

actalliance

TANZANIA FORUM

POLICY BRIEF

Strengthening Resilience: A need for policy strategies for Climate Change Adaptation

**ACT Alliance Tanzania Forum
Christian Council of Tanzania (CCT)
Dodoma, Tanzania.**

WAKING
THE
GIANT

Churches and the Sustainable
Development Goals



Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America
God's work. Our hands.



NORWEGIAN CHURCH AID
actalliance



mission 21
evangelisches missionswerk basel



LMC - Lutheran Mission Cooperation Tanzania

DANMISSION

September , 2024

Executive Summary

The impacts of climate change, strongly associated to excessive heat waves, floods, storms, drought as well as change in yearly seasons, are witnessed around the globe. Such effects form global emerging risk, which challenge the human to rethink not only on how to live, but most significantly how to manage resources, produce, farm and consume. 7 out of 10 Tanzanians practices farming and pastoralism of which the climatic instability and effects exacerbates the already prevailing scarcity and draw backs. Loss of life, economic loss possess threat to the nation and to individual families, societies and other arrangement resulting into devastated well-being, ill economic prosperity and wobbly natural resource sustainability.

The need for regulation of various stakeholders' efforts in addressing climate change effects and losses is witnessed. Showcasing the presence of directives from the religious scriptures from Christian and Muslim perspectives is significant and also acknowledging the collective efforts by the main religious bodies in addressing the climate change issues and advocating for the stand-alone policy on the climate change.

The international policy response to global climate change has been through the adoption of two legal instruments: The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and Paris Agreement. The ultimate objective of the Paris Agreement is "the stabilisation of greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that will prevent dangerous human interference with the climate system and in a timeframe that would allow ecosystems to adapt naturally, will not hamper food production and allow sustainable economic development

This Policy Brief therefore seeks government's structural concern on the acute climate change effects. Climate financing opportunities has to be harnessed, stakeholders' coordination needs to be enhanced, and scientific approach to agriculture (both planting and animal husbandry) need to be cascaded. It is from this perspective therefore, despite the government's efforts on the same, faith actors advise on taking further serious actions towards climate change adaptation and mitigative measures.

Introduction

Christian Council of Tanzania (CCT) is an umbrella organization formed by 12 Christian denominations such as The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania, The Anglican Church in Tanzania, The Moravian Church in Tanzania and the African Inland Church in Tanzania, to mention few. CCT was founded in 1934 and registered in Tanzania in 1964. Along with its prophetic role, the organization has been and is implementing different community-based interventions in the areas of advocacy, good governance, women empowerment, health, climate change and food security, to mention some. CCT is recently implementing a project focusing Agriculture and Climate Change Adaptation under support by ACT Alliance Climate Programme through ACT Tanzania Forum. ACT stand for Action by Churches Together operating in 145 countries whereas ACT Tanzania Forum (ATF) is formed of 9 members: Christian Council of Tanzania (CCT), Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania (ELCT), Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), Tanganyika Christian Refugee Service (TCRS), Finnish Evangelical Lutheran Mission (Felm), Act Church of Sweden (Act CoS), Norwegian Church Aid (NCA), Church World Services (CWS) and Mission 21 with Dan mission and Lutheran Mission Cooperation (LMC) as observers. Members implement various interventions reflecting the 3 thematic areas of ACT Alliance that include: development, advocacy and humanitarian works as well as implement joint Waking the Giant Initiative Tanzania on interfaith consortium to implement the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). CCT is a host organization for ATF engaging interfaith partners Tanzania Episcopal Conference (TEC) and The National Muslim Council of Tanzania (BAKWATA).

According to data sources compiled by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), the earth has warmed on average by 0.74 °C (degrees Celsius) over the last hundred years, with 0.4 °C of this warming occurring since 1970. The past decade has been the warmest on record since the beginning of instrumental climate records in 1850. Globally, the rate of warming averaged over the last 50 years is nearly twice that of the last 100 years. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has determined that 90% of the warming effect can be attributed to human activities since the onset of the industrial revolution. Such development is attributed to burning of fossil fuels for power generation, transport, industrial processes and housing. Since 1979, anthropogenic induced global warming and climate change has been recognised as an environmental problem affecting mankind and recently acknowledged as perhaps the most pressing environmental issue of the twenty first century, with significant challenges to sustainable development objectives.

The impacts of climate change, strongly associated to excessive heat waves, floods, storms, drought as well as change in yearly seasons, are witnessed around the globe. Such effects form global emerging risk, which challenge the human to rethink not only on how to live, but most significantly how to manage resources, produce, farm and consume. The attentiveness of climate change policy in the United Republic of Tanzania is due to the fact that 65.3 percent of the population engage with crop farming; and 33 percent on both crop farming and livestock keeping. In the face of such high figures of agro-pastoral Tanzanians, climate change exacerbates the already existing challenges of water scarcity, rangelands, farms, industries and other socio-economic infrastructures and mental health.

