

# MAGOROTO MLINGA COMMUNITY ECOTOURISM PROJECT (MAMCEP)

## Progress Report

May 2008 - August 2009 (transition between project phases I and II)

by Johanna Kolehmainen, 30 September, 2009



*Magoroto Mlinga Conservation and Ecotourism Association members in Mwembeni village (Project field coordinator Luciana Mshana in the top row on the right)*

### 1. Introduction

The pilot phase of MAMCEP was conducted from January 2007 to April 2008. From May 2008 to August 2009, the project was continued with funds raised by the Finnish Saintpaulia Society and a grant from the African Violet Conservation Fund of the Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden. In this period, field work was coordinated by the officers of the Tanga Regional Catchment Forest Office, Mr. Raymond Killenga (from May to July 2008) and Mrs. Luciana Mshana (from August 2008 onwards). The field coordinator visited the project area regularly to participate the meetings of the Village Ecotourism Committee, which was formulated in the pilot project. In 2008, the field coordinator visited the project area in July, September and November, and in 2009 in January, March, June and September. The field coordinator produced progress reports after each visit to the project area and sent the reports to the project leader.

## 2. Monitoring of disturbance/illegalities in the forest

Monitoring of disturbance/ illegalities in the forests in the project area (Mlinga Forest Reserve, Magrotto Estate forest and public land forests) was continued by members of the Village Ecotourism Committee. Working gears (gum boots) were bought for the members, so that they can conduct patrolling comfortably also in rainy weather.

Occasional incidences of illegal logging have continued in the project forests. Since the start of the disturbance monitoring in July 2007, a total of 52 indigenous trees have been reported to be logged in the project area. Of those 52 trees, 38 were logged in public lands forests (Mwembeni 8, Magula 11, Mgambo 19), 4 in the Mlinga Forest Reserve, and 10 in the Magrotto Estate forest. The graphics below show trends in the number of logged trees for the past two years.

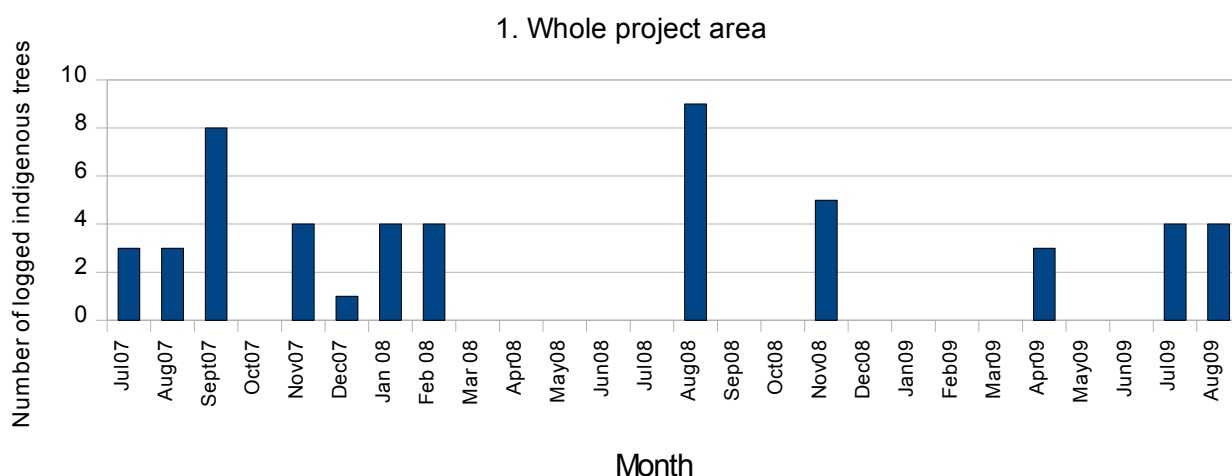
Other disturbances also continue to be reported, such as grazing in the Mlinga Forest Reserve (May, July 2008) and and illegal business of collecting insects and small reptiles (May 2008). Pole cutting also likely occurs throughout the project area, but it is difficult to collect data on it because it is hard to detect compared to the logging of large trees.

Illegalities found in forest areas adjacent to villages that have not yet been involved in the project (Mgambo, Misozwe and Kicheba) probably indicates villagers' lack of sense of commitment to conservation due to non-involvement in the project. However, some incidences were reported also from the project target villages Mwembeni and Magula. This is not a surprise because the project has continued for a relatively short time and, due to limited resources, it has been able to reach only a limited number of people in the villages.

