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Shein tells Africa: Don't ignore Traditional Knowledge in addressing Environmental Challenges facing the Continent



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Shein tells Africa: Don't ignore Traditional Knowledge in addressing Environmental Challenges facing the Continent



COVER PHOTO: Vice President HE. Dr. Shein delivering a speech during the celebration of Africa Environment Day, AICC Arusha, Tanzania 3 March 2010.

Goal of Poverty and Environment Newsletter

This newsletter is published by the Vice President's Office, Division of Environment, with funding from Poverty-Environment Programme. The Objective is to enhance awareness among various stakeholders on the Relationship between poverty and environment. Articles in this newsletter are geared towards imparting knowledge, new ideas and skills to individual and communities that will eventually subscribe to sustainable environment management in the course of implementing the National Strategy for Growth and Poverty Reduction (NSGRP), Tanzania's Medium term framework for sustainable development.

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Shein tells Africa: Don't ignore Traditional Knowledge in addressing Environmental Challenges facing the Continent

By: Said Ameir

Vice President H.E. Dr Ali Mohamed Shein has urged countries in Africa to enhance traditional knowledge of its people in addressing environmental challenges facing the continent including effects of climate change.

Officiating at the opening of the commemoration of Africa Environment Day held in Arusha recently Dr Shein underscored the ever-increasing importance of the use of traditional knowledge in conservation and protection of biodiversity which he termed as 'life insurance' for human life.

He told nearly 300 hundred participants from Africa and other parts of the world that most of the people in the continent including Tanzanians depended on environmental resources for both income generating activities, basic needs of food, building materials, fuel wood as well as medicine.

In this regard he noted "the state of environmental wealth, that is forests, freshwater, marine and other resources, therefore, constitutes the determining factor for human existence" and added that 45 percent of identified plants in Tanzania are used in traditional healing. It was evident that human welfare was dependent on products and services that biodiversity provides hence it was a form of 'life insurance'

The Vice President asserted that the

strength of traditional knowledge relied not only on accurate observations but was a result of experimental learning which was passed through generations.

He thus noted that "dependence on traditional varieties of crops and plants, non-domesticated resources and gathered food serves to promote biodiversity conservation since it neither destroys nor homogenizes it in contrast to what most agro-industrial systems do"

He gave example of traditional calendars of managing agricultural activities such as phases of moon being linked to periods of rain falls and some communities coping with climatic seasonality by using weather indicators based on behaviour of local vegetation

Dr Shein told the participants that African biodiversity is in danger due to a new phenomenon of climate change as the later was expected to alter it as species were struggling to adapt to changing conditions. As a result he said "many people are likely to suffer additional losses in their livelihood systems when climate change and variability occur together with other stresses"

He emphasized that combating climate change was one of the defining challenges of our time since climate, biodiversity and human well-being are inextricable intertwined matters. And he added that "since climate change is intimately connected to our livelihood, any decline in ecological resilience of one of the resource base, increase the fragility of all of them".



Vice President H.E. Dr. Shein delivering a speech during the celebration of Africa Environment Day, AICC Arusha, Tanzania 3 March 2010.

Shein: Negotiations with Complex Foreign Investments Capital is a challenge to development use and protection of environmental resources

By: Our Correspondent

Vice President Dr Ali Mohamed Shein has revealed that for a developing country like Tanzania attraction of foreign investments and negotiations of complex investments such as mining, pose a big challenge in development, use and protection of its environmental resources.

Speaking at the official opening of the 9th Steering Committee Meeting of the International Organisation of the Supreme Audit Institution (INTOSAI) Working Group on Environmental Auditing-WGEA held in Dar es Salaam recently Dr Shein underlined the centrality of adoption of better environmental planning techniques which incorporate cooperate social responsibility.

“the interactions with international companies, particularly with regards to the attraction of foreign investments and the negotiations of complex investments such as in mining, require the adoption of better environmental planning techniques which encompass focus on corporate responsibility” he emphasised.