Projection on climate change impacts on Tanzania's agriculture show that seasonal temperature increase by 2°C in 2050 will reduce an average productivity of rice by 7.6%, sorghum by 8.8% and maize by 13% (Mafie, 2022). As such, in the absence of effective climate change policy, the majority of Tanzania community are subjected into the state vulnerability, that threatens individual and community well-being, food security, economic prosperity and natural resources sustainability.

Making climate adaptation a priority from the grassroots.

Message from the General Secretary, Christian Council of Tanzania (CCT) Host organization for ACT Alliance Tanzania Forum.



*Rev. Canon Dr. Moses Matonya
General Secretary, CCT*

In recent years, the impacts of climate change have become increasingly evident in Tanzania as in other parts of the world, affecting ecosystems, economies, and communities. As a leader of an ecumenical organization, I recognize the critical importance of taking proactive steps from ecumenical standpoint engaging other actors to safeguard our environment and ensure a resilient future for all. Climate adaptation is no longer a choice; it is an imperative. Africa Climate Adaptation Project funded by ACT Secretariat and implemented in partnership with interfaith communities both Christian and Muslim affiliations and the government has contributed much to the steps toward development of the policy brief for climate and agriculture adaptation.

Ideation of the Climate Change Policy Brief

Research has also shown that severe weather events, such as flooding, can result in mental health issues. Environmental issues are now ranked as top concerns by global risk analysts. For the first time, environmental issues dominated the 2020 Global Risk Report released by the World Economic Forum.

Climate change is a global issue that must be jointly addressed by policymakers and all sectors of life including religions and associated faith actors. The faith community plays a critical role in addressing climate risk through its expertise in translating holy scripts and other religious teachings counting back centuries of these religions being which then directly contribute to adaptation through their underwriting teachings and activities.

In the past one year, ACT Alliance, an umbrella of interfaith committee has widely and deeply engaged several stakeholders in different and various ways, with regard to climate change adaption in the United Republic of Tanzania. Stakeholders' consultation meetings, group works, documentary review and researchers' presentation of findings. Seminars and workshop dialogues on climate change policy framework has frequently engaged with experts at the Division of Environment in the Vice President's Office and Ministry of Agriculture. Climate Action Network (CAN), "Tanzania registered non-governmental organization" has variously and differently applied her skills and knowledge to facilitate and capacitate the invited stakeholders. By being concerned on human and economic losses due to natural events and natural catastrophes, religious organization as partners have helped to manage the adaptation processes as counting down from the mitigation methods, economic and impacts of climate change. Religious actors have an important role in forecasting and measuring climate risks to inform risk management, developing innovative adaptation solutions, and providing psychological support when disasters strike.

Religious actors are also committed to contributing to adaptation and mitigation efforts through their own faith targets, foster new mitigation and support through their assumption of risks. The established organizational hierarchy of faith -based/religious institutions and their countrywide distribution network up to the grassroot community, present an asset to addressing climate change issues. Building on these observations, the interfaith committee in Tanzania is committed to demonstrating the constructive role of the global concern in addressing climate risk and implementing effective and efficient adaptation and mitigation strategies. such desire can coherently be possible through the presence of effective and efficient standalone climate change policy. Such policy that can guide and bring together climate change issues is missing in the current policy framework. Christianity faith groups under Christian Council of Tanzania, Muslim community under BAKWATA and the Tanzania Episcopal Conference (TEC) are all part of this initiative. The current initiatives build on the high-level faith leaders signed position for CoP 26, that was shared by the Vice President of the United Republic of Tanzania through the Environmental and Union Matters docket.

Current Climate Change Policy Framework

Since 1997, the Government has taken and implemented a number of initiatives in an effort to address challenges of climate change. These initiatives include: National Agriculture Policy (2013); National Energy Policy (2015); The National Petroleum Policy of Tanzania (2015); The Natural Gas Policy (2013); National Water Policy (2002); Petroleum Act (2015); Natural Gas Act 2009; National Climate Change Strategy (2012); National Adaptation Programme of Action (NAPA) for Climate Change (2007) and National REDD+ Strategy and Action Plan (2013). However, climate change management issues further continue to be generalized in the current National Environmental Policy (2021), despite the same policy acknowledging the need for putting in place a specific policy to address climate change management issue (Sect. 1.2.7 and Sect. 3.7).

