TFCG CELEBRATES 20 YEARS OF CONSERVING TANZANIA'S FORESTS

In 2005, the Tanzania Forest Conservation Group celebrates 20 years of promoting the conservation of Tanzania's forests. This edition of the Arc Journal outlines some of the group’s achievements over this period and outlines some of the urgent actions that are still needed to achieve the conservation of these unique forests.

Over the last 20 years, TFCG has stimulated public debate and action to address Tanzania’s forest conservation issues. As a direct result of TFCG’s work, over one hundred communities from nine districts are involved in managing their forests; communities and NGOs are working together to achieve more equitable sharing of costs and benefits of participatory forest management; the first Eastern Arc National Park was gazetted; household incomes for hundreds of households in communities close to forests have increased by engaging in environmentally sound income generating activities and at least eight species new to science have been documented.

But the problems are still great, and are urgent:

- Tanzania’s globally important coastal forests home to 37 endemic vertebrates species and 554 endemic

**Letter from the Chairman of the Tanzania Forest Conservation Group**

Since I was first elected as Chairman of the Tanzania Forest Conservation Group in 1994, TFCG has grown and matured into one of Tanzania’s leading conservation non-governmental organisations. Over this time, TFCG’s staff and committee have shown their commitment, capacity and integrity in addressing the critical problems that confront Tanzanians and their forests.

Over the last 20 years, TFCG has stimulated public debate and action to address Tanzania’s forest conservation issues. As a direct result of TFCG’s work, over one hundred communities from nine districts are involved in managing their forests; communities and NGOs are working together to achieve more equitable sharing of costs and benefits of participatory forest management; the first Eastern Arc National Park was gazetted; household incomes for hundreds of households in communities close to forests have increased by engaging in environmentally sound income generating activities and at least eight species new to science have been documented.

But the problems are still great, and are urgent:

- Tanzania’s globally important coastal forests home to 37 endemic vertebrates species and 554 endemic plants are being rapidly lost as a result of the timber and charcoal trade and the expansion of agricultural land; forests such as Vikindu and Kisiju have been almost completely cleared while Pugu and Kazimzumbwi Forest Reserves are close to being lost;
- In the Eastern Arc Mountains, the source of over 50% of the nation’s electricity and water supplying over 3.5 million Tanzanians, government investment in forest management is less than US$ 50,000 per year (operational budget excluding donor contributions);
- Just as we discover new species in Tanzania’s forests such as the Kipunji mangabey described in this edition of the Arc Journal and the six species of frog recently discovered in the South Nguru Mountains, so their habitat is being lost and their future existence becomes more precarious. An estimated 400 km² has been lost since the 1970s;
- The benefits to communities from participatory forest management have often not been realised due to, amongst other things, delays in signing agreements and unclear procedures.

Working closely with its partners, TFCG is looking for solutions to these problems. TFCG has relied on the support of so many people and organisations over this time and without their support, none of our work would have been possible. In particular we are grateful to our long time partner the African Rainforest Conservancy (formerly the Tanzania Wildlife Fund) for their loyal support over the last fourteen years.

Patrick Qorro

The Highland Mangabey - Africa's first new monkey for 20 years further illustrates the exceptional value of Tanzania's forests

Tim Davenport and Trevor Jones

On May 20th 2005, Africa’s first new monkey species for over two decades was described in the journal Science. Called the Highland Mangabey *Lophocebus kipunji* it was 'discovered' by two independent teams on Mt Rungwe and the adjoining Livingstone Forest in the new Kitulo National Park, and in Ndundulu Forest in the Udzungwas. The find not only demonstrates the remarkable nature of Tanzanian forests, but also shows how much there is still to learn about them. It also highlights the need for greater conservation efforts nationally, as well as raising some fascinating biogeographical questions. Indeed, given all the details of this discovery, including that two Tanzanians become the first Africans to describe a new species of monkey, it is hard to think of a more fitting story with which to celebrate the 20th anniversary of TFCG.
A brief History of the Tanzania Forest Conservation Group

The idea for a working group on Tanzania’s forests first came to light at the fourth East African Wildlife Symposium in Arusha, 1978. Delegates at the symposium, from seven countries unanimously approved a motion calling for: ‘The formation of a group of interested persons to form a working group to stimulate conservation and research activities within the natural forests of Tanzania.’

