

THE CHALLENGES OF CLIMATE CHANGE AND THE ROLE OF CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATION

CONFERENCE ON CLIMATE CHANGE AND
SUSTAINABLE ENERGY IN EAST AFRICA
MOUNT MERU HOTEL, 5TH DECEMBER
2013

Presented by:

Tanzania Civil Society Forum on Climate change (FORUMCC)

Prepared by

Euster Kibona

Environmental Protection and Management Services (EPMS)

OUTLINE OF THE PRESENTATION

Introduction

EA vulnerability to climate change

EA projected and witnessed climate change impacts

Implication of impacts

Initiatives of partner states to address CC

Who are CSOs

Roles of CSOs



THE EAC PARTNER STATES



**Comprise of 5
partner states**

EA PARTNER STATES VULNERABILITY TO CLIMATE CHANGE

- **The EAC region being part of Sub-Saharan Africa is among the regions hardest hit by the impacts of climate change as verified by various scientific evidence including the IPCC report of 2007.**
 - ❖ **Major economic activities depending on climate sensitive sectors eg: agriculture, livestock keeping, fishing, Tourism etc**
- All 5 partners depends on agriculture
- 40% population of Uganda depending on fishing
- Tanzania being 3rd in livestock keeping in Africa

EA PARTNER STATES VULNERABILITY TO CLIMATE CHANGE CONT'

❖ **Fragile land prone to disaster**

- arid and semi arid eg: 80% of land in Kenya
- Basins prone to floods
- Mountainous land and highlands
- Low laying areas with long beaches

❖ **3 of the 5 partner states are land locked wit implications to transportation**

- ❖ **Tourism depending on wildlife, beach and scenic features which are prone to ecosystem shift**

PROJECTED CLIMATE CHANGE AND WITNESSED IMPACTS

- Changes in the amount of rainfall - wet places will get wetter while dry places become drier.
- Increasing temperatures and a reduction in the difference between day and night time temperatures
- **Some key regional observed impacts include:**
 - increasing temperatures,
 - changes in timing and amount of rainfall, and
 - extreme weather events; already threatening development gains and economic stability of the region.





PROJECTED CLIMATE CHANGE AND WITNESSED IMPACTS CONT'

- Changes in when the rain falls - seasons are becoming less predictable
- shifting seasons (winters/rains arrive later in the year),
- An increase in the intensity and frequency of extreme weather (esp. heavy rainfall and the intensity, duration and frequency of droughts)
- changing rainfall levels, increasing intensity and/or frequency of floods and droughts

IMPLICATIONS OF WITNESSED

IMPACTS

Long term impacts resulting to ecosystem shift causing

- long term trade inability eg; Flower business
- causing increased cost of transportation for landlocked countries
- Tourism

Impacts of response measures to climate change on introduction of levy for goods and services transportation, labeling of products and carbon footprints to products makes disadvantaged countries more vulnerable

INITIATIVES IN CC RESPONSES IN EA

Some of the initiatives to respond to challenges includes:

- ✓ Putting up institutional framework: eg: a stand alone secretariat in Kenya and Uganda
- ✓ Mainstreaming of CCA into different development plans
- ✓ Implementing stand alone adaptation programmes
- ✓ Embedding adaptation in educational systems eg: Rwanda, Tanzania
- ✓ Providing insurance systems to rescue loss due to cc impacts

All these approaches are relevant to various stakeholders from grassroots communities,

WHO ARE CSO?

Civil Society Organizations (CSO) are active accredited/registered entity, not – for profit making organizations that provide selfless voluntary services, who in synergy unites to address immediate societal challenges/problems

Includes voluntary and non-profit organizations of many different kinds, generous institutions, social and political movements, forms of social participation and engagement, the public sphere and the values and cultural patterns associated with them

CSO is known globally as an active player in implementing most community based initiatives and projects in health, education, environmental and other

ROLES OF CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATION

- ✓ **Watchdog: holding institutions to account, promoting transparency and accountability**
- ✓ **Advocate: raising awareness of societal issues and challenges and advocating for change**
- ✓ **Service provider: delivering services to meet societal needs such as education, health, food and security; implementing disaster management, preparedness and emergency response**

CSO activities, both alone and in public-private partnerships, often complement (and frequently supplement) government assistance in providing a wide range of services to populations.

ROLES OF CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATION

- ✓ **Expert: bringing unique knowledge and experience to shape policy and strategy, and identifying and building solutions**

In terms of policy formulation, civil society is a valuable partner in providing deep subject-matter expertise based on first-hand experience, trialing and scaling up innovations in social services and facilitating citizen engagement.

- ✓ **Capacity builder: providing education, training and other capacity building**

ROLES OF CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATION

- ✓ **Incubator:** developing solutions that may require a long gestation or payback period

Civil society representatives possess significant experience and expertise, particularly at grassroots level, that can help international organizations formulate policy and strategy effectively.

- ✓ **Representative:** giving power to the voice of the marginalized or under-represented

Civil society organizations and activities are also often able to access local knowledge, expertise and insight to reach “the last mile” (unheard voices), providing connections with and understanding of potential consumer bases.

ROLES OF CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATION

- ✓ **Citizenship champion: encouraging citizen engagement and supporting the rights of citizens**
 - civil society represents a fundamental part of the democratic system and highlights issues of importance.
 - It has the ability to express controversial views; represent those without a voice; mobilize citizens into movements; build support across stakeholders; and bring credibility to the political system by promoting transparency and accountability

ADDRESSING BARRIERS TO CC RESPONSES

Institutional and technological barriers gaps:

- can be addressed depending on the level of development a particular country is ;
- However, enhancing technical capacity eg: human through trainings , technological capacity eg: better ways of responding to sea level rise building walls, Financial resources access

Long term Capacity development institutionalization:

- Adaptation responses should move from project based to be embedded to clear existing institutions
- Establishment of right institutions based on right policies and strategies

Institutionalized support in terms of technology, finance and human capacity rather than project based

ADDRESSING BARRIERS TO CC RESPONSE

Serious mainstreaming of climate change to specific groups on various stages eg: training engineers on climate change proof infrastructures, experts on building sea walls etc

For engaging in cc response process there is a need:

- better ways of collection of data, processing and management of data
- Effective sharing of information and collaboration
- Increased networking and better engagement with stakeholders

Effective plan, design and implementation of adaptation depend on existing better institutions, trained people and stronger platform where stakeholders can

CONCLUSION

Men argue, nature acts!

**CC challenges can not be solved on
isolation**

**Participation, Collaboration,
networking and meaning ful
engagement is crucial**



EMAIL:
EUSTERKIBONA@YAHOO.COM
WEBSITE:
WWW.FORUMCC.ORG

Thank you for the attention