The adverse impacts of climate change currently cost one 1%, and is projected to reach 2% by 2030 of Tanzania GDP is linked to agriculture, the highest sectoral employer to the majority of Tanzanians (about 70%). The absence of specific policy to address the comprehensive climate change risks is to subject majority of the Tanzanians (about 70% in farming) into climate vulnerability state. Strategies to address the multiply effect of comprehensive climate change risks is not fulfilled under the current policy framework. For example, climate change financing mechanisms like the carbon credit/financing seem to have left behind the majority of farming/peasant community in Tanzania. Similarly, the challenges of agricultural insurance on agropastoral community (partially or not covered in the current policy framework) make majority of Tanzania's agropastoral community vulnerable to climate change risks. However, mentioned in the National Environmental Policy (2021), private sectors involvement in addressing climate change risks, need to be clearly and comprehensively be stipulated in a comprehensive policy directive, which is currently missing. It is in view of such perspectives, Christian Council of Tanzania, (a faith-based umbrella of private sectors group) drafted hence table this policy brief.

Recommendations on Policy Implications

As Faith-Based Organization (FBO), therefore come up with the following recommendations;

1. There is a need for comprehensive specific climate change policy and translation of the policy into popular version. This will give climate change a needed attention on the national budget. Either, it will make it easy for translation of policies and strategies into actions at the grassroots level as well as the government to engage stakeholders in the process.
2. The government to develop a comprehensive national climate change framework that includes coordination, financing and planning to enhance the interconnectedness and harmonization of policies as well as inclusion of stakeholders in policy formulation. It will as well help in aligning policy objective across sectors, and will pave the way for stakeholders' engagement and participations.
3. Since agriculture is a science, the government to cascade the capacity strengthening, awareness raising, exposure to BBT and KPI, therefore when we think about coping with climate change, the use of science, innovation, and various technologies must be applied so that the community can cope with the effects of climate change and increase productivity in agriculture. This will help in engaging scientific approaches in agriculture in ways that communities will cope and respond to climate change effects.



Rev. Modest Pesha, National Coordinator - ACT Tanzania Forum (right) exchanging ideas with Mr. Abdallah Hassan Mitawi, Deputy Permanent Secretary (VPO Environment) (center) and Fr. Wenceslaus Bamugasheki (left) from Tanzania Episcopal Conference (TEC), Dodoma after presenting the recommendations on climate adaptation (Photo by Aisia Rweyemamu, The Guardian).





Mr. Abdallah Hassan Mitawi, the VPO Deputy Permanent Secretary acknowledged the importance of involving faith-based organizations in climate change efforts. The VPO committed to establish a coordinating unit engaging FBOs on issues of climate adaptation initiatives underlining the critical role FBO carry in raising community awareness and mobilizing resources on the same (Photo by Aisia Rweyemamu, The Guardian).



Policy Brief at the Office of the Vice President by the Christian Council of Tanzania (CCT) on behalf of ACT Alliance Tanzania Forum in collaboration with partner faith institutions of Tanzania Episcopal Conference (TEC), Seventh Day Adventists (SDA) and the National Muslim Council of Tanzania (BAKWATA). The policy brief with three (3) recommendations was presented followed by the commitment of the government to establish a special desk for coordination of climate adaptation work from January 2025 engaging faith leaders and organize participatory review of the National Environmental Policy 2021-2026 to determine a need for standalone National Climate Change Policy. This marked the phasing out of the Climate and Agriculture Adaptation Project funded by ACT Secretariat for the implementation period ending 2024.



Climate change is a foremost crisis of the 21st century with devastating environment, economic and social impacts. It is NOT “gender neutral”. Women, girls and generally the marginalized people and communities experience the greatest impacts of climate change which amplifies the already existing gender inequalities and poses threats to their livelihoods, health and safety. Hence, focusing on inclusive programming and budgeting for intertwined Climate change and gender justice is the wayforward to resilience.

*Ms. Patricia Mwaikenda
Convener ACT Tanzania Forum.
Leading Sustainable Livelihoods, Gender Justice
and Climate Resilient Programmes, ELCT.*



“Politically enacted controls are required to make the costs of adverse environmental impact visible and spur on a transition. New ways of thinking, economic models and welfare indicators need to be applied that can help us organise a society that promotes human welfare and does not exceed the planet’s limits.”

*Mr. Lorentz Forsberg, Co-convener ACT
Tanzania Forum and Regional Representative
for Act Church of Sweden*



The profound impacts of climate change should be addressed by empowering communities with sustainable solutions. Initiatives must provide practical responses to environmental challenges. However, local action alone is not enough. We need global solutions to secure long-term progress. That’s why we advocate for a UN Tax Convention to address systemic challenges and ensure equitable funding for climate initiatives. A fair global tax system will not only tackle today’s pressing issues but also prepare us to meet the challenges of future generations. Together through local innovation and global solidarity, we can build a sustainable and equitable response to the climate crisis.

