



Tanzania Forest Conservation Group
Shirika la Kuhifadhi Misitu ya Asili Tanzania



Making REDD work for communities and forest conservation in Tanzania

Summary of progress between September 2011 and February 2012

Summary of achievements during this reporting period:

- Individual, trial REDD payments totalling TZS 73,234,540/= were paid to 4,492 people in 5 villages demonstrating that an individual payment mechanism can be made operational and can ensure that poorer households and women benefit equally;
- 15 villages with a total population of 23,300 have completed their village land use plans; established village forest reserves and approved REDD by-laws.
- The majority of District staff and community members in the project area are aware of REDD and consider that it can bring about positive change.
- Nine Eastern Arc endemic reptile and amphibian species were recorded in one village forest reserve highlighting the biological importance of forests on village land.

Lessons learned

- Following the trial REDD payments, project staff observed a shift in attitudes amongst community members in favour of forest conservation. This was observed in the villages where payments were made and in other villages participating in the project who were ready to include larger areas in their village forest reserves.
- Many communities lack robust mechanisms to hold their village councils accountable. This has generated mistrust. As a result some of the communities chose to allocate very little

to community development projects as they feared that the funds would be embezzled.

- Ensuring the informed consent of community members is an ongoing process that requires a commitment to transparency, participation and accountability at all stages.
- There is a need for better and more agricultural extension services for small scale farmers and better coordination and policy alignment between REDD and the agriculture sector.
- In some contexts, REDD revenues are unlikely to cover the opportunity costs and other costs that communities will face in implementing REDD. As such, the price of carbon credits needs to rise and / or additional revenue streams need to be developed for village forest reserves.



Trial REDD payments to individuals in Ruhoma Village, Lindi. Women collected payments for children and other dependents in a household.

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.

Project Location

The project is being implemented in two sites. The sites include 36 villages in 3 districts and 1

municipality. The total project area is 373,200 ha and the total forest area is 215,000 ha.

Lindi Project Site

Lindi Rural District and Lindi Municipality: 17 villages. Project area: 120,00 ha. Forest area: 75,000 ha.

Kilosa and Mpwapwa Project Site (includes 9 villages primarily supported using other funds)

Kilosa District: 13 villages. Project area 200,461 ha. Mpwapwa District: 5 villages. Project area 52,739 ha. Total forest area for Kilosa and Mpwapwa District: 140,000 ha.

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.

REDD readiness at community level

During the participatory planning process that was conducted previously by the project, communities identified village land use planning and participatory forest management as being critical to efforts to reduce deforestation and improve livelihoods. With support from the project, 15 communities have now completed their village land use plans, village forest reserve management plans and by-laws and REDD revenue sharing by-laws at village level and have sent them to the respective District Authorities for approval. Other villages are continuing with the process. A total of 47,850 ha of woodland and forest have been included in 12 village forest reserves. These include forest management units allocated for sustainable use such as fuel wood collection, timber harvesting and bee keeping. In order to ensure that the interests of poorer households and women are properly represented in the planning process, more than 50 % of VNRC members who have been involved in developing the plans are from the poorest wealth category and one third are women.

In order to test the REDD payment mechanism, trial REDD payments were made in three villages in Lindi and two villages in Kilosa. A total of TZS 73,234,540/= were paid out as individual payments to 4,492 community members (1205 men, 1272 women and 2015 children and dependents). The amount to be paid to each village was based on village-specific calculation of the proportion of the total forest area (more than 10 years old) on that village's land that was included in the village forest

reserve; the historical deforestation rate; the potential for avoided deforestation; the potential area likely to be affected by leakage; estimated tons CO₂ / ha; and the estimated price of CO₂ / t. For the villages in Kilosa, values were calculated separately for woodland and montane forest. The payment mechanism was launched following consultation with various stakeholders including the National REDD Task Force and local government. In order to maximize transparency around the events, local government staff, journalists and researchers attended the payment days.

From the individual REDD payments, communities decided to set aside a total of TZS 15,378,031 for community development activities such as contributions towards dispensaries, school desks, village office equipments, and VNRC activities. The amount to be contributed for community development and the kind of project that it was to be spent on was agreed during a Village Assembly meeting according to procedures described in their respective Village REDD by-laws. The amount allocated for community development and the kind of projects varied from one village to the other depending on their particular priorities.

Recognising that community-level governance is critical for the success of our REDD model, the project has continued to provide training to community members on good governance. Training was provided to 509 MJUMITA members from the participating communities including 330 men and 179 women (222 from Kilosa and 287 from Lindi) in participatory forest management, climate change, REDD, governance and advocacy. To further improve village governance, the project has been working closely with the communities to construct village offices that will hold the village land registry and will provide a more conducive work space for the Village Councils. So far the project has supported the

Contributions to community development projects were discussed during village assembly meetings in advance of the payment. Dodoma Isanga Village, Kilosa.



construction of 4 village offices in Lindi and 5 in Kilosa of which two have been finalised.

Accessing the Voluntary Market for Verified Emission Reductions

The project aims to assist communities to sell Verified Emission Reductions on the voluntary carbon market and is continuing to proceed with the development of the project design documents for the Verified Carbon Standard (VCS) and the Climate Community and Biodiversity Project standard. As part of this process, the project has been revising the forest change analysis for our Lindi site and is close to finalising the analysis for the Kilosa and Mpwapwa site. The analysis shows a rate of approximately 2.3 % per annum for Lindi and 0.64 % per annum for Kilosa and Mpwapwa.

