An introduction to REDD+

International Climate Change and Energy Law

Thursday March 6, 2014

Introduction to UN-REDD

- UN-REDD Program = United Nations Collaborative Program on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation in developing countries

- UNFCCC in September 2008

- Mechanism to protect, better manage and wisely use forest resources to contribute the global fight against climate change

- Creates a financial value for the carbon stored in trees

Evolution

- 2005: COP 11- RED was first discussed during the 11th session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention;

- 2007: COP 13 - Bali Action Plan – forest degradation should be given equal importance → the second "D" is added;

- 2008: COP 14 - the idea of REDD+ arose;

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- 2009: COP 15 - issues about safeguarding the exploitation of indigenous communities were discussed;

- 2010: COP 16 - official entry of REDD as a mitigation mechanism;

- 2011: COP 17 - initiative for coordination and support for implementing REDD+ projects

- 2013: COP 19 - REDD+ framework is agreed upon.

Activities the countries may implement to reduce GHG

- Reducing emissions from deforestation.

- Reducing emissions from forest degradation.

- Conservation of forest carbon stocks.

- Sustainable management of forests.

- Enhancement of forest carbon stocks

Goals

- Conservation of forests

- Sustainable management of forests

- Enhancement of forest carbon stocks

- Encourages countries to find effective ways to reduce human pressure on forests that result in GHG emissions

- Safeguarding indigenous communities' rights

Implementation of REDD+

- **1. National Policies and Measures**

countries have to develop specific national strategies and action plans for the implementation of REDD+.

Eg. Forest sector laws and procedures

establishment of national institutions

- **2. Measurement, reporting and verification (MRV)**

Developing nations are required to create a national forest monitoring systems (NFMS)

This system support the functions of measurement, reporting and verification (MRV) of actions and achievements of the implementation of REDD+ activities

- **M**easurement: "The process of data collection over time, providing basic datasets, including associated accuracy and precision, for the range of relevant variables. Possible data sources are field measurements, field observations, detection through remote sensing and interviews.

- **R**eporting: "The process of formal reporting of assessment results to the UNFCCC, according to predetermined formats and according to established standards, especially the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Guidelines and GPG [Good Practice Guidance]."

- **V**erification: "The process of formal verification of reports, for example, the established approach to verify national communications and national inventory reports to the UNFCCC."

Safeguards

In order to avoid the misuse of REDD+, UNFCCC established a list of safeguards that countries need to "promote and support" in order to guarantee the correct and lasting generation of results from the REDD+ mechanism. These safeguards are:

a) That actions complement or are consistent with the objectives of national forest programmes and relevant international conventions and agreements;
b) Transparency
c) Respect for the knowledge and rights of indigenous peoples
d) The full and effective participation of relevant stakeholders, in particular indigenous peoples and local communities;
e) That actions are consistent with the conservation of natural forests and biological diversity, ensuring that the actions are not used for the conversion of natural forests,
f) Actions to address the risks of reversals;
g) Actions to reduce displacement of emissions

Reference levels

- Reference levels are a key component for any national REDD+ program and critical in at least two aspects

- Firstly, they will be scrutinized by the international community to assess the quality of the national REDD+ program, in particular with respect to the "fidelity" of the reported emission reductions or enhanced removals. In that sense it establishes the confidence of the international community in the national REDD+ program.

