



**POLICY BRIEF**  
**ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION AND PUBLIC AWARENESS ON BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION IN ZANZIBAR,**  
**TANZANIA**  
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**KEY MESSAGE**

- *Zanzibar is endowed with high biological diversity in her protected areas, of which some are rare, endangered and endemic to the Islands. Having these species help the welfare of the local communities who are forest dependents through improved ecosystem services. However, increased human activities in and around protected areas has been jeopardizing quality of the intended environmental services*
- *These natural resources are under serious threat due to degradation: rapid population growth, economic growth, increasing urbanization, climate variability and change resulting in ecosystem loss, competing demands for land and water, and other natural resources.*
- *Policies in Environmental education and Public awareness on conservation of natural resources in COFMAs, JECA, SEDCA and societies around the protected areas in Zanzibar is important to ensure communities establishing educational and awareness systems to develop citizens who will behave in a desirable ways and to ensure the forest and wild animals together with ecosystem are conserved and protected.*

**INTRODUCTION**

Zanzibar is endowed with high biological diversity in her protected areas, of which some are rare, endangered and endemic to the Islands.

Having these species help the welfare of the local communities who are forest dependents through improved ecosystem services. Environmental Education and Public Awareness to communities and

in school is important to provides the society with the opportunity to develop an awareness of the environment, take action, and assume responsibility for the environment. Societies need knowledge, skills, information and awareness about environmental management both in the formal and informal education system. This may provide opportunities for each individual to engage and raise awareness about the environment, develop attitudes towards environmental protection, participate in actions and be part of the problem solvers to respond to the environmental threats that exist in the country. If children and societies learn and understand the concept of environmental management, they can play a positive role in protecting the environment when they are adults (Pirzado, 2018).

### **CHALLENGES FACING NATURAL RESOURCES**

Zanzibar has a very rich biodiversity and is one of the world's biodiversity hotspots. These Ecosystems provide different types of life-supporting services that are vital for livelihoods and economic development. This biodiversity has important Social economic, technological and social relations. However, the biodiversity is threatened by a number of ways including land-use changes, land degradation and deforestation which forms a serious problem in Zanzibar due to high dependence on natural resources for their livelihoods. Lack of alternatives source of income be a cause of environmental degradation for example by overexploitation of resources, or because of a lack of capital to perform environmental friendly investments for protecting or improving the asset. In reality, these environmental threats are often human-caused or are the result of human actions in the environment that can therefore be controlled or minimized so that their effects are less harmful (Delors (2001). In addition, unplanned human interaction has reduced greatly biodiversity in these protected areas.

### **OBJECTIVE OF POLICY BRIEF**

- The main objective of this brief is to inform the policy maker, planners, implementers donor and other environmental partners to integrate Environmental Education and Public Awareness in natural resource management, climate change and disaster risk reduction to the communities and school curriculum through formal or informal education system.
- Strengthening capacity to communities (COFMAS), Local Government Institutions like JECA, SEDCA and societies in the ecosystem protection activities through Environmental Education and Public Awareness so that positive results are realized.

### **RATIONALES**

Environmental Education and Public awareness on conservation for community and school's children surround the protected area is important to ensure societies around the protected areas establishing educational systems to develop citizens who will behave in a desirable ways and to ensure the forest and wild animals together with ecosystem are conserved and protected.



Integrated knowledge, skills, information and awareness about environmental education and provide opportunities for each individual to engage themselves about the environment, develop attitudes towards environmental protection, participate in actions and be part of

the problem solvers to respond to the environmental threats that exist in their communities as well as nations. This means that, the knowledge and skills acquired through educational systems help societies shape their thinking in terms of understanding, practice, experience, and behaviour. Through learning experiences, perceptions, cognitions and behaviours related to various facts are shaped, aligned and transformed.

### **KEY ACTORS IN POLICIES**

**Government actors:** Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation Natural resources and Livestock, Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Education seen as important to be implemented at each sector ministry.

**Development partners:** The donor is also important partner in providing financial support to Environmental Education and Awareness based on forest protections, the poverty reduction, climate change mitigation and adaptation funding. Donor also should be giving priority to forestry and environment, agriculture and alternative income generating livelihood activities

**Civil Society:** The Civil Society Organisations have an increased role in many areas of Environmental protection. Climate change mitigation and adaptation The NGOs focussed on conservation and public awareness have increasingly engaged more on development of ecosystems and conservation issues. The local authorities should cooperate with NGOs and community-based organisations (CBOs.), Private Sectors communities should be supported to increase their ability to manage natural resources.

### **KEY SECTOT POLICIES**

The sector policies (forest policy, environmental policy, land policy, education policy) should have goals and priorities that are striving towards environmental education and public awareness on ecosystem

management and protections. E reflected in the budget on environmental education and public awareness. When environmental legal and policy framework area in place, and the capacity to monitor the progress end enforce regulation should be strengthened in order for them to be able to effectively and fulfil it obligation. The mandated environmental education and public awareness monitoring system should be developed and linked to those sectors responsible for environmental education and public awareness

### **CONCLUSSION**

Recognise the importance of young people's and teachers' perspectives in making decisions about education for environmental sustainability Commit to review the place and future of education for environmental sustainability within their own organisations' vision and strategy. Young people and teachers saw education for environmental sustainability as learning to live differently to protect, preserve and mend the environment for current and future generations. The project understand more and frequently public awareness on conservation are required to the community surround the protected area together with different alternative livelihood activities (AIGA's) that can make the community get the income to satisfy their daily basic needs and leave the forest

### **REFERENCE**

1. Delors, J. (2001) Education: A study based on the UNESCO report on the four pillars of knowledge.
2. Pirzado, A. P. (2018) Analyzing the effectiveness of Environment Education Projects in three Asian countries. A conference paper presented to ASIAN Climate Change Partnership Conference.