

Event Report

September 2024
Country Office Tanzania



Rediscovering Forests: KCDE's Commitment Amid a Warming Climate September 20, 2024 | Arusha, Tanzania

Overview

Forests are essential to life on Earth, supporting ecosystems, regulating the climate, and providing resources for both humans and wildlife. At a recent conference in Arusha, KCDE with the support of KAS Tanzania brought together faith-based organizations, eco-stakeholders, and environmental advocates to address the urgent need for forest preservation as a proactive step toward COP29. This gathering emphasized the role of forests in climate resilience, biodiversity, and sustainable development.

Objectives of the Event

The KCDE conference aimed to:

1. Empower participants with knowledge on the ecological and spiritual importance of forests.
2. Equip faith-based organizations (FBOs) with strategies to advocate for eco-friendly practices within their communities.
3. Promote a collective commitment to sustainable forest management, aligning actions with upcoming climate goals at COP29.

Key Discussion Points

- Forests and Climate Resilience

Forests play a crucial role in mitigating climate change. As natural carbon sinks, forests absorb CO₂, regulate rainfall, and support biodiversity. Participants explored the vital connection between forest health and climate resilience, stressing the importance of forest ecosystems for the survival of countless species and for maintaining local climate stability.

- Socio-Economic Benefits of Forests

Beyond environmental impact, forests support livelihoods by providing food, medicinal resources, and raw materials. These resources are foundational to many Tanzanian communities, offering economic stability and promoting food security. KCDE highlighted the socio-economic value of forests, demonstrating their importance to sustainable livelihoods and community well-being.

- The Role of FBOs in Climate Action

Faith-based organizations are uniquely positioned to drive ecological awareness and stewardship. The conference underscored FBOs' roles in advocating for climate justice and re-greening efforts, drawing from their significant influence within communities. KCDE's initiatives empower FBOs to lead by example, inspiring congregations to actively engage in forest conservation.

Outcomes and Strategic Recommendations

Participants developed actionable insights and strategies, which include:

- Regenerative Environmental Practices

Emphasizing a shift from resource depletion to resource regeneration, participants discussed sustainable practices such as community reforestation and eco-friendly agriculture. The focus was on “cradle-to-cradle” models that enable forests to thrive indefinitely.

- Educational Outreach for Sustainable Forest Management

KCDE and partners will enhance environmental education by providing resources and workshops aimed at schools, religious institutions, and local governments. This initiative encourages community members to value and protect their local ecosystems actively.

- Faith-Based Advocacy for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

By aligning with SDG targets, particularly those addressing climate action, participants aim to mobilize their communities towards achieving sustainable energy, clean water access, and responsible consumption.

A Call to Action

With forests under threat, this conference emphasized the urgency for collective action to preserve these invaluable ecosystems. As we approach COP29, KCDE encourages communities and leaders alike to participate in ongoing reforestation, advocate for eco-friendly policies, and support sustainable livelihoods. Together, we can ensure a healthier, greener planet for future generations.

Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung.

Damas Nderumaki
Project Manager
Country Office Tanzania
www.kas.de/tanzania



The text of this publication is published under a Creative Commons license: “Creative Commons Attribution- Share Alike 4.0 international” (CC BY-SA 4.0), <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0/legalcode>