

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS BY PROF. SAID IDDI, CHAIR OF THE EAMCEF BOARD OF TRUSTEES DURING THE INAUGURATION OF THE EASTERN ARC MOUNTAINS CONSERVATION ENDOWMENT FUND (EAMCEF) ON FRIDAY 31ST MARCH, 2006 IN MOROGORO.

Hon. Anthony M. Diallo (MP), Minister for Natural Resources and Tourism,

Hon. Ministers and Regional Commissioners,

Hon. Members of Parliament,

Your Excellencies, Ambassadors and Members of the Diplomatic Corps,

Hon. Major General (Rtd) Said Kalembo - Regional Commissioner, Morogoro,

Permanent Secretaries and Regional Administrative Secretaries,

Madam Judy O'Connor, World Bank Country Director,

Hon. Prof. Romanus Ishengoma – Mayor of Morogoro Municipality

EAMCEF Trustees and Staff,

Dr. Aloyse Tango – Ag. Director of Forestry and Beekeeping,

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen.

Honourable Guest of Honour,

On behalf of the Board of Trustees and the EAMCEF Secretariat, I wish to take this opportunity to warmly welcome you Honourable Guest of Honour and all invited guests at the office premises of the Eastern Arc Mountains Conservation Endowment Fund (EAMCEF). We thank you sincerely Honourable Guest of Honour for accepting our request to you to officiate the inauguration of EAMCEF. We are aware of your tight work schedule. We therefore feel greatly honoured, inspired and encouraged by your being with us here today. I wish also to thank all invited guests for sparing their valuable time to participate in this memorable event.

Honourable Guest of Honour, allow me, on behalf of EAMCEF to congratulate you for being elected Member of Parliament and for being appointed Minister for Natural Resources and Tourism in the fourth phase government. We know that under your leadership conservation of natural resources in Tanzania will be strengthened further.

Honourable Guest of Honour,

The Eastern Arc Mountains Conservation Endowment Fund (EAMCEF) is a Trust Fund which was established as a mechanism to provide long term, reliable and sustainable funding for fostering conservation of biodiversity in the Eastern Arc Mountains of Tanzania through investment in community development projects, protected areas management and applied research programmes that create greater conservation impact, improved welfare of the adjacent communities and enhanced stakeholder's participation. The EAMCEF was officially registered in Tanzania on 6th June 2001, under the Trustees' Incorporation Ordinance No. 375 of 1956. It was set up as a joint initiative of

the Government of Tanzania, the World Bank and the Global Environment Facility (GEF). The EAMCEF operates as a Not-for-Profit Non-Governmental Organization (NGO). It is governed by a Board of Trustees, and it is managed on a day to day basis by an Endowment Fund Secretariat based here in Morogoro and headed by an Executive Director.

Honourable Guest of Honour,

Currently, EAMCEF operates as a component of the World Bank financed larger project under the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism, the Tanzania Forest Conservation and Management Project (TFCMP). The Fund is using a US\$ 2 million credit facility under the TFCMP to finance activities and operations of its first phase, the establishment phase. This phase was planned to last for five years (2002-2007) and mainly concentrate on getting the Endowment Fund Secretariat in place and functional. This has involved staff recruitment, securing office accommodation, procurement of essential equipment, basic supplies/materials and establishment of operational procedures. Some funding, especially for community development activities was also planned to begin at a pilot level during this phase.

Honourable Guest of Honour,

We thank the Government of Tanzania sincerely for playing a central role in the establishment of EAMCEF and in particular for its generous contribution of the start up funds and providing free office accommodation. For the first two years EAMCEF was hosted by the MNRT in DSM (TFCMP Offices) and later by TAFORI in Morogoro until September last year when it moved into the present offices. We highly treasure this support by the MNRT, TAFORI and Regional Secretariat of Morogoro for the invaluable support. We also thank the World Bank and the Global Environment Facility (GEF) for their invaluable support.

