

BRIEF REPORT ON THE 7:30 BREAKFAST DEBATE – JANUARY 28TH, 2011

HOW DO WE CONFRONT THE CHALLENGES IN THE POLITICS OF REDUCING EMISSIONS FROM DEFORESTATION AND DEGRADATION?

Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+) is a mechanism designed to pay developing countries to protect their forests and reduce emissions of greenhouse gas pollutants, especially CO₂. Wealthy countries could buy carbon credits from developing countries who keep their forests standing.

In 2009 a National REDD Task Force was formed, which has representation from the Forestry and Beekeeping Division (FBD) and the Department of Environment. In August 2009, the Task Force released the National REDD Framework, which was to serve as an outline for the development on a National REDD Strategy, the guiding document for the implementation of REDD. After a long-anticipated period, the Task Force finally released the first draft of the National REDD Strategy in early January 2011. While the Task Force has been working to develop the national strategy, seven NGOs funded by the Norwegians as part of the national Readiness process, have been on-the-ground piloting REDD projects.

Policy Forum and TNRF has decided to dedicate this month's debate to the issue of Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation (REDD). The debate is titled **"How do we solve the conflicts in the politics of Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation?"** The presentations was done by Mr. Charles Meshack from Tanzania Forest Conservation Group and Prof. Pius Yanda from Secretariat for the National REDD Task Force. The Debate was facilitated by Miss Jessie from TNRF.

The first presentation was done by Mr. Meshack, he started by giving the outline of the presentation which was background of REDD, Climate Change and REDD structure, Community Concerns and Recommendations.

Since 2008 TZ government has been making preparation for the establishment of REDD systems and structure which was supported by UN REDD, Government of Norway and Finland, Clinton Foundation Climate Initiatives and World Bank's Forest Carbon Partnership Facility. The national REDD framework Provides a vision of future REDD outcomes, processes and challenges to be addressed if goals are to met. The framework is based on the objectives of reducing emissions related to deforestation and forest degradation as well as reducing poverty of forest dependent communities.

Environment Division (VPO) Coordinates CC issues which are Climate Change Steering Committee (CCSC), Climate Change Technical Committee (CCTC), National Carbon Monitoring Centre (proposed), REDD Task Force with membership from Vice –President Office, Division of Environment (VPO-DoE), Ministry of Natural Resource and Tourism, Forestry and Beekeeping Division (MNRT-FBD) and Prime Ministers Office and the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Environment in Zanzibar. There is no representation of CSOs, community and private sector.

Local communities perspectives on REDD welcome the opportunity to generate a (cash) income from their forests; to move away from slash and burn agriculture if provided with the necessary capacity (slash and burn is hard work and pays little); to generate funds that could support basic services such as clinics, schools and water supplies and to strengthen their control of the land through land use planning and participatory forest management.

Further more there is a concern from the community which raises many question that; is REDD another land grab?, How are we going to feed our families and improve our lives on less land?, And even if they reach our community leaders, what is to stop them from stealing it?, Cost and

benefit sharing mechanism?, Is the government going to support us to enforce the laws on logging and charcoal production? And Protecting forest is going to increase populations of animals like baboons, elephants and lions that eat their crops and attack them. "How will we deal with that"? All these questions need to be addressed.

On his conclusion remark he recommended that, the RS clearly express Tanzania's support for a nested approach, the RS recognize that almost all unreserved forests are on village land and that village land rights will apply under national REDD policies and the RS recognize that carbon stored in forest biomass within village land is the property of the village. Moreover the RS stipulate that community groups, civil societies and private sector should be represented on the National REDD Task Force, the RS include a commitment to adopt and implement National REDD and lastly Community and Biodiversity Safeguards to complement World Bank safeguards.

Second presentation was done by Prof. Pius Yanda on his presentation he started by providing specific objectives of the strategy which aim at to establish a national reference scenario, i.e. baseline condition, against which carbon changes can be assessed and monitored to determine carbon benefits; to provide guidelines on how to assess, monitor and determine carbon benefits from such carbon changes; to provide incentives for the effective participation of the stakeholders in the REDD+ policy and implementation of the National REDD+ Strategy options, to provide guidance on how best to address the identified drivers, underlining causes and impacts of uncontrolled deforestation and forest degradation in the various agro ecological zones.

He later talked on the Strategy Development Process which has undergone four phases, that is, a preliminary analytical phase which involved; Scoping studies to identify; potentials for REDD+ in Tanzania, access capacities for REDD+ implementation, as well as gaps and issues to be addressed. Also another process involve stakeholders consultation phase, a strategic analysis and piloting phase where a number of in-depth studies and pilot projects were commissioned and a consolidation phase of the strategy.

