



Politics of REDD: What are communities' expectations on access and benefit sharing under REDD pilot projects in Tanzania?

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Full Length Research

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This paper presents communities expectations on access and benefit sharing in seven selected REDD pilot projects in Tanzania. The pilot projects are being implemented by African Wildlife Foundation, Tanzania Traditional Energy and Environmental Organization, Mpingo Conservation and Development Initiative, Tanzania Forest Conservation Group, Jane Goodall Institute, Wildlife Conservation Society and Care International in Tanzania. Key informants interviews, focus group discussions and a questionnaire to 615 household heads in the selected household representatives in 14 REDD pilot villages were administered. Findings indicate that, majority (89.9%) of the community representatives have primary school as their highest level of education. 80.5% of the representatives' main economic activity is agriculture. On REDD awareness, 68.9% of the community representatives are aware and 42.2% indicated to have received some incentives under the REDD pilot projects. Only 7% indicated to be satisfied with the benefit received from REDD pilot projects in the respective projects areas. On the forest related resources, 61% of the community representative reported to have lost access to fuel wood, charcoal making were 30.6%, and construction materials including poles and reeds were 7.8%. Communities ranked (i) poor access to REDD related benefits, (ii) few people being involved in REDD, (iii) poor governance, (iv) leakage, (v) land alienation, (vi) conflicts on benefit sharing and (vii) un-acceptance of the projects by local communities as implementation challenges in REDD pilot projects in their respective villages. In implementing the REDD pilot projects, issues of benefit sharing mechanisms, equity, governance and leakage should be given priority for sustainability of such projects under carbon market.

Key words: awareness; conflicts, equity, governance, leakage

INTRODUCTION

Tanzania lost an average of 412,200 ha of forests per annum in the 1990s and early 2000s; this amounts to a destruction of 14.9% of its forest cover in the period 1990-2005 alone (UN-REDD, 2009). According to Yanda (2010), such an alarming rate of deforestation has made Tanzania's forests receive global and local policy attention. As indicated in Katoomba (2009), the major ecosystem types that are the hot spots of forest degradation include the miombo woodland, acacia savannah, guinea – Congo and montane ecosystems. Major regions that are under threat include, Mtwara, Morogoro, Tabora, Lindi, Tanga, Iringa, Shinyanga, Singida, Kagera and Mwanza. Reducing Emissions from

Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD) is among the mechanisms that could be tapped to ensure the magnitude of forest degradation and deforestation are reduced.

The largest potential for REDD finance is in carbon market that convert emissions reductions from REDD initiatives into carbon credits that industries and countries can use to comply with emissions commitments. As indicated in Shemdoe et al (2011), other co-benefits of the REDD+ programme in Tanzania, in addition to climate change mitigation, is enhanced conservation of soils, water catchments and other watershed areas leading to generation of electricity through hydropower

Table 1: Number of households interviewed in the sample villages within REDD pilot projects.

REDD pilot project	Geographical location (region)	District	Sample village	Number of Households interviewed
African Wildlife Foundation (AWF)	Dodoma	Kondoa	Masange	43
			Itundwi	34
TATEDO	Shinyanga	Shinyanga Rural	Manyada	34
			Pandagichiza	21
Mpingo Conservation and Development Initiative (MCDI)	Lindi	Kilwa	Nambondo	39
			Mandawa	50
Tanzania Forest Conservation Group (TFCG)	Lindi	Lindi urban	Nandambi	50
		Lindi rural	Kinyope	51
Jane Goodall Institute	Kigoma	Kigoma rural	Ilagala	50
			Karago	54
Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS)	Mbeya	Rungwe	Ilolo	48
			Kibisi	50
CARE International	Kusini Unguja	Kati	Charawe	46
		Kusini	Muyuni C	45
Total				615

and enhancing irrigation. Based on Hall (2008a and b) arguments, to qualify for carbon compensations and other benefits, services rendered should ideally be measurable; for example in terms of tons of carbon captured, biodiversity preserved, deforestation avoided or volume of clean water supplied. Under such circumstances, incentives need to be provided as benefit sharing to communities and other stakeholders for their effectiveness in REDD. These incentives are in form of cash, agricultural subsidies, trainings and any other forms of benefits necessary to the communities concerned.

