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SYNTHESIS ON APPLICATION OF MULTI-STAKEHOLDER PLATFORMS FOR LAND RESTORATION AND SUSTAINABLE LAND MANAGEMENT IN TANZANIA

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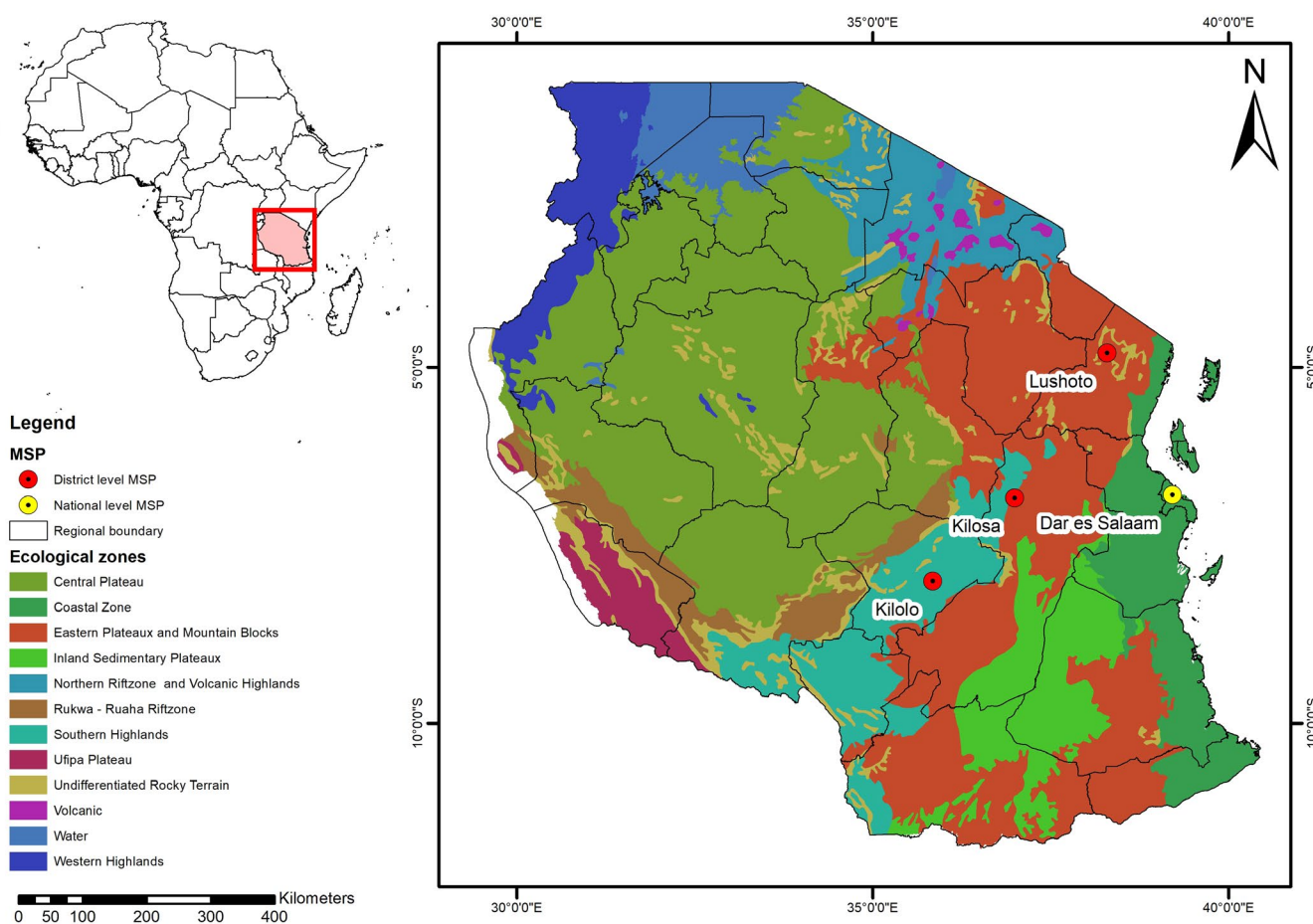©2014CIAT/GeorginaSmith

