

Preface

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Adverse impact of climate change that is already noticeable in many countries poses serious challenges to sustainable livelihoods and economic development, particularly for least developed countries like Tanzania. In recognition of these challenges, the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania and the Kingdom of Norway are committed to work together to address the problems. In this regard, the two governments have entered into a bilateral agreement in order to achieve reductions in greenhouse gas emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in Tanzania. The emphasis is to enhance Carbon (C) sequestration and storage through sustainable forest management and conservation of existing C stocks. This approach will improve livelihoods of people and ensure better adaptation to the impacts of climate change. In response to the initiative, Sokoine University of Agriculture and collaborating institutions; the University of Dar es Salaam, Ardhi University and Tanzania Meteorological Agency, as well as Norwegian University of Life Sciences (UMB) and other Norwegian partners are implementing a capacity building Climate Change Impacts, Adaptation and Mitigation (CCIAM) programme.

Developing, optimizing and sustaining readiness and adequacy in capacity to address the challenges brought by climate change will require a number of interventions through raising awareness, training to build capacity at various levels, research and outreach. This CCIAM programme therefore provides support in terms of documenting and disseminating research backed experiences generated from REDD+ demonstration activities. The programme is online with the supporting role of research institutions in Tanzania to the development and implementation of REDD+ policy as stipulated in the National REDD+ Implementation Framework and the draft National REDD+ Strategy.

The objective of the CCIAM programme is therefore to develop and sustain adequacy in national capacity to participate in climate change initiatives and address the effects and challenges of climate change with particular emphasis to the REDD+ initiatives. The programme addresses the following specific objectives:

- To determine and develop appropriate climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies in forestry, other land uses, ecosystems and biodiversity management;
- To assess climate change impacts on and vulnerability of ecosystem services and livelihoods under REDD initiatives;
- To conduct policy and legal framework analysis of climate adaptation and mitigation with emphasis on economic efficiency, ecological effectiveness and wider political legitimacy; and
- To develop and undertake capacity building, dissemination and strategic interventions for adaptation and mitigation to climate change

This programme is implemented since 2009 and so far a number of activities that are taking place are notably: 15 research projects; 50 Masters and 16 PhD scholarships to Tanzanian students; and four strategic intervention projects being carried out in various parts of the country. It is conditional that all research projects are carried out in sites where there are NGO REDD+ pilot projects with the local communities.

In this first annual CCIAM scientific conference, researchers and representatives from NGOs and other stakeholders shared important experiences and opportunities in the course of piloting the REDD+ initiative. These CCIAM shared experiences and opportunities are documented in these proceedings. The Programme will continue to organize these annual scientific conferences for the next three years of the programme.