Honourable Guest of Honour,

The Eastern Arc Mountains cover a total area of approximately 348,204 hectares and spread over fifteen Districts in five Regions of Tanzania as follows:

Districts	Region	Mountain Blocks
Muheza, Mkinga and Korogwe	Tanga	East Usambara
Korogwe and Lushoto	Tanga	West Usambara,
Kilindi	Tanga	Nguu
Mwanga	Kilimanjaro	North Pare
Same	Kilimanjaro	South Pare
Mvomero,	Morogoro	Nguru
Kilosa	Morogoro	Ukaguru, Malundwe and Rubeho
Kilombero	Morogoro	Udzungwa
Ulanga	Morogoro	Mahenge
Kilolo and Mufindi	Iringa	Udzungwa
Morogoro	Morogoro	Uluguru
Mpwapwa	Dodoma	Rubeho

Honourable Guest of Honour,

The Eastern Arc Mountains are one of 34 globally important and rich biological regions in the world known as biodiversity 'hotspots'. They are characterized by high concentrations of endemic species now under great threat. In the Eastern Arc Mountains of Tanzania there are at least 85 vertebrates, 800 plants and over 100 species of invertebrates found nowhere else in the World. The biodiversity of the Eastern Arc Mountains is of great value locally for mitigating the impacts of rural poverty. Surveys indicate that about 40% of total household consumption in some forest adjacent communities in these mountains is accounted for by forest and woodland products such as firewood, construction material, medicinal herbs, wild fruits and other food materials.

Honourable Guest of Honour,

The Eastern Arc Mountain forests cover several major catchment areas which collectively provide water for many regions such as Morogoro, Dodoma, Iringa, Coast, Tanga and Dar es Salaam and most of the major industries in the country. In total, these mountain catchments supply water to over 25% of the Tanzania mainland population. About 60% of Tanzania's hydroelectricity is generated by Kidatu, Kihansi, Nyumba ya Mungu, Hale and Mtera hydropower stations. These hydropower stations use water whose sources are the Eastern Arc Mountain forests. Thus the bulk of hydroelectricity energy production in Tanzania is heavily dependent on maintaining the integrity of these forests. Due to high rainfall and fertile soils the Eastern Arc Mountains are famous for large scale agriculture, e.g. sugar cane, tea and coffee estates. The Eastern Arc Mountains harbour a great number of wildlife and they are the areas with a lot of tourist attractions.

Honourable Guest of Honour,

Despite their unique values and importance, the Eastern Arc Mountain forest resources are under serious threat. Estimates by Conservation International have revealed that the Mountains have lost over 70% of their original forest cover during the last 200 years. A recent study by Sokoine University of Agriculture gave an even more alarming picture. In a span of thirty years (1970 to 2000), the Mountains lost over 38,530 hectares. This is equal to a loss of more than 1000 hectares of forest a year and more than 3 hectares of forest land daily in a limited geographic area of only 0.6% of Tanzania's land area. The continuous loss of forest cover in the area is principally due to cultivation, fire, charcoal making, illegal logging for poles and timber. The Fund was thus established to contribute to government efforts of saving these vital ecosystems.

Honourable Guest of Honour,

Since its inception up to now, EAMCEF has managed to accomplish some important milestones namely:

- Establishment and official registration of EAMCEF.
- Establishment and strengthening of the Endowment Fund Secretariat – recruitment of competent and well committed staff, acquisition of sufficient office accommodation, procurement of sufficient transport equipment, office machines and other working facilities.
- Establishment and adoption of operational procedures.
- Establishment and operationalisation of procedures and guidelines for grants making activities.
- Establishment and adoption of Financial, Operations and Management Manual for EAMCEF.
- Establishment and effective functioning of the Board of Trustees.

- Signing of a Project Agreement with the World Bank and signing of a Subsidiary Grant Agreement with the Government of Tanzania.
- Formation and effective functioning of two (2) Local Advisory Committees (LACs).
- Management and operation of EAMCEF according to the Principles of the Trust Deed.
- Receipt of co-financing from other stakeholders for EAMCEF activities.
- Formulation and adoption of a Fundraising Strategy for EAMCEF.
- Formulation and operationalisation of a long term Strategic Plan for EAMCEF.
- Start up and finalization of the process to issue first grants for field activities.
- Start up of the recruitment process of the Investment Asset Manager for the capital endowment from the Global Environment Facility (GEF).

