

TFCG NEWS

Butterfly project receives support from UNDP

By Amiri Said, Assistant Field Officer, TFCG - Amani Butterfly Project,



Butterfly farmers in Amani with food plants for the butterflies. Photo by Theron Morgan-Brown

The Tanzania Forest Conservation Group, through the Amani Butterfly Project, has been training men and women living near to the Amani Nature Reserve in the East Usambaras to farm butterflies for sale. These butterflies are sold to butterfly houses and collectors around the world. Revenue from the sale of the butterflies can make a significant contribution to the household incomes of farmers living near to the biologically important forests of the East Usambaras. In this way the project aims to encourage people in these communities to promote the conservation of the East Usambara forests as they depend on the forests as a source of food plants for the butterflies. In September 2003, the UNDP Small grants programme agreed to support the Amani Butterfly Project with start-up funds. The project has also received support from the Muheza District Council and the Diplomatic Spouses Group.

In November 2002 TFCG began to discuss with the Wildlife Division an appropriate permitting process as it is the first official butterfly farming project in Tanzania. In November 2003 the Director of Wildlife issued a



The butterfly cage at the Amani Butterfly Visitor's Centre. Photo by Theron Morgan-Brown.

permit for the project to farm and export butterflies. The project has had interest from many buyers and despite a year of waiting for the permit, the farmers are now reviving their activities in order to start exporting.

For each pupa sold the Wildlife Division will receive TSh 104 although there are complaints from the communities that this figure is too high given that the animals are farmed and not 'wild'.

The Amani Butterfly Project has also opened a visitors centre including a large enclosure filled with butterflies and flowers. The Centre welcomes all visitors. It is located in Shebomeza approximately 8 km after the Amani Nature Reserve headquarters in Amani Village in the Muheza District. All are welcome. You can also find out more about the butterfly project at www.amanibutterflyproject.org

Find out more about TFCG at our new web site

The Tanzania Forest Conservation Group has launched its official website at www.tfcg.org On the web site you can get information on our projects and find out about the Eastern Arc and Coastal Forests. You can also access the Arc Journal and our coastal forest poster. Karibu!

No Burning in Bungu: Bungu Division in Tanga gets serious about fighting forest fires

By Simon Mosha, Field Officer – West Usambaras, Tanzania Forest Conservation Group

Forest fires are one of the main threats to Tanzania's high biodiversity forests. During 2003, the risk of fire was exacerbated by low rainfall and TFCG received reports of serious fire outbreaks in the Udzungwas, Ulugurus and Usambaras.

Fire in the evergreen forest of the Eastern Arc can be avoided. For fire to be avoided however stakeholders need to be serious about tackling the issue. In Bungu Division in Korogwe District government, communities and other groups have been getting serious about tackling fire.

On 12th November 2003, 220 people met in Bungu to decide on what action they could take to prevent fires in their Division. Bungu includes the important Ambangulu Forest home to rare species such as the Usambara Eagle owl and the torrent frog both endemic to the Eastern Arc. The meeting was organised by the Tanzania Forest Conservation Group. Participants recognised that forests were essential for the fight against poverty in Bungu and that it was their responsibility to be proactive in protecting them. The meeting was attended by the District Commissioner,

Captain Nyangoli, the District Executive Director and other senior district officials. Representatives from each of the 33 villages in Bungu as well as Division Officers, Ward Officers and religious leaders also attended.

Participants agreed on a 'zero tolerance' policy for uncontrolled burning. Korogwe already has strict by-laws on uncontrolled burning and the senior District government staff agreed that these must be rigorously applied to protect the majority of people from the carelessness of a few.

They also agreed that it was important that everyone in the Division is aware of the importance of avoiding uncontrolled fires. Each village agreed to hold a village assembly meeting on the 'No Burning in Bungu' strategy. Posters warning people of the dangers of burning would also be displayed.

Fires were not seen in Bungu Division after the meeting on the 12th although in other areas of Korogwe burning continues. Participants in the meeting agreed that if the 'No burning in Bungu' strategy is successful they will repeat the process in other Divisions so that Korogwe can become a District free of forest fires and an example to the rest of Tanzania.

