

# Community Forest Conservation Network

Supporting forest adjacent communities to manage their forest resources sustainably.



Tanzania Forest Conservation Group (TFCG)

**The Network** at the national level the Network's activities are co-ordinated by the TFCG network unit. The role of the Network Unit is to encourage forest adjacent communities to participate in the network and to assist in raising funds.

#### Network committee

The network is supported by the committee, elected at the annual general meeting. The committee has five members from communities, organisations and government.

#### Local area networks

Village environmental committees from communities in the vicinity of a specific forest area come together to form a Local Area Network. Each Local Area Network has a committee including the chairperson and secretaries of the member village environmental committees and groups together with technical advisors. The local area networks enable communities to adopt a common approach to local problems relating to forest management. The networks facilitate the dissemination of information.

#### Village environmental / forest committees

These committees comprise elected representatives from forest adjacent villages. The committees are responsible for implementing forest management activities on behalf of the village. These operate independently from the Local Area network.

#### Tanzania Forest Conservation Group

TFCG is a Tanzanian NGO working to promote the conservation of Tanzania's forests with high biodiversity. TFCG facilitates the running of the network Unit.



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**The future** of Tanzania's forests depends on stakeholders cooperating to manage the forests sustainably. The Community Forest Conservation Network enables forest adjacent communities to engage more actively in the development of participatory forest management in the Eastern Arc and Coastal Forests.

The Community Forest Conservation Network is supported by the Misitu Yetu project with financial support from CARE Norway.

### Tanzania's forests: An irreplaceable national and global asset.

Tanzania's Eastern Arc and Coastal forests are considered to be a biodiversity hotspot of global significance. They are also an important water catchment area supplying water to the nation's hydropower plants and the cities of Dar es Salaam, Morogoro, Iringa and Tanga.

#### Vision

Women, men and youth in forest adjacent communities have the capacity to participate in the management of Tanzania's biodiversity rich forests for the benefit of present and future generations.

#### Aim

- To enable forest adjacent communities to share information and experiences of participatory forest management.

- To enhance the capacity of community based organisations and village environmental committees to engage in the sustainable management of forest resources through training and technical support.
- To facilitate the dissemination of information from government, non governmental organisations and other stakeholders.
- To raise awareness on participatory forest management amongst forest adjacent communities.



Villagers mark the boundaries of their forest management areas.



Forest managers of the future



Tree nursery



Dragon fly

#### Membership

The Community Forest Conservation Network welcomes Local Area Networks in forest adjacent communities around the Eastern Arc mountains and Coastal Forests. TFCG welcome organisations involved in participatory forest management.

**Membership fees:** Members shall pay fees as approved at the annual general meeting.



The Network supports villages to develop wood lots as an alternative to using wood from natural forests.

#### Activities of the Network

- Facilitating mutual learning on participatory forest management between forest adjacent communities. This is achieved through exchange visits and regular meetings.
- Publication of a swahili newsletter and other educational materials raising awareness about participatory forest management in collaboration with other stakeholders.
- Annual community forest conservation network workshops in which local area networks meet to share ideas and experiences on participatory forest management.
- Environmental awareness raising.
- Provision of technical advice and training on forest management.

