



Review Article – Economics

Green economy in Tanzania: Is it foreseeable?

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Abstract

The green economy is one of the major pathways to sustainable development. In achieving sustainable development, Tanzania just like some other developing countries, has made efforts in transit to such kind of economy. The country does not have any specific national policy or strategy on the green economy. However, there have been different, direct, and indirect actions that have been implemented in support of the green economy initiative. The paper reviews how far the green economy is foreseeable in Tanzania. Firstly, explore the work of different activities and initiatives towards attaining green economy together with their effectiveness and challenges. Starts by review on the well-known national initiatives that are mainly funded by the developed partners, then national strategic development plans and programs. The work found that there is no enough researches and information on the role of already established policies, laws, and regulation. This study concludes by discussing the identified strength and weakness of the initiatives, providing suggestions on where will these initiatives take Tanzania as long as green economy is concerned, and therefore provide recommendations.

Keywords: Green economy; Tanzania; initiatives; plans and programs

Introduction

The green economy is one of the major pathways to sustainable development (OECD, 2012; UNEP, 2011) this concept regained momentum in 2008 after the major global financial crisis. The increase in interest is, among other factors, because of the growing understanding of the inter-linkages between many of the current economic, environmental and social observed crises (Georgeson *et al.*, 2017; Ten Brink, 2012). United Nations environmental program (UNEP) as a leading global environmental authority was among the first organizations to put forward the green economy initiative. In October 2008, UNEP launched its Green Economy Initiative to provide analysis and policy support for investment in green sectors and greening resource sectors (UNEP, 2011). The green economy has its primary objectives; UNEP through report entitled a Global Green New Deal (GGND) has encouraged the governments going green with the three objectives of economic recovery, poverty eradication, and reduced carbon emissions and ecosystem degradation (UNEMG, 2011).

Tanzania, like some other developing countries, has made efforts towards transitions to Green economy (Kabubu, 2012). One of the principal initiator of sustainable development movement and so green economy in the country is the Rio Conference of 1992 (UNCED, 1992). Since the Rio Conference, the United Republic of Tanzania has made progress in various areas to ensure that the country follows a sustainable development path. Unlike other Sub-Saharan Africa countries such as Rwanda (Rwanda, 2011), and Ethiopia (Vision, 2011), Tanzania does not have a specific national policy or strategy on green economy nor national definition on the meaning of “green economy” in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication (URT, 2012a). However, there have been different, direct, and

indirect actions and initiatives that have been implemented in the country in support of the green economy initiative. These, have somehow altered the existed institution and relationships of authorities in achieving the goals/objectives of going green.

Initiatives towards a green economy in Tanzania are in different ways, such as various projects, programs, forests, and agriculture-related initiatives (Buseth, 2017; Koch, 2017). The country also has and is implementing several national Strategic development plans, projects and crosscutting policies, laws, and regulations, which have features that promote the green economy. Such features include the promotion of renewable energies (solar, hydropower, wind, geothermal, biogas), use of energy efficient appliances and equipment, efficient mass transit systems, cleaner production initiatives, fuel switching to natural gas and other alternative energy sources, efficient and sustainable use of natural resources (URT, 2012a). This paper explores the main green economy-related initiatives and reviews if these are enough and capable of taking through the country to green economy transitions.

The southern agricultural growth corridor of Tanzania (SAGCOT)

Agriculture is the strength of many developing economies, including Tanzanian. Therefore, the country is strengthening this sector for the benefit of national and livelihood of people through different programs and initiatives. The Southern Agricultural Growth Corridor of Tanzania (SAGCOT) initiative is a public-private partnership, an agricultural based program involving the government, smallholder farmers, agribusinesses, and development donors (SAGCOT, 2018). The initiative started as an Agricultural Sector Development Programme (ASDP) with the main goals of increasing private-sector investment in agriculture at the

same time ensuring the farmers have access to technology and markets (Cooksey, 2012). However, this private-sector involvement was considered as a challenge to the stakeholders, especially the donors (SAGCOT, 2011). In response to this challenge (private-sector gap in ASDP), new strategy, ‘*Kilimo Kwanza*’ (agriculture first) was launched in 2009. The strategy was launched to increase international interest in agricultural investments by tackling the global crises in food, finance, energy, and climate and so somehow fix the contribution of the private sector in the quest of developing Tanzanian agriculture (SAGCOT, 2011). Therefore, in a journey of implementing the *Kilimo Kwanza* strategy, in 2010, Tanzania introduced the public-private partnership known as SAGCOT, and the partnership will run for 20 years up to 2030. This is the first program set to put *Kilimo Kwanza* in motion (Jenkins, 2012).

