



**EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY
EAST AFRICAN LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, TOURISM AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

**REPORT ON "THE CLIMATE CHANGE WORKSHOP FOR EALA
PARLIAMENTARIANS"**



Mwanza, Tanzania

11TH - 13TH November, 2012

**Clerk's Chambers
EAC Headquarters
EALA Wing, 3rd floor
Arusha, Tanzania**

November 2012

1.0. INTRODUCTION

Madam Speaker,

In line with other previous sensitization workshops for Third East African Legislative Assembly's Members, in collaboration with the East African Community Secretariat Department of Productive and Social Sectors, we organized the "**Climate Change Workshop for Parliamentarians**" on November 11th to 13th, 2012 in Mwanza, United Republic of Tanzania. The workshop was organised to materialize one of the recommendations of the national consultations on **the need for active involvement of National and Regional Parliaments on Climate Change Governance Process.**

The objective of the workshop was to sensitize the Members of the Committee on Agriculture, Tourism and Natural Resources of the 3rd East African Legislative Assembly (EALA) on key climate change issues and identify key roles of parliamentarians on climate change policy and practice issues at the regional and international level.

The specific objectives of the workshop included:

- (i) To create awareness amongst Members of the East African Legislative Assembly on critical climate change science, policy and practice issues; and
- (ii) To identify the roles of regional Members of Parliament in the implementation of regional and international Climate Change Policies.

Apart from Honourable Members of the Committee on Agriculture, Tourism and Natural Resources of the East African Legislative Assembly (EALA), the Deputy Secretary General in charge of Productive and Social Sectors Hon. Jessica Eriyo, representatives from the East African Community (EAC) Partner States National Parliaments, officers from EAC Secretariat, EALA and COMESA Secretariat also participated to the workshop. The List of Participants is hereto attached as **Annex I.**

2.0. METHODOLOGY

The workshop was conducted through a participatory learning approach that included technical presentations on key climate change issues coupled with field visits.

3.0. FINDINGS

3.1. Opening Remarks

3.1.1. Statement by the Chairperson of the Committee on Agriculture, Tourism and Natural Resources

Hon. Ndahayo Isabelle, East African Legislative Assembly Member and Chairperson of the Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources and

Tourism, welcomed the participants to the Workshop. She thanked East African Community Secretariat and the Assembly for organizing the workshop, aimed at demystifying climate change which is highly scientific and technical. Climate change is featuring prominently on the international and national level given its negative impact on socio-economic development particularly in developing countries including East African Community Partner States.

Moreover, the Chairperson noted the timeliness of the Workshop particularly in updating new Members of the Committee on their mandate on climate change issues and its impacts on agriculture and other development sectors. She also expressed her gratitude to the East African Community Deputy Secretary General responsible for Productive and Social Sectors for her presence at the workshop. Finally, she urged the Members to take full advantage of the workshop to gain deeper understanding of the climate change problem with a view of enhancing their oversight, legislative and representation functions in addressing the problem at the national, regional and international level. She concluded by wishing the Hon. Members fruitful deliberations.

3.1.2. Statement by the East African Community Secretariat

Hon. Jesca Eriyo, EAC Deputy Secretary General for Productive and Social Sectors, welcomed the Honourable Members to the Workshop and thanked them for finding time to deliberate on climate change issues during the early days of the 3rd Assembly. She highlighted some of the key achievements that EAC had made over the last few years. She particularly mentioned the following regional climate change policy documents:

- (i) *the EAC Climate Change Policy that was approved by the Heads of State during the 9th Extra Ordinary Summit held in April 2011 in Dar es Salaam;*
- (ii) *the draft EAC Climate Change Strategy;*
- (iii) *the draft EAC Climate Change Master Plan;*
- (iv) *the Draft Operational Modalities for the EAC Climate Change Fund;*
- (v) *the Draft Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Strategy.*

She also informed the Members that a draft Technical Proposal for the Establishment of the EAC Climate Change Function has been developed to guide the establishment of a Regional Climate Change Coordination Structure.