Honourable Guest of Honour,

These achievements include the successful attainment of all the benchmarks necessary for release of the capital endowment of US\$ 7.0 million from GEF. The benchmarks have been attained within the first three years out of the five years originally planned.

Honourable Guest of Honour,

Having made these milestones, EAMCEF thought that it would be befitting that the Fund is inaugurated officially. Thus, in this inauguration ceremony, we will request you to kindly perform the following functions:

- (i). Launch EAMCEF officially as an institution.
- (ii). Launch the Fundraising Strategy Document for EAMCEF.
- (iii). Issue the first grants for projects funded by EAMCEF

Honourable Guest of Honour,

The Fund has prioritized Udzungwa and East Usambara Mountains for the first round of grants. It has set aside more than 46 million Tanzanian shillings for the purpose for the April – June 2006 period to be spent in Muheza, Korogwe, Kilombero, Kilolo and Mufindi Districts where the two mountain blocks lie.

Honourable Guest of Honour,

Starting July this year, EAMCEF will be issuing grants totalling US\$ 200,000.00 per year for conservation, community development and research activities in the priority areas. This level of funding is the only capacity that will be available now and during the second phase (year 2008 and beyond) which will be financed out of incomes that will be generated from the investment of the US\$ 7.0 million capital endowment from GEF. This represents a mere 20% of the annual minimum requirement for the whole of the Eastern Arc Mountains.

Honourable Guest of Honour,

A recent study by the University of East Anglia and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) have indicated that, excluding carbon sequestration, soil conservation and many other

important services, the Eastern Arc Mountains of Tanzania supply water, non-timber forest products and electricity with a total value of US\$ 175 million per annum. This amount is equal to more than 330% of the amount the Government of Tanzania provides for the management of the Eastern Arc Mountains. The government contribution when combined with the support from development partners equals no more than 0.9% of the monetary value of the services the Eastern Arc Mountains provide per year.

Honourable Guest of Honour,

What our nation is now going through in power rationing, widespread drought and expansion of desert-like conditions are a result of environmental degradation. We need to act now and reverse the situation. This is a huge challenge that calls for investment of more resources. We appeal to the government to consider the possibility of extending additional funding to EAMCEF activities through the provision of annual matching funds and through other avenues. We also appeal to private businesses, individual organisations and development partners to support EAMCEF activities through contribution to the endowment or through direct funding of its programme activities.

Honourable Guest of Honour,

In the Subsidiary Grant Agreement which was signed on 18th May, 2005 between EAMCEF and the Government of Tanzania, among other things, the Government made a commitment to provide EAMCEF with permanent office premises. We therefore humbly request the Government to fulfil the commitment by officially and legally transferring the ownership of Plot No. 30, Kingalu Road in Morogoro Municipality to EAMCEF. We need this piece of land and we need all the office buildings here for conservation of the Eastern Arc Mountains in the longer term perspective.

Honourable Guest of Honour,

Let me conclude my remarks by thanking you once again, for being with us today. I also once again thank everybody gathered here today for their tremendous support.

Thank You for Listening,

Thank You All.

AHSANTENI SANA.

**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.

SPEECH BY HON. SAID KALEMBO - THE REGIONAL COMMISSIONER FOR MOROGORO DURING THE INAUGURATION CEREMONY OF THE EASTERN ARC MOUNTAINS CONSERVATION ENDOWMENT FUND (EAMCEF) IN MOROGORO ON FRIDAY, 31ST MARCH, 2006.

Hon. Anthony M. Diallo (MP), Minister for Natural Resources and Tourism,
Hon. Regional Commissioners,
Hon. Members of Parliament,
Your Excellencies, Ambassadors and Members of the Diplomatic Corps,
Regional Administrative Secretaries,
Madam Judy O'Connor - World Bank Country Director,
Hon. Prof. Romanus Ishengoma – Mayor of Morogoro Municipality
Dr. Aloyse Tango – Acting Director of Forestry and Beekeeping,
Prof. Said Iddi - Chairman of the EAMCEF Board of Trustees,
EAMCEF Trustees and Staff,
Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Honourable Guest of Honour,

First of all, I wish to take this opportunity to welcome you to Morogoro, our wonderful Municipality gifted by nature and unique hospitality of our people. On behalf of the people of Morogoro and on my own behalf, I would like to thank you for accepting to grace this important occasion in the history of our Region despite your tight work schedule. This is a sure testimony of your unquestionable commitment to conservation and your love to the people of Morogoro.

