



# The Arc Journal

## Tanzania Forest Conservation Group

P.O.Box 23410, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania e-mail: [tfcg@tfcg.or.tz](mailto:tfcg@tfcg.or.tz) Biannual Newsletter Issue No. 26 December 2011  
ISSN 0856-8715

**Dar is being stripped  
of its greenbelt:**

**we need  
action,  
now!**

*By Elinasi Monga and Justine Gwegime,  
Forest Justice in Tanzania TFCG*

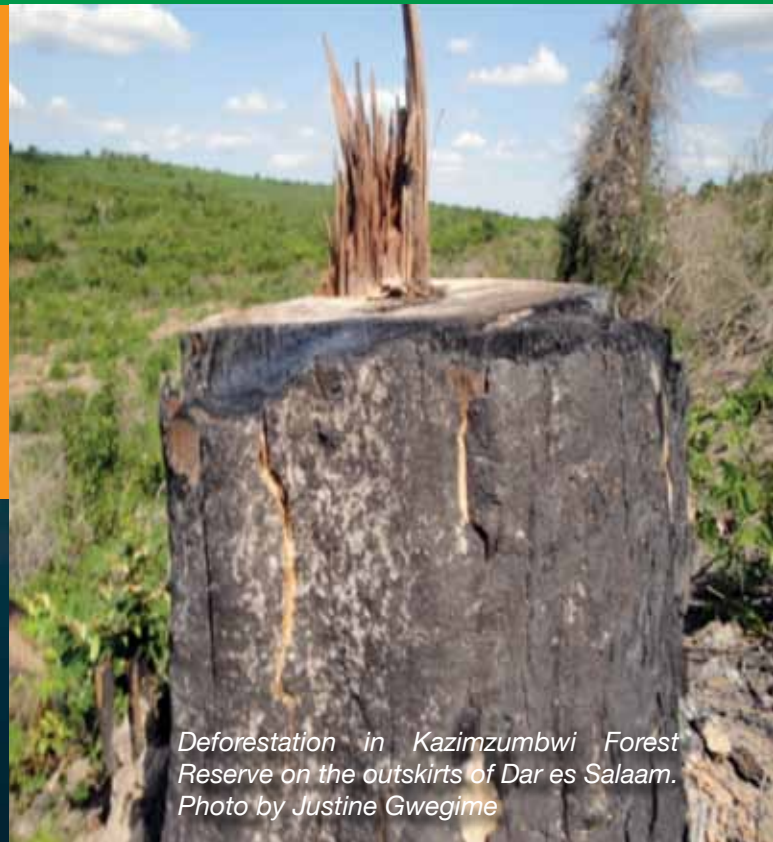
### **Dar's greenbelt forests are nearly gone**

Our remote sensing analysis and field surveys indicate that if the same number of hectares of forest are lost each year as were lost between 2008 and 2010:

- Kazimzumbwi Forest will be completely deforested by the end of 2014;
- Pugu Forest will be completely deforested by the end of 2017;
- Ruvu South Forest will be completely lost by 2035.

Dar es Salaam and the communities around these forests stand to lose a valuable resource in terms of reducing pollution, supplying water, preventing landslides and recreation. The nation stands to lose three irreplaceable and unique forests including habitat for one of the world's most endangered primates.

The forests have been visited and talked about by conservation leaders from Wangari Maathai to Alan Rodgers. Over the years, Ministers, District Officials, Directors of FBD, scientists and foreign dignitaries

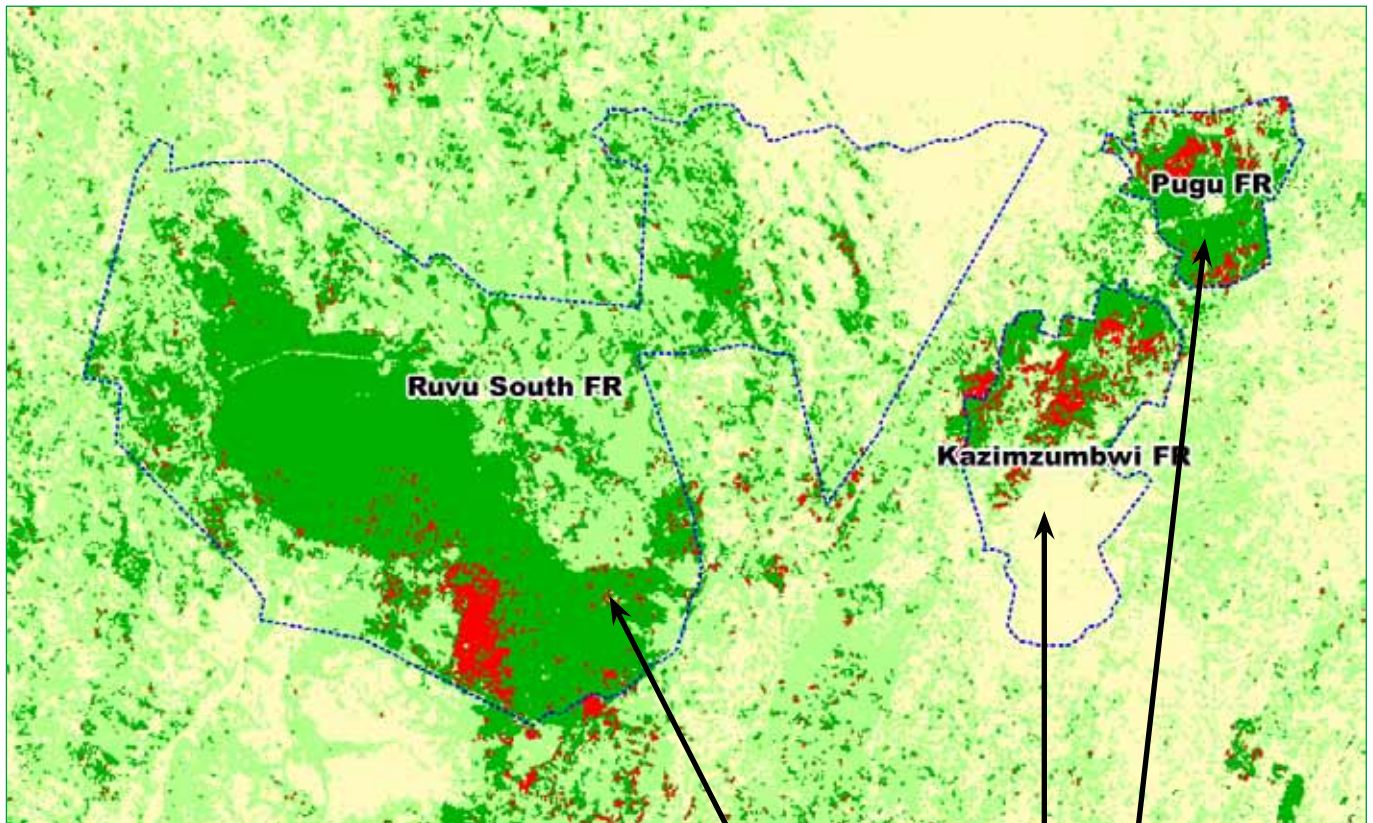


*Deforestation in Kazimzumbwi Forest Reserve on the outskirts of Dar es Salaam.  
Photo by Justine Gwegime*

have all lamented the demise of the forests. They are on the doorstep of the Forestry and Beekeeping Division. Yet still the fingers of smoke from the charcoal kilns that are devouring them, point to their rapidly approaching extinction.

Cities need green spaces. Nairobi has Nairobi National Park. Cape Town has Table Mountain. New York has Central Park. London has its Royal Parks. Dar has its greenbelt forests. Dar's forests have fantastic potential as recreational spaces but if the destruction carries on over the next 5 years, we will lose this opportunity forever.

Whilst the destruction of these forests is closely linked with charcoal production, this does not mean that we have to solve all of the issues around charcoal production in order to conserve these forests. The laws are already there to protect the forests. These forests have exceptional local, national and international values. A forest manager is in place. The Tanzania Forest Service are receiving funds from the Global Environment Facility for the conservation of the coastal forests. The scene is set. Now we

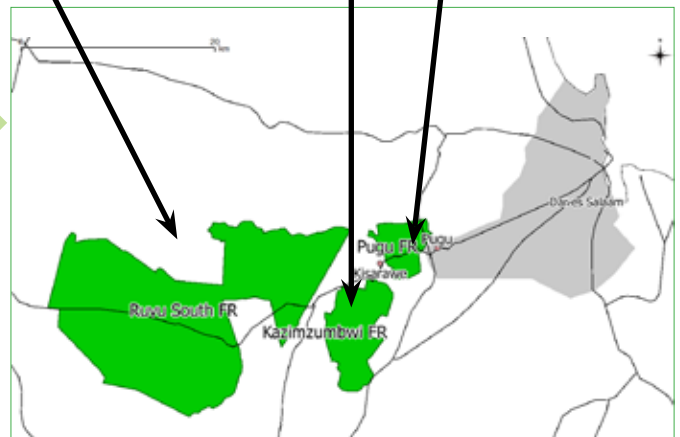


Forest cover analysis using remote sensing images from 2008 and 2010 for three of Dar's greenbelt forests. Red = deforestation between 2008 – 2010, Dark Green = woodland / forest; Light green = thicket and Yellow = agricultural / grass land.

need some action and some leadership from the Tanzania Forest Service to carry out their duty to manage the forests sustainably.

