



# NATIONAL CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION CONFERENCE ECOVILLAGES: A MODEL FOR ADAPTATION

## CONFERENCE DECLARATION

### BACKGROUND

This declaration comes out of the National Climate Change Adaptation conference held in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania on 7<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> March 2017. The Eco-village Adaptation to Climate Change in Central Tanzania (ECOACT) Project under the Institute of Rural Development Planning and Tanzania Organic Agriculture Movement (TOAM) organized the EU funded conference. The conference was attended by 146 representatives from international organizations, academia, non-government organizations, civil society organizations, sector ministries from central government, local government authorities, and the smallholder farming community who shared lessons and experiences during the conference.

### PROBLEM STATEMENT

Tanzania is extremely vulnerable to climate change impacts, mostly due to its dependence on climate sensitive productive sectors. Climate change impacts include changes in temperature and rainfall, affecting particularly agriculture and infrastructure. The severity of the impacts of climate change is alarming, including the increasing occurrence of droughts, floods, and large-scale livestock deaths. The agriculture sector loses USD 200 million/year as a result of climate change. One of the most difficult aspects is the increasing unpredictability of climate change events.

The Conference participants believe that a 'Business as Usual' approach to address climate change issues makes neither political nor financial sense. They call for a renewed commitment in Tanzania to provide political leadership, notably in the planning and budgeting processes. Since climate change is, by its very nature, a crosscutting issue, they call for the mainstreaming of climate change concerns across all Ministries.

**The key challenges to climate action** in the country are identified as issues around:

- Policy and legal frameworks
- Capacity issues, including finance, technology and awareness
- Coordination: Institutional arrangements and mandates
- Knowledge generation, management and information-sharing
- Regional integration and management, notably with regard to shared resources such as river basins, flood plains, deserts, mountains, and coastlines

These are bottlenecks to climate change adaptation and mitigation. Impacts of climate change are poorly understood among stakeholders, information sharing is still questionable, sustainable long term financing and implementation of adaptation responses is challenging and coordination of climate change initiatives among institutions could still be improved. We need to move from theory to practice, with strategic plans and budgets in place.

## OPPORTUNITIES

The Paris Agreement paved the way to low emissions and the EU is ready to help those who have ratified the Paris Agreement, and commit to National Determined Contributions (NDCs).

Policies and strategies in response to climate change have been formulated in Tanzania including the National Climate Change Strategy. The government has ratified various climate change related protocols and has developed its NDCs recently as its initiative in response to climate change impacts.

National, bilateral and multilateral funding provides an opportunity for local stakeholders to pursue climate finance. However, we need concerted efforts to succeed in tapping available finances. Opportunities are available for the engagement of private sectors to mobilize funds in climate change responses but their involvement is so far marginal. Opportunities presented by the Global Climate Fund should be vigorously pursued.

PORALG has piloted an innovative Decentralized Climate Finance program (Aim4 Resilience) aimed at strengthening climate change institutions, providing climate finance at grassroots level, and establishing a Climate Innovation Facility. The project is scaling up, expecting to target 15 LGAs by 2018 and 185 LGAs by 2021.

Various technologies have been tested for climate change adaptation responses especially for the agriculture and water sector.

VPO has pledged continued support to initiatives undertaken in the country by stakeholders across levels and scales in addressing climate change challenges, and pledged for the country to continue putting in place policy and legal frameworks that will guide climate change initiatives in the country. VPO commended the Ecovillage approach as an effective method of climate change adaptation, as demonstrated by the five EU-funded projects currently being implemented around the country.

International, regional and national institutions are working on prediction of disasters such as flood, drought, and famine in Tanzania; these include the Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards, Great Horn of Africa Climate Outlook Forum (GHACOF) and the Tanzania Meteorological Agency (TMA).

## SOLUTIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS

The creation of a Climate Change Policy, including Research and Innovation, and coordination and accountability at all levels, will pave the way to effective climate

change adaptation in the country. We need to move towards sustainable natural resource utilization.