- Secondly, the reference levels will be the reference against which the achievements of the national REDD+ program will be compared to arrive at the amount of results-based benefits that countries can expect to receive for their efforts.
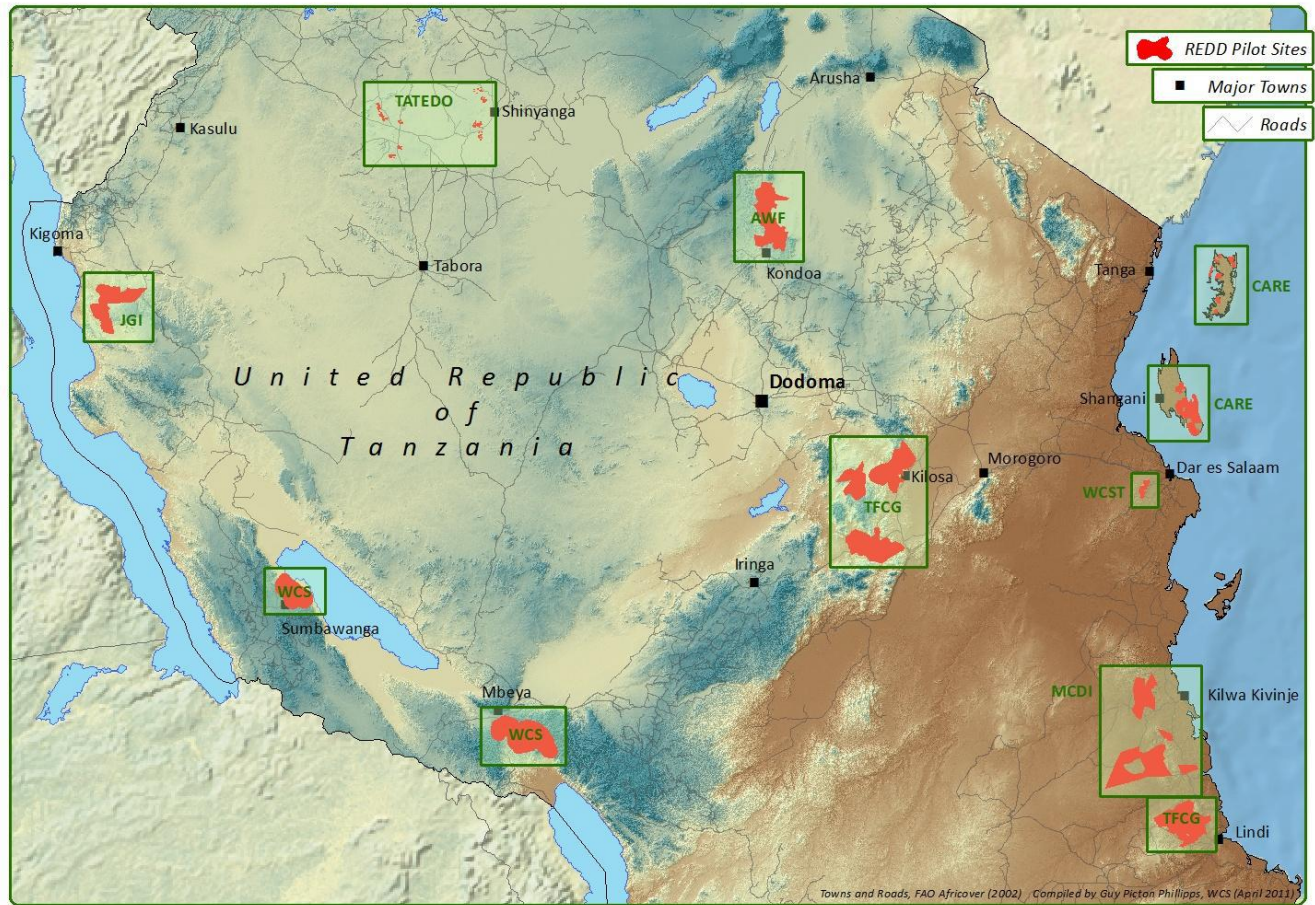
Challanges/obstacles in the implementation process

- Practical and political obstacles

- Responsibility for building robust systems for measurement, reporting and verification (MRV) of GHG emissions is expected to lie with the developing countries themselves

Con't

- Low awareness and understanding about REDD+
- Agriculture expansion for food security and producing cash crops.
- Unclear
- Corruption
- Institutionalizing and governance

Pilot REDD+ projects (Tanzania)

Towns and Roads, FAO Africover (2002)   Compiled by Guy Picton Phillips, WCS (April 2011)

Pilot REDD+ projects (Tanzania)

- 9 REDD pilot projects;
- suported by Norway;
- diverse aims and approaches;
- Working together and sharing experiens;
- AWF estimates that the REDD project in Kondoa Irangi Hills will lead to 10,524 tCO2e emissions saved.

Pilot REDD+ projects (Tanzania)

- Positive experience:
  - Expanding and reinforcing implementation of existing sustainable forest management and conservation mechanisms;
  - Strengthening community land and forest tenure;
  - Protecting well-being, diversifying livelihood strategies and enhancing resiliency;
  - Enhancing commitments to conservation;
  - Developing awareness and demands for governance improvements

Pilot REDD+ projects (Tanzania)

- Experienced risks and challenges:
  - Indigenous people and local communities may loose access to land and natural resources;
  - Unclear finance allocation system;
  - Problems in relation with equitable benefit sharing;
  - Not sufficient participation of local communities.

