Piloting a pro-poor model of REDD

The Tanzania Forest Conservation Group and the Tanzanian Community Forest Network are implementing a 5-year REDD pilot project titled ‘Piloting a pro-poor model of REDD’ which seeks to develop a model of REDD based on direct payments to community-based forest managers. The project was launched in September 2009.

Project Goal

To reduce greenhouse gas emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in Tanzania in ways that provide direct and equitable incentives to rural communities to conserve and manage forest resources sustainably.

Project Purpose

To demonstrate, at a local, national and international level, a pro-poor approach to reducing deforestation and forest degradation. This can be achieved by generating equitable financial incentives from the global carbon market for activities that are sustainable and that conserve or manage forest resources.

Project Activities

- To reduce deforestation, forest degradation and land use change
- To increase carbon stocks and biodiversity
- To improve local livelihoods
- To provide sustainable management of forests

Project Outputs

- A model of REDD that can be scaled up across the country
- A REDD plan and strategy
- A mechanism for distributing payments to communities
- A mechanism for monitoring and verifying activities

How will REDD funds flow to communities in such a way as to cause a measurable reduction in emissions of greenhouse gases?

The REDD balance sheet for Nandamari Village

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Forest</th>
<th>Carbon storage (tonnes)</th>
<th>Net gain from forest</th>
<th>Net benefit (USD)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Forest 1</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forest 2</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forest 3</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

About Nandamari Village

- Located at the mouth of the Chinde river, the village has 1,000 people (200 households), with 50% of the people living in the woodland and 35% in agricultural land.
- Deforestation is primarily related to agricultural practices, including farming, cattle rearing, crop slash and burn, and illegal logging.

About the Tanzania Forest Conservation Group

- The TFCG is a non-governmental organization with 25 years of experience in forest conservation in Tanzania.
- The TFCG’s mission is to conserve and restore the biodiversity of globally important forests in Tanzania for the benefit of the present and future generations of Tanzanians.
- The TFCG collaborates with local communities to implement REDD projects.

MUJIMTA REDD Model

The MUJIMTA REDD model has been developed and tested at the group or community level for REDD projects. The model is now being piloted. During the first 18 months, the model established four forest villages: Uloga, Nandambi, and Coastal Forests.

Preliminary lessons learned

- In the Tanzanian context, REDD could offer a win-win solution, bringing benefits to communities and reducing deforestation.
- REDD revenues could cover the opportunity costs and the forest management costs for communities provided that revenues can be directly channeled to the communities and can be equitably distributed within the communities.
- This requires a strong focus on governance issues and requires a commitment from the government to allow communities to directly access REDD revenues generated from reduced emissions on village land.
- Forest degradation is widespread in both landscape, as it is across much of Africa. It is more difficult to measure. More research is needed to assess the impact of forest degradation on forest ecology and carbon storage.
- Robust methods are needed to assess changes in rates of degradation.
- Safeguards that protect community rights and ecosystem services including biodiversity need to be integrated into national and international policies, and need to be enforced to reduce the potential risks associated with REDD including land grabbing and replacement of natural forests with plantations.

Tanzania’s Village Land Act gives communities direct rights over their land and the forest area gives communities the right to control forests on their land. Both of these important pieces of legislation enhance the possibility of REDD succeeding in Tanzania, provided that they are properly implemented.

For REDD to provide an effective incentive, it needs to be performance-based rather than effort-based.

Shifting cultivation is one of the major drivers of deforestation in Tanzania. A commitment to improving smallholder agriculture in ways that are compatible with REDD will be crucial.

In Nandamari, REDD revenues could be more than double the combined opportunity and direct costs.