

Participatory Forest Management and REDD in Tanzania: challenges and lessons learned

Presented by Charles Meshack

Tanzania Forest Conservation Group

30th November 2011



Presentation summary

- Overview of participatory forest management in Tanzania
- Challenges of traditional PFM in Tanzania
- Challenges of linking PFM and REDD
- Lessons learned and recommendations



Participatory forest management in Tanzania

Two main approaches to participatory forest management in Tanzania:

- 1) Joint Forest Management =
Gov't + Communities jointly manage gov't reserves
- 2) Community Based Forest Management =
Communities manage forest on village land

Official Area under JFM = 1,612,246 ha in 210 Gov't FRs

Official Area under CBFM = 2,060,608 million ha in 382 VFRs

PFM forests are in better condition than non-PFM forests

Comparative studies have found:

- Increases in basal area and volume over time in forests under PFM relative to declines in both variables in non-PFM forests;
- Lower rates of pole cutting and timber harvesting in forests under PFM than in non-PFM forests.

But traditional forest management = zero in-situ management for many forest reserves



Challenges of JFM in Tanzania

- Many joint management agreements are not signed.
- Benefit sharing mechanism not functioning.
- Low revenues for protective reserves mean that communities would receive negligible amounts even if benefit sharing was functioning.
- Management budget for most reserves is zero so there is little opportunity for 'joint' actions.
- Elite capture by some community members may contribute to improved management effectiveness but undermines the broader development objective of JFM.
- Mechanisms are not in place to hold government accountable for forest condition.

Challenges of CBFM in Tanzania

- Financial sustainability of reserves rarely considered.
- Policy and capacity gap in relation to community participation in sustainable harvesting.
- Difficulties for communities to secure their land certificate.
- Elite capture.
- Disincentives for local government to encourage large village forest reserves.

Challenges of linking CBFM and REDD

CBFM is about:

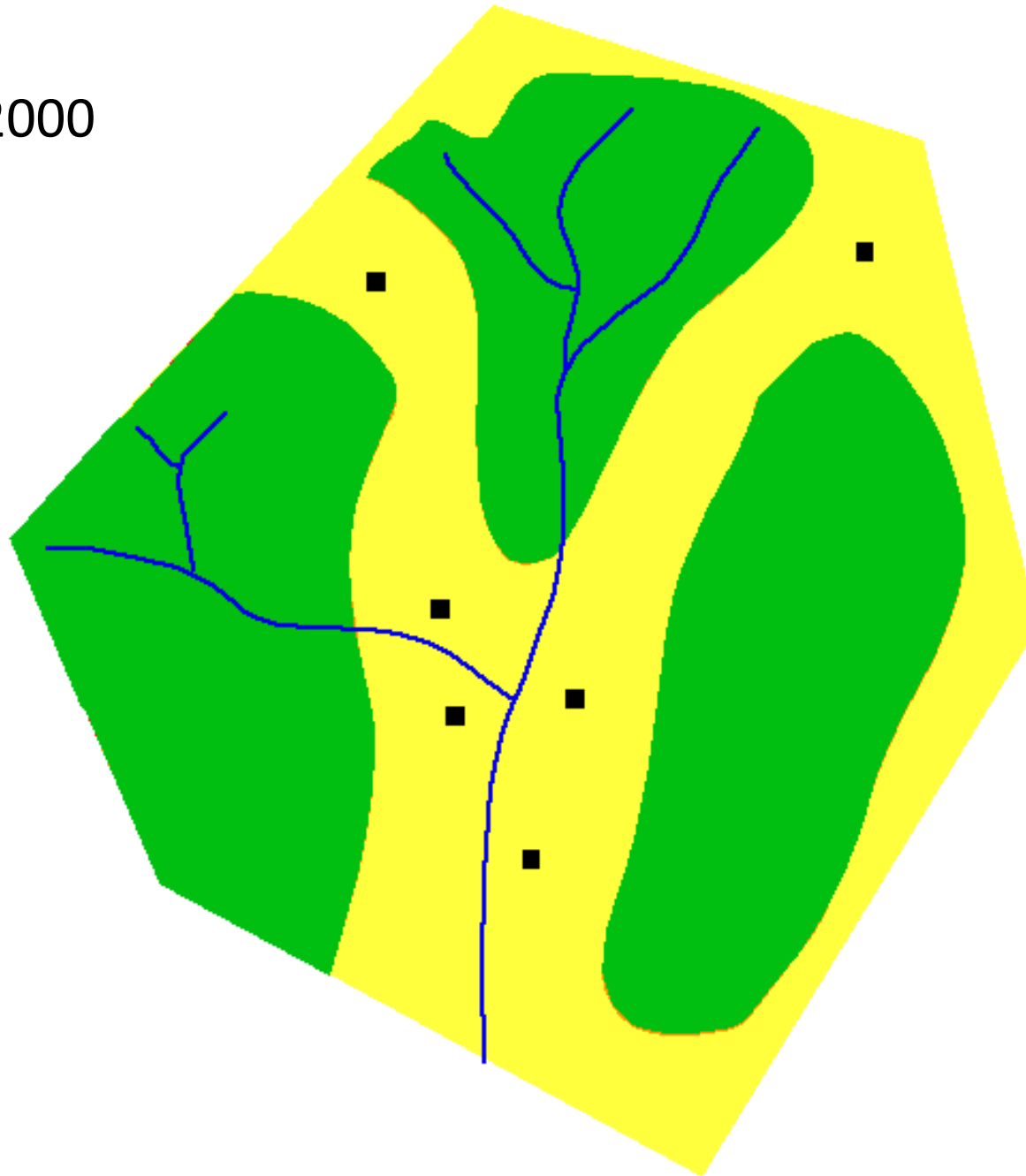
- Protecting resources important to communities
- Managing resources important to communities