In conclusion she hailed the collaboration between EAC Secretariat and EALA in organizing and facilitating the workshop and wished the Members fruitful deliberations.

Madam Speaker,

3.2. Presentations

3.2.1. Climate Change and Agriculture: Role of Parliamentarians

Mr. George Wamukoya, COMESA's *Climate Change Advisor*, introduced the subject matter linking it to agriculture sector that is one of the key sectors of EAC Partner States. He observed that climate change is a present reality and will

continue to pose huge threats to sustainable development and particularly in the agricultural sector given its importance.

With regards to the status of agriculture adaptation and mitigation in the context of climate change international policy negotiations under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), he noted that agriculture sector plays a critical role in food security, poverty reduction and economic growth and sustainable development in general. He underscored that agriculture is most vulnerable to climate variability and climate change and at the same time is a significant contributor to greenhouse gas emission accounting for 14% of global emissions, and has therefore significant potential to sequester. This gives the sector its special opportunity in contributing to climate change adaptation and mitigation measures.

On the status of agriculture in the UNFCCC negotiations, he observed that with the critical role of agriculture in national development, all African countries agreed that agriculture is integral under UNFCCC (Art. 2 and 4.1 of the Convention). Negotiations on agriculture under the UNFCCC process has evolved over the last few years and a decision on agriculture was expected at the forthcoming 18th Session of the Conference of Parties (COP18) scheduled to commence from 26th November to 7th December in Doha, Qatar. This was preceded by the discussions between the Parties on agriculture text initiated in Copenhagen and further discussed in Durban in 2009 and 2011 respectively.

He highlighted the following as the role of parliamentarians: **influencing climate-related policies and legislation; oversight function; community representation and more engagement in this sector.** In conclusion he called for building the knowledge-base and capacity of parliamentarians to engage more in the climate change agenda as the first step towards securing appropriate responses to the adverse impacts of climate change.

In conclusion, the resource person urged EAC Partner States including **Members of EALA and National Parliaments to therefore actively play their roles towards accelerating the regional and national adaptation and mitigation responses informed by the best available scientific information as well as reinforcing efforts at the regional and international arena under the UNFCCC negotiations.**

The detailed presentations can be accessed on the EALA website; www.eala.org.

3.2.2. EAC Climate Change Response Measures: EAC CC Policy Framework, the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) and the Manila Parliamentary Call of Action on Disaster Risk Reduction.

EAC Secretariat's technical staff from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources made presentations on the Status of Climate Change and Disaster in the region and strategies put in place by EAC to address them. The presentations

included: EAC's Climate Change Policy framework that includes the EAC Climate Change Strategy and Master Plan and the Establishment of the EAC Climate Change Fund, The EAC Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (DRRM) Strategy, and the implementation of the Manila Parliamentary Call for Action on Disaster Risk Reduction.

Ms. Wivine Ntamubano, the Principal Environment and Natural Resources Officer (PENRO) briefed on the EAC's efforts to respond to the negative impacts of climate change in terms of Policies, Institutional arrangements and plans, projects and programmes undertaken.

She also briefed participants on the EAC measures put in place to address Disasters in the region and the implementation of the Manila Call for Action of Parliamentarians of 2008. The Manila Call identifies the need to increase the awareness and understanding by all parliamentarians of the importance of disaster risk reduction in protecting the people and in strengthening development. Through the Manila Call, Parliamentarians called upon national governments to take necessary measures relating to mainstreaming disaster risk reduction into development policies, programmes, practices including allocating at least 1% of national budgets towards disaster relief and recovery, and enhancing political commitment on DRR.

The Members were informed that during the 2nd EALA's fourth meeting of the second session, which was held in Arusha on 16th-28th February, 2009, deliberated on the report of the Committee on Agriculture, Tourism and Natural Resources and passed a motion for adoption of the Manila Call for Action of Parliamentarians on Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation. EAC has since developed a Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Strategy.

