

Usambara Ecological Forum (UEF) Monitoring and Evaluation Report

**Monitoring and Evaluation of Stakeholders' views on Usambara Ecological Forum and of Changes in the
Collaboration Structures Related to AGORA Research Project**

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report presents the findings of the monitoring and evaluation of stakeholders' views on UEF and of changes in the collaboration structures related to AGORA project in Lushoto district, Tanzania. The forum under monitoring and evaluation was formulated by land management and environmental conservation stakeholders in Lushoto district for coordination of both land management stakeholders and their activities in the district to ensure equal and spread of land management and conservation efforts across the district. TMG Research supported the effort with financial resources from fiat Panis Foundation.

The objective of this monitoring and evaluation was to explore the stakeholders views on UEF and of changes in collaboration structures related to AGORA specifically further engagement process after the end of AGORA project, activities carried out, successes and challenges, conflicts and diverging interests in the established forum, changes in collaboration of stakeholders since and due to AGORA, importance of the forum, possibilities for keeping engaging and any established communication mechanism by the forum.

The methodology of this monitoring and evaluation contained semi-structured interviews with 5 stakeholders and questionnaires filled by 20 UEF stakeholders from villages, division level, district council, groups and NGOs.

Findings revealed that there was low further engagement of stakeholders after the AGORA and inauguration of UEF, low or lack of information sharing between the forum and land management stakeholders, modest performance of the agreed activities in the UEF developed action plan and as a result moderate achievement or success, presence of conflict and diverging interests and some challenges facing the forum. AGORA project however created a general environment of cooperation between the participated stakeholders in initial meetings, whereby they were able to network some of their activities in land management. This went hand in hand with the changes in interaction between land management stakeholders.

This report concluded that the forum did not well perform its activities and stakeholders' engagement by the forum was minimal. Findings also suggest that information sharing within the forum was inadequate. Furthermore, the initiative was able to create collaboration among stakeholders out of the forum and has contributed to changes in interaction between stakeholders.

This report recommended that the forum closely engage the stakeholders in planning and implementation of its activities, sharing information with stakeholders, giving more power to stakeholders in deciding and supervising the forum, improving communication mechanisms for the forum stakeholders and acting as the tool for integrating stakeholders so that they can cooperate in land management activities