

Potentials of Private Sector and Civil Society Organizations in Investing in REDD+ in Tanzania

Fredrick Salukele*

School of Environmental Science and Technology, Ardhi University,
P.O. Box 35176, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.

Weston Jonston

School of Environmental Science and Technology, Ardhi University,
P.O. Box 35176, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

Abstract

This paper discusses a study on the roles of private sector and civil society organizations in investing in Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD) for climate change disaster risk reduction in Tanzania. It goes on to assess the existing framework conditions for inclusion of private sector as partners in REDD+ activities, especially with the experience gained from some earlier REDD+ pilot projects in the country. The paper is based on the premise that, inclusion of private sector in the implementation of REDD+ activities will widen and better sustain forest conservation efforts and reduce dependence on government and development partners. Various data collection methods were employed in this study which included; key informants' interviews, focus group discussion, in-depth interviews using structured questionnaire and literature review. The results indicated that 79% of respondents argued that the existing position for the private sector and civil society in the institution framework for REDD+ is limited and that there is a need to ensure clear position for the private sector and civil society organization. The conditions and incentives observed for private sector and civil society organization to invest in REDD+ were; 87% of the respondents said that private sector and civil society organization and climate change issues should be mainstreamed into all policies, 89% of the respondents are aware of the impacts of climate change and its impacts on the business investment, 78% of the respondents are willing to participate in climate change adaptation and mitigation initiatives such as REDD+, 77% of respondents see the future of REDD+ and that it needs to be sustained for climate change related risk reduction in Tanzania.

Keywords: REDD+, Climate change, Disaster Risk reduction, Private sector, Civil society Organizations

1. Introduction

Climate change is the main environmental challenge currently facing the world. It is one of the most serious and long-term threats to the sustainable development. The impacts of climate change are already felt in some sectors and its significant harm is already occurring. Recent evidence indicates that the world has already warmed by 0.8°C since the pre-industrial era (Ogbozobe and Onwuemele 2013). Climate change is a scientifically proven phenomenon that includes any change in the climate, and weather patterns; as a result of an increased emission of greenhouse gases (GHG) such as carbon dioxide (CO₂) and methane (CH₄) and dust particles into the atmosphere mainly due to human activities such as fossil fuel burning (IPCC, 2007). The impacts of climate change are not uniform across the globe. Countries are affected differently and it is expected that African countries especially the less developed countries will face more impacts of climate change than developed countries (Ogbozobe and Onwuemele 2013). Developing countries in Africa are increasingly becoming more vulnerable to a wide range of natural disasters including floods, drought, landslide, tropical storms, sea level rise etc. The increase in vulnerability is attributed by the prospect of climate change and rapid population growth in high-risk zones (Mayunga, 2009). It is also widely agreed by the global community that the world climate is changing and will continue to change at an unprecedented rate in human history and the situation is increasingly becoming the greatest global challenge to Disaster Risk Reduction (URT, 2012).

Tanzania, just like many developing countries is expected to be hit hardest by the prospect of climate change due to high vulnerability and low coping and adaptive capacity to climate change related disaster risks. The increased vulnerability to climate change has been due to some economic activities and practices of the people such as agriculture, overgrazing, timber production, urbanization mining, which have increased the rate of carbon dioxide emission, deforestation and forest degradation in the country (URT 2014). It is for this reason that the government of Tanzania is taking a step to embark on a process of addressing the impacts of climate change on the community and ecosystem through various initiatives for climate change disaster risk reduction. Among these initiatives is the Reducing Emission from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+) that has been piloted in various areas in Tanzania (Shemdoe, 2016). REDD+ emerged as the central strategy to use forest resources in efforts to reduce global greenhouse gas emission in order to help prevent climate change and related disaster risks. In Tanzania, REDD+ projects were first initiated in 2008 under the support of the Royal