The first seed was sown. Initial activities of a private membership ‘Forest Working Group’ began. These were spear-headed by TFCG’s first interim committee members, Alan Rodgers, John B. Hall and Kim Howell. It was not until December 1982 that the Tanzania Forest Conservation Group (TFCG) was officially registered as a Tanzanian NGO with the aims of:

‘…promoting the rational utilisation of natural forest habitat within Tanzania’.

Forthcoming support in 1983 from the WWF/IUCN Nairobi office allowed the TFCG to make some important achievements:

- The approval by government of our proposals for the Udzungwa Mountains National Park, eventually gazetted in 1992.
- Proposals for a land system conservation project in the East Usambara Mountains which resulted in a large scale project.
- Biological surveys of threatened forests around Tanzania including Kimboza in the foothills of the Uluguru Mountains.

In 1984 TFCG entered a period of inactivity when the leading members moved overseas. In 1991, through the efforts of Carter Coleman, Jon Lovett and Katia de Jarnette and the Tanzania Wildlife Fund, TFCG became active again. Field projects were established in Lulanda in the Udzungwa Mountains and in Kambai in the East Usambara Mountains. In 1994, Patrick Qorro took over as the Chairman of the Group and Alex Hipkiss took on the role of Coordinator. In Lulanda, Charles Meshack and Adrian Kahemela joined TFCG and began to provide support to communities in Mufindi to manage their forests. The Tanzania Wildlife Fund continued to provide financial support for the projects.

In 1999, support was also provided through the ‘Misitu Yetu Project’ by NORAD through CARE-Norway and CARE-Tanzania. This enabled TFCG to establish field projects in Ruvu South Forest Reserve and in Pande Game Reserve and to set up the Community Forest Conservation Network. At this time Alex Hipkiss left TFCG and Nike Doggart took on the role of Coordinator until 2005 when she handed over to Charles Meshack. In the meantime, through partnership with other organisations and support from several donors, TFCG has been able to establish programmes to support participatory forest management, research, advocacy and networking, communication and environmental education and community development across the Eastern Arc Mountains and Coastal Forests.
TFCG’S Community Development Programme

Conservation and development, do they really mix?

Poverty combined with economic dependence on unsustainable natural resource extraction underlies many of the challenges that we face today in terms of forest conservation. Through its community development programme, the Tanzania Forest Conservation Group has worked to reduce poverty amongst people living adjacent to the Eastern Arc and Coastal forests as well as encouraging activities which enhance forest conservation.

Introducing butterfly farming to Tanzania

Since 2003, TFCG has been supporting the Amani Butterfly Project in the East Usambara Mountains of Tanga Region. The project has trained more than 270 farmers to produce butterfly pupae for export to butterfly display centres in other parts of the world. The additional income that people are now earning has increased household incomes by an average of 20%. In addition the farmers’ livelihoods are now closely linked with the survival of the forests and many are now active conservationists. Over the next year, the project will expand to include 400 farmers and annual sales for 2006 are expected to exceed US$ 60,000.

Fuel efficient stoves: a win, win scenario

Almost all households in villages adjacent to the Eastern Arc and Coastal Forests rely on charcoal or firewood for cooking. In many areas, traditional stoves are inefficient and the smoke that they generate is damaging to people’s eyes and lungs. TFCG has been promoting fuel efficient stoves which can reduce by 50% the amount of fuel wood required and with a simple chimney they draw the smoke away from the eyes and lungs of the cooks. The stoves are simple to construct and benefit both people’s livelihoods and conservation. With TFCG’s support, over 2000 households now use fuel efficient stoves.

Planting four million trees

Over the last 20 years, through the support of TFCG, over 10,000 people have been trained in agroforestry and villagers and project staff have planted over four million trees. Some have been planted as a source of building materials, fuel wood and cash income for farmers. Others have been planted as part of a process of restoring forest connectivity.

Working with the private sector: innovative solutions for age-old problems

TFCG has been working with UniLever and other partners in the East Usambara Mountains to investigate whether oil from the fruits of the Allanblackia stuhlmannii tree, a tree endemic to the Eastern Arc Mountains, can be used in margarine production. The oil from Allanblackia fruits has similarities with the oil extracted from oil palm. The project aims to support communities to harvest the nuts sustainably and thereby generate an income from the forests. If successful, the project could provide a strong economic incentive to communities to conserve their forests and plant the indigenous Allanblackia trees.
TFCG's Networking and Advocacy Programme

The Tanzania Forest Conservation Group (TFCG) was established in 1988 with the specific mission of conserving Tanzanian forests and promoting sustainable forest management. TFCG is a non-governmental organisation (NGO) that works closely with local communities to develop and implement forest management initiatives.

