

## **HO TatuTano – a „complex system“ (mfumo wenye sehemu/tabia nyingi)**

TatuTano has end of December 2020 about 2'600 members in around 440 groups, organized in 16 clusters.

### **1. As introduction: What can we learn from geese?**

Geese fly in V-formation. Each bird produces lift for the following bird by each flapping the wings. By flying in V-formation the whole swarms of 20 or more geeses produces with the same energy 70% more flight attitudes as each bird would fly alone.

If a goose falls out of the formation it feels suddenly the resistance of the air and the difficulty to fly alone.

Also the children and youth of TatuTano have a common direction and a feeling of community – so they arrive elsewhere faster and more simply because they rely one on the other. It makes sense to remain in formation with those, which are already on the way where they want to go.

### **2. TatuTano is a „complex system“**

TatuTano is **NOT** a „simple system“ (mfumo sahili) where there is a clear and direct connection between an influence i.e. what we are doing (e.g. a meeting on how to make a banda or a cluster meeting) and the behavior of the participants: for a simple system the rule is „when A, then B“ or „ $2 + 2 = 4$ “. So - when we explain in a simple system a banda for mbuzi ALL participants will construct the same type of banda. The leaders can calculate their influence: all the banda will be similar.

But TatuTano is a **COMPLEX SYSTEM**: each participant of TatuTano will understand the explanation a little bit different e.g. it depends what material will be available and will be used, or personal differences e.g. where and with whom he or she is living, or differences of the group etc. etc. He or she has his or her PERSONAL understanding of what the leader is saying.

### **3. Following some notions which are important to understand TatuTano as a complex system**

#### **1. Insignificant events (tukio sio na maana, sio na thamani, dogo)**

In a complex system like TatuTano it is not possible to distinguish between „insignificant“ and „important“ events. Greeting a member of TatuTano might be as important as a to prepare a course. So – everything can become important for the participants.

Rule: If I can't evaluate my actions by their effects, it remains for me only to be careful and have always in mind that my action can have potentially large effects. Mutual dialogues can make the meaning end the potential of so-called insignificant events visible.

#### **2. Feedback (mwitiko, majibu ya utekelezaji wa maazimio)**

We speak of „impact“, if the result of an activity affects future activities of the same participant. (We use sometimes the picture of the butterfly in Asia which can produce a heavy storm in Africa or elsewhere)

### 3. Control

In complex systems like TatuTano we speak less of „steering“ than „to modificate“, „to influence“ in order to bring TatuTano in a certain direction but without the guarantee that our influence obtains the desired effect.

### 4. Time delay

Within TatuTano we can observe that certain activity of the leaders or facilitators show a certain effect after some time.

### 5. Finally: the role of the vision

A vision is something like a „mental backbone“ (tabia ya uti wa mgongo): it provides in all branches of TatuTano (groups, cluster meeting, self-defence, PiaD, I feel it, PAMOJA) a collective understanding of goals and aims, a general view of the desired final of TatuTano. Visions help to align the thinking and acting of all participants to common goals.

Visions contribute to a „learning culture“ for the participating individuals (members AND leaders) and a common value orientation within the organisation and helps to give TatuTano as a complex system a direction.

Antoine St. Exupery says in „The city in the desert“: „If you want to build a ship so don't call the men together, in order to procure the wood, to prepare the tools, to assign the tasks and to divide the work, but teach the men the longing after the endless sea.“

### Proposal for „vision“ and „mission“ for TatuTano

#### Vision

Children and youth feel capable to respond on the actual and coming challenges and to preserve their food security and their personal security

#### Mission

Prepare children and youth for a life with mainly unknown difficulties (e.g. with the climate): in education, financing, food security, projects, gender, leadership.