



THINKING BEYOND CLIMATE
CHANGE CONSEQUENCES
FOR THE EAST AFRICAN
COMMUNITY:
A POST COP 19 VALUE/ETHICS-
BASED ASSESSMENT AND
PARADIGM SHIFT

Rev. Dr. Aidan G. Msafiri (PhD)



Introduction

Terminologies

Climate Change Adaptation

- This refers to multiple adjustment for both natural (ecological) and human systems and ways in responding to actual or expected climatic phenomena or their effects. Such mechanisms try to moderate harm as well as exploit emerging chances or opportunities. The adjustments mechanism may be in pro-active preventive reactive, retroactive.

Sustainable Energies

- These refer to smart and eco-friendly renewable non-fossil energy solutions. They include particularly solar wind, geothermal and non energy possibilities



COP 19

- This refers to the 19th United Nations Framework convention on climate change conference of parties (UNFCCC 19 Warsaw, Nov/Dec.2013). The first COP took place in Berlin in 1995 while in 2012 it took place in Doha and was dubbed COP 18.



- **Justification/Rationale: Global realities and Truths**

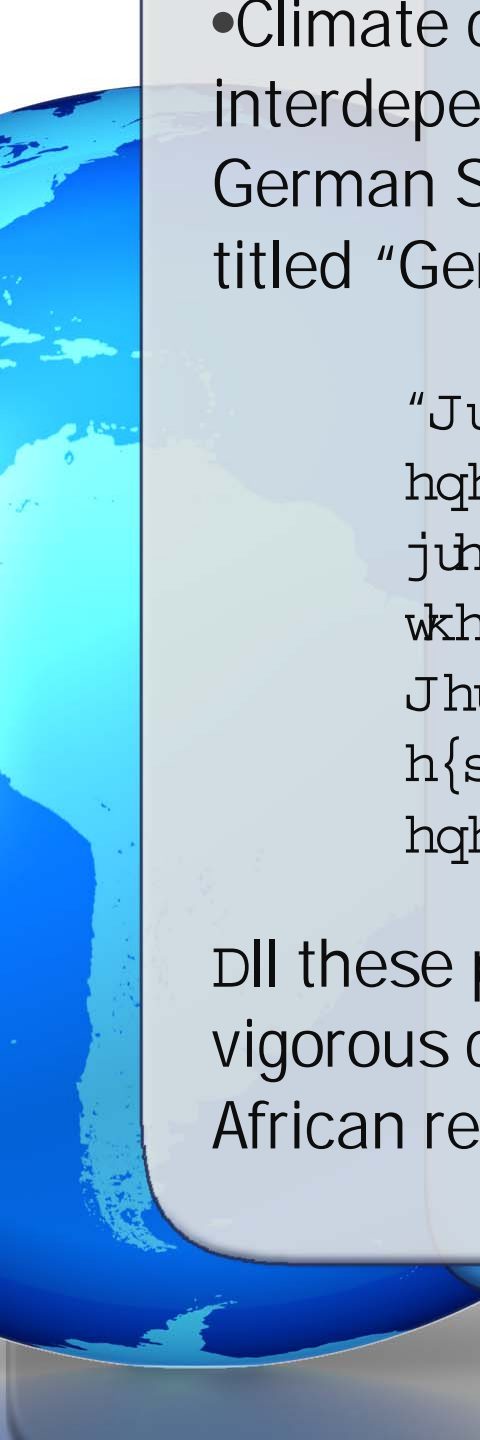
First, climate change and sustainable energy sources rank on the first place of the 15 major global challenges. (Glenn, et al 2000:12-13) observes that;

ŠFR₅ hp lvlrqv duh hfuhdvbj idvhuwk dq wkh ISFF
hwlp dwhg 11Diulfd z loeh k lkwdughvwe | fop dwh
fkdqjh wkrxjk lwfrqwulxwhv dndvwr wkh suredp 1
Iruhwarvv dffhduwhv ghvhuwifdwrq dgg vrb
hurvlrq/p dnbj wkh frqwqhwqwp ruh yxohudeh wr
Fop dwh FkdqjhõlVrrqghuruodwhuwxh Vdkduđ dgg
Ndokdulghvhuw z lošnlvõhdfk rwkhuõ

Lomborg, (2013:49) agrees that, with continued increases in carbon emissions despite an enduring global economic meltdown the case for a technology-led climate policy is stronger than ever before.

