Community-based REDD Mechanisms for Sustainable Forest Management in Semi-Arid Areas (Case of Ngitilis in Shinyanga Region) (Tanzania)

Initiative
Country Tanzania
Other Readiness Initiative: No
REDD+ project: Yes
Project type: REDD+ pilot project
Scope Deforestation Degradation SFM
Level Subnational
Status Active
Duration (Years) 4
Start date January 2010
End date December 2013
Cost (USD) 2,102,752
Sources of finance: Bilateral
Size (hectares) 2,500
Total Estimated Avoided Emisions (tCO2e) 108,285

Summary
This community based REDD+ pilot project focus on supporting local communities to sustainably manage the Ngitili forest (privately owned natural forest), using REDD+ carbon payments as an incentive. Funded by the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs the project is expected to run
between January 2010 until December 2013. The project targets to pay annually 720,000 USD to 250 Ngitili owners which will provide a 30% annual increase in household incomes (6000 households spread across 10 villages). The goal of the project is to reduce Green House Gas (GHG) emissions through sustainable forest management and carbon market incentives. The objective of the project is to assist local communities to establish a robust local institutional framework that effectively manages and restores Ngitilis. In order to achieve the project goal and objective the project aims to formalise Ngitilis into legal entities to address land ownership and governance issues, establish baseline scenarios for potential carbon sources, implement measures for addressing drivers of degradation and forest deforestation, and establish mechanisms for benefit sharing are established. Finally, the project aims to develop local institutional capacity to engage with the carbon market by facilitating the formation of Ngitili carbon groups and associations. Within this framework strengthening local capacity and empowerment are important elements. Project partners include DASS (Development Associates), NAFRAC (Natural Forest Resources Management and Agroforestry Centre), Kahama and Shinyanga Rural District Councils.

Stakeholder engagement and participation

Village leaders have been involved in the planning and decision making of the project, and communities participated in the development of the village and Ngitili management plans. However, initially communities were skeptical about the project and thought this was a way of the government trying to confiscate their Ngitilis, or to sell them to foreigners. This fear prevented some people from offering their Ngitilis. This has been reduced considerably by awareness raising campaigns. However many people are still not sure if the project is real. There was a mapping exercise which raised mixed reactions among the owners, some felt the Ngitilis were going to be mapped and divided into plots and sold, while some were happy about the security of ownership which seems to be very critical.

Land tenure arrangements and carbon rights

There is formalization of Ngitili into legal entities in order to address ownership and governance issues and aggregation of Ngitili owners into functional groups to facilitate carbon marketing.

Forest Management

There is establishment of a local institutional framework that effectively manages the restored Ngitilis to capture benefits arising from REDD+. Weak governance in relation to ngitili management exists. The village and sub-village leaders need to be specially informed about all aspects of the project concerning governance. A number of regulations by laws in respect to Ngitili/forest management are in place; however there is weak law enforcement (almost in all villages).

Reference levels

A socio-economic survey will be conducted to establish baseline situation on social, economic, and cultural parameters. For example population change patterns, land use patterns, cultural issues, poverty and income levels, which are likely to influence REDD+. Baseline carbon levels from different sources and emissions will be assessed. In addition, the influence of identified drivers of deforestation and forest degradation on sustainable land management will be addressed.
Safeguards

The project idea has raised considerable expectations among the communities on benefits likely to accrue to beneficiaries. This has generated a lot of interest among villagers. In order to address issues of benefit sharing the project is assessing different mechanisms of benefit sharing. The approach so far has been to make carbon payments directly to Ngitili owners through bank accounts held by Ngitili groups. In some cases this involves making payments to individual owners, which is typically the male farmer in the household. Whether this approach will have adverse impacts on women and children, including widows and divorcees, remains to be seen. In order to follow-up on activities, participating communities, TaTEDO and project partners have prepared and implemented a safeguards monitoring plan. In terms of co-benefits, the project is providing energy efficient stoves and fodder banks that are available not just to Ngitili owners but to all village residents. This also helps to negotiate any potential conflict that may arise between Ngitili owners and other village residents.

MRV

Participatory carbon monitoring, reporting and verification plans will be developed. The carbon baseline data collection will be completed (ground based methodology) and will provide the basis for achieving milestones on assessments and verification of carbon stocks in subsequent years. Carbon accounting will occur in two forest types which are miombo and acacia woodlands. The project targets 30% increase in carbon stocks over baseline.

Reference Level

Historical adjusted

Land Tenure Before Implementation

Before implementation of the project, there is no clear land tenure, it is informal.

Land Tenure After Implementation

After implementation, Ngitilis and village boundary maps are produced and produced maps show Ngitili owner’s name, location and size of Ngitili.

Financing

Financing agreement RD3486
[11]

Value (USD) 2 102 752.00
Funding Institution Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Norway)

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