Mr. Brian Otiende, the EAC Climate Change Coordinator (CCC), briefed participants on the status of climate Change in the East African Region. He highlighted the aim, goal and objectives of the EAC Climate Change Policy with a focus on the policy framework for the implementation of the Policy; it alludes to the differentiated roles and responsibilities for various EAC policy organs and institutions.

Participants were also informed that several climate change programmes and projects had been initiated with funding from development partners and were currently under implementation. The linkages between climate change adaptation as one of the key climate change response measures and disaster risk reduction and management was also highlighted noting that over 80% of natural disasters in the region are climatic related (droughts, floods and their related disasters such as landslides).

The Presentations can be accessed on EALA website: www.eala.org.

3. 3. FIELD VISIT TO THE SERENGETI NATIONAL PARK AND THE SHORES OF LAKE VICTORIA

To showcase the reality and impact of Climate Change on Natural Resources specifically on water, biodiversity, land, and economic activities in the Lake Victoria region the Hon. Members visited the following sites:

- (i) Serengeti National Park that is renowned with international recognition as a result of the wildebeest migration between Serengeti National Park in the United Republic of Tanzania and Maasai Mara National Park in the Republic of Kenya.
- (ii) fish market in Kirumba areas that serves as a regional and international market;
- (iii) Mwanza Harbour where the docking port of Lake Victoria showcases the decrease of water level in the lake and its impact on navigation;
- (iv) Lake cruise on Lake Victoria to Saa Nane Island National Park recently gazetted as a National Game Parks, located 2km Southwest from Mwanza City Centre and home to different species of wild animals such as monkeys, vervet monkeys, porcupines and crocodiles.

The site visit was also an opportunity for the workshop participants to interact with nature and appreciate the diversity and beauty of the region's natural resources and associated socio-economic activities.

4.0. EMERGING ISSUES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Madam Speaker, the Committee observed and recommended the following arising from the workshop presentations, the site visits and discussions:

4.1. Emerging Issues and Recommendations from the workshop

4.1.1. Emerging issues.

Following the presentations, participants deliberated on the matters arising and observed as follows:

- (i) the forthcoming 18th Session of the Conference of Parties to the UNFCCC also serving as the Meeting of Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (COP18/CMP8) to be held from 26th November to 7th December 2012 in Doha, Qatar is of critical importance given that negotiations for a new Protocol to succeed the Kyoto Protocol under the Ad hoc Working Group on the Durban Platform (ADP) should start and Africa needs to ensure its concerns are well taken into consideration from the onset; **As we report today, note that the negotiations on the Kyoto Protocol have not been concluded and have been postponed.**
- (ii) The need for EALA Parliamentarians to participate in the consolidation of Africa's common position on climate change with a focus on areas of immediate importance and priority to the region through national and

- regional roundtable talks similar to those facilitated by the EAC Secretariat in the run up to COP15 in 2009;
- (iii) The need for East Africa to identify priority areas of interest within the international climate change negotiations and focus its efforts on the same similar to COMIFAC's focus on forest;
 - (iv) The need for Ministries responsible for Environment in Partner States to identify innovative ways of adequately preparing Ministers to negotiate effectively;
 - (v) EAC has a unique opportunity to actively engage and influence the climate change negotiations given its integrated nature and the mandate given by the EAC Treaty;
 - (vi) Africa's share of the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) is very low with Africa accounting for almost 2.5% of all CDM projects most of which are in South Africa and Egypt which are developing countries with economies in transition;
 - (vii) The need to increase regional capacity to attract more CDM projects in as much as carbon prices have drastically fluctuated;
 - (viii) EAC Secretariat has been given provisional accreditation under the UNFCCC as an observer organization (no negotiating/voting right) pending formal approval by the COP18/CMP8 in December 2012;
 - (ix) weak and uncoordinated negotiating teams for EAC and Africa
 - (x) need to enhance the capacity for detecting and predicting climate change and particularly climatic related disasters in the region as well as addressing the language barriers in communicating climate change to local communities in the region;
 - (xi) need to fast track the operationalization of the EAC Climate Change Fund established in 2010 through the necessary legal instruments;
 - (xii) It was observed that there was too much degradation of nature in Serengeti National Park and water Hyacinth as well as worrying decrease of water levels in Lake Victoria