**What's so special about Dar's greenbelt forests?**

Tanzania's coastal zone has approximately 66 high biodiversity 'Coastal Forests'. These are ancient forests that have persisted for millions of years under the influence of the Indian Ocean. Whilst they are many, they are mostly small (less than 50 km<sup>2</sup>). Four of the most important (from a biodiversity perspective) of these forests lie on the outskirts of Dar es Salaam. These are Pugu, Kazimzumbwi and Ruvu South Forest Reserves and Pande Game Reserve. These extend from 100 – 300 m in altitude and cover a total of 38,995 ha. From a biodiversity perspective the forests have been considered as being of particular importance because of the presence of several plant species found nowhere else on earth. For example there are (or were) 10 plant species that are strictly endemic to Pugu-Kazimzumbwi. The forests are also home to one of the most endangered primate species in the world,



the Rondo Galago. A number of threatened bird species are also found in these forests including the Sokoke pipit, East coast akalat and the Spotted ground thrush. For Dar es Salaam and Kisarawe, Pugu and Kazimzumbwi Forests are the main water catchment for the Msimbazi, Kimani, Nzasa and Nyeburu rivers.

The forests also have enormous potential for the citizens of Dar es Salaam to escape from the city to enjoy the natural beauty of the area; walk and exercise along the forest's trails; and learn more about Tanzania's extraordinary forests.

**More dead than alive...**

In June and July 2011, a team from TFCG carried out a 17-day survey at ten sites in Pugu and Kazimzumbwi Forest Reserves. The surveys looked

at plants and disturbance. Using remote sensing images the team selected sites with different forest densities including sample points in the areas with the most dense forest.

Our field surveys recorded more cut trees than live trees in 17 out of 18 one kilometer transects in Pugu and Kazimzumbwi. All transects had at least a few poles (< 15 cm dbh) still standing however six transects contained no live trees (> 15 cm dbh), only stumps.

Charcoal kilns pockmark both reserves and we recorded 121 charcoal kilns or kiln scars along the 9 transects in Pugu and 113 charcoal kilns or kiln scars along the 9 transects in Pugu.

Fire is also a widespread problem in Kazimzumbwi where we recorded 82 areas affected by fire whilst in Pugu, we recorded evidence of 63 fire events. We found only 2 snares or traps suggesting that most animals may already be hunted out.

**But still worth conserving...**

All three reserves still contain some natural forest with the largest areas persisting in Ruvu South and the smallest forest area being in Kazimzumbwi. The surveys recorded two of the Pugu endemic plant

species and eight coastal forest endemic plant species. More botanical work is needed in order to determine the status of the other Pugu endemic plants and to assess whether any are now extinct. At least one population of the Rondo galago is still present in the forests.

**If the government so chooses...**

For many years NGOs such as TFCG and WCST have worked around Dar's forests. Between 2000 and 2005 TFCG and WCST facilitated the establishment of joint forest management. However the joint management agreements were never signed and have languished in FBD. In the meantime both NGOs have continued to support activities such as awareness raising and joint patrols with the surrounding communities. However it is clear that this will never be enough without consistent and persistent law enforcement. A few individuals are mining a resource that belongs to the nation. Their actions are depriving millions of people of cleaner air, cleaner water and the joy of a day spent exploring the natural beauty of the forests. It is time to close the door on this mine so that we can hold our heads high for our children and grandchildren and pass on to them the natural inheritance that we ourselves have inherited.



*Forests of charcoal*



*The rate of destruction appears to be accelerating in Ruvu South*



*In recent years, motorbikes are being used to transport charcoal from the reserves*

**Mining of the trees in Ruvu South South for timber and charcoal.**



*Some biodiversity values such as populations of this Black and rufous elephant shrew in Ruvu South persist*

## **TFCG's Vision**

We envisage a world in which Tanzanians and the rest of humanity are enjoying the diverse benefits from well conserved, high biodiversity forests.

# **Tanzania Forest Conservation Group** **Our Strategy 2011 - 2016**

## **TFCG's Mission**

To conserve and restore the biodiversity of globally important forests in Tanzania for the benefit of the present and future generations. We will achieve this through capacity building, advocacy, research, community development and protected area management, in ways that are sustainable and foster participation, co-operation and partnership.

## **What drives us to do what we do?**

Tanzania's Eastern Arc and Coastal forests contain more than 500 plant and animal species found nowhere else on earth. The forests are the source of many major rivers supplying water to Eastern Tanzania. Forest products and their ecological services are critical to the livelihoods of millions of women, men and children living in rural communities in Eastern Tanzania and underpin their ability to adapt to climate change. The forests are also a significant store of carbon.

These forests and the biodiversity that they contain are under threat with an average of 1 % of the forest area being lost every year. Many of the communities living adjacent to these forests are amongst the poorest in Tanzania. Direct threats to the forests include clearance for subsistence agriculture, charcoal production and timber. In recent years, additional pressures have emerged including mining and bio-fuels. Underlying these threats are deeper social, political and economic issues including poverty, weak governance, marginalization of rural communities and women, weak land tenure,

low levels of political will to conserve forests, and low levels of knowledge and debate on forest conservation issues. In the context of a growing population, a widening division between rich and poor and growing threats from climate change, these issues are liable to result in increasing rates of deforestation, irreversible biodiversity loss and deeper poverty for forest adjacent communities, particularly women.

At the same time new opportunities have emerged in Tanzania over the last 5 years including more engagement from communities in forest management; greater political will to tackle issues such as unsustainable charcoal production, illegal logging and forest governance shortfalls; and innovative financing options such as REDD. Tanzania's land policy promotes community land rights and her forest policy promotes community participation in forest management. Tanzania has received significant investment to pilot REDD and civil society engagement in forest governance is growing.

TFCG's strategy for 2011 – 2016 aims to tackle the direct and indirect threats to forests whilst improving the livelihoods of the surrounding communities.

Wherever possible we will work in partnership with other civil society organizations, government and academic institutions. The strategy was developed through consultation with communities, academics, government representatives, staff from other civil society organizations and TFCG Committee members and staff. We envisage that we can achieve our overall goal through the implementation of five interconnected strategies. These strategies are described overleaf together with the targets that we have set for ourselves to be achieved by 2016.

## Our Goal for 2011 to 2016

TFCG will strive to ensure that Tanzania's high biodiversity forests are being managed in ways that are effective, sustainable and equitable and to tackle the direct and indirect drivers of deforestation in ways that bring tangible benefits to women, men and children living in adjacent villages; enhance good governance; promote gender equity; and integrate climate change adaptation and mitigation.

## Our strategies and targets

### *Participatory Forest Management strategy*

TFCG will facilitate the expansion of the area of high biodiversity forest under effective and sustainable participatory forest management with a focus on the most biologically important and vulnerable forests. We will strive to model best practices in our partnerships with local communities and will endeavour to integrate concepts of free, prior and informed consent and gender equity; to strengthen village land tenure; to ensure community-wide engagement in planning, implementation and monitoring; and to integrate financial sustainability into forest management plans including through linkages with REDD and sustainable harvesting of forest products such as charcoal. We will work in partnership with other civil society organizations to achieve our targets and will strive to build the capacity of community based organizations and local government.

**Target:** An additional 2,000 km<sup>2</sup> of high biodiversity forest and adjacent woodlands including at least 20% of the Eastern Arc Mountain endemic vertebrate species and 2,000 km<sup>2</sup> of coastal forest mosaic including at least 20% of the Tanzanian Coastal Forest endemic plants are under effective, participatory management.

### *Awareness Raising and Environmental Education strategy*

TFCG will nurture widespread appreciation and understanding of the values of Tanzania's high biodiversity forests and will encourage greater understanding and dialogue on the threats to those forests and the strategies that should be taken to conserve them. We are committed to promoting policy changes, building capacity and developing materials that result in better integration of environmental education in primary and secondary schools in forest adjacent communities. Wherever possible we will do this by working in partnership with other NGOs and the relevant government authorities. We are also committed to stimulating informed debate between the general public, elected officials, civil servants and NGOs on forest conservation issues using different communication tools. Messages on HIV / AIDs will be regularly incorporated in our awareness raising materials.

**Target:** As a result of capacity building and dialogue with local and central government, an additional 100 schools in communities close to Eastern Arc and Coastal forests are integrating environmental education in their teaching with tangible improvements in pupil's knowledge of forest conservation issues. At community level, we will see measurable positive changes in awareness, attitudes and practices amongst women and men in at least 100 villages. Forest conservation issues, including those raised by TFCG, will regularly be on the front page of prominent newspapers and will be covered on national radio and television. The number of unique visitors to our website per year will have doubled by the end of the 5 years.

### *Community Development strategy*

TFCG will build the capacity of women, men and children in forest adjacent communities to derive direct benefits from forest conservation in ways that are equitable, well-governed, ecologically sustainable and gender sensitive. Amongst others, this will include sustainable harvesting for timber and charcoal, beekeeping, butterfly farming, fuel efficient stoves, integrated water resources management, eco-tourism, micro-finance and REDD. TFCG is also committed to building the capacity of communities to adopt new technologies; to engage in tree planting / agroforestry and agricultural practices that reduce pressure on forests, improve livelihoods and bring additional benefits in terms of climate change mitigation and adaptation; and to improve access to family planning and other social services. TFCG will work in partnership with other civil society organisations and local government to achieve this strategy.



