



# 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.18 Nov., 2005  
ISSN 0856-8715

## 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.



Patrick Qorro, Chairman of the Tanzania Forest Conservation Group.

### 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 hundred 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 km<sup>2</sup> 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*

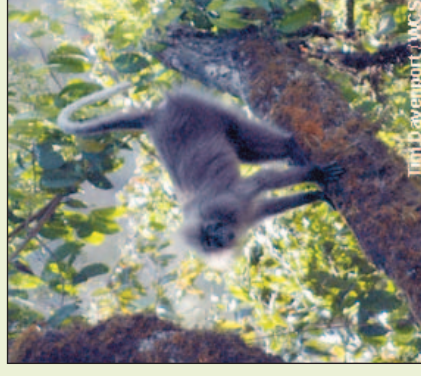
## The Highland Mangabey - Africa's first new monkey for 20 years further illustrates the exceptional value of Tanzania's forests

Tim Davenport<sup>1</sup> and Trevor Jones<sup>2</sup>  
<sup>1</sup>Southern Highlands Conservation Programme, Wildlife Conservation Society, P.O Box 1475, Mbeya.

<sup>2</sup>Udzungwa Mountains National Park, P.O Box 99, Mang'ula.

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.



Tim Davenport/WCS



# 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



Carter Coleman, President of the African Rainforest Conservancy (left) meets with community members from Mufindi while on a study tour to the East Usambaras arranged by TFCG.

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 'Mitsitu 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



Adrian Kahemela discusses tree planting with members of the Lulanda community in 1997.

this time Alex Hipkiss left TFCG and Nike Daggart took on the role of Coordinator until 2005 when she handed over to Charles Meshack. In the meantime, throughout 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 staff in Lulanda including Charles Meshack, Adrian Kahemela, Nicolas Kisonga and Niblett Kyando conducting project planning in November 1997.



Villagers from Kwezitu in the East Usambara Mountains meet with TFCG staff including the previous TFCG Coordinator, Alex Hipkiss (far right) in 1998.



## 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.



Butterfly farmers in the East Usambara Mountains bring their pupae for collection by TFCG Project Officer, Amiri Said.



*Hypolimnas antevorta* is one of the butterfly species produced by butterfly farmers in the East Usambaras for sale to Europe.

### Fuel efficient stoves: a win, win scenario

Almost all households in villages adjacent to the Eastern Arc and Coastal Forests rely on charcoal or fire wood 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.



TFCG Project Officer, Sanford Kway provides training to community members on tree nursery techniques as part of the Misiitu Yetu Project.

### 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.



In the East Usambara Mountains, women and men have started to grow the seedlings of *Allanblackia stuhlmannii* as a future source of household income.







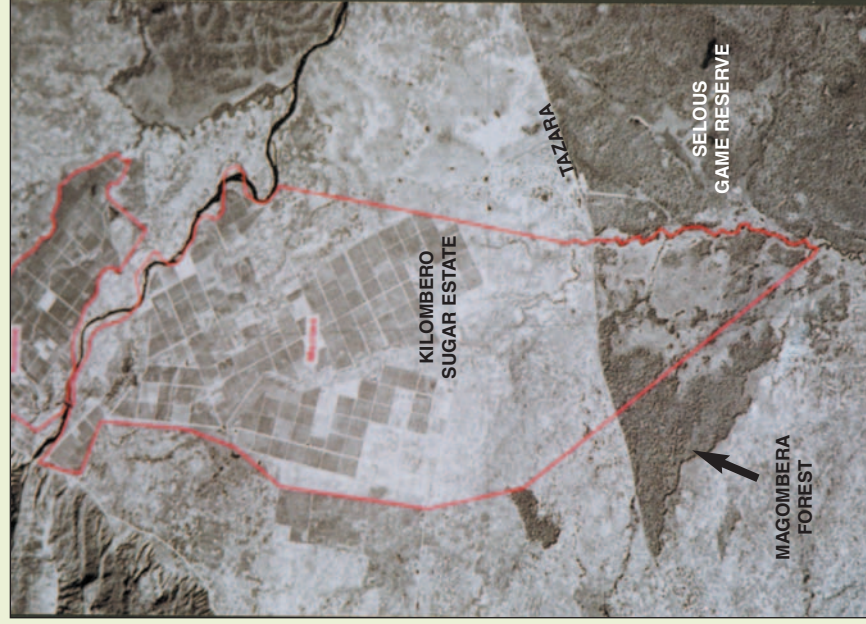
region. This will include exchanging information about forest management at local, national and regional levels; improving the livelihoods of communities living close to forests; and strengthening civil society organisations.