In order to do that, a fair and transparent mechanism of benefit sharing needs to be established in order to provide incentives to stakeholders within the country to ensure that there is a fair way to reward stakeholders who are responsible for reductions in carbon losses.

The commitment of the villagers is largely contributed by economic situation facing communities surrounding forests in the pilot projects. Awareness and education levels are among the key factors in favour of REDD implementation in various pilot projects in Tanzania. This paper examines how the involved communities expectations on access and benefit sharing (ABS) in seven selected REDD pilot projects in Tanzania are being realized. This is guided by the hypothesis that, understanding the perceptions and expectations of local communities in the areas where the projects are implemented, will shape the future implementation of the pilot project under win-win situation. This will bring about sustainable development of forests and people.

METHODOLOGY

A combined methodology that involved case study method (qualitative approach) and household surveys (quantitative approach) was adopted. Consequently, multiple methods and techniques for data collection and analysis were used. Data collection methods included key

informants interviews, focus group discussions and in-depth interviews using a standard questionnaire that was structured to obtain the information on REDD perceptions and expectations by the communities in the 14 villages of Tanzania (Table 1). Under the key informants' interviews, different well knowledgeable representatives of the actors in the respective villages were interviewed. The clientele interviewed included the representatives of the Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) that are implementing the REDD pilot projects in the respective districts and villages where the information were collected from the communities. These key persons are the ones who also advised on the villages where the detailed study regarding REDD perception and expectations were to be conducted. Other key informants interviewed included ward and village officials who were regarded as well knowledgeable clientele at the local level regarding the natural resources issues and again they were useful in advising on the specific community to be interviewed during the in-depth interviews that were carried out in their respective areas. Under the focus group discussions, meetings with village representatives in the selected communities were held to discuss issues related community perceptions and expectations on REDD based on the just established REDD pilot projects in their respective villages. More information was collected through in-depth interviews using a structured questionnaire which had both open and close ended questions. Under the in-depth interviews, a total of 615 household representatives were interviewed. Table 1 presents the region, district, village and number of households heads interviewed in the respective villages.

Most of the qualitative data collected were analyzed using content analysis. Descriptive statistics were also used in analyzing quantitative information collected during in-depth interviews from the structured questionnaire and are presented in tables and in form

Table 2: Characteristics of the respondents in the REDD pilot project areas

District	Villages	Number of Households interviewed	Sex		Respondents age			Education levels			
			%male	%Female	18-35	36-60	>60	No formal	Primary	Secondary	Tertiary
Kondoa	Masange	43	76.7	23.3	11.6	65.1	23.3	9.3	83.7	7.0	0.0
	Itundwi	34	85.3	14.7	8.8	73.5	17.6	8.8	79.4	8.8	2.9
Shinyanga	Manyada	34	81.8	18.2	27.3	54.5	18.2	21.2	75.8	3.0	0.0
	Pandagic	21	80.0	20.0	15.0	65.0	20.0	10.0	85.0	5.0	0.0
Kilwa	Nambond	39	89.7	10.3	30.8	53.8	15.4	41.0	51.3	7.7	0.0
	Mandawa	50	92.0	8.0	28.0	50.0	22.0	24.0	74.0	2.0	0.0
Lindi urban	Nandamb	50	90.0	10.0	30.0	48.0	22.0	42.0	52.0	6.0	0.0
Lindi rural	Kinyope	51	60.8	39.2	47.1	45.1	7.8	33.3	64.7	2.0	0.0
Kigoma rural	Ilagala	50	68.0	32.0	52.0	40.0	8.0	14.0	80.0	6.0	0.0
	Karago	54	79.6	20.4	44.4	50.0	5.6	14.8	79.6	5.6	0.0
Rungwe	Iloilo	48	72.9	27.1	14.6	66.7	18.8	18.8	72.9	6.2	2.1
	Kibisi	50	46.0	54.0	28.0	62.0	10.0	24.0	66.0	8.0	2.0
Kati	Charawe	46	60.9	39.1	65.2	30.4	4.3	34.8	32.6	32.6	0.0
Kusini	Muyuni C	45	44.4	55.6	40.0	51.1	8.9	37.8	28.9	33.3	0.0
Total		615	72.6	27.4	33.2	52.8	14.0	24.6	65.3	9.6	0.5