Establishing a community forest conservation network for Tanzania

TFCG has been instrumental in establishing a community forest conservation network for Tanzania. Communities involved in participatory forest management were largely acting in isolation until 2000 when TFCG began to support the community forest conservation network. The rationale for the network is to enable communities to share experiences and, where their interests overlap, to have a common voice in advocating for changes in the way Tanzania's forests are being managed. Through the formation of local networking groups and community collaboration, the network has brought together over 31 community conservation networks of an average of 60 members from seven regions and now has 1860 members. The network is led by a steering committee, elected every three years by network members in their annual general meeting.

Focus on the HICHAMASA Network

HICHAMASA (Hifadhi Chanzo cha Maji Sakare) Local Area Conservation network is located in Dindira Ward in Korogwe District in the West Usambara Mountains. The network formed in 2002 to unite the surrounding villages to conserve the Sakare spring. This water source is a lifeline for the communities but forest loss and cultivation close to the spring were affecting the quality and quantity of the water. The network encouraged the villagers to raise the river bed of the spring, stop farming close to the river and to set up a forest reserve. Their efforts were successful and the villagers are now able to enjoy a year-round supply of tapped water from the spring.

Komba Newsletter: voices from the forest

Following popular demand, TFCG launched its second Swahili newsletter, Komba, in 2004. Now in its 4th edition, Komba includes articles, poems, letters and cartoons about forest management issues that are of concern to all the 1860 members of the network, as well as to local and central government practitioners of participatory forest management.

Launching the EMPAFORM Programme in 2005

Given the positive experiences of community networking in Tanzania, there has been interest from Kenya and Uganda to develop similar networks. With support from the European Union, civil society organisations from Tanzania, Kenya and Uganda have formed a partnership programme, Strengthening Forest Management in East Africa (EMPAFORM). The four-year programme began in April 2005 and will support community networking across the region.
Networking to strengthen policies and practices that impact on forest management

During 2005, with support from the Tanzania Natural Resources Forum, TFCG has been hosting a series of stakeholder meetings that aim to enhance cooperation in tackling some of the most pressing forest conservation issues that Tanzania faces today. This includes the decimation of the coastal forests and the need for clearer forest regulations. The meetings are open to people interested to support efforts to resolve these pressing issues.

Developing a regional strategy for East Africa’s Coastal Forests

The Coastal Forests of East Africa are under enormous pressure from the timber and charcoal trade. In 2002, TFCG was elected to become a member of the Regional and National Coastal Forest Task Forces. With representatives from Kenya, Tanzania and Mozambique the task forces have developed a strategy for the sustainable management of East Africa’s coastal forests and have provided a valuable forum for networking between organisations. The task forces have been facilitated by WWF.

Promoting CEPF’s investment in forest conservation in the Eastern Arc and Coastal Forests

In 2003, the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund launched a US$ 7 million investment in conservation activities led by civil society organisations in the Eastern Arc and Coastal Forests of Tanzania and Kenya. TFCG became a member of the local Coordination Unit for this investment along side BirdLife International and its local partners the Wildlife Conservation Society of Tanzania and Nature Kenya, the International Centre for Insect Physiology and Ecology and WWF-East African Regional Programme Office. TFCG’s role has been to promote the investment and communicate about the results and lessons learnt. This has included producing posters and leaflets; designing a web site and circulating an e-news letter. There has been a terrific response from civil society organisations in Kenya and Tanzania and almost all of the funding has now been allocated.
surveying the forest, we did indeed find a mangabey but no new species. We have located 10 groups of the Highland Mangabey in about 70 km² of Ndundulu Forest, including the Sykes monkey (Cercopithecus albogularis) and leopards (Panthera pardus).