The SAGCOT initiative is aiming at boosting agricultural productivity and so food security, reduce poverty, and enhance environmental sustainability by commercializing smallholder agriculture (Byiers & Rampa, 2013; SAGCOT, 2018). In the implementation of these, the initiative highlighted smallholders as the main beneficiaries (SAGCOT, 2011; Secretariat, 2013). The initial SAGCOT ideas were concerned with agricultural investment opportunities; and then changed into ‘agriculture green growth’ and ‘inclusive green growth’ initiative, created at the multi-national level (Buseth, 2017). The government is now implementing a particular vision of ‘green modernization’ through the already established six clusters of commercial agriculture that are covering one-third of the mainland (Ihemi, Mbarali, Sumbawanga, Kilombero, Ludewa, and Rufiji) (fig. 1). It is targeting on Soya, Tea, Dairy, Tomatoes, and Potatoes crops; covering about five million hectares of land, with a total population of approximately ten million people (Kabubu, 2012). Investments in these clusters have been predicted to bring profits to investors, reduce poverty and protect nature. All these give out the underlying justification of the principal view of the green economy.



Fig. 1. Map of Tanzania showing coverage of the Southern Agricultural Growth Corridor. Source: SAGCOT (2011).

SAGCOT aims by 2030 to collect 3.5 billion USD in investments, convey 350,000 hectares of land into commercial farming; creation of 420,000 new employment opportunities, at the same time lifting 2 million people permanently out of poverty (SAGCOT, 2016). Report by SAGCOT (2018), have indicated how far the goals’ initiative have been achieved. From the achievements; it is clear that the country has to put more efforts, as most of the achievements are far away from the 2030 targets. In addition, the initiative considered smallholder farmers as major beneficiaries, even declaring that without them, SAGCOT would not exist (Bergius, 2014). However, smallholder farmers input in SAGCOT has been mentioned to be negligible (McKeon, 2014). Byiers and Rampa (2013) have specified that SAGCOT may become a ‘corridor of power’, as benefit streams are only dominated upwards in the processes of implementation.

Table 1. The Achievements of SAGCOT according to indicators: Source SAGCOT (2018)

Indicators	Performance		
	2017 Achievement	2013-2018 Cumulative Target	2030 Cumulative Target
Number of New Jobs	547	1500	420000
Value of Farming Revenues in the SAGCOT Corridor	USD 14.87m	USD 22.8m	2.4 bn
Value of new Private Sector Investment	USD 0.02bn	USD 0.525 bn	2.1 bn
Hectares in profitable production,	Not measured	No target	350000
Number of Smallholder Farmers working	46278	100000	230000

Generally, for the success of any development activity, there should be full participation of all the stakeholders, particularly the main stakeholders. It is clear that the project lacks full involvement in terms of social investments; in line with this, Bergius *et al.* (2018) write that there is no clear and good partnership between the investor and villages. There is also a question on the fate of the ecosystems and biodiversity and their related benefits, especially natural forest. As the establishment of related projects involves disturbance of the natural area like large forest plantations, and the conversion of the lands into monocultures of pine or eucalyptus.

