



**FORUM CC**

**SUMMARIZED REPORT OF THE NATIONAL  
CLIMATE CHANGE HEARING  
TANZANIA**

**Dar es Salaam, 2nd December 2009**

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# SUMMARIZED REPORT OF THE NATIONAL CLIMATE CHANGE HEARING TANZANIA

## THE PANELISTS

Hon. Dr. Batilda Burian, Minister of State, Vice President's Office  
(Environment)

Prof. Pius Yanda, Director, Institute for Resource Assessment, University of  
Dar-es-Salaam

Dr. Emmanuel Mpetu, Director for Applied Research, Tanzania Meteorological Agency

Mr. Adam Mwarabu, Coordinator, Pastoralists Indigenous Community Development Organization,  
and Member, PINGOS Forum

Mr. Stanford Chabongo, Chairman, MVIWATA (Tanzania Network of Farmer Cooperatives)

Ms. Carola Kinasha, Singer and Activist

## THE CLIMATE WITNESSES

Godwick J. Mgalusi

Kilosa, Morogoro

(Organized by MVIWATA - Tanzania Network of Farmer Associations)

Judith Meing'arana

Longido, Arusha

(Organized by Longido Community Development Organization)

Mariaclara Rogers

Jangwani High School Student, Dar-es-Salaam

(Organized by Global Networks of Religions for Children)

Sululu Akida

Saadani, Bagamoyo, Coast Region

(Organized by World Wildlife Fund - WWF)

Hawa Hassani

Bangalala, Same District, Kilimanjaro Region

(Organized by WWF)

Daudi Mligula

Njombe, Iringa Region

(Organized by WWF)

Revocatus Njau

Usambara Mountains, Tanga

(Organized by MJUMITA – Tanzania's Network for Community Forest Management)

Zaina Chezea

Kibaha, Coast Region, Dar-es-Salaam

(Organized by MJUMITA)

Omari Nyange

Chumbe Island, Zanzibar

(Organized by Chumbe Island Coral Park)



*Ms. Euster Kibona, Convener-Forum CC*



*Hawa Hassani  
Witness from Bangalala, Same District,  
Kilimanjaro Region*



*Rage  
Tanzanian Rap Artist*

## OVERVIEW OF THE EVENT

The National Hearing about the Impact of Climate Change on Tanzanians provided an opportunity for us to understand how individual people battle with the negative impacts of climate change in their daily lives. This summarized report is produced especially for the international conference on climate change in Copenhagen, Denmark in December 2009. The testimonies profiled here will provide the Tanzanian negotiating team and international partners with an account of the real impact of climate change on ordinary people. The testimonies describe the impact of climate change on individual circumstances, families, and local economies, the implication being that as a whole, the individual experiences speak for the national experience. The testimonies also present options for going forward with collaborative problem solving that links the individual, local, national and international.

## OPENING STATEMENT BY MINISTER OF STATE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, HON. DR. BATILDA BURIAN



*Hon. Dr. Batilda Burian, Minister of State, Vice President's Office (Environment)*

These types of events are one important way of sending a message to all citizens about the challenges of climate change. Sufficient understanding of climate change and its impacts will help us create strategies to address this problem.

We are all witness to a three-year drought that has hit areas of northern Tanzania, damaging the economy, livestock herds and food supplies. Therefore, my friends, today's testimonies show how these climate changes impact people's daily lives and allow us to define our role in improving the situation.

We will make purposeful efforts to make sure our role in dealing with the problem makes an impact on reducing degradation of forests. It is our common responsibility to ensure that the environment is conserved sustainably

through tree-planting and sustainable agriculture. Private institutes and companies have the responsibility, not only to support other institutions and people, but to also reduce their carbon emissions. We will collaborate to create plans that enable us to have a "green" economy that minimizes greenhouse gas emissions.

There are also opportunities within the issue of climate change. Citizens can profit especially from participation in the effort to reduce greenhouse gases. Plans for participation in the so-called carbon markets were adapted from trainings provided by civil society organizations. As such, guidelines for ongoing partnerships were developed.

