



Ecological Society for Eastern Africa
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**Climate Change and Natural Resource use in Eastern Africa:
Impacts, adaptations and mitigation
19th – 21st May 2010**

Kenyatta University
Kenyatta University Conference Center – (KUCC) - Nairobi, Kenya

Conference Concept

The eastern African region has diverse landscapes and ecosystems as well as a high diversity of flora and fauna. The region, also known as the cradle of mankind, has been shaped by natural evolutionary processes and long history of human influence. Biodiversity here is an asset of regional and global significance. However, trends in global climate change and pressure from rapidly growing human population and the associated socio-economic development activities are posing serious threats to landscapes and biodiversity therein. Thus, sustaining a reasonably high growth rate to match the human population growth rate coupled with ensuring environmental and natural resources integrity is a key challenge to the region.

Africa is the hottest continent with deserts and drylands covering over 60% of land surface. Many in rural setups are directly dependent on natural resources. Current use of natural resources has taken little consideration of need for sustainability. Consequently, environmental status is characterised by land degradation and desertification, water stress, declining biodiversity, deforestation, rising pollution and rapid urbanisation. Climate change is likely to intensify these conditions and alter the environment even further. Although Africa emits only 4% of total global carbon dioxide emissions, its inhabitants are projected to suffer disproportionately from the consequences of global climate change. In turn this will adversely affect natural resource use further.

It is also true that most Africans, across economic and social statuses, are poorly informed on the climate change paradigm, its threats and opportunities. It is imperative that networking societies, such as ESEA, provide forums for generation and sharing of information on climate change. On 19-21 May 2010, ESEA proposes one such forum to bring scientists, climate change experts, policy makers and implementers, communication agents, vulnerable communities and

the general public together. The meeting will address a wide range of climate change topics with the aim of increasing awareness of vulnerabilities, impacts and targeted adaptation measures that can be applied in the region.

Conference Sub-Themes

a) Impacts

- Impacts of climate change on natural ecosystems
- Impacts of climate change on human ecosystems

b) Adaptation

- Climate change adaptation programs: best practices in Eastern Africa
- Community adaptation to climate change in Eastern Africa: best practices

c) Mitigation

- Climate change mitigation policies and practices

d) Communication

- Effective communication of climate change information to the public.

e) Student competition will have a broad theme selected from any of the above.

We will soon be announcing the call for papers.

Conference objectives

The conference aims at achieving the following:

1. To share on the impacts, adaptation and mitigation of climate change on the natural resources and people of eastern Africa.
2. To share the way in which communities in eastern African are coping with climate change
3. To share on mitigation policies in place and how they will benefit the people of eastern Africa.
4. To offer recommendation in form of policy briefs to governments, research institutions and stakeholders.
5. To help communicate the knowledge on climate change to the general public

Conference expected outputs

1. The conference will lead to publication of research findings in scientific journals.
2. It will enhance networking and increased communication among scientists, policy makers, students, NGO, communities among others from the eastern Africa region.
3. It will be a great platform for students to sharpen their research and presentation skills.
4. The conference will help in bring forth knowledge about the impacts of climate change on natural resources in eastern Africa.

5. The conference will have a positive impact through dissemination of information.
6. Through the conference there will be an increase in participation of NGOs and civil community institutions in being part of the solution for climate change and environmental problems.
7. Knowledge transfer
8. Experience transfer
9. Dissemination of conference materials
10. public awareness towards the environmental sustainability and applicability of the conference recommendations

Expected participants

The conference will bring together diverse experts and practitioners on climate change and related disciplines. There will also be natural resource managers, local authorities, Community Based Organizations, Non-governmental Organizations, government institutions, local authorities and media houses representatives in the presentations and discussions.

About Ecological Society for Eastern Africa - ESEA

Ecological Society for Eastern Africa (ESEA) is a membership based organization. ESEA draws its members from various professionals and institutions (from Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania and Ethiopia) who are engaged in scientific research and management of species and ecosystems. Individual and Institutional members of ESEA are involved in climate change impact, adaptation and mitigation studies in the region.

As part of our objectives in collation and dissemination of ecological information we have organized and facilitated our annual conferences on various themes.

1. Integrating Environmental Sustainability and Development in East Africa: Inaugural Conference 2-4 May, 2007 National Museums of Kenya, Nairobi- Kenya.
2. Integrating Environmental Sustainability and Development in East Africa: Maiden Scientific Conference 22 – 23 May, 2008, Sokoine University of Agriculture, Morogoro, Tanzania Institute of Continuing Education (ICE) Conference Hall.
3. Challenges in Sustainable use of Natural Resource in Eastern Africa (2nd Annual Scientific Conference) 17-20 June, 2009 Makerere University, Kampala Uganda.

Location of the Conference

The conference will be held at the Kenyatta University Conference Center which is a facility of the Kenyatta University. Kenyatta University is one of the top public universities and the second largest in Kenya. It is located along Thika road on the outskirts of Nairobi town. The location provides a serene and quiet environment.