BACKGROUND

Land degradation refers to the negative trend in land condition, caused by direct or indirect human-induced processes including anthropogenic climate change (IPCC, 2019). Land degradation in Africa, accounts for 46% of the total land area, with a loss of 30 to 60 kg of nutrients per hectare per year (AGNES, 2020). Agriculture and deforestation are a dominant contributor to land degradation in Tanzania largely driven by climate change, commercial development, deforestation, and factors such as inappropriate land management such as continuous cropping, soil nutrient mining, poor fire management and overgrazing (Gwambene & Liwenga, 2014; Willemen et al. 2017; Kirui et al. 2021). Climate change, poverty and population growth are also impacting negatively on land use activities and decreasing areas suitable for agricultural production. Tanzania's Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC), among other initiatives, sets out to promote resilient land use planning, sustainable land management, and climate-resilient production.

Multi-stakeholder platforms (MSPs), also referred to as innovation platforms or learning alliances, is a form of governance that utilizes pooled resources to address existing regulatory, participation, resource and learning gaps bringing together the strengths of private, public, and nonprofit partners (Pinkse & Kolk, 2012). MSPs can offer solutions to complex development challenges when utilized effectively and can offer resource to improve on the necessary innovations (Hermans et al. 2017).

Multi-stakeholder partnerships are explicitly recognized in the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 17 as important vehicles for mobilizing and sharing knowledge, expertise, technologies, and financial resources to support countries' SDG commitments. Further, SDG 17 seeks to encourage and promote effective public–private–civil society partnerships, building and capitalizing on their respective capacities and experience in resource mobilization and management (United Nations, 2015).

As part of the efforts to find sustainable solutions to complex land tenure issues, multi-stakeholder platforms (MSPs) create an inclusive forum where actors can discuss problems and propose solutions to improve governance of tenure and provide better access to natural resources. Also, the diversity of an MSP is an integral part that stamps its strength and legitimacy with the involvement of women, youth groups, farmers, pastoralists, and fisherfolk (FAO, 2021). The platforms bring together key players to achieve impact at scale (Davies et al., 2018; Schut et al., 2016) and create an enabling environment for the adoption of innovations, such as novel technologies, practices, and business models (Hounkonnou et al., 2018; Klerkx et al., 2013).

In 2015, a national and three district-level (Kilolo, Kilosa and Lushoto) climate-smart Agriculture alliances (DCSAA) were established in Tanzania to coordinate and promote CSA initiatives with support from International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) and the International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT).

Figure 1: Location of the Tanzania climate-smart agriculture multistakeholder platforms

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MULTI-STAKEHOLDER PLATFORM APPROACH IN ACTION FOR LAND USE AND MANAGEMENT IN TANZANIA

1. Tanzania Climate-Smart Agriculture Alliance (TCSAA)

The Tanzania Climate-Smart Agriculture Alliance (TCSAA) is a national, broad-based forum bringing together stakeholders to promote the adoption of CSA. The formation of the national and sub-national CSA alliances (Figure 1) aligns with the country's CSA guidelines and the Agriculture Sector Development Program II, which calls for gender-sensitive, multi-stakeholder engagement in promoting the adoption and up-scaling of CSA to cope with climate change in the agriculture sector. The District Climate-Smart Agriculture Alliances (DCSAAs) facilitate sharing knowledge and experiences on CSA and co-creation of innovative solutions to address barriers to adoption at the district level. For Lushoto, Kilosa and Kilolo, the platforms comprised of public, private, and civil stakeholders aiming at addressing climate change adaptation, including contribution to land restoration, and sustainable land use and management.

