

Legal implications of land and forest tenure security in implementing climate change mitigation options in Tanzania: case study of Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+)

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This study examined the extent to which land tenure and forest tenure are secured in Tanzania. It was motivated by the urgent need to solve the adverse environmental problems caused by climate change in the world today. The impacts of this climate respect no borders as they hit both developed and developing nations alike regardless of their contribution to the problem. The measures that have been devised by the international community under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to curb the problem within the shortest time possible include Reducing Emission from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+). This initiative, which targets the realisation of sustainable management and conservation of forests, was the focal point of this study with particular reference to Tanzania. On the whole, the successful implementation of REDD+ requires the implementing countries to ensure that land tenure and forest tenure are secure and clear. Tanzania is currently implementing REDD+ pilot projects with the aim of devising appropriate methods of eventually implementing REDD+ projects on a wider scale. This study draws upon experiences from the Participatory Forest Management and the ongoing REDD+ pilot projects, to examine the legal implications of unclear and insecure land and forest tenures in the implementation of REDD+ projects in the country. The study found that unclear and insecure land and forest tenures pose challenges when it comes to assigning carbon rights, sharing REDD+ benefits and controlling leakages.