Photo by Brenda Berry

**Target:** As a result of TFCG's interventions, by the end of five years, at least 20,000 women and men (of whom at least 35 % are women) from at least 100 communities earn an additional US\$ 50 per annum from ecologically sustainable livelihood activities including agriculture; 3 million trees have been planted; at least 50,000 people have access to more secure and sustainable supplies of water and forest products; and at least 1000 families have better access to family planning.

### Research strategy

TFCG will increase knowledge about the values of the Eastern Arc Mountains and Coastal Forests; the ways that communities can benefit from the forests in a sustainable way; the direct and indirect threats that the forests face including governance and poverty linkages; and effective strategies to conserve them; and will communicate these findings to stakeholders at local, national and international levels. TFCG will foster partnerships with Tanzanian and International Research institutions and will build the capacity of young Tanzanian women and men to undertake relevant research.

**Target:** To regularly communicate relevant research findings to communities, local government and the general public; to document lessons learned and best practices from the implementation of forest conservation activities; to build the capacity of at least 20 young Tanzanian scientists; to generate at least 5 scientific publications on Eastern Arc Mountain and Coastal Forest values and threats; to implement partnership projects with at least 5 international research institutes and 2 national research institutes; to support biodiversity surveys in at least 5 less well known sites; and to contribute to red-listing assessments of at least 20 species.

### Advocacy strategy

TFCG seeks harmonized, national policies, laws and regulations that promote effective, equitable, democratic and sustainable management of forests; that these policies are implemented in a way that enhances participation, accountability, gender equity and transparency; and that communities are engaging in informed debate on policy development and implementation in a well-coordinated way and their issues and concerns are being addressed by policy makers and local government. TFCG's advocacy work will be evidence-based and where possible, will be carried out in partnership with other stakeholders including MJUMITA, local communities, civil society organizations and researchers.

### Targets

By the end of the 5 years, we aspire to have contributed to the following changes:

- Communities involved in JFM benefit are receiving a regular share of revenues by 2016;
- Active local MJUMITA networks are functioning in at least 50 villages where TFCG is operational;
- The National REDD Strategy and the National Forest Policy recognizes that unreserved forests on village land are under the control of the village authorities and communities can access REDD revenues from emission reductions from village land;
- National REDD and FSC standards have been agreed and are being applied;
- Nature Reserves, Dar's greenbelt forests and other high biodiversity forests are receiving a minimum of US\$ 10,000 per annum for management activities including increases in revenue from eco-tourism;
- The Eastern Arc Mountains is included on the list of World Heritage Sites;
- Hunting and wildlife trade from forest and nature reserves are properly addressed in the national forest policy with increased investment in enforcing laws protecting wildlife in Forest and Nature Reserves.



Photo by Brenda Berry

# Piloting REDD: what have we learned so far?

Based on a presentation by Charles Meshack at a CIFOR-hosted side event during the UNFCCC meeting in Durban in November 2011

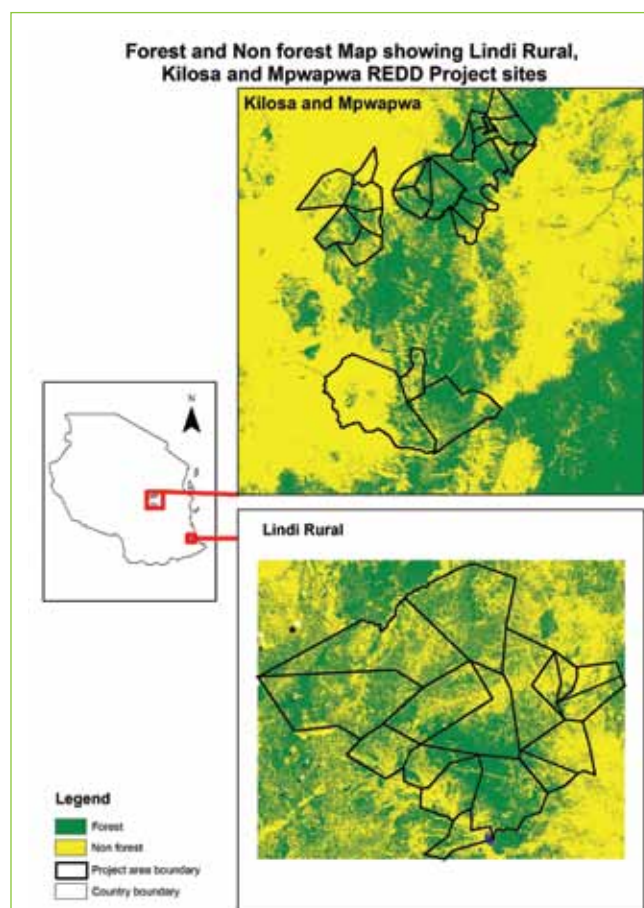
## Introducing the TFCG and MJUMITA REDD project

A number of different initiatives are investing in Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation (REDD) readiness in Tanzania. These initiatives aim to build on Tanzania's progressive forest policy with its focus on participatory forest management. REDD readiness funding includes a grant from Norway that is supporting, amongst other things, 9 non-governmental organisation pilot projects. The pilot projects aim to demonstrate different approaches to REDD and to contribute to establishing a national REDD scheme. The Tanzania Forest Conservation Group in partnership with the Community Forest Conservation Network of Tanzania (MJUMITA) is working with 36 villages in two separate sites to model a community-oriented approach to REDD. One project site is in the Eastern Arc Mountains and includes a mosaic of 140,000 ha of woodland and high biodiversity submontane and montane forest on village land. The other site is in the Eastern African Coastal Forest hotspot and includes 75,000 ha of woodland and coastal forest also on village land. The project is now in its third year of implementation.

The project aims to pilot a mechanism whereby REDD finance can bring about additional reductions in greenhouse gas emissions by channelling incentives as directly as possible to communities with forests on their land. In the absence of a compliance market for REDD or a fund-based mechanism, the project aims to assist communities to access funds from the voluntary market. However it is our intention that the model could also be used in other areas to channel different types of REDD finance to communities.

**Project Goal:** To reduce greenhouse gases emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in Tanzania in ways that provide direct and equitable incentives to rural communities to conserve and manage forests sustainably.

**Purpose:** To demonstrate, at local, national and international levels, a pro-poor approach to reducing deforestation and forest degradation by generating equitable financial incentives for communities that are sustainably managing or conserving Tanzanian forests at community level.



### Project Strategy

**Stage 1:** Site selection based on forest area, deforestation rates, stakeholder interest and biodiversity criteria;

**Stage 2:** Free, prior and informed consent with participating communities;

**Stage 3:** Participatory identification, and implementation of strategies to reduce deforestation including participatory forest management, land use planning, improved agriculture and other livelihood activities;

**Stage 4:** Generate emission reductions; verify emission reductions according to VCS and CCB standards; and channel revenues back to the communities initially using project funds.



*Land use planning in Likwaya Village, Lindi.  
Photo by Raymond Nlelwa.*



*The project held consultation meetings in all sub-villages as part of the process of free, prior and informed consent.  
Photo by Charles Leonard, TFCG*

So far the project has secured the consent of the 36 participating villages. This involved meetings in every sub-village and village. We then worked with women and men from each individual village to identify appropriate strategies to address deforestation and carried out participatory social impact assessments at village and site level. From there we have been working with the communities to implement the plans and to integrate REDD into the traditional land use planning and participatory forest management approaches. We have also started to work with the communities to change agricultural practices in such a way as to reduce deforestation from shifting agriculture whilst also improving livelihoods.

At the same time we have been doing the more technical measurement, reporting and verification (MRV) oriented activities in order to develop the project design documents for the Voluntary Carbon Standard (VCS) and the Climate, Community and Biodiversity (CCB) Project Standards. The project also has an advocacy component intended to contribute to national REDD policy development.

## Challenges

### Risks identified by communities at project outset

During our initial consultation with the communities and as part of the social impact assessment, community members voiced a range of concerns regarding REDD. These included concerns over land tenure and access to natural resources; governance issues; social conflict associated with enforcement of forest access restrictions; increased crop losses from bush pigs and other wild animals due to better habitat protection; and scepticism that the project would deliver on its promises. The types of concerns varied from one site to another although issues of land tenure and governance were consistently mentioned. The project is looking at how best to integrate measures that can mitigate these risks.





### **Uncertainty in national and international REDD policy**

As well as finding ways to ensure that REDD brings benefits to communities, the project has faced a number of other related challenges. The biggest challenge is the uncertainty that persists regarding the amount of REDD revenues that will be available and the rules and procedures that will govern who can access those funds and how. Whilst we have found that information about potential REDD revenues is an incentive to communities to protect areas of forest under threat, we have been frank about the uncertainties that surround those funds. As such, we have found that until communities can be more confident that REDD revenues will really materialise they are reluctant to risk including all of their forests.