The briefing paper, titled “Loss and damage Negotiation at the UNFCCC an Era of Liability and Compensation”, MD Shamsuddoha, the Chief Executive for the Center for Participatory Research and Development (CPRD) Dhaka, Bangladesh made the following remarks:

ŠRyhuwkh |hdw/z wk wkh bfhndvh rifop dwh fkdqjh
p sdfw/wkh bghr rj lfdoe dvlv dv z hoodv ixqfwtrqdo
uhvsrqvh riwkh frqyhqwrq kd v juhdw| vkiwhg1 lq wkh
b|wdo|hdw/iurp 4<<3 wr 5333/wkh srof | irfxv z dv rq
p l|jdwtrqý ý ldv p l|jdwtrq p hdvxuhv duh ghæ |hg dgg
ghq|hg frqw|xdæ | b|xwifh dv dgdsdwtrq p hdvxuhv duh
qrwibqdqfhg dghtxdwhqõ



- Climate change challenges are closely linked and interdependent to energy sources and use, the official German Side Event at COP 19 on the 19th November, 2013 titled “German Energiewende for Climate Protection”

“Juhhokrsvh jdv hp lvlrqv duh bfuhdvbj udsbq1 Wkh hqhuj | vhwru dffrxqw iruderxwz r0kluvr jaredo juhhokrsvh0jdv hp lvlrqv p ruh wk dq ; 3 shufhqwri wkh jaredohqhuj | frqvxp swlrq lv edvhg rq irvwbixho1 Jhup dq | lv exlqbj rq wkh bwhjudwhg dssurdfk ri h{sdqg bj uhqhz de0 hqhuj | ghsor | p hqwdqg bfuhdvbj hqhuj | hiilfhqf | 0

All these pre- and post COP 19 truths and realities call for a vigorous cross-border thinking and planning in our East African region and Africa in particular.

Thought Provoking and painful Ethical Questions

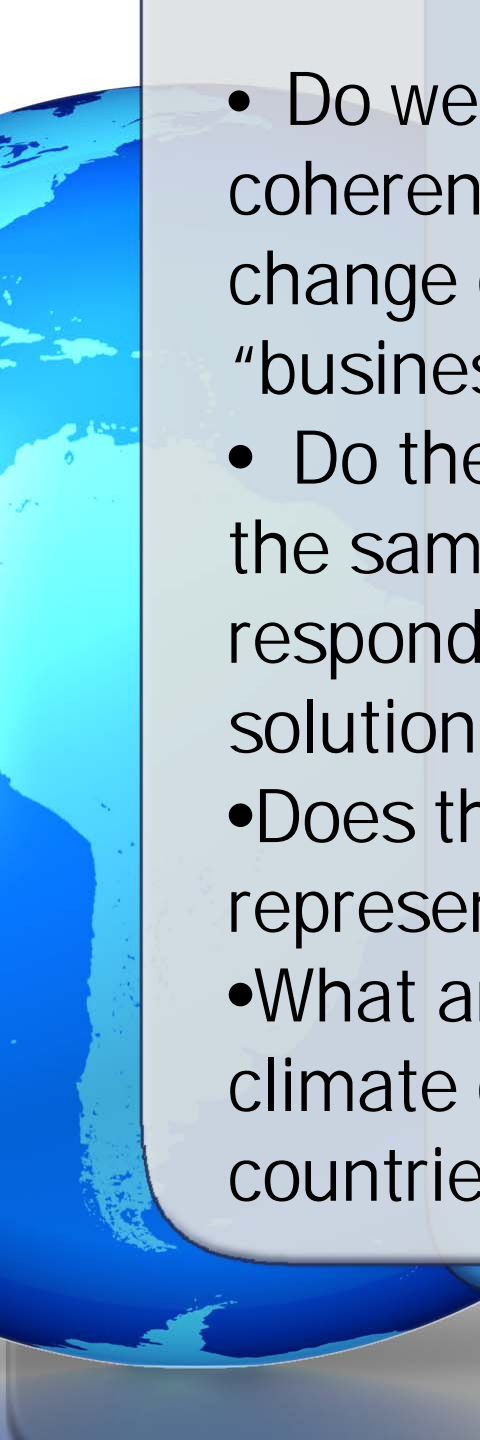



- What key lessons has the world learnt from all these 19 COPs?
- Should COP's now be termed as "Conference of Polluters", "Conference of Politicians"?
- Are the EA countries speaking the same language?
- How was the EAC prepared and represented in the COP 19 negotiations, decision making platform or simply represented for "Christmas shopping" and "Per Diem Syndrome?"
- Do we have the courage and will power to learn from others (best practice) in terms of quality and seriousness?



Thought Provoking and painful Ethical Questions

- Do we take seriously the long-term climate change adoption and energy challenges affecting hundreds of years to come or take or we simply take business as usual?
- Are the tragic impacts of climate change not annihilating the “cradle” of humanity which is in East Africa?
- Is the EAC strong enough to bring true transformations as far as climate change challenges are concerned?

- 
- Do we see the need to synergize together a coherent East African ethics and ethics for climate change or are we simply satisfied with our “business as usual syndrome”?
 - Do the climate change NGO’s and CBO’s possess the same vision, mission, strategic plan in responding and giving sustainable and credible solutions in the East African region?
 - Does the EAC have a climate change organ which represents it in the COP’s?
 - What are the inherent long-term weaknesses of climate change finance mechanisms to poor countries like the East African region?