2. The Land Tenure Support Program (LTSP)

In 2016, The Department for International Development (DFID), with support from the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA), Denmark Development Cooperation (DANIDA), and the Government of Tanzania initiated the Land Tenure Support Program (LTSP) to address weaknesses in the land administration system that constrain efficient delivery of land services and good governance, targeting processes of how land certificates are issued to rural and urban citizens, and how land is leased to investors. A component of the program is to utilize the multistakeholder platform approach to raise the role of civil society in oversight of government services and actions in the land sector (USAID, 2016). These measures aim to strengthen security of tenure, and better-planned investment in urban infrastructure, including housing (Locke et al 2013; Mcilone 2016).

3. The African Forest Landscape Initiative (AFR100)

The African Forest Landscape Initiative, known as AFR100 is a Pan-African, country-led effort to bring 100 million hectares of land across Africa into restoration by 2030. The commitments

announced under AFR100 also support the Bonn Challenge adopted in Germany in 2011, whose overall objective is to restore 150 million hectares by 2020. Tanzania is one of the countries in the AFR100 since 2018 and pledged to restore 5.2 million Ha of degraded land and forests by 2030. This pledge was followed by the establishment of a national task force led by the Tanzania Forest Service and the Vice President's Office. The two institutions have embarked on the development of a national Forest Landscape Restoration (FLR) strategy to guide the restoration efforts. Among the key priority interventions for the AFR100 is convening key stakeholders and restoration partners and strengthening of platforms for information exchange and collaboration (IUCN, 2020).

4. Endangered Ecosystems of Northern Tanzania (EENT) Multi-Stakeholder Engagement

The Endangered Ecosystems of Northern Tanzania activity contributed to securing the health and connectivity of the Tarangire/Maasai Steppe ecosystem. The EENT employed a multi-stakeholder engagement strategy focused on broadening collaboration, and commitment to improve the health of rangelands and communities in northern Tanzania. Through a stakeholders' forum, district and regional governments, non-governmental stakeholders, and community leaders worked together to build a common understanding of threats and opportunities and advancing solutions. The two main themes of focus included: (1) rangeland protection through multi-village land use planning (LUP) and communal tenure; and (2) rangeland management, restoration, and monitoring (USAID, 2019).

5. Tanzania Natural Resource Forum (TNRF)

This network aims to achieve improved natural resource governance for sustainable rural livelihoods and better conservation outcomes. TNRF facilitates multistakeholder platforms to strengthen dialogue and information sharing and to enable advocacy and strengthen citizen's voices. The stakeholder dialogue addresses the potential areas of natural resource conflict and sustainable development across the country. An example of a multistakeholder engagement coordinated by TNRF is the Participatory Rangeland Management (PRM), which supported the pastoral communities to identify and implement strategic interventions to improve the productivity of rangelands (TNRF, 2021).

6. The National Engagement Strategy (NES)

The National Engagement Strategy is employed by members of the International Land Coalition (ILC) that aims to promote a People Centered Land Governance (PCLG), bringing about transformation in land governance at country level. The NES utilizes a multi-stakeholder platform approach on land governance for policy dialogue and knowledge sharing and aims at developing a country strategy for engagement on land governance. One of the main aspects of NES is the Land-based Investments Component coordinated by Tanzania Natural Resource Forum (TNRF). The Land Based Investment Working Group (LBIWG) has established district and national level Forums including Kilwa, Kilombero, Kilolo and Bagamoyo. The multistakeholder forums along with the working Groups monitor large-scale land-based investments such as the Bioshape Company investment in Kilwa District (TNRF, 2019).

7. Community Land Protection Initiative

The community land protection initiative was designed by the International Land Coalition (ILC) to build a supportive cross-regional community of practice to facilitate learning. The aim of the initiative was to provide a resource for ILC members involved in advancing community land protection efforts. Organizations drew experiences from one another on their most successful fieldwork strategies, shared innovative solutions to complex problems, and pooled their knowledge and expertise.

MAJOR OUTCOMES ACHIEVED

- The United Republic of Tanzania platform is responsible for the implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure (VGGT) supported by FAO and built a framework and indicators for monitoring and evaluation of government initiatives to improve governance of land tenure (FAO, 2021).