REDD is about:

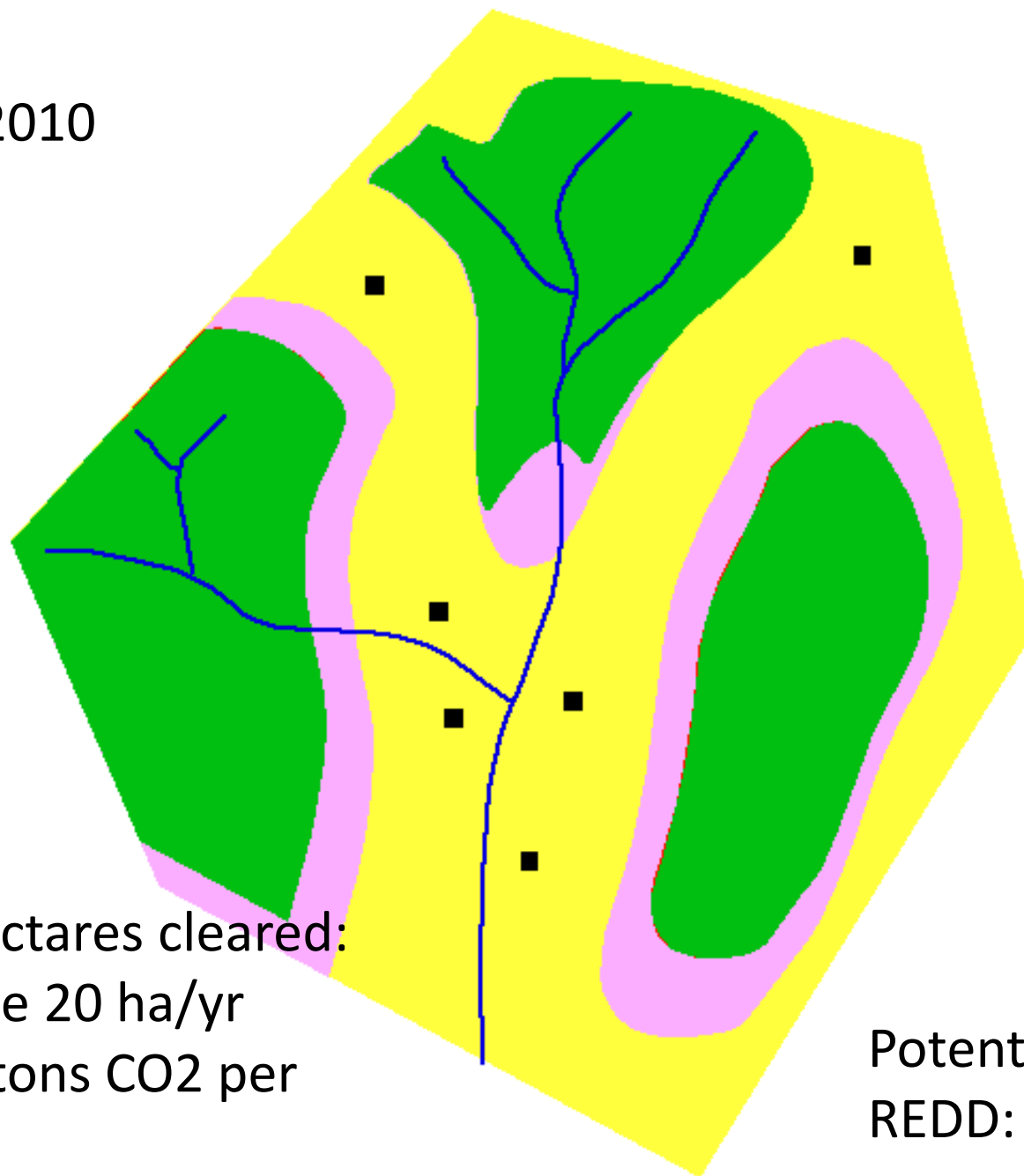
- Reducing emissions of CO₂ associated with deforestation and degradation

To receive REDD payments a community must reduce their rate of deforestation in comparison to a historical baseline

