

THE ANGLICAN CHURCH OF TANZANIA



Provincial Report

1.0 Mission & Vision of the ACT:

Vision: Is to have a sustainable Church working together effectively for the growth of God's kingdom through prayer, worship, preaching, teaching, pastoral care and social services.

Mission: Is to proclaim the Kingdom of God through spiritual and social economic transformation and empowerment of individuals and communities to experience the fullness of life in God.

In Tanzania, the major identified environmental problems include loss of wildlife and biodiversity, deforestation, land degradation and environmental pollution

2.0 Environmental initiatives in our own Province, dioceses, parishes, social organizations

The ACT Tanzania is currently running a solar light program for the entire country through its head office and dioceses. Solar equipment is used in rural and urban areas which reduces the use of dangerous and polluting kerosene lamps and reduces carbon emissions.

During the National Environment Day – all citizens in Tanzania are encouraged to take part in planting trees; this includes religious and political leaders/groups. In some places the program starts with prayers.

In the five year strategic plan of the ACT, objective two also aims at enabling the Church and communities to use all resources responsibly and empower individuals to realize holistic development

This objective also intends to train churches and communities and provide them with skills of how to improve the environment.

The issue of environmental management and protection has been taken into account by the Province. It has been doing this by emphasizing to all Dioceses the incorporation of environmental management and protection into their development program.

3.0 Liturgical and educational resources

Each year in the ACT liturgical calendar we have a harvest ceremony whereby we thank God for his creation and for providing food for all humans and animals.

Also during the planting season, church members bring varieties of seeds, such as maize, millet, sorghum, sunflower, to the church for the blessing.

4.0 Partnerships with other churches or secular organizations

The ACT has been working with various churches/secular Organizations such as:-

4.1 Christian Council of Tanzania:

ACT is a member of the Christian Council of Tanzania, which has a department which deals with economic injustice and the integrity of creation.

This section is helping the voiceless indigenous to be considered by investors, especially when economic activity is affecting them socially and economically.

4.2 MIGESADO

This is an organization which is involved in setting up and building biogas systems. It also involve in construction of underground water tanks for rain water harvesting. Some of the Dioceses have been working with this organization to help communities in rural areas, enabling them to easily access clean water and get light.

4.3 World Vision International

This is also helping indigenous people to plant trees and pastures as well as initiating income generating activities in rural areas.

4.4 HADO (Preserve soil in Dodoma)

This is a program initiated by government to combat environmental challenges. People in rural area (including Church members) are encouraged to use the zero grazing method as well as reducing the number of livestock in order to reduce soil erosion.

5.0 Youth connections

The problem of unemployment has forced the youth, especially in rural areas, to engage themselves in charcoal making which leads to deforestation.

Therefore the Province, through its Youth department, initiated a small loans program to help them to establish income generating activities.

The use of electronic devices even in very remote areas has also encouraged them to use solar equipment (which the Province is now promoting), which helps to reduce the use of kerosene.

6.0 Partnerships with indigenous groups or individuals

Serious local concerns in relation to agriculture, water, land use, vulnerable peoples, displaced persons, economic development, climate change response

There is a small program of water harvesting in some rural areas although very little is done to harvest water. In some Christian centers each house has built a tank for water harvesting.

Also there are groups and individuals who own various tree nurseries some of whom are members of the church and others are church groups like Mothers Union and Youth.

The government is putting in tough regulations to stop imports of old vehicles to control air pollution.

7.0 Why were you chosen to represent your province (biography)

This is because I am the coordinator for development programs within the Province; also through my undergraduate studies (Degree in Regional Development Planning) I have a deep knowledge of environmental Issues.

In addition, as a Provincial worker it will be easier to share with dioceses (through diocesan development officers) the knowledge, information and skills that I acquire from the ACEN.

8.0 Future Plan of the ACT concerning Environment

The ACT together with all activities it is doing in managing and protecting the environment, also plans to implement the following Projects/programs both at Provincial and diocesan level. These includes:-

1. Church and Environment Program

This will involve priests and other Church leaders, firstly to create awareness but also to equip them with environmental skills so as to build their capacity of integrating environment with their ministry.

2. Environmental program for youth and women

Various groups of youth and women will be mobilized to form teams. They will also be trained in environmental issues as well as mobilized to practice environmental activities such as establishment of tree nurseries etc.

3. Project Planning and management training

This will involve to all program Officers.

All this will be successfully established and implemented if the financial position allows.

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