- The Tanzania Forest Service with technical support from International Union for Conservation of Nature and World Wide Fund developed a draft Forest Landscape Restoration (FLR) Strategy. The draft strategy presents a situation analysis that provides the country's baseline in terms of the existing strengths, weaknesses, challenges, and opportunities across various thematic areas. The strategy is expected to guide the restoration options and outline expected costs, benefits, and financing mechanisms towards achieving the 2030 land restoration targets (IUCN, 2020).

- The Endangered Ecosystems of Northern Tanzania (EENT) has contributed to nearly 1,400 households adopting human-wildlife conflict mitigation measures, 334 living walls constructed and 44 climate change and/or biodiversity conservation related local regulations drafted. These include village level grazing calendars, multi-village reciprocal grazing agreements, village by-laws, land use plans, Wildlife Management Areas resource zone management plans and user rights, a conservation action plan for the Makame WMA, and a carbon project contract. Women's Rights and Leadership forums have enhanced women's voice and choice within their communities, 317 community leaders and resource persons are promoting gender equity and youth empowerment. More than 4,200 participants (82% women) enrolled in programs

generating direct economic benefit, including leather tanning, beekeeping, community cooperative banks, micro-enterprises, village game scouts, human wildlife conflict officers, and rangeland monitors (USAID, 2019).

- The Community Rangelands Investment Fund (CRIF) interventions include removal of the invasive species and tsetse fly control. In the Lesingita cluster, community investment projects on bush clearance, scaling up of pasture demonstration plots, and renovation of the cattle dips are culminating in improved rangelands productivity and improved pasture production (TRNF, 2021).

- The collaboration of members of the Kilolo District learning alliance facilitated a bee-keeping project to support the protection of natural resources for pollination and to diversify household incomes. Mahenge and Mazombe Development Association (MMADEA), which is also a member of the Kilolo platform spearheaded the protection of riparian zones and protection of streams and riverbanks. This initiative promoted the conservation of water and riverine vegetation.

- The Lushoto District learning alliance focused on erosion control engaging village ambassadors to disseminate knowledge on creation of water canals along valley bottoms, which helped to adapt to floods. The learning alliance also prioritized afforestation to address the challenge of siltation due to the harvesting of forests, which is affecting the bottom valley farming and quality of drinking water in Sunga. Friends of Usambara (FOU), a member of the platform, provides seedlings of *Pinus patula* to farmers to reduce siltation. In the village of Boheloi, village ambassadors and elders provide traditional weather forecasts. The learning alliance also promoted a bylaw to protect the natural resources used as indicators in the indigenous forecasting by elders.

Multi-stakeholder platforms have the following elements and benefits for land restoration and sustainable land management

- Foster multi-stakeholder and inter-sectoral coordination around land management and governance processes.

- Find common solutions to tenure related problems by building buy-in from the government and other key actors to improve governance of tenure.

- Develop innovative approaches, tools, and mechanisms at regional, national, and local level to improve governance of tenure.

- Create a problem-solving mechanism, providing legitimate answers and sustainable solutions to overriding issues.

- Resolve roadblocks stemming from lack of buy-in at multiple levels, creating grass-root solutions by improving access to natural resources.

- Achieve lasting outcomes such as influencing the national land agenda and fostering participatory tenure reform processes.

- As MSPs are becoming more consolidated, they are increasingly playing a role in the monitoring and evaluation of improved governance of tenure.

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REASONS FOR SUCCESS OF THE MULTISTAKEHOLDER PLATFORMS

1. Enabling policies, strategies, and by-laws

The Agriculture Sector Development Program II developed by Tanzania's Ministry of Agriculture, calls for gender-sensitive, multi-stakeholder engagement in promoting the adoption and up-scaling of climate-smart agriculture to enable the country cope with the challenges posed by climate change. Therefore, the ASDSP II program creates an enabling policy environment for the learning alliances.

2. Decentralized platforms linked to existing institutional structures and national government

The local district agriculture department facilitated the learning alliances at the sub-national level. The establishment of national learning alliances at national and local levels plays a role in linking stakeholders, institutions and society across levels and sectors. The structure and framework of the platforms is useful in supporting engagement, coordination, and transparency of actions.