Year: 2000



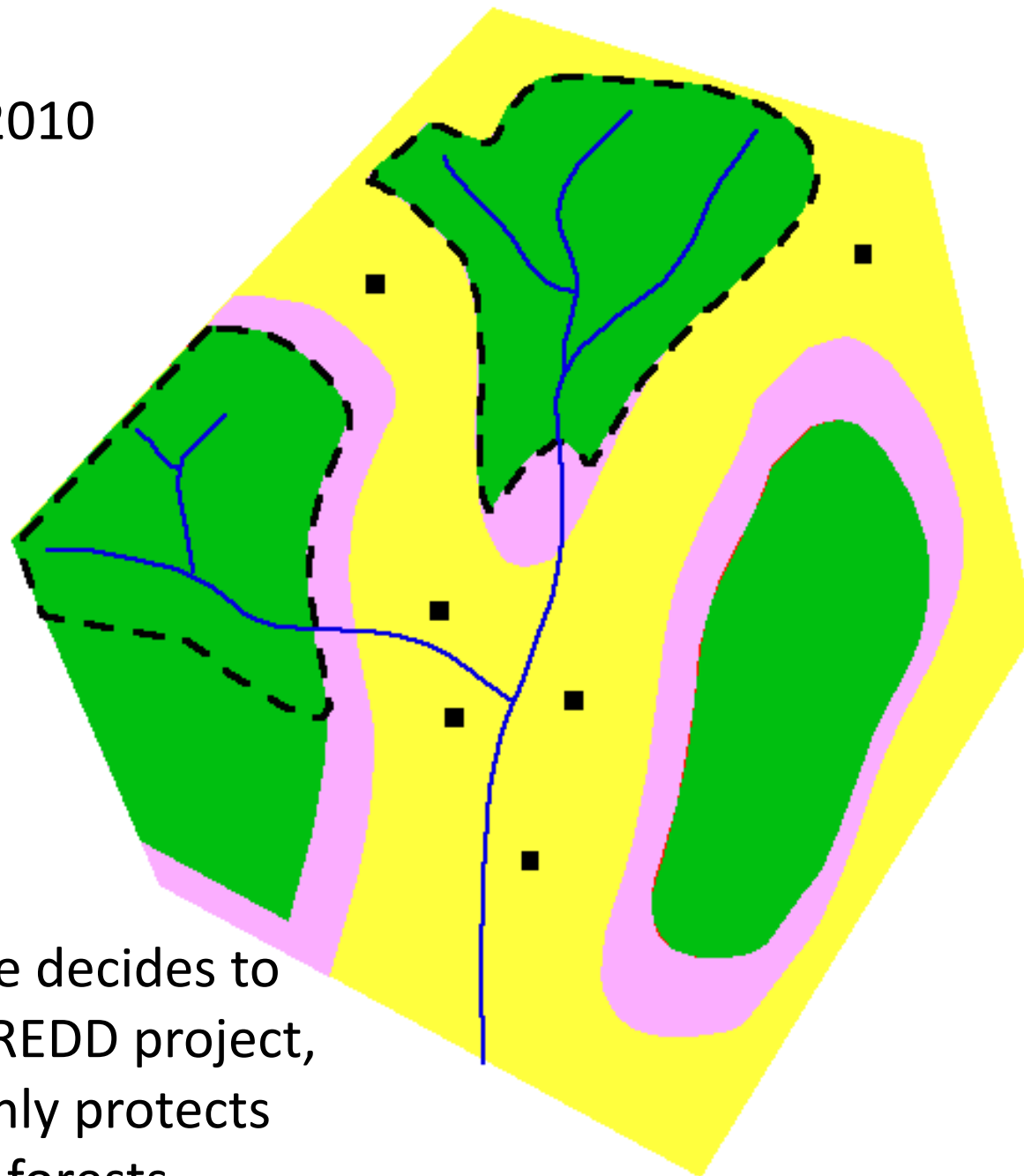
Year: 2010



200 hectares cleared:
Average 20 ha/yr
(5000 tons CO₂ per
year)

