## **Project Update: January 2016**

The beginning of 2016 has been encouraging and very exciting one for us, as my team and I were able to support the community members in developing community rights manual and also able to simplify versions of the relevant forest and wildlife policies with all the 10 communities in the Mafia C traditional area. The objective of the manual is titled "Managing and enhancing the ecological integrity of sacred forest and other ecosystems in the Mafia C landscape"

Validation of the community rights manual is ongoing in the Mafia C area with all stakeholders involved. Bushfire is increasing at an alarming rate in the landscape since we are in the dry season/harmattan period and massive education on wildfire management is ongoing in the communities with support from all stakeholders. Next step will be sharing community rights manual with all stakeholders, through fora and radio broadcast/radio synopsis.

Capacities of at least five community-based organisations were strengthened to co-train community members beyond end of this project. District assembly (government) legal backing secured for empowerment of the forest protection plan of backing, rules and regulations adopted as bylaws in the Mafia C area.

