Landscape fire management and agricultural fuelbreaks

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Harifidy RAKOTO RATSIMBA

giz Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

REAFMRC REGIONAL EASTERN AFRICA FIRE MANAGEMENT RESOURCE CENTER

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Firebreaks

- Widespread practice

- Expensive and recurring costs

(max every 3 years)

- Limited impacts depending on fire intensity, firebreaks' width and coverage (landscape)

- No impact on livelihoods

Why agricultural fuelbreaks

- Local observation

- Cultivated lands: fire-resistant due to the presence of moisture and the lack of dry fuel

- Degraded land is considered as ‘waste land’

Principles

- Fire is a tool, one of the most cost effective

- The problem is not the fire but the way how we manage the landscape

- Cultivated land = natural capital

Vs waste land

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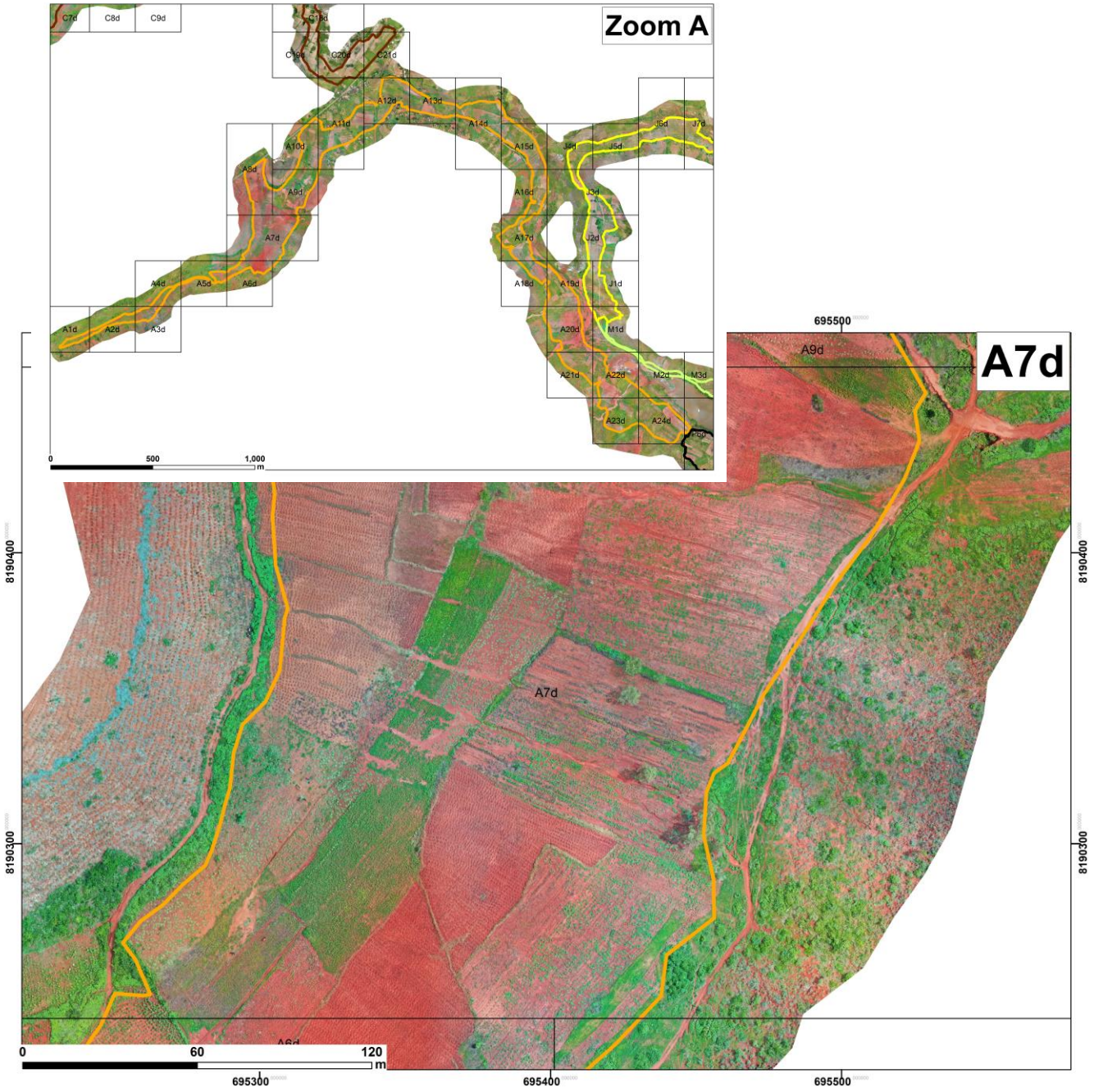
Principles

- The transition needs new investment + management of the possible risks

- Issues on land access

- Systematic land titling for the local farmers



Principles

- The transition needs new investment + management of the possible risks
- Issues on land access
- Systematic land titling for the local farmers

Technical details

- Established in open landscapes dominated by grassland (Width generally between 25 to 100 m)

- Integration of systems that reduce the frequency and spread of uncontrolled fires (e.g. : regular cultivation).