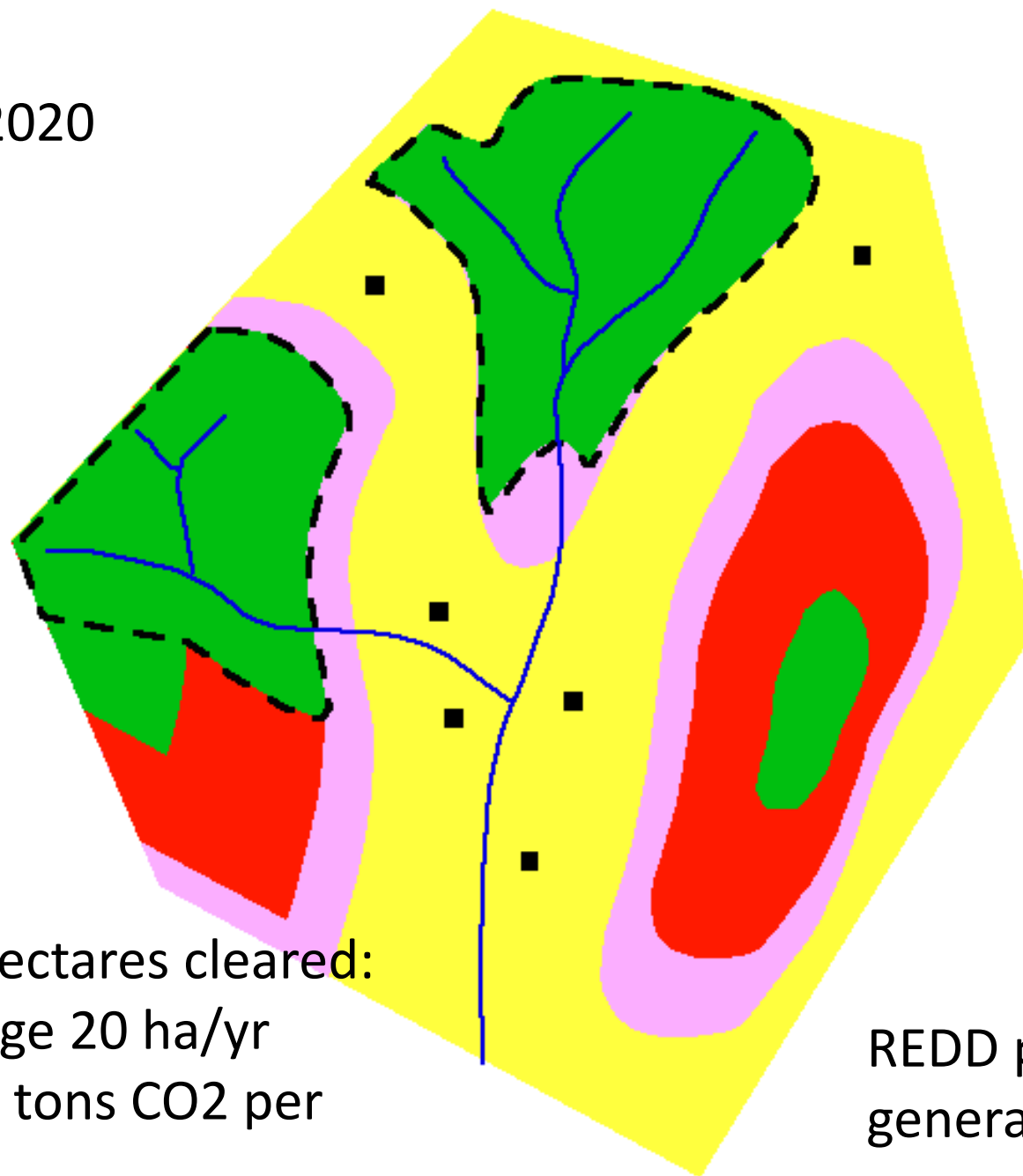
Potential value of
REDD: \$50,000
per year

