Learning from the Other: Benefit Sharing Lessons for REDD+ Implementation Based on CBFM Experience in Northern Tanzania

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Outline

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Background

• On-going Global efforts to mitigate climate change, the emergence of REDD+ and the potential benefits for forest dependent communities.

• CBFM is increasingly viewed by various actors as a means to deliver multiple outcomes such as livelihood benefits, carbon sequestration, and biodiversity conservation.

• Experience of CBFM implementation and benefit sharing challenges is crucial for REDD+ Readiness
Background

• Threats posed by Elite capture in CBFM

• The need to assess community perception and attitudes on benefit sharing under CBFM and the proposed REDD+ scheme

• Need to examine identify threats that might undermine the realization of benefits from CBFM and its implication to on going REDD+ projects
Why Northern Tanzania!

- The pioneering role of the region particularly Duru-Haitemba village forests regarding CBFM in Tanzania

- The DHVLR is one of the oldest (established in 1994) cases of village-based forest management in Tanzania

- It is also one of the most well-known because of the optimistic assessments of governance quality that were attributed to it.
Why Northern Tanzania!

• One of the villages in DHVLFR (Ayasanda) was part of a project called Kyoto: “Think Global, Act Local”, which initiated pilot schemes to purchase forest carbon from village forests.

• The village managed to obtain a total of 2,550,667 TZS for selling carbon from their community forest.

• Benefit sharing experiences under CBFM will provide valuable lessons for REDD+ implementation in Tanzania.

• This makes it such a fascinating case.
Methodology

• Two villages namely Riroda and Ayasanda were purposefully sampled.

• Ayasanda was chosen because apart from CBFM experience, the village had already been introduced to the idea of carbon trade under the Kyoto: Think Global Act Local project.

• Riroda was selected because a few studies exist on the village compared to the rest of the villages.

• Households were used as sampling units and village registers as sampling frame.
Sampling

Simple random sampling was used.

- 8% of a total of 1261 village households was sampled using simple random sampling
- Each head of households was assigned a number in each village
- Table random numbers was used to draw a sample from the list
- The researcher randomly selected a row as starting point
- 101 households were sampled and interviewed

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<th>Village</th>
<th>Total Households</th>
<th>Sampled Households</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ayasanda</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
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<td>Total</td>
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Sampling

• Sampling of Key Informants: Purposive sampling was used in sampling of Key informants. They were targeted at due to their positions at community and institutional level. A total of 24 were interviewed.

• Sampling of FGD participants: Stratified sampling was used: age and sex was considered.
Data Source and Collection Techniques

Sources of Data
- Secondary – Review of academic literature, PFM reports, policy and other relevant publication
- Primary data - Field interviews

Data Collection Techniques
FGD
- 4 FGDs conducted
- 8 individuals in a group

Key Informant Interviews
- 26 Key informants
- Local officials, VNRC, MJUMITA, Qhaymanda forest custodians

Questionnaire
- Used both open and closed questions
- 101 Respondents interviewed

Data Analysis
- Manually sorted, compiled and analysed
- SPSS (frequency, percentage, average, chi-square)
- Narrative analysis
Findings and Discussions

• Currently benefits include tangible forest products, environmental services, social benefits (networks and training) and also financial related benefits which are currently fairly low.

• Financial related benefits include those from ecotourism activities, research permits, fines from offenders and user fees charged to harvest various forest products.

• Due to insufficient financial benefits, expectations are mounting in both villages that in the future they will receive financial benefits from REDD+ through carbon trading.
Findings and Discussions

• There is no organized system in place for sharing forests benefits

• Income based benefits and benefits related to trainings are being captured by local elites mainly the village government, the VNRC and those connected to them.

Communal Vs Individual Benefits In Ayasanda

• Villagers were in favor of collective use of financial benefits/revenues, rather than distribution of small amounts to individual households

• Communal benefits were considered more important because the revenues can be used for activities with community impacts such as expanding village infrastructure and improving the accessibility of various social services
Findings and Discussions

- Primary school classrooms in Haitemba Sub-village built by funds from the Kyoto; Think Global Act Local
Perceptions on who decide distribution of forest benefits
Findings and Discussions

Threats Likely to Undermine the Realization of Benefits from CBFM and possible REDD

1. Lack of Transparency and Accountability
   • Income obtained from various forest activities is kept by the village government and it is not clearly known how it is spent.

   • Financial reports are rarely given to the villagers. In Riroda, the VNRC has not presented any financial reports. The most recent revenue records available were from 2007.

   • Villagers are concerned this tendency will continue even when REDD+ payments arrive.
Findings and Discussions

Threats Likely to Undermine the Realization of Benefits from CBFM and possible REDD

Lack of Transparency and Accountability

• The village government rarely convene meetings and in incidents where meetings are called, they are not announced in advance.

• Most villagers considered themselves incapable of making their leaders accountable.

• Accountability weaknesses have encouraged elite capture of financial benefits from the forest in especially in Riroda.
Findings and Discussions

2. Power struggle between actors

• Key informants interviews and FGD sessions revealed that VNRC has no control over financial matters and that the chairman keeps the money and decides what to do with it.

• In one of the villages, the VEO is acting as the treasurer and decides what to do with the money collected from various sources such as fines, products charges and tourist fees.

• The NCRC expressed their frustrations over the ongoing power struggle which serve to benefit top village government officials.
Findings and Discussions

3. Corruption/Abuse of Power

• Village leaders take bribes and collaborate with relatively well-off villagers to illegally harvest forest products.

• Some village council members own farms and are also engaged in illegal pit-sawing activities inside the forest reserve.

• The VNRC and the forest patrol team tend to take small bribe and release offenders who are caught involved in illegal harvest of forest products.
Findings and Discussions

4. Favoritism/ Nepotism

• Villagers also were concerned that village leaders tend to favour people connected to them especially their relatives and friends

• Few well-connected villagers are selected to attend training in beekeeping and nursery management

• Top village governments officials allow their close allies to engage in destructive activities in the forest reserve for the purpose of maintaining political support.
Implication for REDD+

• Governance mechanisms and institutions at the local level must be strengthened if proper benefit sharing is to be realized under REDD+.

• As Tanzania move from pilot phase to full scale REDD+ implementation, the country should heed the lessons learned from years of experience in community forestry.

• Additional carbon payments from REDD+ could increase the rewards for elite capture, or it might raise local dissatisfaction and resistance to elite capture.
Implication for REDD+

• There must be specific criteria for sharing benefits. They should be incentive based.

• REDD funds are more likely to benefit few community members if proper benefit sharing arrangements are not in place.
Thank You