



Finding ways to build REDD+

Cutting down forests contributes to climate change. REDD+¹ is an international program which tries to tackle this practice and Tanzania is part of the process. Universities like SUA are assisting in this and asking themselves “How best should REDD+ be built to ensure for sustainable development?”

Answering important questions of REDD+

Tanzania started its journey with REDD+ in 2008. REDD+ is a new mechanism where developed countries are encouraging and making payments to people in the developing countries to take better care of their forests and in that way reverse climate change, improve the environment and increase living standards.

As with other participating countries, Tanzania has many questions that need to be answered to build a national REDD+ program that works. Nine different pilot projects managed by non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and local communities have been established in

¹ Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation, 'plus' enhancement of forest carbon stocks, conservation and sustainable management of forests.

different parts the country to try to answer key questions on the feasibility of the REDD+ Initiative and provide lessons for post pilot REDD+ implementation. Universities have also offered their assistance through research and training. Sokoine University of Agriculture together with Dar es Salaam University, Ardhi University, the Tanzanian Meteorological Agency and the Norwegian University of Life Sciences have since 2009 worked together on a programme called *Climate Change Impacts, Adaptation and Mitigation Programme in Tanzania* (CCIAM) that focuses mainly on REDD.



Climate Change Impacts, Adaptation and Mitigation Programme in Tanzania

REDD+ Architecture in Tanzania: Assessment of REDD+ options for Livelihood Security and Sustainable Development

This project under CCIAM is trying to answer a very important but complicated question: how should REDD+ be structured?

The project is looking at different options available for REDD+, such as Community Based Forest Management (CBFM), Joint Forest Management (JFM) and Centrally Managed Forest Reserves. For each option the project takes into account how it will affect the local communities and how much it will cost to establish REDD+ on top of each of these management systems. In addition, the researchers are looking at the process of establishing REDD+ and the institutional changes that happen. At the end of the project they will know more in order to make suggestions. This will greatly assist the National REDD+ process.

The project started in 2010 and will continue until mid-2014.

It is led by Dr. Dos Santos Silayo, a Senior Lecturer and Head of the Department of Forest Engineering in the Faculty of Forestry & Nature Conservation at SUA.



Dr. Dos Santos Silayo

To gain information on different options for REDD+ the project chose two research areas with a REDD pilot project in place: in Rungwe District where the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) is involved, and Kondoa District where the pilot project is implemented by the African Wildlife Foundation (AWF). These projects were chosen specifically because of their

differences in ecology, forest management and cultural behaviour. Based on these differences the reality of REDD+ will be very different.

Two very different realities

Because of the lack of land in Rungwe, many people have been forced to adapt and are now doing agriculture, livestock keeping and tree planting, both for consumption and for the market. Due to this fact, general awareness of forest conservation is very high.

What the researchers found is that although the cultural tradition of sustainable forest use is great the local communities might experience difficulties with the implementation of REDD+. One reason for this is that the forest in question is not owned by the villagers but is now a Nature Reserve with strict central rules, meaning the villagers cannot go there anymore. If REDD+ is built on top of this Nature Reserve an important question is then “who will receive the carbon payment?”

As Dr Silayo said: *“It is not clear how well Joint Forest Management can work with Nature Reserves”*.

Also, the people generally use a lot of forest products but from their own woodlots. It will be difficult to tell them to stop doing this. Especially since WCS (which is in charge of the pilot project) will not pay anything directly to the local community, but rather encourage them to conserve the forest through sensitization.



Nature Reserves have the highest status of protection in Tanzania and the rules concerning their use are very strict.

In the Kolo Hills project in Kondo District the researchers found a different reality. Because local people don't have as many planted trees on their farm many people use the nearby forests, especially for collection of firewood and for building materials. Many had also previously been involved in a conservation project (HADO) but had been left with a negative view because they experienced their land being taken away in the name of conservation. This left them very sceptical of REDD+ thinking the same might happen again this time.

In Kondo there are no Nature Reserves such as in Rungwe but rather a village forests under CBFM and a Forest Reserve under JFM.



Dry forests can be found in many places in Tanzania and are the only source of forest products for many local communities

While early findings show that REDD on top of CBFM can work well since the villagers are managing the forest on their own and getting all the benefits, it seems to be more difficult with JFM, especially when it comes to how to share the revenue from REDD between the government and the village.

The researchers are now analysing the findings and looking more deeply at each of the options to see how well they might perform in a REDD+ context. Some of the outcomes of the researchers' findings will form the basis for developing a policy brief in 2013, offering advice to decision makers in their quest to finding the best solution for REDD+.

Project title: REDD Architecture in Tanzania: Assessment of REDD options for Livelihood Security and Sustainable Development

For more information go to <http://www.suanet.ac.tz/cciam/>

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