



Recommendations from Tanzanian Civil Society Organisations for Tanzania's National REDD Strategy

Recommendations:

- The National REDD Strategy express support for a nested approach.
- The National REDD Strategy recognize that most unreserved forests in mainland Tanzania are on village land and that villages should have ownership over the carbon benefits derived from reduced deforestation on their lands.
- The National REDD Strategy include mechanisms for rewarding communities for their efforts to reduce deforestation in government forest reserves.
- The National REDD Strategy stipulate that community groups, civil societies and private sector should be represented on the National REDD Task Force.
- The National REDD Strategy include a commitment to adopt and implement National REDD Community and Biodiversity Safeguards to complement World Bank safeguards.

REDD in Tanzania

Tanzania has wisely started to implement REDD readiness pilot projects before finalizing national REDD policy and institutional arrangements. The rationale for this is to use lessons learnt and findings from pilot projects to inform policy makers in developing a comprehensive national REDD strategy. We recommend that project findings and lessons learnt in the first year of pilot projects be incorporated into the National REDD Strategy. This note sets out the key findings which we believe could help strengthen Tanzania's ability to deliver REDD in an equitable, effective and efficient way.

Civil society organisations in Tanzania, including Tanzania Forest Conservation Group (TFCG), Tanzania Community Forest Network (MJUMITA), Tanzania Natural Resource Forum (TNRF), Mpingo Conservation and Development Initiative (MCDI), Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), Tanzania Traditional Energy Development Organization (TaTEDO), CARE Tanzania, African Wildlife Foundation, and the Jane Goodall Institute request the Tanzania National REDD Strategy to address the following recommendations to maintain/enhance community rights and increase community and civil society participation in REDD activities.

Recommendation 1: The National REDD Strategy express support for a nested approach.

We believe allowing communities direct access to REDD markets or international REDD funds will provide a stronger incentive for reducing deforestation. Conversely, policies to restrict the use of forest areas on village land without compensating villages for their opportunity costs should be avoided as such policies would mean that the individual citizen will be burdened by the cost of REDD without receiving the benefits. Therefore, we recommend that the National REDD Strategy specify that a nested approach will be adopted to allow village level efforts at reducing deforestation to be verified and credited independently within a national accounting framework. This will ensure REDD benefits reach communities and that communities are rewarded for their individual efforts to reduce deforestation on lands under their control.

Recommendation 2: The National REDD Strategy recognize that most unreserved forests in mainland Tanzania are on village land and that villages should have ownership over the carbon benefits derived from reduced deforestation on their lands.

The National REDD Framework refers to all unreserved forests (49% of all forests) in Tanzania as being on general land. This interpretation of general land implies that villages don't have a legal right to use and manage forested land outside of village forest reserves, when in reality, most of the unreserved forest areas in Tanzania are on village land that villagers have a legal right to use. The confusion arises from Tanzania's 1999 Land Act, which defines general land as all land that is not reserved land or village land, including unoccupied and unused village land.

However, under the 1999 Village Land Act, which is the law that specifically defines village land (except in Zanzibar which has its own legislation), village land can include lands that are communally used (such as forest areas used for fuelwood), fallow lands, and lands reserved for future use. In addition, village land is legally established as village land if a village has commonly agreed boundaries with its neighbors even before the village is awarded a village land certificate from the ministry of lands. According to the ministry of lands, most villages have been surveyed and have legally established boundaries. Thus, most unreserved forests on village land cannot be classified as general land and this is a very large proportion of unreserved forests.

We recommend the National REDD Strategy make it clear that most unreserved forests are on village land (apart from a tiny proportion < 1 % on private land and a some surveyed areas of general land). Classifying forests on village land as general land could encourage village land grabbing by unprincipled elites/investors, or even the transfer of REDD benefits from villages who are reducing deforestation to the government or private sector, which would compromise the rights of local communities and eliminate the incentive to reduce deforestation. The National REDD Framework correctly advocates strengthening tenure as a means to reduced deforestation. The National REDD Strategy should facilitate this process by recognizing the legal right that villages have to unreserved forests within their boundaries and recommending that carbon tenure in Tanzania be tied to land tenure.

Recommendation 3: The National REDD Strategy include mechanisms for compensating communities for reductions in deforestation in government forest reserves.

In addition to recognizing and strengthening the rights that villages have to own and benefit from carbon stored in biomass on village lands, we recommend that the national REDD strategy also include a mechanism for compensating communities that make measurable contributions to reducing deforestation in government forest reserves.

Recommendation 4: The National REDD Strategy stipulate that community groups, civil societies and private sector be represented on the National REDD Task Force, and in whatever body will replace the task force.

The national REDD Task Force was appointed by the government to identify challenges and opportunity and to develop the National REDD strategy. The Task Force has led the way in initiating the drive to REDD readiness in Tanzania. However, we recommend extending membership of the REDD Task Force to include community groups, civil society organizations, and the private sector which are not currently represented on the task force. This will ensure comprehensive stakeholder representation, a more efficient flow of information between national and local levels on all aspects of REDD implementation, and more effective implementation of the REDD Strategy.

Recommendation 5: The National REDD Strategy include a commitment to develop, adopt and implement National REDD Community and Biodiversity Safeguards.

REDD in Tanzania should be conducted in such a way as to protect community benefits and ecosystem services including biodiversity. We recommend that the National REDD Strategy support the development of national REDD standards, to ensure that REDD activities in Tanzania have the protection of biodiversity and community rights as core guiding principles.

We thank you for the consideration of these recommendations.