Our poor country cannot wait for those who cause the climate problem to make a decision. We insist all countries continue to reduce their carbon emissions. I would like to congratulate those countries, like China, which have answered this call and have shown a desire to reduce emissions by 40-45% to the levels of 2005. Other countries, such as Japan and the European Union, have also pledged reductions.

It is our hope that countries like the United States will take leadership on this issue as was the case in other issues such as good governance. We cannot continue to wait. "Inaction is not an option" because otherwise the costs of dealing with climate change will increase.

## HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE TESTIMONIES

The testimonies summarized here tell the story of how climate change has influenced the cycle of poverty. These are first-hand stories of drought, ecosystem changes, hunger, debt, and new pressures on natural resources. Despite the severe conditions facing their communities, these representatives brought with them a message of unity and hope for a deal at Copenhagen that will both reverse global warming in the long term and assist climate-impacted communities to adapt to the harmful changes. During the debate at Copenhagen in December 2009, these testimonies will link international policy-makers to the real impacts of climate change, as felt by people in rural and urban Tanzania.

### Godwick Mgalusi

Kigea Village, Kilosa District, Morogoro Region

The rain is coming less and less and we really started to begin to notice in the late 1960s. Things got so bad at one point that people even needed to eat pumba – maize shells. Livestock diseases started becoming rampant and, even me, I lost cattle. There is one livestock disease that erupts around May and it can really finish all your cattle. The situation is tough. Last year I did not harvest any crops despite spending 600,000 Tanzanian shillings

(-500 USD) on seed, fertilizer and hiring oxen for plowing. We farmers depend on oxen for plowing but you have to sell them for food. Then the cattle get sick or die anyway so there is no profit. We do a couple things to adjust our lives to the situation, but there is no clear answer. Sometimes we even fall back on using forest resources for charcoaling or timber to raise money to survive. I now have debts and am struggling to support my family.

**Judith Meing'arana**

**Longido village, Longido District, Arusha Region**

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A couple years ago we were getting rain regularly, twice a year. But these days this is no longer the case. Due to the severe drought and hunger men have even left to go find work in the cities and the women and kids struggle on their own to live. Our government has supplied food aid but the drought persists. Our government is campaigning for a green revolution – “Kilimo Kwanza” – putting agriculture first. But how can a pastoralist leave livestock herding and suddenly start farming? Pastoralists like the people in Longido should be told “Ufugaji Kwanza” – Pastoralism First – and should also be assisted to use the best practices of livestock keeping.

**Mariaclara Rogers**

**Dar-es-Salaam City**

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In Dar-es-Salaam we feel the temperature going up and rivers like the Msimbazi are drying up. Food prices in the city are on the rise there are no crops upcountry. The rains come without a particular schedule. We high school students suggest improvements to higher education so that youth can be the future ambassadors about environmental issues.

**Sululu Akida**

**Sadaani, Bagamoyo, Coast Region**

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These days the wind is becoming more severe, and more frighteningly the monsoon winds, kusi and kaskasi, no longer follow their well-known annual patterns. We don't know anymore when we can find fish and when it is safe to go out to the ocean. Because of reduced rainfall, the rivers along the Sadaani coastal area are drying up. The small fish along the shore which depend on the mixture of salt and fresh water from the river outlets are dying. Many people have stopped fishing and gone into small business. Some people are leaving the area. Due to this climate situation, women are even being abandoned as their husbands leave for town in search of a more dependable income than fishing.

**Hawa Hassani**

**Bangalala, Same, Kilimanjaro Region**

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Our area used to be famous for its mangoes, cassava and potatoes, but these water intense foods are not available anymore because of the climate changes. Our local economy depended on these crops but now farmers have built up debts, and many children can no longer attend school as parents cannot pay for them. Now many of us have had to stop cultivating crops for food and income, and are trying to gain a living by other means.

