
PETITION

Renewable energy for socio-economic development and well-being in Tanzania



INTRODUCTION

Achievement of both the national Five Years Development Plan 2016/2021 and the National Development Vision of becoming a middle-income country by 2025 needs availability and access to reliable, affordable, sustainable, and modern energy resources for all people. However, a large number of people have remained with limited or no access to electricity while attempts to meet ever growing energy demand through the use of imported fossil fuels have posed heavy burden on our

economy. To ensure sufficient, efficient and sustainable energy supply, substituting fossil fuels with the use of renewable energy sources and technologies are key for both national growth and building community resilience to climate change. We therefore recognize and welcome the critical importance of the development of a new standalone National Renewable Energy Strategy to compliment the current national energy policy to ensure planning, development, promotion, budgeting and resource allocation for accelerated uptake and leapfrogging to renewable energy initiatives and technologies.

Acknowledgement of the already positive collaboration that has been initiated between stakeholders and the government, as well as a substantive contribution with suggestions for how Tanzania can move ahead and take a leadership role in the utilization of renewable energy for socio-economic development and addressing energy poverty. We look forward to [continue] collaborating closely with the government in taking these opportunities forward, both through engagement on the new renewable energy strategy and through other avenues.

CONTEXT

Availability and access to reliable, affordable, sustainable, and modern energy resources to all people in Tanzania is a target that is well linked to the Five Years

Development Plan 2016/2021 and National Development Vision of becoming a middle-income country by 2025. It is also directly linked to Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) No.7 which is in turn central to the achievement of all other 16 SDGs in Tanzania. To ensure a sufficient, efficient, environmentally friendly and sustainable energy supply, renewable energy resources are key and the feasible long-term solution. Renewable energy is the backbone for building the future, vastly expanded energy system in smart, distributed bottom-up manners that directly serve communities, local economies and industries.

While demand for electricity is growing between 10% and 15% per annum, due to accelerating productive investments and a growing population, a large number of people have remained with limited or no access to electricity. Attempts to meet ever growing energy demand through the use of imported fossil fuel is expensive and brings economic dependence associated with fluctuation and inflation of prices in the global markets. Furthermore, low access to reliable electricity due to the dispersed and low density of our population and anticipated increase of people without



“A large number of people has remained with limited or no access to electricity”

- SIXBERT MWANGA

electricity, makes it clear that focus on traditional centralized grid extension from a few large power plants would be slow, expensive and uneconomical investments. Such challenges and limitation positions renewable energy (with diversity of both scale and sources) as the most important component in transforming the country’s energy sector from one that is dependent on expensive imported fossil fuels to one that is balanced, diversified and ready for the future.

There is indeed a need to engage in revising long-term energy planning that

can ensure a rapidly increasing share of renewable energy sources, to reach a fully resilient, people-centred and climate compatible renewables-based system over the coming years and decades. Ambitious utilization of abundant renewable resources and application of renewable energy technologies has the potential to alleviate poverty, especially for rural populations. The provision of affordable, sustainable and locally generated electricity for all communities of Tanzania through upscaling renewable energy technologies and investments is possible, and can meet energy needs for lighting, cooking, heating, irrigation, ventilation systems, learning, communication, medical refrigeration, agricultural processing, transportation, scales of industrialization, and any other productive or private use.

Renewable energy solutions offer a viable option as they can be modular, scalable and decentralized and thus able to immediately provide energy in areas far from the national grid at manageable costs, while promoting sustainable socio-economic growth and employment (also to the large majority of young people).

MOTIVATION

We are motivated and encouraged by two recent factors that can position Tanzania at the forefront:

1. Since 2016, there has been unique multiple interactions, workshops, consultations and study tours among key stakeholders in Tanzania – government ministry officials, government agency officials, academics, civil society organisations, committees from members of parliament, independent institutes, private sector, media and others – who have interacted intensively and increasingly come to know and understand each other, with trust-building as a result. This has provided a foundation to discuss the development in energy matters (longer-term and out-of-the-box). New ideas as well as rapidly advancing understanding of both renewable energy technologies, decreasing costs, the climate crisis and the nexus energy-development-economics-



climate have resulted. The study “Expert Advice on 100% Renewable Energy Scenario for Tanzania” proposed that step-by-step investment which considers renewable sources in an energy mix is cheap and it can largely support Tanzania realizing its industrialization and middle-income vision.

2. The African Renewable Energy Initiative (AREI) and LDC Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Initiative for Sustainable Development (LDC REEEI) provide additional opportunities for Tanzania to rapidly advance in terms of renewable energy development. AREI and LDC REEEI were officially launched in 2015 and 2016 respectively, with the aim to scale up the contribution of renewable energy in countries. Both initiatives aim to support countries to achieve their development aspirations with 100% access to sufficient, affordable, modern and renewable energy by all citizens that caters to all needs of their citizens, social services and industries.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is indeed possible for Tanzania to benefit from its abundant renewable energy sources. Tanzania can lead if human skills, financial flows, public awareness, reduction of initial investment cost, incorporation of renewable energy matters in relevant public policies, long-term strategies, and the strengthening of relevant local institutions and frameworks are addressed. Developing the new National Renewable Energy Strategy to complement the National Energy Policy of 2015 will add value to the whole process. Most importantly, these efforts to ensure accelerated planning, development, promotion and leapfrogging of renewable energy technologies and initiatives must be grounded in and owned by the Tanzanian government and Tanzanian institutions.