Does the EAC realize and accept the role of faith based and value-based solutions particularly in the climate change negotiations locally, regionally and at the COP levels?



PART TWO

COP 19 AND CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION AND SUSTAINABLE ENERGY CHALLENGES IN THE EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY: DISCREPANCIES AND MISSING LINKS

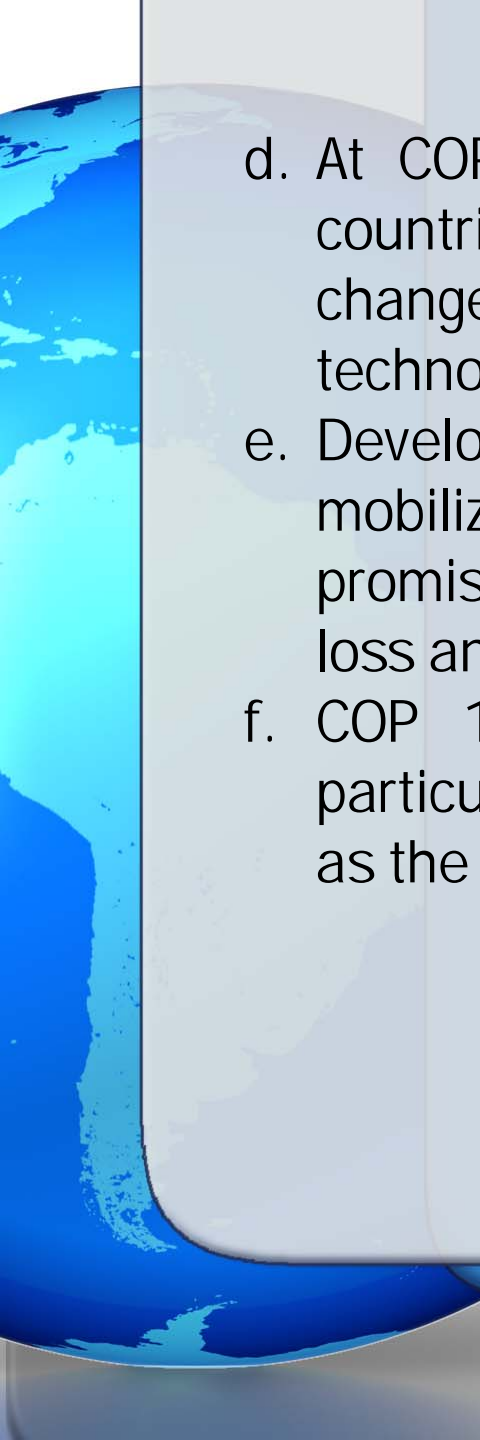
- Climate Change Policy and Technological Discrepancies

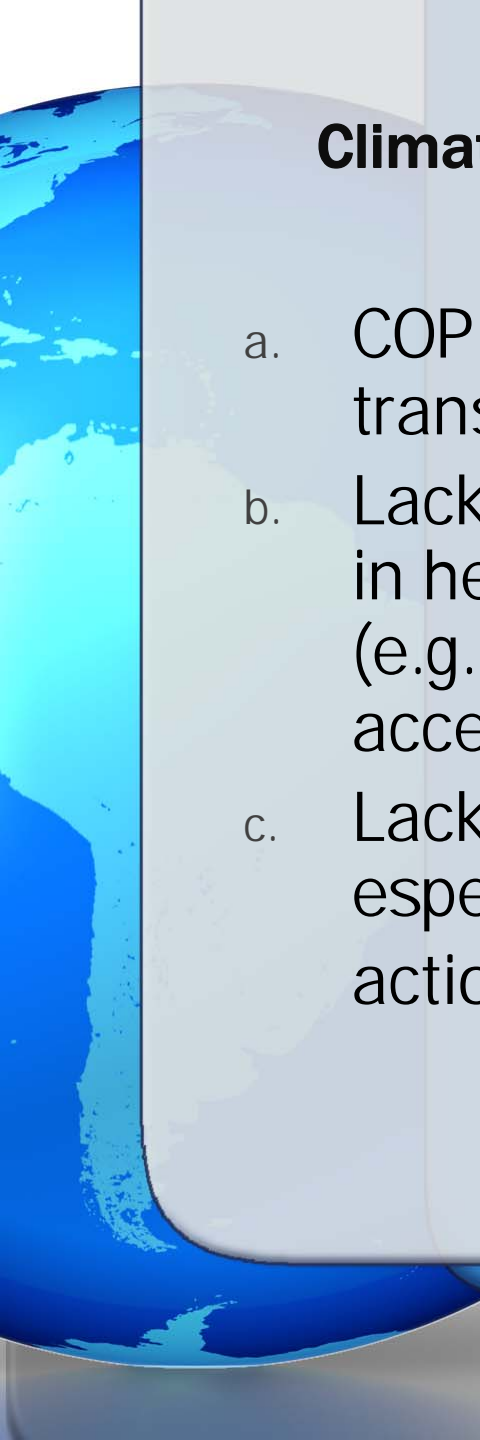
Among others the following need special mention and concern.

a. Lack of a common institutional and strong regulatory organ and mechanism for climate adaptation. The East African Community was not represented in the COP 19 as one region with one voice. Regional political inequalities and mistrust are worsening the situation.

b. Lack of common and deep awareness as far as the tangible and non-tangible impacts of climate change especially at the Bottom of the Pyramid (BOP).

c. Massive discrepancies in formulating and responding to climate change effects based on ethical values and tool kits.