Year: 2010



Village decides to
start REDD project,
but only protects
some forests

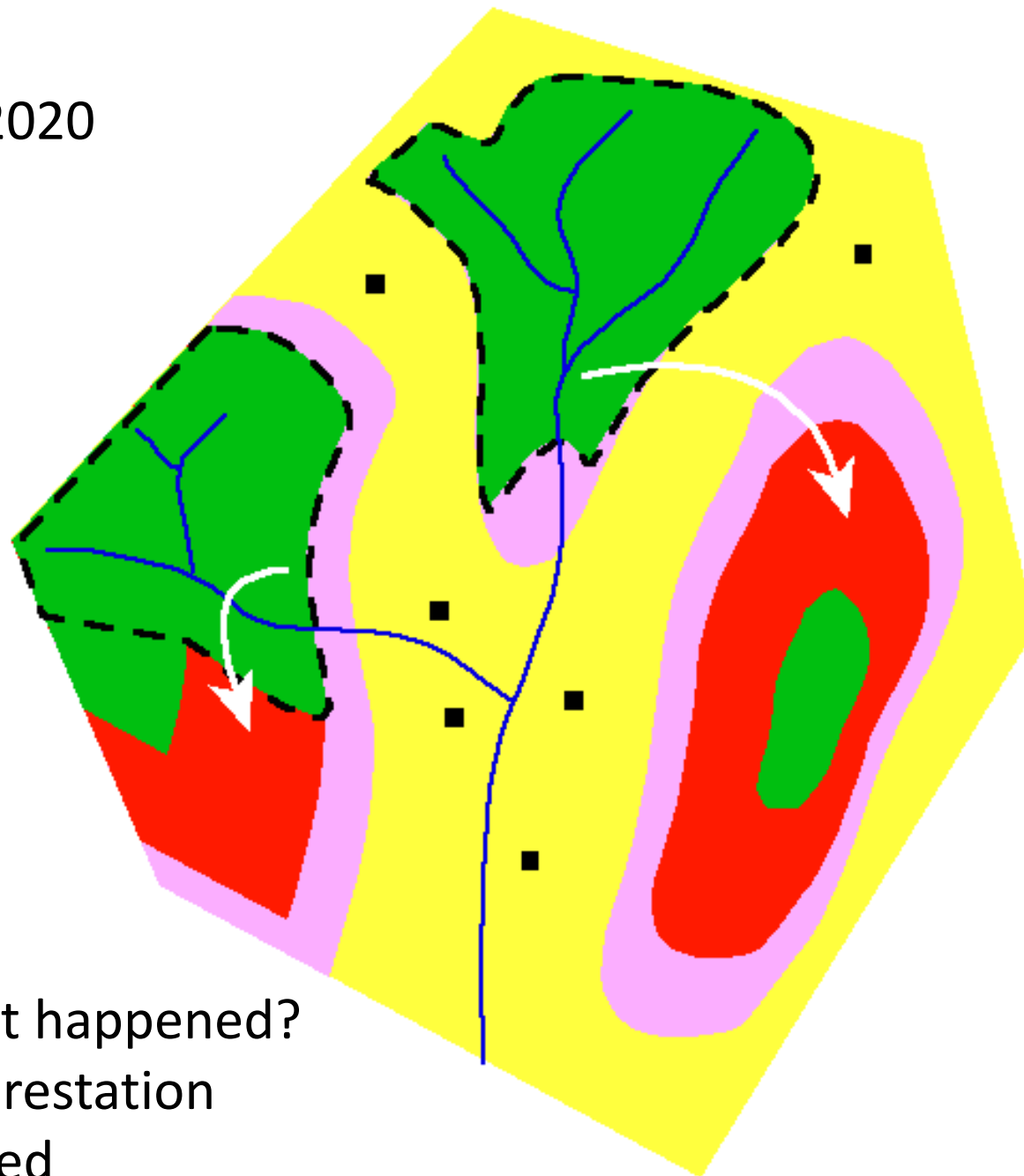
Year: 2020



200 hectares cleared:
Average 20 ha/yr
(5000 tons CO₂ per
year)

