

Press release

Reviewing Tanzania's New Environment Policy through future scenarios

Morogoro, Tanzania, 17 February. Policy -makers, researchers, and development practitioners are developing socio-economic and climate scenarios for the future of Tanzania to review the country's new Environment Policy. The scenarios created will help to identify and address any gaps in the new policy.

This process starts with a workshop organized by the Policy Action on Climate Change Adaptation (PACCA) project in collaboration with the Division of Environment at the Vice President's office and the University of Oxford on 16 – 17 February in Morogoro, Tanzania.

The PACCA project was launched last year is supporting Uganda and Tanzania in the development of policies that are climate resilient; it is supported by the CGIAR Research Program on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security (CCAFS) Flagship on "Policies and Institutions on Climate-Resilient Food Systems", and led by the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA).

Speaking at the official opening of the workshop, Dr Julius Ningu, the Director of the Division of Environment at the Vice President's Office, noted that the workshop came at an opportune moment as the country was revising its Environmental Policy.

He noted the country's current National Environmental Policy had been set up in 1997 and was therefore not responsive to some of the emerging environmental issues. These included climate change, biofuels, and genetically modified organisms as well as invasive alien species and electronic and electronic equipment wastes (e-Wastes). Therefore the Government through the Vice President's Office had initiated a comprehensive review of the policy.

"The process has been on-going and the consultant, the Economic and Social Research Foundation (ERSF), has submitted the first draft. The Technical Review Panel and the Multi-Sectoral Task Force have both reviewed this and submitted their comments," he said. "The participatory scenarios developed are used to inform this ongoing review process."

Dr Edidah Ampaire, from IITA Uganda and the PACCA Project Coordinator, noted that the scenarios were important tools to help analyze the New Environmental Policy. "What we want to see is an inclusive and better informed policy that is climate resilient and provides for the well-guided investment of resources," she said.

The participants are adapting and creating future scenarios to analyze the key themes of the policy: environment and ecosystem, agriculture and land use, industry and services, socio-economic issues and health, science, innovation and resilience.

“The use of scenarios helps policy makers engage strategically with such complex and uncertain issues as climate change. The participants developed diverse, challenging scenarios and used them to ‘crash test’ the policy to understand its strengths and weaknesses, get ideas to improve on it and make it more robust” said Dr Joost Vervoort, the CCAFS Scenarios Officer from the Environmental Change Institute, Oxford University.

Participants at the workshop were drawn from the Vice President’s Office, Prime Minister’s Office, Ministries of Agriculture, of Livestock and Fisheries Development, Natural Resources and Tourism, Water, Health and Community Welfare, Transport, and Education and Vocational Training. Also present were representatives from the National Environmental Council (NEMC), the Universities of Sokoine and Ardhi, and the International Centre for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT). The scenario-guided recommendations will contribute to the new Environmental Policy under review, which will move to broader public consultation later in 2015.

A second scenario-guided policy development meeting will be held in Uganda, 19 – 20 February.

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About CCAFS

The CGIAR Research Program on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security (CCAFS) is a strategic partnership of CGIAR and Future Earth, led by the International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT). CCAFS brings together the world’s best researchers in agricultural science, development research, climate science and earth system science, to identify and address the most important interactions, synergies and tradeoffs between climate change, agriculture and food security. www.ccafs.cgiar.org

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