We were there primarily in search of the Sanje Mangabey, and whilst it is possible that the Highland Mangabey will turn out to be restricted to the Southern Highlands and the Udzungwas, as part of a research project working with the Tanzanian National Parks Authority (TANAPA) and the Wildlife Conservation Society's Tanzania Conservation Program (TFCG), we did indeed find a mangabey and a new species of mangabey. Just a few months later in July 2004, an entirely different team (Trevor Jones, Richard Laizzer and Isaya Chahe) was exploring Ndundulu Forest Reserve 370 km away. Following a similar surveying plan, they too found a new species of mangabey. The two separate teams learned of each other's work in October 2004 and joined forces to write the description.

The new species is dark brown, with a head and body length of 90 cm. It occurs up to 2450 m in Kitulo and Ndundulu Forests. The latter is a pristine submontane forest from 1300-1750 m. The monkey appears to be in such small numbers. We will be carrying out further survey work throughout the forest and the animal’s cryptic nature means initial sightings were infrequent. However, the intrinsically intriguing nature of the descriptions of this new species lends even more credence to this theory.

The threats to the Highland Mangabey are considerable and we face an enormous challenge to protect this new species and its forest habitat. Logging, hunting and unmanaged resource extraction are common in the Southern Highlands and the Udzungwa Mountains. Logging, hunting and unmanaged resource extraction are common in the Southern Highlands and the Udzungwa Mountains. Logging, hunting and unmanaged resource extraction are common in the Southern Highlands and the Udzungwa Mountains. Logging, hunting and unmanaged resource extraction are common in the Southern Highlands and the Udzungwa Mountains.

The initial boundaries of the Eastern Arc were based primarily on plantings and whilst this probably holds true, we are increasingly convinced that the zoological boundaries separating the Eastern Arc and the Southern Highlands are much more blurred. Indeed, the Southern Highlands are unique in housing more than a mix of strict endemics as well as species considered to be both new and rare. The discovery of the Highland Mangabey highlights the importance of the forest of the Southern Highlands and the Udzungwa Mountains.

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Whilst it is possible that the Highland Mangabey will turn up in other isolated forests, it is probable that it will prove to be restricted to the Southern Highlands. For years the map of biodiversity forests in Tanzania has shown a clear demarcation between the Eastern Arc and other forested mountains. However, our research has revealed many Eastern Arc endemics occurring in the montane forests of the Southern Highlands and the Udzungwa Mountains.

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TFCG's Research Programme

TFCG’s research programme has focused on documenting the biodiversity of the Eastern Arc Mountain and Coastal Forests and reviewing the effectiveness of management and conservation actions.

Is participatory forest management the right way forward?

Tanzania has committed itself to adopting a more participatory approach to managing its forests. ‘Is this the right way forward?’ is the question that many are now asking. Hot debates are ongoing as to how (and whether) the costs and benefits of PFM can be shared equitably; what the roles and the responsibilities should be of the different stakeholders and how sustainable the approach is. TFCG has been investigating these issues further through a research project financed by the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund. This has involved documenting the experience of participatory forest management for 15 villages in the Udzungwa, West Usambara, East Usambara and Coastal forests with a particular focus on institutional interactions. The results are due to be published in 2006.

TFCG staff discover new species

Research through TFCG’s projects has resulted in the discovery of at least eight species new to science. This includes the plant Chamaecrista mwangokae and the frog Arthroleptis nikeae both named after TFCG staff.

Revealing the biological importance of the Rubeho Mountains

Surveys conducted in the Rubeho Mountains of Kilosa and Mpwapwa by a team from TFCG in 2002, revealed that the biological importance of these mountains had been significantly underestimated. With 11 Eastern Arc endemic vertebrate species, it is now known that these areas are urgently in need of conservation investment. In partnership with the African Rainforest Conservancy, TFCG applied to the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund to support a conservation planning process for the Rubeho Mountains. This project is planned to start in 2006.

New species from the South Nguru Mountains

In the South Nguru Mountains, biodiversity surveys conducted by Michele Menegon of the Museo Tridentino di Scienze Naturali in collaboration with TFCG, have resulted in the discovery of at least six amphibian species new to science.

Experimenting with forest restoration in the Udzungwas

At Lulanda, in the Udzungwa Mountains, TFCG has been restoring connectivity between forests. This has involved planting over half a million trees of indigenous species in a corridor between natural forest patches at Lulanda and for the Mufindi millennium forest; and working with nearby communities to manage the reforested areas. Research on the process has monitored the growth rates and survival rates of the trees planted and has generated some important lessons learnt for others endeavouring to restore tropical forests. In general, the lesson learnt is that it is much better to avoid losing the forest in the first place!

