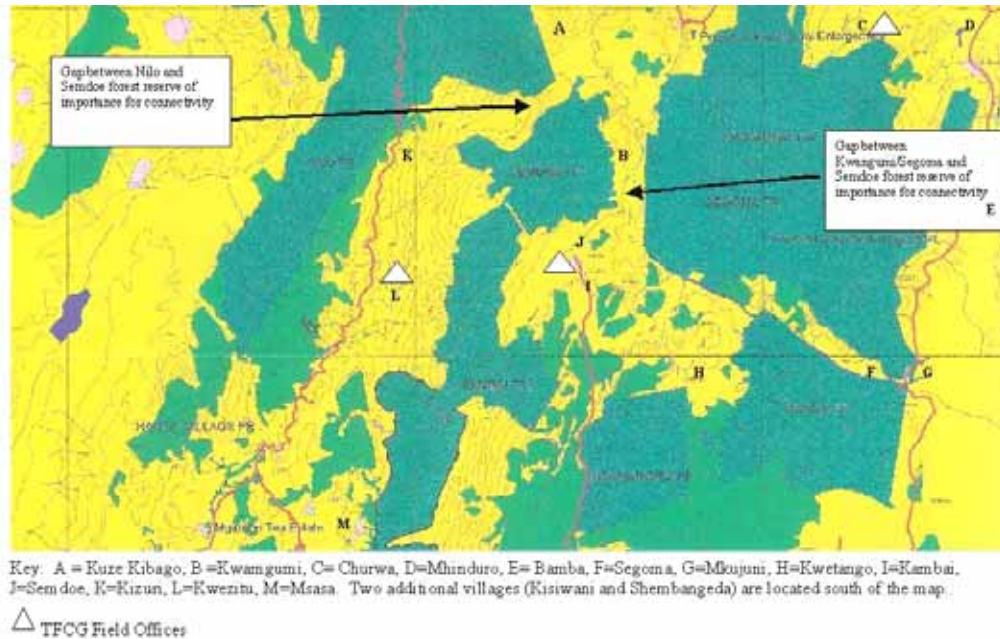


therefore putting efforts towards preventing loss of these important species and also improving forest connectivity through restoration and maintaining corridors which link these lowland forests to the sub-montane and montane forests (Map 2).



2.1.4 Hydrology

The East Usambara Mountains serves several important ecological functions, which include water catchments. These forests secure water for Tanga city for more than 200,000 inhabitants, (Schut, 1996). Likewise, the forests contribute water to Pangani River, which is also useful for hydroelectricity generation. The forests are vital for the long-term sustainability of smallholder agriculture and industrial plantations, such as sisal, cocoa and tea estates.

2.1.5 Livelihoods

In terms of livelihoods, the forests of the East Usambaras play a crucial role in supporting the local population, the majority of which live close to and are dependent on the forests for many of the goods and services they provide. These include medicinal plants, fuelwood, building materials, mushrooms, fruits and