3. Action at multiple levels

The institutional arrangement for the platforms supported national to sub-national and to local policies, programmes, and on the ground interventions. This multi-level aspect supported the selection of priority issues and locations for action and investments.

4. Information dissemination

The platforms have established a clear and well-defined information sharing mechanism and information dissemination is mainly through mobile phones, radio, WhatsApp, SMS messages and in-person meetings and workshops. Platforms additionally used focus group discussions and established rural climate change ambassadors who spearheaded the knowledge sharing. The digital channels have continued to support information sharing during the social gathering restrictions introduced because of the COVID 19 pandemic.

5. Multiple institution/actors involved

Several actors are involved fostering public-private partnerships in the learning alliances. This includes stakeholders such as the national, sub-national and local governments, universities, community-based organizations, media, youth organizations, research institutions, NGOs, local education departments and farmer representatives. The public-private platforms support awareness creation and mobilize blended finance for land restoration, and sustainable land management.
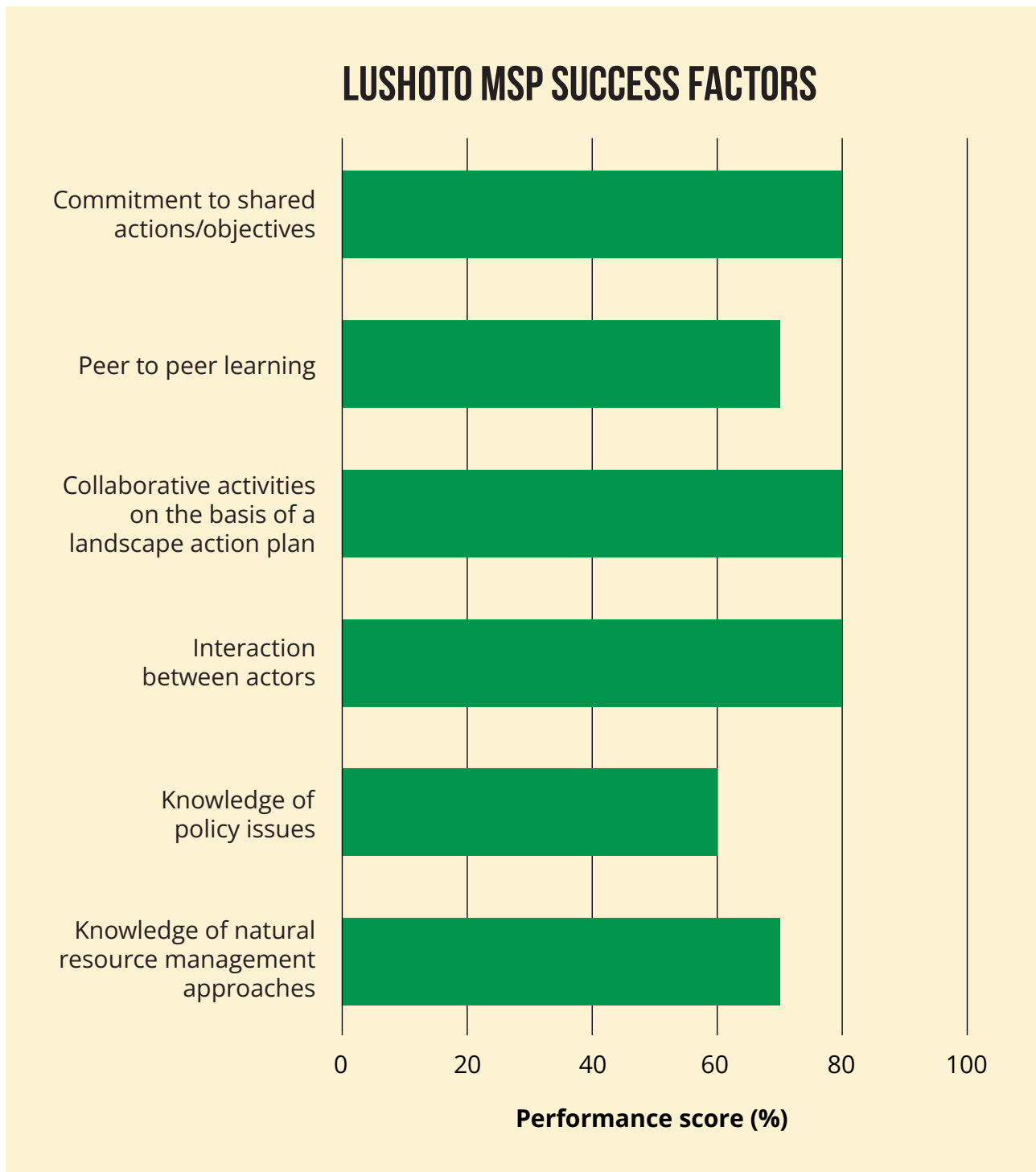
Figure 2: Evaluation of the outcomes of the Lushoto District Climate-Smart Agriculture Alliance by members