Norwegian Government, after signing the letter of intent of the partnership to address the climate change challenges (URT, 2013). The partnership aimed at promoting public-private partnership (PPP) to enhance sustainable management of forest resources, and to assist Tanzania in preparing itself to tap into future REDD+ funding mechanisms. It also aimed at reducing deforestation and forest degradation in Tanzania in a way that provides direct and equitable incentives to the community to conserve and manage forest sustainably (URT, 2013). In this pursuit, nine REDD+ pilot projects were implemented in various areas across the country by selected Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) through developing various REDD+ benefit sharing mechanism to the community for conserving forest resources within their areas by participatory forest management. The use of forest resources was observed to be one of the best ways of the measures to mitigate climate change. Forest play an important role in climate change mitigation and adaptation as it is the source of greenhouse emission and sink of carbon dioxide gas. Forest also provide a wide range of social, economic cultural and ecological benefits to the people (Marjanneke 2016). Thus, enhancing forest resources and protecting forest against deforestation and degradation is the important intervention to the reduction of the emitted gases in the atmosphere that contributes to climate change disasters risks (UNREDD+, 2009). This intervention was achieved through the use of the community forest owners by providing incentives of compensation for conserving the forests by putting a value on the forest carbon stocks and reducing the consumption and dependence on the forests resources that need to be conserved (Mngumi et al., 2013).

The benefit sharing models tested by NGOs through REDD+ pilot projects indicate that for the sustainability of the REDD+ activities, there is a need to have sustainable monetary and non-monetary benefits to cover the foregone opportunity cost of utilizing forest resources that need to be conserved (deforestation). This will reduce dependence on forest resources and encourage positive behaviors towards the use of natural resources (Shemdoe 2016). Also, as indicated in O'Sullivan et. al. (2010) there is the existence of shortfalls for funding for future REDD+ projects from donors as compared to the financial need. Continuing to rely on donor funding for REDD+ projects will hinder the sustainability of the initiatives of climate change mitigation through Reducing Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD) program. Corbera and Schroeder (2010) indicated that it is still uncertain whether future REDD+ incentive will be provided by multilateral or bilateral public funding with or without the involvement of private sector and civil society. Private sector and civil society have an important role to play in REDD+ implementation, although some sections of the private sector are currently driving deforestation and degradation in many parts of the world (UNREDD+, 2009). Private sector and civil society are also an important part of the solution to reduce deforestation and forest degradation and can contribute to REDD+ in three key areas; Innovation, Investment and Implementation (Henderson, 2013). Therefore as partners in REDD+ activities private sector and civil society organizations will enhance the climate change mitigation initiatives disaster risk reduction especially in the developing countries such as Tanzania. The main objective of this study was to assess the roles and potential incentives for private sector and civil society organization in the investment of REDD+ activities for reducing climate change induced risks especially after the REDD+ pilot projects in Tanzania.

2. Methodology

The study employed both qualitative and quantitative methods to gather the required information. Data collection methods involved were: reviewing of literature, interviews with key informants from private sector, civil society organization, officials from Vice President's office and local leaders. 115 people who are actively involved in REDD+ activities were interviewed and 16 private sector and civil society organizations were reached, 14 from Dar es Salaam and the remaining 2 from other regions. Issues that were included in the questionnaire focused on understanding if the community has already felt the climate change induced disaster risks, the impacts of climate change, benefit obtained from the phased out REDD+ pilot project, the involvement of the community in REDD+ activities, the involvement and roles of private sector and civil society organization in REDD+ activities and the future for REDD+ activities and its implication in climate change induced disaster risk reduction.

3. Results and Discussion

This section presents findings and discussions on the institutional frameworks governing REDD+ and the position of private sector and civil society organization in Tanzania as a climate change disaster risk reduction intervention in Tanzania and the conditions necessary for private sector and civil society organization to participate in REDD+ implementation as a contribution to climate change related Disaster Risk Reduction.

3.1 Institutional framework governing REDD+ and the position of private sector and civil society organization in Tanzania as a climate change disaster risk reduction intervention in Tanzania

The study findings show the existence of a well-established institutional framework for REDD+ implementation from the central to the local government levels and supportive policy framework for the implementation of

REDD+ activities in Tanzania for climate change related risk reduction. The results from interviews show that 79% of respondents indicated that the existing position of the private sector and civil society organizations in the institution framework for REDD+ is limited, 14% of the respondents argued that the existing position for private sector and civil society is not limited and 7% of respondents seemed not to be aware of the existing institution framework for REDD+, as it is represented in Figure 1.

