



CARE'S PERSPECTIVE ON THE MDGs

Building on success to accelerate progress towards 2015
MDG Summit, 20-22 September 2010

MDG Goal 7: Ensure Environmental Sustainability

Target 1: Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programmes and reverse the loss of environmental resources.

Overview

Climate change is a threat to social justice and undermines the fight against extreme poverty. The world's poorest people are least responsible for causing climate change. Yet, they will bear the brunt of its negative consequences. The severity of those consequences and the effort required to adapt to them depends on what we do now. If we are to achieve the MDGs by 2015 – and maintain the development progress that has been made – economic growth and development must be environmentally sustainable.

How Do We Achieve Success?

Achieving Target 1 of MDG 7 requires a strong commitment among all nations to tackle the climate change crisis we now face. This requires:

- **A global emissions target** in line with what science says is necessary to keep the increase in average global temperatures as far below 2° C as possible, and
- **Mitigation actions by all countries** to meet the global emissions target, including legally binding emissions reduction commitments by developed countries in accordance with their historic responsibility and capability and actions by developing countries, especially major emitters, to reduce their emissions growth trajectories below business as usual and move toward low carbon development, with support from developed countries. A post 2012 agreement should also include measures to reduce deforestation in developing countries.

Without ambitious emissions reduction targets unmitigated climate change may undermine progress made under other MDGs.

While it is important to recognize the achievements made related to providing safe drinking water and sanitation there are still regional disparities. In Sub-Saharan Africa only 47 % have access to safe drinking water and globally 4 out of 5 people lacking access to safe drinking water live in rural areas. The progress made in improving access to sanitation facilities is bypassing the poor in sub-Saharan Africa where less than 16% have access to such facilities.

As we enter the final five years of commitment to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, our efforts now must focus on people in extreme poverty and marginalized populations – those populations that are harder to reach. Communities and populations in poverty rely to an even greater extent on natural resources and their engagement in development strategies is critical to ensure the long-term sustainability of those gains as well as robust environmental stewardship in the context of development. Efforts to ensure environmental sustainability must adhere to pro-

poor governance principles of transparency, downward accountability, and participatory decision-making and must include social safeguards and standards to ensure that efforts:

- Are effective by fully **involving local communities and marginalized populations**, including women, who are crucial in determining the long-term environmental sustainability and viability of development efforts and forest conservation;
- Avoid doing harm by **protecting against violations of human rights** or other negative consequences for poor and marginalized groups;
- Promote social justice by **including mechanisms for sharing environmental benefits equitably** with, and also within, indigenous and local communities in developing countries.

What Do We Know Works?

Case Study (CARE Tanzania): *Hifadhi ya Misititu ya Asili* (Conservation of Natural Forests - HIMA), Zanzibar

The goals of the project are to (a) reduce greenhouse gas emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in Zanzibar; and (b) generate local benefits that provide forest dependent communities with direct, equitable incentives for forest conservation. More specifically the project aims to promote a pro-poor gender-equitable approach to community forest management in Zanzibar, including piloting of carbon financing for Reduced Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation (REDD), which provides forest-dependent communities with secure property rights, equitable rewards for providing ecosystem services and other livelihood benefits, and which informs the priorities of Zanzibar in national REDD strategy. Activities carried out to reach the objectives include:

Developing equitable and effective Community Forest Management strategies: Business as usual has failed to preserve Zanzibar's forests and their contribution to local livelihoods. Conventional protectionist approaches were never practical, and Community Forest Management Agreements (COFMAs) haven't so far been effective. Therefore, HIMA is beginning with a participatory review of barriers to sustainable forest management. This will result in the formulation of a Community Forest Management (CFM) Manual for Zanzibar to strengthen existing CFM projects and ensure that new ones are pro-poor, gender-sensitive and sustainable.

Strengthening stakeholder capacity: CARE's approach to REDD is characterised by the importance we place on rights, poverty reduction, the equitable sharing of benefits and empowerment. Accordingly, HIMA is cooperating with another CARE project (Women Empowerment in Zanzibar, or WEZA) to ensure that women from forest-dependent communities play strong roles in developing the CFM Manual and formulating, executing and monitoring the Government of Zanzibar's REDD policies and programmes. HIMA is also undertaking a holistic approach to building local CFM and REDD capacity. Activities, targeting key government institutions and community-based organisations/local NGOs, include long-term professional training and traditional style workshops as well as collective reflection and experiential learning. Both the content and process of learning through HIMA are designed to overcome the tendency of male elites to dominate forest management and related income generating activities.

