



Jumuiko la Maliasili Tanzania

Tanzania Natural Resource Forum

**First TNRF Annual General Meeting
held on the 9th February 2007 at Hotel 77 - Arusha**

MINUTES

ATTENDANCE

Committee members:

Chairman: Alais Morindat.

Vice Chairman: Clive Jones

Secretary: Andrew Williams.

Treasurer: Edward Porokwa

Members: Charles Foley, Edward Loure, Sally Capper, Katherine Snyder, Jackson Muro, Damian Bell, David Erickson.

Absent with apology: George Jambiya, David Peterson.

Other members: 47.

Secretariat:

Coordinator: TNRF Andrew Williams

Secretariat Staff: Cassian Sianga, Julius Achiula, and Nai Elibariki.

Master of Ceremony: David Erickson

AGENDA

3.00pm Welcome & Introductions, Steering Committee Chairperson

3.10pm Adoption of the Agenda

3.15pm Receive & Consider Chairperson's Report

3.30pm Receive & Consider Treasurer's Report

3.45pm Approval of Auditors and Legal Consultants

3.50pm Election of Management Steering Committee Members

4.00pm AOB

5.00pm Closing of the AGM

1. Welcome

The first Annual General Meeting of Tanzania Natural Resource Forum (TNRF) for 2007 was opened by the TNRF Coordinator by welcoming all the participants who came to the meeting. He requested everybody to fully participate, air their views and give constructive suggestions for the future development of the organization. He further outlined in summary TNRF's Strategic vision and purpose.

The Coordinator finally introduced David Erickson one of the Steering Committee members who took the role of the facilitating the meeting. Mr. Erickson took the lead by welcoming the Steering Committee Chairperson to open the meeting.

2. Reading of the minutes and matters arising from the previous AGM

This being the first AGM of TNRF, no minutes existed to read and approve.

3. Adoption of the Agenda

The Agenda was adopted by the General Assembly

4. Receiving and considering Chairperson's report

(A full copy of the Chairperson's report is available upon request from the Secretariat)

The Chairperson presented to the Annual General Meeting an annual report of TNRF highlighting the progress made and problems encountered during year 2006. Citing some of the achievements:-

- The year 2006 was a year of transition and a period of growing. In February 2006 TNRF became an independent organization registered under the NGO Act of 2002.
- The year 2006 was a year of difficulty for the Secretariat as they struggled with the usual growing pains of a newly fledged organization.
- Apart from the Secretariat preparing Steering Committee meetings and General meetings they also prepared two poverty and environmental trainings in partnership with WWF.
- In May 2006, TNRF had an opportunity to present to the Development Partners Group the state of governance of the wildlife sector in Tanzania.
- In June, TNRF had its first interaction with the Parliamentary Natural Resources and Environment Committee.
- In July with PINGOS and Oxfam, the Rangelands and Livelihoods Task Force met the Minister for Livestock in an effort to develop stronger links to the Ministry with regard to rangeland policy and management.
- A seminar was held in August with Parliamentary Committee on Natural Resources and Environment as part of Rangelands and Livelihood Task Force in the context of a new livestock policy stating that pastoralists should settle and become sedentary – in effect leading to parcelled lands, and the end of open rangelands.
- In August TNRF facilitated a workshop with the Forestry and Beekeeping Division as part of the process of developing Joint Forest Management guidelines under the Forest Act of 2002.
- In November a Team of members of the Parliamentary Natural Resources and Environment Committee made a study visit to Namibia to see how rights-based approaches to wildlife management outside protected areas really work.
- In November with key partners and advisors TNRF carried out a self assessment and came up with a straight forward strategy and plan.

- Looking forward, 2007 will be a year for building the capacity of the Secretariat. In this regard it was recommended that the Steering Committee should continue for another year in office to consolidate what it had started off. Expectations are that the current working groups will be strengthened and more will be started.

The chairperson concluded by thanking all those who made TNRF's development possible especially the former Coordinator – Liz Singleton – and the whole Steering Committee.

THE REPORT WAS ADOPTED BY THE MEMBERS.

5. Receiving and Considering the Treasurer's Report

(A full copy of the Treasurer's report is available upon request from the Secretariat)

TNRF Treasurer presented a short overview of the organization's account for year 2006. He reported that:-

- The income and expenditure for 2006 had improved greatly due to increased fundraising and a diversification of TNRF's funding base.
- The organization's financial outlook was relatively healthy.
- The organization needed to further increase its funding portfolio in line with the new strategy and emphasis on communication and member participation
- The organization would develop a strategic funding plan.

The Treasurer concluded by expressing that an efficient and effective accounts system had now put in place to meet international standards. He recommended that the auditor had proficiently audited TNRF's accounts and proposed that the auditor's services be retained for the following financial year.

