

Schooling, Expertise and Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+)

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Tropical Forest Policy has become technocratic, causing experts to dominate decision making over use of and access to tropical forests, to the exclusion of other legitimate parties. In Tanzania, these include residents of outlying hamlets and pastoralists, who are marginalized by the policy design.

The global policy of REDD+ has benefited some people more than others. This poster presents three narratives in a pilot project site in Kigoma, Tanzania. The schooling narrative of marginalized groups, the expert narrative of the non-governmental organization (NGO) that implemented the pilot project and the REDD+ narrative of policy design.

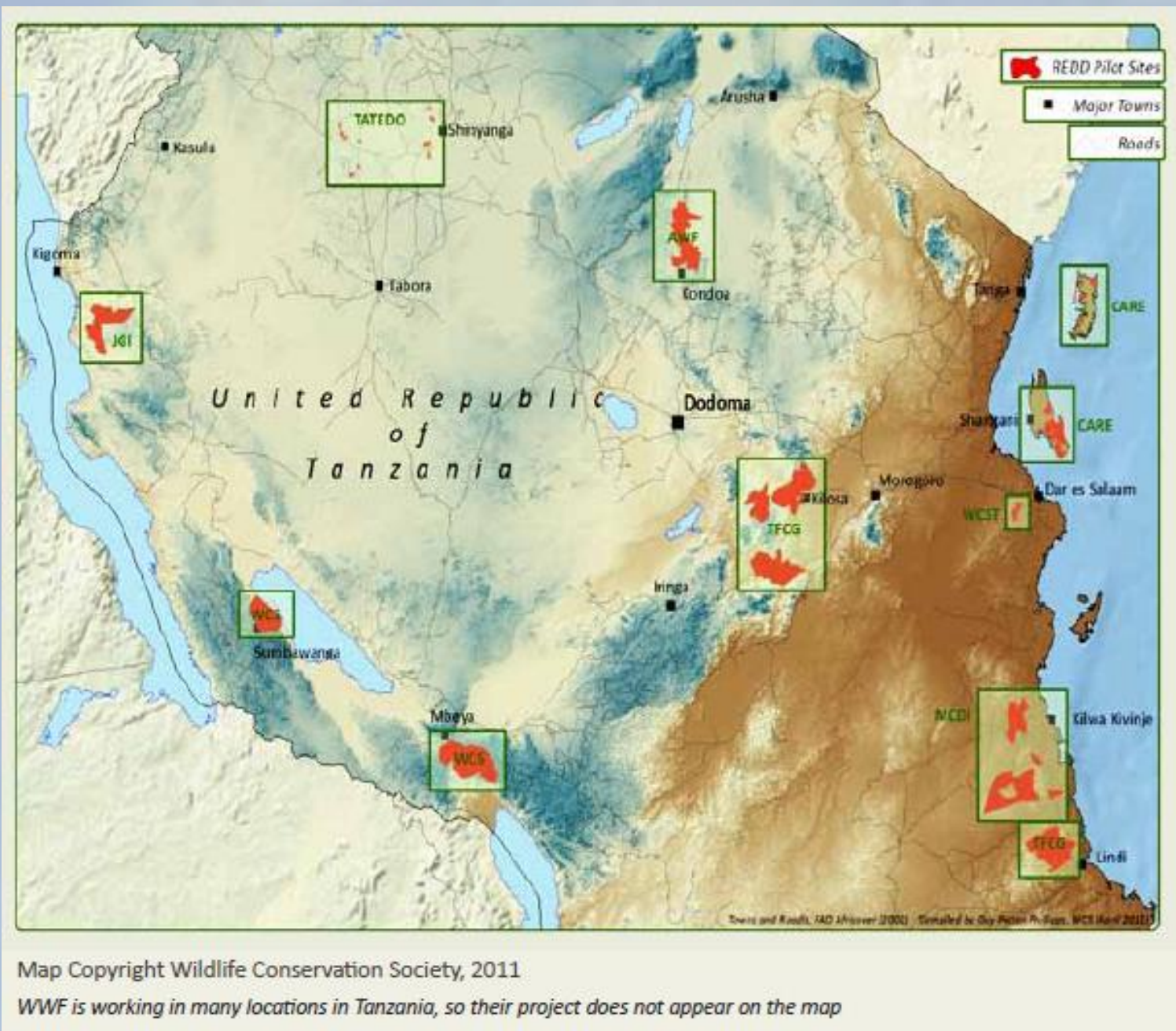


Figure 1 REDD+ Test Pilot project areas in Tanzania. The area studied is by Lake Tanganyika near Kigoma, on the Western Border between Tanzania and DR Congo

Hanzarani is a remote subvillage of Songambebe, Kigoma region, a full 3 hours walk from the village centre. Hanzarani has just one primary school, with three classrooms and two teachers. Primary education in Tanzania is for 7 years, so four of the year groups sit outside and take their lessons under the tree. They put up with the hot sun and having lessons cancelled when it rains. The two teachers rotate around the students, leaving them to work themselves in groups most of the time.



Families need to raise 50 Euros a year for school fees, which most cannot afford. These twins are the children of the sub-village chairman, who works tirelessly to sort out the local issues and campaigned for the building of the school. Both twins are bright, but at most, only one will be able to attend secondary school.

Schooling Narrative “we want to go to school”



Following traditional practices in the cattle keeping tribe Sukuma, young boys lead herds of several hundred cattle to roam through the forest, while women establish more permanent settlements. Recent migrations are clearing the Masito forest, mainly into the South-east side. Both pastoralists and shifting cultivators seek out valley floors as the most fertile land.

The migratory traditional lifestyle of pastoralists prevents them from attending school in most cases.



Figure 2. Distribution of chimpanzees and sampling sites in Tanzania. Modified from Figure 1 in Yoshikawa *et al.* (2008). Mapping gene flows.

The primary goal of the Non-governmental organization (NGO) responsible for implementing the REDD+ pilot project is chimpanzee protection. They grew from a research community of scientists with a longstanding interest in chimpanzee biology and behaviour. More recently, projects have actively attempted to involve communities in order to reduce conflicts and resistance.



Source: the Jane Goodall Institute Annual Report 2014

Expert Narrative “we want to protect this habitat”