### **Disconnect between REDD and agricultural and investment policies and practices**

Another major challenge for REDD in a country such as Tanzania where much of the deforestation involves small holder farmers is to find scalable interventions that can improve agricultural yields whilst also improving livelihoods and reducing GHG emissions. In Tanzania there is still a disconnect between thinking on REDD and thinking on agriculture. Agricultural and investment policies

include strategies that risk increasing deforestation and include little investment in assisting farmers at the frontier of deforestation who often have little or no capital and minimal access to improved agricultural technologies. So far, REDD readiness investment is not doing enough to support smallholder farmers to shift to more 'climate friendly' agriculture or to adopt other livelihood strategies.

A related challenge is that to date, there are no VCS approved methods to reward reductions in forest degradation. As shifting agriculture often results in forest degradation rather than total deforestation, there is a gap in the incentive structure for farmers moving from shifting agriculture to more intensive agriculture.

### **At current prices potential REDD revenues do not cover the opportunity and transaction costs for some communities.**

In terms of financing, at the current price of Voluntary Emission Reductions of between 5 to 10 US dollars per ton, our initial calculations show that the net income will only just cover the opportunity and transaction costs of avoiding deforestation in our coastal forest site whereas in the Eastern Arc Mountains where deforestation rates are lower and crops are of a higher value, a higher price may be needed. This assumes that communities can access all of the funds directly. If different layers of government were also to receive some of this revenue the incentive would be further diluted.

### **Changing planners attitudes towards land use planning and participatory forest management:**

Our experience has also shown that whilst REDD has similarities with traditional participatory forest management, it requires a different approach on the ground. REDD requires communities to



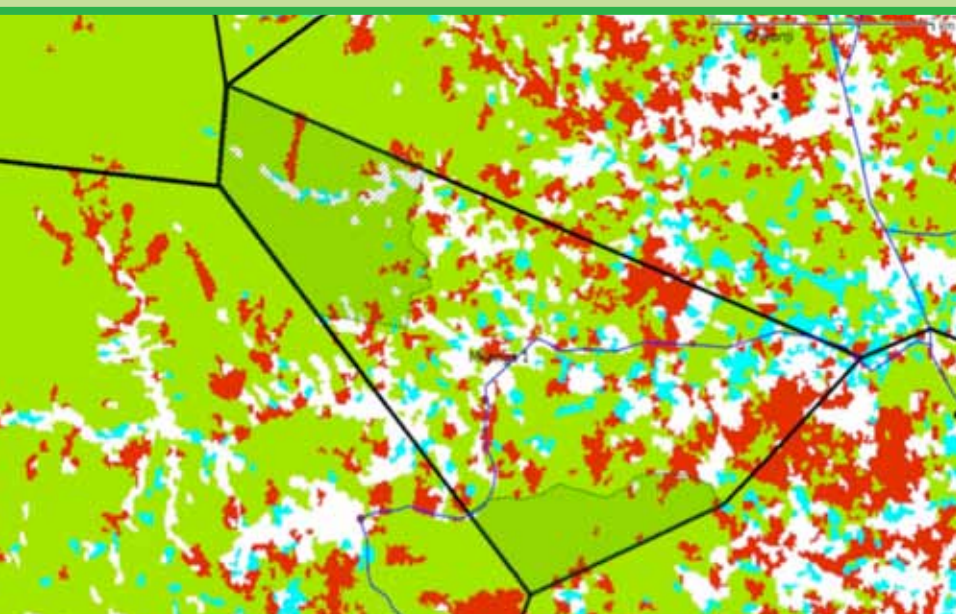
*Community members participate in assessing carbon stocks.  
Photo by Baraka Samwel, MJUMITA.*



*There is a need for more integrated land and natural resources planning at community level.  
Photo by Nuru Nguya, TFCG.*

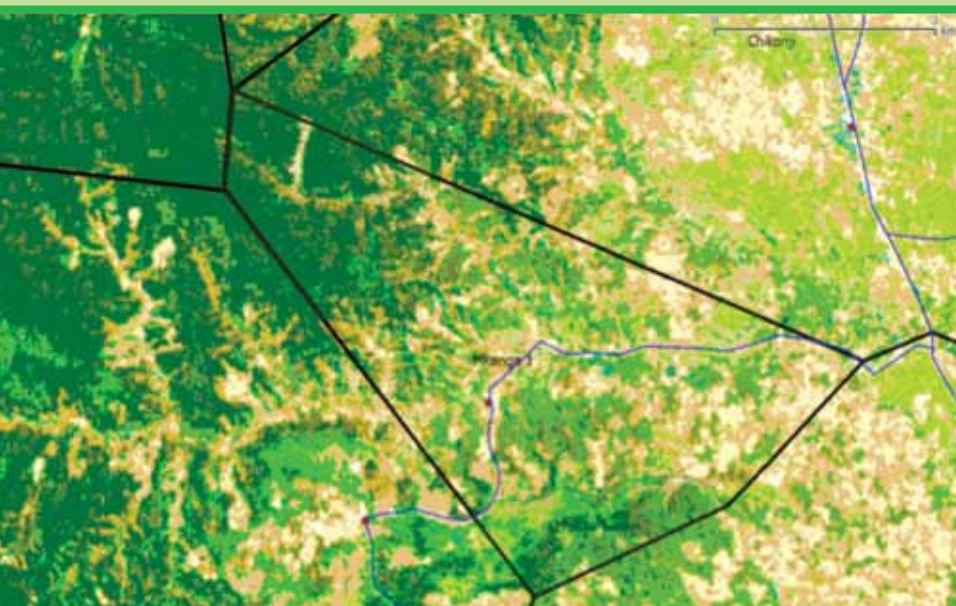
protect forests that are at immediate threat from deforestation. This requires a different approach to more traditional land and natural resources management planning. Under participatory forest management, communities protect the forests that provide them with particular benefits. These are often not the forests that are at immediate threat of deforestation but are instead forests around water sources or forests with medicinal plants or cultural values. In order to generate emission reductions, REDD requires communities to protect forests that are at immediate threat of deforestation. A village may protect 1000 ha of high carbon forest but unless that forest is threatened by deforestation, it will not earn anything from REDD. This requires a different approach to planning.

Linked to the issue of excluding threatened forests from village forest reserves is the need to build capacity on integrating sustainable harvesting in village forest reserves within REDD sites. Many village forest reserves in Tanzania are managed primarily for forest protection and allow very little harvesting of forest products. Initially, local government facilitators advised communities in the project areas to exclude any 'use areas' from the village forest reserves based on a perception that village forest reserves must be for forest protection only. And based on an understanding that REDD is incompatible with any kind of forest use. This reflects a capacity gap at local government level in terms of integrating sustainable use in REDD-oriented management plans.



Mkanga 1 Village Forest Reserve

This is an example of a village from our Lindi site. The black line is the village boundary. Green is forest and red shows recent deforestation. The shaded area is the area that the community have placed in a Village Forest Reserve. Only 45 % of remaining forest is included in the Village Forest Reserve. This is the least accessible but highest carbon forest. However the original proposed Village Forest Reserve excluded a significant part of the area at immediate risk of deforestation. Based on a price of US\$ 5 per ton, their net income would have been US\$ 13,000 per annum for the whole community which is about half of the amount that they could have earned. As such we have returned to the community to advise that they include the threatened forests in the Village Forest Reserve. Whilst each community is presented with information specific to their area on potential REDD revenues, their 'risk appetites' vary. In areas such as Lindi where deforestation rates are quite high, ongoing uncertainty about REDD policy at national and international level means that communities are choosing not to protect some of their forest until there is more certainty about REDD financing.



## Implementing REDD on the ground: lessons learned

Based on the challenges that we have been trying to address and on the strategies that have worked well, some preliminary lessons learned are as follows.

### **REDD has the potential to reduce emissions and reduce poverty but it requires reliable, adequate and accessible finance.**

After two years, the basic premises of our piloting model still holds true i.e. that REDD finance could reduce emissions and reduce poverty. It is also clear that REDD needs adequate and accessible financing and that that finance should reach those who bear the opportunity cost of REDD as well as those implementing the strategies to reduce deforestation. It is also clear that further delays in agreeing on the rules and procedures surrounding REDD financing will delay reductions in emissions.

### **REDD needs clear standards if it is to be effective and equitable;**

We have also seen that safeguards or standards are important in helping to ensure that REDD is implemented in an equitable and participatory way and that much can be learnt from the application of voluntary market standards such as VCS and CCB. In particular, informed participation of communities is critical to ensuring an effective and equitable model

### **More effort is needed to build linkages between REDD and the agriculture sector;**

We have also seen that more effort needs to be made between REDD initiatives and sectors such as agriculture to ensure that there is a favourable policy environment for addressing deforestation drivers. There are similarities with traditional integrated conservation and development projects but there are also significant differences which require a shift in attitudes and practice;

### **MRV should be well integrated in the implementation of strategies to reduce deforestation at community level.**

In terms of measurement, reporting and verification, we have found that MRV needs to be closely linked with implementation of strategies to address deforestation. For example, sharing information on potential REDD revenues is important for communities to make informed decisions on land use. Similarly spatial information on the current and projected distribution of deforestation is important to link with land use planning. Involving communities in carbon assessment work builds capacity and knowledge at community level about carbon

accounting and other basic principles of REDD.

