



GOVERNMENT OF KENYA

Communiqué of the Inter-Ministerial Consultative Meeting on sustainable development of Deltas in Kenya

Malindi Meeting to confirm support for the international Delta Alliance and launch the Tana Delta Planning and SEA Initiative

Malindi, Kenya

15th September 2011

On 15th September 2011 a high-level consultative meeting¹ was held at Malindi to:

1. Give individual participants' support to the international Delta Alliance initiative in the context of Kenya's significant deltas (Tana, Yala, Nzoia, Athi, Nyando and Malewa);
2. Confirm the launch of the Tana Delta planning and SEA initiative, including agreement on a road map leading to the long term sustainable development of the remarkable Tana River Delta in ways that will provide for economic prosperity, stable social conditions and lasting environmental quality.

Deltas Initiatives

Over the last decade conflicts have been increasing in the deltas as the demands for competing land uses, natural resources conservation, and community interests have intensified. Pressures are also increasing as a result of climate change. Attempts to reach rational decisions on the future of the deltas have largely failed due to polarisation of views amongst the different stakeholders. A new management structure has been endorsed, involving the creation of a Deltas Board at national level, supported by an Inter-Ministerial Technical Committee. The purpose of the Board and IMTC will be to oversee development of plans for the major deltas which will ensure preservation, protection and restoration of the integrity of the delta ecosystems and their social and economic cohesiveness.

In recognition of the importance of Kenya's deltas individual participants are engaging with the global Delta Alliance which exists as a network for knowledge-sharing and disseminating tools, models and data between large deltas worldwide. This knowledge exchange is enabled through sharing local pilot projects of which the Tana Delta will be the first in Kenya.

The Tana Delta Planning and SEA Initiative

Tana River Delta is recognised in Vision 2030 as a key area for economic development through agricultural expansion. It is one of the most important wetlands in Africa and is a key area for biodiversity, ecosystem services and people. The core Delta area covers 130,000 ha and is a rich mix of habitats supporting thousands of birds (over 350 species), two threatened primates, hippos, lions, elephants, buffalos and many breeding fish and amphibians. It qualifies for listing as a Ramsar site

(wetland of international importance) and is part of the Coastal Forests of Eastern Africa Hotspot. Tana Delta is vitally important to the 80,000 people living in the area from tribes including Wardei, Orma, Pokoma and Luo, who depends on its ecosystem services for their livelihoods. For example, as a dry season grazing refuge for large herds of animals, as a fishery and for growing subsistence crops.

Acknowledging the importance of Tana River Delta, and the new rights provided by the New Constitution, the meeting recognised the need for a new approach to reach accord between development initiatives, local aspirations and conservation goals in order to secure the long-term sustainable development of the Delta.

To this end, the meeting agreed:

- To the establishment of a local Tana delta planning process linked to the National Deltas Board. This process will be steered by a local committee (the Planning Implementation Committee) and will involve a combination of strategic planning and strategic environmental assessment (SEA);
- The output will be a long term strategic land use plan representing a 'truly sustainable' future to the Delta;
- That this process will combine scientific, economic, social and environmental evaluation tools alongside extensive public participation and will be a collaborative exercise involving all relevant government ministries and agencies, counties, districts and communities, Civil Society and NGOs, International Partners and investors;
- The process will take place over the next 18 months, with the generous support of DFID (UKAid), in three key stages, each of approximately six months duration:
 - **A baseline phase** leading to the definition of three alternative strategies (with a number of variants) representing a continuum of development opportunities (October 2011-March 2012);
 - **An evaluation phase** to determine the relative strengths and weaknesses of the alternative strategies and encourage an informed public debate on the choices (April 2012- September 2012); and,
 - **A plan preparation phase** to produce a preferred strategy and spatial plan supported by appropriate implementation and monitoring mechanisms in a form suitable for adoption by County Administrations and Government (October 2012-March 2013).

SIGNED:

Chairman (OPM) :

Date.....

17/09/2011

(Inter-Ministerial Technical Committee on Sustainable Management of Deltas in Kenya)