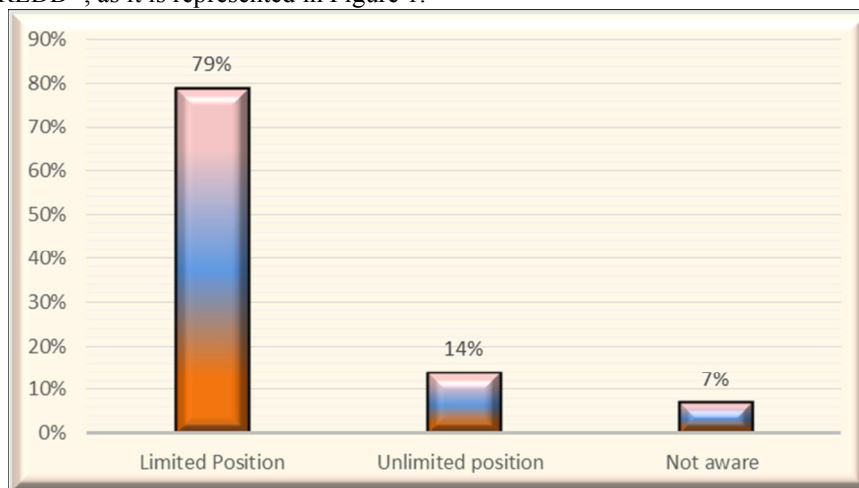


Figure 1: Position of private sector and civil society in the institution framework for REDD+

The limitation for private sector and civil society organization in the institution framework for REDD+ is also evidenced in the reviewed institutional structure for REDD+ implementation and reporting in Tanzania, whereby in various decision-making departments for REDD+ such as; Division of Environment under the Vice President's Office, National Climate Change Steering Committee (NCCSC) and National Carbon Monitoring Centre (NCMC), the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism, private sector and civil society organization are not involved. The only department which involves the representatives from the private sector and civil society organization is the National Climate Change Technical Committee (NCCTC) which also limit the number of representatives to one (URT 2013).

This is a threat to the adoption and scalability of the best practices that have been developed during the implementation of the REDD+ pilot projects in various areas in the country. Therefore there is a need for setting up a suitable institution framework which will promote private sector and civil society organizations to invest in REDD+ activities. As it is indicated in Corbera and Schroeder (2010) the framework for REDD+ will provide the possible incentives to attract the private sector to participate in forest governance and implementation of REDD+. Also Putra et al, (2014) explained the design for REDD+ framework, must ensure full involvement of different actors for climate change adaptation and mitigation including private sector at various levels of implementations.

3.2 Condition necessary for private sector and civil society organization to participate in REDD+ implementation as a contribution to climate change related Disaster Risk Reduction

This subsection elaborates on the conditions necessary for private sector and civil society organization to participate in REDD+ on the following aspects: Awareness of climate change impacts by private sector and civil society organization; Willingness to participate in climate change adaptation and mitigation activities including REDD+; Raising awareness on REDD+ to private sector and civil society organization; Meeting Corporate Social Responsibility objectives by participating in climate change adaptation projects; Meeting Corporate Social Responsibility objectives by participating in climate change adaptation projects; Perception on the Future for REDD+ by the private sector and civil society organization and; Financial need incentives

3.2.1 Policy framework incentive

The policy was observed to be important condition for the private sector and civil society organization to invest in REDD+ activities as a contributor to climate change related Risk Reduction. In six (6) policies that were reviewed aspects of inclusion of private sector and civil society organization as part of the solutions in addressing climate change especially when it comes to the implementation of REDD+ related activities is lacking. The reason might be that most of the policies were developed when climate change and its associated adaptation and mitigation initiatives such as REDD+ were not very common. The reviewed policies are silent on the inclusion of private sector and civil society organization and on how the impact of climate change should be addressed and who exactly should be involved in addressing the issues of climate change. The findings from the study indicated 87% of the respondents suggested that climate change issues should be mainstreamed into existing sectoral policies especially to those undergoing review, 8% of the respondents suggested to have a

standalone climate change policy and 5% of respondents suggested both standalone policy and enforcements of the policy such as laws as shown in Figure 2. Shemdoe (2011) indicated that Tanzania needs to have a separate policy for climate change which is meant to oversee all climate change issues in the country. However, findings from this study indicate that majority of the respondents suggested to mainstream climate change issues into existing sectoral policies. This implies that roles of private sector and civil society organization should be included in national policies especially for those that are undergoing review. This is important as Tanzania has established good framework conditions for the business sector to invest in various areas such as mineral extraction, mining, oil and gas, tourism and many other sectors which emit greenhouse gases that need carbon sinks such as forest resources.