The coalition representatives from the national multi-stakeholder group behind this letter stand ready to work with and support the government in achieving the vision of utilizing renewable energy sources in Tanzania, and encouraging/urging the Ministry of Energy and its relevant agencies to work closely to the following points:

National Renewable Energy Strategy process

- a) Come up with a national renewable energy strategy which is entirely owned and driven by the Tanzanian government and relevant stakeholders, with international partners and donors only playing supporting roles;
- b) Ensure involvement of civil society in the early planning of the process. Foster mutual cooperation between government ministries, agencies, private sector and civil society groups, parliamentarians and research institutions for harmonized renewable energy acceleration and sustainability;



c) Ensure it has mandates to engage in long-term planning and in alignment with the on-going work such as AREI and the LDC REEEI.

Mapping and planning

d) Deepen and substantiate further the renewable energy study from 2017. Integrate with and develop further long-term energy planning tools and modalities;

e) Carry out a comprehensive resource survey and assessment to determine the total renewable energy potential in the country as well as identify local conditions, limitations, and priorities in various ecological zones.

Knowledge, capacity mobilisation and learning

f) Safeguard entrepreneurship and managerial skills development with a view of creating self-employment and development of community energy initiatives and rural and urban Energy Service Companies (ESCOs);

g) Establish demonstration projects on various renewable energy forms and technologies so that the performance and efficiency with which services are delivered can be sensitized and learned by others.

Planning and policy

h) Promote productive use of renewable energy for income generation and the focus for renewable energy should go beyond the provision of lighting services to increased productivity and employment creation;

i) Create a mechanism for rural communities to adopt locally appropriate renewable energy technologies for income generating activities;

j) Harmonize and complement existing sectoral policies to enable appreciation and utilization of renewable energy resources in order to ensure timely provision of social services and meaningful economic development, including environmentally sustainable industrialization;

k) Promote diversified, local ownership models, including appropriate Public Private Projects (PPP), particularly those grounded with Tanzanian community involvement, to enable more off-grid solutions that directly serve people and cut transmission and distribution cost;

l) Regularly review existing policies and strategies to ensure conducive conditions for public and private sector investments in renewable energy are significantly strengthened over time and remain cross-cutting with wider-reaching impacts to communities;



BAKWATA



tangsen



SEPON LTD



TEFA



m) Link the development of renewable energy technologies to other sectors such as agriculture, education, health, economic growth, tourism, fishing, small scale industrial enterprises and poverty reduction to increase ownership and ensure actual demand for the energy services providers.

Funding and financing

n) Create and strengthen a dedicated renewable energy trust fund within the ministry;

o) Increase public financial resources dedicated for renewable energy projects and studies and technologies;

p) In addition to its role of electrifying rural areas and facilitating implementation of projects by project developers, the Rural Energy Agency (REA) should also allocate funds for income generating activities and capacity development program for the sustainability of projects;

q) In collaboration with the ministries of Industry and Trade and of Investments discuss and provide a sound business and investment environment to local and foreign entities (public and private) who respect principles of common good and who can provide capital towards renewable energy technologies and development.

NDCs and national development plans

r) Connect the renewable energy strategy process with the process of revising and increasing ambition of Tanzania's National Determined Contributions (NDC).

Public awareness, communication and outreach

s) Create comprehensive public awareness efforts to make the public aware of the potential and promises of renewable energy and smart, people-centered energy systems of the future;

t) Introduce and support energy desk representatives at each district and village level to reduce the energy information gap from the national to community levels;

u) Ensure definitions of renewable energy are clear, and avoid muddled terms such as clean and modern energy that may include non-renewable energy sources.

CONCLUSION

Fully developed and people-centered, smart renewable energy systems will be the most powerful tool to poverty reduction, climate resilience, community empowerment as well as the ensuring of sustainable development in Tanzania.

Poverty reduction is one of the highest-ranking issues in the Five Years Development



Strategy 2016/2021 and in the Tanzania Vision 2025. To achieve this, the government must enable the harnessing Tanzania’s abundant and readily available renewable energy resources across the various geographical zones of the country. In doing so, the government together with civil society and other stakeholders at all levels must ensure policies, plans, and strategies are implemented in adequate and effective manners to achieve the long-term goal of 100% renewable energy, and eventually end of our dependence on unreliable fossil fuels. This will provide opportunities for the marginalized and less privileged communities to prosper and result in general income generation and improved standard of living for all.

We stand ready to work closely with and support you as government in our join goals to achieve the goals and approaches outline in this petition.



The following organizations and institutions stand behind this letter and participated in the Coalition Meeting that laid the basis for this effort (signatures of representative are attached)

Climate Action Network Tanzania (CAN TZ); Christian Council of Tanzania (CCT), Tanzania Youth Environmental Network (TAYEN); World Wildlife Fund (WWF); Tanzania Association of Women Leaders in Agriculture and Environment (TAWLAE); Young Lawyer Foundation (YLF); Tanzania Civil Society Forum on Climate Change (FORUM CC); Marian University college (MARUCO); Sebastian Kolowa Memorial University (SEKOMU); Bagamoyo Environmental, Mother and Child Education Organization (BEMCEO); The National Muslim Council of Tanzania (BAKWATA); PAKAYA;The Landmark Social Service Organization of Tanzania (LASSOT);Women’s Research Development Promotion Association (WRDP). Tanzania Association of Environmental Engineers (TAEES), Tanzania Environmental Experts Association (TEEA), Tanzania Forest Conservation Group (TFCG), Environment for Communities Livelihoods Organization (ECOLIO), Tanzania Environmental Friendly Association (TEFA), Tanzania Gender and Sustainable Energy Network (TANGSEN), SEPON LTD. Tongyi Environmental Services Company limited(TESCL), and TATEDO

