

PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION REPORT

Project ID:	9526
Project Name:	Enhancing Integrated Natural Resource Management to Arrest and Reverse Current Trends in Biodiversity Loss and Land Degradation for Increased Ecosystem Services in the Tana Delta, Kenya
Countr(ies):	Kenya
Implementing Agency:	UNEP

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I. Overview

A. Description

Project name

Enhancing Integrated Natural Resource Management to Arrest and Reverse Current Trends in Biodiversity Loss and Land Degradation for Increased Ecosystem Services in the Tana Delta, Kenya

Country

Kenya

GEF ID

9526

Implementing Agency

UNEP

Executing Entity

Nature Kenya

Trust Fund

GET

Project Type

FSP

PIR Submission

9/16/2025

Fiscal Year , PIR Number

FY 2025 , 6th PIR

Objective

To strengthen integrated natural resource management and restoration of degraded landscapes in the Tana Delta, and systemically scale up best practices and lessons learned to other priority landscapes in Kenya

B. Ratings and Disbursements

Implementation Progress

Highly Satisfactory

Development Objective

Highly Satisfactory

Overall risk

Low Risk

Project Financing

3,646,500.00

Cumulative Disbursement

3,166,046.00

C. Key Dates

CEO Endorsement/Approval

8/7/2018

Agency Approval

8/7/2018

Implementation Start 6/12/2019	First Disbursement 9/24/2019
Expected MTR 7/31/2023	Actual MTR 7/31/2023
Expected Completion 4/30/2025	Actual Completion

II. PROGRESS STATUS AND ISSUES

A. Progress: Information on progress and outcomes of project implementation activities

Seven (7) policies were endorsed during June 2024 to May 2025 reporting period. Cumulatively 24 policies supported by TRI Tana project have been endorsed. The seven endorsed during the reporting period are; Tana River County Climate Change Action Plan 2023-2027, Tana FOLAREP 2021-2030, Trade and Investment Policy, Tana River County Water Act, Tana River County Climate Change Policy, Tana River County Forest Policy 2023, and Tana River County Environmental Policy 2024). Three (3) policies and legislations were submitted to the County Assembly of Tan River and await endorsement (Tana River County Investment regulations 2025, Tana Delta Land Use Plan, Tana River County Forest Conservation and Management Bill 2024). Four (4) policies and legislations (County Environment Action Plan for Tana River, and County Environment Action Plan for Lamu County, Tana River County water regulations and Tana River County Cooperative Policy received cabinet approval, but not yet submitted to Tana River County Assembly for approval. In addition, review of Environmental Action Plans development guidelines at national level being spearheaded by National Environment Management Authority was completed with the support of TRI Tana Project. The guidelines will inform CEAP preparation at county level, hence the action supports project sustainability. During the reporting period, 1704.31 Ha was restored (active restoration). This was realized through seeding using indigenous trees seeds, tree planting via seedlings & establishment of pasture seed banks. Cumulatively 11,751.31 Ha of degraded areas has been brought under restoration through a mix of strategies entailing direct seeding, use of pasture seed banks, and use of tree seedlings raised in tree nurseries. The set project target of 10,000 ha under active restoration has been surpassed by 1,751.31 Ha. In addition, in order to enhance the sustainable management of the Tana ICCA, capacity building actions were undertaken to strengthen delivery for sustainable land management practices. As relates the 116,867 Ha Tana Indigenous Community Conserved Area (ICCA) that was established in Year 3, progress during this reporting period was establishment of Shakako Community Wildlife Conservancy, where resource mapping was undertaken. In addition, members of the 55 Village Natural Resource and Land Use Committees (VNRLUCs) established in year two and three were capacity build through training and facilitated to collect seeds from indigenous trees and used for restoration (direct sowing). In addition, 101,971 Ha is under Participatory Forest Management with the four Community Forest Associations (Chara, Kipini, Kilelengwani, and Ozi) capacity built and supported to implement four (4) Participatory Forest Management Plans (PFMPs) launched during last reporting period. During the reporting period Tana Planning Advisory Committee (TPAC) report back meeting was convened where representatives of the four CFAs together with members of WRUAs and BMUs were trained and guided to identify gaps in participatory Forest Management Plans and Sub-catchment management plans that formed a basis for developing action plans as part of exit strategy. During the reporting period, 2246 HH(1099M,1147F) benefited from the project as categorized below 180 (118M,62F)HH benefited from Galla goat farming, 216 (87M,129F)HH benefited from Fish farming, 126