Likewise, on addressing environmental challenges and attaining sustainable development he said, Tanzania was investing a

significant part of her resources to ensure development activities undertaken are to the advantage and in favour of the present and future generations.

The Vice President told participants from within and outside the country that the appeal to sustainable development as a solution to environmental challenges and climate change needed global efforts involving different stakeholders.

“...the appeal to sustainable development, as a solution, requires a truly global effort, involving governments, non-governmental organisations, industries, professionals like you, distinguished delegates and the general public” he said

He told participants who were from Argentina, Brazil, Cameroon, Canada, China, Czech Republic, Estonia, Fiji, Indonesia, Morocco, Norway, Poland, South Africa, United Kingdom and host Tanzania that whilst the world was today highly interdependent and interconnected: environmental problems too extended across the globe and the stakes were already high.

In that respect he called for governments “to come up with deliberate efforts to ensure that

issues of environment and climate change are seriously taken on board and worked upon accordingly”

Dr Shein mentioned various measures taken by the government in addressing environmental challenges including establishment of National Environmental Management Council-NEMC, division of Environment in his Office which was given the task of day-to-day supervision of environmental matters and Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism which was, among other issues, tasked to ensure sustainable conservation of natural resources.

He also elucidated that while the government has decided to make agriculture its number one priority through ‘Kilimo Kwanza’ program it was also aware of the risk involved which could lead to effects on natural resources and environment

“In order to minimise this risk, the government is promoting environmentally sound use and management of agrochemicals, including the promotion of integrated and holistic approaches through land use planning and management” he mentioned.

He further revealed that given that environmental challenges including climate change were

global issues Tanzania was working hand in hand with other stakeholders at global level and in that regard was part of various agreements aimed at protecting environment.

“.....Tanzania is not working in isolation in tackling environmental and climate challenges. Our country has entered and signed various international environmental agreements with the intention of safeguarding our environment” he said

The Vice President listed some of those agreements as The Basel Convention on Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Waste and their Disposal, The International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling, The United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, The United Nations Convention to combat Desertification and The Convention on Biological Diversity.

On environmental effects in the country Dr. Shein named land degradation which he said has affected both productivity as well as quality of water. He mentioned melting of snow at Kilimanjaro and Meru mountains, increases of temperature, increased deforestation, recent Volcano eruptions of Oldoinyo Lengai, floods as examples of impacts of climate change in the country.

Quotes from VP's Tour of Ruvuma

By: Our Correspondent

1.0 Protection of environment

“When you are told not to undertake agricultural activities around water sources, don't be annoyed ...adhere to that call because if you ignore it, you are going to degrade the sources as a result water flow will decrease. The whole world is today worried over climate change and climate variability. Let's protect and preserve our environment so that it can sustain our lives and for Ruvuma to remain green too” Dr Shein told Matogoro village residents immediately after he inaugurated a multi-billion shillings water and sanitation project in Songea Municipality.

2.0. Poverty Eradication

“The decision to assign public institutions to produce better seeds to meet our farmer's requirement

was done by the government itself. Agriculture without better seeds is not sustainable. I advice you to effectively and extensively use those improved seeds as well as adhere to directives given by extension workers. By doing so we are going to increase productivity and finally alleviate poverty” Dr Shein told residents of Mlale village, Magagula Ward, Songea District after inspecting 200 acre farm by Mlale National Service Camp

“For those who aren't willing to contribute in development projects, they shouldn't disturb others who are willing to. We must contribute according to our means, those who have more must give more and for those who have less they must also give less” Dr Shein stressing the need for people participation development in activities to eradicate poverty during his recent tour of Mbinga district.



“Leadership is to show a way”. Vice President HE. Dr. Ali Mohamed Shein inspecting a 20 hector maize farm during his tour in Ruvuma region February, 2010.

