

Building capacity for REDD+ in East Africa for improved ecosystem health and for sustainable livelihoods in Eastern Africa (REDD-EA)

Background

- Building capacity for REDD+ in East Africa for improved ecosystem health and for sustainable livelihoods in Eastern Africa (REDD-EA) is a five year project (2014-2018) funded by the Norwegian Programme for Capacity Development in Higher Education and Research for Development (NORHED).
- Funding for the project: NOK 18 m (c. USD 3 m).
- The project offers full fellowships for masters, PhDs and post docs and is implemented by Makerere University (Mak), Norwegian University of Life Sciences (UMB), and University of Dar es Salaam (UDSM).
- Students attain their studies from Makerere University and University of Dar es Salaam with short stays at Norwegian University of Life Sciences.

Project goal

- The project goal is to contribute to reduced greenhouse gas emissions and improved ecosystem health for sustainable livelihoods in Eastern Africa.

Project Purpose

Project Purpose is to strengthen the capacity for education and research on climate change and REDD+ at Makerere University and the University of Dar es Salaam through

1. Strengthening scientific and institutional capacity of academic institutions to deliver better quality education on REDD+
2. Strengthening scientific and institutional capacity of academic institutions to deliver quality research on REDD+
3. Strengthening capacity of central government, local government, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), and community institutions to plan and implement REDD+

Project Outputs

1. To develop Adequate human capacity for REDD+ in Ugandan and Tanzanian Higher Education Institutions
2. To create functional and Specialized training programs on REDD+
3. To generate research capacity for REDD+ and evidence based results for policy on REDD+
4. To establish a functional Information system for REDD+
5. To develop networks and partnerships between academic, research institutions and CSOs

Project team

1. Prof. Tabuti, Project Coordinator, Makerere University, Uganda
2. Prof. Totland, Project Coordinator, Norwegian University of Life Sciences (NMBU), Norway
3. Prof. Yanda, Project Coordinator, University of Dar es salaam (UDSM), Tanzania
4. Dr. Elizabeth Kaase-Bwanga, Member, Makerere University, Uganda
5. Dr. Josephine Esaete Member, Makerere University, Uganda
6. Dr. Okot Okumu, Member, Makerere University, Uganda
7. Dr. Vincent Muwanika, Member, Makerere University, Uganda Prof. Stein Moe, Norwegian University of Life Sciences (NMBU), Norway
8. Prof. Douglas Sheil, Norwegian University of Life Sciences (NMBU), Norway
9. Dr. Emma Liwenga, University of Dar es salaam (UDSM), Tanzania
10. Mr. Edmund Mabye, University of Dar es salaam (UDSM), Tanzania
11. Mr. Abdallah Henku, University of Dar es salaam (UDSM), Tanzania

Fellows on the project

1. Dr. Giregon. Olupot, Postdoc fellow Makerere University
2. Dr. Paul Okullo, Postdoc fellow Makerere University
3. Dr. Emma Liwenga, Postdoc Fellow, University of Dar es salaam
4. Mr. Leonia John Raphael, PHD fellow University of Dar es salaam
5. Mr. Edmund Mabye, PhD fellow, University of Dar es Salaam
6. Ms. Antonia Nyamukuru, PHD fellow Makerere University
7. Mr. Danstan Mukono, PHD fellow University of Dar es salaam
8. Ms. Kellen Aganyira, PHD fellow Makerere University
9. Ms. Halima Mvungi Amir, PHD fellow University of Dar es salaam
10. Mr. Enock Ssekuubwa, PHD fellow Makerere University
11. Mr. Christopher Mawa, PHD fellow Makerere University

Project progress

- Four key planned activities have been implemented.

- One, we held a joint regional inception meeting in Kampala to which our Norwegian and Tanzania counterparts attended.
- Two, we recruited 8 PhD and 3 Postdoc fellows. These are distributed in a ratio of 4 women to 3 men (PhD), and 1 woman 2 men (postdoc). The students are currently developing full proposals. The PhD fellows are almost concluding the registration process.
- Three, we have revised the curriculum in DEM to have a new course unit on REDD+ and revised all other relevant courses at the masters level to include REDD+.
- Four, work to have the website running are in advanced stages.
- We have acquired several equipment in the project: 2 servers, 4 laptops, office equipment – chair, filing cabinet, phone etc
- Lastly we inaugurated the project at Makerere University.
- Administratively, we have been holding regular monthly project meetings.

Shortcomings

- One, activities that are pegged to students' start of field work are yet to start.
- Two, the planned benchmarking visits to REDD+ projects to Tanzania have not taken place. The reason for this is that we budgeted for 3 scientists. But we are thinking that all scientists and fellows need to benchmark. This has a budget implication and we are discussing the best way forward.
- Three, Lack of a separate budget line for fieldwork for students.
- Four, the activities conducting a needs assessment for training and capacity needs on REDD+ issues and conducting pilot/case studies on REDD+ have no budget lines

Mitigation

- The need to make additional adjustments to the budget are likely to cater for under budgeted items (e.g. low travel budget for PhDs) or those that were not budgeted for (e.g. needs assessment for training and capacity needs on REDD+ issues and conducting pilot/case studies on REDD+, field costs for Phds).

We plan to consult and negotiate with NORAD to reduce the number of Masters and drop those activities with no budget lines