

HAWA MUSHI

University of Dar es Salaam

Master thesis: A comparative assessment of challenges and opportunities of REDD with regard to participatory forest management: The case of Kilosa

This study focuses on the globally emerging REDD+ programme as a way of tackling climate change, and it looks at challenges and implications for implementation at the Tanzanian national level and at the local level through a case study in Kilosa District. Through semi-structured livelihood interviews and literature reviews I explored various cons and pros of the programme and how it would fit into social and economic livelihood frameworks of the villagers.

The current debate on climate change, especially with respect to the role of REDD-plus and the push for the recognition of participatory forest management as a carbon mitigation option represents unprecedented opportunities for forest communities to receive benefits from carbon sequestration activities. However, REDD-plus could generate potential social and environmental cost with some related risks if benefit sharing and governance issues are not well addressed from the very beginning. This study explores challenges and opportunities of REDD in the context of a PFM sites that are participating in the REDD plus mechanism.

This study met these objectives through an extensive review of relevant literature and the implementation of practical research. The later was carried out through a case study of Chabima, Kigunga, Dodoma Isanga and Masugu Juu villages in Kilosa, Tanzania using semi structured interviews and a wide range of participatory rural appraisal methods.

The findings of this study show that there is a strong commitment by the villages to manage the forest reserve as one entity for the benefit of their community through the REDD project. With respect to REDD-plus benefits, the expectations are high within the villages despite the fact that they barely understand what the real benefits would be over a long run.

It is recommended that the REDD project should provide more immediate options for the communities which could provide the best alternatives to deforestation activities and raise their income. These can be short term loans and technical business assistance.