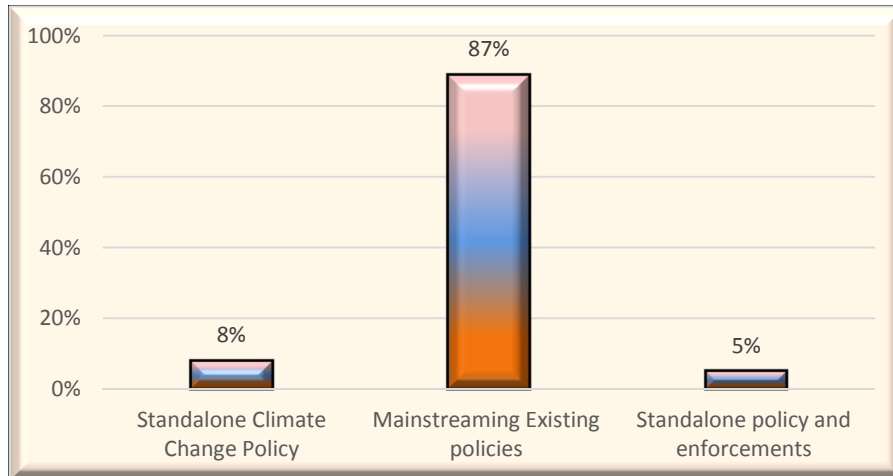


Figure 2: Policy incentive framework private sector and civil society organization to invest in REDD+

3.2.2 Awareness of climate change impacts by private sector and civil society organization

Private sector and civil society organizations interviewed seemed to be aware of the meaning of climate change and its implication on the environment, although the level of awareness varies from organization to organization. The result from the interview indicates that, 89% of the respondents are aware of the impacts of climate change while 11% of the respondents seem not to be aware of the impact of climate change, as shown in Figure 3. The awareness of the private sector and civil society organization to climate change impacts was due to the experience they have gone through in their businesses with the climate change impacts. Therefore the awareness need to be scaled up and encouraged for them to invest in climate change adaptation and mitigation initiatives including REDD+ for climate change related disaster reduction. The similar observation was indicated by Marjanneke (2016) that if the private sector can invest in REDD+ is an important intervention not only in climate change mitigated related disasters but also in the conservation of environment as well as the ecosystem.

