

Final Progress Report
Sustainability Science Program, Harvard University
Term: September 1, 2011 – August 31, 2012
Submitted: July 2012

Name: Salla Rantala

Your field(s):

Environmental governance, forestry

Your degree program, institution and (expected) graduation date:

PhD in Forest Sciences, University of Helsinki, (expected) fall 2012

Faculty host(s) at Harvard name and department:

William Clark, Harvard Kennedy School

Description of SSP-related research activity:

Title: Knowledge and brokerage in REDD+ policy making: a Policy Networks Analysis of the case of Tanzania

Abstract: As various countries are preparing their national REDD+ strategies, balancing different types of knowledge and interests for legitimate and effective policy outputs has become a primary, pressing challenge. Knowledge and discourses on REDD+ are deliberated in political bargaining processes between various actors involved in the policy domain that differ in their resources and capacity to influence outcomes. Using Tanzania as a country case, this study assesses the relative influence of deliberation and knowledge brokerage on the dynamics of the REDD+ policy process and its outputs vis-à-vis institutional structures and power relations between the involved policy actors. It is proposed that the more public and politicized the policy process, the less the discursive dimension may be ignored and the more there is to gain for discourse coalitions with wide bases of legitimacy among policy actors with varying power resources and institutionalized opportunities for policy influence.

A structured survey and semi-structured in-depth interviews were carried out with sixty-four organizational actors involved in the Tanzanian REDD+ domain between March and September 2011. Social Network Analysis techniques were applied to analyze the quantitative survey data, complemented by a qualitative content analysis of the actors' discourse and strategies related to the national REDD+ policy. The results suggest that through sustained public efforts, actors engaged in so-called protest events parallel to the formal government-led process have influenced the course of the policy process and to an extent, at the early formulation stage, policy content. Successful coalitions include brokers that occupy strategic positions in networks of information and resources, and have the capacity to enhance information flow and promote closure of REDD+ discourse on the appropriate policy proposals. Brokers that are characterized by discourses based on legitimized knowledge and ties to central policy actors have the greatest potential to enhance information flow and deliberation the policy process and outcomes. In the Tanzania case, there is considerable overlap between brokers and central actors, and the key brokers may be considered members of discourse coalitions rather than discursively neutral actors. Nevertheless, the influence of actors and coalitions that appear successful in the early stages of the policy process will be filtered by the institutional context applying to the formal decision making stages, and by shifting national and international political commitments to climate change mitigation and REDD+.

Identification of the problem you address:

The study intended to understand the scope for deliberation and linking multiple types of knowledge to the action of climate change policy making in increasingly politically charged contexts.

The two main objectives of the case study were to

- (a) understand the effects of deliberation and agency of discourse coalitions vis-à-vis the relational and institutional context on the REDD+ policy process and its outputs; and
- (b) identify and characterize brokers that are in a position to enhance information flow, public deliberation and closure (and ultimately the legitimacy and effectiveness of REDD+ policy decisions); as well as to highlight the structural opportunities and constraints for their success.

Key question asked about the problem:

The key research questions were:

- (A) What characterizes coalitions that gain dominance in the discursive space and achieve discourse institutionalization on REDD+ domestic policy in Tanzania?
- (B) Is the success of the coalitions mediated primarily by the relational context (network positions) or political opportunity, including the effect of the institutional context?
- (C) What are the relational positions, strategies, and coalition alignment of brokers that successfully advocate for positions that in their view enhance the legitimacy and effectiveness of REDD+ policy?

The methods by which you answered that question:

- Expert panel to identify relevant policy actors and policy events;
- Structured social organization survey, complemented by in-depth semi-structured interviews, to elicit information on actors' stances, strategies and networks related to the national REDD+ policy;
- Social Networks Analysis measures to identify structural elements in the policy networks, using UCINET software;
- Content analysis of transcribed qualitative interviews on organizational stances and strategies related to the national REDD policy and of relevant policy texts (Discourse Network Analyzer freeware).

