

History of Tanzanian Government involvement in the development of the Eastern Arc Mountains World Heritage Site Application

This document outlines the 14 years of process taken by the Government of Tanzania to nominate Eastern Arc Mountains of Tanzania for inscription on the World Heritage List. This List of universally outstandingly valuable natural and cultural properties is maintained by the World Heritage Committee, an Intergovernmental Committee for the Protection of the Cultural and Natural Heritage of Outstanding Universal Value established within UNESCO under the provisions of the World Heritage Convention.

1995-1997. A conference on the Eastern Arc Mountains was planned by the Tanzania Forest Research Institute (TAFORI) in Morogoro, with collaboration of Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA), the University of Dar es Salaam (UDSM), Copenhagen University and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Finland.

1997. A three day conference on the Eastern Arc Mountains was held in Morogoro and opened by the Minister of Natural Resources and Tourism, Zahkia Meghji. One of the conclusions of this conference was that the Eastern Arc Mountains were a possible candidate area for natural World Heritage Status, based on their globally exceptional biological values and history of evolution of life on earth. Also present at the meeting were representatives of Forestry and Beekeeping Division of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism (FBD-MNRT), the World Bank (WB), the United Nations Development Programme Global Environment Facility (UNDP-GEF), WWF, CARE International and various other NGOs and donor agencies, together with an international array of scientists.

1997. A Task Force consisting the primary Tanzanian organizers of the conference was formed to take forward the recommendations of the meeting. This group met on a number of occasions between 1997 and around 1999..and minutes were kept.

1997-1999. The government of Tanzania considered the best way to take forward the recommendations of the Eastern Arc conference, and detailed discussions were held with UNDP-GEF, the GEF regional advisor for Eastern Africa (the late Dr Alan Rodgers) and others.

1999. A GEF preparatory grant was issued to CARE International to assist Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism, to develop a full sized GEF project grant for the country, linked with discussions between MNRT and the World Bank for a full scale forestry assistance project - the 'Tanzania Forest Conservation and Management Project'.

1999-2002. The development of a GEF project proposal proceeded as a collaboration between FBD-MNRT, its international donors (UNDP GEF and World Bank GEF and World Bank IDA credits), and with facilitation in the early stages from CARE International.

In 2003 a combined project package of forestry assistance was agreed by the MNRT/FBD, which included the following components:

- (i) support the establishment of a new national forestry institutional framework effectively to support the sustainable management and protection of Tanzania's forest, woodland and industrial plantation resources;*
- (ii) establish the framework for involvement of the private sector in industrial plantation development and management; and*
- (iii) develop the institutional capacity within the forestry sector for Coordination, financing, and management of biodiversity conservation interventions within Tanzania's forests,*

in particular in the forests of the Eastern Arc Mountains. It is envisaged that this third objective will be implemented in conjunction with support from the GEF.

The Inception Report for component (iii), which was funded together with UNDP GEF, states the following:

“Conservation and Management of the Eastern Arc Mountain Forests” (CMEAMF) Project (GEF-UNDP URT/01/32) has its roots in the 1997 International Conference on the Eastern Arc Mountains, organised by TAFORI in Morogoro. Following the recommendations from that conference the Forest and Beekeeping Division of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism (FBD) initiated the process of developing a full project proposal for the GEF. PDF Block A and Block B processes were completed. The PDF B had two components; one through the World Bank for an endowment trust fund and the second through UNDP, coordinated by CARE Tanzania for the FBD. This resulted in the development of two components: one, a site-based project in the Uluguru Mountains (\$2.86 million) and the second, a holistic conservation strategy for the entire Eastern Arc Mountains (\$2.14 million). These two components comprise the current project “Conservation and Management of the Eastern Arc Mountain Forests” (CMEAMF), which is being implemented with funding from the GEF channelled through the UNDP. The Project headquarters is in Morogoro.