## Way forward

We believe that pilot projects such as ours can contribute valuable, real-life lessons about how to reduce emissions from deforestation in developing countries within a REDD framework. But these models involve risks and these risks are perpetuated by uncertainty about national and international policy around REDD. For REDD to become reality, there is an urgent need for greater clarity on the levels of finance that will be available, the form that REDD will take and on how that finance can be accessed by communities at the forefront of deforestation.



*View of coastal forest on the Noto Plateau in the Lindi project site  
Photo by Nike Daggart*



*Building community capacity to measure carbon stocks is an important part of REDD on village land.  
Photo by Baraka Samwel, MJUMITA.'*

# Governance at community level: what is happening in villages practicing participatory forest management?

By Elida Fundi

## Governance monitoring officer

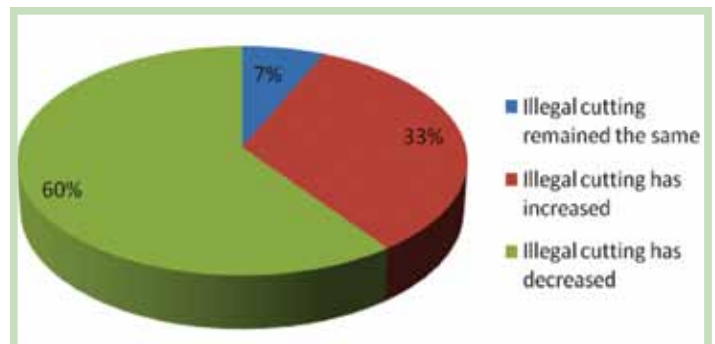
Working with MJUMITA members in villages practicing community forest management, the Forest Justice in Tanzania Project team has developed a dashboard aimed at measuring the strengths and weaknesses of community forest governance in Tanzania. The project is helping community members to understand their rights and demand for improvement of governance in their forest programs. The dashboard tool is designed to be implemented by MJUMITA members to assess important aspects of forest governance such as management quality, enforcement quality, transparency, accountability, level of participation in decision making and on how district forest office and police are supporting communities in participatory forest management. The Forest Justice team is now developing a system to help MJUMITA members share the results of the dashboard in village assembly meetings and make demands for changes in village forest governance practices.

Using the dashboard, trained MJUMITA members collected information from village government leaders, village natural resources leaders; focus group discussions and official records from village government offices. So far, MJUMITA members have implemented the dashboard in 104 villages. Due to time constraints, the results of the first 30 villages were analyzed to get the preliminary report showing the status of governance as shown below. The study found that 60% of the villages reported



*Participants in the governance monitoring from Kwezitu Village in the East Usambaras. Photo by Elida Fundi'*

that forest destruction is decreasing, which suggests that participatory forest management is working to some degree in Tanzania to enhance forest management.



*Figure 1: A pie chart showing perception of illegal cutting in Community based forest management and Joint forest management*

However, looking at the issue of transparency, the study found rather poor performance in most villages. Village governments and village natural resources committee are not keeping records regarding natural resources management. Additionally, most villages were not able to find or did not have their forest management plan, forest bylaws, meetings minutes and other VNRC documents (i.e patrol book, expenditure, revenue obtained from fees and fines).

Furthermore the study showed that, village natural resources committees are not sharing the little information that they do record. Seventy three percent of villages reported that they have not received any information from their village natural resources committee regarding forest management in the past 12 months.

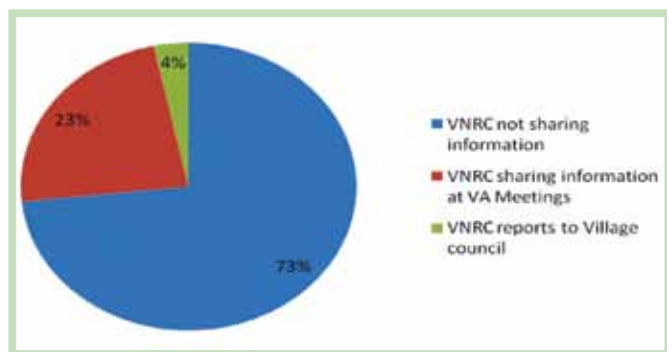


Figure 2: A pie chart showing percentage of village natural resources committees sharing information with community members

The extent to which community members participate in making decisions on issues affecting their life depend much on the information they have and on how they understand the information. The most appropriate and accessible place for community members in the villages to get information is through village assembly meetings. Therefore, the village is required to hold at least 4 village assembly meetings as stipulated by Tanzania government in local government (district authorities) Act no. 8 of 1982 which was revised in 2002. Only 13% of communities reported having 4 or more meetings. Were as 33% of communities either left the question blank or reported no village assembly meetings in the past 12 months.

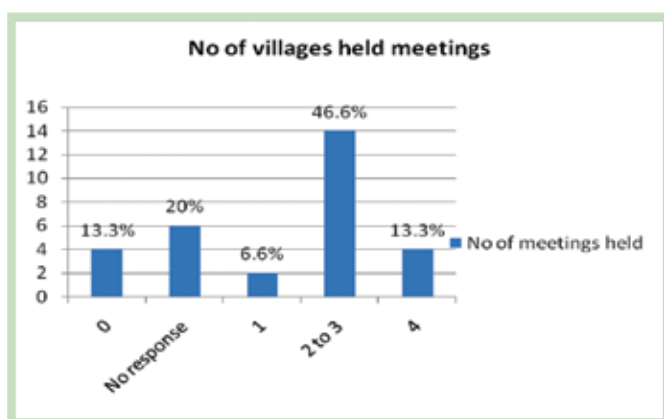


Figure 3: A bar chart showing number of meetings held by villages

The survey also aimed to better understand how district forest offices and police are supporting communities in participatory forest management. Participants were asked whether village authorities or villagers refer cases of illegal cutting to district forest authorities. Only 13% of the interviewed villages reported cases to the district forest office. Village government officials said that they don't refer cases to the District forest authority because district forest

officers are not helpful when reporting the case or it takes long time for them to respond. Participants claimed that some of untruthful district officers were involved in illegal cutting, so when community members report any illegal cutting incidence they always inform the suspects to leave the area before the team arrived. Also, it was reported that most of the suspects referred to police are not taken to court, are released after charged a small amount of fine, and return to the forest to continue with illegal cutting. Of the reported cases in the police, only one case has been sent to court and the offender sentenced.

The result from dashboard survey also shows that most of community members are not participating in making decision on how to spend the revenue obtained from natural resources, only village leaders and VNRC chair are the ones who decide on how to spend the collected money. Seventy percent of the villages participating in the survey reported that they did not understand on how money collected from fine and fees of natural resources were spent for the last 12 months.

This study also aimed at understanding on how villages participating in participatory forest management are implementing the established forest bylaws. Participants were asked if forest bylaws have been explained in a village assembly meeting in the last 12 months. Sixty percent of the participants reported that, the bylaws were not explained at the village assembly meeting for the last 12 months.

### Conclusion and Recommendations

Generally, forest destruction in most of villages visited seems to be decreasing which indicates that participatory forest management is working positively in achieving forest conservation. However, this study revealed poor governance in the most of villages forest management programs. Since improved governance is a fundamental in achieving forest conservation and sustainable forest management, the following recommendations are pointed out to attain good governance. Village authorities are suppose to hold village assembly meeting and ensure that members are getting correct information, various information such as meeting minutes, data on revenue and expenditure on forest products should be kept and shared, decision on how to disburse fund should be done at the village assembly meeting as well as making information available to the public by posting them on village notice board.



*View of forest on the Noto Plateau.  
Photo by Andrew Perkin'*

# Going for Gold in the Noto Plateau, SE Tanzania

Andrew Perkin, Baraka Samwel and Justine Gwegime

## Introduction

The 'Gold Level Exceptional Biodiversity Benefits' standard as developed by the Climate Community and Biodiversity Alliance (CCBA), identifies REDD projects that conserve sites which are globally significant for biodiversity conservation (CCBA, 2008). In this way REDD projects that also contribute to biodiversity conservation may be able to attract a higher price for their credits than those solely focused on carbon.

The biodiversity values of a REDD project are assessed in terms of the presence, conservation and monitoring of either: threatened species as defined by the IUCN Red List or, species irreplaceability criteria as defined by the CCBA. The Tanzania Forest Conservation Group (TFCG) is piloting REDD in 17 villages in Lindi Region of south-east Tanzania including 9 villages that extend onto the Noto Plateau. Here we report the results of a baseline biodiversity survey in the coastal forests of the Noto Plateau, and identify biodiversity values that may contribute to the project's application for the Gold Level CCB standard.

The forests of the Noto plateau contain a mosaic of dry coastal forest and coastal woodland. Parts of the

plateau have been cultivated in the past and are now regenerating. The forest is accessible from a road from Ruhoma Village, that has been constructed to supply fuel to a mobile phone mast. For this survey two sites on village land were selected as they appeared to have the most dense forest based on an analysis of a recent PALSAR image (see Fig 1.). The forested areas visited were in Ruhoma and Muungano Village Land. The surveys were conducted from August 23rd - August 31st, 2011.