Environmental and socio-economic impacts of 2009/10 same landslide and floods in both Same and Kilosa: a push factor towards poverty

By: A. Maembe and K. Mudiguza

The relationship between poverty and environmental degradation has been mainstreamed in several national and international strategies and programmes. Environmental degradation is a cause and effect of poverty while poverty prompts environmental degradation through inappropriate exploitation and use of environmental and natural resources. Activities like river bank cultivation, ploughing on steep mountain and hill slopes without terracing, excessive tree cutting for commercial and domestic use, shifting cultivation, water pollution are some of the causes of poverty as they reduce resource viability for socio-economic productivity. Poverty leads to environmental degradation by reducing human efforts towards sustainable use of natural and man made resources (Assey et al, 2007).

National Strategy for Growth and Reduction of Poverty (NSGRP) analyses the status of poverty in the country and sets out strategies for addressing it. It is also cognizant of the linkages between poverty and environment and outlines how environmental management contributes to poverty eradication.

Another encouraging move is that to date, the society is aware that

socio-economic development of developing countries is dependent on their natural assets and environmental management initiatives. Research conducted by ESRF in 2003 showed that, poverty is accelerated by poor economy, environmental degradation and poor governance (Assey, et al 2007).

Poverty is better explained by analysing the pull and push factors which lead towards and away from poverty. Disasters like floods, tornadoes, landslides, volcanic eruptions, and drought are some of the push factors towards poverty as they result into famine, habitats and property destruction, death, diseases which lead to more poverty thus hindering efforts towards sustainable development. For example floods destroy settlements, property, infrastructure (roads, railways, schools, sanitation, health centres etc), impair food security and lead to disease outbreaks.

Towards the end of 2009, Tanzania witnessed unprecedented disasters which include floods, landslides and drought in several parts of the country which to a large extent are attributed to climate change due to human actions. This article aims at explaining the impacts of Same and Kilosa 2009/10 landslide and floods which are big factors towards impoverishment of these

communities and a big setback to the national initiatives towards poverty eradication.

Kilosa district in Morogoro region is one of the districts which was hardly hit by these floods. The district covers an area of 14,245 square kilometers. Morogoro region borders Tanga, Arusha, Iringa, coast, Lindi, Ruvuma and Dodoma regions. The total population of Kilosa district was estimated to be 580,306 in 2009 (291,064 women and 289,242 men).

The district has two rain seasons; short rains during October to December and long rain season from March to May. Average annual rainfall in lowlands is 1200 mm while intermediary areas get 950 mm and high lying areas getting 1600 mm. Kilosa has 36 rivers (six annual and the remaining being perennial). Mkondoa, Mkundi, Lumuma, Zombo, Msowero and Mkata rivers flow throughout the year. Most of the rivers in Kilosa district get their water from catchment areas found in Dodoma, Arusha, Manyara and Singida regions.

Mkondoa River which flows through the lowlands was the source of December 2009 floods in Kilosa district. This was caused by excessive downpours in Dodoma in December which recorded 107mm over 24 hours in December before Kilosa floods (TMA, December 2009).

Kilosa floods were accelerated by environmental degradation due to steep mountain slope cultivation (done without terracing or contour farming techniques), shifting cultivation, sand and mining on rivers banks, deforestation due to logging and fuel-wood and inappropriate gemstone mining. This situation led to soil degradation which left the soil bear and thus floods swept the area easily.

Table 1: Water wells affected by December 2009 Kilosa Floods.

Ward	Shallow wells	Deep wells	Number of users
Kasiki	9	3	3000
Mbumi	4	1	1500
Mkwatani	12	-	3000
Magomeni	30	-	7500
Mabwerebwere	48	-	12000
Chanzuru	15	-	3750
Kimamba A and B	15	-	2000
Total	133	4	32750

Source: Kilosa District Council Report (February 2010)