TFCG supports botanical, primate and bird surveys in the Eastern Arc and Coastal Forests

Working with international research institutes including the Missouri Botanical Gardens, the Nocturnal Primate Research Group of Oxford Brookes University and the Zoological Museum of the University of Copenhagen, TFCG has been facilitating botanical, primate and bird surveys in the Eastern Arc and Coastal Forests of Tanzania since 1998.

The TFCG botanical surveys have been carried out by Moses Mwangoka who was trained by Missouri Botanical Gardens. Over the last seven years he has collected over 3500 botanical specimens from the Eastern Arc and Coastal forests and more recently from the Albertine Rift. Duplicates are sent to the National Herbarium in Arusha and to the Missouri Botanical Gardens. Moses collections have made a significant contribution to our understanding of the phytogeography of the Eastern Arc and Coastal Forests. Over the next two years, Moses will be working closely with a team from the Missouri Botanical Gardens and IUCN as part of a project financed by the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund.

There are four galago or bushbaby species endemic to the Eastern Arc and Coastal Forests. Through the work of researcher, Andrew Perkin from Oxford Brookes University in the UK, we have much clearer picture of the distribution and conservation status of these animals. Andrew has worked closely with TFCG since the mid-1990s.

Andrew Perkin conducting galago surveys.
The National Forest Policy (1998) for Tanzania embraces the concept of participatory forest management as a basis for managing Tanzania’s forests. People have the right to participate in the management of the forests that they depend on. While the principle is embodied in the Forest Policy, implementation has been slow and patchy. It is clear that the Government cannot do this alone. Civil society needs to assist. As such, TFCG recognises that it has a significant role and responsibility to assist people to engage actively in the management of the nation’s forests.

TFCG’s PFM programme provides direct support to site based activities in eight Districts. The programme is promoting participatory forest management (PFM) by building the capacity of village environmental committees; linking forest adjacent communities involved in PFM with the government and with each other; and providing technical support in preparing management plans, by-laws and where applicable joint management agreements. By October 2005, TFCG’s PFM programme was providing support to 91 villages managing 75,000 ha of forest.

Developing a vision for the management of natural resources in the South Nguru Mountain landscape

TFCG began work in the South Nguru Mountains in 2003. Until then, the South Nguru Mountains were one of the less well known Eastern Arc mountain blocks. The South Ngurus are an important water catchment area for the Wami River which provides water for Chalinze and many smaller communities. The forests are also biologically diverse with at least six strictly endemic vertebrates. In 2003, TFCG began to plan with other partners including CARE-Denmark, WWF-Denmark and CARE-Tanzania, how we could assist the main stakeholders for this area to agree on a vision for the landscape that would ensure the sustainable management of its natural resources.

In 2005, TFCG organised a series of workshops at Village, Ward and District level to bring together communities and the local government, civil society, organisations and the private sector to agree on a vision for natural resource management in the landscape. Many innovative ideas came out of these meetings and stakeholders committed themselves to cooperating closely to manage resources more sustainably. The PEMA project has provided a platform to develop a management plan and by-laws for the forest and these plans have been agreed by the village assembly, and are now awaiting support from the District Council to be implemented.

Promoting participatory forest management for Mufindi’s forests

Nestled in a valley on the edge of the Mufindi escarpment lies Lulanda village and forest. Since the early 1990s, TFCG state have been working with the community to ensure conservation of the special forest, which has its own endemic tree and butterfly. TFCG have provided training and support to the community to develop a management plan for the forest. These plans have been agreed by the village assembly, and are now awaiting support from the District Council to be implemented.
come under heavy pressure from charcoal production and
hectares just to the west of Dar es Salaam. The forest has
Ruvu South Forest Reserve. Ruvu South covers 35,000
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Pande Game Reserve is the closest game reserve to Dar’s doorstep
Dar’s doorstep
Dar’s doorstep

In November 2005 with financial suppor t from the Critical
values of forest conservation in Tanzania. If not the most
important. They have an exceptionally high level of
diversity species (36 vertebrates and 40 trees) in a very
small area of forest (ca 400 km²). The forests are also a
vital source of fuel, building materials, food and medicines
for the people living around them. Since 1993, TFCG has
been working with the communities around the forests
and by-laws. These plans and by-laws have now been
approved by the Kibaha District Council. The
Agreements to be signed by the Director of Forestry.