- 
- d. At COP 19, it was observed that most of the developing countries and regional associations (e.g. EAC) lack climate change related technologies as a priority hence, need for technology transfer and diffusion.
 - e. Developed countries (G8, G20) in particular refusal to mobilize \$100 billion a year by 2020 as they had earlier promised in helping vulnerable nations cope with unavoidable loss and damage.
 - f. COP 19 underscored the huge discrepancies and gaps particularly on the legal character of a new agreement as well as the different obligations of both rich and poor countries.



Climate finance dilemmas and juridical loopholes and double standards

- a. COP 19 observed that there is massive lack of transparency and accountability in this area.
- b. Lack of proper awareness, skills and human capital in helping poor nations and regional associations (e.g. the EAC) navigate easing navigate in accessing climate change finances as a whole.
- c. Lack of a global financial or regulatory system especially in enhancing the common move and action plan towards a global low carbon economy.



LACK OF TRUST AND REAL COMMITMENT AT THE UN COP'S

- a. Most of the talks and negotiations lack coordinated action solidarity inclusivity and one voice. Unfortunately most of the climate change vulnerable countries and regions of the world, including Africa had attended the Warsaw conference with very high expectations and hopes.

COP's do not "Return Home"

- a. most of the negotiations action plans recommendations simply remain with the "climate gurus" political leaders, high level representative, and climate change UN organizations, NGOs etc.
- b. Climate change adaptation action plans and strategies (COP 19) are highly dominated by a monolithic culture of greed and competitiveness.

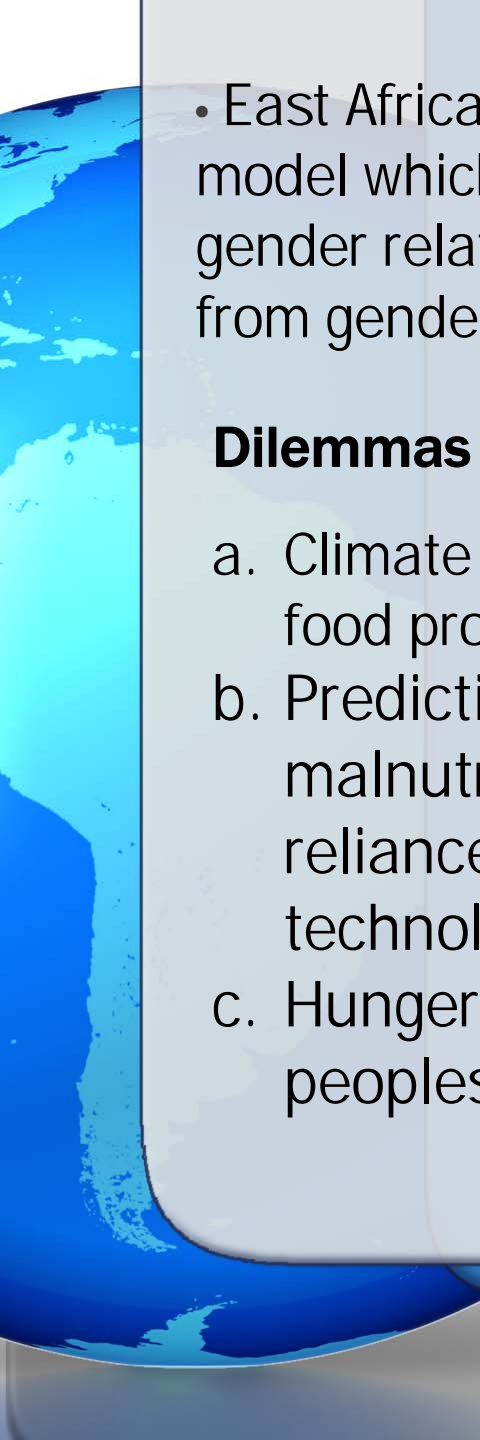


EVER GROWING ADAPTATION AND SUSTAINABLE ENERGY GOVERNMENTS AND COP'S FOR THE EAC

- a. The costs include not only financial but more so loss of human health and life which cannot be quantified.
- b. Annual statistics show that there is ever growing loss and damage particularly of the East African wildlife resources, coastal and marine ecosystems, biodiversity, soil, water, wetlands, forests, infrastructure, human settlements infrastructure and eco-tourism opportunities and chances.

