



Activity Report

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KAS DEPARTMENT
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THE NEXUS BETWEEN MUNICIPAL ENVIRONMENT POLICY AND NATIONAL GOVERNMENT CLIMATE POLICY-A PERSPECTIVE OF IMPLEMENTATION IN THE RUWA AREA

On the 17th of February 2017, the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung Zimbabwe office teamed up with COMALISO, a local NGO to undertake a workshop/consultative forum in Ruwa on the policy issue of Climate change. The particular question at hand was that of how the National Government Climate change policy was being implemented at municipal level, the idea being that for the national policy to work, various municipalities including grassroots initiatives would have to be in sync with the National governments strategy.

In this regard the Ruwa served as a case study of how climate change was being fought at a somewhat grassroots level. The intended outcome of this workshop was to come to an understanding on what needed to be the priority and method of execution in order for communities to initiate climate change adaptation and mitigation exercises whilst also complementing government efforts at national and international level.

The workshop invited as participants local stakeholders, community leaders, youth, residents associations, local councilors, school representatives and church leaders. In order to create a well-balanced and informed forum, the workshop also included as presenters the following;

- **Mr. Pinias Mushayavanhu** - Ruwa Local Board Chairman
- **Mr. Lazarus Ndlovu** - Chairman of the Environment Committee, Ruwa Local Board
- **Mr. Elisha Moyo** - Principal Climate Change Researcher in the Ministry of Environment, Water and Climate
- **Mr. Liberty Mugadza** - Environmental Management Agency
- **Mr Archiford Chemhere** - Youth Programs Coordinator for Action 24
- **Mrs Anna Brazier** - Independent consultant and Climate Change Researcher.

The presenters touched on various issues including the normative framework of what climate change is and the science behind this phenomenon. The expertise of Mr. Elisha Moyo ensured that all participants got an understanding of government's national climate change response strategy and policy. Mr. Moyo also spoke on the intricacies of Climate change negotiations at global level. His presentation explained to the participants how the global deliberations at COP 21 in Paris 2015 and COP 22 in Marrakech 2016 continue to shape government's policies in this field.

After presentations were made, the participants got a chance to ask questions and clarity on some of the issues they were facing locally in Ruwa. Chief amongst the findings was that the Ruwa municipality did not have its own Climate Change policy. The Ruwa local Board

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also cried foul at the lack of resources to finance public campaigns and climate change adaptation initiatives, their indication was that government needed to extend its support to local Boards in terms of capacity building and resource allocation. The other finding was that the Environmental Management Agency was crippling the Local Board through fines for dumping rubbish, when it should instead teach and recommend how the local Board should deal with its garbage.

In charting a way forward for the community, residents agreed to adopt a Local Environment and Climate Change Adaptation Policy (LECCAP) for the Ruwa community, which would be drafted by the local Board. The community agreed that in drafting this local policy they should consider the following aspects amongst others;

- Picking up learning points from National Climate Change Response Strategy as a start and going into climate change basics.
- Drafters could consider employment creation perspective in the policy
- Take into account institutions that make products i.e. following the ‘polluter pays’ type perspective.
- Ruwa Local Board must empower local / school health / environment clubs for committed implementation at local level.

In conclusion, chief amongst the outcomes was the drafting of a local policy on climate change. This initiative was a true testament of the community in Ruwa to start the fight against climate change at grassroots level. The idea of empowering the community to take up good environmental stewardship practices was regarded as a great triumph of the work that Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung and COMALISO are trying to achieve in the field of climate change. Ruwa in this instance serves as a blueprint of what communities can achieve by coming together and uniting in the fight against climate change.