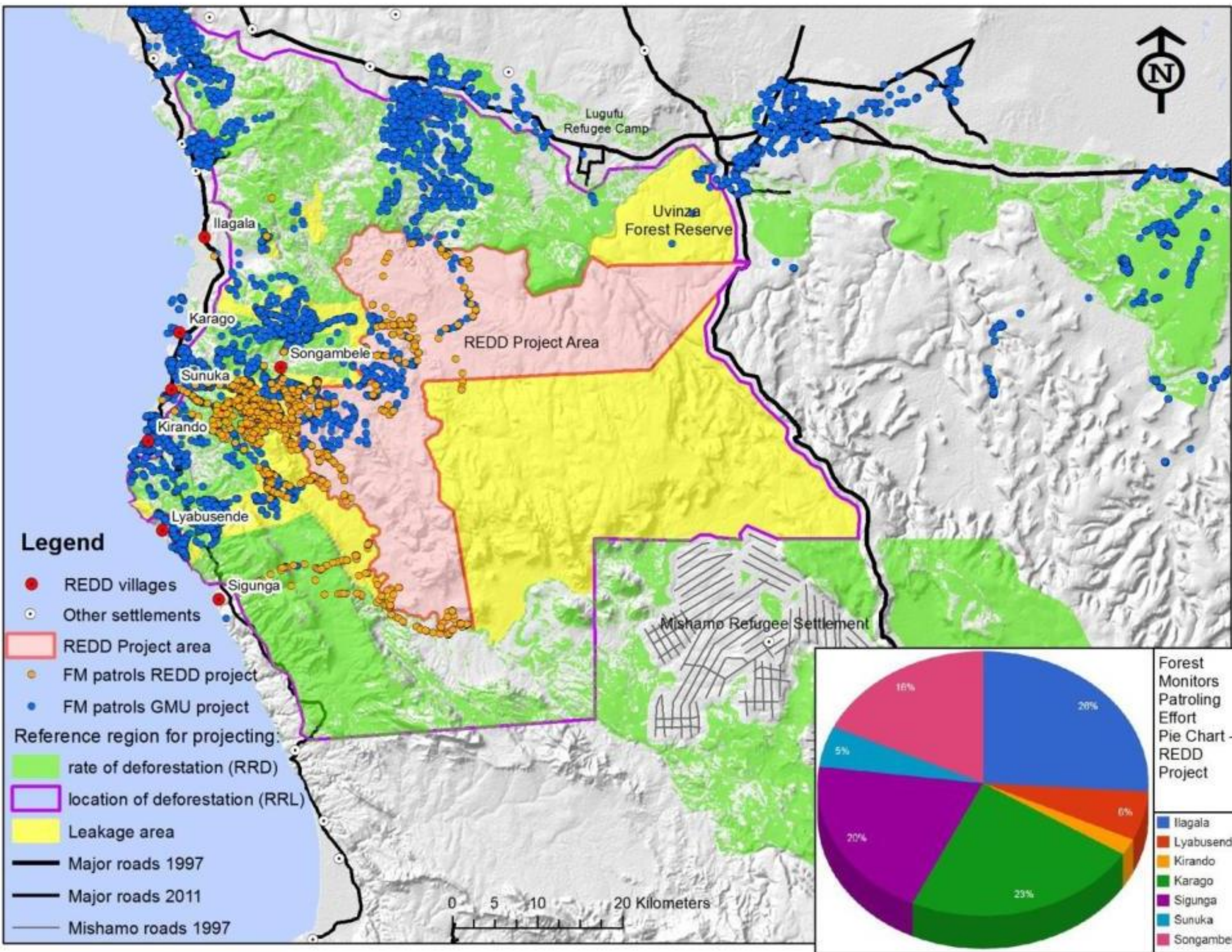
Source: the Jane Goodall Institute Annual Report 2014. Local forest monitors.

The REDD+ pilot used over 210 consultancy days. They qualified carbon reporting at local and national scales, predicted the effects of fire on carbon accounting, conducted a baseline assessment, reviewed the NGO’s previous project literature, consulted key informants, reported on strengthened organizations and cumulative behavior change, built the capacity of selected stakeholders and developed and conducted around 100 days of training workshops.

REDD+ was formulated from international negotiations in the United Nations Forum on Climate Change (UNFCCC). These included monitoring, reporting and verification (MRV) initiatives in order to ‘prove’ that biophysical changes had taken place in the forest frontier to investors in rich countries of the global ‘North’.

REDD+ MRV Narrative “we want to prove tree biomass rate changes”

In addition, goals of conserving nature and improving community livelihoods in REDD+ projects are known as ‘co-benefits’. On the ground in the project villages, these objectives became obscured by the dominant vision of scientific authority. Involving communities is a compromise. At the local scale, ‘community’ does not exist because some people live near to the village and others live far. Wealth is distributed unevenly from rich traders to poor subsistence farmers. Acting as intermediaries, the NGO built an office or school in each of their project villages to compensate the ‘communities’ for loss of access to the REDD+ forested area. However, this infrastructure was located towards village centres, far from those that used the forest the most. The technocratic nature of the policy design prevented the funding reaching those it was formally intended to benefit.



Meanwhile Global Positioning Systems (GPS) allowed forest to patrol and trace forest activities and render them visible on a global scale. In respect to Android, the main goal was to demonstrate that local communities can use mobile devices to collect georeferenced data and pictures that are in digital format that can be easily shared with the relevant local, national and international stakeholders in a transparent and cost-effective way. Map thanks to Jane Goodall Institute (JGI).