

News of the Arc

Funding for the Eastern Arc and Coastal Forests comes on line from the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund

The Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund has announced its support for two projects in the Eastern Arc and Coastal Forests. Support for other projects will be announced over the next few months.

The Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) is a joint initiative of Conservation International, the Global Environment Facility, the Government of Japan, the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation and the World Bank. CEPF invests in biodiversity hotspots, the world's biologically richest and most threatened areas. The partnership focuses on hotspots in developing countries and targets priority areas within these hotspots for maximum impact. CEPF has committed US\$ 7 million to the Eastern Arc and Coastal Forests of Tanzania and Kenya.

CEPF held a stakeholder workshop in Tanzania in 2003. At this workshop, stakeholders decided on five 'strategic directions' which form the basis for CEPF's investment in the area. The fund is open to applications from civil society. For more information visit cepf.net

Hope for Magombera Forest

Over the last two years the Arc Journal has been following the situation in Magombera Forest. This forest is close to the Great Ruaha River at the base of the Udzungwa Mountains. The forest came under threat during August 2002 when there were plans to relocate farmers from the Kilombero Sugar Company into the forest. The forest is important for its populations of *Iringa* red colobus monkeys and for its two strictly endemic plant species.

TFCG recently received a copy of a letter from the Minister for Natural Resources and Tourism, ZAKIA MEGHJI to the President of Conservation International, Russell Mittermeier stating that Magombera forest would be protected as a Nature Reserve. We congratulate the Minister for her commitment to the conservation of this important forest and encourage the relevant authorities to formalise the Reserve's legal status.

The status of the nearby Kalunga Forest remains less hopeful. There are reports that this forest is now almost completely cleared and has passed into private ownership. Nonetheless, on a recent visit to Tanzania, the primatologist Thomas Struhsaker commented that, 'There were many Udzungwa red colobus living there. The monkeys were abundant and more easily viewed than any place I have been in the Udzungwas'. However



given the destruction of their habitat, the future of these animals remains unpromising. The *Iringa* red colobus is listed as threatened by the IUCN.

Eastern Arc Mountain Forest Conservation and Management Project (EAMFCMP) Operationalizes

The UNDP/GEF EAMFCMP project to build a conservation strategy for the Eastern Arc Mountains is starting its work. The Eastern Arc Trust Fund and the Uluguru Project have already started. The educational and advocacy, socio-economic element and the overall strategy development components are also starting and the entire project will be operational by the second quarter of 2004. The Tanzania Forest Conservation Group is responsible for the implementation of the information, education and communication component of the Strategy. Further news on the progress of this important project will be reported in future editions of the Arc Journal.

Churamiti maridadi – a new species of tree toad found in the Ukaguru Mountains

During an expedition to the Ukaguru Mountains to look at small mammals, Dr Bill Stanley of the Field Museum

of Natural History in Chicago discovered a very distinctive tree toad. Two animals from the new species were found. One animal was deep metallic yellow on the back with red to pinkish on the upper surface of the limbs. The other is olive green on the back with pale blue-green limb colouration. The scientific name stems from Swahili "Chura miti" meaning tree toad and maridadi meaning beautiful. The description of the new species is published in the *African Journal of Herpetology* 51 (2) 121-127.

A new primate from the Taita Hills, Kenya.

Results from several recent field visits to the Taita Hills in South-east Kenya have revealed a new but unidentified galago species. The galago which was seen and its vocalisations recorded is thought to belong to the dwarf galago genus *Galagoidea*. Until further research is conducted it is not possible to confirm the species however it appears to be distinct from other species of dwarf galago. These animals were only

observed in the two largest remaining forest patches in the Taitas: Mbololo Forest (168 ha) and Ngangao Forest (92 ha). Given the tiny habitat remaining this galago population is likely to be highly threatened. The results of this research have recently been published in the *Journal of East African Natural History* 91: 1 – 13 (2002).



Galagoidea orinus. The new Taita galago is also from the genus *galagoidea* Photo by: Nike Doggart

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National Coastal Forest Task Forces become active in Tanzania, Kenya and Mozambique

Tanzania, Kenya and Mozambique have established national Coastal Forest Task Forces. The vision of these task forces is that:

'Coastal Forests of eastern and southeastern Africa are conserved, managed and sustainably utilized for the benefit of present and future generations.'

In Tanzania, stakeholders drawn from government, civil society and the donor community elected members to join the National Task Force. The Task Force is chaired by the Forestry and Beekeeping Division. Other members include PO RALG, Vice President's Office, UNDP, the Tanzania Forest Conservation Group, the Wildlife Conservation Society of Tanzania and CARE-Tanzania. The task forces in the three countries have been facilitated by WWF-EARPO. On 5th March, representatives of the three National Task Forces met in Dar es Salaam to form a Regional Coastal Forest Task Force. The three countries have prepared a proposal to the EC in order to raise funds to promote good governance of coastal forests primarily through capacity building on conservation and sustainable management of resources. Kenya and Tanzania have also prepared proposals for GEF medium sized grants. In Tanzania, these funds would support activities in Rondo, Matumbi Hills and Zanzibar.

The Tanzania Forest Conservation Group

TFCG is a Tanzanian non-governmental organisation first established in 1985. Our mission is 'to promote the conservation of the high biodiversity forests in Tanzania'.

TFCG's Programmes

Participatory Forest Management

The future of Tanzania's forests depends on cooperation between stakeholders. TFCG has field projects in the East Usambaras, West Usambaras, Udzungwas, South Ngurus and Coastal Forests (3). At these selected sites TFCG is promoting participatory forest management and building the capacity of forest dependent communities and other stakeholders to engage in effective forest management. TFCG also supports a community conservation Network linking communities from around Tanzania who are involved in PFM.

Communication and awareness raising

TFCG is promoting improved communication about the Eastern Arc and Coastal Forests through projects such as the Information, Education and Communication Component of the GEF/UNDP

Eastern Arc Strategy. TFCG also provides environmental education to primary schools in 30 villages in the Eastern Arc and Coastal Forests.

Livelihoods

TFCG is committed to improving the livelihoods of forest adjacent communities. Some of our current activities to achieve this include butterfly farming with communities in the East Usambaras; credit and savings schemes in the West Usambaras, Udzungwas and Coastal Forests; training in income generating activities including beekeeping, fish farming and horticulture and investigating livelihood opportunities of *Allanblackia* collection. TFCG also supports tree planting at all of its field sites.

Advocacy

TFCG aims to promote a more effective policy environment for forest conservation as well as responding to specific issues where forests with critical biodiversity are under threat.

Research

TFCG supports research into the biodiversity and conservation of the Eastern Arc and Coastal Forests. Ongoing research projects that we support include surveys of plants, birds and galagos

TFCG is grateful to the following for their support

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UNDP/GEF
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If you would like to help in the conservation of Tanzania's high biodiversity forests, please visit our web site to find out more about how you can support us at www.tfcg.org

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The Arc Journal: Newsletter of the Tanzania Forest Conservation Group

The Arc Journal welcomes articles on forest conservation and biodiversity in Tanzania. If you would like to contribute, please send your article to the Editor on diskette or by e-mail and accompanied by drawings or good quality photographs.

Our next edition is due out in October 2004.

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Did you know that we also produce a Swahili newsletter called Komba?