



FACT SHEET

Project: REDD Architecture in Tanzania: Assessment of REDD options for Livelihood Security and Sustainable Development

Team members:

Dos Santos Silayo (Principal Investigator), Sokoine University of Agriculture
Khamaldin D.S. Mutabazi (Co-researcher), Sokoine University of Agriculture
George C. Kajembe (Co-researcher), Sokoine University of Agriculture
Zahabu Eliakimu (Co-researcher), Sokoine University of Agriculture
Fatihya A. Massawe (Co-researcher), Sokoine University of Agriculture
Arild Vatn (Co-researcher), Norwegian University of Life Sciences
Paul Vedeld (Co-researcher), Norwegian University of Life Sciences
Darley Kjosavik (Co-researcher), Norwegian University of Life Sciences

Project description

Climate change is one of the biggest global problems posing challenges to sustainable livelihoods and economic development, particularly for Least Developed Countries (LDCs). The adverse impacts of climate change on environment, human health, food security, human settlements, economic activities, natural resources and physical infrastructure are already noticeable in many countries. There are a number of global and national efforts to address the problem of climate change through adaptation and mitigation activities. Tanzania has the potential to participate in addressing the problem of climate change through enhancing the role of forests in climate change mitigation.

The Tanzania REDD+ strategy provides viable and feasible options for managing forests and woodlands in more sustainable ways while at the same time addressing poverty and food security in the country. The government has also put in place national plans and strategies to support carbon emission reduction.

This research project will provide information that will help to implement the REDD+ strategy in Tanzania. The focus will be on what REDD+ options are available to landholders, local communities and the nation as a whole, the costs and implications for livelihood security, biodiversity conservation and sustainable forest management. The information that will be generated from this project will complement other studies on REDD+ initiatives in developing countries and Tanzania in particular.

Description of the research

The overall objective of this project is to generate information and a knowledge base on the effectiveness and legitimacy of REDD+ institutional arrangements established in Tanzania and their effects on livelihoods, equity, emissions reduction and biodiversity conservation.

Specific objectives:

1. To identify REDD+ institutional arrangements established in Tanzania
2. To assess peoples' perceptions on, and attitude towards, REDD+ institutional arrangements established in REDD+ pilots areas in Tanzania
3. To assess the effects of REDD+ institutional arrangements established in Tanzania on livelihoods, equity, emission reductions and biodiversity conservation
4. To estimate implementation, transaction and opportunity costs of REDD+ options
5. To suggest institutional arrangements for developing a feasible REDD+ strategy for ensuring equity and sustainable development benefits

This study is being conducted in two REDD+ pilot sites namely (1) Rungwe, in Rungwe District, Mbeya Region; and (2) Kolo Hills Forest Reserve in Kondoa District, Dodoma Region (Figure 1). The sites were selected on the basis of their differences in ecology, forest management regimes and cultural behavior but also on the fact that they are located in REDD+ Pilot sites.

The Rungwe pilot project covers four areas – Mt. Rungwe Nature Reserve, Livingstone Nature Reserve, Kitulo National Park and Mbizi Forest Reserve. The villages involved in the study are Ndala, Kabale, Kibisi (Pilot Project), Ikama and Katumba (control villages).

Kondoa District consists of 34 villages. REDD+ is being piloted by the African Wildlife Foundation (AWF) in 19 villages that surround three major forest blocks of Salanka, Isabe and Kome Forest Reserves on the Irangi Hills and Irangi Escarpment which together constitute the so-called Kolo Hills forest reserves. AWF works closely with the local government and communities in the implementation of REDD+. Its main goal is to deliver climate change mitigation and improvement of the livelihood of local communities. This research project involved five villages, namely Mnemia, Bereko, Kikore, Gwandi and Haubi.