Pilot REDD+ projects (Tanzania)

- Making REDD Work for Communities and Forest Conservation in Tanzania:
  - Site selection;
  - Consent of the communities;
  - Participatory identification, and implementation of strategies;
  - Generate emission reductions and channel revenues back to the communities initially using project funds;
  - Monitoring

Pilot REDD+ projects (Tanzania)

- Land use planning

Pilot REDD+ projects (Tanzania)

- Marking village forest reserve boundaries:

Pilot REDD+ projects (Tanzania)

- REDD Revenue Benefit Sharing Model:
  - Village must fulfill certain criteria (completion of a plan, carbon assessment, no conflicts etc.)
  - The amount of payment is calculated for each village;
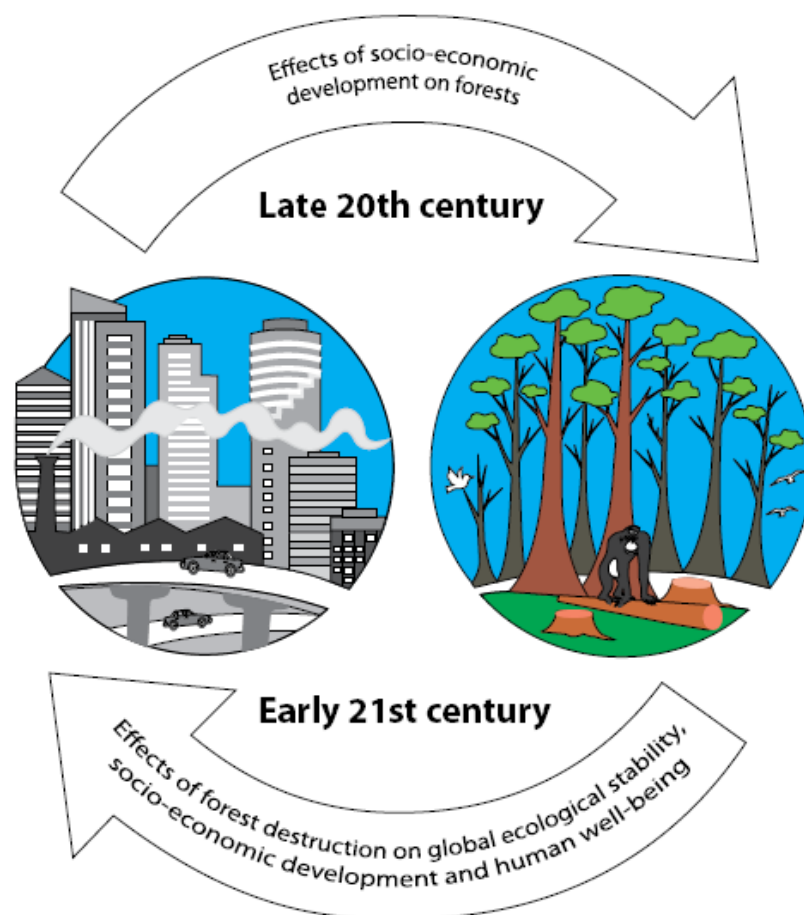 - Individual payments or contribution to community development projects.

Pilot REDD+ projects (Tanzania)

- REDD+ payments:

Is there a future for REDD+?

- A paradigm shift in the dominant view of the relationship between people and forests.

- Forests are now viewed as biomes that have to be protected.

Effects of socio-economic development on forests

Late 20th century

Early 21st century

Effects of forest destruction on global ecological stability, socio-economic development and human well-being

What should be done to make it work?

- learning from past failures in forest conservation and management;
- political will needs to be considered,
- public opinion mobilisation;
- broad sectorial coordination;
- REDD+ must be transformational;
- urgent, but not rushed

Main Warsaw COP outcomes

- Finance: payments linked to performance and measurable results, funding from funding agencies;
- agreement on the establishment of an information hub on the UNFCCC website;
- mandatory national forest monitoring system for developing countries participating in REDD+;
- international verification;
- encouragement to set up national REDD+ entities;
- encouragement to reduce drivers for deforestation;

- Questions?

- Thank you!