



## Making REDD work for communities and forest conservation in Tanzania

Summary of progress between March and August 2011



Land use planning in Likwaya, Lindi.

As a result of the project's activities over the last six months, REDD readiness is now underway in 22 villages including two villages who have completed village land use plans, participatory forest management and REDD by-laws. Progress has also been made towards channelling REDD finance to communities based on a performance-based model for REDD by completing additional components of the REDD project design documents.

### Summary of achievements during this reporting period:

- 7 villages, with a population of 10,903, have drafted village land use plans and by-laws.
- The social impact assessment has been completed for the Kilosa Project Site and the historical forest change analysis has been completed for the Lindi Project Site.
- REDD-readiness activities were launched in nine additional villages, bringing the total number of villages benefiting from the project up to 36.
- Lessons learnt from the project have been shared locally, nationally and internationally through radio, newspapers, television, meetings, printed materials and the internet.

### About 'Making REDD work for communities and forest conservation in Tanzania'

This 5 year partnership project was launched in September 2009 by the Tanzania Forest Conservation Group (TFCG) and the Community Forest Conservation Network of Tanzania (MJUMITA). The project aims to demonstrate at local, national and international levels, a pro-poor approach to reducing deforestation and forest degradation by generating equitable financial incentives from carbon finance sources for communities that are sustainably managing or conserving Tanzanian forests at community level.

The project is being implemented in two biodiversity hotspots. One site covers 17 villages in Lindi Region in the Coastal Forest ecoregion. The other site covers 19 villages in the Eastern Arc Mountains of Kilosa and Mpwapwa Districts.



*Canopy cover measurement using a spherical densiometer by a VNRC member from Mkanga 1 village, Lindi.  
Photo by Baraka Samweli*

**Output 1: Progress towards the development of replicable, equitable and cost-effective models for reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD) on village and government forest land in ways that maximize benefits to communities, forests and the nation.**

### ***Developing a project design document for the Voluntary Carbon Standard***

Over the last few months the project has continued with the development of the project design documents for both sites. This has included completing the historical forest change analysis for Lindi consistent with the approved VCS methods developed by the BioCarbon Fund. The analysis for Kilosa and Mpwapwa is also under way. Using modified NAFORMA methods, the project has collected carbon data from 67 plots across the two project sites. Data has been collected with the participation of

community members of whom 382 have been trained in the carbon measurement methods. The project has also completed the social impact assessments for both sites.

### ***REDD readiness at community level***

In consultation with communities, a payment model has been developed and 22 villages have completed or are in the process of completing REDD by-laws, village land use plans and establishing village forest reserves. The project has adopted a more integrated approach to participatory forest management, land use planning and REDD with a view to achieving better protection for those forests that are at immediate threat from deforestation. This has also involved awareness raising through meetings with communities and distribution of printed materials on the concept of additionality. So far the project has facilitated the establishment and inclusion of more than 31,373 ha of forests on village land into village Forest Reserves in 9 villages. Consultation and awareness raising has also been carried out with communities on REDD revenue sharing options and a detailed revenue sharing model for the project has now been developed. Swahili guidelines for communities have been developed to guide them through the integration of REDD into CBFM and land use planning and awareness raising materials have been distributed outlining the proposed REDD payment mechanism.



*Members of the Village Land Use Planning team mark the village boundary of Mkombamosi Village, Lindi.  
Photo by Raymond Nlelwa*

Improving governance is integral to the project's REDD readiness activities. In Kilosa, the project has supported communities to establish four community forestry networks to address governance issues at village and site-level.

The networks have developed constitutions; elected their leaders; and opened bank accounts. Training on governance has also been provided to 241 community members from 23 villages. The networks have started to combat issues such as illegal timber harvesting. The networks have also been a catalyst for spreading information about improved livelihood activities.

The capacity of the communities to implement REDD-readiness activities has been further enhanced through the distribution of equipment aimed at improving governance, communication and forest management. This includes bicycles, mobile phones with solar chargers, stationery for record keeping and raincoats and boots for forest patrols.



