.



TARDA Advances The Road To 15 Billion Trees Across The Tana And Athi Basins



On 10th December 2025, TARDA took another decisive step on the Road to 15 Billion Trees by 2032

The December tree-planting drive was successfully rolled out across the Tana and Athi River Basins, with the Nairobi leg officially flagged off by Mr. Liban Roba, Managing Director, TARDA.

From Baba Dogo to Rupingazi River, Kiambere, Masinga, Nyandarua, Kibwezi, Emali, Wote and the Tana Delta, our teams worked alongside community partners to restore catchments, strengthen ecosystems, and advance climate-smart development.

This was more than planting trees. It was about accountability to the future—protecting water sources, supporting livelihoods, and delivering on Kenya's green growth agenda.

Momentum sustained. Impact ongoing.

Scaling Up For A Greener Kenya



Thrilled to announce a powerful partnership between TARDA's Athi Basin Regional Office and the Makueni County Branch of the Kenya Forest Service! In support of our shared national mission to grow 15 billion trees, KFS Makueni generously provided 500,000 potting bags to boost our nursery operations.

This vital contribution will directly empower TARDA's 8 institutional tree nurseries and 20 community-run nurseries across the Athi River Basin.

We are not just planting trees together—we are growing forests, restoring ecosystems, and building resilient communities. In the spirit of collaboration, 20% of the seedlings produced will be dedicated to KFS-led catchment restoration efforts.

A special thanks to County Forest Conservator Mr. Martin Mutie and the entire KFS Makueni team for their unwavering commitment. This is how partnerships work—government agencies joining hands for sustainable development and climate action.

Empowering Communities, Growing Forests



Following our successful partnership with Kenya Forest Service (KFS) Makueni, TARDA is proud to announce another milestone in grassroots environmental action! We have officially supported the MUKACOFA Community Forest Association in Machakos County with a generous donation of potting bags to boost their tree nursery operations.

This support is part of TARDA's ongoing commitment to empower local communities and Community-Based Organizations in the Tana and Athi River basins. After a thorough due diligence process, we are confident that MUKACOFA is a dedicated and credible partner in forest conservation and rehabilitation.

In addition to potting bags, we have also provided high-quality forest tree seeds—including *Croton megalocarpus*, *Moringa oleifera*, *Podocarpus falcatus*, *Olea africana*, *Senna siamea*, and *Delonix regia*—to enhance their seedling production for the national #15BillionTrees initiative.

Together, we are turning community-led vision into thriving green action. This is what integrated, sustainable development looks like—from government partnerships to grassroots empowerment.

From Reactive Response To Predictive River Management

TARDA is pleased to have held a strategic virtual engagement with OptiRiver, led by Captain Kris De Decker, on 17th December 2025, to explore how digital river intelligence can enhance flood management, dam operations, and basin planning across the Tana and Athi River Basins. The engagement built on initial discussions held during the Belgian Business Mission to Kenya on 12th November 2025, where TARDA's Managing Director, Mr. Liban Roba, identified strong alignment between OptiRiver's advanced river intelligence solutions and TARDA's basin-level priorities, paving the way for deeper collaboration. The discussion centered on the application of data-driven tools such as digital river twins, satellite analytics, and real-time monitoring systems to improve flood prediction and early warning, monitor dam sedimentation at Masinga and Kiambere, and support long-term, climate-resilient basin planning.



Against the backdrop of recurring flooding challenges, particularly in the Tana Delta, the engagement underscored a strategic shift from reactive responses to anticipatory, technology-enabled decision-making. The meeting concluded with agreed next steps toward establishing a structured collaboration framework, signaling progress toward smarter, safer, and more resilient river basin management anchored on data-driven governance.

Advancing Youth Agency: TARDA Meets K-haki On Rights, Governance & Climate Resilience



On 5th December, TARDA held a strategic engagement with Kituo cha HAKI (K-HAKI), a youth-led human rights and social justice hub based in Kibra, to explore how citizen empowerment can strengthen sustainable development outcomes across the Tana and Athi River Basins. The engagement focused on the foundational elements of sustainable development—empowered citizens, informed communities, and inclusive participation in development processes. Discussions explored potential collaboration in rights-based environmental governance, aimed

at strengthening public participation in water, climate, and natural resource initiatives, as well as climate and environmental justice, ensuring that vulnerable and marginalized groups are central to resilience-building efforts. Other key areas included digital rights and safe civic engagement, enabling communities to advocate for environmental protection without fear, creative youth mobilisation through sports, art, and storytelling to promote stewardship, and community healing and psychosocial resilience in response to climate stress and social disruption. K-HAKI's innovative, people-centred approach to citizen agency is impactful, inclusive, and community-driven. The dialogue opened pathways for structured collaboration in civic education, climate justice campaigns, and youth-focused environmental programs across TARDA's project areas, reinforcing the principle that sustainable development thrives where rights, voice, and community converge.



Tree Planting Initiative in Pictures



In Loving Memory Of



Mrs. Jane Kahithe Ndung'u

With deep sorrow, TARDA mourned the passing of Mrs. Jane Kahithe Ndung'u, who served as an Alternate Director to the Principal Secretary, State Department for Agriculture, as a valued member of the TARDA Board from 20th April 2023 until her passing on 13th December 2025.

Mrs. Ndung'u brought clarity, integrity, and a deep sense of public duty to the Board's work. Her contribution to governance and strategic oversight strengthened the Authority and will be remembered with respect.

We extend our heartfelt condolences to her family, friends, and colleagues during this difficult time.

May her legacy of service endure.