**Daudi Mligula**

**Njombe, Iringa Region**

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There are so many mosquitoes these days. Before there were no mosquitoes in our highlands, but now people are falling ill to malaria much more often than in the past. The district government might have to do something about the mosquito problem. The government campaign known as Kilimo Kwanza – Agriculture First – is nice but the people are going to be wiped out by malaria. The campaign would be more relevant for us if it were changed to Afya Kwanza – Health First.

**Revocatus Njau**

**Usambara Mountains, Tanga Region**

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In our heavily forested area of Usambara people grow a lot of tea. After the crops failed due to the changes in the rain patterns people entered the forests to clear new farms. They also cleared forest to graze cattle which were undernourished from other drought-plagued areas. These are the same forests that people also depend on for firewood and charcoal for cooking. With the local economy down due to crop failures, residents were unable to pay the regular contributions to the village for projects like school building, so they just went to the forests to cut trees. When the local government does not have money for public services people are forced to cut the trees and sell the timber to cover basic building needs.

**Zaina Chezea**

**Kipangege Village, Kibaha District, Dar-es-Salaam Region**

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Managing forests is like a waste of time when you could be making money for your family. We really depend on the forests for charcoal in order to survive. When agriculture was a reliable way of making a living people would protect the forest. Now that the climate has changed so that agriculture is no longer viable, people continue to pretend to protect forests, but actually they



*Omari Nyange  
Witness from Chumbe Island, Zanzibar*

go into the forest and exploit it to bring in money. We need to re-think joint forest management in the light of climate change. We request that the government hear our cry and help us come up with some alternative strategies for forest management.

**Omari Nyange  
Chumbe Island, Zanzibar**

A lot of the coral that fish depend on around Zanzibar has been affected by climate change. The required temperature for a healthy coral reef is between 18-26 degrees Celsius. If this temperature increases you get a serious problem which kills the algae growing on the corals which is in turn eaten by the fish that ends up in fish markets along the coast. Corals are losing their colour and becoming white. Also sea levels are clearly rising and this we can measure against what we know. In some places in Zanzibar people used to grow rice but now because of the rising water level, the rice plains have filled with salt water and rice crops are failing.

## RESPONSES FROM THE PANEL

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These witnesses are describing things that are backed up scientifically. Science also provides evidence on the climate's impact on agriculture. There may also be benefits, for example, in the some parts of the country papaya trees were just ornamental. Due to temperature changes they are starting to bear fruit.

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These witnesses are telling the truth, but there could be more. There are several ways in which to expand the testimonies. In northern Longido, for example, even the seasons between the rainy seasons are changing. We cannot avoid these changes immediately. It will take

a long time to adapt. We are going to Copenhagen to work out a strategy for a long term solution. Most of the testimony givers are people under age 40, who may not know the full extent of the changes. We need to do more in depth work to know exactly how the changes are taking place.

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We need common but differentiated responsibility in terms of dealing with the climate. The responsibility for conserving and protecting the environment depends on financial support. There is a draft mechanism for getting payments for ecological services such as carbon, but it still needs to be debated. We in the government and non-governmental organizations must work together to build a friendly and a collaborative strategy which will help to find a solution. This must also be a "green" pathway to growth.

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When we consider options for adaptation to climate change we must work within a community's cultural context. The issue of size of livestock herds is an example. If you see a large herd of cattle passing by, you might think all the cows belong to one person. However, often cattle are herded communally. We may be going towards western ways rather than remembering our customary ways.

## PANELISTS RECOMMENDATIONS

The panelists met to share their reflections on the testimonies given and made the following recommendations:

1. Based on the fact that different organizations take varying approaches to respond to climate change, it is imperative that a Climate Change (CC) national framework be developed to guide community adaptation measures.
2. Continued community education and sensitization is critical for smooth and successful implementation of programs that aim to minimize the impact of CC.
3. Civil society organizations and other community-based groups should enhance advocacy for implementation of environment friendly policies.
4. Whereas the role of technology in mitigating climate change impact cannot be overemphasized, it is equally important for climate change actors to also give priority to indigenous practices, knowledge and skills by documenting and integrating them in a CC national framework.
5. While appreciating the government's role in addressing CC issues, it is important that it continues to mobilize resources from internal and external sources to spearhead the effective implementation of the National

Adaptation Program of Action (NAPA), which may include a review of the program to accommodate emerging issues and experiences.