*Berte Marie Ulveseter
Country Director
Norwegian Church Aid (NCA)*

**TAMKO LA VIONGOZI WA DINI NGAZI YA TAIFA
KWA AJILI YA USHAWISHI WA SERA NA USHIRIKISHWAJI WA VIJANA
KATIKA KUKABILI MABADILIKO YA TABIA-NCHI.**

Octoba 20, 2021


Huu ni mkutano wa viongozi wa dini ngazi ya taifa uliofanyika jijini Dar es Salaam katika hoteli ya Seashells Millennium Towers kuanzia Oktoba 20 hadi Oktoba 21, 2021. Mkutano huo uliandaliwa na ACT Tanzania Forum ambapo viongozi wa dini ngazi ya taifa, Meneja wa Programu ya Mabadiliko ya Tabia- Nchi kutoka ACT Alliance Nairobi-Kenya,


wanachama wa ACT Tanzania Forum, wawakilishi wa vijana kutoka makanisa wanachama wa Jumuiya ya Kikristo Tanzania (CCT) pamoja na wawakilishi kutoka Asasi za kiraia na mashirika yasiyo ya kiserikali (NGOs) walihudhuria. Miongoni mwa waliohudhuria ni pamoja na Baba Askofu Dk. Fredrick Onael Shoo - Mkuu wa Kanisa la Kiinjili la Kilutheri Tanzania (KKKT) na Mwenyekiti wa Jumuiya ya Kikristo Tanzania, Bw. Brighton B. L Killewa - Katibu Mkuu KKKT, Askofu Dk. Alex Gehaz Malasusa - KKKT Dayosis ya Mashariki na Pwani, Mchg. Canon Dk. Moses Matonya - Katibu Mkuu Jumuiya ya Kikristo Tanzania, mwakilishi wa Katibu Mkuu - Baraza la Maaskofu Tanzania (TEC) na Baraza Kuu la Waislamu Tanzania (BAKWATA). Mgeni rasmi alikuwa ni Mh. Hamad H. Chande - Naibu Waziri wa Nchi, Ofisi ya Makamu wa Rais Muungano na Mazingira.

Mkutano huu ulikuwa na agenda moja ya mazingira katika masuala ya Hali ya Hewa kwa ajili ya kufanya ushawishi wa sera juu ya Mabadiliko ya Tabia-Nchi. Kwa kurejea hotuba ya Mgeni Rasmi, mawasilisho yaliyotolewa na wataalamu kutoka kwa wanachama wa ACT Tanzania Forum na taasisi za serikali kama Baraza la Taifa la Usimamizi wa Mazingira (NEMC) na Mamlaka ya Maabara ya Mkemia Mkuu wa Serikali (GCLA), kwa pamoja athari za Mabadiliko ya Tabia- Nchi kitaifa na kimataifa zilijadiliwa na kutolewa wito wa mapambano ya Mabadiliko ya Tabia-Nchi kwa wadau wote. Washiriki walipata nafasi ya kujadili masuala yanayohusu Mabadiliko ya Tabia-Nchi na Haki ya Hali ya Hewa ikiwa ni pamoja na muktadha wa Mabadiliko ya Tabia-Nchi katika taifa, mifumo ya sera inayopatikana na michango ya kitaifa (NDC) ili kupunguza athari.

Kutokana na ufahamu uliotolewa na mijadala mbalimbali juu ya agenda hii, yafuatazo ni mapatano yaliyofikiwa na washiriki na hivyo kutokea tamko wa viongozi wa dini;

1. Kuwe na uwajibikaji wa pamoja kutoka kwa watendaji wa serikali na wasio wa serikali. Hii inahusisha kanisa kutoa taarifa juu ya juhudi za pamoja kuhusu masuala ya Mabadiliko ya Tabia-Nchi. Aidha, serikali ichukue hatua kutambua juhudi za wadau katika kukabiliana na athari za Mabadiliko ya Tabia-Nchi.
2. Wito umetolewa wa kushughulikia sababu za Mabadiliko ya Tabia-Nchi kuliko kusubiri ili kushughulikia matokeo. Hii inamaanisha kuchukua hatua za kupunguza athari kama vile upandaji miti na utekelezaji wa sheria pamoja na sera zilizopo.
3. Utoaji elimu na uhamasishaji unapaswa kuchukuliwa kwa uzito mkubwa kwa kuzingatia uzito wa tishio la Mabadiliko ya Tabia-Nchi. Ulemishaji na utoaji hamasa kuhusishe elimu juu ya hatua za kukabiliana na Mabadiliko ya Tabia-Nchi pamoja na usambazaji wa nyaraka muhimu zilizopo kama vile sera, sheria na machapisho kuhusu Mabadiliko ya Tabia-Nchi.
4. Ushiriki wa vijana ni hatua nyingine ya makubaliano. Vijana washirikishwe katika masuala ya uhamasishaji pamoja na ushirikishwaji katika kupanga mikakati. Makanisa pamoja na serikali kuwashirikisha vijana, kuimarisha klabu zao pamoja na kujumuisha elimu ya Mabadiliko ya Tabia-Nchi katika mitaala ya elimu.


