

Gendered dimensions of large-scale and smallholder-inclusive agricultural investments in Tanzania

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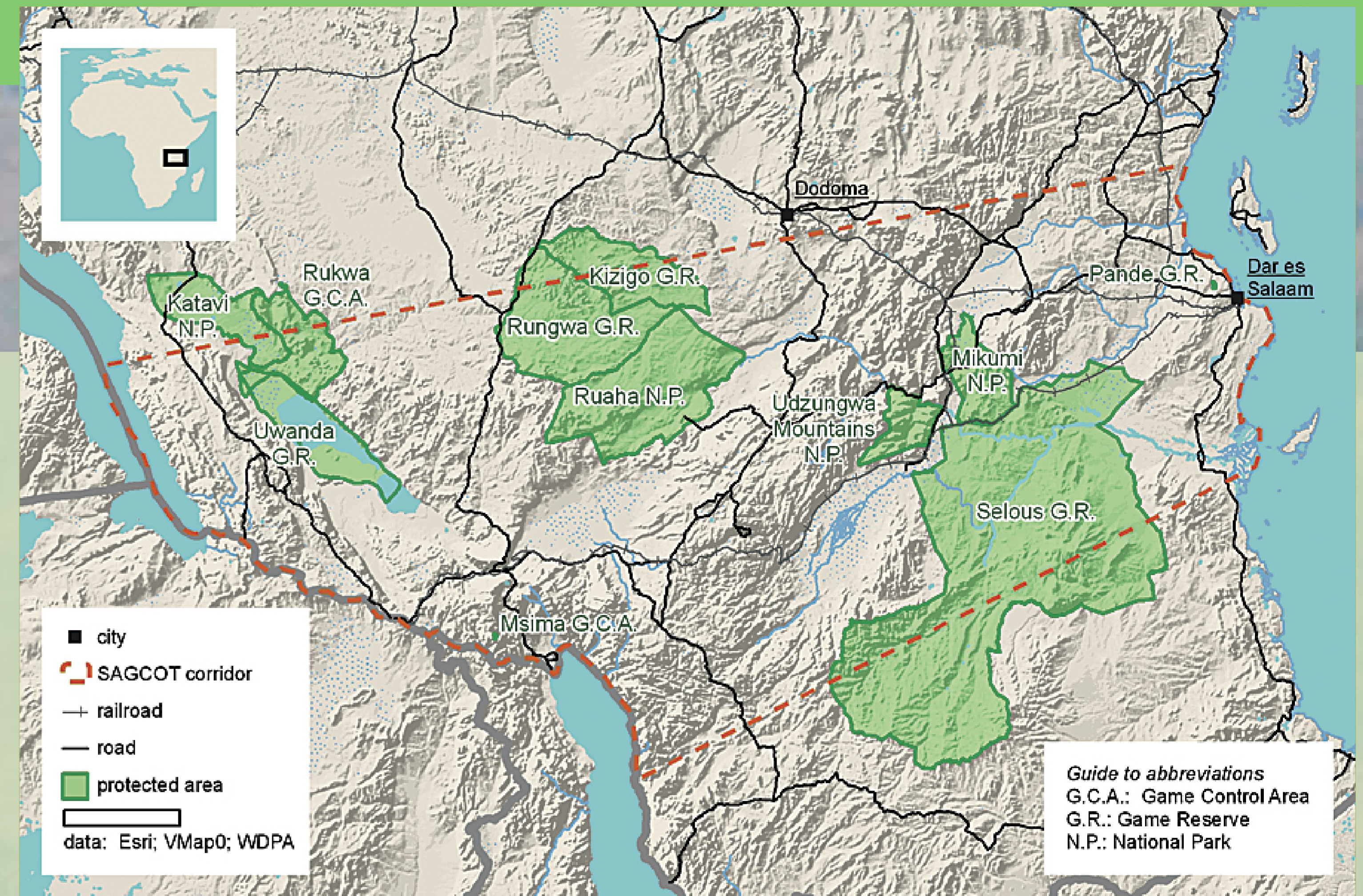
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Abstract

The Southern Agricultural Growth Corridor of Tanzania (SAGCOT) is poised to become the country's breadbasket over the next twenty years, capitalizing new investments over 350,000 hectares from the port of Dar es Salaam to Malawi, Zambia and the Democratic Republic of Congo (President Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete 2010). Taking lessons from cases of poorly-governed large-scale land acquisitions across sub-Saharan Africa - or so-called 'land grabs' - SAGCOT promises to do 'business as unusual' by promoting socially-inclusive green growth through the commercialization of smallholder production (SAGCOT Centre 2016). Yet SAGCOT planning frameworks are noticeably silent about how to achieve gender-inclusive green growth, or how to safeguard women and other resource-poor groups from the negative social and environmental externalities that invariably accompany agricultural commercialization and the enclosure of land and water resources.