6. As the international community and Tanzania continue to gather evidence on the differential impact of climate change on weather patterns and on communities around the world, more research is needed to determine the magnitude of the CC impact so that appropriate adaptation measures are implemented and monitored.

## PROGRAMME

- 10:00 – 10:30 Arrivals with tea and registration
- 10:30 - 10:40 Opening Event (cultural activity)
- 10:40 – 10:55 Introduction and welcome
- 10:55 – 11:10 Opening Speech by Hon. Dr. Batilda Burian, Minister of State, Vice President's Office (Environment)
- 11:10 – 12:00 Testimonies
- 12:00 – 12:10 Questions from the Panel
- 12:10 – 12:20 Cultural activity
- 12:20 – 13:00 Book project findings Climate Witness Videos (WWF) Additional experiences from the audience Expert inputs
- 13:00 – 13:20 Panel responses
- 13:20 – 13:30 Forum CC responses--Euster Kibona (Convener)
- 13:30 – 13:35 Meeting closes
- 13:35 – 14:30 Lunch and media events

## LOOKING FOR A DEAL AT COP15

In December 2009, governments from around the world will gather in Denmark for an important meeting to negotiate and try to reach a deal to effectively tackle global climate change. This meeting is the 15th Conference of Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and 5th Meeting of Parties to the Kyoto Protocol. The meeting is popularly called CoP15.

We can now all see that the climate of our planet is changing. A group of over 100 scientists from around the world, called the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), say that 90% of this change is due to human activities that emit greenhouse gasses, such as power generation, driving, flying, deforestation, agriculture and industry. The IPCC warns that impacts are already being felt and further changes could be abrupt and irreversible. They say that greenhouse gas emissions must be reduced quickly to avoid a dangerous increase in temperatures world-wide.

Climate change is not just a scientific problem. It is a

political problem. Global green house gas levels are rising steadily, making reductions (mitigation) very urgent. Some climate change is already unavoidable, so societies must also increase resilience to climatic changes and reduce negative impacts (adaptation). Governments are trying to hammer out an agreement on how to tackle these climate challenges, but they are not acting with the urgency that the science tells us is needed. COP15 is an important deadline.

Developing countries insist that they must deal with and be supported in dealing with immediate poverty reduction and social issues that are exacerbated by climate changes. Many countries that are most vulnerable to climate change are those with the lowest emissions, especially the Least Developed Countries and the Small Island States. In accordance with the IPCCs findings, less developed countries are calling for emission cuts of 45% below the 1990 levels by 2020, but so far developed countries are only proposing cuts of between 16 and 23%.

## FORUMCC –THE TANZANIA CIVIL SOCIETY FORUM ON CLIMATE CHANGE

Since the international community increased open dialogue on climate change over the past year, a new collaboration of civil society organizations in Tanzania came together to establish ForumCC -- the Tanzanian Civil Society Forum on Climate Change. ForumCC receives endorsement from a wide range of groups that agree on the need for more coordination, information sharing and engagement between civil society, government and the private sector around policies, positions and national implementation of responses to climate change.

Climate change affects community rights and environmental conservation across a range of issues in Tanzania. Communities living near forests, around wild-life areas, near marine resources such as oceans and lakes, and leading both pastoralist and sedentary livelihoods are particularly vulnerable to the impact of climate change. Climate change exacerbates existing natural resource conflicts. Therefore, ForumCC is calling for a fair, safe and binding deal in Copenhagen and effective implementation of adaptation and mitigation initiatives in Tanzania that will build the resilience of communities most vulnerable to the increasing impact of climate change.

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