

**Southern Voices - East and Southern Africa Regional Workshop on**

**Linking local experiences with policy processes in climate change:  
Lessons from adaptation, sustainable energy and  
community forestry**

**23rd to 25th July 2013, Sunbird Nkopola Lodge, Mangochi, Malawi**

### **Background**

With most of the African populations living in rural areas and depending on subsistence agriculture for livelihoods, Africa is particularly vulnerable to climate change. As well as threatening food security, climate change also puts pressure on the sustainability of fuel wood supplies, on which most Africans rely for cooking and heating. The issues of climate change adaptation, access to energy and sustainable forest management are thus closely linked. African communities are implementing various strategies to cope with existing and anticipated impacts of the changing conditions. Realizing meaningful impact from such efforts requires mechanisms for scaling up supported by appropriate planning and policy instruments. However, most local level initiatives tend to be isolated from policy processes, constraining the potential for good practices to be scaled up and implemented widely. Furthermore, international response to climate change continues to lag behind as evidenced in the limited availability of financial support towards response measures that address real needs and build on local efforts.

It is against this background that the Civil Society Network on Climate Change as a focal point of the Southern Voices on Climate Change has organized a regional workshop on **'Linking local experiences with policy processes in climate change: Lessons from adaptation, sustainable energy and community forestry.'** The workshop which is organized in partnership with the Pan African Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA) is premised on the recognition that communities possess rich knowledge and skills required to cope with existing and anticipated impacts of climate change. However, community efforts are constrained by multiple factors including the declining natural resources base. On the other hand, various planning and policy development processes are taking place at different levels to provide frameworks or define actions for addressing the climate challenge such as National Adaptation Plans, large scale energy projects and National REDD strategies. This workshop is therefore designed to provide a platform for knowledge exchange among East and Southern African climate networks on bridging the gap between local realities and efforts on one hand and policy development and planning on the other.

### **Scope**

The workshop will bring together climate change networks and practitioners in Eastern and Southern Africa to share experiences on how their work at community level can

shape policy and planning in the region and drawing lessons for wider implications. In particular, community-based adaptation (CBA) has a great deal to contribute in shaping the preparation of National Adaptation Plans for Least Developed Countries under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. The workshop will also provide a learning platform on advocacy around decentralized sustainable energy and pro-poor approaches to Reduced Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation (REDD). Synergies between pro-poor REDD, sustainable energy, and community based adaptation, and the implications for policy, will be explored.

### **Objectives**

Specific objectives of the workshop are:

1. To enhance participants' understanding of the links between policy advocacy and community level activities.
2. To share experiences and lessons from CBA, sustainable energy and REDD in relation to policy and planning in the region;
3. To identify and discuss opportunities for integrating CBA, sustainable energy and REDD in local and national planning and policy processes; and
4. To discuss mechanisms of strengthening regional cooperation in advocacy and cross learning

### **Venue and Date**

The workshop will take place at Sunbird Nkopola Lodge in Mangochi in Malawi from 23rd to 25th July 2013.

### **For more information, contact:**

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### **About Southern Voices**

The Southern Voices (SV) on Climate Change is a programme that supports climate policy networks in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Pacific with the aim of increasing their capacity for carrying out advocacy, monitoring activities and raising public awareness at national, regional and international levels in order to help implement and develop climate change policies which promote environmental integrity and sustainable development benefitting poor and vulnerable people. SV is made up of a consortium of five Danish and two international organizations with CARE Denmark as the lead agency. In Malawi, CISONECC participates in the Southern Voices Programme through Dan Church Aid, one of the five Danish consortium members.

### **Southern Voices in East and Southern Africa**

The following networks are supported by the Southern Voices on Climate Programme:

- Ethiopian Civil Society Network on Climate Change (ECSNCC) in Ethiopia;
- Civil Society Network on Climate Change (CISONECC) in Malawi;
- MJUMITA National Community Forestry Conservation Network in Tanzania;
- International Network For Sustainable Energy (INFORSE) in East and Southern Africa based in Uganda; and
- Capacity Strengthening of Civil Society in the Least Developed Countries for Adaptation to Climate Change (CLACC) Fellows in Zimbabwe, Zambia, Mozambique, Tanzania, Sudan, Kenya, Uganda and Malawi.

At the same time, Southern Voices works in close collaboration with other like-minded networks and seeks to strengthen partnership with more networks for purposes enhancing cross learning and maximising synergy on climate advocacy in the East and Southern African region and beyond. Accordingly, some of the Southern Voices supported networks including CISONECC are members of PACJA at continental level.

**Workshop supporting partners:**