(58M,68F)HH benefited from Chili farming, 176 (81M,95F)HH benefited from Rice farming, and 1227 (603M,624F)HH benefited from Beekeeping where 775 beehives were allocated and trainings on beekeeping held. In addition, 100 (52M,48F) participants benefited from business advisory service while 221 (100M,121F) participants benefited from training on entrepreneurship. In order to assess project achievements and impact of livelihood support through development of green value chains, a socio-economic assessment was carried out by Kenya Forestry Research Institute. A report of findings is being prepared. Under Green Heart Initiative, an ecotourism business case for Tana, and Livestock production and meat processing investor profile were finalized and validated. One investor round table was held comprising three (3) investors within the Livestock and Meat Value Chain who were interested in meat processing, investment marketing, livestock feed value chain and the digitalization of livestock value chains, where investment opportunities in Tana Delta were explored and onboarding arrangements were discussed. Cumulatively eleven (11) Agro-based cooperatives have been established and their capacity to produce enhanced through capacity building targeting eight (8) value chains. Biodiversity conservation and sustainability plan was developed during the reporting period, that aims to enhance continuity of gains made by TRI Tana project beyond donor funding period. The plan integrates gender by adopting Target 22 of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF), which focuses on ensuring the full, equitable, and inclusive participation and representation of women and girls in all aspects of biodiversity decision-making. This includes recognizing their equal rights to land and natural resources and their meaningful involvement in conservation efforts and the sustainable use of biodiversity. Nature Kenya entered into an agreement on commercial beekeeping with African Bee Keepers Limited, a private investor, where 38 beekeeping community groups were trained and equipped with 775 Langstroth beehives, where 400 beehives were colonized and set for harvesting by August 2025. Investment in bee keeping will not only boost income from sale of honey products but crop yield through improved pollination. Nature Kenya in partnership with Kenya Forestry Research Institute through TRI Tana project initiated a regional course on Participatory Forest Management (PFM) and Landscape Restoration (LR) was initiated where the first cohort of 19 (10 women, nine men) participants drawn from Kenya, Tanzania and India were trained and currently applying Four (4) knowledge products were developed over the reporting period-May 2023-June 2024 (Brochure on redesign of High Grand Falls Dam, Annual Status and trends report 2023, Livestock production and meat processing investor profile, Ecotourism Business Case for Tana Delta. Annual Status and trends report 2023 (done during 2024-2025 reporting period) was completed and published and can be accessed via this link : https://drive.google.com/file/d/1U6l01RI-57LunIs_ZN4CPkzFxG7iKBC_/view, The rest are in the process of editing and design. Cumulatively 32 knowledge products have been developed. During the reporting period, forty one (41) media articles conveying messages on restoration were developed and widely disseminated. cumulatively 217 media articles in print and electronic media developed and disseminated via social media conveying messages on restoration and sustainable land management.

B. Challenges: Information on challenges of project implementation activities

Unpredictable rainfall patterns due to climate change which negatively impacted restoration effort and agriculture based green value chains. Drought led to slowed colonization of beehives.

C. Stakeholder Engagement

Stakeholders engaged in project implementation during the reporting period can broadly be categorized as either rightsholders and duty bearers. The rightsholders constitute community forest associations (CFAs), Water Resource Users Associations (WRUAs), Beach Management Units, members of the 11 cooperatives, private investors that have invested in Green Heart Initiative (African Beekeepers Limited, and Equator Kenya Limited), community groups engaged in natural resources use and management such as Tana Delta Conservation Network (TDCN), pastoralists, Fisherfolk, and farmers. The rights holders have been organized

into legal resource use organizations (CFAs, BMUs and WRUAs) and capacity build to enhance skills and understanding on sustainable resource use and governance. Members of the 11 cooperatives under Green Heart Initiative were facilitated to produce products and empowered through training on entrepreneurship and mentorship. Facilitation was provided and cooperatives engaged in development of eight business plans and marketing plans. Duty bearers engaged in project implementation include government officers from national and county government that play oversight role targeted at policy and legislation development and implementation, as well as supporting capacity building through training and mentorship and provision of field extension service.

The above stated rights holders were beneficiaries of capacity building through training, and sensitization. During the reporting period, 2246 HH(1099M,1147F) benefited from the project as categorized below 180 (118M,62F)HH benefited from Galla goat farming, 216 (87M,129F)HH benefited from Fish farming, 126 (58M,68F)HH benefited from Chili farming, 176 (81M,95F)HH benefited from Rice farming, and 1227 (603M,624F)HH benefited from Beekeeping where 775 beehives were allocated and trainings on beekeeping held. In addition, 100 (52M,48F) participants benefited from business advisory service while 221 (100M,121F) participants benefited from training on entrepreneurship. For two private sector engaged in the project, they were engaged in development of the business case, and since their enterprises entail contract farming, they directly engage with farmers to train them and entered in agreements with producers, and provided market for the products.