Rt. Rev. Dr. Fredrick Onael Shoo
Mkuu wa Kanisa
Kanisa la Kiinjili la Kilutheri Tanzania.
na Mwenyekiti wa Jumuiya ya Kikristo Tanzania


Rev. Modest Pesha
Mratibu Taifa
ACT Tanzania Forum (ATF)

STATEMENT
OF HIGH-LEVEL FAITH LEADERS FOR POLICY INFLUENCING ON CLIMATE
CHANGE

October 20, 2021

This was a high-level faith leaders dialogue held in Dar es Salaam, Seashells Hotel Millennium Towers from October 20 to October 21, 2021. The dialogue was organized by ACT Forum whereby high-level religious leaders, Global Climate Change Program Manager from ACT Alliance Regional Office in Nairobi-Kenya, ACT Tanzania Forum members, Youth and representatives from NGOs attended. Among the participants was Bishop Rt. Rev. Dr. Fredrick Onael Shoo, the Presiding Evangelical Lutheran Church of Tanzania (ELCT) and Chairperson of the Christina Council of Tanzania (CCT), Mr. Brighton B. L. Killewa - General Secretary of the ELCT, Rt. Rev. Dr. Alex Gehaz Malasusa - Bishop of the ELCT East and Coastal Diocese, Rev. Canon Dr. Moses Matonya - General Secretary CCT and representatives from Tanzania Episcopal Conference and from the Muslim Council of Tanzania. The Guest of Honor was the Deputy Minister of State, Union and Environment, Hon. Hamad H. Chande.

The dialogue had one environmental agenda on Climate Justice targeting policy influencing on climate change. Citing from Guest of Honor's speech, the presentations made by technical people from ACT Tanzania Forum members and the government institutions of National Environment Management Council (NEMC) and the Government Chemist Laboratory Authority (GCLA), all together looked on the effects of climate change nationally and globally and called for collaboration of all practitioners for climate action. Participants had a chance to discuss the issues pertaining Climate Change and Climate Justice including country Climate Change context, available policy frameworks and the National Determined Contributions (NDC) to mitigate the effects.

From the insights provided and the discussions, the following are the actions agreed from amongst participants hence a statement of faith leaders on climate change;

1. There should be collective responsibility from government and non- government practitioners. This involves the church to provide a statement on collective efforts towards climate change issues. Either, the government to stock-take the partners efforts to curb the effects of climate change.
2. A call for dealing with causes of Climate Change other than dealing with the effects. This implies taking mitigation measures like tree planting and lawenforcement of the available laws and policies.
3. Awareness creation should be taken seriously given the seriousness of the climate change threat. Awareness creation to involve education on adaptation and mitigation measures towards climate change as well as dissemination of available documents and materials such as policies, laws and publications on climate change to all stakeholders.
4. Youth involvements is another point of agreement. Youth to be involved in terms of awareness creation as well as involvement in planning. Churches as well as the government to take the youth on-board, strengthen their clubs as well as inclusion of climate change education in their curriculums.



Rt. Rev. Dr. Fredrick Onael Shoo
Presiding Bishop
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tanzania.
and Forum Convener



Rev. Modest Pasha
National Coordinator
ACT Tanzania Forum



MAPAMBANO NA MABADILIKO YA TABIA-NCHI TANZANIA: WITO WA HATUA ZA PAMOJA

Mabadiliko ya Tabia-nchi sio tu suala la kinadharia bali ni ukweli usiopingika unaoathiri sana mazingira ya Tanzania na watu wake. Tunajionea matokeo yake kama mawimbi ya joto kali, mafuriko yanayosababisha uharibifu mkubwa, dhoruba kali na ukame wa muda mrefu viumekuwa ni mambo ya kutisha sana. Hali hii ya dharura inatulazimisha kukabiliana nayo kwa pamoja kwa kuwa Mabadiliko ya Tabia-nchi yanasababisha dhiki ulimwenguni ambapo athari zake ni dhahiri katika jamii zetu.

Katika kipindi cha miaka miwili iliyopita, Tanzania imekabiliwa na joto kali na mafuriko makubwa, kuathiriwa kwa mfumo wa maisha na miundombinu. Mafuriko makubwa ya hivi karibuni katika ukanda wa kusini mwa Tanzania ni kumbukumbu tosha kuoneshwa kwamba hatuwezi kubaki kimya. Tunapona maafa kama haya yakitokea duniani kote; kutoka vimbunga nchini Marekani hadi mafuriko nchini Indonesia, tunatambua ni muhimu kuchukua hatua madhubuti.

Kuhakikisha uwepo wa Sera ya Taifa ya Mabadiliko ya Tabia-nchi inayojitegemea ni suala muhimu. Huu ni mtazamo unaoungwa mkono na mashiriki mengi yasiyo ya keserikali (NGOs) pamoja na taasisi za kidini. Sera kama hiyo ni lazima iundwe kwa uwazi, iweze kufikika kwa urahisi na kuhakikisha Mabadiliko ya Tabia-nchi yanapata kipaumbele kinachohitajika katika bajeti yetu ya kitaifa. Tunapozingatia Mabadiliko ya Tabia-nchi, tunaweza kubadilisha mikakati mizuri kuwa vitendo madhubuti vinavyowanufaisha watanzania wote.