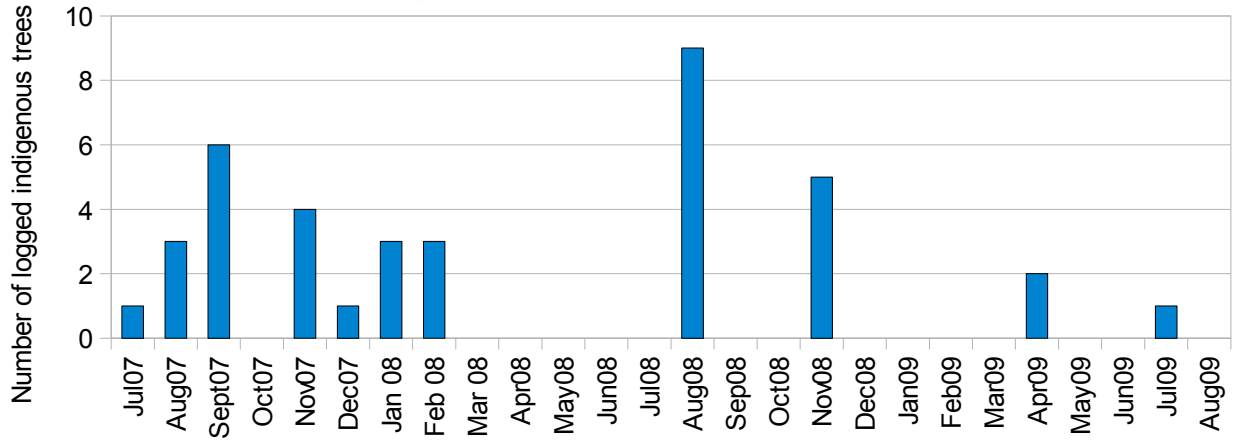
The committee members informed village chairmen and other local authorities about the illegalities/disturbances and requested them to take actions to identify the culprits and to prevent further incidences. Generally, these requests have lead to few tangible measures, probably because the village authorities have little resources to combat the problems and/or, in some cases, are unwilling to take measures due to close relationship with the culprits. It was even suspected that some village authorities were involved in the logging case reported from Magula.

It is expected that forest disturbances caused by Mgambo villagers will decrease after involving this village in the project phase II.

*The following figures show trends in the number of logged indigenous trees in the entire project area (1) and in each forest area separately (2-4):*