Building on an extensive dataset of quantitative household surveys collected by CIFOR and others (forthcoming) across three SAGCOT investment clusters, this study aims to develop a set of qualitative methods to examine the gendered processes of land acquisition, negotiation, redistribution and enclosure into smallholder-inclusive agribusiness plans. The methodological challenge is to move beyond readily-quantifiable narratives of female dispossession and marginalization to better understand how differential access to agribusiness investment schemes is mediated by the intersection of gender, class, marital status and other social identities; the contextual effects of inclusion or exclusion on livelihood portfolios and gendered distribution of assets; and the types of institutional arrangements that facilitate more equitable outcomes for women and men impacted by new forms of agricultural investment. SAGCOT offers an opportunity to disaggregate the 'land grabbing' phenomenon over a common landscape, systematically documenting the variegated effects of different investment models and the mediating factors that affect their gendered outcomes.



Map of the Southern Agricultural Growth Corridor of Tanzania (SAGCOT) bounded by the port of Dar es Salaam, Malawi, Zambia and the Democratic Republic of Congo. Source: ESRI, ArcNews, Fall 2012.

Research Objectives

- Explore **institutional efforts** to operationalize gender mainstreaming among the various SAGCOT partners by analyzing representative discourses, proposed implementation pathways, and differences in projected gendered outcomes;
- Assess what is currently known about the **gendered impacts** of early land investments in SAGCOT, how gender concepts are being articulated and studied at different scales, and gaps and opportunities for further research;
- Identify the perceived **mediating factors** which impact the gendered distribution of benefits and risks under different smallholder-inclusive business models;
- Examine the **gendered effects** of smallholder inclusive agribusiness investments on individual livelihood portfolios, distribution of responsibilities and labor, and economic empowerment at the intra-household level;
- Propose **impact pathways** linking SAGCOT interventions and investments, mediating factors, and their gendered outcomes; Offer a set of recommendations to align SAGCOT planning and institutional safeguards with gender equality principles and policies articulated at the national level;
- Develop **communication platforms** to facilitate multi-stakeholder dialogue.

Methods

- **Institutional efforts** and **gendered impacts**: Analysis of community and household survey data (collected 2015-16), content and discourse analysis, and key informant interviews;
- **Mediating factors** and **gendered effects**: Intra-household surveys and participatory instruments, social network analysis;
- **Communication instruments**: Elicit landscape and livelihood narratives through environmental and oral histories; create mixed-media cartographic visualizations through photovoice, video transects, or story mapping.

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Photos: CIFOR, 2016



Photo: SAGCOT Investment Blueprint, 2011

Case Background

- SAGCOT is the product of public-private partnerships launched at the World Economic Forum in Dar es Salaam in 2010 as part of Tanzania's *Kilimo Kwanza* ('Agriculture First') strategy (SAGCOT 2011).
- The goals of *Kilimo Kwanza* are to promote sustainable agricultural growth through private investment and the commercialization of smallholder production in order to improve national food security, reduce poverty, and support climate-resilient livelihoods (SAGCOT 2011).
- The SAGCOT Investment Blueprint (2011) outlines a strategy to raise productivity over 350,000 hectares of Tanzania's most fertile lands by mobilizing public sector grants and loans (USD 1.3 billion) and private investment (USD 2.1 billion) over a period of twenty years. In practice, SAGCOT will grow through a number of privately-financed outgrower business schemes that depend on a critical mass of investors to achieve economies of scale and promote further value chain development.
- A Green Growth Investment Framework for SAGCOT (Investment Greenprint, 2013) further strategized the Government of Tanzania's commitment to socially and environmentally sustainable growth in SAGCOT. Neither the Blueprint nor the Greenprint define a strategy for gender inclusive development.
- The SAGCOT Centre in Dar es Salaam is a multi-stakeholder platform established by the Government of Tanzania to coordinate partnerships and facilitate activities in SAGCOT. SAGCOT Centre is responsible for promoting SAGCOT, attracting investments, and engaging consultancies and stakeholders in planning groups.



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