


Reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD) in Tanzania

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BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

- An action research project called "The role of Participatory Forest Management in Mitigation of and Adaptation to Climate Change: Opportunities and Constrains" aims to analyse how the communities could benefit from improved forest management through international funding for reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD).
- Main research funding from Academy of Finland, and additional funding from Clinton Climate Initiative (CCI).
- Case study area: Angai Villages' Land Forest Reserve, Liwale District, Lindi Region, South-eastern Tanzania.
- Co-operators: CCI, IUCN and University of Sokoine, Tanzania and researchers from Institute of Development Studies at University of Helsinki, Danish Centre for Forest, Landscape and Planning at University of Copenhagen and Centre for Climate Change Economics from University of Leeds.



Case study area: Angai Villages' Land Forest Reserve, Liwale District, Lindi Region, South-eastern Tanzania



#### KEY CONCEPT: 'PFM'

- Participatory forest management (PFM) is an overall term for decentralised forest management models: a genuine shift of management over forest resources from government authority to local people.
- 'Participation' refers to Chambers' idea of 'handing over the stick': the new forest managers - local people - get a hold of the 'stick' - the management rights over the resources - they are required to 'handle the stick' - utilise, protect and manage the forest resources in sustainable way (Chambers et al. 1989; Chambers 1983; Mustalahti 2007).
- In Tanzania, about 4.1 million hectares, corresponding to approximately 12.8 per cent of the total forest cover, are under some form of PFM.



#### KEY CONCEPT: 'REDD+'

- *REDD+* is a climate change mitigation strategy based on international agreements of Reduced Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD), *plus* the role of conservation, sustainable forest management, and forest carbon stock enhancement, in developing countries.
- PFM could provide an effective and equitable framework for REDD+ to deliver financial and livelihood benefits to local people, secure long-term carbon sequestration services, and help conserve forest biodiversity.
- PFM is thus a fundamental part of efforts to develop REDD+ in Tanzania, as the National Framework for REDD recognizes (<http://www.reddtz.org/>).



#### CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

- Local people do hold substantial knowledge of the local environment and they may conserve and manage natural resources successfully (e.g. Grimble and Laidlaw 2002; Ribot 2004; Hares 2006; Ylhäisi 2006).
- However, it has also been recognised that local people will not promptly become conservation minded or economically oriented forest managers when their rights over natural resources have been recognised and legitimised (e.g. Brown 1998; Pijnenburg 1999; Matakala and Kwesinga 2001; Ferguson and Chardasekharan 2004; Blomley and Ramadhani 2006).
- Well established and implemented REDD+ could provide incentive for sustainable natural resources management as well as promote rural development. However, developing countries like Tanzania have several challenges for consideration (e.g. Röhr 2006; Bond 2009; Cotula and Mayers; Yanda 2009)



#### CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

- Ribot and Peluso (2003) emphasise a wider range of social relationships that can constrain or enable people to benefit from natural resources without focusing on property relations alone. Their theory focuses on *ability* rather than rights as in property theory.
- Development of National REDD Strategy in Tanzania is a continuous process involving series of consultations, stakeholders engagement, training, research and knowledge dissemination (Yanda 2009): building up "system ability" in REDD+.
- *Ability* among the various stakeholders brings in the key challenges e.g.:
  - 1) How to ensure active participation in developing, implementing and monitoring REDD+ activities in community level?
  - 2) How to promote good governance, transparency and benefit sharing among different stakeholders?
  - 3) How to balance between different land uses and demands?

## METHODS

- Action research: Outsiders in collaboration with insiders (Bradbury and Reason 2006).
- The participatory learning and acting research aims:
  - (a) to create 'living knowledge' through action research and participatory methods – knowledge which is valid for the people with whom we work and for researcher:  
Participatory carbon monitoring
  - (b) to understand the local context and relationships between the context and PFM practices in changing climate:  
Participatory land use planning
  - (c) to understand the socio-economic context and political conditions related to implementation of REDD+:  
Benefit sharing, vulnerability and gender studies
- (b) to analyse the broader institutional context of forestry sector development related implementation of the National Framework for REDD:  
Long-term participant observations in different levels of governance.

## Participatory Action Learning Methods



## REFLECTIONS DURING THE RESEARCH PROCESS:

- It is important to keep in mind that 'local people' are not a homogenous group – different groups in community often have conflicting interest.
- Attitude change towards forest protection was recognisable in Angai after villages' access to forest resources was legally secured by laws and allocation of land even though the benefits of PFM were still limited.
- Lack of clear benefit sharing and logging agreements between central government, sub-national governance and Angai villages still has a risk that local people will see themselves merely as a labour force for forest utilisation and conservation activities.

## REFLECTIONS DURING THE RESEARCH PROCESS:

- Due to the complexity of REDD+, and forestry and rural development in general, a range of support modalities are needed and, in all likelihood, projects in the forestry sector will remain important instruments for implementing sector strategies and national development frameworks.
- However, short project periods do not support the institutionalisation of REDD+: the failures and shortly terminated donor projects give recipient governments more reasons to look for other solutions in forest management, such as privatised concessions under the management of private enterprises or government entities.
- Long-term donor commitment is needed to assist communities and their advocacy organisations in building local civil society organisations and national policy coalitions that can assert the rights and ability of local communities.



KEY CONCERN/CONCLUSION

When supportive local institutions are not in place or are undeveloped, participation in development interventions such as REDD+ might not promote local people's access over to information and benefits.

Instead, there is a risk that local people are used as a labour force without long-term monetary and non-monetary benefits.