The National REDD Strategy aim at commissioning in-depth studies through, modalities of establishing and operationalizing National REDD Trust Fund, and associated financial flow management, development of business case for Carbon Trade through REDD initiative, role of REDD for rural development, legal and institutional framework review in the context of REDD intervention and information Management and communication strategy. It also aims at drafting of National REDD Strategy document which will be shared with key stakeholders and expert groups. It also strategizes to prepare action plan and submit to the government for approval.

On his conclusion remark he mention that the proposed technical groups which includes Legal & Governance, Monitoring, Reporting and Verification (MRV), Financial Mechanism (REDD Fund), Energy drivers as well as Agriculture Drivers were formed.

The two presentations followed up with the comment from special guest from the government Dr. Kilahama. He said that the act is very clear when you talk about forest. He reminded the participants that what was going on is part and parcel of what the government is advocating for, that is the engagement of CSOs in the process as it was put forward by Prof. Yanda on his presentation and I wish the taskforce group could make a presentation

As the government we need to engage all the drivers but so far it seem that we on the edge- he admitted that the drivers have not been utilized as it is required because they have not been met with the stakeholders for quite sometimes. The members for taskforces are very limited to the government officials including some from Zanzibar, there is a concern to include some members from the CSOs, this is a very pertinent ideas and we can now consider how best to engage other stakeholders in the task forces within the process.

Later on it was followed up by comment from the discussant Mr. Cassian Sianga from TNRF, he commented on the two presentations made by giving out some of the challenges that need to be considered through the process of REDD strategy.

Funding mechanism is the issue to consider, there are two issues here that is national approach and family based approach we need to think critically on which of the two approaches is more useful as far as REDD strategy is concern, also the issue of funds who will own it as for now it is not clear whether will be the central government or LGAs.

Land tenure need also to be considered in depth since about 40% is general land and we are advocating for REDD and REDD is money hence there is the issue of land grabbing, so in connection with village land rights we need to make sure how village will be having land rights . On joint meeting –government officials never come to the meeting if they are invited, it seem as if it not their responsibility the involvement of CSOs and private sector is paramount-this is reflecting how is the owner of this REDD process.

Comments and questions from Plenary Discussions:

- The issue of deforestation- majority of Tanzanian depends on wood charcoal as we are dealing with REDD strategy do also try to consider the alternative source of energy?
- Mining activities are also contributing to deforestation especially the big companies how do we address such a thing?
- How does the REDD strategy fit in the global climate change strategy?
- What the strategy does REDD have to make sure local people understand the issue of climate change?
- The issue of funds and trust fund, how does it make sure that it will bring the end result to the community level?
- The issue of energy source has not been clearly addressed at the house hold level and there are no vivid measures to ensure that deforestation is tackled.
- Wood charcoal have become the source of money to both the individual citizens and then LGAs because most of the charcoal are sold in Dar es salaam where there is a high demand and the LGAs have imposed the barrier check up for natural resources products one of them is charcoal and the government has imposed a levy on charcoal business
- If community depends from forest how far are we sure that payment earned from REDD will exceed from payment from other land uses.
- We need to acquire behavioral change particularly on women in environmental conservation, do we involve women in this REDD process?

Respond to the comments and Questions:

- We can depend on charcoal but there are ways that we can improve, that is, we need to improve the efficiency on how charcoal can be prepared. Certainly we need to look on another alternative like solar
- So within the REDD stakeholders there is energy group who will provide the inputs on the alternative source of energy but the mining case and deforestation this is more of policy issues which need to be addressed separately.
- The synergy between adaptation and REDD is very clear because we see REDD as a strategy to enhance equal system and integrity so once adopted it will enable other issues to be solve like reducing floods and availability of water for irrigation, as well as soil erosion which is a result of deforestation so the adaptation of REDD has an accrual to the community.
- Exceed payment is possible if we do a comprehensive cost benefit analysis targeting areas which are attractive on land uses in terms of incomes and benefit to the community
- There are areas where conservation will be needed even in the absence of REDD, so we should consider REDD as an opportunity to enhance conservation of such area like catchments areas hence equal system gain will be attained from such areas
- There many drivers of deforestation and that is why REDD is trying to address by looking on what are failures from the current policy and what REDD can improve.

Miss. Jessie from TNRF closed the discussion and welcomed the participant to the other next month brake fast debate.