Environment and poverty alleviation: making the linkages in the West Usambaras

By Simon Moshia, Project Officer – West Usambaras, Tanzania Forest Conservation Group

Since 1998 the Tanzania Forest Conservation Group has been promoting forest conservation in the West Usambaras. The project has assisted stakeholders near to the important Ambangulu Forest to develop a management system and lobbied successfully for a ban on logging in Dindira ward. Forest destruction has reduced. But so have the incomes to some households formerly dependent on harvesting forest products.

With financial support from IUCN-Netherlands, TFCG has been facilitating the development of community credit and savings societies in eight communities. The aim of this activity is to help those communities who have agreed to conserve the forests of the West Usambaras to engage in other income generating activities. The loans come with some environmental conditions particularly that the enterprises supported by the loans should not cause damage to the environment and that participating groups should show that they are getting their wood from sustainable wood supplies such as a household woodlot.

To support this activity TFCG has linked up with a specialist microfinance NGO, CEMIDE who have provided in-depth training to members of the savings and credit groups. The groups expect to start issuing loans by May 2004. Some of the activities for which the groups are seeking support include vegetable gardens, dairy goats, chickens and improved tea production.

Through participatory monitoring TFCG will closely

monitor to what extent the loans are bringing gains to the environment and towards alleviating poverty. We hope to share our experiences of this initiative with you in future editions of the Arc Journal.

Tea Cooperative in the West Usambara takes important steps to conserve their forest

By Simon Moshia, Project Officer – West Usambaras, Tanzania Forest Conservation Group

Since 2002 the Tanzania Forest Conservation Group has been working closely with the Sagara cooperative in Lushoto District. The Sagara Cooperative owns an important area of forest in the West Usambaras. The Sagara Forest is adjacent to Mazumbai Forest which is managed by Sokoine University of Agriculture and has been the focus of much research. It is also adjacent to Baga Catchment Forest Reserve.

The forests of the West Usambaras are home to at least 11 vertebrate species endemic to the Eastern Arc. This includes the rare Banded Green sunbird. In the West Usambaras this species is only found in the Mazumbai forest. The forest at Mazumbai is also home to the Usambara endemic frog *Arthroleptis tanneri*. Since 2002, the Tanzania Forest Conservation Group has been working with communities in the West Usambaras to improve the conservation of the Sagara Forest which adjoins Mazumbai.



Members of the Sagara cooperative meet to discuss the future of their forest. Photo by Simon Moshia

In 2002, the Sagara Cooperative requested assistance from TFCG to conserve their forest. TFCG has responded by assisting them to develop a management strategy for the forest. The Cooperative plan to gazette their forest as a 'Community Forest', a new category of forest reserve recognised in the Forest Act 2002. Over the last six months with assistance from TFCG, the members of the cooperative have surveyed and mapped their forest; planted the boundaries and drafted a management plan. They now plan to conduct a simple resource assessment before applying to the District for registration of their forest reserve.

TFCG supports communities in the East Usambaras to benefit from forest biodiversity

The Tanzania Forest Conservation Group has been looking for ways in which communities can gain direct benefits from forest conservation. Butterfly farming, as described above, is one example of this. Another is the harvesting of the fruits of the *Allanblackia stuhlmannii* tree. The fruits of this tree can be used to produce an oil which is similar to that produced by oil palm and can be used in the production of margarine. TFCG has recently entered a partnership with Unilever to investigate how this oil can be harvested to benefit communities and conservation in the East Usambara Mountains.



An *Allanblackia stuhlmannii* tree. Photo by Harrie Hendrickx

What's happening in the South Nguru Mountains?

In the last edition of the Arc Journal, we reported that TFCG was planning to support conservation activities in the South Nguru Mountains in Mvomero District. Since then DANIDA have confirmed that they will support the programme. The programme is a partnership between two East African NGOs the Tanzania Forest Conservation Group and NatureUganda and three Danish NGOs (CARE, WWF and DOF/BirdLife) with technical support from the Institute of International Studies in Copenhagen. TFCG is responsible for the implementation of activities in the South Nguru Mountains and Nature Uganda will be supporting similar interventions in the Kasyoha-Kitomi landscape of Uganda. The funds that have been confirmed are for a planning and design phase of 30 months starting from 1st January 2004. The overall objective of the project is:

'Within two target landscapes in Uganda and Tanzania the livelihood security of poor, natural resource dependent households is improved, biodiversity and environmental services of national and international importance are conserved and the capacity of civil society and government institutions to design and implement effective ICD programmes is enhanced.'