Through networking and facilitating dialogue and joint
planning between the key stakeholders, the process of
participatory forest management has been significantly
advanced in the West Usambaras. In 1993, TFCG
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Joint forest management underway
for Ruvu South Forest Reserve

In the West Usambaras of Kongwe and Lushoto Districts,
TFCG is working with 33 communities, local government
to establish participatory forest management for nine forests.
Forest loss has been high in the West Usambaru forests,
with over 70% of the original forest cover lost. The project has
succeeded in developing management plans and by-laws to
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TFCG’s Communication and Environmental Education Programme

Learning with the forest managers of the future

The future of Tanzania’s precious forests rests with its children. TFCG has worked with over 70 primary schools in the Eastern Arc and Coastal forests. For these schools TFCG has provided teaching materials, training in nursery techniques and lectures about the nation’s forests.

Getting strategic about our communications

Communication needs to be strategic. Working with the Forestry and Beekeeping Division, TFCG has been involved in developing a communication strategy for the national forest conservation programme and for the Conservation and Management of the Eastern Arc Mountain Forests project. These strategies identify who the key stakeholders are, what they want (and need) to communicate about, and how they prefer to communicate it. In other words, they identify the most effective ways of ensuring that the right people are communicating about the most important issues.

For the Eastern Arc, people told us that they most wanted to communicate about are the values and threats to the Eastern Arc Mountain forests. Working closely with the Forestry and Beekeeping Division, TFCG is now guiding the piloting of the Eastern Arc Mountain Forests communication strategy. This will include work with the media, particularly radio, producing materials, and facilitating people to meet and communicate directly. By making stakeholders more aware of why they should conserve Tanzania’s forests, we can help others to make a big difference to the management of Tanzania’s forests.

Launching the Eastern Arc web site

Much valuable information about the Eastern Arc is hidden in the ‘grey’ literature of project reports and technical papers. Working with the Eastern Arc Conservation and Management Endowment Fund and the Conservation and Management of the Eastern Arc Mountain Forests project, TFCG developed an Eastern Arc website to make readily available some of this important information. Researchers, projects and others working in the Eastern Arc are encouraged to post their reports and technical papers on the site. The website was launched in July 2005.

Providing information to communities and local government about forest values and conservation

Visit most district offices and many villages in the Eastern Arc and Coastal forests and you are likely to see TFCG’s posters and leaflets. Some of TFCG’s most popular posters have been those highlighting the importance of the Eastern Arc at www.tfcg.org

Find out more about TFCG on the Internet

To find out more about TFCG, you can visit our web site at www.tfcg.org. Set up in 2003, we have had an average of 8,000 visits per year.

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The Gomvu Village Environmental Committee with copies of the Arc Journal. TFCG, with support from the Ras Kutani Hotel have been supporting environmental education, participatory forest management and tree planting for this village close to Dar es Salaam.

www.easternarc.or.tz
Where next for TFCG?

Over the last year, TFCG’s staff, committee and partners have been assessing ‘where TFCG is’ as an organisation and planning strategically for its future. The organisational capacity assessment and strategic planning, financed by the African Rainforest Conservancy, PEMA and the Misitu Yetu Project, provided a valuable means to direct TFCG towards the area’s where it can be most effective.

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.”

The planning team agreed on a number of priority issues that TFCG needs to address. These include addressing some of the direct threats to the Eastern Arc and Coastal forests including unsustainable timber harvesting; charcoal production; fire; mining and encroachment; promoting more equitable and effective participatory forest management; improving awareness of the values of and threats to Tanzania’s forests and building capacity to implement environmental education; and supporting the communities living close to the Eastern Arc and Coastal forests to adopt more sustainable livelihoods.

These are big issues. We cannot tackle them alone. We rely on our supporters and partners to work with us to find solutions to these problems.

TFCG Staff

Profile: Charles Meshack, Executive Officer

In April 2005, Charles Meshack was appointed as the Executive Officer for TFCG. Charles joined TFCG in 1996, as a recent forestry graduate from Sokoine University, from Songwe University, in Muhidi District. In 1997, he was promoted to become Programme Officer, responsible for overseeing TFCG’s field projects. In 2003, with support from TFCG Executive Officer, he held a position as Executive Officer for the Misitu Yetu Project. In 2003, he was appointed as Assistant Officer for the Misitu Yetu Project. Charles went to study at York University in the UK and was awarded a Masters degree in Ecology and Environmental Management.

