

Key Messages to Parties to the UN FCCC at CoP18 from Tanzania REDD+ Pilot Projects



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

While we welcome the continued discussions over the last year, we note that substantive progress on an international REDD+ framework continues to be uncertain and slow. Therefore, these key messages in part re-state and stress the urgency of our messages to the Parties at CoP 17.¹

1. An agreement on and support for the implementation of REDD+ financing mechanisms is a matter of urgency.

We welcome the Durban decisions regarding REDD+ finance, including that safeguards should be adhered to regardless of the funding source. However, many decisions on financing have been left to CoP 18, and substantial carbon market funding looks unlikely to be forthcoming before 2020.

We recognize the complexity in REDD+ finance, and the fact that important open questions remain. Nonetheless, it is **urgent that these questions are addressed and that effective mechanism(s) are established soon.**

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

- Adequate (covering full costs, including all readiness provisions)
- Accessible (particularly to women and men in forest communities who are doing the work and bearing the costs of REDD+)
- Timely and reliable
- Performance based
- Adaptable to changing and diverse circumstances
- Well governed, including being fair, enforceable, transparent and accountable at all levels.

As part of this, we recommend clear decisions be made regarding, among others: whether or not, and how, REDD+ will be funded through the Green Climate Fund, and what other funding mechanism(s) will be made available in the shorter and longer terms.

2. Robust, credible, timely and mandated reporting is needed to ensure implementation and adherence to environmental and social safeguards.

¹ See http://www.tnrf.org/files/Making_REDD_Work.pdf

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. We welcome the progress made in Durban regarding monitoring guidelines for safeguards for REDD+ implementation. However, these monitoring guidelines are not sufficient to ensure adequate and reliable reporting.

We encourage the Parties to go further in defining strong and clear guidance, including to, “ensure transparency, consistency, comprehensiveness and effectiveness” in safeguards reporting. In line with many of the recommendations made in Parties’ and Observers’ 2011 submissions to the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA)², this might include providing guidance to ensure that safeguards information systems:

- Are based on participatory, coordinated, transparent, accountable and otherwise well governed processes;
- Include comparable and accurate information, with specification of the key types of information to be included;
- Are able to inform action and allow monitoring overtime;
- Provide for information sharing, including disaggregated data, with rights-holders and stakeholders; and
- Are supported by appropriate and accessible technical guidance.

3. Continued progress towards clarifying and supporting MRV systems is needed to help move REDD+ forward.

We welcome the Durban technical guidelines and decisions regarding setting and reporting on reference emissions levels, as well as continued discussion on carbon monitoring, reporting and verification (MRV). We urge Parties to move forward and finalize decisions regarding the structure of MRV systems, the means for providing related technical and financial support, and the means for measuring and monitoring forest emissions within the technical guidelines. Reliable *and economically feasible* ways to verify emissions reductions will be critical for REDD+ moving forward globally.

4. REDD+ should remain a priority because it can bring local and global benefits... though it is not a standalone approach.

Pilot projects in Tanzania suggest that **REDD+ can deliver important benefits**, if it is effectively and equitably implemented, including with the strong safeguards, adequate financing, and effective MRV systems mentioned above. **Deforestation and forest degradation are major contributors to global carbon emissions, and forests have the potential to sequester more carbon.** REDD+ can also help conserve forest ecosystems and biodiversity, and benefit participating communities and countries through financial revenues and co benefits such as improved forest governance and enhanced ecosystem services.

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, **REDD+ alone is not the answer.** Urgent and drastic action is needed in other sectors. Further, 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.**

Dialogue on these key messages was facilitated by the Tanzania Natural Resource Forum: www.tnrf.org



2 See Larsen, Gaia et al. 2012. “Map of SBSTA Submissions: REDD+ Safeguard Information System.” WRI Working Paper. World Resources Institute, Washington DC. Available at <http://www.wri.org/gfi>