Hochschule für Technik
und Wirtschaft Berlin

University of Applied Sciences

An Enabling Framework for Incorporating Climate-Smart Land Use and Income-Generating Activities as Strategic Components of National Forest Landscape Restoration Initiatives

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Master Thesis Submitted to the Faculty of Economics and Law at the Hochschule für Technik und Wirtschaft Berlin – University of Applied Sciences

In Partial Fulfillment for the degree of Master of Arts (M.A.) in International and Development Economics

Berlin, 3rd February 2020

First Supervisor: Prof. Dr. Dimitrios Zikos

Second Supervisor: Prof. Dr. Ulrich Wurzel

Word Count: 14,153

Abstract

In order to consider how the global forest landscape restoration (FLR) movement can overcome issues plaguing implementation resulting in unmet targets, this study sets out to consider whether promoting an enabling environment for climate-smart land use (CSLU) in forest-relevant sectors among local stakeholders and communities can in turn enable the FLR initiative, achieving a balance between the objectives of enhancing local livelihoods and ecological restoration. Theoretical discussion on social-ecological systems (SESs), jurisdictional approaches, systemic competitiveness, and value chain analysis are used to identify enabling characteristics for CSLU and FLR that are compiled into an 'enabling framework' that can be used to target qualitative data to inform understanding on enabling environments at the subnational level. The framework's empirical value is tested through application in the Iringa Region of the United Republic of Tanzania, a nation that announced a FLR pledge in 2018. The Iringa Region, neighboring Ruaha National Park, is located in Tanzania's Southern Highlands and is an important hotspot for biodiversity in forest landscapes. This case study builds an understanding compatibility between CSLU and FLR objectives in the subnational context, strategies for addressing central degrading factors, ways in which initiatives can shift enabling environments to mitigate producer risks and favor more desirable activities, and how broad national commitments translate into subnational arenas. This in turn informs a general understanding of the way CSLU objectives can be integrated into FLR initiatives to increase the likelihood of meeting FLR's livelihood advancement and ecological restoration objectives.

Keywords: Forest landscape restoration, climate-smart land use, social-ecological systems, systemic competitiveness, value chain analysis, agriculture, forestry, non-timber forest products