The CMEAMF project is a component of a \$12 million GEF package for Tanzania that includes both UNDP and World Bank GEF funds, with counterpart and linked funding from DANIDA through the “Capacity Building for WCST-Birdlife, Tanzania: Uluguru Mountains Project component” (DOF-WCST), the Participatory Forest Management component of the Tanzania Forest Conservation and Management Project (TFCMP), and the NORAD-funded Catchment Forest Project. The GEF support includes the Eastern Arc Mountains Conservation Endowment Fund, which is also based in Morogoro. The Endowment Fund contains \$7 million World Bank GEF funds and \$2 million contributed by GoT using World Bank IDA funds. The GEF support has been fully integrated into the TFCMP, which is a \$50.1 million initiative in total (this includes the US\$ 31.1 million in IDA financing). The TFCMP supports: the processes of institutional reform for the FBD; community-based forest and woodland protection and management; improved forest governance; and increased involvement of the private sector in the management of industrial plantations. The TFCMP is the primary financial mechanism that has been mobilized for implementation of the National Forest Program (NFP).

Within the broader GEF project the following outputs were envisaged:

Output 1: *An Eastern Arc Mountains Forests Conservation Strategy is developed, which incorporates the views of multiple stakeholders, and which has mobilized support for implementation of priority actions (facilitated through UNDP).*

Output 2: *Community-based conservation initiatives are underway in the Uluguru Mountains (facilitated through UNDP and outsourced to CARE International in Tanzania).*

Output 3: *Institutional reforms are completed which strengthen the capacity of national forestry institutions to provide services, which strengthen processes of participatory forest biodiversity conservation in the Eastern Arc (facilitated through the World Bank).*

Output 4: *The Eastern Arc Mountains Conservation Endowment Fund is operating and is investing in protected area management, community-based conservation, and applied biodiversity research (facilitated through the World Bank).*

2004-2010. MNRT (FBD) utilised World Bank GEF funding to develop the Eastern Arc Mountains Conservation Endowment Fund (EAMCEF). This agency was established using \$2 million of World Bank IBA funding and \$7 million of World Bank GEF funding, and input from the GoT. EAMCEF

now runs the 'Eastern Arc Center' in Morogoro, which also houses the Nature Reserves Unit of FBD, who led the development of the Eastern Arc World Heritage Application to UNESCO.

2004-2010. MNRT (FBD) utilized UNDP GEF funding to implement the project 'Conservation and Management of the Eastern Arc Mountains Forests' (CMEAMF), based at the 'Eastern Arc Forest Center' in Morogoro. Dr Felician Kilahama, the current Director of FBD was the National Project Coordinator and the Project Steering Committee was chaired over 7 years of implementation by various Permanent Secretaries of the MNRT. Minutes of all meetings were kept and are filed at FBD and UNDP. These indicate progress towards the submission of nomination to UNESCO for an Eastern Arc World Heritage site. Project reports are also available on www.easternarc.or.tz that catalogue progress with that process over these 7 years.

The first output of the CMEAMF project was as follows

Output 1: A holistic Eastern Arc Conservation Strategy, which addresses the overall Vision for the Eastern Arc Mountain Forests, and is based on individual mountain block strategies and District strategies; is developed, approved and under implementation.

The third sub-output was as follows

Output 1.3 Existing reserve network reviewed and relevant international and national designations applied.

The main steps towards achieving a 'relevant international designation' have been as follows:

- 1) In 2005 a meeting of Government and NGO stakeholders was held in Amani Nature Reserve to agree on how to move forward with developing the protected area network on the Eastern Arc Mountains. This has the aims of conserving forests for species and carbon storage, and also to act as water catchments for millions of downstream users and the sources of water for around 50% of the Tanzanian power supply (through hydroelectric schemes).
- 2) In 2005 a component leader was selected from within FBD to take forward the work on the Eastern Arc World Heritage nomination. The nomination was given to the late Corodius Sawe – of FBD and the conservator of Amani Nature Reserve, assisted by Luciana Mshana of FBD -Tanga Catchment Forestry and reporting to Evarist Nashanda at FBD headquarters in Dar es Salaam.
- 3) Work on gathering relevant data, gathering political support, and engaging stakeholders in the process proceeded from 2005-2009. This entailed holding 14 separate district stakeholder meetings in 2004-2005 (with village, ward, district, NGO and private sector attendance), seeking agreement for the process to proceed from 15 District Councils during 2006-2009, seeking agreement for the proposed site from 5 regional commissioners during 2005-2009, and outlining the proposed boundaries of the site in a series of district stakeholder meetings in 2009/2010. Hundreds of Tanzanian officials and villagers were involved with these series of meetings. Letters of support and minutes from the various District and Regional meetings are held in Morogoro at the FBD offices in the 'Eastern Arc Center'. A list of all people attending these meetings is also available.
- 4) An application to include the Eastern Arc World Heritage Site in the 'tentative list' of World Heritage sites was submitted to the UNESCO World Heritage Centre by FBD through the Government of Tanzania's World Heritage Focal Point (Director of Antiquities) in 2005. The application was accepted in a letter from the World Heritage Centre dated the 16th January 2006 and the Eastern Arc was placed on the World Heritage 'Tentative List'. The Director of Antiquities informed the Director Forestry and Beekeeping of this development in a letter dated the 6th February 2006.

- 5) At the same time funding to complete the dossier for the World Heritage nomination was requested from the World Heritage Centre by FBD through the World Heritage Focal Point (Director of Antiquities) in 2006. A letter confirming that \$30,000 would be made available to support the process was sent from UNESCO on the 9th September 2007. Some time was spent agreeing on the best way for FBD to receive and account for the funding, and funding was finally received in Tanzania in early 2009.
- 6) Using a combination of World Heritage and UNDP-GEF funds, FBD contracted the services of two consultants and – together with colleagues from FBD, they prepared a draft of the nomination dossier during the middle part of 2009. This draft was used as the basis for a stakeholder meeting in December 2009, which was convened and organised by FBD. Comments on the nomination dossier were received by FBD from the various stakeholders. During this meeting it was agreed that the Udzungwa National Park managed by the Tanzania National Parks Authority (TANAPA), together with 8 Nature Reserves and proposed Nature Reserves managed by FBD should form the main elements of the World Heritage Site based on their (a) outstanding universal values for biodiversity and (b) ecological integrity and (c) management status (i.e. management plan in existence or under preparation). The site was therefore decided to comprise 9 separate reserves, all of which were already gazetted.
- 7) The component leader for the Eastern Arc World Heritage site development process died in his sleep in Morogoro in December 2009. FBD handed the work on to Luciana Mshana, his former assistant, managed by Evarist Nashanda and Christoganus Haule and reporting to the Director of Forestry.
- 8) In January 2010, a further workshop, convened by FBD, was held with key stakeholders to finalise the sites to be included in this serial nomination. Consultants and NGO experts worked together with staff from FBD to finalise the nomination dossier, which was submitted to the World Heritage Centre in January 2010 through the offices of the Director of Antiquities.
- 9) The World Heritage Centre reviewed the nomination dossier and informed the Government of Tanzania in a letter dated 14 April 2010 that the nomination was considered to be incomplete with respect to the submitted maps being too small-scale to clearly show the boundaries of the series of nominated sites. FBD addressed this short-coming during 2010 by preparing a more detailed set of maps and also updated the main text of the document where appropriate.
- 10) The revised version of the nomination dossier was submitted to UNESCO by FBD and TANAPA via the Director of Antiquities in January 2011. (Note: Nominations can only be submitted once every year, by 1 February).
- 11) In March 2011, UNESCO confirmed that the nomination was complete and would be sent out for technical review by IUCN (World Conservation Union), who advise the World Heritage Committee on the merits of natural properties for inclusion in the World Heritage List. The technical evaluation would have included site visits to Tanzania to establish that the site was of outstanding universal value and managed in such a way as to maintain and enhance such values.
- 12) In March 2011, the President of the United Republic of Tanzania ordered the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism to withdraw its nomination to of the Eastern Arc Mountains for World Heritage listing.

- 13) This was officially done in a letter from the Permanent Secretary of MNRT (signed M.K. Tarishi) to UNESCO World Heritage Centre on the 31st March 2011. No explanation of the rationale for withdrawing the nomination was provided by the Government of Tanzania in its letter to the World Heritage Centre.