Humanistic and Socio-Cultural differences and Gaps

- EAC has not dared to develop a systematic faith and value-based climate change and sustainable energy model which would be both multi-disciplinary and complementary.

- 
- East African Community has not dared to come up with its own model which is both credible and plausible especially in addressing gender related climate change and energy related crises especially from gender perspectives and scenarios.

Dilemmas for future food sovereignty and poverty reduction in EAC

- a. Climate change adaptation challenges are causing a decline in food production in East Africa due to unreliability in rains.
- b. Predictions indicate that East Africa is highly vulnerable to malnutrition and hunger crises than ever before due to its reliance on dwindling rainfall and use of outdated farming technologies and land use.
- c. Hunger and malnutrition threaten and paralyze poor peoples' efforts towards poverty reduction.

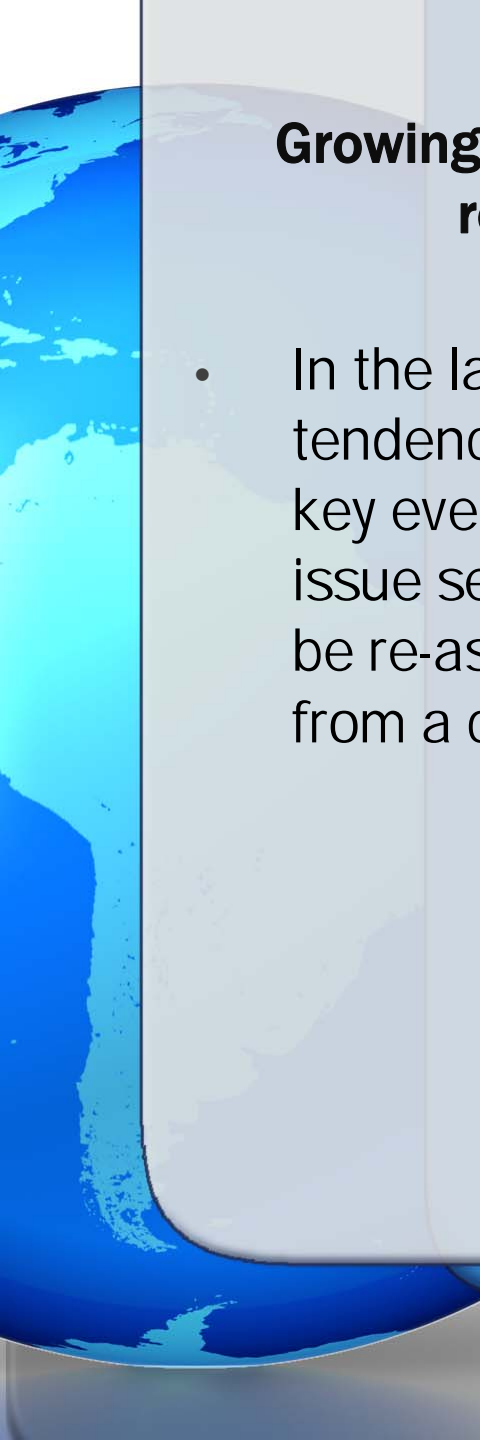


Discrepancies and missing links in the EA sustainable energy sector

- a. EAC has huge challenges for regional energy strategies due to incoherent energy policies and political vision and will.
- b. Lack of a rigorous sustainable energy database for one integrated action plan as well as political and expert consensus and action plan.
- c. Lack of a coherent and systematic sustainable energies' model in the times of fossils' energy crisis and resource depletion.
- d. Lack of immediate plans and strategies to embark on environmentally friendly renewables and a true efficiency sustainable energy sources has become a mere political jargon and buzz word.

Intergenerational gaps and discrepancies

- The EAC as well as the COPs (COP 19 included) try to focus predominantly on the current or at least on the short and medium levels as far as climate change and sustainable energies are concerned. The long-term ecological burdens and worst case scenarios are not receiving adequate attention.
- Decision making processes and organs for sustainable use of resources include mostly a few groups of greedy politician's experts and decision makers. The greatest sufferers and victims of climate change and energy crises are not being involved in such processes.



Growing dangers of “side-event(s) syndrome” at the COP’s (‘A reminiscence of “the Tower of Babel) at COP’s.

- In the last five years, there has been an ever increasing tendency to have more and more side events than the key event. Hence, dissociating victims from the key issue serious enough to make it happen? This needs to be re-assessed as it deters concentration on key challenges from a collective perspective.

Lack of harmony and continuity in the climate change policies

- There are huge discrepancies on the as far as harmonisation and continuity of climate change policies principles are concerned both from the national-regional (EAC) levels to COPs. Each country and region focuses mostly on its own climate change impact as priority and not the regional efforts and synergy. Having identified these dilemmas, gaps, loopholes as well as discrepancies let us now search for a radical value-based new model which goes beyond conventional talks and approaches in responding climate change adaptation and sustainable energies in the East African Community.

