

Making REDD Work...

For climate, countries, communities and biodiversity conservation




the Jane Goodall Institute Tanzania



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Key Messages to Parties to the UN FCCC from REDD Pilot Projects in Tanzania

Civil society organizations and forest communities in Tanzania are engaging in REDD+ through participation in national programme development, awareness raising, advocacy and implementation of pilot projects on the ground. Based on this experience, **we encourage Parties to the UN FCCC to consider the following key messages on REDD.**

1. REDD needs to be adequately Financed

Parties should come to an agreement on, and support implementation of, REDD financing mechanisms as a matter of urgency

There are important questions regarding how REDD will be financed. Nonetheless, it is urgent that these be addressed and an effective mechanism (or mechanisms) be established soon. From the experience of Tanzania we know that getting “REDD ready” requires significant time and investment. Some communities are already doing the work of REDD based on the promise of direct benefits in the future. If systematic REDD financing is not forthcoming soon, there is a danger that countries will rush ahead to reach the performance-based stage when REDD payments can be accessed, short-cutting the essential steps to readiness. That would put in place REDD schemes without the proper governance and policy reforms to ensure that social and environmental safeguards are upheld.

Regardless of the mechanism(s) selected, REDD financing at *all levels* should be:

- **Adequate** - covering REDD's *full costs*, including all the readiness provisions
- **Accessible** - particularly to women and men in forest communities who are doing the work, and bearing the costs, of REDD
- **Timely** – including recognition that communities may need funding up front to make the investments required for effective REDD
- **Performance based** – tied to verification of carbon emissions reductions *and* compliance with strong social and environmental standards
- **Well governed** – including fair and enforceable
- **Transparent and Accountable** – at all levels
- **Adaptable** – financing mechanisms may have to be adjusted over time, based on experience and changing circumstances in REDD programmes

A REDD Window under the Green Climate Fund provides an immediate opportunity to mobilise and channel funds to get REDD right.

2. REDD Needs Strong Safeguards

REDD should require participating countries to adopt a robust mechanism for reporting on performance against environmental and social safeguards

REDD has benefits *and risks* for the environment and for people, particularly indigenous peoples and forest-dependent communities. Strong, effective social and environmental safeguards help ensure that these risks are minimized, and that the greatest possible benefits are realized. The international agreement to establish a system for reporting on safeguards provides an important foundation for action. The requirements for compliance with this commitment to safeguards under the UN FCCC should be made stronger. Further, each country engaging in REDD will ultimately have to make its own commitments to safeguards development, implementation and monitoring. Reporting against National REDD safeguards should be:

- **Transparent** such that local data is made public, not just the final collation
- Based on **full** and **effective participation** of local communities and civil society
- Based upon **verifiable** evidence
- **Adaptable** to changing circumstances and developing experience with REDD in practice
- Supported through integration into national law

3. REDD Can Deliver Benefits and Good

Given the above, strong safeguards and adequate financing, REDD has an opportunity to bring significant benefits to communities and ecosystems, and if done right, REDD can be good

- **REDD can help conserve forest ecosystems and biodiversity, and benefit participating communities and countries.** Pilot projects in Tanzania suggest that – *if financing is adequate and equitably distributed* – REDD revenues can be beneficial. REDD can also deliver important co-benefits through enhanced ecosystem services to communities relying on local natural resources.
- **Beyond direct project benefits**, experience in Tanzania demonstrates that REDD can provide new motivation, resources, and opportunities for, amongst others,
 - Expanding and reinforcing implementation of existing sustainable forest management mechanisms, such as participatory forest management (PFM);
 - Protecting and diversifying people's livelihoods strategies and well-being;
 - Strengthening community land tenure; and
 - Further developing awareness of and demands for governance improvements more broadly.

However at a global level, for REDD to be an effective measure for climate change mitigation it must be part of ambitious emissions reduction pledges by Parties

- **Deforestation and forest degradation are major contributors to global carbon emissions, and forests have the potential to sequester more carbon.** However, REDD alone is not the answer. Without urgent and drastic action in other sectors, it is not the only response to climate change.