

Policy on the use of Genetically Modified Organisms in relation to the implementation of the project 'Making REDD work for communities and forest conservation in Tanzania'.

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1) Introduction

This document describes the policy of the project 'Making REDD work for communities and forest conservation in Tanzania' with regard to the use of Genetically Modified Organisms.

The Tanzanian National Biosafety Framework defines Genetically Modified Organisms as 'any biological entity capable of replication or transfer of genetic information, and includes plant, animals, bacteria and all other kinds of micro-organisms, cell cultures, viruses, plasmids and other kinds of vectors, created and propagated; by means of cell or gene technology; in which the genetic material has been altered in a way that does not occur naturally.'

Genetically modified organisms can present a number of potential risks to human health, other organisms and the environment. These include genetic pollution and toxicity to non-target organisms.

GMOs are not available commercially within Tanzania although trials and experimentation have occurred and / or are occurring for bananas, tobacco, maize and cotton.

The Biodiversity section of the Climate, Community and Biodiversity Project standards states:

B1. Net Positive Biodiversity Impacts

Concept

Projects may not use GMOs to generate greenhouse gases (GHG) emissions reductions or removals. GMOs raise unresolved ethical, scientific and socio economic issues. For example, some GMO attributes may result in invasive genes or species.

Indicators

Project proponents must guarantee that no GMOs will be used to generate GHG emissions reductions or removals.

2) Policy

In keeping with the precautionary principle and the CCB standards, the policy of the project towards GMOs is as follows:

Direct use by the project

The project will not use, transport or promote any genetically modified organisms.

Awareness raising

The project will raise awareness on the risks of GMOs amongst participating communities.

Use of GMOs by participating communities

The project will require that women and men participating in the project do not use any GMOs in efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions or removals.

Monitoring

The project will monitor changes in the national policy and availability of GMOs within Tanzania.