Honourable Guest of Honour,

May I also take this opportunity to thank the EAMCEF Board of Trustees and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism for establishing and locating the Headquarters of the Endowment Fund for the Eastern Arc Mountains in Morogoro. We value the wise decision and we are greatly thankful.

Honourable Guest of Honour,

Out of the five regions where the Eastern Arc Mountains lie, Morogoro Region is the one centrally located and is endowed with three quarters of the total area of the mountains. Here we are talking of Uluguru, Ukaguru, Nguru, Mahenge, Malundwe, Rubeho and Udzungwa mountains blocks. The physical location of these mountains actually makes Morogoro Region the centre of biological diversity and the hub of catchment richness in Tanzania. Out

of the five Regions the Eastern Arc Mountains lie, Morogoro Region harbours the highest biodiversity richness than the other four.

Furthermore, the giant Ruvu River that supplies water for the major industries and the more than 4 million people of Morogoro, Coast and Dar-es-Salaam Regions originate here in the Uluguru Mountains. Whereas the famous Wami River draws its water from Nguru, Ukaguru and Rubeho Mountains, the Udzungwa Mountains supplies water to the majestic Ruaha River.

Honourable Guest of Honour,

The turbines of the giant Kidatu and Kihansi hydropower stations cannot run without the supply of water from the Eastern Arc Mountains. By contributing more than 50% of the electricity produced by hydropower stations in Tanzania, Morogoro Region occupies a very crucial position in the economy of this country. Unfortunately, Honourable Minister, the natural resources richness notwithstanding, Morogoro is rated one of the five poorest regions of Tanzania. The level of poverty we are experiencing is actually putting a lot of pressure on the important biodiversity resources we have been entrusted with. For example, 50% of the forests in the Uluguru Mountains have disappeared during the last fifty years due to human activities.

Honourable Guest of Honour,

This kind of biodiversity erosion and many other forms of environmental degradation are threatening the very human survival and the situation is worse in the most populated mountainous areas. On recognising the danger of environmental degradation and loss of natural forest cover, our Region is increasingly adopting different strategies for curbing all the root causes. We are now seriously promoting the conservation of natural resources through participatory approaches including involvement of traditional leaders.

Honourable Guest of Honour,

The strong focus in poverty reduction activities being pursued by EAMCEF will help to reduce the dependence of local communities on forests for their basic needs. I'm therefore convinced that, the situation will not be the same after some few years to come. I also believe that, the Fund will continue to innovate different management approaches so that a fair balance between livelihood and dependence on forests ultimately prevails.

Honourable Guest of Honour,

One big challenge to any conservation entity is the ability to tie together the conservation efforts with the understanding of local communities and decision-makers on the value of conservation. It will be of no use and a waste of resources if the local communities and decision-makers will not understand the conservation language. I therefore call upon EAMCEF and other organisations to seriously consider the aspects of local communities' involvement in the conservation of flora and fauna and in finding the long term solution pertaining to their poverty status. Furthermore, local communities' indigenous knowledge in conservation should be applied in order to complement the scientific knowledge in solving some of the conservation problems. It is very important to ensure that the employed conservation efforts are sustainable and the local communities are benefiting at the same time.

Honourable Guest of Honour,

Before I finish my welcoming remarks, may I again take this opportunity to thank the Government of Tanzania, the EAMCEF Board of Trustees and the EAMCEF Secretariat for the good cooperation the Region has so far been receiving from EAMCEF. I wish to reaffirm our unwavering commitment in making sure that the work of EAMCEF becomes a success. We will continue to support EAMCEF and do all that is within our powers to foster the Mission that is being pursued by EAMCEF. Through the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism, the Regional Government has already provided office space for EAMCEF and we shall be more than happy to see that all these buildings we are seeing here becomes permanent offices for EAMCEF. It is my hope that you will all continue to support the work of EAMCEF in the Eastern Arc Mountains for the benefit of present and future generations.

