

“TANZANIA RECEIVES USD 3.0 MILLION FROM THE ROYAL KINGDOM OF NORWAY FOR CONSERVATION OF THE EASTERN ARC MOUNTAINS”

The Royal Government of Norway has dishd out a total of US\$ 3.0 million (about 6.75 billion Tanzanian Shillings) to implement the second phase of a three-year project for conservation and restoration of the Eastern Arc Mountains (EAMs) in Tanzania.

During the first phase of the initiative implemented for five years spanning the period of 2011 – 2016, the Scandinavian country provided support of US\$ 5.9 million (about 12.8 billion Tanzanian Shillings) to the Eastern Arc Mountains Conservation Endowment Fund (EAMCEF).

Deputy Head of Mission at the Royal Norwegian Embassy in Tanzania, Mr Trygve Bendisksby and the EAMCEF Executive Director, Mr. Francis Sabuni, inked the agreement for the financial support in Dar es Salaam on 26th August 2016.





Mr Bendisksby said the government of Norway decided to provide funds for the second phase after it was satisfied with the implementation of the first phase, pledging more support for the initiative.

In the first phase, EAMCEF, successfully implemented the project titled; “Improving Conservation of the Eastern Arc Mountains Forests of Tanzania” in realizing effective conservation and sustainable outcomes for the EAMs.

Even with significant strides made in protection of the EAMs and supporting adjacent communities over the past period, major threats still exists and will definitely continue unless provision of alternative livelihood options is constantly provided to the adjacent communities,” Mr Sabuni remarked.

While thanking the Royal Government of Norway for the support, Mr Sabuni pointed that given local and global significance of the EAMs, there was a need for further support to the EAMCEF to empower local communities with alternative livelihoods.

The EAMs is a global biodiversity hotspot, which is a source of water used in Dar es Salaam and its environs. The mountains provide water for major hydro-power plants in the country, he explained. At the same occasion, the Acting Chief Executive of Tanzania Forest Services (TFS) Agency, Prof Dos Santos Silayo, extended appreciation on behalf of the Tanzania government for the generous support by Norway in the conservation efforts.

The establishment of the EAMCEF was made possible as a result of full support and strong commitment of the government of Tanzania. The performance of the Fund has been exemplary since its founding,” Prof Silayo stated.

The EAMs are a long chain of ancient mountains stretching from Southern Tanzania to Southern Kenya. It comprises thirteen mountain blocks that form a broad arc that is 1,600 kilometres in length and covers an area of 23,000 square kilometres. The mountains are very potential for boosting the economy of Tanzania especially in the current industrialization agenda.