Designing and implementing replicable, equitable and cost effective REDD: HIMA is addressing the drivers of forest loss to ensure that it results in real, lasting emissions reductions rather than simply delaying or shifting them from one place to another. Measures to avoid leakage (e.g., displaced emissions) and re-set islanders' reliance on forest goods to sustainable levels include: improved land-use planning and enforcement, on-farm tree-planting (e.g., woodlots and agro-forestry); alternative income-generating activities; new building materials/processes; and the

adoption of new energy sources. A large-scale initiative to switch domestic fuel use from charcoal or firewood to liquefied petroleum gas, implemented with the private sector and Department for Commercial Crops, Fruit and Forestry, will be one of HIMA's most innovative activities.

Validating carbon, community and biodiversity benefits: HIMA's contribution to reduced greenhouse gas emissions from deforestation will be certified under internationally accepted standards in light of the evolving national and international framework on REDD. Its social and environmental benefits will be certified under the well-recognised Climate, Community and Biodiversity (CCB) Standards. HIMA will also be part of a new initiative led by the CCB Alliance and CARE International's Poverty, Environment and Climate Change Network (PECCN) to develop social and environmental standards specifically suited to REDD and national (vs. project-based) carbon accounting/crediting.

Disseminating lessons learnt, promoting best practices and advocating a pro-poor approach to REDD: HIMA is the first REDD project in Zanzibar and amongst the first in Africa. Therefore, experiential learning and the sharing of key lessons is critical – especially with regards to human rights; replicable activities to address the underlying causes of forest loss; practical mechanisms for the equitable sharing of benefits; and the potential of carbon finance to simultaneously reduce emissions and poverty.

Total Cost and Program Duration: US \$5,000,000/5 years

Outcomes and Impacts: The project is piloting and testing pro-poor Community Forest Management (COFM) and REDD in 27,650 ha of forest comprising 22,650 ha of upland forest and 5,000 ha of mangrove forest in Unguja and Pemba Islands, with the objective of scaling-up successful COFM and REDD approaches in at least 60,000 ha of forest in Zanzibar beyond the pilot phase.

Key Factors for Success, Scale Up, and Replication: Key factors of success include: meaningful government involvement in all areas of activity; meaningful community participation; gender-sensitivity and women's empowerment; validation of social and environmental benefits (CCB Standards), as well as carbon benefits (VC Standards); and the strengthening of local capacity.

Of particular importance to the global viability of pro-poor REDD, the project will test replicable and equitable approaches to the relationship between communities and sources of carbon finance. HIMA's model will draw heavily on experiences in agricultural marketing, where innovative enterprise-based solutions have been developed to overcome the weaknesses of traditional marketing cooperatives.

One of the most important challenges for bringing projects like HIMA to scale is ensuring that land-based carbon finance activities benefit or, at the very least, do no harm, to poor and marginalized forest-dependent people. To help address this concern, CARE and the CCB Alliance are developing standards that can be used by governments, NGOs, financing agencies and other stakeholders to design and implement REDD and other forest carbon programmes that respect the rights of Indigenous Peoples and local communities and generate significant social and biodiversity co-benefits. These standards are designed to work for the new global REDD+ regime expected to emerge out of ongoing UNFCCC negotiations that is for government-led programmes implemented at national or state/provincial/regional levels, and for all forms of fund-based or market-based financing. For more information, go to: www.climate-standards.org/REDD+.

For more information:



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Founded in 1945, CARE is a leading aid organization fighting global poverty. In nearly 70 countries, CARE works with the poorest communities to improve basic health and education, enhance rural livelihoods and food security, increase access to clean water and sanitation, expand economic opportunity, and help vulnerable people adapt to climate change. Women are at the heart of CARE's efforts, because experience shows that a woman's achievements yield dramatic benefits for her entire family. CARE also provides lifesaving assistance during emergencies, and helps rebuild communities after the disaster has passed.

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