For rights holders that are organized into cooperatives, development of business plans and marketing together with provision of business advisory support serves as sustainability measure. Further a biodiversity conservation and sustainability plan was developed in a participatory way through active participation of rights holders and other stakeholders. The plan provides guidance on measures to prioritize for enhanced sustainability. Linking community producers with private investors under contract farming ensures continuity in terms of accessing benefits associated with environmental conservation.

Stakeholder engagement was ensured at all levels. Mobilization was undertaken to ensure adequate representation and participation by stakeholders during planning, and implementation of activities. At Project Steering Committee Level, diverse representation was maintained as envisioned at CEO endorsement. Sixth Project Steering Committee Meeting was held on 17th Dec 2024, attended by 22 (16M,6F) members. Status on project implementation was presented and guidance provided for improved project delivery. Project Implementation Review (PIR) for 2024, together with Year 6 Budget, and work plan were presented and endorsed. Two project field monitoring missions to Tana Delta were organized for PSC members, who familiarized and monitored implementation progress and provided invaluable guidance for enhanced delivery of project targets. During implementation of interventions deliberate effort was made to ensure broad stakeholder participation. Special arrangements were made for senior national and county governments officer to officiate project workshops. This allowed them to articulate government policy and contribute as well as learn about the project.

Occasions such as marking international days provided great opportunity to bring together different stakeholders including private sector, civil society organizations, local community, schools, media and faith-based organizations among others. Support to counties to consultatively develop policies, implementation of Tana Restoration Opportunity Assessment Methodology (ROAM), support to county administration to mainstream restoration, community support to initiate conservancies, capacity building initiatives, Annual Site Support Group Forum, Site and rolling out the Green Heart Project are among project activities that presented opportunities for broad stakeholder engagement. Tana Delta Conservation Network (TDCN) serves a critical role of bringing together diverse grassroots conservation groups for joint action. Tana Planning and Advisory Committee (TPAC) also provided space for wide stakeholder participation. It has a broad membership, involving County Governments and local community user groups and CBOs and national state officers working at the county level and other national and international NGOs. Research Organizations including Kenya Forestry Research Institute and Kenya Marine and Fisheries Institute, together with lead government agencies such as Water Resource Authority, Kenya Forest Service and Kenya Wildlife Service and National Environment Authority were facilitated and actively engaged in building the capacity of local

communities, as well as guiding the development of participatory Forest Management Plans, Village Restoration Action Plans and Sub-catchment management plans.

Advocacy effort to influence redesign of High Grand Falls Dam and development of water protocol for sustainable management of water resources within Tana Basin adopted a participatory approach where key stakeholders were engaged including top management from Tana River, Lamu, Kitui and Garissa county, Media (Vox Radio), Council of Governors and Intergovernmental relations Technical Committee.

D. Gender Equality

Key gaps on gender in Tana Delta are as follows:

- Women are greatly disadvantaged and poorly represented at the decision making table on matters related to the governance of land within the committees. Contrary to constitutional provisions, women are underrepresented in governance structures on land at the village level.
- The TD has nutrient rich soils and a great potential for agricultural produce. The women farmers are able to produce fruits and vegetables for both subsistence and economic use. Notably however, the women have poor or lack agribusiness skills since they only play the role of production with reference to the agricultural food chain. Men did not sell any produce. The men nonetheless expected a share of the proceeds from sale of the produce.
- The lack of a ready market for the produce further disadvantaged their negotiation ability as buyers bought the produce from their farms. For instance, whereas a mango in Mombasa/Nairobi[1] can be sold for as high as Kshs. 50 and as low as Kshs. 25 per piece[2]; the farmer would fetch a meagre Kshs. 2 for the same mango. This means the Pokomo farmer only earns between 4% – 8% of the final value of their mango. Even within the Delta, this mango can be sold for between Kshs. 15 to Kshs. 20 on the roadside and in the town of Garsen.
- The need to ensure equitable access to and control over land as a way of raising women's status and influence within households and communities.
- Access to land is the most important agricultural asset which often ensures economic and social power and control over other productive resources.
- While the role of indigenous people and traditional knowledge systems in the conservation of biodiversity is so well known as a general fact; the role of women is less acknowledged and even where such acknowledgments is offered, it is not accompanied by the associated offer of recognition on related platforms of resource allocation, discussion and decision making particularly by mainstream processes.. In view of the above gaps a number of actions were undertaken

