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DRIVING POLITICAL WILL FOR RENEWABLE ENERGY AND CLIMATE SERVICES THROUGH THEIR INTEGRATION INTO POLITICAL PARTIES MANIFESTOS

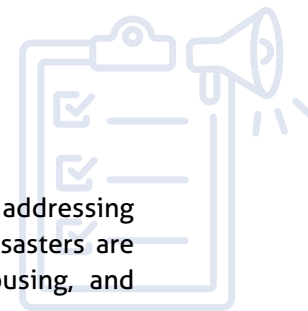
Background

Political will and support are derived through the ruling political party that is crucial for driving action and ensuring accountability in implementing national strategies and policies. Political parties' governance is shaped by their manifestos, which outline their roadmaps for governance, policy priorities, and resource allocation. If a specific agenda is not included in a manifesto, it is unlikely to receive significant attention or resources during implementation, highlighting the importance of integrating key priorities like climate resilience into political manifestos.

As Tanzania heads towards the 2024/2025 elections, political parties through their manifesto outline their vision and policy priorities that will be among the key directives influencing national governance and action. To this end, the inclusion of climate change and sustainable development within the manifesto is of high importance, towards realizing the necessary political will to drive needed decisions and actions for the next years of 2025 to 2030.

This policy brief outlines the importance of the inclusion of renewable energy and climate services in political manifestos to drive climate resilience and socioeconomic development. It highlights the general gaps in Tanzanian political manifestos, presents lessons from other countries' political parties' manifestos, and offers actionable recommendations for Tanzania political parties.

Context



- Tanzania, like many other developing nations, faces significant challenges related to addressing climate change impacts and promotion of sustainable development. 69% of national disasters are weather-related with many social and financial implications such as loss of life, housing, and infrastructure and cost high amounts towards responding to them.
- In recognition of this challenge, the building of community and economy-wide resilience is important together with leveraging of opportunities arising from it
- Political manifestos have a unique and complementary role in promoting action and accountability towards the implementation of the frameworks established by national strategies and policies. Political parties shape governance through their manifestos, which outline roadmaps for policy priorities, resource allocation, and governance strategies
- Integration is crucial for the different reasons like declarations convert political priorities into policy long-term plans are frequently outlined in national papers, but their execution is contingent upon political will and priorities
- By including climate change in a manifesto, citizens can see promises made and hold elected officials responsible for fulfilling their climate action pledges. In contrast, this direct public responsibility is frequently absent from national documents
- Since national documents are general, they might not specifically address local or regional issues. By addressing the particular requirements of communities and incorporating these goals into their larger governance plans, manifestos enable political leaders to localize climate measures.

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- Implementing national documents may be difficult because of conflicting priorities or a lack of ownership. During a given political term, manifestos offer a chance to reaffirm pledges and concentrate efforts on removing these obstacles.
- Also, political parties can compete on how well they will solve climate change by including it in their manifestos.
- This competition promotes bold and significant measures that support national objectives by stimulating creativity and urgency in climate action

1 Impact and threat of climate change



1.1 Climate service role in resilience building

Towards building climate resilience, the provision and utilization of climate services is one of the pro-poor solutions. Climate services involve the provision and use of weather and climate data, information, and knowledge to assist in planning and decision-making in the context of climate change. Its effective uses enable better preparation, planning and responding to expected weather and climatic conditions.

A good example is recent national anticipation and response to Cyclones such as Hidaya, enabling early actions which minimized impacts on communities, sectors and the economy. A strengthened provision and use of climate services contributes towards enabling better preparations, planning and decision-making that reduces vulnerability and capitalizes on situations for sustainable development.



1.2 Renewable Energy for sustainable development

Similarly, access to reliable, affordable energy is critical for enabling sustainable development in the community and nation at large. While Tanzania has abundant renewable and fossil fuel resources, expansion of renewable energy offers significant economic and environmental benefits, including enhanced energy security, cost saving and competitiveness.

The use of renewable energy in production activities yields many benefits among which are cost reduction of even 70%, reliability of supply, lower environmental and health impacts, energy security and access to energy. Despite much progress, Tanzania's electricity connectivity remains at 45.8% as of 2021/22, with rural areas particularly underserved. This energy deficit hinders essential services like healthcare, education, and economic productivity.

2 National politics paving way for realization of climate service and renewable energy

Tanzania has a multi-party system with 19 registered political parties as of June 7, 2024, according to the office of the registrar of Political Parties. The nation holds regular elections every five years, with the upcoming local government and general elections scheduled for 2024 and 2025, respectively. Within this democratic system, political party manifestos are fundamental statements that each party uses to articulate its goals, plans, and tactics.

Political parties often frame their manifestos around major issues such as economic development, social justice, and democratic governance, reflecting the aspirations of their constituencies and national policies. These goals are communicated to the public during election campaigns, and the winning party's candidates use them as a foundation to fulfill their pledges in line with national policies and plans.

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The urgent realization of the expansion of renewable energy, provision and use of climate service requires political will and support and should therefore be included in all parties' manifesto .

Alignment with Global climate and sustainability goals positioning the party as a forward and progressing thinking party committed to global climate and sustainable development goals. This alignment not only resonates with environmentally conscious voters but also attracts international support and funding for local projects.

