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INFORSE Members in Tanzania Agree on Actions to Promote Implementation of the Paris Agreement, the Sustainable Energy for All Initiative and SDGs in East Africa



On 10th of July 2018, the Tanzania Traditional Energy Development and Environment Organization (TaTEDO) organized a national meeting for potential members of the International Network for Sustainable Energy (INFORSE) in Dar es Salaam, that have worked through different sustainable energy and climate change interventions in Tanzania. The theme of the meeting was ‘to promote dialogue through INFORSE network in East Africa to disseminate and sustain efforts of promoting pro-poor sustainable energy, climate change and local low emission solutions.

INFORSE Network has had active membership in East Africa for more than 10 years, is a worldwide network consisting of 140 Non-Governmental Organizations working in about 60 countries to promote sustainable energy and social development.

The INFORSE East Africa Guidelines and Work Program (2018 – 2021) were adopted by Partners: TaTEDO, UCSD & SusWatch Kenya in Nairobi (May 2018)

The overall objective of the National INFORSE meeting was to discuss issues that concern the network within the country with the aim of improving relationships between partners in order to continue to promote pro-poor sustainable energy and low emissions solutions in Tanzania and East Africa. The network meeting specifically discussed how to strengthen the INFORSE Network in Tanzania. The meeting also introduced the recently adopted INFORSE Network guidelines, and the work programme in the period 2018 to 2021 to the participants.

INFORSE East Africa Network guidelines are intended to support INFORSE members in East Africa to develop sustainable energy services, conserve environment and develop relationships at national, regional and international levels, in line with INFORSE’s vision, mission, opportunities, and practices. In these guidelines, INFORSE members have agreed to work in two main functional areas. These are promotion of the access to sustainable energy services; and mitigating and adapting to climate change. In order to implement these guidelines, the network plans to create partnership and network with other actors. The members of the network through this approach will commit their time, people and knowledge. This will be done through either working jointly at national level, consortium at regional level and collaboration between either national or regional levels



TaTEDO’s Mary Swai making a presentation at the meeting

The meeting also discussed the INFORSE East Africa Work Program (2018 – 2021) prepared and adopted in May 2018 by the INFORSE East Africa partners (TaTEDO, Uganda Coalition for Sustainable Development, and SusWatch Kenya) in Nairobi. The Tanzania meeting agreed on several activities that can be undertaken under in the country. These include joint CSO advocacy, capacity building, technology innovation and transfer, and networking. The meeting also emphasized that the network is open for new ideas and innovations from members and non-members, help ensuring local people are benefitting from large renewable installation (solar parks, wind parts. etc.). It was also agreed to develop guidelines and document best practices on how local population can be engaged during planning and installation of large renewable energy installations.

At the end of the meeting, participants put forward proposals on how to strengthen INFORSE East African in Tanzania. These include the need to encourage more members to join the INFORSE network in order to expand sustainable energy and climate change activities to the large section of the population, Sustenance of skills development, networking and information sharing, and collaboration in order to come up with joint projects at local, national and regional (East Africa) levels. The meeting also called for continued follow up and implementation of the Paris Agreement implementation and Sustainable energy for all Initiative, and the SDG Framework as stipulated in the INFORSE East Africa Guidelines.

The INFORSE Network was established in Rio de Janeiro in 1992 to secure follow-up in the political decision sat the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development. It follows and influences sustainable energy issues in international negotiations since 1998, and United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) since 2002.

Civil Society facilitate development of Climate Change Policies for Kenya’s Lake Victoria Counties



Community training on the devolved system of govt. Photo: SusWatch Kenya

The devolved system of government that came into play with the promulgation of the Kenyan Constitution in 2010, set the stage for the acceleration of development through smaller administration units, termed counties. This would be done through the allocation of funds from the national budget that would go into improving healthcare, agriculture, county transport, education, implementation of specific government policies on natural resources and environmental conservation among other sectors.

