



Tanzania Forest Conservation Group
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MAKING REDD WORK FOR COMMUNITIES AND FOREST CONSERVATION IN TANZANIA

FIVE STEPS TO GET REDD RIGHT(S)

The vision of Tanzania's National Strategy for Reduced Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation is that:

'Tanzania implements a National REDD+ Strategy that ensures conservation and/or enhancements of its unique biodiversity values and forest ecosystems and the corresponding benefits, goods and services are equitably shared by all stakeholders for adaptation, mitigation and adoption of a low carbon development pathway under all processes as required by the UNFCCC.'

These are goals that almost everyone can agree on. The question is how best to achieve these goals. Here we present five measures that would help to make REDD in Tanzania more effective and more equitable.

Step 1: Recognise community rights to forest on village land.

In keeping with the interpretation of land law adopted by the Ministry of Lands, the National REDD Task Force should recognise that forests that lie outside of village forest reserves but within village boundaries are on Village Land and not General Land and are thus under the authority of the Village Assembly. Consistent misrepresentation of unreserved forests within village boundaries as being General Land leaves them open to land grabbing and exploitation without the consent of the village thereby increasing the risk of deforestation.

For more information on this please see our policy brief on REDD and Village Land at www.tfcg.org/MakingREDDWork.html

Step 2: Recognize that communities have the right to all REDD revenues pertaining to forests on their land.

Forests on village land fall under the authority of the Village Assembly who are entitled to decide on the distribution of revenues that accrue from them. As trees and carbon are inseparable, the right to REDD revenues should follow this principle. The National REDD strategy and related policy and legal documents should be clear that communities are entitled to REDD revenues accrued from reduced deforestation on their land. This is both more equitable and will be more effective by channelling the incentive directly to the communities.



You can't separate the carbon from the trees....



Performance-based payments will be more effective and more equitable than effort-based or forest area-based payments.

Step 3: REDD revenues should be paid to those who reduce deforestation

At an international level, REDD funds will only flow to countries that are successful at reducing deforestation. This principle of performance-based payments should also apply at the local level if REDD is to be effective. For REDD to result in rapid reductions of deforestation in Tanzania, communities must receive significant financial benefits for reducing emissions. These need to exceed the opportunity costs of not clearing forest. Performance based cash payments to community members create the most direct incentive for communities to reduce deforestation. Cash payments to individuals in participating rural communities are most likely to succeed at merging the dual goals of reducing deforestation and promoting rural development. Individual payments supports the diverse needs and interests in a community, ensuring the greatest number of community members realize economic benefits from REDD+.

Step 4: Implement benefit sharing for jointly managed forests and explicitly include revenues generated from REDD.

Tanzanian policy and law support the rights of communities to access revenues from jointly managed forests. Rewarding communities who succeed in reducing deforestation and forest degradation in government forest reserves is more equitable and more effective. Guidelines on the proportion of revenues that communities are entitled to from forests under joint management have been eagerly awaited since the National Forest Policy was passed in 1998. But communities and other stakeholders have so far waited in vain. Benefit sharing has remained an unfulfilled policy promise to the frustration of communities and other stakeholders; and to the detriment of both the forests and the communities. With the launch of the Tanzania Forest Service (TFS) and the Tanzania Forest Fund (TFF) in 2011 and with revenues from REDD now a real possibility, it is

time that TFS act boldly to make benefit sharing a reality with explicit provisions for the sharing of REDD revenues.

Step 5: Commit to developing, monitoring and enforcing social and environmental standards for REDD, with the full participation of stakeholders.

In order for REDD to be implemented in a way that is equitable, effective and environmentally sustainable, there is a need for stakeholders to reach consensus on the principles and standards that should underpin REDD in Tanzania. This should include a commitment to comply with the strongest international standards to reduce negative impacts from REDD and seeking the greatest possible positive social and environmental benefits. Consensus also needs to be reached as to how the standards can be monitored and enforced. The design of the standard should be done with the full and informed participation of stakeholders including communities.



What are the social and environmental principles and standards that should guide REDD in Tanzania?

Making REDD work for Communities and Forest Conservation in Tanzania

This leaflet was published as part of the project 'Making REDD work for communities and forest Conservation in Tanzania', a 5 year partnership project between the Tanzania Forest Conservation Group and the Community Forest Conservation Network of Tanzania (MJUMITA). The project aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in Tanzania in ways that provide direct and equitable incentives to communities to conserve and manage forests sustainably. The project will achieve this by supporting the development of a Community Carbon Enterprise hosted within the existing Network of Tanzanian communities engaged in participatory forest management. The project is sponsored by the Norwegian government and was launched in September 2009.

www.tfcg.org/makingReddWork.html

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