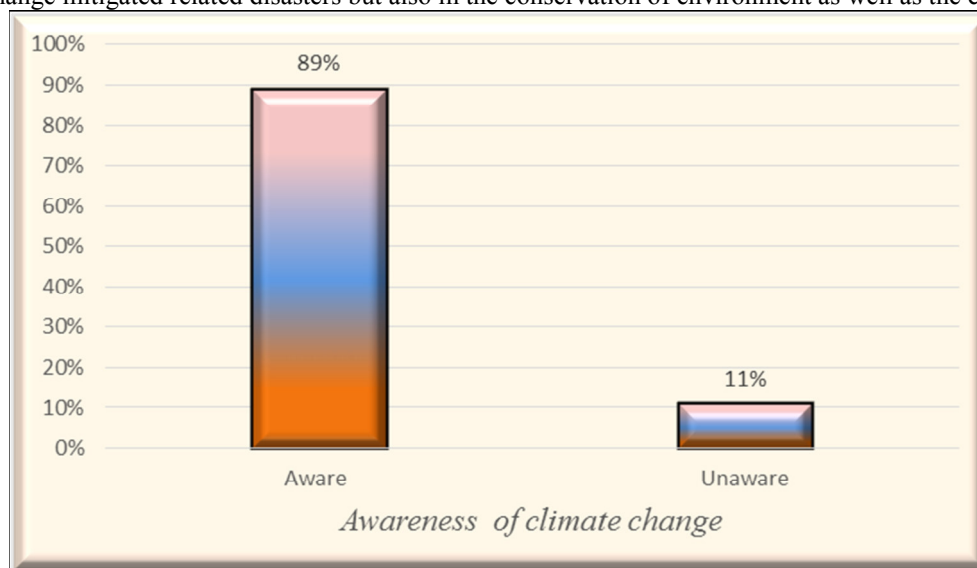


Figure 3: Level of awareness to climate change by private sector and civil society organizations

3.2.3 Willingness to participate in climate change adaptation and mitigation activities including REDD+

Private sector and civil society organization showed willingness to participate in climate change mitigation and

adaptation. The findings from this study show that 78% of the respondents are willing to participate in climate change adaptation and mitigation activities, 22% of the respondents are not willing to participate in climate change adaptation and mitigation activities as shown in Figure 4.

The private sector and civil society who are willing to participate in climate change adaptation and mitigation said their willingness was due to the following reasons; the importance of mitigation of climate change related disaster risks such as floods and droughts, the importance of reducing climate change stress that impacts their business now and in the expected future, environmental threats including scarcity of raw materials and was due to the importance of reducing climate change stress on water and food security. Also, they mentioned conditions which would influence their involvement in climate change adaptation and mitigation initiatives such as REDD+ to include the following; 46% of respondents mentioned access to multiple sources of public and private finance, including international finance; 52% of the respondents suggested government through village council could ensure the availability of land for private forest development and tree planting and 72% of the respondents said good governance and policy incentive that provides good environments for investments in the climate change adaptation programs. However, the mentioned conditions are the ones ranked above 40% by respondents. Thus, the existing level of willingness is an incentive for private sector and civil society organization to participate in climate change adaptation and mitigation through initiatives such as REDD+ for climate change related risks reduction in Tanzania.

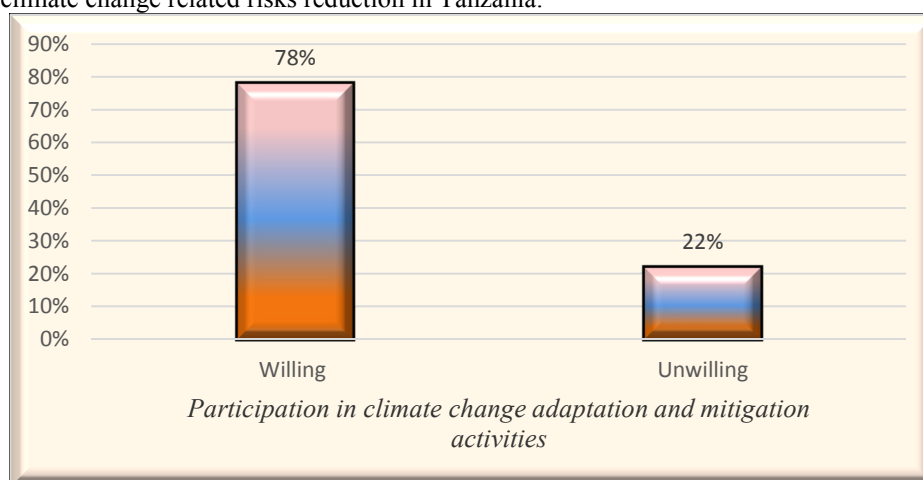


Figure 4: Willingness of private sector and civil society organization to participate climate change adaptation initiatives

3.2.4 Raising awareness on REDD+ to private sector and civil society organization

REDD+ is the new program in Tanzania, it was initially introduced in 2008. This means there is not yet widespread of understanding among private sector and civil society organizations of what REDD+ is and what it means for them to climate change adaptation. The findings indicate that 52% of respondents are not aware of the REDD+ program while the rest of respondents are aware of REDD+.