4.1.2. Recommendations

- (i) EAC should establish a regional negotiating team on Climate Change and environment issues to enable it conduct proper negotiations;
- (ii) East African Community should build synergies with other Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and the African Union (AU) towards consolidating and advancing a common African position on climate change through joint programming;
- (iii) EAC Secretariat to concentrate its attention on mobilization of resources while Partner States need to be responsible for the implementation of actual projects and activities at the national level for the effective implementation of regional policies/programmes with tangible impact;
- (iv) The East African Legislative Assembly should spearhead establishment of a regional network of Parliamentary Committees handling issues of Climate Change to adequately address climate change issues more technically and strategically.
- (v) EALA should advocate for additional internal financial resources to be

- allocated towards the implementation of regional climate change and disaster risk reduction programmes and activities;
- (vi) EALA should champion for the identification of internal sources of funding from EAC Partner States that can be directed towards supporting and facilitating the participation of regional negotiators and reduce over dependence on funding from development partners who usually support negotiators' travels;
- (vii) EAC Secretariat and EALA should work together towards ensuring that necessary technical and legal procedures are finalized and initiated respectively to fully operationalize the EAC Climate Change Fund'
- (viii) Members of EALA and those from National Parliaments should actively play their roles towards accelerating the regional and national adaptation and mitigation responses informed by the best available scientific information as well as reinforcing efforts at the regional and international arena under the UNFCCC negotiations;
- (ix) Lake Victoria Basin Commission should enhance their efforts towards prevention of degradation of Lake Victoria.
- (x) EAC Secretariat and Partner States should develop a capacity building programme for increasing climate change research and observatory skills for climate change detection and prediction ; such a programme should enhance skills of regional climate change negotiators and should focus on publishing EAC Climate Change Policy Instruments into popular version; it should equally facilitate translation of those instruments into local languages;
- (xi) The Council should bring a Bill on operationalization of the Climate Change Fund to give it a legal basis

5.0. WAY FORWARD

From the technical presentations, discussions, observations and recommendations made during the workshop and field visits , participants drafted an EALA Resolution on Climate Change hereto attached as ***Annex II*** as a way forward.

6.0. CONCLUSION

The Sensitization Workshop on Climate Change for Parliamentarians was very successful and met the expectations of members. Committee Members did enhance their knowledge in that sector which for some was a new area. They were also satisfied by the study tours which allowed them to witness impacts of Climate change.

Members appreciated the work being done by the EAC Secretariat in relation to Climate Change and urged them to keep up the good effort.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Madam Speaker ;

Before I end my presentation, I wish to thank a number of people who supported us and made this activity successful.

The Committee on Agriculture, Tourism and Natural Resources of the East African Legislative Assembly would like to acknowledge and express deep appreciation to the Common Market for East and Southern Africa (COMESA) for financing this activity under the EAC Secretariat.

The Committee would like to thank the Secretary General through the Deputy Secretary General of Productive and Social Sectors, Ms. Jesca Eriyo for the support accorded to the EALA Committee in the execution of this workshop;

Further, special thanks go to Dr. George Wamukoya, the core facilitator for the insightful presentations he made during the workshop.

The Office of the Hon. Speaker and the Clerk EALA for the support and for granting leave to the Committee to enable them attend this very important workshop. Appreciation is also extended to EAC Staff: the Principal Environmental Officer, Ms. Wivine Ntamubano and the Climate Change Coordinator of the East African Community, Mr. Brian Otiende in the EAC Secretariat for their facilitation and cooperation.

And finally, the EALA staff that facilitated the Members of the Committees. To all of them, we say thank you.

Madam Speaker, I beg to move that this report be adopted with Recommendations and urge the House to grant leave to the Committee to move a Motion to introduce the Resolution of the Workshop before the House for debate and adoption at an appropriate time.

ANNEX I: LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

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