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MAJOR CHALLENGES

1. Financing

The multistakeholder platforms face financial challenges, which cause delays in planned activities and poor coordination. Lack of adequate capital and technical resources also hinders the scaling of innovations to address land degradation and climate change.

2. Lack of a phasing-out approach

Many of the platforms were initiated through projects and this has limited activities upon the closure of those projects. The Tanzania government has endorsed the use of the MSP approach as a mechanism to socialize and implement agriculture development activities at national to local level, which also supports their sustainability.

3. Lack of adequate capacity building

There is inadequate capacity building for stakeholders through trainings, workshops and seminars and limited technical knowledge and infrastructure for data collecting, dissemination and monitoring and evaluation of the activities supported by the platforms.

4. Weak enforcement of by-laws

Inadequate and difficulties in the implementation of local bylaws, environmental management policies, plans and strategies is impeding land restoration outcomes. For instance, at local level in Tanzania, there is need to invest in law enforcement and actions that support alternatives for fuelwood as a primary source of energy. Unclear land tenure system and conflicting government policies at times exacerbate land degradation.

5. Gender and youth participation

Underrepresentation of women and young people is a great factor impeding the implementation of solutions in the platforms especially since they represent the population that is most vulnerable to climate change and are majorly involved in the implementation of agricultural and land management activities.

OPPORTUNITIES

1. Diversity and inclusivity

Successful alliances should have a large and diverse membership considering the vulnerable and marginalized groups and foster private-public engagements.

2. Good leadership and management

This is vital for proper running of the MSPs. The establishment of steering committees is useful to expand the management and accommodate more leaders and for succession planning.

3. Alignment to local priorities

The objectives of the alliances should be well aligned to the local plans and priorities, which in turn encourages the support and buy-in from sub-national and local actors, including financial support.

4. Formalization

This can be achieved by formulation of a constitution that clearly spells out the various categories of membership. For example, it was found that some members running projects in the district such as NGOs, left after project completion. Therefore, they should be in a different membership category compared to more permanent groups such local CBOs and farmers' groups. Registration of the platforms, where feasible, would platforms to receive and manage funds for their activities.

5. Strategic networking

To achieve sustainable land use and management, there are complex and systemic challenges that require the combination of interconnected actions at the local, national, regional, and global levels for a more holistic and coordinated approach. The platforms require to link with other relevant platforms for collaboration across sectors and levels.

6. Ensuring rural energy security, livelihood diversification, and strengthened resilience to climate change is essential for successful land restoration in Tanzania. The MSP is an ideal collaborative approach to identify synergies, tradeoffs, enabling conditions and the actions required.

7. COVID-19 has contributed to loss of livelihoods which is contributing to migration from urban areas to rural areas, further increasing the pressure on natural resources. Covid-19 recovery presents opportunity to invest in land restoration unlocking social, economic, and ecological resilience. Data from a wide range of ecosystems, shows that a dollar spent on restoration, yields between three and seventy-five dollars of economic benefits from ecosystem goods and services (UNEP, 2020).

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