The EMAPFORM team for Tanzania (from left to right): Edgar M. Migeta, Secelela Balisidya, Adrian Kahemela and Bettie Luwuge outside the TFCG Head Office.

### Magombera: a long struggle

TFCG have been highlighting the risks that face this important forest in the foot hills of the Udzungwa Mountains in Kilombero District since the early 1990s. The forest has an important population of Iringa red colobus as well as two strictly endemic plants. Efforts to include the forest into the Selous have been ongoing since the 1980s. In 2002, there was a proposal to move farmers into the forest from land to be used for sugar cultivation. Following efforts by TFCG and other civil society organisations, these plans have been halted and, with support from the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund, the Wildlife Division have now revived efforts to secure the future of this forest.



Aerial photo showing the Magombera Forest divided from the adjacent Illovo Estate by the TAZARA railway line. Despite its biological importance the forest has come under repeated pressure from attempts to clear it for either sugar cultivation or settlement.

### 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



Participants in one of the Mombasa stakeholder consultation workshops organised by TFCG to promote CEPF's investment in civil society organisations working in the Eastern Arc and Coastal Forests of Kenya and Tanzania.

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.



continued from pg 1

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

In early 2003 a team from the Wildlife Conservation Society's Southern Highlands Conservation Programme (Tim Davenport, Noah Mpunga, Sophy Machaga and Daniela De Luca), first began hearing from hunters around Mt Rungwe of an unusual monkey, known in Kinyakusa as 'Kipunji'. We assumed at first it must be the Sykes monkey or one of the many spirit animals that are a part of local culture. However, the intriguing nature of the descriptions merited further investigations in the forest. The terrain, thick secondary forest and the animal's cryptic nature meant initial sightings were infrequent and poor. It was not until December 2003, during work in the contiguous Livingstone Forest (now part of the new Kitulo National Park), that we first observed the monkey clearly and recognized it as a new species of mangabey.

Just a few months later in July 2004, an entirely different team (Trevor Jones, Richard Laizzer and Isaya Chaha) was exploring Ndundulu Forest Reserve 370 kms away. We were there primarily in search of the Sanje Mangabey, another endangered species found only in the Udzungwas, as part of a research project working with the University of Georgia's Carolyn Ehardt and Conservation International's Tom Butynski. After several days of surveying the forest, we did indeed find a mangabey but it proved to be a species new to science - the Highland Mangabey. The two separate teams learned of each other's work in October 2004 and joined forces to write the description.

The new arboreal mangabey is dark brown, with a head and body length of 90 cm. It occurs up to 2450 m in Kitulo and Mt Rungwe, where temperatures often fall below freezing and its long coat is probably an adaptation to the cold. It is characterized by a long, erect crest of hair on its head, elongated cheek whiskers, an off-white belly and tail, and an unusual call we termed a 'honk-bark'. Indeed, it was this unique call - recorded in Rungwe-Livingstone by the WCS team and subsequently interpreted by Andy Perkin - which definitively established the mangabey as a new species. We have located 10 groups of the Highland Mangabey in about 70 km<sup>2</sup> of Rungwe-Livingstone, in montane forest from 1750-2450m. Three groups meanwhile are known from about 3 km<sup>2</sup> of Ndundulu in pristine submontane forest from 1300-1750m. The monkey is undoubtedly extremely rare and we estimate a total population of between 500 and 1,000 animals.

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 and the southern Eastern Arc forests. For years the map of Tanzania's forests has shown a clear demarcation between the Eastern Arcs and 'other forested mountains'. However, our research has revealed many Eastern Arc endemics occurring in the montane forests of the Southern



Tim Davenport / WCS

The discover of the Highland Mangabey highlights the importance of the forests of the Southern Highlands and Udzungwa Mountains

Highlands. The initial boundaries of the Eastern Arc were based primarily on plants and whilst this probably holds true, we are increasingly convinced that the zoological boundaries separating the Eastern Arc and the Southern Rift are much more blurred. Indeed the Southern Highlands are unique in playing host to a mix of strict endemics as well as species considered to be both Eastern Arc and Southern Rift in nature. The discovery of the Highland Mangabey 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 having received almost no investment and management for decades. Whilst the Livingstone Forest is included in Kitulo proposed National Park, we estimate over 50% of the forest has already been lost. Anti-poaching patrols by TANAPA still await the formal gazettement of the park, and large mammals such as leopards and duikers (including the endangered Abbott's duiker) are now extremely rare. The Bujingjila Corridor meanwhile, a narrow forest connection linking Mt Rungwe to Livingstone, is heavily degraded and without intervention the forests will become irrevocably separated.

