Making REDD work for communities and forest conservation in Tanzania:

"Linking local REDD+ initiatives to a National REDD+ Strategy"
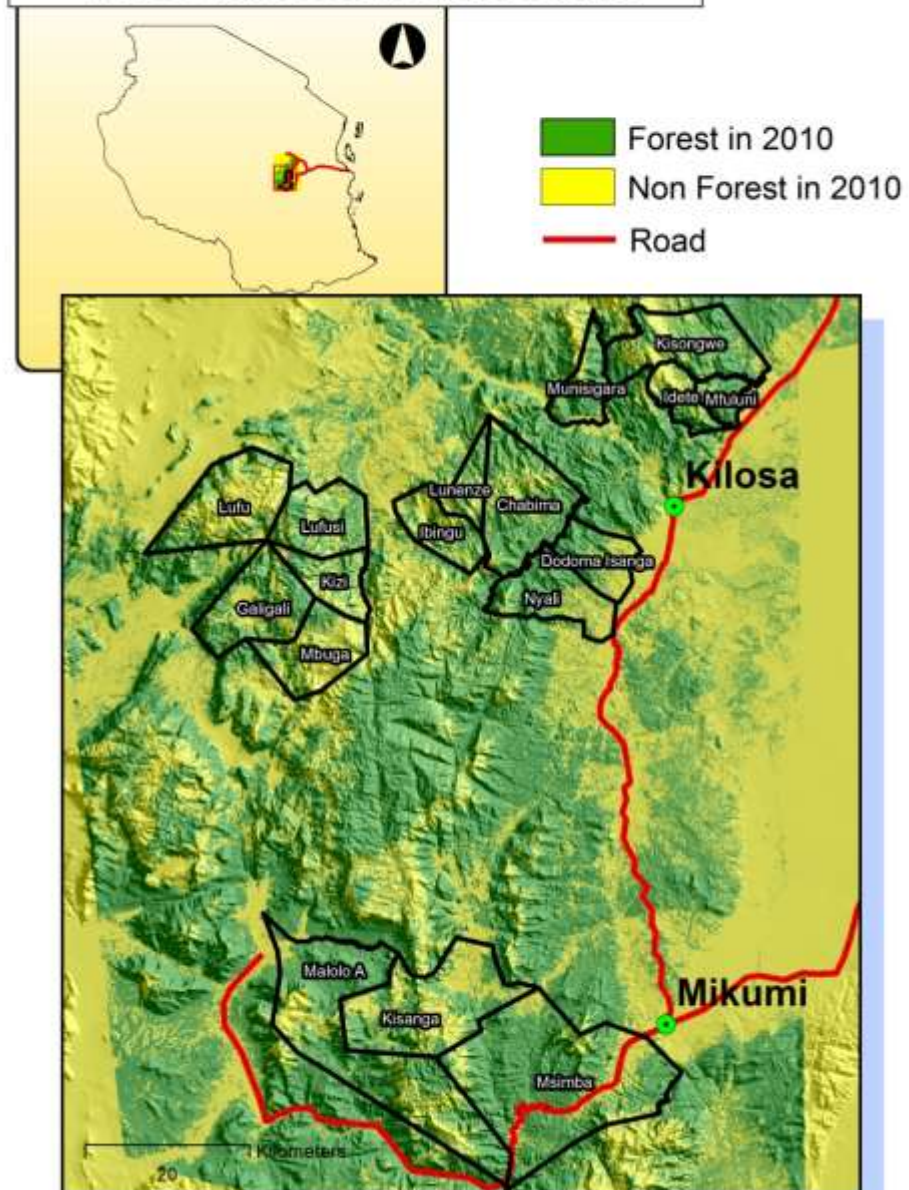
April 29th to 1st May 2013, Hawassa, Ethiopia.

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Tanzania Forest Conservation Group
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Project Brief over view

- 5 years project September 2009-August 2014

- Partnership between 2 Tanzanian NGOs. Working in 2 separate sites to model a community-oriented approach to REDD.

- Eastern Arc Mountains and includes a mosaic of woodland and high biodiversity submontane and montane forest on village land. The other site is in the Eastern African Coastal Forest hotspot and includes areas of woodland and coastal forest also on village land.