Honourable Guest of Honour,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Lastly, let me use this opportunity to encourage you all to visit our rich cultural sites in the Uluguru Mountains as well as the diverse wildlife we are harbouring in the Mikumi and Udzungwa Mountains National Parks as well as the famous Selous Game Reserve.

Thank you very much.

**SPEECH OF MS. JUDY O’CONNOR, THE WORLD BANK COUNTRY
DIRECTOR, DELIVERED DURING THE INAUGURATION OF THE EASTERN
ARC MOUNTAINS CONSERVATION ENDOWMENT FUND (EAMCEF) -
MOROGORO, FRIDAY 31ST MARCH, 2006**

Hon. Anthony M. Diallo (MP), Minister for Natural Resources and Tourism,
Hon. Major General (Rtd) Said Kalembo – Regional Commissioner, Morogoro,
Hon. Regional Commissioners,
Hon. Members of Parliament,
Your Excellencies, Ambassadors and Members of the Diplomatic Corps,
Regional Administrative Secretaries,
Hon. Prof. Romanus Ishengoma – Mayor of Morogoro Municipality
Dr. Aloyse Tango – Acting Director of Forestry and Beekeeping,
Prof. Said Iddi - Chairman of the EAMCEF Board of Trustees,
EAMCEF Trustees and Staff,
Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Honourable Guest of Honour,

I feel very honoured and privileged to be here today to witness a very important occasion in conservation efforts in Tanzania. The Eastern Arc Mountain forests are well known for their biological as well as hydrological importance to the local, national and global communities. They are recognised by conservation experts as one of 34 biodiversity hotspots and centres of plant diversity of the world. The importance of the forests prompted the Forestry and Beekeeping Division of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism in 2001 to come up with an idea of creating a reliable funding mechanism for supporting the management of the forests. The noble idea was subsequently fully supported by the World Bank and the Global Environment Facility (GEF).

Honourable Guest of Honour,

The major objective of establishing the Eastern Arc Mountains Conservation Endowment Fund (EAMCEF) was to support the protection of the unique biologically important rainforests of the Eastern Arc Mountains while improving the livelihood of local communities residing adjacent to the forests through funding activities for protected areas management, community development and applied biodiversity research relevant to the conservation of the important mountain forest resources.

The financial resources for implementing the first phase of EAMCEF have come from a generous contribution by the Government of Tanzania of US\$ 2 million out of the US\$ 31 million credit it received from the World Bank to finance the Tanzania Forest

Conservation and Management Project (TFCMP). Honourable Minister, this is one unique and unparalleled example whereby the Government of Tanzania spearheaded the establishment of EAMCEF, a non-governmental organization. I sincerely commend your Government for its commitment which has made possible the achievements we are witnessing today.

Honourable Guest of Honour,

As earlier informed, currently EAMCEF operates as a component of the World Bank financed larger project under your Ministry, the TFCMP. During the five years (2002-2007) of the first phase, the establishment phase, EAMCEF is supposed to concentrate mainly on getting the Endowment Fund Secretariat in place and functional. This entails recruitment of staff, procurement of essential equipment and basic supplies and establishment of operational procedures.

Honourable Guest of Honour,

Granting of funds especially for community development activities was planned to begin at a pilot level during the first phase of EAMCEF. I'm very pleased to have been one of the witnesses to the first funding given out to beneficiaries a few minutes ago. I commend the EAMCEF Board of Trustees and the Endowment Fund Secretariat for the achievement recorded.

Honourable Guest of Honour,

During the planning phase of EAMCEF, the Global Environment Facility (GEF) made a commitment to provide a grant of US\$ 7 million to capitalize the endowment contingent upon successful attainment of eight benchmarks. The second phase of EAMCEF, the implementation phase, will mainly be financed out of incomes which will be generated from the investment of the endowment capital secured from the GEF commitment. The eight benchmarks which were set for the release of the capital money from GEF were the following:-

- Establishment and effective functioning of the Endowment Fund Secretariat.
- Finalization, adoption and use of the EAMCEF's Financial, Operations and Management Manual.
- Establishment and effective functioning of the Board of Trustees.
- Establishment and effective functioning of at least one (1) Local Advisory Committee (LAC).
- Adherence to the Principles of the Trust Deed.
- Receipt of Co-financing for EAMCEF activities.
- Development and launching of the Fundraising Strategy.