Promotion of economic growth and economic opportunities with the expansion of renewable energy thus creating employment and generation of income that is appealing to broad demographic of voter seeking employment opportunities.



2.1 Reasons to for political parties to integrate renewable energy (RE) and Climate services (CS) into their manifesto

- 1.High public demand for climate service that can empower the population to better prepare and make informed decisions within the context of climate change. The impacts of climate change on major livelihoods i.e. farming, pastoralism and fishing, infrastructure and life are significant whereby the community are not prepared and informed on measures to take.
- 2.High public demand for access to reliable, affordable and sustainable energy that can be used in production activities and improving quality of life. The absence, cost and lack of reliable energy has impacted production activities, limited social services such as health care in villages, and more. The realization of more productive use of renewable energy will yield multiple economic benefits within the community, together with improving the living conditions.
- 3.Alignment with national policy frameworks which are National Climate Service 2018, National Determined Contribution 2021, National Climate Change Strategy 2022, National Energy Policy 2015 and many more calls for the expansion and strengthening role of climate service and renewable energy towards realization of resilience, mitigation and sustainable development.



2.2 Best Practice in political parties' manifesto from other Countries

Germany: Social Democratic Party (SPD) 2021 manifesto sets ambitious and measurable targets, aiming for climate neutrality by 2045 while emphasizing the expansion of renewable energy and energy efficiency targeting 100% renewable energy in 2040. The manifesto puts in place clear actions to be taken while considering addressing multiple aspects such as quality of life, remaining industrial global leader and social justice in the energy transition process.

United Kingdom: Labour Party 2024 Manifesto prioritizes reforming Britain economy where among planed intervention initiatives like Great British Energy and Rewiring Britain. It will double its renewable energy capacity, strengthen infrastructures and more to realize energy security, affordability (reduce energy bills), create jobs and unlock investment. The plan aims to boost industries that rely on affordable and reliable clean energy such as electric vehicles batteries manufacturing, steel and ceramic manufacturing and more that will have positive economic transformation. The plan includes investments in improving meteorological infrastructures for robust and improved weather and meteorological service and information to be used in decision-making and planning.

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Kenya: Kenya Kwanza Manifesto 2022 focuses on a “bottom-up” economic model to empower marginalized groups and reduce economic disparities. It acknowledges the increase in generation capacity, despite being expensive and unreliable, and notes changes in the energy landscape with disruptive technologies and models. To address these issues, the manifesto plans to improve electricity network infrastructure, phase out heavy fuel oil from power generation, enforce transparency and public accountability in the electricity sector, enable Kenya Power to operate on commercial principles, and develop the nascent electric motorcycle assembly industry, modernize and commercialize the charcoal value chain and scaling up clean cooking, among other initiatives.

South Africa: African National Congress (ANC) 2024 Manifesto prioritized green technologies, energy efficiency, eco-friendly production and more with plans to become a world player in green hydrogen, battery, and electric vehicle production and stimulate local manufacturing. It also aims to Mitigate and adapt to the effects of climate change, technological changes, and other trends in the context of a just energy transition and ensure that South Africa’s transition to a low-carbon economy supports communities and workers in affected areas, particularly Mpumalanga. This approach aligns clean energy transitions with job creation, aiming to generate over 2.5 million jobs within five years.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR INCLUSION OF RENEWABLE ENERGY AND CLIMATE SERVICE IN POLITICAL PARTY MANIFESTO

Below are the recommendations to all political party leaders, members and stakeholders towards the inclusion of renewable energy and climate service in the political party manifesto.

1. Prioritize the promotion of renewable energy use across various production and service activities together with access to affordable and reliable electricity and energy for underserved rural areas. This will improve the production and service provision, for example solar-powered irrigation, storage of fish production, powering medical equipment’s etc. Thereby addressing challenges such as post-harvest losses, improving quality of life and more. This can be realized through multiple measures among which are decentralizing energy frameworks to empower local governments and communities to adopt renewable energy technologies. Introduce policies to attract private sector investment in renewable energy infrastructure. This will improve living standards and foster rural productivity and income generation.
2. Prioritize stimulation of sectors and investments that will benefit from the expansion of renewable energy such as sectors requiring high energy at low cost eg steel, utilization of produced energy e.g. electric vehicles and more. Furthermore, there exists a potential of engaging in the export of green hydrogen which has a growing demand among many countries such as Germany. This will be accompanied by multiple benefits realized through the value chain. The transition to renewable energy sources thereby presents an opportunity to create jobs in various sectors, including manufacturing, installation, maintenance, and research. By incorporating policies that promote green job creation into their manifesto.
3. Prioritize the improvement of the provision and utilization of climate services across different sectors. This can be realized through various approaches including the integration of traditional weather forecasting approaches, improvement of meteorological infrastructure, data gathering, research, strengthening co-production of climate service and more.
4. Prioritize education and awareness campaigns to inform citizens about the benefits of renewable energy technologies and climate resilience strategies, especially the access and utilization of climate services. Empower communities with knowledge about sustainable practices and encourage grassroots participation in environmental stewardship programs to build a strong base of support among voters who value sustainability.