- Land use rights must be secured for long-term investments.

Technical details

Additional information

WOCAT technology

https://qcat.wocat.net/fr/wocat/technologies/view/technologies_6742/

Lessons learned

- Land tenure clarification is always considered as very challenging

- The process is relatively short when all the stakeholders have been clearly informed

- The investment cost on reviving degraded land is still very high (600USD / ha including land titling)

Lessons learned

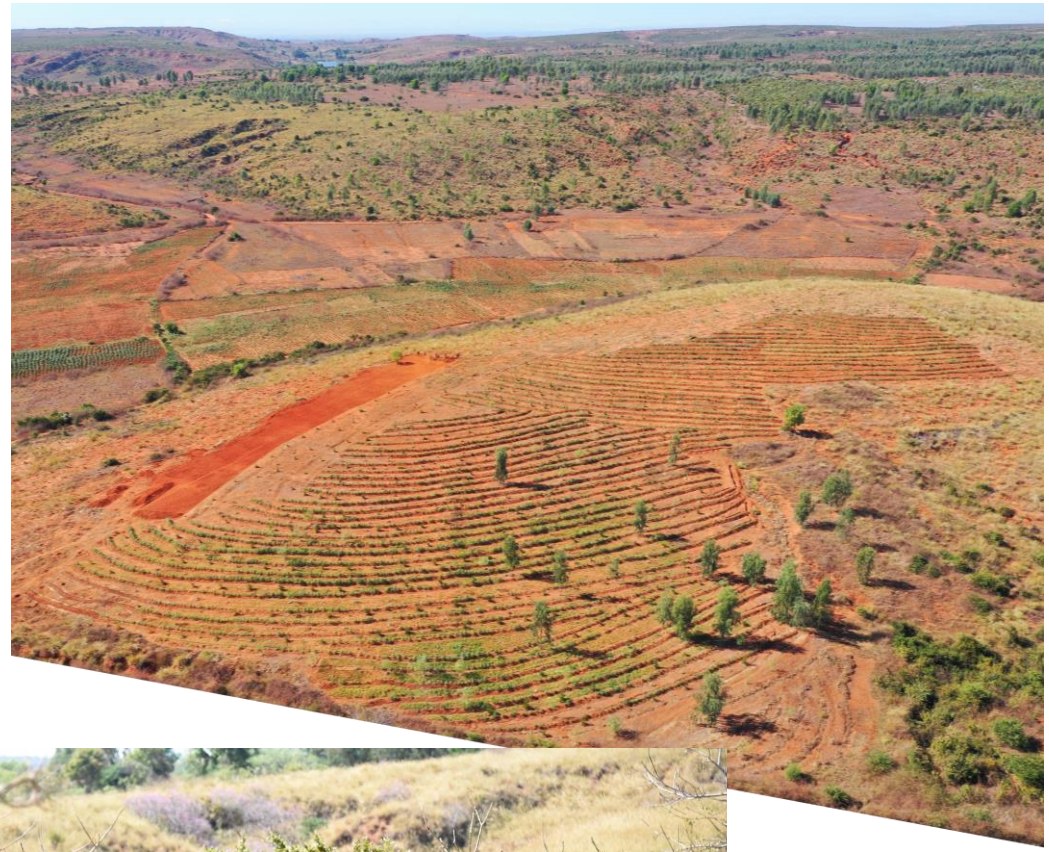
- The return on investment is covered in 5 years (limited without subsidies but can be sustained by PPP)

- The extension process has to be sustained by value chain promotion (integration)

Lessons learned

- The transformation is only possible with a proximity of sectoral services (including land securing services)

- The availability of extension services is key at local level



Risks / perspective

- Reduction of pastureland

- Need to integrate the process in the landscape (creating resilient landscape) + agriculture / livestock integration

- Key role of local territorial planning

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