*The project has supported three villages to construct a village office. The buildings include offices for the Village Government, the village natural resources committees and a village land registry*



*FBD Publicity Unit conducting the fire awareness campaign in Lindi. Photo by Raymond Nlelwa.*

**Output 2: Progress towards the development of replicable, equitable and cost-effective models designed to address the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation and to reduce leakage across project sites in ways that build capacity of communities and other stakeholders.**

Through a participatory planning process, communities have identified various strategies to reduce deforestation and forest degradation in the area. These include improving agriculture; fire prevention campaigns; environmental education; improved stoves and support for various income generating activities. To support these strategies, over the last six months, the project has developed agricultural strategies for both sites working with the zonal Agricultural Research Institutes; has trained 100 farmers in different

agricultural techniques through training events, study tours and participation in nane nane exhibitions; has conducted fire awareness campaigns involving over 10,000 people; has trained 62 teachers in environmental education; and has launched a programme to support income generating activities in the project villages. The project also remains committed to building capacity to engage in REDD at different levels. 34 District staff from Kilosa were trained in carbon monitoring and progress has been made towards the establishment of a REDD-oriented training programme for field practitioners at the Forestry Training Institute at Olmotonyi. A Swahili manual for training communities on REDD and participatory forest management has been finalised and is being printed.

**Output 3: Progress towards monitoring, evaluation and documentation processes that assess the overall impact of the project at local and national levels and communications of the findings.**

The project has been continuing with the implementation of its monitoring, evaluation and communication plan. Through 60 disturbance transects, 67 carbon monitoring plots, botanical and mammal surveys and household surveys in 1 additional village, the project has contributed additional data to the project's baseline. The baseline shows high rates of disturbance in both project sites; and widespread poverty. Populations of 9 Eastern Arc endemic plant species have been identified in the Kilosa landscape; and 12 Coastal Forest endemic species in the Lindi landscape including one range extension. A critically endangered primate species, the Rondo galago was recorded from village land on the Noto plateau.

The project continues to collaborate with various research projects including the CIFOR-led Global Comparative Study on REDD.

The project's plans, results and lessons learned have been communicated using the following means:

- 5 newspaper articles in national newspapers and 1 article in the TNRF REDD e-news;
- Eight radio programmes on local stations in the two sites; two radio programmes on national stations and two television programmes;
- 37 visitors visited our project site;
- Presentations and discussions with 8 Senior FBD staff; 54 District Heads of Department and Ward Councillors; and 20 members of the parliamentary committee on environment, land and natural resources;
- Regular updates have been made to the project web page;
- Quarterly progress reports in Swahili for both Lindi and Kilosa were distributed to District staff and communities;
- Presentations were made and information shared during 9 multi-stakeholder meetings including six international meetings;
- 2000 copies of project leaflets were printed in Swahili and English;
- Lessons learnt were presented as a poster display during the ATBC-SCB Africa meeting in Arusha.



*The project has recorded the presence of the critically endangered Rondo galago on the Noto plateau. Photo by Andrew Perkin*



*Visitors from the National REDD Task Force meet with community members from Dodoma Isanga in the Kilosa project site. Photo by Hassan Chikira*

**Output 4: Progress towards advocacy at national and international levels that promotes equitable and effective REDD benefit sharing mechanisms, in particular with regard to forest managers at the community level.**

Policy issues are critical to the success of the project. For example, the success of a community-oriented, performance-based REDD model will depend on the government recognizing community rights to directly access REDD revenues generated from reduced deforestation on village land. In order to generate more awareness and debate on these issues, the project has developed policy briefs; made presentations; and worked with journalists to publish newspaper articles and radio programmes about REDD. Radio and television spots were developed that highlight the importance of community rights in REDD and these were broadcasted 12 times on TBC Radio and 52 times on TBC 1 respectively.

**Key messages for policy makers**

- Recognise community rights to forest on village land.
- Recognise that communities have the right to all REDD revenues pertaining to forests on their land.
- REDD revenues should be paid to those who reduce deforestation.
- Implement benefit sharing for jointly managed forests and explicitly include revenues generated from REDD.
- Commit to developing, monitoring and enforcing social and environmental standards for REDD, with the full participation of stakeholders.

The project considers the adoption of REDD standards to be critical for the successful implementation of REDD. As such, the project commissioned a detailed report to look at how standards and safeguards can be integrated into national policies and legislation. The report looks at four sets of international REDD safeguards and standards and compares these with Tanzanian (mainland) laws and policies.

Working with CARE and TNRF, the project has also been carrying out research and advocacy on the issue of gender and REDD. A detailed report was commissioned that seeks to identify ways of ensuring

that gender issues are well integrated in REDD processes. The reports and policy briefs are available on the project web page.