Kilimo, ambacho kinaajiri asilimia 70 ya watu wetu kina nafasi muhimu katika kukabiliana na Mabadiliko ya Tabia-nchi. Wataalamu kutoka Chuo Kikuu cha Kilimo Sokoine (SUA) wanasisitiza matumizi ya sayansi na teknolojia ili kuongeza tija na ustahimilivu. Kwa kuwekeza katika mbinu endelevu za kilimo, tunaweza kuandaa jamii zetu sio tu kuhimili Mabadiliko ya Tabia-nchi bali pamoja na ustawi.

Zaidi ya hayo, ni muhimu kukuza sauti ya jamii hasa zile za wakulima wadogo wadogo wakati wa kuandaa mikakati ya kukabiliana na Mabadiliko ya Tabia-nchi. Viongozi wa dini kutoka Jumuiya ya Kikristo Tanzania (CCT) walitoa maoni kwamba mbinu za kukabiliana na Mabadiliko ya Tabia-nchi zinapaswa kuanza na ngazi za chini ambazo zimeathiri zaidi na kuitaka mfumo jumuishi kwa serikali na wadau wote. Mchungaji Canon Dkt. Moses Matonya, Katibu Mkuu wa CCT anasisitiza kuwa "Mabadiliko ya Tabia-nchi yanahusiana moja kwa moja na maendeleo. Hivyo basi, ujuzi wa kukabiliana nayo katika sekta ya kilimo unaweza kuleta maendeleo yenye matokeo ikiwa ujuzi huo utatokana na ushirikishwaji wa jamii wazawa. Ni wito kwetu sote, kama Biblia inavyoeleza (Mwanzo 2:15) kuwa mawakili wema wa uumbaji."

Katika mtazamo huohuo, Dk Joyce Temu, Mhadhiri wa zamani wa Chuo Kikuu cha Kilimo Sokoine (SUA) amebainisha kwamba suluhisho lazima litoke kwenye uzoefu wa changamoto zinazowakabili wale wanaoathirika moja kwa moja. Mfumo jumuishi ni muhimu na kulenga uwakilishi wa makundi yanye mahitaji maalum ambapo mahitaji yao lazima yazingatiwe katika mpangokazi wa kukabiliana na Mabadiliko ya Tabia-nchi.

Umuhimu wa uwazi na uwajibikaji katika utawala kwenye mikakati ya kukabiliana na Mabadiliko ya Tabia-nchi hauwezi kupuuzwa. Utekelezaji unaofaa ni muhimu sana, na ufatiliaji wa umma unaweza kukuza uaminifu na ushirikiano kati ya wadau. Ni lazima tuhakikishe kuwa fedha zinazotengwa kwa ajili ya shughuli za kukabiliana na Mabadiliko ya Tabia-nchi zinatumika kwa usawa na kuwanufaisha wale walio katika mazingira magumu zaidi.

Mawasiliano madhubuti kuhusu Mabadiliko ya Tabia-nchi ni muhimu yakilenga kuendana na makundi mbalimbali ya watu na kuzingatia athari tofauti kulingana na jinsia, umri, hali za kijamii na kiuchumi. Kwa kuzingatia ujumbe wetu, tunasisitiza kuongeza uelewa na kukuza umiliki wa pamoja. Kuhakikisha kwamba taarifa za Mabadiliko ya Tabia-nchi zinawafikia wanajamii kwa wakati muafaka katika muundo unaoweza kutekelezeka, kutachochea ushiriki wa wote na kuwezesha njia ya kukabiliana na mzozo huu wa kimataifa.

Hatimaye, lazima tutambue na kuimarisha juhudi za sasa za wadau mbalimbali ambao tayari wanashiriki katika shughuli zinazohusiana na Mabadiliko ya Tabia-nchi. Kwa kukuza ushirikiano kati ya viongozi wa kidini, mashirika ya kiraia, taasisi za kitaaluma na sekta za binafsi, tunaweza kuunda mwikitiko wa Mabadiliko ya Tabia-nchi unaojumuisha wengi zaidi na unaofaa. Takwimu zinatisha: Mabadiliko ya Tabia-nchi kwa sasa yanaigharimu Tanzania asilimia 1 ya Pato la Taifa, takwimu inayotarajiwa kupanda hadi asilimia 2 ifikapo 2030. Kutokuwepo kwa sera mahususi ya kukabiliana na Mabadiliko ya Tabia-nchi sio tu kwamba kunahatarisha mazingira yetu bali pia kunatishia maisha ya mamilioni ya watu kwa kuwaweka watanzania wengi katika mazingira magumu na kuhatarisha mustakabali wetu wa kiuchumi.