of text narratives.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Qualitatively, researchers have observed unique practices in each of the pilot projects, especially how awareness of the REDD projects was raised. Also it was observed that each project has its own unique way or mechanism of facilitating future benefit sharing of the REDD fund leave alone the petty incentives they give to participating communities at the moment. Strikingly, the REDD institutional set up has much to be desired because, as it was observed and reported during key informant interviews, income poverty amongst members of the communities overturns objective decisions and local governance systems. For example, the introduction of Village Natural Resources Committee (VNRC) in place of the village environmental committee acts as a potential source of governance conflicts if clear roles and responsibilities are not stipulated. Furthermore, in some villages, the VNRC chairmen are not in harmony with village chairmen. This is probably due to the fact that VNRC chairman is endowed with working gears and resources from implementing projects than village chairmen.

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE RESPONDENTS IN THE REDD PILOT PROJECT AREAS

According to the household survey results, majority of the interviewed heads of households are male (72.6%). Although in most of these areas where data were collected are characterized by male domination in decision making and information sharing, the study has endeavoured to solicit information from a substantial

number of females (27.4%) on their perceptions and expectations on the benefit sharing under REDD pilot projects. In the villages as presented in Table 2, Kibisi village is the only village that had higher number of females interviewed compared to male.

With the exception of Charawe and Ilagala, villages in Kusini Unguja and Kigoma rural districts respectively had the majority of the respondents in the age class between 18 and 35, (Table 2). In most other villages more than 50% of the respondents were in the age class between 36-60 years. This is the main working age class that is residing in the villages as majority of the youths were said to have moved to urban areas seeking for job and other related livelihood activities. Interviews with a larger number of community representatives that are in the working age group (18 to 60 years), helped in giving out the perceptions and expectations to REDD pilot projects. This has been one of the important factor as the group is the one involved in the production in these villages, and that their perceptions are important to be documented and integrated into the respective pilot project plans, as these projects have just started.

In terms of level of education, majority (89.9%, Table 2) of the community have their highest level of education being primary school. Under this group, 24.6% are illiterate, as they do not have any kind of formal education and very few (10.1%) have secondary and tertiary levels of education. The implication of having majority of the community members poorly educated is that there is much dependency on natural resources surrounding the REDD pilot forests. This therefore indicates the need of proper involvement of these people in order to ensure the sustainability of REDD and REDD+ projects in these

Table 3: Economic activities of the communities in the districts / villages for REDD pilot projects

District	Villages	Economic activities (%)				
		Agriculture	Fishing	Business	Cattle keeping	Carpentry
Kondoa	Masange	65.1	0.0	2.3	32.6	0.0
	Itundwi	50.0	0.0	11.7	38.2	0.0
Shinyanga Rural	Manyada	70.6	0.0	0.0	29.4	0.0
	Pandagichiza	60.0	0.0	0.0	40.0	0.0
Kilwa	Nambondo	87.2	0.0	10.3	2.6	0.0
	Mandawa	92.0	0.0	6.0	2.0	0.0
Lindi urban	Nandambi	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Lindi rural	Kinyope	84.3	0.0	11.8	2.0	2.0
Kigoma rural	Ilagala	70.0	18.0	8.0	2.0	2.0
	Karago	70.4	18.5	11.1	0.0	0.0
Rungwe	Iloilo	91.7	0.0	4.2	0.0	4.2
	Kibisi	86.0	2.0	8.0	0.0	4.0
Kati	Charawe	54.3	19.6	23.9	2.2	0.0
Kusini	Muyuni C	82.2	6.7	11.1	0.0	0.0

areas.