During the reporting period, the project influenced endorsement of Livestock Grazing and control Act. The Act addresses a key challenge which was affecting women engaged in pastoralism and farming. The Delta is disadvantaged by its proximity to the border which enables even pastoralists from across the county and national borders to bring their animals there in search of green pasture and water. There is no system to check which pastoralists have come and from where. Neither is there a system to check the numbers and prevent the influxes that cause conflict. This happens more so in periods of prolonged drought. In the dry seasons and when these cattle and herdsmen have come to the Delta, it is likely that the cattle will get onto the farmlands and further conflict will arise over water resources. Livestock Grazing and control Act provides for mechanisms to regulate movement of livestock from neighboring regions. In addition the project supported (through provision of assorted pasture seeds) women headed households to grow pasture.

On 19th February 2025 Project Management Unit was trained on gender. The title focused on The Rights of Women, Incentives and Status of Gender Equality – Kenyan example. The training had the following objectives; Explore existing gender policies, examine the implementation status of these policies and their effectiveness, explore the current situation of women in Kenya, why is gender equality relevant in today's world, and how does it impact our organizations and conservation efforts.

Gender was mainstreamed in the Biodiversity conservation and sustainability plan developed during the reporting period. Target 22 of Global Biodiversity Framework included and used as anchoring point. Target 22 of GBM state "Ensure the full, equitable, inclusive, effective, and gender-responsive representation and

participation in decision-making, as well as access to justice and information related to biodiversity, by indigenous peoples and local communities, respecting their cultures and their rights over lands, territories, resources, and traditional knowledge”. This also applies to women and girls, children and youth, and persons with disabilities, while ensuring the full protection of environmental human rights defenders.

The Project Management Unit received a training on gender in partnership with The Nature and Biodiversity Conservation Union (NABU), as an intervention under safeguards. Nature Kenya is among partners implementing a project funded by NABU titled (AfricEell). The project empowers women as key actors in environmental and resource conservation in Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda, Ghana, Côte d’Ivoire and Burkina Faso.

From 21st July - 1st August 2025 127 (89 women, 38 men) were trained on gender in Taita Taveta (one of the five pilot sites for TRI Tana project). The training was preceded by a training needs assessment and had the following objectives:

- Reflect on core gender concepts and reflect on how gender influences personal identities, household roles, and community expectations.
- Discuss the impact of gender roles and power dynamics as observed in their personal lives, households, and community.
- Reflect on and identify how gender affects access to resources, control over assets, and decision-making power within their personal lives, households, and community.
- Recognize and discuss the various forms of gender-based violence, reflecting on its potential prevalence and impact within personal experiences, households, and the broader community.
- Recognize fundamental human rights principles and consider their personal, household, and community relevance in promoting dignity and equality.
- Identify key laws and policies related to gender equality and reflect on their practical application and potential impact within their personal lives, households, and local context.

The project attracted private sector investment in Tana on commercial bee keeping adopting a model of contract farming. African Bee Keepers Limited, a private investor, entered agreements with 38 beekeeping community groups (majority being women led) were trained and equipped with 725 Langstroth beehives progressed well with the over 400 colonized hives set for harvesting by August 2025. Investment in bee keeping will not only boost income from sale of honey products but crop yield through improved pollination. The no more than two-thirds constitutional gender rule for Kenya was applied resulting in active participation of women in project implementation, taking up elective positions in the group’s leadership. Overall women make up 53% of direct beneficiaries in livelihoods support activities. Over the reporting period following sensitization on the need for women to take up positions of leadership, the number of women holding leadership positions in Tana Delta increased. The newly created Green Development Committee/ Joint Committee that governs the Green Heart Initiative has a female Chairperson, while Tana Planning Advisory Committee has a female co-chair. Over 60 Community based organizations in Tana now have women occupying positions of leadership. A key challenge is reluctance of men to allow women fully participate in project activities.

Drought witnessed during this reporting period caused a shortage of food and water and diminished household incomes affected women participation in project activities as women had to spend more time in search for food for their families, and water both for household use and for livestock.

