ECOBOMA

Training needs assessment report for the Meru and Arusha district councils

The Ecoboma project foresees, among its results, the creation of a technical team for each Meru and Arusha District Council to act as a focal body for any climate-change related issue. Each technical team will be capacitated in mapping environmental risks to prioritise interventions on the basis of 'environmental vulnerability' to the climate change.
The first step of this process was to assess and obtain a detailed picture of the knowledge gaps to be filled by the project.

A synthetic overview of the results shows the following:

- Education and background: the seventeen target trainees have an education level ranging from Diploma to bachelor degree working under various disciplines; Livestock, Land, Agriculture, Water, Planning, Health, Forestry, Education and another separate entity known as the district disaster management committee. 65% had received trainings on the environment including climate change issues.
- There is an understanding of basic weather and climate change issues with majority (80%-100%) able to tell difference between weather and climate and calculate rainfall. On the other hand, depiction of weather information on formats like charts, understating and evaluation of risks in the environment and their translation to exiting situations in the environment received less percent of respondents and in need of training efforts.
- Impacts of climate change in the area according to respondents' views included **food insecurity, health problems (rise of new diseases) and natural disasters such as severe droughts, fire and floods.** These impacts are associated with **deforestation, erratic rainfalls overgrazing and changed patterns of economic activities that are not in favour of the environment.**
- Respondents highlighted also challenges related to climate change that they encounter when carrying out their duties such as:
  - Water management, taking into account of its scarcity
  - Agricultural management because of pests, severe drought and floods.
  - Unpredictable weather patterns that pose difficulty in Agricultural planning and crops management.

- Suggested training methods to include theory and case studies, practical guidance and tools, role playing games, group exercises, field visits, seminars and workshops keeping in mind that respondents show interests of receiving and transferring knowledge to the community they are serving.

It is therefore recommended to:

- Ensure that the capacities of the trainees are assessed by the trainer at the very beginning of the training.
- Include not only generic notions on climate change related topics, but also concentrate on specific tools (e.g. maps and GIS) and climate change related instruments (e.g. climate change national plans).
- Focus on themes of major concern like agriculture, pastoralism, water management, deforestation and changes in the economic activities (sectors where examples, case study and best practices should concentrate on).
- Ensure a combined method of training which includes not only lectures and theory but focuses on case studies, practicalities and tools, group exercises and field visits. E.g. practical knowledge on the weather information (weather stations, data handling and management) should be stressed.
- Incorporate topics emerged from actual experience (e.g. bee keeping).
- Include a section on how to ensure sustainability and real integration of the learning into the daily work. This is particularly relevant when it comes to the financial constraints and the issue of how to find funding mechanisms.
- Promote a multi-thematic approach and exchange of information across different sectors, also to facilitate institutional representatives to get into dialogue and foster cooperation among different offices. Interaction between the two Districts can certainly further help the mutual dialogue and exchange of ideas and information.
- Take into account the role and influence that policy and strategic planning of each District may play in the day-to-day decision process.
- Ensure that the Steering Committee revises the final version of the training modules before delivering the training.

Outline of training topics

Aim	The aim of the training sessions is to enhance knowledge and capacities of selected institutional representatives on environmental and climate change adaptation strategies. This will be achieved through lectures, practical tools and exercises. One of the main outcomes of the training will consist of a better understanding of the existing projects and best practices, amongst whom the interventions made under the GCCA Phase I. Moreover field visits (as Chololo Ecovillage, Dodoma area) and national and international forum (e.g Tanzanian Forum in Climate Change; Tanzanians NGO-TANGO forum and the International Institute for Environment and Development-IIED Rangeland initiative) have been planned to maximise practical experience and interactions among the participants and the on-going actions. Therefore not only frontal lectures, presentation of tools, discussions and exercises will be part of the training but field visits and involvement in national/international events will represent a complementary approach for a proper understanding of the subject and facilitate information sharing and networking among the actors. Training participants will learn: - What is climate change, the difference between climate change adaptation and mitigation and the concepts behind (e.g. resilience, risk, etc.), the impacts across the different sectors, the adaptation and mitigation strategies, the linkage between climate change adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction; - Where to find relevant climate information and how to use it; - What are the main tools; - How to identify the relevance of climate change to a policy, programme, plan or project; - How to screen and assess the vulnerability and climate change implications at different levels; - How to mainstream adaptation to climate change through the existing planning instruments; - What are the concrete adaptation options at national, sector, local and project levels; - Monitoring and Evaluation for climate change adaptation; - Financing climate change related actions; - what are the current actions in the area and the best practices.
Audience	The target audience consist of 8 key District officers (Livestock/ Land/ Agriculture/ Water/ Planning /Health/ Forestry/Education) in each District.
Modules	The sessions are designed for a total of 16 days. Additional days will be allocated for the field visits and the participation to the national/international events. The training consists of 8 modules which have been tailored in accordance to the Training Needs Analysis carried out. Two groups may be envisaged based on the level of knowledge of the sector (beginners and advanced). Lectures together with exercises and field visits/forum offer a comprehensive and practice-oriented overview of the subject. M1- Climate change – overview and core concepts: climate change; climate change hazards and adaptation; climate change mitigation; definition of risk; resilience; ecosystem based tools in reducing disaster risk and climate change adaptation; key national and international actors.

	M2- Discover and interpret climate data: Climate change and variability – definitions, drivers and CO2 trends; observed and projected changes in climate; sources of data – where to find and how to use data; historic, projected and scatterplot data; how to collect and analyse own data; group exercise and discussion. M3- Climate change screening and assessment: screening climate risks; different approaches and tools for screening; how assessment differs from screening; assessing climate risks and vulnerabilities; group exercises and discussion. M4- Main tools and approaches in climate change adaptation: spatial tools (GIS); spatial planning and community-based tools; sustainable land and water management tools; economic tools. M5- Climate change adaptation through the sectors and at different level: climate change adaptation across different sectors (water, agriculture, livestock, land, etc.); principles of mainstreaming climate change into national policies, strategies, plans and projects. M6- Identification and selection of adaptation and mitigation interventions: different types of adaptation and mitigation interventions; ecological engineering for climate change adaptation; national and international best practices; exercise and discussion. M7- Monitoring & Evaluation, financing: Key challenges for the evaluation of adaptation; different types of indicators for adaptation M&E; exercise and discussion. Funding climate change related actions. M8- Case studies and best practices: presentation of successful cases - GCCA Phase I and other pertinent projects.