PART THREE

FROM CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACTS TO
CLIMATE JUSTICE FOR THE EAST AFRICAN
COMMUNITY: TOWARDS A NEW ETHICAL
PARADIGM, TOOLKIT AND BEST PRACTICE.



Climate justice as a new climate paradigm and ethos with and for the planet and climate

- This must necessarily include a new and value based model of climate ethics built on the ten fundamental pillars of;
 - -Justice
 - -Solidarity
 - -Accountability
 - -Transparency
 - -Peace
 - -Faith
 - -Agape (True Love)
 - -Empathy/care
 - -Sustainability
 - -Foresight



Climate justice as a new culture of equal treatment

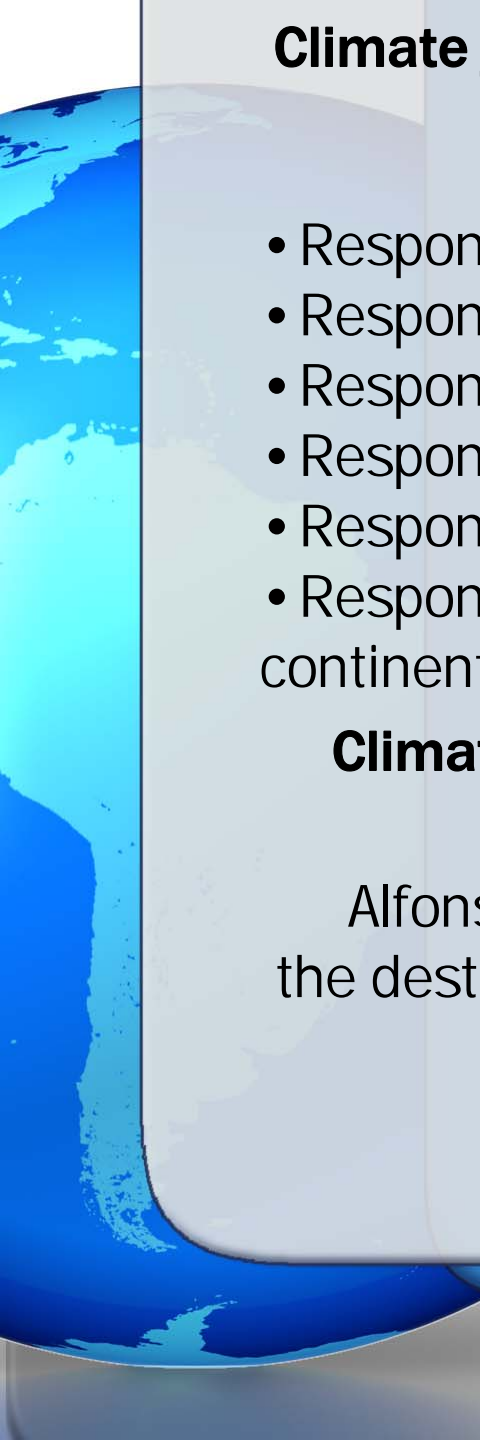
- This one means that no nation has more rights on the earth's resources or immunity to ecological burden.

Climate Justice as efficiency revolution for the EAC

- This new model must necessarily promote an efficient and effective new culture of using and reusing our renewable and non-renewable resources in our region. Hence, synergizing the principles and values for Reduce-Re-use- Recycle and Respect (4R's).

Climate Justice as a new participatory culture

- This must include all victims and non-victims of climate change as key stake holders and decision makers both on the national as well as on the regional and global levels.