## Survey Objectives and methods

- 1: To determine the presence of coastal forest endemic and / or IUCN Red-listed species.
- 2: To conduct a wider baseline biodiversity survey for mammals and birds.

We used transects, camera traps, sound recording, interviews with local people and opportunistic sightings.

## Results

Eight species listed as threatened by IUCN were recorded during the survey including five mammal and three bird species. The most notable record is the critically endangered, Rondo galago (Table 1).

Species	Status (IUCN 2011)
Rondo galago	Critically endangered
Leopard	Near threatened
Lion	Vulnerable
Elephant	Vulnerable
Chequered sengi	Near threatened
Southern banded snake eagle	Near threatened
East coast akalat	Near threatened
Plain backed sunbird	Near threatened

Table 1. Species listed as threatened on the IUCN Red List (IUCN 2011) that were recorded on the Noto plateau.

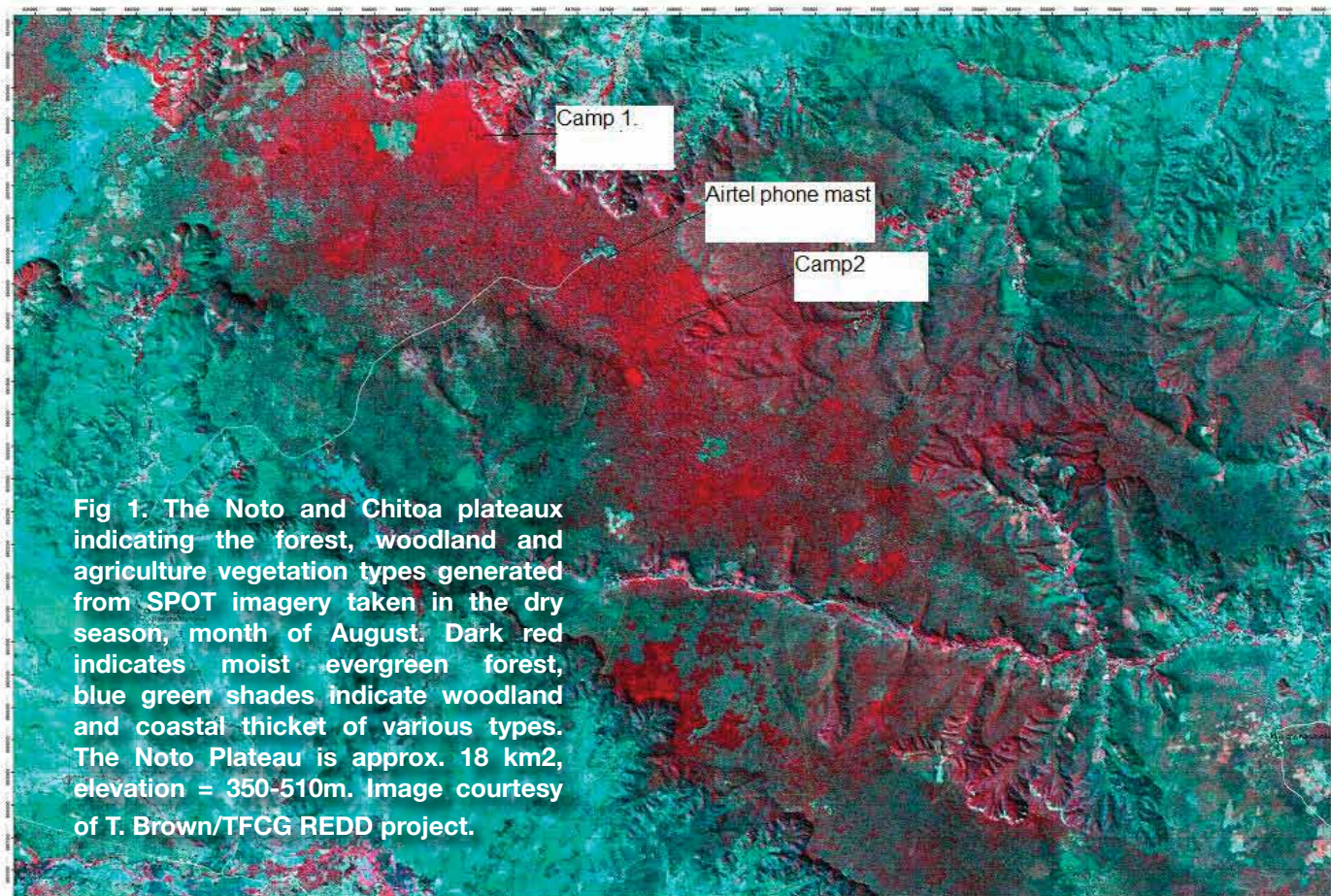
We did not record the endangered spotted ground thrush which is known from the Rondo Plateau however this is not surprising as the survey did not coincide with their migration time.

In terms of species richness, we recorded 27 species of mammals from 18 families and 42 bird species. Little yellow and Livingstone's flycatchers were both recorded, an unusual observation given that these are typically allopatric species.

## The biological importance of the Noto Plateau

These initial zoological surveys reveal the high biological importance of the area and extend the known ranges of several species including the African palm civet, and the Rondo Galago. Surveys of other taxa e.g. the herpetofauna, and during different seasons are needed to better understand the ecology of this valuable coastal forest. Further bird surveys are required particularly to coincide with the migration of the spotted ground thrush. Assessing the range and abundance of the Rondo galago in the Noto plateau is also an important question. A previous survey to other forests on the plateau did not record Rondo galago suggesting that it may be restricted to a very small part of the plateau. Although TFCG has also carried out botanical surveys of the area, the identifications of the plant specimens have not yet been finalised. As the area is known as a centre of endemism for plants, the botanical results will also be important in indicating the biological value of the plateau.

The surveys raise a number of questions about the taxonomy and phylogeny of some of the mammals. For example based on the known ranges of sengi species, we would expect two species of sengi to



occur in the Noto forests: the four toed sengi and the chequered sengi. However, informants from the adjacent villages described four sengi forms. All four forms were called 'nodo' qualified with adjectives to describe the different size and colour forms. The camera traps reveal a form more similar to the black and rufous sengi which occurs from the Rufiji river and up into Kenya.

The camera trap results also reveal a red duiker which appears to be paler than the 'typical' Harvey's red duiker found in coastal forests further north. Hyrax were said to occur in certain rocky places of the plateau and local people reported that they were hunted. One sound recording made during the survey is possibly a bush hyrax calling from the plateau edge. Isolated populations of hyrax are often distinct and are thus of particular scientific and conservation interest. A turaco species, probably Livingstone's turaco, is said to occur in the forests by the local informants however it was not recorded during the current survey.

From an ecological perspective the plateau is of particular interest as megafauna such as elephants, buffalo lion and leopard appear still to be common. The role of elephants in this coastal forest mosaic as seed dispersers and ecosystem engineers needs further study. Elephants use the plateau for shelter

and feeding (preliminary observations indicate mostly fruits, bark and roots), particularly during the rainy season. Surveys of other taxa e.g. herptiles, and over different seasons and longer time periods are needed to better understand the ecology of this valuable coastal forest. Human -elephant conflict is an issue in the project area and further study on elephant movement and behavior could further help find solutions to this issue. We also noted that whilst hunting levels appeared to be low e.g. no new snares were encountered, gluing (manufactured by mixing the sap of *Tabernaemontana elegans* and *Milicia excelsa*) for birds does occur.

Many areas of the Noto plateau forests appeared to be in good condition despite a past history of settlement. The presence of a critically endangered, endemic primate and other Red-listed species trigger the CCBA Gold Level Exceptional Biodiversity Benefits. The Noto plateau is an important area for coastal forest conservation due to its size, biodiversity and range of habitats.

It is important that REDD projects protect the biodiversity values in addition to the carbon. These values provide opportunities and incentives to the communities of the Noto Plateau to sustainably manage their forests.



Figure 2. The first Rondo galago photographed in the wild on the Noto plateau near Camp 2.

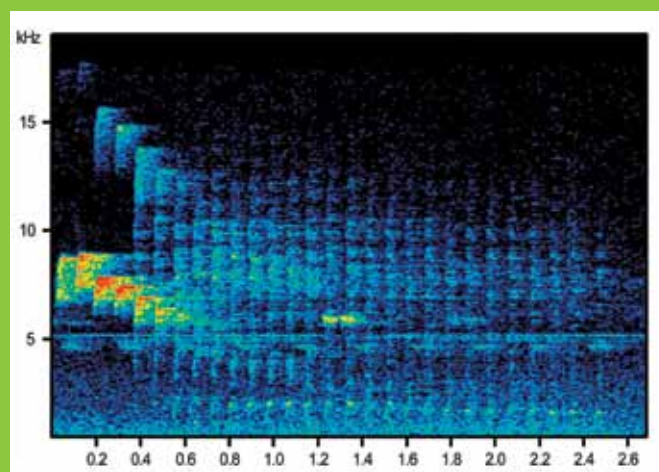


Figure 3: The 'downward trill' alarm call of the Rondo galago. This example is one part of a call sequence which was repeated 10 times.



*Forest Reserves under the management of TFS are being cleared due to negligible investment in reserve management*

# Open government?

A citizen's experience of finding out how much tax payers money gets spent on forest management.