Private sector and civil society organization both small and big need to be aware of the meaning of REDD+ and its significance to climate change related disaster risk reduction. They need to understand the potential for REDD+ for mitigation of climate change threats to their business investment such as; rising costs for inputs and raw materials, disruptions in their supply chains, and changing customer demand. They also need to see REDD+ as an opportunity for investments especially in carbon sequestration. This can be achieved through raising awareness within the private sector and civil society organizations of what REDD+ means to climate change adaptation and mitigation. Therefore awareness of REDD+ program in Tanzania to the private sector and civil society organizations will be an important incentive to encourage the private sector and civil society to invest in climate change adaptation and mitigation through REDD+.

3.2.5 Meeting Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) objectives by participating in climate change adaptation projects

In the business world of today, many companies and civil society organizations practice CSR. 97% of private sectors interviewed are undertaking CSRs; 32% of the 97% are integrating environmental conservation activities which are similar to REDD+ as part of meeting corporate social responsibility objectives in their business plans. A typical example is private entity known as Green Resources Co. Ltd which is a working closely with the community forest owners in Tanzania. The role of Green resources Co. LTD is to finance communities for avoiding deforestation and forest degradation in their area whereby 10% of its annual revenue accrued from the carbon trades is given back to villages and communities for conserving and protecting forest resource. This is an incentive which needs to be developed and encouraged so that other private sector and civil society can be

attracted to invest in REDD+ through directing part of their corporate social responsibility to the climate change adaptation and mitigation activities. This will increase company's goodwill and attracts many other companies to partake climate change adaptation as well as environmental conservation activities. As it is indicated by Carroll and Shabana (2010), investing in corporate social responsibility will improve customers' attitude towards the company products. Also, the Government may encourage private sectors and civil societies to direct their social responsibilities activities through appreciation, recognition and decoration companies incorporating climate change into their social responsibility plan. Therefore, corporate social responsibility could be seen as the new marketing and commercial opportunities to the private sector that appears both domestically and globally as it was demonstrated in IFC (2010).

3.2.6 Perception on the Future for REDD+ by the private sector and civil society organization

Among the interviewed private sector and civil society's representatives, 77% indicated that there is a positive future for REDD+ activities, 20% do not see the future for REDD+ and 3% argued that the future for REDD+ will depend on the support from the government and public influences. This means that the perception of the future for REDD+ is high, as indicated in Figure 5. Also, they mentioned various conditions which will create sustainability of REDD+ in Tanzania; Including ; a predictable finance and good policy environment for REDD+ (62%), a significant involvement of the public (67%) and 73% responded that there should be the private sector and civil society organization investment and strong safeguarding and stakeholder engagement. This perception of the future for REDD+ is a potential incentive to encourage private sector and civil society organizations to invest in REDD+ implementation for its sustainability and as a climate change related disaster reduction in Tanzania which need to be scaled up into implementation.

