Tana River County: Facts and Figures

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Location & Size

- One of the 6 counties in Coast Region
- Borders:
  - Kitui County to the west
  - Garissa County to the North East
  - Isiolo County to the North
  - Lamu County to the South East
  - Kilifi County to the South
- Total area = 38,862 Km²
- Has a coastal strip of 35 km potential for fishing
Administrative & Political Units

- 3 sub-counties:
  - Tana Delta (16 Km$^2$)
  - Bura (13.2 Km$^2$)
  - Galole (9.7 Km$^2$)

- Population densities = Av. 6pp/Km$^2$

- 3 Constituencies: Galole; Bura & Garsen

- 15 Electoral wards
Ecological & Climatic Conditions

- Divided into 4 agro-ecological zone
  - CL3: Coconut & cassava zone (non-ASAL)
  - CL4: Cashew nuts & cassava zone, peasantry mixed farming
  - CL5: Lowland livestock zone
  - CL6: Lowland ranching zone, pastoral activities

- Hot and dry climate (Av. 30°C)
- Bimodal and erratic low rainfall (200mm-900mm)
- Long rains (April-May); short rains (Oct-Nov)
Population Characteristics

- 240,000 people (with slightly more females)
- 76.9% of the population living in absolute poverty
- High population growth rate = 3% (impact on food, water, health, etc)
- Two urban centres: Hola (17,000 people) & Madogo (16,000 people)
- 3 major ethnic groups: Pokomo (farmers); Orma & Wardey (nomadic)
Economic Activities

- Farming: largely rain-fed agriculture, maize in irrigation schemes (others = mangoes, cowpeas, banana, green grams)
- Pastoralism
- Mining: sand (Bura); Gypsum (Bura)
- Tourism: Kora National Reserve; Arawale National Reserve; & Tana Primate National Reserve
- Fishing: 3 fish landing sites
Other Key Development Indicators

- 3,000km of road network (=300km tarmac)
- 152 primary schools; 13 secondary schools
- 4% of land with title deeds (90% trust or govt land)
- No industries
- High unemployment level
- 2 level four hospitals in Hola and Ngao; 6 doctors
- 66% illiteracy level
- 79% food insecure
- Largely non-arable land (32,000km$^2$ out of the 39,000km$^2$ total land) (arable land = 3,000km$^2$)
Climate Change Issues

- Overexploitation of natural resources
- Droughts
- Floods
- Rise in sea levels along the coastal parts
- Intrusion of salt water upstream