In the selected villages, majority (69.4%) of the community representatives were born in the respective villages. Whereas there is a good number of those that migrated to these villages (30.6%), the information that were collected from these villages are original information as it involved majority of the people who know better these villages. The implication of the higher number of people in these areas being originated from the same villages is that they know the forest resources very well and they have been depending on these resources for years, thus any intention to sustainable conservation should take into accounts their needs and behaviors.

Economic activities of the communities in the REDD pilot projects

In the selected villages where REDD pilot projects are implemented, as a common phenomenon to the Tanzania society, majority (80.5% Table 3) depend on farming as their main economic activity. Other economic activities reported to be practiced by communities in these villages are fishing (9.6%), petty business (7.7%), carpentry (1%), and cattle and livestock keeping (1.3%). Farming, being the main economic activity in all these areas has an implication to the conservation of the forest resources. This is due to the fact that if the land on which farmers use for farming in these areas losses fertility, they (farmers) will always tend to move towards virgin land for them to access fertile soils. In implementing REDD pilot projects, some alternative income generating activities should be sought in order to reduce the entire dependence of land for agriculture in these areas. Moreover, some high value short term crops could be introduced in these villages in order to increase the income of the communities that can result from farming

small area and planting crops that can yield good crops within short period.

Awareness and Involvement of community in REDD activities in the respective villages

In the selected pilot project villages, awareness of the communities on REDD issues were assessed. It was leant that, in general, majority (68.9%, Table 4) of the respondents were aware with the REDD initiatives that are going on in their villages. As presented in Table 4, in the two villages Pandagichiza and Manyada (in Shinyanga Rural District), all consulted representatives indicated to be aware of the REDD activities that are going on in their villages. Unlike these two villages, the other two villages, Kinyope and Nambondo had more of the consulted communities who are not aware with the activities that are being implemented in their villages.

Level of involvement of the villagers was also assessed. In general, 48.9% (Table 4) of the villagers consulted in all villages surveyed, indicated to have been involved in REDD pilot activities in one way or the other. The involvement as indicated in table 4 included, being invited into REDD based pilot project meetings and being involved in a number of REDD activities in their respective villages. Involving the villagers is a fundamental issue in all REDD pilot projects and it is also very important to involve many of the villagers from the beginning as they are the ones who will ensure sustainability of these projects after the pilot projects phase out.

Incentives and benefits lost under REDD pilot projects in the area

Incentives

Regarding the incentives as presented in table 5, 42.2% of the interviewed community representatives indicated to

Table 4: Community awareness and involvement in REDD pilot project activities

District	Villages	Number of Households interviewed	Awareness (%)		% Involvement	
			Yes	No	Yes	No
Kondoa	Masange	43	90.7	9.3	69.8	30.2
	Itundwi	34	76.5	23.5	73.5	26.5
Shinyanga Rural	Manyada	34	97.0	3.0	84.8	15.2
	Pandagichiza	21	100.0	0.0	95.0	5.0
Kilwa	Nambondo	39	28.2	71.8	2.6	97.4
	Mandawa	50	50.0	50.0	18.0	82.0
Lindi urban	Nandambi	50	46.0	54.0	40.0	60.0
Lindi rural	Kinyope	51	49.0	51.0	17.6	82.4
Kigoma rural	Ilagala	50	68.0	32.0	30.0	70.0
	Karago	54	88.9	11.1	68.5	31.5
Rungwe	Ilolo	48	52.1	47.9	43.8	56.2
	Kibisi	50	58.0	42.0	54.0	46.0
Kati	Charawe	46	93.5	6.5	82.6	17.4
Kusini	Muyuni C	45	93.3	6.7	44.4	55.6
Total		615	68.9	31.1	48.9	51.1