Total Area

- Total Project area **373,200 ha**

- Total village forest areas in the two project sites = **241,641 ha.**

- **About 64%**

Map of Tanzania Showing TFCG/MJUMITA REDD Project Site in Kilosa District

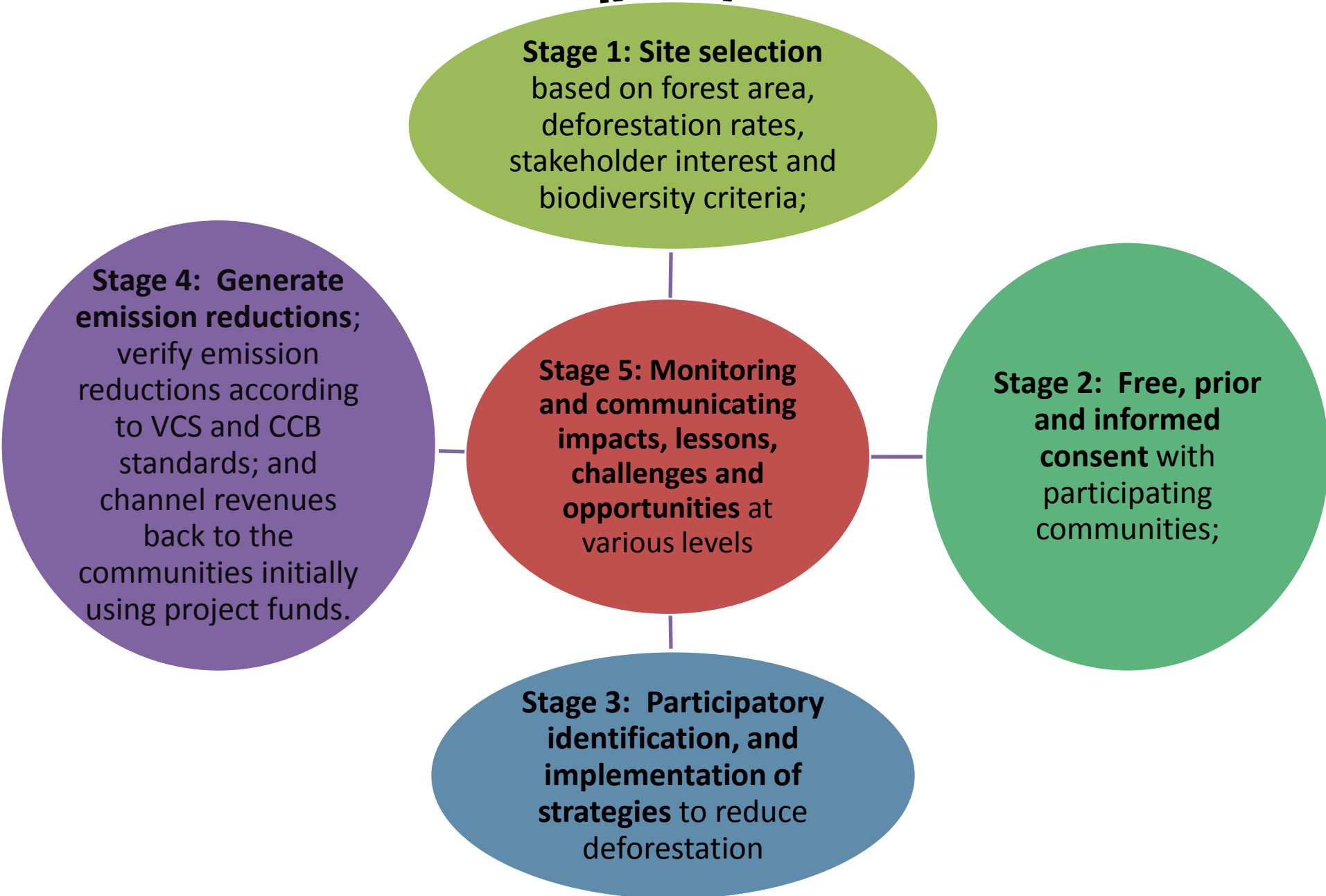Forest in 2010
Non Forest in 2010
Road

Project goal and purpose

Project Goal: To reduce GHG emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in Tanzania in ways that provide direct and equitable incentives to rural communities to conserve and manage forests sustainably.

Purpose: To demonstrate, at local, national and international levels, a pro-poor approach to reducing deforestation and forest degradation by generating equitable financial incentives for communities that are sustainably managing or conserving Tanzanian forests at community level.

Implementing a Community Oriented Model of REDD

Stage 1: Site selection based on forest area, deforestation rates, stakeholder interest and biodiversity criteria;

Stage 4: Generate emission reductions; verify emission reductions according to VCS and CCB standards; and channel revenues back to the communities initially using project funds.