Honourable Guest of Honour,

Please allow me to put on record the fact that your handing over cheques for the first grants and your having launched the Fundraising Strategy this morning, completes the attainment of the last two benchmarks.

Honourable Guest of Honour,

In front of you Honourable Minister and in front of everybody here, I now wish to use this opportunity to officially declare the EAMCEF's successful attainment of all the eight benchmarks for the release of the US\$ 7.0 million capital endowment from GEF. I commend members of the EAMCEF Board of Trustees and staff of the Endowment Fund Secretariat, for managing to accomplish the enormous task within the first three years out of the five years originally planned. Efforts are now well underway to recruit the Investment Asset Manager for the capital endowment so that the secured money can be invested before the end of June this year.

Honourable Guest of Honour,

We estimate that for the EAMCEF to be able to sufficiently finance the activities necessary for conservation of all the Eastern Arc Mountains it needs a capital investment of at least US\$ 30 million that will generate the US\$ 1.5 million required annually. This amount is more than four times larger than the US\$ 7.0 million capital from GEF. Honourable Minister, this is the greatest challenge EAMCEF is facing, it is a challenge to all of us. I am however optimistic that the Fund will be able to attract additional resources from various sources in the next two years or so.

Honourable Guest of Honour,

In conclusion, I wish to reiterate the World Bank's full commitment in working with the Government of Tanzania in the conservation of her natural resources in general and in particular, in conservation of the Eastern Arc Mountain forests.

**Honourable Guest of Honour,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Thank you for listening.

**VOTE OF THANKS BY MR. CLEMENT KAPYA, EAMCEF TRUSTEE AT THE
INAUGURATION CEREMONY OF THE EASTERN ARC MOUNTAINS
CONSERVATION ENDOWMENT FUND (EAMCEF) IN MOROGORO ON
FRIDAY 31ST MARCH, 2006.**

Hon. Anthony M. Diallo (MP), Minister for Natural Resources and Tourism,
Hon. Major General (Rtd) Said Kalembo – Regional Commissioner,
Morogoro,
Hon. Regional Commissioners,
Hon. Members of Parliament,
Your Excellencies, Ambassadors and Members of the Diplomatic Corps,
Regional Administrative Secretaries,
Madam Judy O’Connor - World Bank Country Director,
Hon. Prof. Romanus Ishengoma – Mayor of Morogoro Municipality
Dr. Aloyse Tango – Acting Director of Forestry and Beekeeping,
Prof. Said Iddi - Chairman of the EAMCEF Board of Trustees,
EAMCEF Trustees and Staff,
Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Honourable Guest of Honour,

On behalf of the EAMCEF I wish to thank you sincerely for accepting to officiate the inauguration of the Fund and for the wonderful job we have all of us witnessed you performing. Your speech was full of encouragement and indeed it was quite inspirational.

Honourable Guest of Honour,

I wish also to use this opportunity to thank the World Bank and the Global Environment Facility (GEF) for their immense support which has made our efforts to create the Eastern Arc Mountains Conservation Endowment Fund (EAMCEF) a reality. We look forward to their continued support in furthering the work of EAMCEF.

Honourable Guest of Honour,

May I also take this opportunity to thank all the invited guests for their participation in this important occasion. Despite our short notice, you managed to accommodate this event in your tight work schedules so that you could be with us here today. I say thank you very much. We have been very encouraged by your response.

Honourable Guest of Honour,

I wish also to thank the organizing committee for their investment in time and effort that they put into preparations for this occasion. They have done a wonderful job.

Honourable Guest of Honour,

As has already been pointed out, additional funding is required to make EAMCEF a reliable, effective, sustainable and adequate funding mechanism for the conservation of the Eastern Arc Mountain forests. I therefore wish to assure you that mobilising resources for this cause will henceforth occupy a central position in our endeavours. We look forward to meeting many of you participating in this event today in our fund raising functions that will be organised in future. I believe that you will continue supporting us.

Lastly, on behalf of EAMCEF, I wish you all a safe return to your respective work stations.

Honourable Guest of Honour,

Ladies and Gentlemen.

Thank You Very Much