6. Appointment of an Auditor and Attorney of Law

The General Assembly appoint VA Business Associates as Auditor for 2007;

The General Assembly did not appoint an Attorney of Law

7. Steering Committee

The meeting was informed that there were three vacant posts in the Steering Committee which needed to be filled.

The General Assembly nominated and seconded three TNRF members to become TNRF Steering Committee members. The new Steering Members who were nominated and supported by Assembly are as follows:-

1. Charles Meshack – Executive Director, Tanzania Forestry Conservation Group
2. Moses Ole-Neselle – ILRI Simanjiro
3. Janemary Ntalwila – Istituto of OIKOS

8. Any other Business: Plenary discussions

8.1 Working groups

Due to time limit there was no presentation of TNRF working groups' activities but with the assent of the Annual General Meeting a short research proposal on animal counts to be undertaken in Simanjiro area was presented by Dr Ole-Neselle. He presented the research work which he asked members if they could send him comments.

8.2 Plenary discussion

In plenary discussion members raised the following concerns that were to be addressed as action points before the next AGM.

8.21 What is the effect of upgrading or promoting reserved areas to protected areas or national parks to the communities living adjacent to such areas?

ACTION TAKEN: With its partners and members, TNRF has followed this issue. The most controversial example of negative impacts of protected areas on people during 2006-2007 was the eviction of pastoralists and agro-pastoralists from the Ihefu wetlands. This became a major national issue, in part due to the awareness-raising efforts of some of TNRF's partners such as PINGOs and HakiArdhi. Hundreds of people were evicted from the Ihefu wetlands together with at least 200,000 head of livestock in response to the perceived degradation which was perceived as being the ultimate cause of the Ruaha River and the Mtera Hydroelectric Dam drying up. In addition, the evictions created the precedent for expanding the Ruaha National Park through the annexation of the Usangu Game Reserve.

In addition to the documentary and advocacy work of PINGOS, LHRC and HakiArdhi, TNRF commissioned a report as part of a collaborative study on 'Options for Pastoralists to Secure their livelihoods' which provided an analysis of how the Usangu evictions came about and the response of Parliament and civil society to the evictions. The full report is available on the TNRF website at: <http://www.tnrf.org/node/7487>

8.22 What is the progress of the Wildlife Bill?

ACTION TAKEN: The Secretariat continued to follow-up the progress of the Wildlife Bill throughout 2007, but little information, apart from assertions that the bill was in its final stages of drafting, was forthcoming.

8.23 If we could have more or frequent effective sessions of meetings to have in-depth discussions of critical issues affecting members. A yearly time schedule could be prepared and sent to members by Secretariat.

ACTION TAKEN: The Secretariat tried in vain to organise a series of seminars and meetings in collaboration with the Wildlife Conservation Society of Tanzania (Arusha Branch) as a way of pooling resources. The small Secretariat struggled with time constraints, and prioritised growing the organisation instead as a long-term solution for improving member services. Instead, TNRF's working groups continued to meet.

8.24 The objective of such meeting is to bring different groups with different interests to have a common ground. But how do these meetings bring the groups to air the same voice?

ACTION TAKEN: TNRF's diverse membership means that the diversity of interests can be a strength as well as a weakness. Conflicting interests and opinions are to be expected, and the key to moving forward is conflict management, and where possible, resolution. The Secretariat has been working hard to improve its capacity in this regard and the understanding of active members of the need to agree and the need to agree to disagree if necessary, but still work together on issues of commonality.

8.25 How is the issue of human/wildlife conflict perceived to the different stakeholders?

ACTION TAKEN: The TNRF Secretariat worked to develop funding and recruit a programme officer on Human and Wildlife Conflict during 2007. Due to unavoidable delays, the programme start was postponed to early 2008. It is anticipated that the programme will support communities, conservation organisations, districts and central government to develop effective policies and practices for managing and finding solutions to Human Wildlife Conflict.

8.26 What is the possibility of establishing a website message board? Will this reach all those we intend to since some of them do not have access to email?

ACTION TAKEN: The TNRF Secretariat completely redeveloped TNRF's website, during 2007, together with a website message board as requested.

8.27 In initiating and promoting mutual relationships with partners who will take the facilitation role?

ACTION TAKEN: The TNRF Secretariat works together with its members to facilitate relationship development. Ultimately it is for TNRF members to develop relationships with each other, and the TNRF Secretariat can, and continues to, play an instrumental role in this regard.

8.28 Who will make follow up of all what was discussed in the meeting to sustain pressure from the members?

ACTION TAKEN: The TNRF Secretariat has followed up on all the above issues, in collaboration with TNRF members.

9 Closing

Due to time limit the meeting was closed by the facilitator at 5:30 pm. He invited all participants to a small reception.

We the undersigned office bearers authorise these minutes as a true reflection of the proceedings of the TNRF Annual General Meeting 2006.

The Chairman

The Secretary

Alais Morindat

Andrew Williams

Arusha, 10th October 2008

List of participants to TNRF AGM

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