Climate justice as a new model of stewardship and peace with the earth

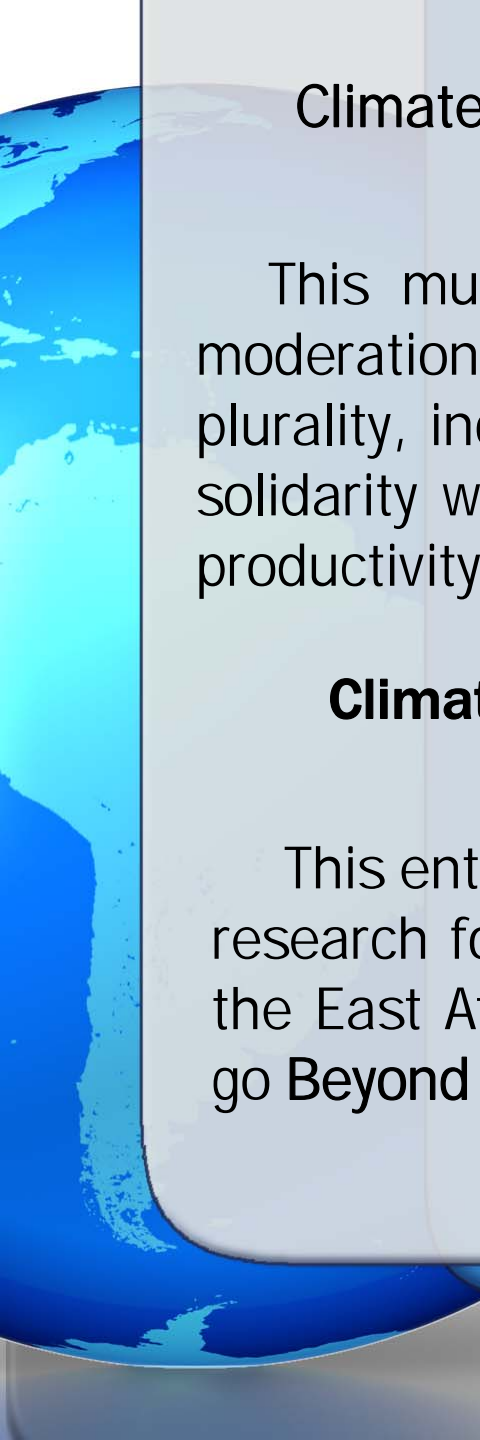
- Responsibility to care (Gen 2:15).
- Responsibility to protect.
- Responsibility to do justice (Micah 6:80)
- Responsibility to guide.
- Responsibility to serve (Primus inter pares)
- Responsibility to share justly the resources nationally, regionally, continentally and globally.

Climate justice as a new relational anthropocentric model towards nature.

Alfons Auer considers this as a new smart solution against the destructive philosophical views and ideologies particularly;

- 
- Radical Anthropocentrism (The human person/being as the centre of everything).
 - Biocentrism (plants and Animals as the centre of everything).
 - Cosmocentrism (minerals, resources etc, as the centre of everything).

The current hyper-consumerist and speed maniac culture locally and globally, are significantly contributing to massive environmental destruction and depletion of non-renewable resources and climate change as a whole. In brief, the need for a radical deep change from “Homo consumerismus” to “Homo Futuris” starting in the East African Community the cradle of humanity hence, avoiding the “Greedy Jackal” the Climate Policy Model and approaches.

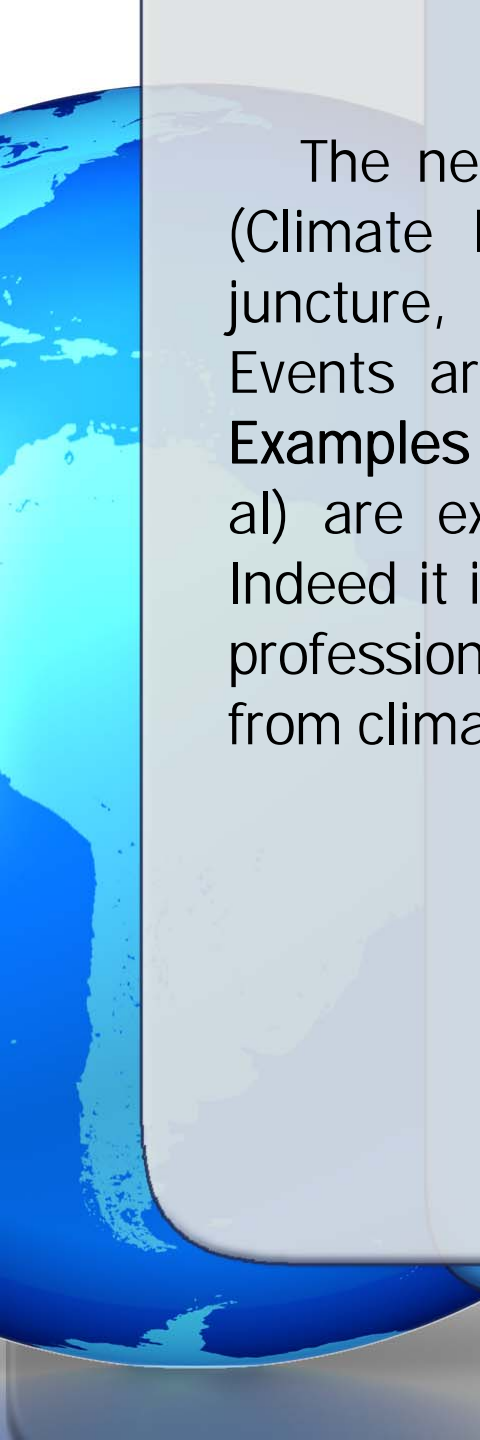


Climate justice as a new ethos of lifestyle change and global solidarity


This must be characterized with the values and virtues of moderation, diligence, fairness, common welfare/wellbeing, plurality, inclusivity, happiness, and mindfulness of others, care, solidarity with nature, security, peace, true freedom, sustainable productivity, tolerance and true interfaith engagement.