Table 5: Communities and REDD pilot project incentives in the selected villages

District	Villages	Number of Households interviewed	Incentives	
			Yes	No
Kondoa	Masange	43	53.5	46.5
	Itundwi	34	70.6	29.4
Shinyanga Rural	Manyada	34	81.8	18.2
	Pandagichiza	21	95.0	5.0
Kilwa	Nambondo	39	7.7	92.3
	Mandawa	50	14.0	86.0
Lindi urban	Nandambi	50	50.0	50.0
Lindi rural	Kinyope	51	11.8	88.2
Kigoma rural	Ilagala	50	12.0	88.0
	Karago	54	38.9	61.1
Rungwe	Ilolo	48	27.1	72.9
	Kibisi	50	38.0	62.0
Kati	Charawe	46	78.3	21.7
Kusini	Muyuni C	45	64.4	35.6
Total		615	42.2	57.8

have received some incentives. Types of these incentives mentioned to have been received by the communities in the respective villages where these pilot projects have just been established include: attending the awareness creation meetings, some allowances from the projects, tree seedlings, alternative sources of energy, crop seeds, farm implements as well as bee hives.

Benefits lost

Community representatives in the area reported to have

lost some benefits that they used to get from the forest just at the start of the implementation of the REDD pilot projects in these villages. As indicated in table 6, community representative reported to have lost access to various benefits as follows: 61.6% indicated to have lost access to fuel wood, 30.6% to charcoal making, and 7.8% to construction materials including poles and reeds. The level of benefits reported to have been lost vary between villages. This indicates that in all villages forests remain the main source of energy.

Table 6: Percentage forest related benefit lost in all villages

Forest related benefit lost	Percentage (%) of respondents in all villages
Fuel wood	61.6
Charcoal making	30.6
Construction materials (poles, logs, timber, reeds, grasses)	7.8

Table 7: perceived problems associated with REDD pilot projects in the pilot project areas

Issue	Ranking
poor access to REDD related benefits,	1 st
Few people being involved in REDD	2nd
Poor governance	3rd
leakage	4th
land alienation	5th
Gender based conflicts on benefit sharing	6th
un acceptance of the projects by local communities	7th

Communities perceptions on problems associated with REDD pilot projects in the pilot project areas

As presented in table 7, community in the respective villages, generally ranked the main anticipated problems that if not taken care from the beginning of these projects, will have a negative effect to the implementation of the REDD projects in different parts of the country. These problems as presented in table 7 include: (i) poor access to REDD related benefits, (ii) Few people being involved in REDD, (iii) Poor governance, (iv) leakage, (v) land alienation, (vi) gender based conflicts on benefit sharing and (vii) un-acceptance of the projects by local communities as huddles expected to feature during the implementation of REDD pilot projects in their respective villages. Thus in order to ensure that the implementation of REDD to be more effective, efficient, permanent, and sustainable, and reduces risks, gender incorporation (GGCA and IUCN, 2009), forest governance issues and economic forces that drive deforestation and forest degradation and capacity building to the communities (McCulloch, 2010) and leakage (Horta, 2009) should be taken as priority issues to be included in REDD implementation.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Communities in the areas where REDD pilot projects are implemented in Tanzania are characterized by low education, having primary level as the highest education level they possess, they depend much in agriculture and forest related goods and services. They are the people who have been in these areas since then therefore their perceptions to any of the interventions should be taken on board for such projects to realize the intended goals and objectives.

Majority of the communities representatives consulted in the REDD pilot projects reported to be aware of the REDD initiatives that are going on in their respective villages. This awareness was generated though a

number of meetings that have been conducted by the NGOs that are implementing the REDD pilot projects in these areas. This is a very good approach as the communities in these areas are the targeted beneficiaries of the forest conservation that are being advocated under REDD initiatives and by all these NGOs that are implementing the pilot projects in these areas.

Although communities are aware on REDD issues, there is a growing concern on issues such as (i) poor access to REDD related benefits, (ii) few people being involved in REDD, (iii) poor governance, (iv) leakage, (v) land alienation, (vi) conflicts on benefit sharing and (vii) un-acceptance of the projects by local communities that need to be addressed for the community to participate fully in these projects. In implementing these REDD pilot projects, issues such as benefit sharing mechanisms, equity, governance and issues of leakage should be given priority for the sustainability of such projects under carbon market.

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