Reduced Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation

Deforestation and forest degradation are among the

leading causes of global environmental change; causing nearly 20% of global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, second to the energy sector (IPCC, 2014). Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation (REDD+) is an international agreement aiming at climate change mitigation through reductions of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and increases in GHG removals (Angelsen *et al.*, 2009). REDD+ also aims at providing socio-ecological co-benefits, including biodiversity protection and improving forest governance (UNFCCC, 2014). This initiative is a financial incentive-based whereby it is designed to compensate national governments and sub-national actors in return for reductions in carbon emissions from deforestation and degradation and enhancements of terrestrial carbon stocks (Agrawal *et al.*, 2011). This is

mitigation initiative proposed by different international organizations (UNEP, World Bank, and environmental NGOs) involving the main two partners developed and developing countries (Bayrak & Marafa, 2016). Developing countries (Non-Annex I countries) have the obligation of taking the low-carbon climate resilient development, while developed countries (Annex I countries) have to provide funding as an incentive for reduced forest-based carbon emissions. The initiative initially focused on Reduced Emission from deforestation (RED), later on, it included reducing emission from forest degradation (REDD), and then it advanced into REDD+ (Bayrak and Marafa, 2016).

Tanzania is a forested nation, which is challenged with high levels of deforestation and degradation, mainly from agriculture expansion, population growth, and charcoal production (Burgess et al., 2010; Geist and Lambin, 2002). Thus, it was made an appropriate focus country for REDD activities. The REDD policy process in Tanzania began following the UNFCCC Conference of the Parties. 2008 was considered the starting point of the REDD policy process with the support of the Government of Norway (Angelsen and Hofstad, 2008). In addition, the Federal Government of Germany supported the country in the management of nature reserves, and the Finnish government, which focused on producing a forest inventory (Kweka et al., 2015). This initiative is a green economy based; and Tanzania considered REDD policy as a viable option that provides opportunities for the country to take its obligations in managing her forests and woodlands on a sustainable basis while responding to poverty reduction initiatives accordingly (URT, 2012b). As part of REDD, pilot projects supported by the developed partners, and are being implemented in Tanzania by civil society organizations and their partners. The projects have been implemented in many regions of Tanzania (TNRF, 2012) with diverse aims and approaches.

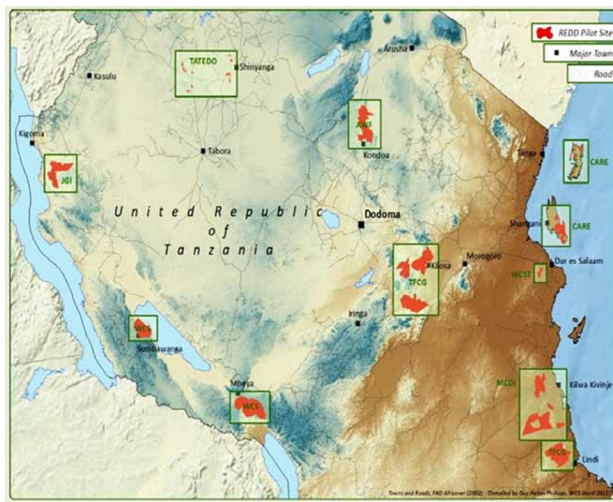


Figure 2: Map of Tanzania showing major REDD+ pilot projects. Source: wildlife conservation society (2011) in (TNRF, 2012).

These REDD+ activities had and have the objective of environmental protection and are taking multiple functions of forests and ecosystems into account. All these were made to ensure the achievement of sustainable development and poverty reduction. As in some studied areas, REDD+ has been indicated to improve the livelihood of the households by increasing annual income (Ojija, 2015). However; in

Tanzania, several REDD+ related activities had ended in 2014, as there is no new funding in place, leaving the future related activities looking uncertain (Cavanagh et al., 2015; Ojija, 2015). After the ending of most of the funding, Tanzania is now engaged in a range of global and multilateral international agreements, which govern forest management. These come with activities, which have established a base that has embarked most of the implementation activities of REDD+ in Tanzania. A good Example of such activities is decentralization in the forest management which has advanced with Participatory Forest Management (PFM) through Community-Based Forest Management (CBFM), which sites form the basis of about 80% of all the REDD+ pilot projects in the country (Kweka et al., 2015). The activities have helped Tanzania to put in place relatively advanced institutions, policies, and strategies that foster sustainable forest management.

Weak enforcement of forest laws and regulations is the main challenge affecting the REDD+ implementations and after coming based activities. Furthermore, the REDD+ initiative in Tanzania was based on the existing institutional systems, which are centrally monopolized. Moreover, these have so far not succeeded to generate noticeable benefits to the local communities, and so their contribution to the sustainable management of forests is affected. Therefore somehow failing to achieve objectives of green economy of improving the economy, eradicate poverty (improve livelihood) and enhance ecosystem conservations.