Ndundulu Forest meanwhile is in good condition and it is currently amongst the least disturbed of Tanzania's forests. That said, it is not yet clear why the Highland Mangabey appear to be in such small numbers. We will be carrying out further survey work throughout the Udzungwas to properly establish their range and population size. The presence of such a highly endangered species should enrich current discussions within TANAPA and partners about extending the boundaries of the Udzungwa Mountains National Park.

TFCG's mission is 'to promote the conservation of the high biodiversity forests in Tanzania'. This discovery reinforces just how important that mission is, and will continue to be. We hope it provides encouragement to continue its pursuit for another 20 years and beyond.



## 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.



*Chamaecrista mwangokae* from Mufindi, was first collected by the TFCG Botanical Collector, Moses Mwangoka.

### 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.



This *Callulima* species is one of the new amphibians from the South Nguru Mountains

### 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 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 staff, Daniel Mwaifunga and Adam Mgovano measure saplings in the Mufindi millennium forest.

### 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.



Moses Mwangoka, the TFCG Botanical Collector at work in the South Nguru Mountains.

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.



## TFCG's Participatory Forest Management Programme

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 can not 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 important with at least six strictly endemic vertebrates, all discovered since the start of the PEMA programme. 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.

The partners formed the 'Participatory Environmental Management' (PEMA) programme. TFCG's role in PEMA has been to implement project activities in the South Nguru landscape. Since 2004, the PEMA programme has conducted research into the socio-economic and biophysical characteristics of the landscape and has shared these with the key stakeholders through presentations and reports. These formed a basis for a joint planning process.

In 2005, TFCG organised a series of workshops at Village, Ward and District level to bring together communities, 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 programme is now seeking support to assist stakeholders to implement these actions.



Villagers from Maskat discuss their vision for natural resource management in the South Nguru Mountains.

### 20 years of involvement with Mazumbai Forest

TFCG has had a long history of involvement with the Mazumbai Forest in the West Usambara Mountains. Originally part of the Mazumbai Tea Estate, owned by the Tanner family, the ownership of the house and some of the land came to TFCG when the Tanners left Tanzania in the early 1980s. TFCG managed the house until the University of Dar es Salaam was able to take over. Subsequently the forest has been managed as a university project, originally from the University of Dar es Salaam and more recently by the Sokoine University of Agriculture. In 2002, TFCG revived its involvement in the area by establishing a project to work with the Sagara Cooperative who own an important area of forest adjacent to the main Mazumbai Forest. With TFCG's help the Sagara Cooperative has now developed and is implementing a management plan for their forest.



Members of the Sagara Environmental Committee visit the Sagara forest with TFCG Project Officer Simon Moshia, Assistant Project Officer Simon Mgonja and Senior Driver Daniel Mwaifunga.

### 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 staff have been working with the community to ensure the conservation of this special forest which has its own endemic tree and butterfly. TFCG have provided training and support to the community to develop a management plan and by-laws for the forest. These plans and by-laws have been agreed by the village assembly and now await signing by the District Council. The African Rainforest Conservancy (formerly the Tanzania Wildlife Fund) have



Hamadiel Migalla, TFCG Project Officer, discusses participatory forest management with women and men in Lulanda



supported this project since 1993.

In November 2005 with financial support from the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund, TFCG produced the television documentary 'Lulanda: learning about participatory forest management'. The film shows how the people of Lulanda have struggled to conserve their forests and provides guidance to other communities embarking on the process of participatory forest management. The film will be broadcast on national television and copies of the video are available from TFCG upon request

### Joint forest management underway for Ruvu South Forest Reserve

Through the Misitu Yetu Project with funding from NORAD, TFCG have been working with the communities around Ruvu South Forest Reserve. Ruvu South covers 35,000 hectares just to the west of Dar es Salaam. The forest has come under heavy pressure from charcoal production and timber and pole cutting. Since 2000, TFCG have supported the eight villages and two sub-villages around the reserve to establish village environment committees and a team of forest guards; to agree and mark village forest management areas; to conduct participatory forest resource assessments and to prepare management plans and by-laws. These plans and by-laws have now been approved by the Kibaha District Councils and await approval by the Kisarawe District Council. The communities are now waiting for the Joint Management Agreements to be signed by the Director of Forestry.



