



Good governance: key to local government in implementing REDD

Local Government Authorities (LGAs) are responsible for the provision of wide-ranging public services including environmental protection, forest conservation and community development, among others. But the key challenge for such incentives is governance.



Shores of Lake Tanganyika, Kigoma

About the project

Headed by Dr. Judika King'ori, from the University of Dar es Salaam Business School (UDBS), the project sets out to critically assess the current role of Tanzanian local governments in relation to forest conservation and the potential role that it might play under different scenarios concerning the governance of REDD.

REDD is an international program that aims to preserve forests.

The project covers three districts: Kilwa, Kilosa and Kigoma which are found in Lindi, Morogoro and Kigoma regions, respectively.

Governance issues

In principle, LGAs are strategically placed as the interface between local communities and central government, representing local communities, voicing local concerns and responding to local needs. But the role of the LGAs is not very clear when it comes to implementation of the National REDD Strategy.

The project focuses on issues of governance such as participation in terms of gender and institutional arrangement, and financial accountability at the local government level.

“Participatory approaches create a sense of ownership which are vital for support and sustainability of the REDD initiative”, says Dr. Henry Chalu, a project team member from UDBS.

Further, the project focuses on the structure of financial and administrative incentives and the way these are set up to ensure that LGAs have the motivation and ability to participate in the effective implementation of REDD.

“With an appropriate institutional and finance model in place...LGAs can make a difference in forest conservation”, stresses Dr. King’ori.

Progress so far

So far, the project team has been able to visit the three districts and collect data through focus group discussions, interviews, questionnaires and documentary review. Key data collected has been on revenue generation from forest and forest products and existing benefit sharing mechanisms. Communities have expressed their views on possible benefit sharing approaches as they reflected on the existing practices and challenges. The project team is currently processing the data collected. A report and a number of articles based on the findings from the data analysis are underway. The project team is also working on a model for LGA participation in REDD.

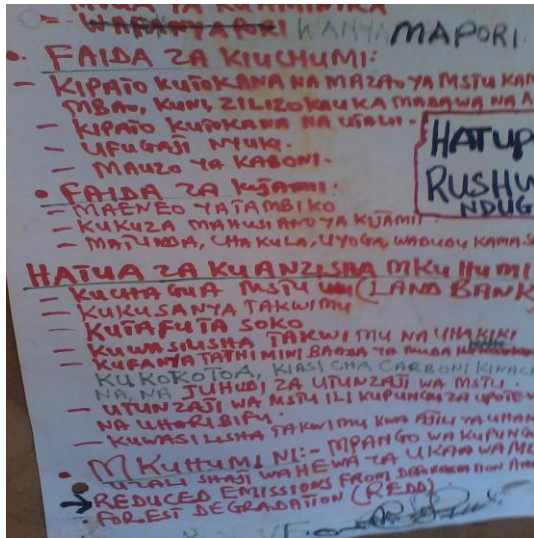
Envisaged project benefits

One of the major benefits of the project will be gained from the model to be designed to ensure LGA motivation and eventual implementation of the REDD initiative. The envisaged practical model will guide the flow of REDD funds to LGAs and those involved in forest conservation. In this case, LGAs will be able to generate benefits from the forests while at the same time providing services to conserve those forests.

These services include ecosystem-based benefits such as conservation of forest biodiversity, water regulation, soil conservation, timber, forest foods and other non-timber forest products. REDD can also lead to direct social benefits such as jobs, livelihoods, land tenure clarification, carbon payments, enhanced participation in decision-making and improved governance.

For instance, financial accountability will help communities to be more informed about REDD funds and their use in achieving the objectives of improving livelihoods and protecting forests.

Other expected outputs include policy briefs and publications on how to effectively engage LGAs in the implementation of REDD in order to achieve results. As a consequence, REDD will effectively prevent the degradation of forests which will result in multiple benefits in addition to protecting or enhancing carbon stocks.



Participatory approach in practice: a flip chart outlining REDD benefits in Kiswahili posted at a village office, Kigoma

Way forward

The project will be completing the study report and model within the timeframe and conducting dissemination workshops/fora with the stakeholders. These include policy makers, local communities (especially those involved in the study), LGAs and ministries.

Project title: The role of local government in implementing REDD



Alternative source of power, REDD project in Kigoma

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

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