The Tanzania Development Vision 2025

Tanzanian Government started the formulation of the development Vision in 1995 to guide economic and social development achievements up to the year 2025 (Mallya, 2000). According to the Vision, by 2025, the country is expected to transform into a middle-income country, filled with five main national attributes. According to Tandari (2004), the attributes are:-

- Having a population with a high quality of life,
- Be a stable, peaceful and united country,
- Have an intact well working good governance machinery,
- Have a well-educated population and one that craves for learning and
- Have a competitive economy capable of producing sustainable growth and shared benefits.

The country is also aiming at transforming the economy from a principal agricultural one to a diversified and semi-industrialized economy with a substantial industrial sector, like those of typical middle-income countries (URT, 2011a). Vision 2025 has been implemented through five-year development plans (FYDPs) and the National Strategy for Growth and Poverty Reduction (NSGPR), commonly known as *MKUKUTA* in Swahili.

Tanzania five Year Development Plans (FYDPs)

After the Assessment of Tanzania Development Vision 2025 in 2010, The Government, through the Planning Commission, formulated Long Term Perspective Plan (LTPP) 2011/12-2025/26 (Babeiya et al., 2014). The Plan was divided into three five-year development plans (FYDPs), each with an independent theme that supports and prioritize interventions. The plans are- First Five Year Development Plan 2011/12-

2015/16 (FYDP I) with a theme: “Unleashing Tanzania’s Latent Growth Potentials.” The Second Five Year Development Plan 2016/17-2020/21 (FYDP II) with a theme: “Nurturing and Industrial Economy.” Moreover, The Third Five Year Development Plan 2021/22-2025/26 (FYDP III) with a theme: “Realizing Competitiveness-led Export Growth (Kikwete, 2014).

The First Five Year Development Plan 2011/12-2015/16 (FYDP I) has already been implemented. The plan prioritized on infrastructure, agriculture, industry, human capital development, and economic services (Trade, Tourism, and Financial Services) (URT, 2011b). FYDP I targeted an average GDP growth of 8 percent per annum (which is equal to a 5 percent per capita growth target). Also targeted the increase of annual growth in agriculture from 4.4percent to 6 percent, manufacturing from 8 percent to 12 percent, industry from 8.6 percent to 9.4 percent and services from 7.5 percent to 7.8 percent. Some targets have been surpassed, and others have not reached). The Under-achievement (example the agricultural sector, lagged, growing at only 3.4 percent (2014) a rate which is far below FYDP I target) is explained by the slow pace in decision-making, inadequate mobilizing financial resources and weak implementation of projects in Tanzania (URT, 2016b). Many of the goals do overlaps with those of National Strategy for Growth and Reduction of Poverty (NSGRP) because both are heading to achieve 2025 Vision.

National Strategy for Growth and Reduction of Poverty (NSGRP - MKUKUTA)

The National Strategy for Growth and Reduction of Poverty (NSGRP or *MKUKUTA* in Swahili) is a Millennium Development Goal (MDG) based commonly organizing to rally national efforts in accelerating poverty-reducing growth (URT, 2011b). There have been two series of this national strategy NSGRP I (2005-2010) and NSGRP II (2010-2015).

Table 2. Achievements of NSRD (2010-2015) according to the indicators. Sources: UNECA (2016), URT (2016a) and DHS (2015).

Indicator	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	NSRD target
GDP growth %	6.4	7.9	5.1	7.3	7.0	7.0	10
Agriculture sector growth rate	2.7	3.5	3.2	3.2	3.4	-	6-8
Manufacture sector growth	8.9	6.9	4.1	6.5	6.8	-	15
Number of people employed in decent jobs	64876	68116	71544	75154	78915	-	-
primary enrolment rate	95.4	94	92	89.7	84.4	-	100
secondary school enrolment rate	30.8	34.5	36.6	33.7	32.0	-	50
Under-Five Mortality Rates	81%	-	-	54	-	67%	54%
portion of births taking place at health facility	58%	62%	60%	61%	-	63%	80%
Maternal Mortality Rate	454	454	432	-	-	556	199