Villagers from Ruvu South Forest Reserve discuss the results of the participatory forest resource assessment.

### Pande Game Reserve: a forest on Dar's doorstep

Pande Game Reserve is the closest game reserve to Dar es Salaam. The reserve is just 12 km<sup>2</sup> and is an important coastal forest with populations of Rondo galago, Little yellow fly catcher and Uluguru violet-backed sunbird as well as three strictly endemic plants. In the 1980s and 1990s, over half of the forest was cleared for charcoal and building materials. In 2000, TFCG, through the Misitu Yetu Project began working with the communities and the Wildlife Division to try to prevent the complete loss of the forest.

Through networking and facilitating dialogue and joint planning between the key stakeholders, the process of forest clearance was halted; the boundaries were cleared and planted with exotic tree species; and the communities and the Wildlife Division are now working more closely together to manage the area. The forest offers terrific potential as a recreational space for the people of Dar es Salaam. The next step is to persuade the Wildlife Division to open it up for people to enjoy.

### Forest landscape restoration: a new approach to forest conservation in the East Usambaras.

The East Usambaras are one of the most important areas for biodiversity conservation in Tanzania. If not the most important. They have an exceptionally high level of endemic species (36 vertebrates and 40 trees) in a very small area of forest (ca 400 km<sup>2</sup>). The forests are also a vital source of fuel, building materials, food and medicines for the people living around them. Since 1993, TFCG has worked closely with four villages in this area. This has included encouraging people to plant trees as an alternative to depending on the forest; promoting participatory forest management; developing alternative sources of income and environmental education. Since 2004, in partnership with WWF and with funding from the Government of Finland, TFCG has expanded the project to work with twelve villages to pilot forest landscape restoration across the East Usambaras landscape.



Peter Sumbi from WWF (and TFCG Treasurer) and Philippo Mbagga, TFCG Project Officer meet with men and women from Kizerui Village in the East Usambaras Mountains.

### Working with communities, private sector and local government in the West Usambaras Mountains

In the West Usambaras of Korogwe and Lushoto Districts, TFCG is working with 33 communities, local government and the tea estates in Korogwe and Lushoto Districts to establish participatory forest management for nine forests. Forest loss has been high in the West Usambaras with over 70% of the original forest cover lost. The project has succeeded in developing management plans and by-laws for these nine forests. The project has also been actively campaigning for improved fire management and a halt to commercial logging. With the participation of the communities and local government, commercial logging has been halted in the West Usambaras of Korogwe District and fire incidences appear to have declined. TFCG has also worked closely with the District Authorities to address the urgent environmental and social problems that gold mining brought to the area in 2004. Although this problem continues, it has been significantly reduced.



Simon Moshia, TFCG Field Officer (standing centre) facilitating discussions between communities, local government and other stakeholders in the West Usambaras Mountains.



# 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.



Children at Gomvu Village, close to the Ngaramia Coastal forest preparing to plant some of the tree seedlings grown in the school tree nursery

## About the Arc Journal

The Arc Journal is now on its 18th edition. Founded by Carter Coleman, it was originally a broadsheet journal that sought to generate support for the conservation of the Eastern Arc Mountain forests. In 1994 Alex Hipkiss took over as editor and over the years, it has included hundreds of articles about the forest conservation issues in Tanzania. It is distributed to all district natural resources office in Tanzania as well as civil society organisations, central government departments, students and others interested in Tanzania's forests as well as being available on the TFCG web site.



"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".

## 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 Mountains and the Coastal Forests. These are available at: [www.tfcg.org](http://www.tfcg.org). TFCG has also worked closely with the broadcast and print media and has been involved in producing over 30 radio programmes, ten television programmes and 60 newspaper articles. In addition through its field projects, TFCG's staff have brought together thousands of stakeholders through meetings and workshops to address forest management issues.