*By Elinasi Monga, Project Manager, Forest Justice in Tanzania*

## **Inadequate budgets and deforestation: cause or excuse?**

Deforestation, forest degradation and biodiversity loss occur in many national and local forest reserves. 'Inadequate budgets' has been cited as the cause of some of the woes that have plagued the forestry sector for many years. As part of the Forest Justice in Tanzania project we decided to dig a little deeper to find out how much is made available for forest management relative to the amount that is needed. Our plan was to gather data on the Forestry and Beekeeping Division's budget for the last five years in order to compare the amount that FBD estimated that they would need in order to manage its forests with the amount that they actually received. From there we could also start to link the amounts that are being invested with the patterns of deforestation and biodiversity loss.

## **First, catch your budget**

Our first challenge was to get hold of the Ministerial supply votes for the last five years. In May 2011 we wrote letters to both the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism to request copies of the supply votes including the FBD budgets. We made regular follow up through visits to both Ministries. At the Ministry of Finance, after two months of regular follow up, we were told that 'the ministry does not have copies available of the books that you requested and has no library to keep these books'. Whilst the desk officers in both ministries provided us with some other relevant information, we came away without the budgets that we had requested. In the meantime, having discussed the challenges of accessing budget data with other civil society organizations, we managed to get some of the historical data. For example some data is available at <http://twaweza.org/go/budget-data>

## Then, match it to reality

Broadly we found that FBD do not receive the amounts that they request. For example the FBD Annual Budget implementation reports state that:

In the financial year 2008/2009 the division planned to implement 16 targets at a cost of Tshs. **4,728,501,500** from the budget section of the Other Charges (OC) but until the end of fiscal year the division received the amount totaled Tshs **2,754,998,528** only from the treasury and thus implement only six (6) targets after spending **97.2%** of all funds obtained from the treasury (*Source: FBD annual budget implementation report, 2008/2009*).

In 2010/2011 the division planned to spend Tsh **6,001,118,500** from other charges (OC) budget section, but until April 2011 the division had received only Tsh **1,687,496,684** leading the division's failure to implement a large part of its responsibilities (*Source: FBD annual budget implementation report, 2010/2011* ).

In terms of answering our question of how much gets spent on forest management activities, we found that the published budgets are not linked to targets. As such we could not determine how much is allocated to forest management relative to other responsibilities and activities of FBD such as policy development, monitoring and evaluation. As such, even when we had got the published budgets we could not ascertain how much is spent on managing the forests under FBD's care.

Having seen the challenges of accessing budget data from MoT and MNRT, we decided to try and look at budget data from three regional catchment forest offices: Tanga, Morogoro and Iringa. These are regions with catchment forest offices responsible for Central Government Forest Reserves and that receive budget directly from FBD. For historical reasons, a few regions with forests with high catchment values (Kilimanjaro, Tanga, Morogoro,

Iringa and Arusha) have forests managed directly by FBD. In most regions, forests are managed directly by the Districts. In July 2011, we requested copies of the budgets prepared by the Regional Catchment Forest office as well as data on the amount actually received for the past 5 years. Both Tanga and Morogoro Regions were open with their budget data. Iringa also provided their data albeit to late to include in this analysis..

The Tanga Regional Catchment Forest Office is responsible for the management of approximately 94,000 ha of forest including some forests with high biodiversity values. For the past 3 years, the office has received less than 25 % or less of the amounts that it has requested.

Table 1: Showing budget requested against the amount received by the Tanga Regional Catchment Forest Office.

Year	Regional office annual estimates	Funds received up the end of the year	% received against regional estimate
2008/2009	95,594,000	23,975,000	25.08
2009/2010	800,000,000	101,400,000	12.68
2010/2011	790,000,000	59,509,000	7.53

This shows that a disproportionate amount of the budget cuts experienced by FBD are then passed on to the regional offices.

The combined forest area under the Regional Catchment Offices of Tanga (94,000 ha) and Morogoro (172,368 ha) excluding Nature Reserves is a significant chunk of the total forest area managed directly by FBD. Given that FBD's responsibilities for direct forest management are quite limited but are targeted at some of the Tanzania's most important forests, we could expect that a significant chunk of FBD's budget would be allocated to the management of those catchment forests. We compared the amount spent on the 266,368 ha in Tanga and Morogoro's catchment forests with the total FBD budget.

Table 2: Funds received in Tanga and Morogoro relative to the total FBD budget

Year	Funds received by Tanga Catchment Office	Funds received by Morogoro Catchment Office	Total funds received in Tanga and Morogoro	Total FBD Approved budget	% of the total FBD budget allocated to Tanga and Morogoro Regions
2008/2009	23,975,000/=	14,300,000/=	38,275,000/=	11,630,204,500/=	0.3
2009/2010	101,400,000/=	36,100,000/=	137,500,000/=	14,753,515,600/=	0.9
2010/2011	59,509,000/=	33,158,800/=	92,667,800/=	16,419,781,100/=	0.6

That the combined budgets for two out of five of the regions for which FBD is responsible amount to less than 1 % of the budget for FBD as a whole suggests that investment in the management of the catchment forests is not being prioritized. Even within the budgets allocated to the regions, we could find no evidence of funds being allocated for basic management activities such as boundary clearing, patrols and community liaison for the catchment reserves. Discussions with forestry staff further indicated that there is no routine budgeting and planning for *in situ* forest management activities for the catchment reserves. In many other regions, where investment in forest management for both central government and local authority forest reserves, is through the District, the situation appears to be worse.

*What does this tell us?*

Our experience has shown that:

- it is difficult to get hold of ‘published’ budget data and much more transparency is needed in order for citizens’ to engage effectively in budget discussions;
- the formats that are used in the published budgets make it difficult to relate budgets with activities or targets;
- FBD does not receive all of its approved budget and the budget cuts are passed on disproportionately to the regions;
- the budgeting process within FBD does not prioritise in-situ forest management for nationally important forests.

In September 2011, Tanzania officially expressed its intent to join the Open Government Partnership which aims to increase the availability of information on governmental activities and to support civic participation (<http://www.opengovpartnership.org/open-government-declaration>).

In the spirit of greater transparency we urge the newly launched Tanzania Forest Service to adopt more transparent procedures towards budgeting and reporting on expenditure. Our findings also suggest that there needs to be an overall increase in the amount invested in forestry. Given the cost to the nation of losing its forests, it is clear that more resources need to be invested in managing the nation’s forest reserves effectively.

We also urge the Tanzania Forest Service to invest more of its budget in the management of the forests under its care. As is evident from other articles in this edition of the Arc Journal, forest reserves under the custodianship of the Forestry and Beekeeping Division are being cleared or degraded and are losing their unique biodiversity values. More priority needs to be accorded to ensuring that regional and district catchment forest officers have the resources that they need to fulfill their responsibilities in managing the forests under their care.



*Despite their global importance for biodiversity conservation, the East Usambara Mountains receive less than one third of the budget needed to manage them*

# TFCG News

## Forest Justice in Tanzania

In May 2011, the Forest Justice in Tanzania project was launched in three zones. The Forest Justice in Tanzania initiative aims to promote good governance and improved accountability in the forestry sector in Tanzania by contributing to more effective and sustained citizen demand for improved forest management and governance; and by encouraging Government leaders at all levels to support effective forest management. The initiative is a partnership between the Community Forest Conservation Network of Tanzania, known as MJUMITA and the Tanzania Forest Conservation Group. The project is funded through the DfID-financed Accountability in Tanzania (AcT) programme and will operate from 2011 – 2013.

The project's strategy involves a combination of participatory governance monitoring, forest condition monitoring, enforcement promotion, research, communication and the promotion of best practices. Initial results of the participatory governance monitoring and forest condition monitoring are reported in this edition of the Arc Journal. In addition the project has launched phone hotlines for the public to report illegal forest activities with support to communities to make follow up on issues. The project is also working closely with the media to communicate the results of the monitoring work. For more information about Forest

Justice in Tanzania, please visit [www.tfcg.org/ForestJusticeTanzania](http://www.tfcg.org/ForestJusticeTanzania)

## Encouraging youth engagement in environmental issues

With support from Deloitte, in 2011, TFCG's Environmental Education Officer, Elisa Pallangyo has provided training to 156 teachers from 80 primary schools in the Eastern Arc Mountains and coastal forests. Training has focused on integrating environmental education in class room teaching. He has also assisted 68 school environmental clubs to get going. Through discussions and questionnaires with teachers and other stakeholders, we have found that 80 % of the schools where we have provided training on environmental education over the last 3 years, are now regularly including environmental issues in classroom teaching. We also found that following the TFCG Teacher Training events, teachers' knowledge of environmental issues have increased and their attitudes towards environmental education are more positive. We also found that the involvement of Ward Education Coordinators has been an effective way of promoting environmental education in the schools. Our teacher's manual is available in Swahili at <http://www.tfcg.org/publications.html>

## CEPF provide consolidation funding for the Eastern Arc Mountains and Coastal Forests

Between 2004 and 2009, the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) supported research and other conservation initiatives in the Eastern Arc Mountains and Coastal Forests of Kenya and Tanzania. Subsequent to this US\$ 7 million investment, various research papers have been published and scientific reports have been finalised based on the research financed by CEPF.

