Making REDD work for Communities and Forest Conservation in Tanzania: a Partnership Project

Collaborating institutions
The following institutions are important collaborators in the project:

- CARE International
- Clinton Foundation
- Institute of Resource Assessment of the University of Dar es Salaam
- Katoomba Group / Forest Trends
- Regional Community Forestry Training Centre for Asia and the Pacific
- Sokoine University of Agriculture
- Tanzania Natural Resources Forum
- WWF - TCO

The project is also working closely with local government in the pilot sites and with members of the National REDD Task Force including the Forestry and Beekeeping Division and the Vice President’s Office, Environment Division.

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REDD in a biodiversity hotspot
The project is being implemented in two landscapes. The first is in Lindi District and includes areas of East African coastal forest and woodland; the second is in Kilosa and Mwapwa Districts and includes parts of the Eastern Arc Mountains. Both areas lie within biodiversity hotspots.
REDD will only work in Tanzania if communities are fully involved

Tanzania has been a world leader in the development of participatory forest management. In Tanzania, forests under participatory forest management are better managed with lower rates of deforestation and degradation. Forests are better managed when the women and men who live around them, are involved in their management.

In order for participatory forest management to be sustainable and equitable, tangible benefits need to accrue directly to the communities that are managing them.

By helping to protect our planet’s climate by reducing emissions of greenhouse gases from deforestation and forest degradation, communities are providing a valuable service to the global community. REDD offers an opportunity for communities to be recompensed for that service whilst enhancing their capacity to manage and benefit from their forests.

Deforestation and forest degradation are the second largest source of carbon dioxide emissions into the atmosphere worldwide. If the world is to stabilise global temperature change then emissions from deforestation and forest degradation must be achieved.

Making REDD work for communities and forest conservation in Tanzania

The purpose of this project is to demonstrate a pro-poor approach to reducing deforestation and forest degradation by generating equitable financial incentives for communities that are sustainably managing Tanzanian forests.

The project is supporting the Tanzanian Community Forest Conservation Network to aggregate and market voluntary emission reductions from its members in accordance with the Voluntary Carbon Standards and the Climate, Community and Biodiversity Project Standards. Project funds and carbon revenues will be channelled directly to the communities thereby maximising incentives to maintain forest cover and reduce deforestation. The project will demonstrate equitable and effective ways of addressing deforestation drivers and will build capacity at local and national level to engage in REDD. The project also includes components on monitoring, evaluation and advocacy.

This is a five year project which was launched in November 2009. The project is financed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Government of Norway.

For more information about the project, please visit: http://www.tfcg.org/MakingReddWork.html

Partnership

The project is being implemented through a partnership of two Tanzanian NGOs, the Tanzania Forest Conservation Group and the Tanzanian Community Forest Conservation Network.

Tanzania Forest Conservation Group

The Tanzania Forest Conservation Group has over 25 years experience in working with issues relating to forest conservation in Tanzania. Through TFCG’s five programmes: advocacy, participatory forest management, environmental education, community development and research, TFCG has succeeded in rolling out innovative and high-impact solutions to the challenges facing Tanzania’s forests and the people that depend on them.

Tanzanian Community Forest Conservation Network (MJUMITA)

MJUMITA is a national network of community groups involved in participatory forest management. The network provides a forum for capacity building, advocacy and communication for these groups. MJUMITA currently has 80 affiliated community networks. MJUMITA’s members are present in 318 villages in 22 districts of Tanzania representing around 500 user groups. MJUMITA has been operational since 2000 and was officially registered as an independent NGO in 2007.