Kwa wakati huu muhimu, tunayo fursa ya kipekee na wajibu usiopingika wa kuchukua hatua. Sasa tuunganishe juhudi zetu, tuongeze nguvu zetu za pamoja, na tuwe wasanifu wa mabadiliko katika vita dhidi ya Mabadiliko ya Tabia-nchi. Wakati wa kuchukua hatua madhubuti ni sasa, na mustakabali wa Tanzania uko kwenye mizani.

CONFRONTING CLIMATE CHANGE IN TANZANIA: A CALL FOR COLLECTIVE ACTION

Climate change is not just a theoretical concern; it is an undeniable reality profoundly impacting Tanzania's environment and its people. We are witnessing the consequences firsthand—intense heat waves, destructive floods, violent storms, and prolonged droughts have become alarmingly commonplace. The urgency of this situation compels us to respond collectively, as climate change is causing distress globally, and its ramifications are evident in our communities.

In the past two years, Tanzania has faced both extreme heat and severe flooding, devastating lives and infrastructures alike. The recent catastrophic floods in the southern corridor serve as a stark reminder that we cannot remain passive. As we see similar disasters unfolding worldwide—from hurricanes in the U.S. to floods in Indonesia—taking decisive action is imperative.

Fostering a comprehensive and standalone climate change policy is vital, a view endorsed by numerous NGOs and faith-based organizations. Such a policy must be designed to be clear and accessible, ensuring climate change receives the priority it requires within our national budget. When we accord climate change the necessary focus, we can transform well-intentioned strategies into concrete actions that benefit all Tanzanians.

Agriculture, which employs 70% of our population, plays a crucial role in our response to climate change. Experts from Sokoine University of Agriculture advocate for harnessing science and technology to boost productivity and resilience. By investing in sustainable agricultural practices, we can equip our communities to not only withstand climate variability but to thrive despite it.

Moreover, it is essential to amplify grassroots voices—particularly those of smallholder farmers—when crafting climate adaptation strategies. Faith actors from CCT opined that climate adaptation methods should start at and with grassroot levels that are heavily impacted, urging the government and all actors to be inclusive. Rev. Canon Dr. Moses Matonya, General Secretary CCT asserts that “Climate adaptation is squarely connected to development hence, local adaptation skills in agriculture can deliver impactful development if it emanates from indigenous communities. It is a call for all of us, as the Bible describes in Genesis 2:15 to be stewards of creation.” Dr. Joyce Temu, former Lecturer at Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA) has aptly noted that solutions must derive from the insights and difficulties faced by those directly affected.

Inclusivity is paramount; marginalized groups deserve representation, and their distinct needs must guide climate action plans.”

The importance of transparent governance and accountability in climate initiatives cannot be underestimated. Effective implementation is crucial, and public scrutiny can foster trust and collaboration among stakeholders. We must ensure that funds allocated for climate activities are utilized equitably, benefiting those who are most vulnerable.

Effective communication about climate change is essential, tailored to resonate with diverse demographic groups and consider the different impacts based on gender, age, and socio-economic status. By personalizing our messages, we enhance understanding and foster collective ownership. Ensuring that timely climate information reaches communities in actionable formats will galvanize engagement and empower local responses to this global crisis.

Finally, we must acknowledge and strengthen the current efforts of various stakeholders already involved in climate-related activities. By promoting collaboration among faith leaders, civil society, academic institutions, and the private sector, we can create a more inclusive and effective climate response. The statistics are alarming: climate change presently costs Tanzania 1% of its GDP, a figure expected to soar to 2% by 2030. The absence of a specific policy to tackle climate change not only endangers our environment but also threatens the livelihoods of millions, subjecting most Tanzanians to vulnerability and compromising our economic future.

At this crucial moment, we have a unique opportunity and undeniable responsibility to act. Let us unite our efforts, leverage our collective strengths, and become the architects of change in the fight against climate change. The time for decisive action is now, and the future of Tanzania hangs in the balance.



I acknowledge ACT Secretariat Climate Justice Programme for financial support to implement this project. Therefore, I call for joint action and a commitment to a strategic visioning for climate adaptation since from rising temperatures to extreme weather events, the challenges we face require a multifaceted response that integrates agriculture and science, community engagement, policy-making and innovative solutions. As we embark on this crucial journey, I urge every stakeholder from FBOs, CSO, government officials and communities to join hand in advancing our climate adaptation agenda as a means that smallholder famers are in capacity to adapt to climate change.



A photo during consultation meeting with key government leaders on agricultural adaptation, adaptation finance and policy in Dar es Salaam (Photo by: Happy Mkumbwa).

Policy brief is generated to equip policy makers with data to inform policy formulation processes drawing from the technical consultations by faith actors: Christian Council of Tanzania (CCT), Tanzania Episcopal Conference (TEC) and The National Muslim Council of Tanzania (BAKWATA) AS packaged key policy messages on adaptation.