Stage 5: Monitoring and communicating impacts, lessons, challenges and opportunities at various levels

Stage 2: Free, prior and informed consent with participating communities;

Stage 3: Participatory identification, and implementation of strategies to reduce deforestation

At the Project Outset communities identified concerns related to;

- Restrictions on access to land and forest products;

- Elite capture of REDD funds;

- Land grabbing;

- Conflict within communities over distribution of REDD funds;

- Increased human- wildlife conflict as habitat is better protected;

- Conflict associated with enforcement of restrictions on access to forest products.

Drivers of DD

Direct DD

1. Agriculture (Shifting agriculture)
2. Energy- Unsustainable Charcoal Production and forest product extraction
3. Extraction of forest biomass

Indirect DD

1. Insecure Village Tenure and forest regime
2. Poor governance
3. Poverty
4. Population increase

Strategies to reduce deforestation as identified by communities

1. Develop land use plans for each village
2. Develop participatory forest management (PFM)
3. Improve agriculture practices and productivity
4. Improve governance at village level
5. Access REDD finance
6. Develop viable income generating activities (IGAs)
7. Reduce extraction of forest biomass
8. Improve social services and infrastructure

Land use planning

Addressing DD and leakage through various interventions

Learning about soil erosion control techniques in conservation agriculture

Reaching consensus on village boundaries

Marking village forest reserve boundaries

Impacting on Livelihood through alternative IGAs

Community members in Lindi during beekeeping training, they are planning for the best apiaries for hanging the bee hives

Community members in Kilosa pose after a village Savings and Loan scheme training

Project officer in action, brick made with the mixture of dirty oil + pepper and elephant dung in Mkanga 1 village in a training in techniques to scare away wild animals

Community members in Kilosa during practical training of constructing trenches

Equitable Benefit Sharing Model
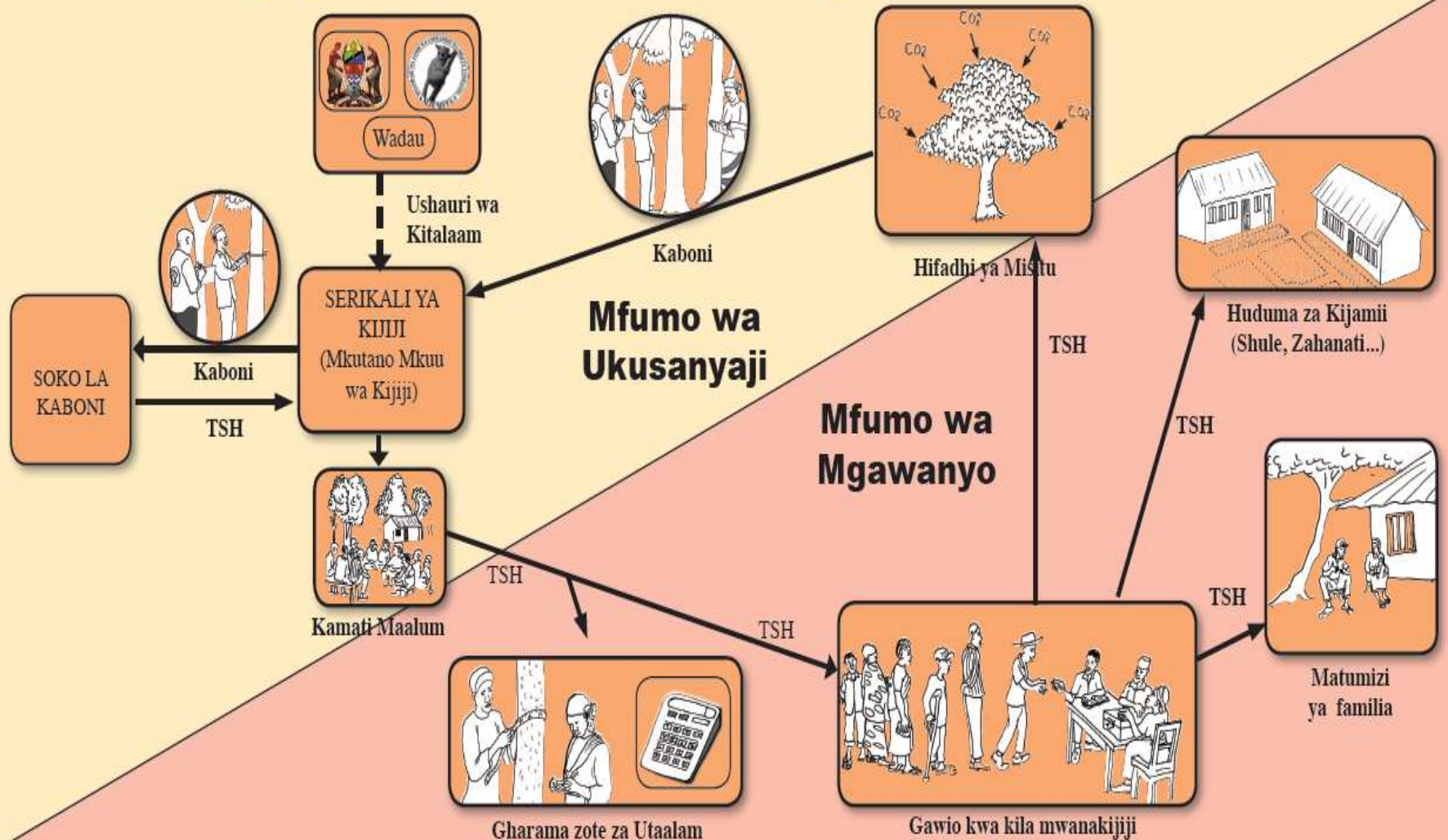
Testing of the Trial Payment Model