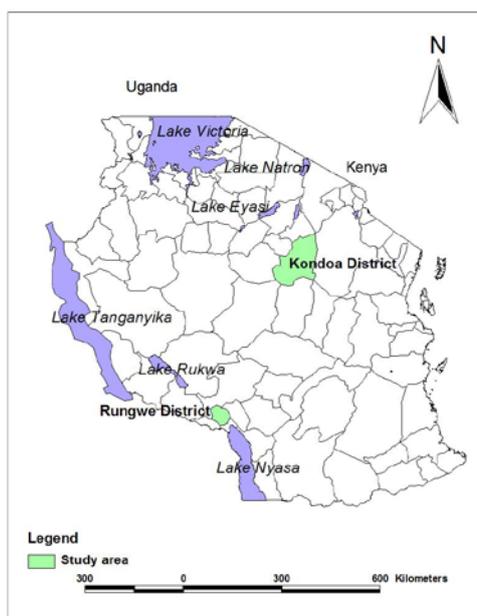


Figure 1: Map of Tanzania showing the study sites

Preliminary results and observations

- Forests are the main livelihood assets in the pilot project areas.

- Except for the reserved lands, land tenure is still not evident in the surveyed areas. There are no clear land-use plans in most villages, especially those outside REDD+ pilot schemes. This will have effects on REDD+ initiatives from leakage despite the fact that about half of the studied communities were aware of the REDD+ initiatives alongside other conservation measures in their areas.
- Joint Forest Management (JFM) and Community Based Forest Management (CBFM) regimes seemed to be good models for REDD+ in addressing climate change mitigation and livelihood security. In areas where general lands exist in villages it has been possible to create forest reserves under CBFM while JFM has been emphasized in villages that border government forests.
- It was found that most forests in the Rungwe pilot area were upgraded to a Nature Reserve from a Forest Reserve status which initially were managed under Joint Forest Management (JFM) arrangements while one (Kitulo Game Reserve) became a National Park. It is therefore not clear how well JFM will work in Nature Reserves to deliver REDD+ incentives. Different livelihood options have been identified in the study areas. These include conservation agriculture, tree planting, fish farming, improved livestock breeds, and beekeeping. A big shortfall of these initiatives is the extension to the communities who lost their rights to the forest. The likelihood that the option will be feasible and include a large part of the “losers” is not yet explored.
- Natural resources conservation awareness varied considerably in both as a result of several factors. In Rungwe district, for example, people have adapted to land scarcity by practising conservation agriculture, improved livestock keeping and tree planting (woodlots establishment) for local consumption and business. Many households, therefore, use forest products from their own land and the opportunity costs of keeping them from cutting their forest/woodlots to ensure permanence is relatively very high. The Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) which pilots REDD+ in this area, decided not to effect payments but rather to encourage households to plant more and participate in the conservation of native forests.
- Most people would consider stopping deforestation and forest degradation if they received compensation relative to the loss of income they encounter.
- Past conservation initiatives in both sites have shown to have created negative perceptions on REDD+ implementation. In Kondoa district, most villages and communities equate REDD+ and land grabbing. This was a result of the experience they had with the HADO (Hifadhi Ardhi Dodoma) programme Swahili transition of the “soil conservation in Dodoma Region” in the past decades where most people lost their land to conservation initiatives.

Preliminary recommendations

- Non-forestry livelihood pathways should be explored and enhanced;
- Secure resource tenure should be ensured in both project and non project areas to curb leakage;
- REDD+ programmes should provide appropriate incentives while maintaining high level stakeholders’ consultations in the whole process;
- Carbon tenure should be made clear in Tanzania to encourage community participation in REDD+ programmes.

For further information about this project, please contact:

Dr. Dos Santos Silayo, Senior Lecturer in Forest Operations Management, Modelling, Forest Resource Assessment
 Sokoine University of Agriculture
 P. O. Box 3007
 Morogoro, Tanzania
 Tel +255-768915151, 0784402162
 E-mail: santos@suanet.ac.tz or dsilayo@yahoo.co.uk