In the improvement of the quality of life and social well-being, Tanzania has focused on reducing inequalities in accessing social and economic opportunities, across geographical areas, income groups, age, gender, and other groups. In education, Tanzania recorded a significant increase in the number of public and private universities. Increase in qualified teachers in both primary and secondary schools. However, the school enrolment rate in primary and secondary schools decreased from 97.3 percent in 2007 to 84.4 in 2014 and from 36.6 percent in 2012 to 32.0 percent in 2014, respectively (URT, 2016a). Even though the secondary school enrolment increased from 6.3 percent in 2003 up to 36.6 percent in 2012, but it is far from the NSGRP target of 50 percent.

In improving survival, health, and well-being, especially

The strategy emphasizes the role of governance in growth and poverty reduction on the country’s development agenda. It also emphasizes mainstreaming cross-cutting issues in sector strategies and Local Government Authorities development plans. This is a green economy based initiative as it aims at reducing poverty enhance economic growth and protecting the environment.

According to URT (2010), the Strategy has been built based on four key fundamentals to ensure forward-looking interventions in achieving targets set out in the Vision 2025 and other long-term policy initiatives. The fundamentals include:

- Efficient use and development of factors of production, including human capital/resources,
- Strengthening and establishing well-functioning institutions and markets,
- Provision of infrastructure, and
- Ensuring good economic governance.

Concerning the goals of green economy of reducing income poverty and enhancing economic growth, during the implementation of the NSGRP II, the county has achieved to increase GDP in real terms by about seven percent or above except 2012 where it grew by 5.1 % (UNECA, 2016). However, the growth has not reached the strategy’s target of achieving and maintaining an 8-10 percent growth necessary for eradicating absolute poverty. The rate of inflation dropped from 7.2 percent in June 2010 to 6.1 percent in June 2015. There was also the creation of decent jobs that helps to reduce income poverty among the population significantly; this was achieved through implementation of the National Youth Employment Creation Programme in collaboration with stakeholders whereby 840,000 employment opportunities were created, and also the implementation of the skills development program (URT, 2016a).

for children, women and vulnerable groups; Under-Five Mortality Rates continued to decrease, 54 deaths per 1000 live births were recorded in 2013, but unfortunately, it increased to 67 in 2015, behind of NSGRP target of 54 deaths per 1000 live births by 2015 (DHS, 2015). Maternal Mortality Rate is still unacceptably high; Shoo *et al.* (2017) mentioned the low government expenditure in health (TShs 2,055 billion in 2016/17 compared to the need of TShs 4,389 billion), Less prioritization of maternal and poverty among the causing factors. Also, water supply coverage in rural areas increased up to 67 percent in June 2015; which surpasses the NSGRP II target of 65 percent by June 2015.

This strategy was implemented in such a way that all cross-cutting issues (environment being one of them) are incorporated into the NSGRP clusters. However, it seems as

if environmental sustainability had only been integrated into key plans and policies, living behind the key sectors and Local Government Authorities (LGAs) Funding for environmental interventions at sector and sub-national levels. Therefore, it was difficult to trace the change, as there was no specific budget code for environmental activities.

To some extent, the implementation of NSGRP has improved the environment state in favor of the surrounding community by improving their livelihood. NSGRP Assessment Report (URT, 2016a) has indicated that the agriculture sector (crops, livestock, forestry, and fishing) have grown from 2011 to 2014 as compared to growth of 2.7 percent in 2010. Even though the growth is still below the NSGRP target of reaching and maintaining an average growth of 6-8 percent by 2015 to eradicate absolute poverty. It is proposed that there should be improvement of the farming system; expand irrigation schemes, promote the use of pesticides and improved seeds, to increase productivity and therefore poverty reduction.

