

## **Project Update: April 2005**

We are progressing well with the conservation activities; on Friday 4th March we had a workshop on forest conservation and sustainable management which was conducted for twelve villages involving Village Executive Officers, Ward Executive Officers and Ward Development Committees in the project area in Nzenga Ward in Kisarawe District. This workshop aimed to create awareness on environmental conservation, community reforestation and alternative income generating activities. Another workshop will be conducted this month in Chole Ward where also Ward Executive Officers, Ward Development Committees and Village Executive Officers from eight villages will attend.

After discussion with the village leaders, it was agreed that the destructive activities should stop and the forest boundary in these villages be resurveyed back to its position before encroachment took place. It was also agreed that all farmers bordering the forest should be asked to respect the forest boundaries and that gaps inside the forest should be planted with indigenous tree species during the village reforestation programmes, especially valuable timber species, e.g. *Milicia excelsa* and *Newtonia buchananii* which are heavily cut for timber

Public awareness through media for raising public awareness on high human disturbance for Pugu forest reserve is still going on through different media. On 5th and 7th March our project had a wide coverage and viewed through local TV, also through different local radios. Three articles in local and national newspaper were published about the current threats to the habitat and the need of sustainable conservation initiatives to reduce the threat.

### **Village Meetings**

As a follow up of the workshop, the project team will have 12 village Council Meetings and village assembly meetings one meeting for each village for promoting in achieving the set goals for reforestation programmes. During the workshop these village leaders agreed that they will mobilize their fellow villagers so that each village can prepare a tree nursery of 26,000 seedlings, each village school to have a nursery of 10,000 seedlings and every family at least to plant 10 trees. Also in all these meetings the project conservation team will talk on alternative income generating activities, the environmental importance of Pugu forest reserve and allow them opportunities for discussing with the government on user rights for the Forest Reserve and possibility to establish village forest reserves in their village lands.