

MITIGATION IN AFRICA CASE

Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD): from the perspective of equity

Irmeli Mustalahti
PhD, Postdoctoral Researcher
Development Studies
Department of Political and Economic Studies
University of Helsinki, Finland
Tel: +358-405092615
Email: irmeli.mustalahti@helsinki.fi

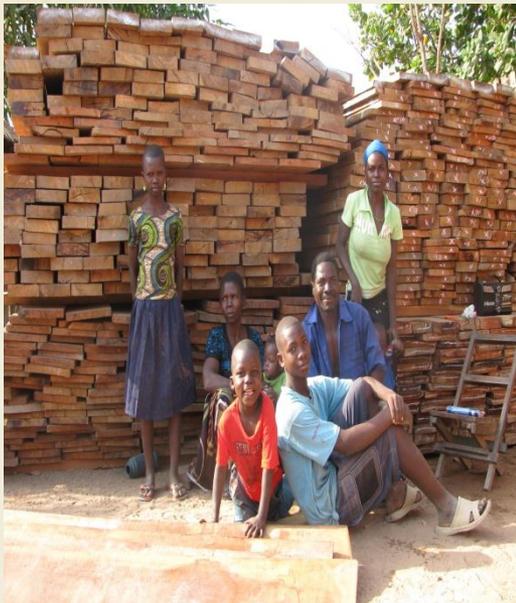
INTRODUCTION

An introduction to REDD+:

http://www.thereddesk.org/redd_basics

A short animation outlining the idea behind Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation

Corbera, E. and Schroeder, H. (2011). Governing and implementing REDD+. *Environmental Science & Policy* 14(2):89-99





INTRODUCTION

An action research project (in 2009-2012) called
“The role of Participatory Forest Management in
Mitigation of and Adaptation to Climate Change:
Opportunities and Constrains”.

Main research funding from Academy of Finland:

<https://blogs.helsinki.fi/tzredd-actionresearch/>

Responsive Forest Governance Initiative (RFGI)

Research Programme: Africa-wide comparative
environmental governance research and training
programme of CODESRIA, IUCN and University of
Illinois:

<http://www.codesria.org/spip.php?article1247>



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.
- 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. Two distinct setups for PFM: (i) Village Land Forest Reserves (VLFR) and (ii) joint forest management (JFM) agreements between local communities and the local or national authority having jurisdiction over the particular reserve.
- The case study area, Angai Villages Land Forest Reserve (AVLFR), is managed and held by 13 villages. The area of 139,420 ha of natural forest is demarcated under villages' land certificates.



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 biodiversity conservation, sustainable forest management, and forest carbon stock enhancement, in developing countries.
- PFM is expected to 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/>).



FUTURE RESEARCH INTEREST

- Firstly, scientific work on REDD+ has so far been insufficiently grounded: As a result, at times excessive attention has been paid towards the global architecture of the mechanism, the *what*, at the expense of a deeper understanding of the expected un unexpected impacts regarding its implementation on the ground, the *how*.
- Secondly, studies on REDD+ have so far drawn surprisingly little on an extensive body of research on the political ecology of forest policies and management in developing countries, particularly the crucial debates over *access*, *decentralisation*, *participation* and *repertoires of domination* (see e.g. Agrawal and Gibson 1999; Ribot 1998; 2002; Ribot and Peluso 2003; Larson and Ribot 2007; Tacconi 2007; Mustalahti and Lund 2009; Poteete and Ribot 2011).



OVERALL RESEARCH QUESTIONS :

What are the interactions and interventions between national, sub-national and local actors supporting or opposing achievement of equity in implementation of REDD+?

Three sets of specific research questions:

1. Questions related to the decision-making structures;
2. Questions on allocation of rights and responsibilities and;
3. Questions on resources access and exclusion.



CONCLUSIONS

If REDD+ is designed in a way that addresses local needs and priorities and if it builds agriculture and livelihood diversification capacity at the local level, then there is an opportunity for a more fair and equal approach to forestry governance and climate change mitigation.

However, it remains a question to what extent such a solution would remain aligned with the aim of global carbon markets to deliver low-cost mitigation.

CONCLUSIONS

Benefits to communities depend on how the REDD+ is designed and implemented: More research is needed related to the “nested” and “effort based” approach of REDD+ and certifications (e.g. FSC, CCBA and VCS) as well as “safeguards” for multipurpose functions of forests.

REDD+ arguably favours economies of scale, standardisation and coordination at the expense of local participation.

REDD+ increases the value of forests, thus governments might be more reluctant to devolve property and use rights to local communities.

REDD+ is a continuous process and there is a growing need for assessing the strengths and the weaknesses of the global REDD+ mechanism:

we should not just wait and see if REDD+ will become failure but rather try to support its opportunities.



SOURCES:

MUSTALAHTI, I and TAKU TASSA, D. 2011 Participatory Forest Management in REDD+: New opportunity or more risks? Scandinavian Journal of Forest Research.

MUKAMA, K., MUSTALAHTI, I. and ZAHABU, E. 2012. Participatory Forest Carbon Monitoring and REDD+: learning from Tanzania. International Journal of Forestry Research. Article ID 126454

MUSTALAHTI, I., BOLIN, A., BOYD, E. and PAAVOLA, J. 2012. Can REDD+ reconcile local priorities and needs with global mitigation benefits? Lessons from Angai Forest, Tanzania. Ecology and Society 17(1): 16.
<http://dx.doi.org/10.5751/ES-04498-170116>

KONTINEN, T. and MUSTALAHTI, I. 2012. Reframing Sustainability? Climate Change and North-South Dynamics. Introduction to a special section. Forum for Development Studies 39(1):1-4.