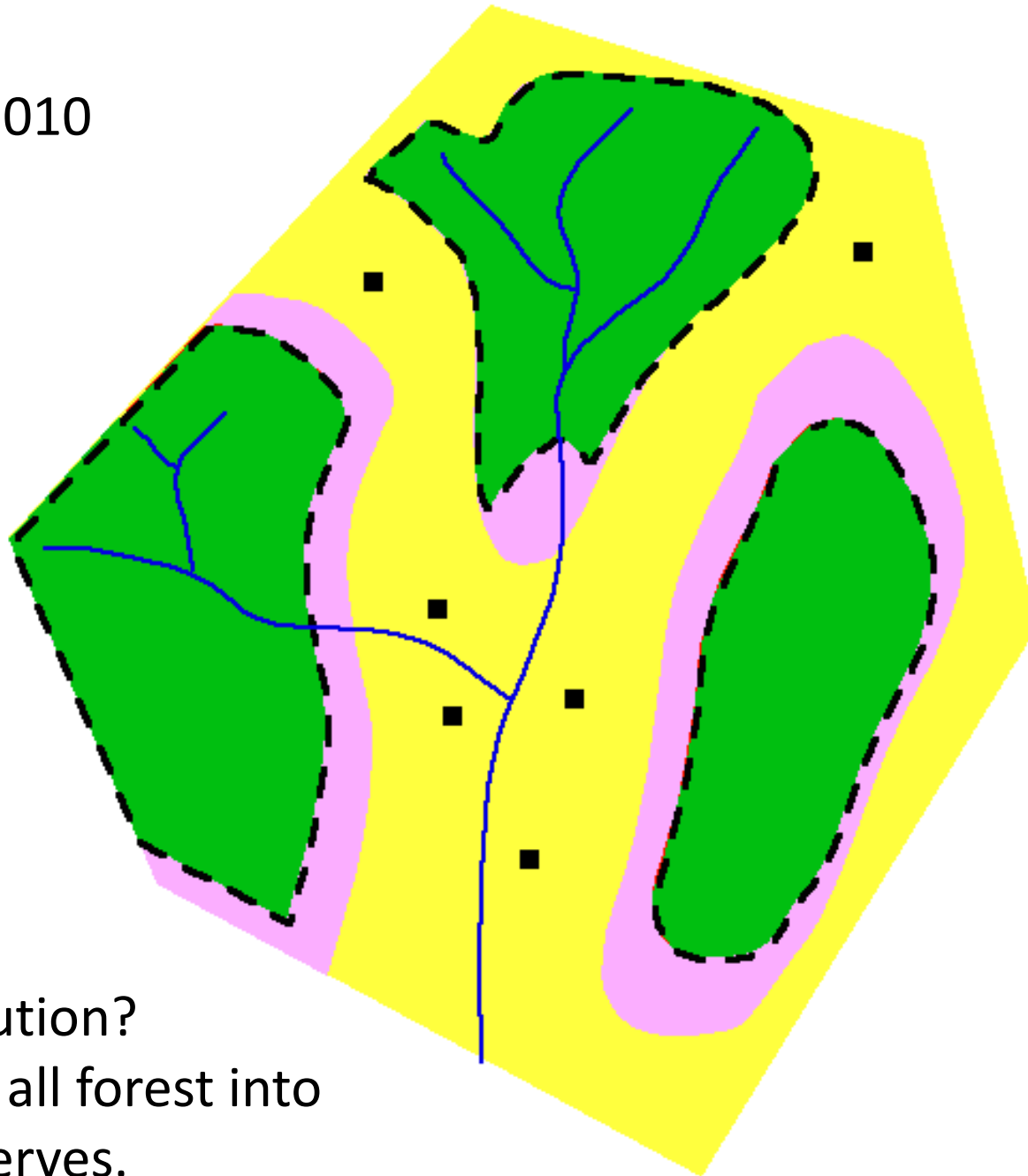
REDD payments
generated: \$0.00

Year: 2020



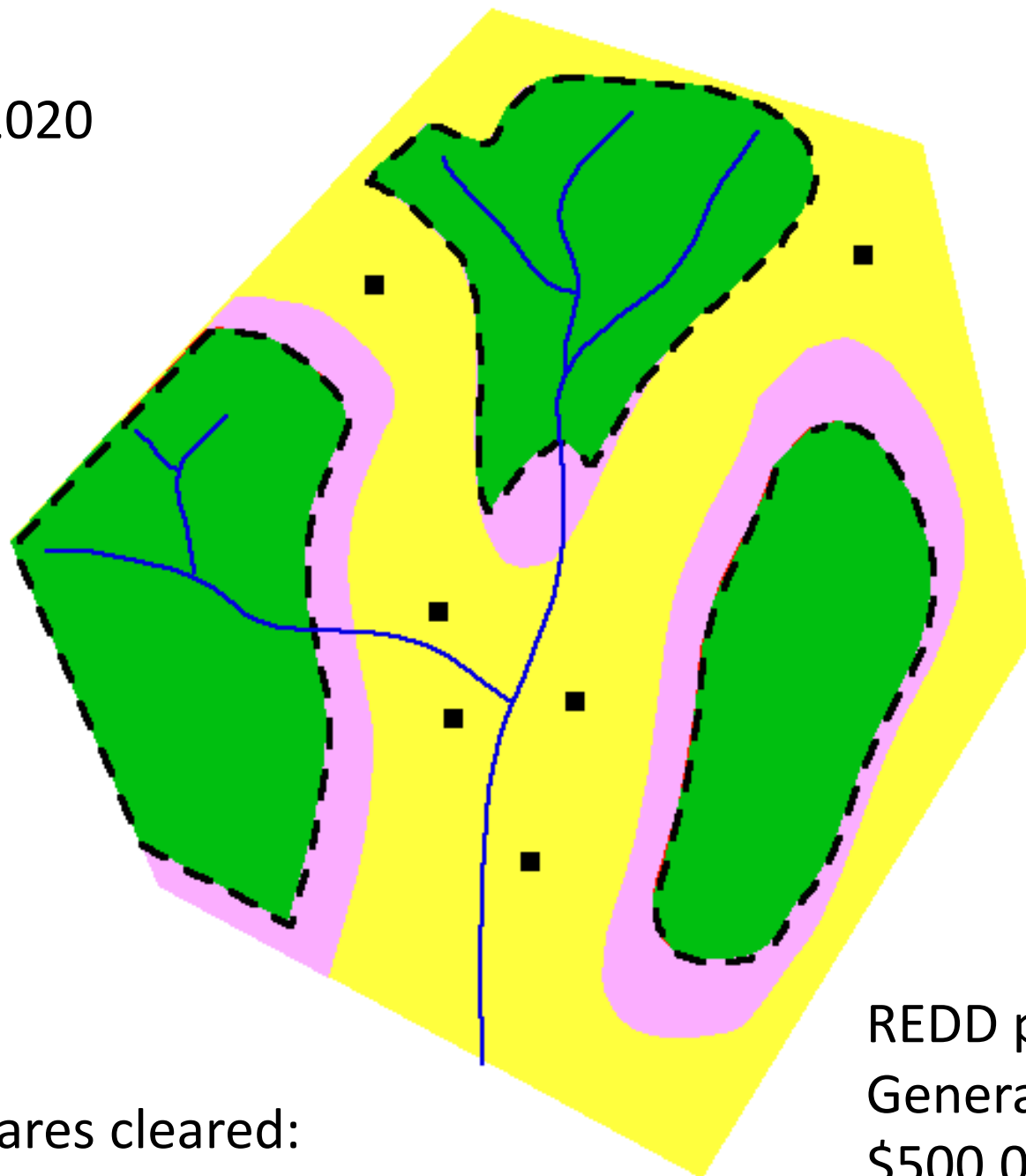
What happened?
Deforestation
shifted

Year: 2010



Solution?
Put all forest into
reserves.

Year: 2020



0 hectares cleared:

REDD payments
Generated:
\$500,000

Lessons learned

- PFM \neq REDD
- PFM can be part of REDD, but only if PFM leads to a reduction in the deforestation rate.
- PFM is just one strategy for reducing deforestation
- Locally specific strategies to address deforestation will be more effective and efficient than uniform national strategies.
- The current PFM model does not deliver adequate, reliable and accessible funds.

Recommendations

- Adequate, reliable and accessible finance needs to be made available to communities
- PFM should continue to be a strategy to achieve REDD but PFM needs to be accompanied by strategies that directly address the relevant deforestation driver.
- Locally specific strategies to address deforestation will be more effective and efficient than uniform national strategies.
- There is a need for REDD readiness to focus more on the interface between agriculture and forests.
- Safeguards are needed to mitigate the risks that REDD could pose to community livelihoods.
- The newly established Tanzania Forest Service needs to adopt a different approach to forest management that rewards improvements in forest condition.

Thank you for
listening.

For more information
please visit:

www.tfcg.org