‘I have since served with diligence and have been proud to be part of a network of like minded institutions and individuals who are truly committed to making a positive impact on the management of the world’s forest biodiversity. As TFCG celebrates its 20th anniversary I am very proud of its achievements and I look forward to working hard to fulfil our mission for many years to come!’

TFCG Committee

Patrick Qorro, Chairman
Aloysia F. Mwau, Chief Executive Officer
Said Hamadi, Treasurer

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TFCG's supporters

Thank you to the many organisations and individuals who have helped us in our efforts to conserve Tanzania’s forests. Without your support, our work would not have been possible. These include: African Rainforest Conservancy (formerly the Tanzania Wildlife Fund), CARE - Norway, CARE - Denmark, CMC Landrover, Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund, Ecological Foundation, European Union, IUCN - Netherlands Commission, Embassy of Ireland, JJ Charitable Trust, M.A. Dobie, McKnight Foundation, NORAD through CARE Norway, M.A. Dobie, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of Finland, WWF, IUCN East African Regional Office, UNDP Small Grants Programme, Singing for Change, Unilever.

TFCG's partners

Working in partnership and cooperation with other organisations over the last twenty years has helped to strengthen our efforts to conserve Tanzania’s forests. We would like to thank all our partners including:

The African Rainforest Conservancy (formerly the Tanzania Wildlife Fund), CARE-Tanzania, CARE-Denmark, International Centre for Insect Physiology and Ecology (ICIPE), ICRAF, Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism, Missouri Botanical Gardens, Museo Tridentino di Scienze Naturali, Ras Kutani Hotel, TRAFFIC Eastern and Southern Africa, WWF-Tanzania Programme Office, the Wildlife Conservation Society of Tanzania (WCST), District Governments of Kibaha, Kisarawe, Ilala, Kinondoni, Muheza, Korogwe, Lushoto, Mvomero, Morogoro and Mufindi.

Messages from our Partners

“TFCG has been encouraged us who live around the forests to see and feel the value of our contribution to the conservation of forests surrounding us. This has contributed to what we see today - over 30 community forest networks in the country.”

Daniel Shewmando, Secretariat Member, Community Forest Conservation Network

“The maturing of TFCG in recent years is analogous to the very forests that their dedicated employees are helping to conserve and manage. Almost as fast as a coastal forest liana grows, so TFCG’s project portfolio has healthily mushroomed. Like the buttress trunk of highland trees, TFCG is now supporting a canopy of individuals and local organisations through their community forest network. And like the tones of turacos, the Arc Journal provides a way for professionals working on forestry issues to communicate effectively. Indeed, TFCG is now revealing the kind of blossom that an indigenous tree shows after 20 years. TRAFFIC looks forward to continued engagement with TFCG on timber trade issues in Tanzania.”

Simon Milledge, Deputy Director, TRAFFIC East/Southern Africa

“It has been extremely rewarding to witness the growth and development of TFCG over these years to become a formidable advocate for Tanzania’s precious resources. We as CARE International in Tanzania have greatly benefited from our close collaboration with TFCG and believe that working together we have been able to make a much greater impact on poverty and natural resource management. Congratulations on your 20th anniversary and we are sure that TFCG will continue to meet the aspirations of Tanzanian communities and to assist in the conservation and effective governance of their natural resources.”

Very best wishes CARE International Tanzania

“The Natural History Museum in London has had the privilege to be involved in work on Tanzanian biodiversity and conservation. Tanzania is recognized as a major global biodiversity hotspot, and it can also be said to be a research hotspot, since more field investigation is being done in this country than perhaps anywhere else in Africa. TFCG has played an important role in this work. The NHM has received much valuable material for study from TFCG, accompanied by extensive field data. Among the specimens is at least one new species, a giant forest frog, Arthroleptis nikeae, from the Rubeho Mountains. The species was named for Nike Doggart in recognition of her signal contribution to Tanzanian herpetology by John Poynton (African Journal of Herpetology, 2003, 52: 107-112).”

Professor John Poynton, Natural History Museum, London.