



TANA RIVER  
**GREEN HEART INITIATIVE**

# **STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2024 - 2029**

## **SUMMARY**

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## Background

Most of the Tana River Delta lies within Tana River County, with a smaller area in Lamu County. The Tana River flows into the Indian Ocean at the northern end of Kenya's coastline. It is a region of great ecological significance, cultural richness, and economic potential. This deltaic landscape consists of wetlands, savannahs, and coastal habitats. With its unique ecosystem, the Tana Delta is home to diverse wildlife, tree species, and various communities and cultures. Its fertile soils and abundant natural water resources support significant livelihoods, including livestock keeping, agriculture, horticulture, fishing, apiculture, and ecotourism.

Despite its rich natural resources, the Tana Delta region faces several development barriers, such as poverty, environmental degradation, and climate change. Tana Delta communities also face challenges such as disempowerment, tenure insecurity, land use conflicts, population growth, deprived livelihoods, and inadequate technical and capacity support.

## Setting Up the Green Heart Initiative

The Tana River County government has established the Tana Delta Green Heart Initiative to protect and restore the region and promote livelihood production in the Tana Delta. The Green Heart Initiative aims to deliver the preferred development scenario outlined in the Tana River Delta Land Use Plan (2014). The initiative represents a beacon of hope for the future, envisioning climate-smart solutions that create employment opportunities, enhance livelihoods, and contribute to biodiversity conservation.



## The Role of the Green Heart Initiative Strategic Plan

This Strategic Plan aims to realize the GHI's mission of transforming people's lives within and around the Tana Delta by:



promoting sustainable development



improving livelihoods



creating new jobs



conserving the environment and protecting biodiversity



boosting regional and national economic development

This Strategic Plan is a visionary roadmap that intricately weaves together the aspirations of GHI and its associated stakeholders, such as the Tana Delta communities, to realize environmental conservation and biodiversity protection, climate adaptation, and the pursuit of regional economic development.

## Formulating the Strategic Plan

The strategic plan was developed using various approaches, including desk research, field surveys, and stakeholder workshops involving the Tana Delta communities and development partners. A vision was formulated for a pristine and prosperous Tana Delta promoting ecological integrity and sustainable livelihoods. The plan aligns with relevant legal frameworks and supports integrated, inclusive, and sustainable development.

## The Situation Analysis

A stakeholder analysis has identified key organizations involved in implementing the Strategic Development Plan in Tana River. These include the County Government, national government agencies, Nature Kenya, the GHI Joint Committee, and Tana Delta community groups and cooperatives. The GHI has a fragile institutional structure, with an interim Joint Committee and a seconded secretariat, aiming to achieve the objectives of the Tana Delta Land Use Plan. Challenges include insecure land tenure, conflicting political interests, and environmental degradation. The Tana River County Government has made positive progress by allocating land for industrial estates and establishing an operational website. Key stakeholders in the plan include the County Government, National Government Agencies, Nature Kenya, the GHI Joint Committee, and Tana Delta community groups and cooperatives.



### Five Strategic Themes (or Directions)

The formulated Strategic Development Plan has established five key strategic directions, namely:

1. Strengthening institutional and legal frameworks.
2. Realizing sustainable economic development.
3. Promoting sustainable livelihoods.
4. Restoring ecological integrity.
5. Providing efficient infrastructure and services.

These five strategic directions are supported by 17 specific aims, various objectives, and targets that aim to address identified challenges and leverage opportunities.

### Action Plan (1-3 Year)

The Action Plan outlines achievable steps with clear timelines and costs to be completed within one to three years. These steps align with the overall strategic directions.

### Monitoring and Evaluation

The plan includes annual monitoring to ensure timely execution of strategic actions, provide implementation feedback, and guide decision-making on plan improvements.



The GHI Strategic Development Plan will guide GHI in building community resilience, empowerment, partnership, growth, investment attraction, and sustainable development in the Tana Delta.



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