Climate justice as the courage for R & D: Best practice on sustainable energy

This entails a new political will to embark on true collaborative research for development and renewable energy alternatives in the East African region/community. The courage for the EAC to go **Beyond Petroleum (BP)** as a real new move.



The need for the EAC to be on the “shoulders of giants” – (Climate best practices and sustainable energies). At this juncture, the 2010, South African Sustainable Climate Mega Events are case in point. Besides, the 50 “**Best Practice**” **Examples** or the “**FAKTOR VIER**” (Ernst Ulrich von Weiszaecker et al) are exemplary especially for the East African Community. Indeed it is high time for the EAC to make its “passion” to be its profession: and among other things, thing challenges it to change from climate politics to climate ethics.

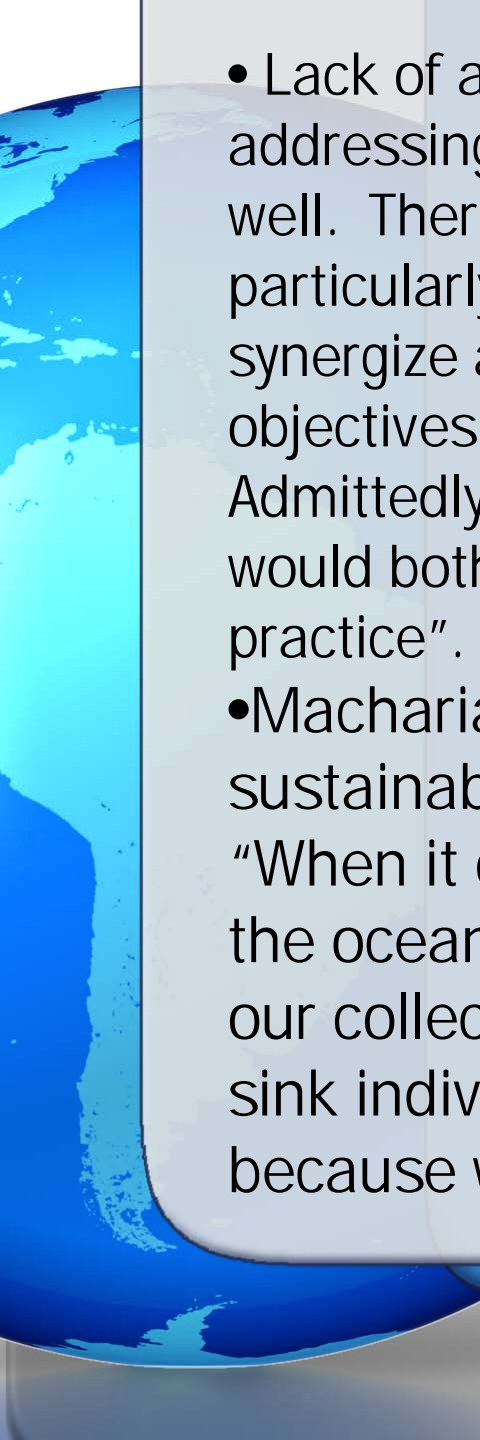


Climate Justice as seeing beneath the surface and beyond the horizon

Indeed there is need for a deconstruction of myopic and superficial views of climate change locally and globally. It is all about a greedy life style characterized with wanton selfishness, alienation, violence, injustice and immorality. This calls for a true ethical based culture and approach of foresight and “longtermism” against “moneyism”.

Concluding remarks

- Admittedly, a new and viable model in responding to climate change consequences and for the East African Community remains a priority number one today hence the need to go beyond mere political talk, and propaganda. How can this be realized especially in the East African Community? Among others, lack of a holistic and coherent and systematic system in (institutional) approach both on the national, regional and global levels paralyses the whole move.



- Lack of a truly ethical and value-based model and holistic in addressing climate change challenges plays a significant role as well. There is need for a radical and totally new paradigm shift particularly of climate change policies which need to harmonise, synergize and strategize both the local, regional as well as global objectives and framework from the local levels upwards. Admittedly a new move from Climate Change to Climate Justice would both be transformational and phenomenal as the “best practice”.

- Macharia Kamau’s recent remarks on “Africa and sustainable development goals”, He vividly observes that: “When it comes to climate and the air we breathe, water and the oceans we rely on, and food we eat, our environment and our collective biodiversity we either swim together as one or sink individually”. This re-echoes, John Mbiti’s diction “I am because we are too.”

Lastly, there is urgent need today to go beyond the mere “politics” rhetorics as well as gymnastics of Climate Change discussions at the COP’s levels as well as on the national and regional level. Climate change is about people’s lives and the future. We cannot and we should not keep aloof to it as its damage goes not only beyond financial price tags and quantifications, but beyond the business as usual syndrome and culture today. Let us try to collectively adopt this “new tool” now.

Thank you for Listening