With the onset of climate change and its negative impacts on sectors that drive the economy of the counties and the country such as agriculture and energy, several climate legislations were developed to tackle the problem. One of these legislations is the Climate Change Act which was assented by the President of the Republic of Kenya in 2016 which stipulates that there should be the establishment of a climate change desk that will oversee the utilization of climate change funds within the counties. Thus, the National Treasury will allocate funds to the counties from the consolidated funds for programmes that are geared towards climate change adaptation and mitigation.

In order to get maximum results from these funds, it is imperative that the counties develop dedicated policies stemming from the national Climate Change Act (2016) which will guide the counties interventions in the area of climate change. It is under this premise that SUSWATCH Kenya through the Devolution and Climate Change Adaptation in Western Kenya Programme has embarked on the formulation of a Climate Change Policy for the Lakeside Kisumu and Homabay Counties. In liaison with the established Climate Change Directorate in Kisumu County, SUSWATCH, Transparency International and Friedrich Ebert Stiftung, facilitated the generation of a policy that would serve the citizenry of Kisumu County.



Stakeholder meeting on climate change in session. Photo: SusWatch Kenya

Prior to the drafting of the document, several awareness creation sessions were conducted to shed light on the climate change scenario within the county and why there is a need for the policy.

In a series of workshops, the County Executive Committee, County Environment Committee, Chief Officers, Members of the County Assembly, Technical officers and Ward administrators were sensitized. Albeit there were financial challenges emanating from the County government side, a draft document was generated and a validation session on it conducted. The document now awaits presentation to the county assembly.

Challenges

- Counties do not allocate enough funds towards the departments that are to deal with climate change issues
- Delay in transferring the allocated funds to relevant departments affects execution of climate change actions

In similar fashion, the SUSWATCH team approached the relevant department at the County Government of Homabay to kick-start the development of the county policy on climate change in 2017.

Unfortunately, the prior engagement with the identified department did not carry on as planned due to a limitation of staff capacity at the department. The baton was therefore passed on to the department of water, forestry and natural resources. In as much as the process of getting the MoU signed between the department and

SUSWATCH Kenya took a long while, the document was finally ready and the first meeting engaging the climate change technical committee was held. A detailed work plan has since been developed with a timeline of 3 months for the generation of the policy. The deadline for this task is December 2018. Through this collaboration with the county government, it was noted with concern that the counties do not allocate enough funds towards the departments that are to deal with climate change issues. Also delays in funds transfer to the departments greatly affected how some activities were conducted during the development of the policy for Kisumu County, therefore dragging the process further.

It was also difficult to get the high ranking county officials to participate in meetings due to their busy schedules. However, all in all, SUSWATCH Kenya, Transparency International and Friedrich Ebert Stiftung worked quite well with the directorate to realize their goal. When implemented, the Climate Change policies will ensure streamlined functioning of the various county departments. More so the climate change directorate therefore improving the lives of the Lakeside people of Kisumu and Homabay.

Summary of Kenya's Climate Change Policy and Legislative framework

- Kenya launched its National Climate Change Response Strategy (NCCRS) in 2010 and a National Climate Change Action Plan (NCCAP 2013-2017) in 2013.
- The NCCAP has adaptation is the main priority for the country because of the adverse socio-economic impacts related to climate change being experienced and the ever increasing vulnerabilities of the different sectors.
- The NCCAP notes that Kenya's recommended approach for addressing climate change is mainstreaming of climate change actions in development planning, budgeting and implementation.
- Kenya also has a national adaptation plan (NAP) that builds on the NCCRS and the NCCAP. It aims to consolidate Kenya's vision on adaptation supported by macro-level adaptation actions that relate with the economic sectors and county level vulnerabilities to enhance long term resilience and adaptive capacity. This NAP presents adaptation actions that cover the time frame 2015-2030, and is the basis for the adaptation component of Kenya's Intended Nationally Determined Contribution (INDC)
- The NAP is anchored in the Constitution of Kenya and Vision 2030. It also aligns itself with the Medium Term Plan (MTP) and Medium-Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF) planning processes.
- The NAP is also aligned with the Climate Change Act that was enacted into law in May 2016.