## 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 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 what they most wanted to communicate about are the values of and threats to the Eastern Arc Mountain forests and the roles that they can play in managing them. 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 and how they can achieve this, we believe that we can help others to make a big difference to the management of Tanzania's forests.

## Launching the Eastern Arc web site [www.easternarc.or.tz](http://www.easternarc.or.tz)

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 with 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.

## Find out more about TFCG on the Internet

To find out more about TFCG, you can visit our web site at [www.tfcg.org](http://www.tfcg.org). Set up in 2003, we have had an average of 8000 visits per year.



## 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 can not tackle them alone. We rely on our supporters and partners to work with us to find solutions to these problems.

### Profile: Charles Meshack, Executive Officer TFCG

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, to work in Lulanda in Mufindi District. In 1997, he was promoted to become Programmes Officer, responsible for overseeing TFCG's field



projects, a position he held until his appointment as Executive Officer. In 2003, with support from TFCG through 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 a 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 Gorro, **Chairman**  
Alan Rodgers, **Vice Chairman**  
Peter Sumbi, **Treasurer**

Walter Bgoya  
Tom Blomley  
Neil Burgess  
Carter Coleman  
Alex Hipkiss  
David Howlett  
Pantalee Kapichi  
Felician Kilahama  
Gertrude Lyatuu  
Thomas McGrath  
Ruzika Muheto

Paul Nnyiti  
John Salehe  
Hon MP, H.D. Shekifu

## TFCG Staff

Charles Meshack	Executive Officer
Nike Daggart	Senior Technical Advisor
Theron Brown	Technical Advisor - Amani Butterfly Project
Theopista A. Byekwaso	Finance Officer
Valerian Lema	Accountant/Administrator
Adrian Kahemela	Community Network Coordinator
Charles Leonard	Research Officer
Shukuru Nyagawa	Education and Communication Officer
Bettie Luwuge	Assistant Network Officer
Daines Migidange	Community Liaison Officer
Secelela Balisidya	Information Officer
Abrahaman Mdeme	Landscape Coordinator PEMA
Aloyce Kilemwa	Project Officer - Ngaramia
Amiri Said	Project officer - Amani Butterfly Project
David Loserian	Project Officer - PEMA
Eustack M. Bonifasi	Project Officer - East Usambaras
Hamadiel Mgalla	Project Officer - Mufindi
Phillipo Mbaga	Project Officer - East Usambaras
Raymond D. Nlelwa	Project Officer - Ruwu South
Revocatus W. Njau	Project Assistant - West Usambaras
Sanford Kway	Project Officer - Misitu Yetu Project
Simon Masha	Project Officer - West Usambaras
Moses Mwangoka	Botanical collector
Christina Ntambi	Account Assistant
Adam Mgovano	Project Assistant - Mufindi
Edina Yohana	Project Assistant - West Usambaras
Elizabeth John	Project Assistant - Ruwu South
Ernest Benson	Project Assistant - PEMA
James G. Msuya	Project Assistant - Amani Butterfly Project
Moses Zulumano	Project Assistant - East Usambaras
Nicolas Kisonga	Project Assistant - Mufindi
Peter Cosmas	Project Assistant - East Usambaras
Peter O. Mgonja	Project Assistant - West Usambaras
Wilfred Teddy	Project Assistant - East Usambaras
Yahaya.M.Mtonda	Project Assistant - Ruwu South
Daniel Mwairitunga	Senior Driver
Abid Mohamed	Driver
Ally Said	Driver
Simon Siwale	Driver
Joseph Kidanka	Driver
Mariam Masanja	Office attendant



## 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.

## INSIDE

A brief history of TFCG .....	2
TFCG's Community Development Programme ...	3
TFCG's Networking and Advocacy Programme ..	4-5
The Highland Mangabey .....	6
TFCG's Research Programme .....	7
TFCG's PFM Programme .....	8 - 9
TFCG's Communication and Environmental Education Programme .....	10
A way forward for TFCG .....	11
TFCG's partners .....	12

## 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 Shegwando, 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.*

## The Arc Journal

Newsletter of the Tanzania Forest Conservation Group

The Arc Journal welcomes articles on forest conservation and biodiversity in Tanzania. If you would like to contribute, please send your article to the Editor by e-mail and accompanied by photographs, maps or charts. Our next edition is due out in December 2005.

Editor: Nike Doggart

Founding editor: Carter Coleman