**Challenges and adaptation**

One of the challenges that the project has been working on over the last six months is to improve the way that land use planning and community based forest management planning are integrated at community level. In particular the project has been looking into how better to integrate sustainable use into village forest reserve management plans. Working with District staff and FBD, the project has developed a modified approach to these processes which has been implemented successfully in two villages. Other challenges include the continued uncertainty around national and international REDD policy. Civil society participation in the development of a revised National REDD strategy has been limited and there is a need for stronger mechanisms to link the experiences and lessons learned from the REDD pilot projects with policy development.

**Way forward**

Over the next six months the project will be focusing on finalising the VCS and CCB project design documents; piloting the payment mechanism; and progressing with the land use planning, participatory forest management, improved agriculture and support for income generating activities at community level. The project will also be looking in more detail at linkages between REDD and agriculture. In order to bring our advocacy messages up to the international level, members of the project team will be participating in the UNFCCC COP 17 in Durban in collaboration with TNRF.

**INFORMATION BRIEF**

**Making REDD work for Communities and Forest Conservation in Tanzania**

**Understanding International REDD standards in the context of Tanzanian policies and laws**

This policy brief compares the internationally recognized social and environmental safeguards and standards and compares them with the Tanzania draft National REDD Strategy and other relevant national policies and laws. The brief aims to inform discussions within Tanzania regarding the way forward for national REDD standards. It is based on a more comprehensive study that is available at [www.tfcg.org/forReddWork.html](http://www.tfcg.org/forReddWork.html)

**Which international standards and safeguards are most relevant to Tanzania?**

Among several existing and emerging REDD standards, four internationally recognized sets are particularly applicable to the Tanzanian national programme:

- UNFCCC Guidance and Safeguards:** A high-level general set of guidelines and safeguards developed in three phases. They are mostly precautionary in nature, requiring ongoing analysis. They primarily sought to limit the potential international concern for REDD activities, processes, and outcomes. As a Party to the convention, Tanzania has a strong incentive to comply with them.
- Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) standards:** The World Bank has 7 operational guidance (OG) that are applicable to REDD+. These address the WFP social and environmental safeguards and processes. Activities under FCPF must comply with the OG. Tanzania is a participant in FCPF. Resilient Rural Livelihoods (RRL) requires use a Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA), and Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF), to ensure consistency with OGs in the readiness phase.
- UN REDD programme's draft Social and Environmental Principles and Criteria, Free, prior, and informed consent guidelines, and complaint mechanisms guidelines:** Much focused on avoiding / mitigating negative impacts. UN REDD standards closely align with UN DPF and other human rights instruments and multi-lateral environmental agreements to which Tanzania is Party.
- REDD+ Social and Environmental Standards (S&ES):** These standards support the design and implementation of government-led REDD+ programmes. It helps ensure respect for the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities and to help promote significant social and environmental positive impacts. The standards require explicit, informed consent requirements. The development has been based on an ongoing engagement with governments, civil society, academia, community, international NGOs, and research institutions, and the process within the process is being led by the Climate, & Biodiversity Alliance (CBA) and CARE International.

**What are REDD standards?**

REDD+ has achieved potential benefits and has for forest dependent communities and the economy in Tanzania. It is important that social and environmental risks are mitigated, benefits be enhanced, and costs and benefits be equitably shared. To help ensure that such issues are addressed in REDD+, social and environmental standards (also called "safeguards") provide a framework for implementing REDD+ in an equitable and sustainable way.

**Safeguards or standards? Do we have or do we need?**

Generally speaking, "safeguards" represent minimum standards for REDD+, and "standards" are set for additional specific benefits for people and the environment.

**Why should we bother with REDD standards?**

Standards are important for ensuring that social and environmental risks are identified and addressed consistently in REDD+ pilot, programme, implementation, and outcomes. Standards help address concerns about the potential unintended of how REDD will be implemented and provide a framework for identifying and addressing social and environmental risks. They provide a clear set of environmental and social terms to guide different stakeholders' engagement in REDD.

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**Making REDD work for communities and forest conservation in Tanzania**

**Making REDD work for communities and forest conservation in Tanzania**

In September 2009, TFCG initiated a partnership project that aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from deforestation and degradation in Tanzania in ways that provide direct and equitable incentives to communities to conserve and manage forests sustainably.

**Rationale for the project**

Tanzania has been a world leader in the development of participatory forest management. In Tanzania, forests under participatory forest management are generally better managed with lower rates of deforestation and forest degradation. Forests are better managed when the

For more information about the project please visit <http://www.tfcg.org/makingReddWork.html>  
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