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.

Clearance of forests for agricultural land is the main deforestation driver in both sites. In order to promote more sustainable agriculture, agricultural strategies were developed and have now been completed for both sites. They were developed by the zonal Agricultural Research Institutes working with other consultants (Ilonga Agricultural Research Institute for Kilosa / Mpwapwa and Naliendele Agricultural Research Institute for Lindi) on the basis of consultation with a range of stakeholders. The project has begun to implement these strategies. Training on Conservation agriculture was done in both sites. In Kilosa site, 198 farmers (71 women and 127 men) in six villages have formed farm field school learning groups. The farm field schools will provide a forum for training and for demonstrating improved agricultural practices. Two groups have already established their training plots and have planted improved maize varieties. In Lindi, the project started to work with two groups of farmers in Ruhoma and Nandambi to demonstrate improved agricultural practices. Training was also provided to farmers in 12 villages on avoiding crop losses to wild animals.

Other strategies that the project is supporting with a view to reducing deforestation and improving livelihoods include the introduction of fuel efficient stoves; environmental education; and sustainable charcoal. So far 648 households are using fuel efficient stoves as a result of training provided by the project (438 in Kilosa, 210 in Lindi) and teachers in 13 primary schools are regularly integrating environmental education into their teaching whilst 11 primary schools have active environmental clubs. TFCG and MJUMITA will also be launching a separate sustainable charcoal project linked to the Kilosa project site with funding from the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation.



The Chabima Village Office, constructed with support from the project.

With a view to integrating the project's activities with local government; building local capacity and enhancing the sustainability of the project's interventions, the project works closely with the local government in both sites. District staff are involved at every stage of the land use planning, participatory forest management and REDD planning work. They are also involved in project monitoring, evaluation, planning and budgeting. District and Ward Agricultural Officers have been participating in the agricultural training activities and the Ward Education Officers have played an important role in following up on environmental education in primary schools. With a view to developing other capacity building opportunities, MJUMITA and the Forestry Training Institute have been working closely to take forwards the feasibility study for a training programme for practitioners on REDD and participatory forest management. The feasibility study was developed by the project in 2010.



The farm field school in Chabima Village planted with an improved maize variety.

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

The project has been continuing with the implementation of its monitoring, evaluation and communication plan. Surveys of knowledge, attitudes and practices of communities and local government staff in relation to REDD and participatory forest management show that over 50 % of District staff and 65 % of community members knew about and were supportive of REDD. Training events and radio were identified as the two most important sources of information.

With a view to documenting the high conservation values within the two project areas, populations of 9 Eastern Arc endemic reptile and amphibian species were recorded on village land in the Kilosa landscape. Posters with information in Swahili depicting some of the rare and endemic species from the two sites have been developed in order to raise awareness locally on the areas' biodiversity values.

The project remains committed to communicating its experiences and lessons learned. Our communication work over the last six months has resulted in 8 newspaper articles in 5 national newspapers; 7 Radio programs on 4 four different stations; 4 TV programmes on 3 stations; and hosting 74 visitors to the project sites including government staff, researchers, journalists and development partners. The project continues to collaborate with various research projects including the CIFOR-led Global Comparative Study on REDD and three research projects financed through CCIAM. Dialogue is also ongoing with NAFORMA on ways to integrate NAFORMA data with the project. The project has also supported TNRF to publish two editions of the TZ-REDD newsletter and a cartoon booklet in Swahili about gender and REDD. TNRF has also played an active role in facilitating joint advocacy and mutual learning between the nine REDD pilot projects.

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.

With a view to encouraging broader participation and ensuring that the perspectives of a range of stakeholders are integrated in a national REDD system, the project has been recommending that a broader range of stakeholders be represented on the National REDD Task Force. Over the last six months, the National REDD task force has been re-constituted and includes one CSO representative; two representatives from Zanzibar as well as representatives from a broader range of government departments including Ministry of Finance; Ministry of Agriculture and Food Cooperatives; and the Prime Minister's Office – Regional and Local Government. Other stakeholders have also been invited to join a series of technical committees intended to advise the task force

on key issues. A community representative and a private sector representative are still absent from the task force. Social and environmental standards are critical for ensuring that REDD operates according to ethical and environmentally sustainable principles. Promoting robust national standards for REDD is central to our advocacy work. The establishment of a technical committee on safeguards and a training event on standards that was hosted by the REDD Task Force indicates a growing capacity and interest in safeguards and standards. The project prepared and has been distributing a detailed report and an information brief comparing international REDD standards and relating them to the Tanzanian context. TFCG has also produced a TV documentary in Swahili about REDD standards. This will be broadcasted during the next reporting period.



One of the Eastern Arc endemic amphibian species recorded on village land in Kilosa, Probreviceps sp.

At the international level, the project was invited to make presentations during four side events during the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change Conference of Parties 17 in Durban. Key messages that we shared during these events included the importance of strong safeguards; the need for adequate, accessible and reliable sources of finance; and the need for stronger linkages between REDD and agriculture. The project also showcased a range of posters, reports and policy briefs describing the project and its lesson learned at an exhibition booth hosted by TNRF.

Way forward

Over the next six months the project will be continuing with: the land use planning; establishment of village forest reserves; village office construction; and trial payments in the remaining villages. The project will also be scaling up support for improved agriculture and initiating the validation of the project design documents. A mid-term evaluation is planned for April – May.

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

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