The programme adopts a 'landscape planning' approach and one of the initial tasks of the programme is to describe and define the two landscapes. Over the next six months TFCG will be investigating the socio-economic, ecological, cultural and institutional characteristics of the South Ngurus. This information will provide a sound foundation on which we can build a strategy for improving the livelihoods of the communities living in the area as well as implementing more effective conservation.

TFCG's Community Forest Conservation Network brings together stakeholders from 19 regions of Tanzania

By Adrian Kahemela, Network Officer, TFCG.

TFCG is committed to ensuring that there is strong communication between communities and other stakeholders who are involved in Participatory Forest Management. Between 8 – 10 October 2003 TFCG organized the third Annual General meeting of the Community Forest Conservation Network. The workshop was held in Iringa and involved 141 participants of whom 67% of the participants were from forest adjacent communities who are currently involved in participatory forest management. The rest of the participants were representatives of NGOs, District Councils and Government Departments.



The Chairperson of TFCG, Patrick Qorro addresses participants in the Network Workshop.

The official opening of the workshop was made by Hon. Baltazari Minja, the Kilolo District Commissioner and the official closing of the workshop was made by the Acting Regional Commissioner for Iringa, Hon. Paskali Muhongole.

The theme of the workshop was "Changing roles in participatory forest management in Tanzania". The two objectives of the workshop were:

- To improve communication and relationships between stakeholders involved in PFM.
- To share simple and effective methods of conducting participatory evaluation of forest resources for management planning.

Following presentations of experiences from around the country and further discussions, the participants agreed seven key recommendations to FBD:

1. The FBD should provide training for District Councils to enable them to implement and support participatory forest management more effectively.
2. The Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism and other ministries should improve co ordination and communication between stakeholders so that people involved in PFM can receive timely feedback. In particular there is a need for improved communication between FBD and Natural Resources staff employed by District Councils.
3. The Forest and Beekeeping Division should prepare guidelines that could help improve the communication and co ordination system in implementing the Forest policy to ensure that communities are well informed.
4. Due to the ongoing forest fires taking place all over the country this year and the years back, the government should enforce the fire by laws
5. All committees involved with activities related to participatory Natural resources Management should be identified as Environmental Committees.
6. The District Councils should strengthen the co ordination of government and non-governmental institutions within their jurisdiction so as to maintain their implementation strategies and monitor their roles and responsibilities in the Districts.
7. The government should increase the efforts of revenue collection in order to be able to provide a reasonable bonus to areas that participate fully in the conservation of natural resources.



Participants from 19 regions met for the 2003 Annual Network Workshop in Iringa.

The workshop was supported by the Misitu Yetu Project, the PFM Component of the National Forest Programme and the Tanzania Forest Conservation Group. Proceedings of the workshop are available from the TFCG web site www.tfcg.org

TFCG assists FBD to prepare NFP communication strategy

The Tanzania Forerst Conservation Group has recently assisted the National Forest Programme (NFP) to develop a communication strategy. The strategy aims to guide the NFP towards more effective communication with stakeholders. TFCG consulted a wide range of stakeholders including communities, District governments, donors, NGOs and central government to find out what communication is needed and how such communication can be conducted in an effective way. The strategy includes an action plan on communication on participatory forest management. The strategy is currently being finalized within FBD.

TFCG encourages communities to teach each other about the benefits of Participatory Forest Management

With financial support from the JJ Charitable Trust, the Tanzania Forest Conservation Group has been organising a series of study tours, environment days and stakeholder workshops to raise awareness about forest conservation and participatory forest management amongst stakeholders in the Eastern Arc and Coastal Forests.

The study tours provide an opportunity for communities and District staff to learn from other communities and districts about participatory forest management and related issues of natural resource management. This approach of encouraging community – community learning has proved an effective way in which communities can share experiences and understand the realities of the costs and benefits of implementing participatory forest management. The stakeholder workshops and environment days have encouraged improved communication and understanding between local stakeholders in forest management.



Community members from Coast Region travelled to Arusha to learn about improved livelihoods and forest management.

TFCG moves office

In 2003 TFCG moved from COSTECH to new offices on Old Bagamoyo Road in Mikocheni B, Dar es Salaam. If you are coming from the Ali Hassan Mwinyi road take the Old Bagamoyo Road towards Kawe. We are on the left hand side about 800 m after the BP junction with Garden Road.