With the aim of communicating this new knowledge, a three year follow up project was launched in August 2011. Bridging the Knowledge Gap aims to raise awareness on the importance of the Eastern Arc Mountain and Coastal forests and to consolidate



Photo by Brenda Berry

communication networks and solidify environmental education achievements for the long-term benefit of civil society. The project has three components:

1. Stakeholders have easier access to reports and publications about the forest values, forest change and other relevant issues in the hotspot and are integrating these in their decision making.
2. Women and men living in communities adjacent to forests with concentrations of threatened species are more aware of forest values, threats and sustainable management and are more willing to support forest conservation initiatives.
3. Primary school teachers in villages adjacent to forests with concentrations of threatened species are teaching the younger generation about forest values, threats and conservation initiatives with the result that children are engaging in conservation activities.

The project will be implemented by TFCG alongside complementary projects financed by CEPF and being implemented in Tanzania by WWF and WCST.



*Preparing terraces as part of conservation agriculture in the West Usambara Mountains  
Photo by Wycliffe Massolwa, TFCG*

### Conservation agriculture in the West Usambara Mountains

In Korogwe and Lushoto Districts, TFCG has been working with farmers and village leaders in 21 villages to improve agricultural practices and to adopt integrated water resources management. Over the last 12 months, 630 women and men farmers have been learning about agricultural practices that can increase yields whilst also nurturing the soils and land. By adopting the principles of conservation

agriculture and by using improved seed varieties, farmers have seen increases in their yields of crops including tomatoes and cabbages. The project has also encouraged farmers to market their produce more effectively. Using non-forest land more wisely is critical for the longer term sustainability of the participatory forest management that TFCG has been supporting in the West Usambaras. In order to bring more reliable and safer drinking water to communities in the West Usambaras, the project has also been



*Photo by Brenda Berry*

working with communities in two sub-catchments to establishment water user associations and is now working with individual water user groups to improve water points, to establish well-governed payment procedures and to provide training to the water point caretakers.

The project is supported by Gorta, a foundation that aims to reduce hunger and improve food security.

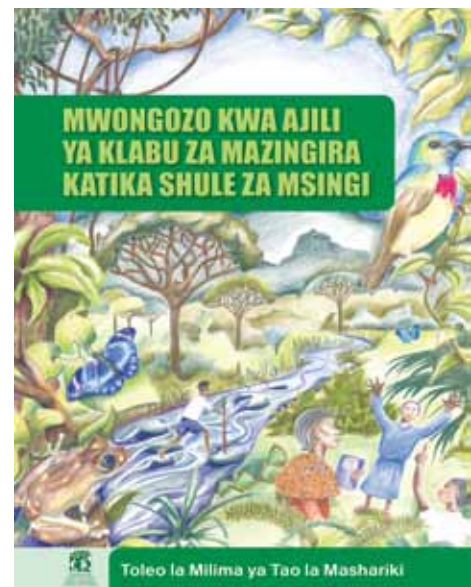
### New resources available on the TFCG website

*REDD and PFM Training manuals available online*

Training manuals on participatory forest management and REDD for training events at District and Village level are now available from the TFCG website in English and Swahili. Please visit: <http://www.tfcg.org/makingReddWork.html>

*Guidelines for primary school environment clubs*  
Guidelines for primary school environmental clubs are available in Swahili at <http://www.tfcg.org/publications.html>.

The guidelines include information on how to form clubs and provide examples of the kinds of activities that clubs can do.



## Land use planning in the Rubeho Mountains

In order to encourage more sustainable land use and to strengthen land tenure in the Rubeho Mountains, TFCG has supported four villages to carry out village land use planning in 2011. TFCG has also been supporting farmers in six communities in the Rubehos to adopt conservation agriculture. This project is financed by Deloitte and is now linked with the TFCG / MJUMITA REDD project so that these communities may also earn longer term incentives for maintaining forest cover from REDD.

## Making REDD work communities and forest conservation in Tanzania

Launched in 2009, the project aims to demonstrate a pro-poor approach to REDD. The project is being implemented in 36 villages in two sites in the Eastern Arc Mountains and Coastal Forests. In the last six months, the project has been implementing

a more integrated approach to village land use planning, community based forest management and the development of REDD by-laws by carrying out these activities simultaneously. So far the revised approach has worked well and six villages in Lindi and five villages in Kilosa have completed the process. A payment mechanism to channel REDD funds to the communities based around individual payments has been designed and tested in two villages in Lindi. To improve the functioning of the village governments, the project is also supporting 6 villages to construct their village offices including a land registry office.

In December, project partner staff shared the project's experiences of piloting REDD during the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change 17<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties. Presentations were made during six side events looking at issues such as gender, standards and preliminary lessons learned.

*The project has supported six villages to construct a village office. The buildings include offices for the Village Government, the village natural resources committees and a village land registry. Photo by Emmanuel Lyimo, TFCG.'*



# News of the Arc

## Tanzania's National FSC standards close to finalisation

Tanzania is close to finalising its National Forest Stewardship Council standards. These nationally appropriate standards define best practice for the production, harvesting and processing of timber.

The Forest Stewardship Council is an independent, non-governmental, not-for-profit international organization established to promote the responsible management of the world's forests (<http://www.fsc.org/>).

The standards aim to define social and environmental principles and measurable criteria so that consumers can select timber that has been sustainably and ethically produced.

It is anticipated that the standards will be finalised and approved by the Tanzania Forest Service by early 2012. Timber that is certified can be sold at a premium price. The process to develop these standards has been championed by the WWF Tanzania Country Office with leadership of the Forestry and Beekeeping Division through a National FSC Working Group. The development process drew on experiences from private sector FSC certificate holders in the country such as TANWAT, while the Mpingo Conservation and Development Initiative have pioneered the application of the international FSC standards for community forests in Kilwa. Experiences from the private sector and MCDI's work have been integrated in the development of the national standards.



## GEF coastal forest project

The UNDP GEF Coastal Forest Project is a four year (2010 – 2014) US\$ 3.5 million project being implemented around coastal forests on the mainland and on Zanzibar.

**The project's goal is that** 'Coastal Forest Biodiversity and Ecosystem Values are Conserved and Provide Sustainable Benefit Flows at Local, National and Global Levels'.

The project has four components:

1. Coastal Forest Protected Area network (mainland - FBD)
2. Coastal Forest Protected Area network (Zanzibar DFNRNR)
3. Landscape Conservation (mainland Kilwa Rufiji Lindi WWF)
4. Training and capacity building

Over the last year the Tanzania Forest Service has established a Coastal Forest Unit that will oversee project implementation on the mainland, and the protected area board is being revitalized on Zanzibar. In order to enhance the protected area network, the project has been facilitating the establishment of village and local authority forest reserves, with emphasis on the large areas of unprotected forest and woodland in Kilwa District, but also including work in Rufiji and Lindi Districts, and on Zanzibar. The project has also begun the process of gazetting Rondo Forest Reserve as a Nature Reserve, based on its exceptional biological values.

In addition, the project has supported biological surveys. These have reconfirmed the existence, and mapped the distribution and population of two tree species that had been assumed to be extinct: *Karomia gigas* and *Erythrina schliebenii*. The survey team recorded both species from forests in Kilwa District and their IUCN red list status is now being revised.



The tree species *Erythrina schliebenii* (left) and *Karomia gigas* (right) were previously considered extinct. Both species have now been re-recorded in forest in Kilwa District'. Photo by Neil Burgess.



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- TFCG** is grateful to the following for their financial support for our work:
- Accountability in Tanzania
  - African Rainforest Conservancy
  - African Rainforest Trust
  - Deloitte LLP
  - The Eccles Family Trust
  - Gorta
  - International Tree Foundation
  - IUCN Netherlands
  - Lipton Global Brand Team
  - McKnight Foundation
  - Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Finland
  - Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Norway
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  - Threshold Foundation
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  - UNDP / GEF

**About the Tanzania Forest Conservation Group**

The Arc Journal is published by the Tanzania Forest Conservation Group (TFCG). Established in 1985, TFCG is a Tanzanian non-governmental organisation promoting the conservation of Tanzania's high biodiversity forests.

**TFCG's Vision**

We envisage a world in which Tanzanians and the rest of humanity are enjoying the diverse benefits from well conserved, high biodiversity forests.

**TFCG's Mission**

The mission of TFCG is to conserve and restore the biodiversity of globally important forests in Tanzania for the benefit of the present and future generations. We will achieve this through capacity building, advocacy, research, community development and protected area management in ways that are sustainable and foster participation, cooperation and partnership.

TFCG supports field based projects promoting participatory forest management, environmental education, community development, advocacy and research in the Eastern Arc Mountains and Coastal Forests. TFCG works with 130 villages in 14 Districts.

To find out more about TFCG please visit our website [www.tfcg.org](http://www.tfcg.org).

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**The Arc Journal:**

**Newsletter of the Tanzania Forest Conservation Group**

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This edition of the Arc Journal was financed by the Accountability in Tanzania programme through the Forest Justice in Tanzania Initiative.

The Arc Journal is also available online at [www.tfcg.org](http://www.tfcg.org)