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PRESS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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As Tanzania continues to experience alarming changes in rainfall patterns, an EU funded climate change adaptation conference launches into action

Selected media are cordially invited to the **National Conference on Climate Change Adaptation** being organised by the European Union funded ECO ACT project, which follows an eco-village approach under the Global Climate Change Alliance to help communities adapt to the adverse conditions of climate change in central Tanzania.

Media are invited to cover the first day of the two day event on **Tuesday, 7 March from 8 am to 11 am at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in the Marquee in Dar es Salaam.**

A representative from the Ministry of State-Environment, will deliver an opening speech and is expected to outline why climate change adaptation measures are essential for Tanzania's development strategy.

A keynote speech will be given by Tim Clarke, Former EU Ambassador to Tanzania, who was fundamental in setting up the eco-village model in Tanzania and globally. The approach is holistic and targets multiple interventions at community level to assist people to become more resilient to climate change and also reduce poverty. Richard Muyungi, Director of Environment, Vice President's Office and Shakwaanande Natai, Head of the Environment Management Unit, MALF, Dr. Lucy Ssendi, from PO-RALG, Dr. Francis Njau, IRDP and other experts will share and discuss the latest developments. Two key papers on the Impact of drought and coping strategies in Tanzania will be presented by experienced scholars. Representatives from civil society include Rebecca Muna, from Forum CC, and practitioners from five EU funded eco-village projects.

"As Tanzania faces more unexpected rainfall, and even drought in some parts of the country, it is more important than ever to work with communities to support them in their efforts to adapt to climate change. This conference is an opportunity to bring high level and grassroots actors together for a meaningful dialogue to ensure everyone can contribute, take responsibility and take action," said Roeland Van de Geer, European Union Ambassador to Tanzania.

Climate Change is an international priority and falls under Sustainable Development Goal 13, CLIMATE ACTION. It also forms part of Tanzania's poverty reduction strategies, and the country is bound by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

"With this changing climate, National Development Goals cannot be achieved without taking on board climate change adaptation strategies. The Eco ACT project is empowering the Local Government Authorities to mainstream climate change adaptation strategies into the District Development Plans as well as empowering rural communities in semi arid central Tanzania in adapting to the adverse effects of climate change in the sectors of Agriculture, Livestock, Water, Forest and Energy, ", said Dr. Francis Njau, IRDP

Delegates will also be entertained by the Gogo drama group, who will portray climate change adaptation practices carried out in their own villages. Other eco-village projects funded by the European Union will be showcasing their income generating activities, such as handmade leather products and wild honey as ways to adapt to climate change.

The first day is all about policy and practice, and will be punctuated by compelling presentations on the latest techniques in climate change adaptation, followed up by dynamic panel discussions. The day will end with a cocktail reception and an award ceremony showcasing early adopters of climate change adaptation from the eco-villages.

The end

Please refer to the separate attachment for the entire two-day conference itinerary

About ECO ACT

Now in its second phase of European Union funding, previously called the Chololo Eco-village, now Eco-ACT, the project strives to help semi-arid communities in rural Tanzania to adapt to the adverse effects of climate change and to also reduce poverty. The project is implemented in Dodoma Municipal and Chamwino Districts.

By taking the best eco-village interventions and expanding these measures into other communities in the same location, the idea is to increase the resilience of the rural poor to climate change. This is being achieved by introducing new skills and techniques into people's everyday lives to enable them to adapt to drought conditions.

The ECO-ACT project is delivered by a partnership of 7 agencies led by IRDP.

- Institute of Rural Development Planning (IRDP)
- Dodoma Municipal Council
- Chamwino District Council
- Agricultural Research Institute Hombolo
- Maji na Maendeleo Dodoma (MAMADO)
- Tanzania Organic Agriculture Movement (TOAM)
- Dodoma Environment Network (DONET)

For more information please visit: <https://chololo2.wordpress.com>

About the Global Climate Change Alliance

The Global Climate Change Alliance (GCCA) is an initiative of the European Union (EU) which aims to strengthen dialogue and cooperation with those developing countries most vulnerable to climate change. The GCCA focuses on least developed countries (LDC) and small island developing states (SIDS) which are often the most affected by climate change but have the fewest resources to tackle it. The alliance was launched in 2007 and is coordinated by the European Commission (EC). The initiative is one of the world's largest climate funds, with over EUR 300 million committed to date, and after ten years of operations has gained extensive experience in managing climate change issues around the world.

The first GCCA programme was initiated in Tanzania in 2010-2013 to support the Government of Tanzania in strengthening the capacity of some of the most affected communities against the adverse impacts of climate change. The Second GCCA national initiative started in 2015 builds closely on the results of the first phase, and aims to enhance environmental sustainability and food security by strengthening the management of natural resources at the local level (eco-villages), supporting new technology, low cost, culturally acceptable and gender-oriented solutions; and ensuring the sustainability of the interventions to increase the potential for scaling-up and replication.

The five eco-village projects in Tanzania being supported by GCCA are:

- Eco-Boma: A climate resilient model for Maasai steppe pastoralists
<http://oikosea.org/projects/eco-boma-a-climate-resilient-model-for-maasai-steppe-pastoralists/>
- Integrated Approaches for Climate Change Adaptation in the East Usambara Mountains <https://muhezaclimatechange.wordpress.com/>
- Igunga Eco-Village Project - increasing farmers resilience to climate change
<http://www.igungaecovillage.com/>

- Scalable Resilience: Outspreading Islands of Adaptation
<https://www.weadapt.org/placemarks/maps/view/9706>
- Eco-Act (Chololo 2.0): Eco-Village Adaptation to Climate Change in Central Tanzania <https://chololo2.wordpress.com/>

For more information about GCCA in Tanzania please visit www.gcca.eu

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