Africa Climate Adaptation Project funded by ACT Secretariat was established aiming at;

1. Strengthening faith actors' and leaders' engagement in adaptation advocacy with the aim of advancing strategic and technically sound influencing approaches and
2. Promote multi-faith involvement in advocacy and community engagement on national climate adaptation priorities.

As a result, the project was expected to:

1. Enhanced faith actors and leaders' understanding of the National Action Plans and other national climate policies; and
2. Faith actors and leaders particularly from ACT work with the government and other multifaith actors and build cooperation on adaptation.

National multi-faith consultations on adaptation: finance and agriculture were the key topics. While placing adaptation to climate change with the articulation of agriculture as a key sector of focus, the project activities aimed to facilitate a multi-faith (interfaith) discussion that in the end:

1. Releases national-facing messages (a statement or call to action) on the urgency of adaptation including in the agriculture sector.
2. Considers various adaptation gaps at the policy level, needs at the community level including in the agriculture sector, and adaptation practices.
3. Amplifies the role of faith actors and leaders in the adaptation discourse

Consultations with key government leaders on agricultural adaptation, adaptation finance and policy. The consultations were bilateral engagement between faith leaders and policy makers in government agencies which enabled:

1. Creating spaces for dialogue on adaptation and agriculture adaptation.
2. Direct connections with decision makers that offer opportunities for direct influencing.
3. Delivery of key technical adaptation considerations by faith actors.

The project also facilitated technical faith actors' agriculture adaptation advocacy exchanges and consultations. These consultations brought together faith actors from ACT Tanzania Forum, other partner FBOs working on adaptation to climate change including advocacy and agriculture of which result has been:

1. Provide space to consider technical elements in adaptation planning, policy, design of approaches, and implementation gaps/challenges opportunities.
2. Provide technical messages and considerations for influencing governmental policy, planning, and programming processes.

Key Messages

Message 1:

Developing a comprehensive national climate change framework that includes coordination, financing and planning. This will enhance the interconnectedness and harmonization of policies as well as inclusion of stakeholders in policies formulation. It will as well help in aligning policy objective across sectors, and will pave the way for stakeholders' engagement and participations

Message 2:

Agriculture is a science, therefore when we think about coping with climate change, the use of science, innovation, and various technologies must be applied so that the community can cope with the effects of climate change and increase productivity in agriculture. This will help in engaging scientific approaches in agriculture in ways that communities will cope and respond to climate change effects.

Message 3:

There is a need for standalone climate change policy and translation of the policy into popular version. This will give climate change a needed attention on the national budget. Either, it will make it easy for translation of policies and strategies into actions at the grassroots level.



"Effective responses to climate change must integrate local knowledge and be tailored to the specific needs, vulnerabilities, and circumstances facing local communities."

*Rev. Modest Pasha, National Coordinator
ACT Tanzania Forum*

Youth active engagement in climate adaptation



Youth Ambassadors initiated a campaign named 'The Green Saturday' implemented every last Saturday in each month to reach communities with awareness raising on climate adaptation through tree planting and income diversification to curb the impacts of climate change (Above) photo of Environmental Students' Club at Kisiwandui Primary School in Zanzibar

and (Below) a photo of Climate Youth Group initiated by Erick Kapira (Youth Ambassador from ELCT) in Kilwa during courtesy call by Rev. Modest Pesha, ATF National Coordinator and Samuel Mlay, TCRS Executive Director with Sheikh Kimera an indigenous Muslim faith leader to Mangrove tree planting Project (Photo by: Happy Mkumbwa)



ACT Tanzania Forum implements Waking the Giant Initiative Tanzania (WtG) engaging Youth Ambassadors for intergeneration. The Green Saturday campaign has proved a significant role in raising community awareness in different places of the Ambassadors' origin both from Tanzania Mainland and Zanzibar. WtG strengthens their capacity and offers technical support through the Taskforce Leads (TFL) assigned to lead ATF in the implementation of selected SDGs: 3, 4, 5, 10, 13 and 16. The selection of the TFL was based on their areas of expertise and their departmental roles.

(Above) Vegetable demonstration plot using locally innovated drip irrigation system at Kipampa Ward in Kigoma Ujiji implemented by BAKAIDS under support of Norwegian Church Aid as climate adaptation measures carried by communities as adopted by AMKENI Women Group at Kazulamimba Ward in Uvinza DC (Below) for raising community awareness for improved household nutrition and income diversification coordinated by Youth Ambassador and the Taskforce Lead from BAKWATA (Photo by: Happy Mkumbwa)



Africa Climate Adaptation Project objectives resulting into a Policy Brief to the Vice President Office (VPO), Environment and with the expected outcomes are fundamental for including youth as integral part in climate adaptation.

