

**SPEECH BY HON. ANTHONY M. DIALLO (MP), MINISTER FOR NATURAL
RESOURCES AND TOURISM DELIVERED DURING INAUGURATION OF THE
EASTERN ARC MOUNTAINS CONSERVATION ENDOWMENT FUND
(EAMCEF) IN MOROGORO ON
FRIDAY 31ST MARCH 2006.**

Hon. Ministers and Regional Commissioners,
Hon. Members of Parliament,
Your Excellencies, Ambassadors and Members of the Diplomatic Corps,
Permanent Secretaries and Regional Administrative Secretaries,
Hon. Major General (Rtd) Said Kalembo - Regional Commissioner, Morogoro,
Madam Judy O'Connor, World Bank Country Director,
Hon. Prof. Romanus Ishengoma – Mayor of Morogoro Municipality
Prof. Said Iddi – Chairperson of the EAMCEF Board of Trustees,
EAMCEF Trustees and Staff,
Dr. Aloyse Tango – Ag. Director of Forestry and Beekeeping,
Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen.

Let me start by thanking the management of the Eastern Arc Mountains Conservation Endowment Fund for inviting me to officiate the inauguration of this Fund. I also wish to recognize the presence of our distinguished guests representing various missions, institutions and the public. Your presence is a clear testimony of your support to conserve nature and natural resources. For the Ministry, this Fund is a point of convergence for nurturing our shared commitment to natural resources conservation and management.

Chairperson,

As you have alluded in your introductory remarks, the establishment of the Eastern Arc Mountains Conservation Endowment Fund as a reliable source of funding conservation activities in the area is a joint effort between and commitment of the Government of Tanzania, the World Bank and the Global Environment Facility (GEF). On behalf of the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania, I thank the World Bank and the GEF for their invaluable support. Their support is vital and timely, given the importance of the ecosystem nationally and internationally.

Chairperson,

The Eastern Arc Mountains Conservation Endowment Fund, has been established in order to compliment government efforts in conservation. However, as a condition, before Global Environment Facility could disburse the 7 million US\$ as seed money (capital), the Fund was urged to set and attain some benchmarks. I am pleased to hear that the Fund has now attained all the benchmarks two years ahead of the planned timeframe. I congratulate the Board of Trustees and the Secretariat for attaining the achievement.

Chairperson,

The greatest challenge to the Fund that lies ahead is to register impact on the ground sooner than later. It is my sincere hope that the speed shown while working to attain the benchmarks will be maintained during implementation of field activities so that the Eastern Arc Mountains are conserved effectively.

Chairperson,

The US \$ 200,000.00 that the Fund will be issuing each year for actual conservation in the field represents a mere US \$ 50 cents per hectare for each of the 348,204 hectares of forests now remaining in the Eastern Arc Mountains. We need to commit not less that US\$ 1.0 million each year in order to ensure effective conservation of this critical ecosystem. This can only be realized either through contribution to increase the endowment capital or through direct funding of activities being targeted by the Fund.

I commend the Fund to come up with a Fundraising Strategy that will help guide the process of soliciting more resources. I urge the Board of Trustees and the Secretariat Staff to embark on aggressive fundraising in order to increase the endowment capital. By so doing, the Fund will earn more interest and therefore will have more funds available for implementation of its field activities. In connection with fundraising, let me use this opportunity to call upon all stakeholders: organizations, private individuals, the business community and development partners join us in the efforts to conserve the Eastern Arc Mountain forests by putting more into the Fund. The Government of Tanzania through the Ministry will do all which is within its reach to continue contributing to Eastern Arc Mountains Conservation Endowment Fund activities.

Chairperson,

A few minutes ago I handed over cheques to beneficiaries of grants for implementing field activities. I urge the recipients and the targeted communities to use the grants expeditiously and only for the intended conservation activities. I call upon the Fund to set up monitoring mechanism to ensure that funds intended for conservation are not diverted to other activities.

Chairperson,

In his welcome note, the Regional Commissioner mentioned that the regional leadership has offered office premises for conservation of Eastern Arc Mountains to my Ministry which in turn offered some office space to the Eastern Arc Mountains Conservation Endowment Fund. On behalf of the Ministry and indeed on my own behalf, I wish to thank the Regional leadership for their invaluable and generous contribution to the conservation efforts. This demonstrates the commitment of the regional leadership towards conservation. My Ministry will work urgently on the transfer of Plot No. 30 along Kingalu Road so that it is officially and legally owned by the Eastern Arc Mountains Conservation Endowment Fund before the end of this year.

Chairperson, Ladies and Gentlemen,

May I once again express my appreciation for inviting me to this occasion and I have now the honour to declare that the “Eastern Arc Mountains Conservation Endowment Fund (EAMCEF)” is officially inaugurated.

Thank You So Much for your attention.