E. Knowledge Management

<p>Knowledge activities and products</p>	<p>Between June 2019 and June 2024. Four (4) knowledge products were developed over the reporting period -May 2023-June 2024 (Brochure on redesign of High Grand Falls Dam, Annual Status and trends report 2023, Livestock production and meat processing investor profile, Ecotourism Business Case for Tana Delta.They can be accessed via this link https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1EyTkLG9DJIMxs13dh8xrZZCh8osolYVC?usp=sharing,</p> <p>Nature Kenya in partnership with Kenya Forestry Research Institute through TRI Tana project initiated a regional course on Participatory Forest Management (PFM) and Landscape Restoration (LR) was initiated where the first cohort of 19 (10 women, nine men) participants drawn from Kenya, Tanzania and India were trained and currently applying knowledge acquired in supporting restoration. Proceedings report of the training can be accessed via this link: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1dCF2GiKeW6Z8AZQM7kbM6VMgoUVUkA4/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=110655136972440723102&rtpof=true&sd=true</p> <p>In total 16 trainings were organized where 2100 (843male,1257 females participated, and are applying knowledge acquired.</p>
<p>Main learning during the period</p>	<p>Main learning's were on Participatory Forest Management and Landscape Restoration, Green Value Chains development and entrepreneurship especially as relates to development and application of business plan.</p> <p>The primary objectives of PFM&LR course was to capacitate participants enhance their understanding and practice of implementing the PFM&LR processes through knowledge and skills to facilitate implementation of plans and activities by partnerships through effective approaches to grow forest management teams and restoration strategies, methodologies and measures improved landscape restoration and better livelihoods and empower communities engage in PFM&LR through entrepreneurship. The specific objectives were: • Understand the concepts and principles of Participatory Forest Management, Landscape restoration and entrepreneurship. • Enhance skills for implementing Participatory Forest Management and Landscape Restoration and enterprises. • Develop skills in development and management of partnerships • Enhance participants skills of practice transformational leadership Specifically the course equipped participants with interdisciplinary knowledge and practical tools across several thematic areas: the evolution and legal foundation of</p>
	<p>PFM; gender and social inclusion in forest governance; stakeholder analysis and community engagement; socio-ecological and ecological assessment methods; participatory planning and monitoring; conflict resolution; resource mobilization; benefit-sharing models; and green value chain development. A strong experiential learning component was incorporated through visits to exemplary field sites, including the National Forest Products Research Programme in Karura, Kijabe Environment Volunteers (KENVO), and the Friends of Karura Forest. These visits provided concrete illustrations of innovation, enterprise development, and co-management in action. What was learned in Green Value Chains development and entrepreneurship • Development of business plans • Development of marketing plans • Best practices across value chain development • Management of pests and diseases • Development and application of monitoring protocol for business operators</p>

III: Minor Amendments

CONTEXT	
Result Framework	
Components and Cost	
Institutional And Implementation Arrangements	
Financial Management	
Implementation Schedule	
Executing Entity	
Executing Entity Category	

Minor Project Objective Change	
Safeguards	
Risk Analysis	
Increase of GEF Financing up to 5%	
Co-Financing	
Location of Project Activity	
others	

IV: Geographic Coordinates of Project Activities

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Tana Delta	-2.52	40.41	179,585

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Bularahma	-2.28435	40.24400	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Reseeding

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Bularahma	-2.28054	40.24554	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Reseeding

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Bularahma	-2.27596	40.24069	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Reseeding

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Bularahma	-2.27069	40.23809	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Reseeding

V. ANNEX

Uploaded Document

Document Category M and E Document	Title 9526-PIR-UNEP-2025-TRI – The Restoration Initiative
Document Category M and E Document	Title The-Tana-River-County-Investment-and-Development-Corporation-Act-2016
Document Category M and E Document	Title Tana-River-final-CCCAP Dec 2024
Document Category M and E Document	Title Tana River County Climate Change Policy 2024
Document Category M and E Document	Title Tana River CEAP SEPT 2022 FOR County Assembly endorsement 2023
Document Category M and E Document	Title TANA FOLAREP Final Draft 08-12-2022
Document Category M and E Document	Title Lamu County CEAP August 2023 FOR COUNTY ASSEMBLY ENDORSEMENT
Document Category M and E Document	Title INVESTMENT AND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS

Document Category M and E Document	Title Forest Conservation and Management BILL 2024 - 6th March 2024
Document Category M and E Document	Title edited The Tana River County Forest Policy
Document Category M and E Document	Title edited Environmental Policy 2024 - 29th April 2024
Document Category M and E Document	Title Business Advisory Report - Final-February 2025 (1)
Document Category M and E Document	Title 2
Document Category M and E Document	Title 3
Document Category M and E Document	Title 4
Document Category M and E Document	Title 5
Document Category M and E Document	Title 6
Document Category M and E Document	Title 7
Document Category M and E Document	Title 8
Document Category M and E Document	Title 1