The National Environment Action Plan (NEAP)

National Environmental Action Plan (NEAP) in Tanzania was first put forward in 1994. This was mainly due to recommendations by the Earth Summit of 1992 held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. As in this Summit, countries were required to prepare and implement National Environmental Action Plans (UNCED, 1992). In addition to the Summit; The Environmental Management Act No. 20 of 2004 (EMA) requires preparation of NEAP in five years as the basis for integrating environmental concerns in formulation and implementation of development plans and programs (URT, 2004). From 1994, the government has been implementing plans consecutively. Currently, the country is implementing The National Environment Action Plan (NEAP) of 2013-2018. The plan came with the initiatives, which ensure that the environment is highly considered in all the development process, and this gave the plan features of the green economy.

Through these plans, the government has achieved the following; formulation of the National Environmental Policy (1997); enactment of the Environmental Management Act No. 20 of 2004; mainstreaming of the environment into MKUKUTA I (2005-2010) and II (2010-2015); and formulation of the sectoral policies, strategies, and plans. Formulation of the institutional framework for effective environmental management that includes sector ministries and Local Government Authorities (URT, 2013). Furthermore, numerous national programs, strategies, and plans have been developed and implemented to address critical environmental challenges such as land degradation; water supply; waste management; water catchments conservation; deforestation; loss of biodiversity; coastal and marine environment conservation. Regardless of these achievements, effective environmental management in the country is still a challenge, because many environmental challenges are still emerging.

Apart from the discussions above, there is establishment of national laws and bylaws, regulations, programs, and policies in different sectors as environment, natural resources, and tourism, fisheries, mining, and transportation. Establishment of these is a result of the work of programs mentioned above and plans as it has been indicated, in support of the green economy initiative. From literature, little is known about what precisely these have done

regarding the green economy. In addition to that, so have indicated that there is weak enforcement of the laws and policies in Tanzania (Kweka et al., 2015). As important, it is the role of the policies and legal framework in the transition to a green economy; it is also essential to know their performance and effectiveness.

Discussion and Conclusions

From the review, it is clear that to some extent, Tanzania is on the way in transiting to a green economy. On the other hand, the country is still facing some challenges that are holding back the efforts more than the way forward. Other important areas in the country have been overseen in the transition to a green economy. Initiatives have concentrated on some parts of the country, for example, the southern part of Tanzania (Bergius et al., 2018; Bersaglio & Cleaver, 2018; Buseth, 2017; Olwig *et al.*, 2015), while there is no enough information about some other parts. This might be because the area is potential in different factors like a potential area for investors, agriculture, and business. However, for the country to prosper and achieve the goals of a green economy, all the area have to be covered and monitored in terms of the initiatives and measuring the effectiveness of the initiatives.

On top of that, other key sectors have been neglected, as fishery and water resources. In fact, for a developing country like Tanzania, green economy initiatives should be in sound with the renewable natural resources as they are the pillars for the country's economy as well as people's livelihood (Omilola, 2014). The community has not been fully involved regardless of being mentioned as the major stakeholders in the implementation of some initiatives. Bolin and Tassa (2012), further indicate that in some selected REDD+ pilot sites of Tanzania, the targeted communities did not receive enough information about the project and only a few privileged villagers had knowledge on REDD+. Involvement of community in such kind of programs is inevitable; Danielsen *et al.* (2011); Nissen-Petersen, (2006) established that inclusion of community could even reduce unnecessary expenses and can improve the capacity of developing countries. Sulle and Nelson (2009) have stressed the point that many of Tanzania development policies have to be modernized and transformed, as involvement of smallholders is inefficient, not contributing sufficiently to the development of the nation.

Assessment Report and action plan for the Implementation of post-Rio Conventions (2007) mentioned challenges in attaining Rio convections goals of sustainable development as inadequate capacity at all levels (individual, institutional and systemic), weak integrated natural resource management among relevant sectors, and inadequate gender main-streaming in implementation. In addition to those different studies have mentioned inadequate researches in the green economy initiatives. Tanzania has to take action into these challenges and weaknesses to accomplish the 2025 vision, and so transition into the green economy country.

It is well known that through the green economy, any country can improve economically, socially, and maintain nature. Therefore, if Tanzania has chosen to go green, the country has to take green economy serious by establishing a given national strategy that will guide in achieving it, instead of identifying other programs, plans that have the elements.

With the strategy, it will be easy to set goals to achieve that will be of green economy and not related to it, also setting the way forward in achieving them accordingly.

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