- In ensuring that there is a transparent, simple and more participatory way of communities' decision making in REDD related processes;
  - Put in place an equitable and transparent system of decision making regarding distribution of REDD revenues. (village REDD bylaws)
  - To make sure that all adult members of the community are involved in decision making of the REDD revenue distribution mechanism.
  - To ensure that the system enables all community members have access to the benefits of REDD.

- **Strengthening Community level governance**
  - Capacity building to community leaders from the VG, VNRCs, elders, network members
  - Testing Trial REDD Payments
  - Effective participation, involvement of , all women, men, youths and children
  - Monitoring and linking with livelihood improvement and addressing drivers of deforestation

REDD Revenue payment model

Ukusanyaji wa **KABONI** na Mgawanyo wa fedha za **MKUHUMI**

Criteria for calculating the amount for trial payment

- The proportional of the area of the VLFR reserve (with more than 10 years old) and the village forest area left outside the VFR boundaries;

- Historical deforestation rate and potential avoided deforestation level (in Ha) ;

- Potential area likely to be subjected for leakage within and outside the village land.

- Estimated amount of tones CO_2/Ha;

- Estimated price of CO_2/t.

- Total amount to be paid to the village

Linking the project to the national REDD Processes

- Through **TNRF's role of coordinating joint learning from pilots and other stakeholders in REDD,** managed to coordinate and submitted joint CSO recommendations on the 1st and 2nd Drafts of the National REDD Strategy, provides general support for the project's approach.

- Through a **multi stakeholder Project Advisory Committee (PAC)** which serves as a mechanism for informing government institutions on the overall progress and achievements that the project has made on an on-going basis

Linking the project to the national REDD Processes

- The project developed an **Advocacy strategy** to guide the advocacy interventions on various issues that needed recognition in the development process such as:-

  - *social and environmental standards for REDD;*

  - *Strengthening community land and carbon tenure;*

  - *Promoting a nested model for REDD and*

  - *gender*

- *Regular awareness raising and information sharing through media. Common media used are Radio (National and local radios) TV, news paper articles in local Swahili and English papers, meetings, briefs, posters and workshop presentations.*

- The National REDD strategy expresses strong support for **developing and monitoring standards,** a shift in attitude that the project has contributed

- **Gender is mentioned 78 times in the National REDD strategy 2013** compared to 0 mentions in the draft REDD framework 2009. Again, the project's advocacy on this issue has helped to influence shift.

Challenges and Lessons so far

1. **REDD requires multiple strategies** to achieve more sustainable community livelihoods if reductions in deforestation are to be achieved and **these strategies need to be identified and planned by the communities** which requires investment in awareness raising, participatory planning and social impact assessment.

2. Another major challenge for REDD in a country such as Tanzania where **much of the deforestation involves small-scale farmers** is to find scalable interventions that can improve agricultural yields whilst also improving livelihoods and reducing GHG emissions.

- **Reliable, adequate and accessible finance is needed** and should reach those who bear the opportunity cost of REDD as well as those implementing the strategies to reduce deforestation;

- The **uncertainty that persists regarding the amount of REDD revenues that will be available** and the rules and procedures that will govern who can access those funds and how.

- **Fears over land grabbing** in Tanzania and negative stories about REDD and other carbon-based projects in the media are making some community members so afraid of REDD that they are rejecting it. With growing concern across Tanzania over 'land grabbing', communities are increasingly nervous over land use planning issues.

Asanteni!

For more information, please visit:
www.tfcg.org/makingReddWork.html