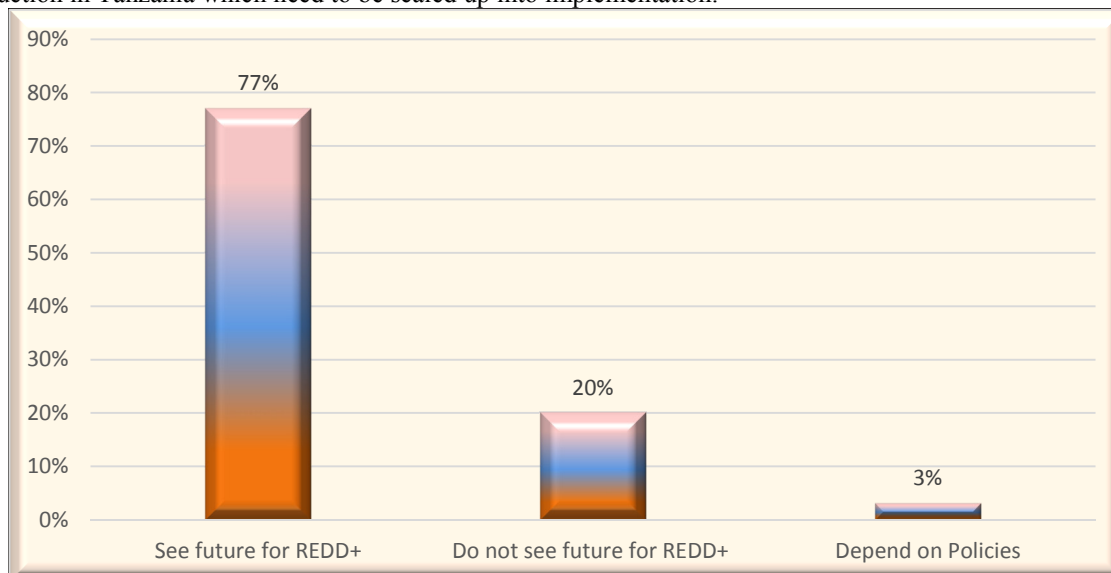


Figure 5: Perception on the future for REDD+ by the private sector and civil society organization

3.2.7 Financial need incentives

Findings from this study revealed that 79% of the respondents indicated that unavailability of adequate finance is the barrier to the investment of climate change adaptation and mitigation. Civil society organizations interviewed indicated that they depend on donor funding for implementation of climate change adaptation and mitigation projects. This indicates there is a funding shortfall between the finance needed for adaptation and the amount available because climate change adaptation investment is long time investment and it requires availability adequate financial capacity.

Also, private sectors currently investing in carbon stock and trading indicated that, purchase of carbons is still a voluntary action to buyers and that the current instability of price of carbon credit is the threat towards availability of finances for the investment of climate change adaptation and mitigation initiatives such as REDD+. Therefore, access to multiple sources of finance from national and internationally such as banks and public funding is needed to promote both private sector and civil society to invest in climate change adaptation program. For example, the public funding of the private sector on adaptation related investment has been invented in some countries such as China, Brazil, India and Indonesia (Marjanneke 2016). This is the incentive where public funds can be used to support private sector and civil society organization to participate in REDD+ activities for climate change related risk reduction as it is also indicated in (Kant, 2010).

4. Conclusion

From the findings obtained in this study it can be observed that the existing institution framework governing

REDD+ in Tanzania is not reflective of the private sector and civil society engagement in REDD+ implementation. 79% of respondents argued that inclusion of private sector and civil society organization in the scheme is limited.

In all policies that were reviewed in this study, aspects of inclusion of private and civil society organization as part of the solutions in addressing climate change especially when it comes to the implementation of REDD+ related activities is lacking. The findings indicated that there is a need to mainstream climate change into policies especially to those undergoing review. This is very important because Tanzania has established good framework condition for the private sector to invest in various areas of the economy such as mineral extraction, mining, oil and gas whereby some of these investments involves. Therefore having strong and steady policies will encourage the private sector and civil society to participate in REDD+ implementation as a contribution to climate change related disaster risk reduction.

Private sector and civil society are aware and willing to participate in climate change adaptation and mitigation activities. Results indicate 78% of the respondents are willing to participate in climate change adaptation and mitigation initiatives including REDD+ activities.

Also the study indicated that 97% of the respondents are meeting corporate social responsibilities into their business plans. Thus is good for private sector directing part of their corporate social responsibility funds into investment of REDD+ for climate change related disaster risk reduction. This will in the long run reduce stresses of climate change impacts on their business.

The study observed various interactions between the private sector and civil society organization, the private sector and community and interaction between civil society and community in the implementation of various climate change adaptation and mitigation initiatives. This interaction has brought about benefits to community member, private sector and civil society organizations. Example 86% of respondents argued the interaction of the civil society organizations and community member in the phased out REDD+ project benefited the community in a number of ways including an increase in revenue. This means, this initiative needs to be enhanced by encouraging more interaction in the implementation of REDD+ activities for climate change related disaster risk reduction.

5. Recommendations

In order for the private sector and civil society organization to invest in REDD+ activities for climate change related disaster reduction the study recommends the following:

- i. The roles of private sectors and civil society organization in investing in REDD+ should be included in national policies especially to those that are undergoing review.
- ii. The government should consider the suitable position of the private sector and civil society organization in the institution framework governing REDD+ in Tanzania that will promote the investment of private sector and civil society in REDD+ activities.
- iii. The need to raise awareness to the private sector and civil society organizations on the meaning of REDD+ and its significance to climate change adaptation and mitigation.

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