A National Climate Change Policy should be put under consideration and developed within the five years' development plan period. Efforts are underway to influence its creation, while some sectors have already begun to mainstream climate change issues in their planning.

The heart of adaptation is access to and management of capital - including natural, human, social, physical, and financial assets, which can be influenced by policies, institutions and power structures, information, and accountability.

Sound strategies for scaling up interventions are required. Capacity building should be prioritized and involvement of the private sector should be enhanced. Efforts are required to link research, innovation and policy formulation on climate change. Advocating for paradigm shift and transformation is the key to adaptation, with technology transfer at the centre. Encouraging the use of renewable sources of energy could significantly reduce dependency on fuel wood and charcoal, which threatens the existence of forest cover in the country.

It is important to push forward the success stories and lessons learned.

**MALF has identified priority areas to address for improved agricultural productivity:**

- Improving sustainable agricultural land and water management
- Accelerating the uptake of Climate Smart Agriculture, notably through the use of ecological farming methods.
- Reducing impacts of climate-related shocks through better risk management
- Strengthening knowledge and systems to target climate action, including improved monitoring of rainfall in high risk areas
- Climate change adaptation needs to go hand in hand with gender mainstreaming.

**The Ecovillage approach offers useful, practical solutions towards climate adaptation, community resilience and improved livelihoods.** Ecovillages are a valid path to achieving Sustainable Development Goals and implementing the Paris Agreement. There are now 5 active EU-funded Ecovillages in Tanzania. The network should be expanded to other regions of Tanzania and work closer together to share knowledge and experiences, building on the Global Ecovillage Network and GEN Africa. The Tanzanian authorities should work with other African governments to promote the Pan African Ecovillage Development Programme in the COP and AMEN fora. Ecovillage components include:

- Regenerating degraded soils
- Replenishing sources of water
- Renewable energy
- Green building/waste recycling
- Regenerate ecosystems
- Organic agriculture
- Solidarity and sharing
- Celebrating culture and diversity

*"I have a dream that on the slopes of Kilimanjaro, the world's most prestigious, best resourced Global Centre for Climate Change Management and Research will be built. It will be designed and built by Tanzanians."*

Tim Clarke, former EU Ambassador to Tanzania

- Traditional and innovative solutions
- Harvesting indigenous knowledge
- Building Social entrepreneurship
- Greening schools for building resilience.

**Agricultural research shows the following actions are effective for climate action:**

- Soil fertility improvement
- Promotion of rainwater harvesting technologies
- Popularization of early maturing and drought tolerant crops
- Conservation of natural resource base through ecological intensification eg. soil water conservation and other conservation agriculture techniques,
- Reduced food waste and spoilage
- Popularization of best agronomic practices, including mulching, biogas, organic composting, drip-feed irrigation
- Adjustment of plant population – planting in rows
- Intercropping
- Introduction of crop insurance and other safety nets
- Early warning with timely provision of climate/weather information

**Climate change practitioners identified key success factors for adaptation projects:**

- Multi sectoral, multi disciplinary delivery
- Strong project management
- Full participation by communities, from start to end
- Affordable, appropriate technologies
- Livelihood incentives
- Empowerment of women
- Flexibility and Innovation
- Community based trainers for a strong knowledge base
- Optimal use of local natural resources
- Reduction of post-harvest waste
- Adoption of local processing to give greater value added

## CALL TO ACTION

We need to recognize our role - individually and collectively - in the fight against climate change impacts for sustainable livelihoods and agricultural development.

We call upon government, development partners and the international community to provide the political leadership and full support to establish policies, programmes and plans charting the journey to effective climate change adaptation and climate resilient communities.

In particular we call for urgent action to address the barriers we have clearly identified, leading to effective policy and legal frameworks; improved financial and technical capacity; improved coordination, institutional arrangements and mandates; and effective knowledge generation, management and information sharing.