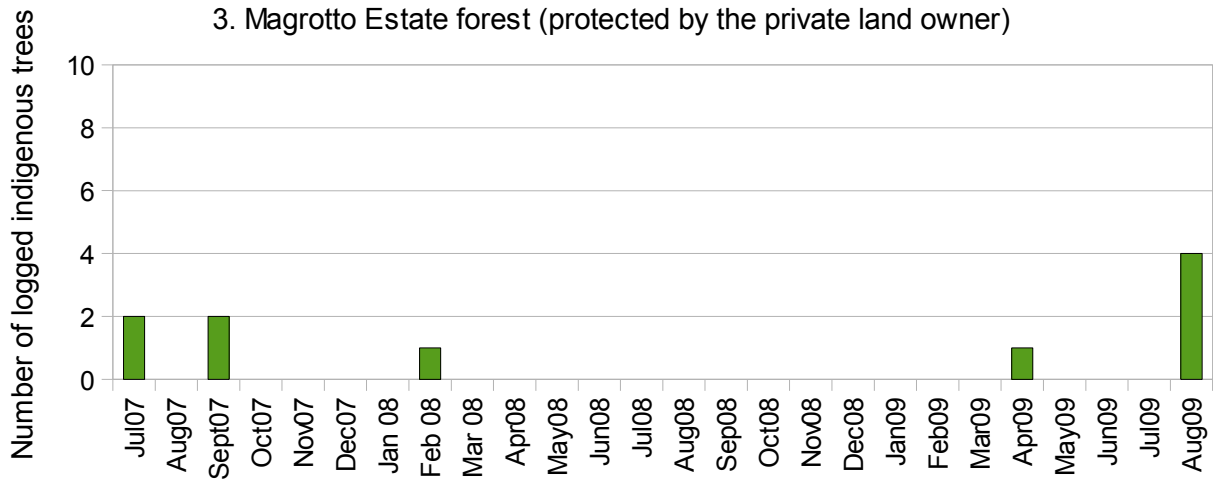


2. Village lands / public lands (not protected)

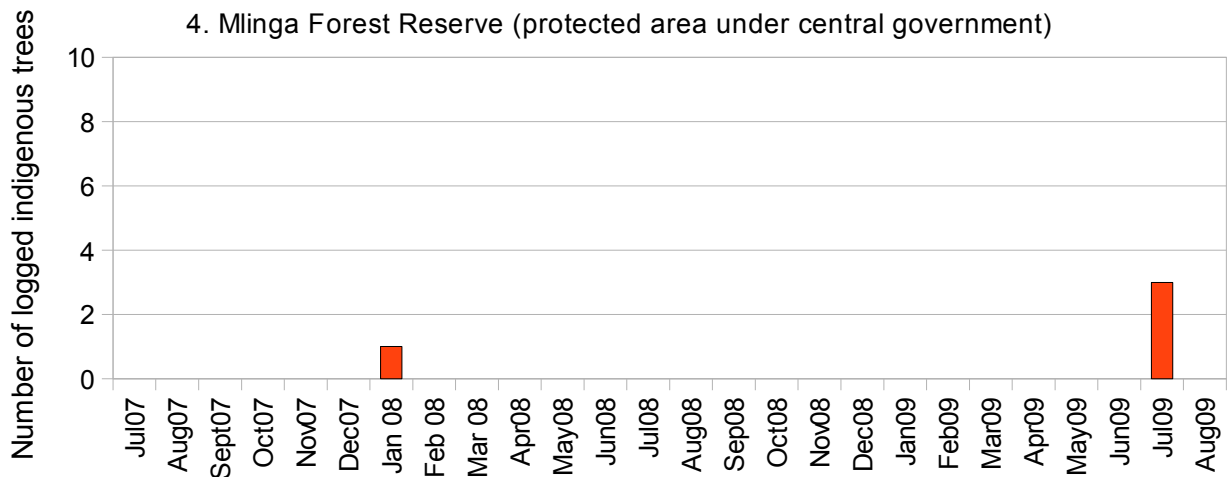


**Note: in April 2009, also 56 pieces of timber from illegally logged trees (number of trees not known) found in Magula village.**

3. Magrotto Estate forest (protected by the private land owner)



4. Mlinga Forest Reserve (protected area under central government)



### 3. Work of the Village Ecotourism Committee (Magoroto Mlinga Conservation and Ecotourism Association)

In addition to the monitoring of forest disturbance, the Village Ecotourism committee conducted monthly meetings to discuss progress of the project, i.e., the conservation status of the forest and issues related to tourism development. Moreover, a constitution was developed for the committee in supervision of the project field coordinator, experts from the Muheza District Authority and the project leader. The constitution is required for the legal registration of the committee as an association in Tanzania. The name of the association will be *Magoroto Mlinga Conservation and Ecotourism Association (MAMCEA)*.

### 4. Tourism

Tourism development did not progress much during this period because tourism marketing has not been started yet. However, ten Swedish students and one lecturer visited the project for three days in January 2009 after communicating with the project leader about possible places to visit on their trip to Tanzania. Project field coordinator made arrangements of the visit. Accommodation was arranged in the manager's house of the Magrotto Estate and a tour plan was developed together with the Village Ecotourism committee / local tour guides. Although tourism infrastructure is still very poor in the project area, the visit was a great achievement and a useful exercise for the local people. The visitors appreciated the guiding service of the local guides and were thrilled with the attraction sites.

Moreover, the committee members made regular visits to the attraction sites to ensure that they are not disturbed, and reported any unusual activity that could harm the sites.

### 5. Planning and fund-raising for the project phase II

Work plan for the project phase II was developed based on the findings of the phase I and propositions of the MAMCEA members (the villagers). Applications for project funding were then prepared. Funds were first sought from the National Geographic Conservation Trust, which informed that it will not be able to continue its support for the project. Thereafter, we approached the Rufford Small Grants Programme (UK), which gave a positive decision in July 2009. The RSG grant will cover about 80% of the expenses of the planned project work for a period of one year (from September 2009 to August 2010). A topping up grant has been applied from the Swedish Saintpaulia Society.

### 6. Project expenditures from May 2008 to August 2009

	TZ Shillings	Euro	USD
Fuel	306 800,00	168,74	233,31
Bank service fees	25 949,92	14,27	19,73
Vehicle hiring	280 000,00	154	212,93
Per diems/Allowances	1 620 000,00	891	1231,94
Communications	41 500,00	22,83	31,56
Stationery, photocopy, printing	41 900,00	23,05	31,86
Working gears	210 000,00	115,5	159,7
<b>Total</b>	<b>2526149,92</b>	<b>1389,38</b>	<b>1921,03</b>