Principle literature upon which the research drew:

Policy networks, social movements, deliberative governance, Social Networks Analysis, boundary work/organizations.

Empirical data acquisition description:

The expert panel was conducted in March 2011, followed by the structured and semi-structured interviews in Tanzania in March – September 2011.

Geographical region studied:

Tanzania, East Africa

Recommendations that might be relevant for your problem:

To conclusively assess the influence of the strategies and network positions of various actors on policy outcomes, it is necessary to incorporate the temporal dimension into the study. Ideally, matching empirical data should be collected at various points of the policy process.

A description of the final product(s) you have/are aiming to produce:

- 1) A conference presentation that was given in the ISEE 2012 Conference – “Ecological Economics and Rio+20: Challenges and Contributions for a Green Economy”, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, June 18th, 2012. The presentation is available online, <http://www.slideshare.net/CIFOR/knowledge-and-brokerage-in-redd-policy-making-evidence-from-tanzania>.
- 2) An SSP working paper titled ‘Knowledge and brokerage in REDD+ policy making: a Policy Networks Analysis of the case of Tanzania’.
- 3) Contribution to a book chapter, based on data from my SSP project, in Angelsen, A., Brockhaus, M., Sunderlin, W. D., & Verchot, L. (2012). [Analysing REDD+: Challenges and choices](#). Bogor, Indonesia: Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR).

4) Journal article(s) for a special issue on the political economy of REDD+ coordinated by CIFOR, to be submitted in October-November 2012.

Description of major other intellectual or professional advancement activity(ies) over the past academic year:

PhD qualifying papers:

- 1) Rantala, S., Vihemäki, H., Swallow, B. and Jambiya, G. Who gains and who loses from compensated displacement from protected areas? The case of the Derema Corridor, Tanzania. In press, [Conservation & Society](#).
- 2) Rantala, S., Bullock, R., Mbegu, M., and German, L. Community-Based Forest Management: What scope for conservation and livelihood co-benefits? Experience from the East Usambara Mountains, Tanzania. Manuscript in peer-review.
- 3) Rantala, S. and German, L. Legitimacy deficits and effectiveness in Community-Based Forest Management. Manuscript in preparation.

Other non-SSP related research/papers:

- 4) Rantala, S., Lyimo, E., Powell, B., Kitalyi, A., & Vihemäki, H. (2011). Challenges and opportunities for collaborative landscape governance in the East Usambara Mountains, Tanzania. ICRAF Working Paper 127, CIFOR Working Paper 61. Nairobi and Bogor: World Agroforestry Centre.

Please list citations for reports, papers, publications and presentations that built on your fellowship research:

Rantala, S. 2012. Knowledge and brokerage in REDD+ policy making: a Policy Networks Analysis of the case of Tanzania. Sustainability Science Program Working Paper No. 2012-##. Sustainability Science Program, Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA. (Abstract as above)

Rantala, S. 2012. Knowledge and brokerage in REDD+ policy making: Evidence from Tanzania. Presentation given at the ISEE 2012 Conference “Ecological Economics and Rio+20: Challenges and Contributions for a Green Economy”, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, June 18th, 2012. <http://www.slideshare.net/CIFOR/knowledge-and-brokerage-in-redd-policymaking-evidence-from-tanzania>.

Principal collaborators outside Harvard:

Laura German, University of Georgia

Maria Brockhaus, CIFOR

Monica Di Gregorio, University of Leeds

Heini Vihemäki (independent, formerly World Agroforestry Centre)

Brent Swallow, University of Alberta

George Jambiya, University of Dar es Salaam

Renee Bullock, University of Florida

Neil Burgess, University of Copenhagen/WWF US

Jaclyn Hall, UC Louvain/Stanford University

Bronwen Powell, McGill University

Awards or grants that you have received this year for the current or coming year:

Dissertation completion grant, University of Helsinki, July 2012

If you are moving to a new position, please list your contact information there:

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