Apart from water wells that were affected by Kilosa floods,

a total of 207 km of the road network in both Kilosa township and feeder roads were rendered impassable while sections of the Central Railway Line from Kilosa to Dar es Salaam and from Kilosa to Dodoma were destroyed that led to the suspension of train services. Train services (passengers and goods) have a lot of social-economic amplifications whose suspension has brought a lot of misery and economic losses to the community and the country as whole since the railway is the lifeline and major factor in moving services and goods for poverty eradication. Also a total of 100 electricity poles were affected by the floods rendering several households and other utilities in Kilosa town and surrounding villages to miss this vital service which is essential for both social and economic development. The electricity company provider Tanesco could not generate revenue and thus missed to achieve its development targets. Lack of clean and safe water for Kilosa town residents and surrounding villages after flooding and destruction of water supply network has lead to the increase of water bone diseases and environmental pollution like diarrhea and cholera. Efforts to arrest this situation has compelled both the Community and the Government at large to spend a lot of money and all available resources to address impacts of the flooding in Kilosa.



Flooded Street in Kilosa Town in February 2010.

Other infrastructures that were destroyed by floods in Kilosa town were primary and secondary school buildings whereby Mkondoa, Madaraka and Mkwatani primary schools have been abandoned and closed. Assessments on the location of these schools have shown that they are located in low lying areas prone to flooding by Mkondoa River during heavy rains. Similarly the floods caused destruction of crops in farms causing some residents to lose their crops which were in various growing stages while others lost food that was being stored in their homes. They also lost several personal effects like clothing and furniture.

another major factor that triggered off the landslide. The episode caused the death of 25 people after being buried under rubble. Seven homes and several livestock that included 21 cows, 54 hens and 3 goats were swept away by gliding and sliding mélange of rocks and soil at high speed. Also affected and swept away were food and cash crops mainly maize, simsim, coffee, trees for fruits and shelter, finger millet and degradation of the environment. The impact caused by the landslide is a push back factor towards poverty due to the loss of human life and all social economic achievements that had earlier been gained.

Table 2: The impacts of Kilosa floods on some farms and crops in 2 wards

No.	Ward	Village	Type of affected crop	Size of farm (acres)	Description
1.	Kimamba	Kimamba A	Paddy Maize	205 105	The farms were flooded, covered with sand and mud and can no longer be used for future farming
2.	Mambwerbwere	Mamoyo	Maize Banana Cassava Simsim Pepper	971 2 4 3 2	Although these farms were affected by floods, crops can still be replanted

Source: Kilosa District Council (February 2010)

Kilimanjaro Region particularly Same District situated in Northeastern Tanzania is another area in the country that was affected by disasters attributed to heavy rains related to El Nino floods and Climate Change that pounded the area between November and December 2009 and early January 2010 and caused loss of human life, livestock, human settlements, several infrastructures, biodiversity and environment degradation.

Same District is one among 7 districts of Kilimanjaro region and is situated 105 kilometers south east of Moshi town which is the regional headquarters. It covers an area of approximately 5186 square kilometers and a population of 211738 (population census 2002).

On the 10th of November 2009 the village of Mamba Myamba which is in Goha Ward of Same District was hit by a landslide that is attributed to heavy rains in several parts of South Pare Mountains. This village is located within the Upland Plateau Zone at an altitude above 1200 meters above sea level. The steep slope, weathered rocks and human activities on or close to these hills was

As if this disaster was not enough, another village in the same district was hit by floods. Kihurio village located in Kihurio Ward in the low lying zone of the district was flooded due to heavy rains for 2 consecutive days between 9th and 10th January 2010. Because of these floods a total of 215 families lost their homes and 2800 primary school pupils from 19 schools were unable to attend classes for a number of days after Wanchi River that traverses the ward burst its banks due to flooding. The main road from Arusha/Moshi to Dar es Salaam was also closed for some time while efforts were being undertaken to repair sections of the road whose bridges and culverts had been damaged by the floods.

The main reasons attributed to the source of the floods in this area is similar to those that happened in Kilosa that is due to environmental degradation caused by human activities in the Upland and Middle Plateau Zones, like unsustainable agricultural practices, mining for minerals, sand and aggregates extraction. These activities make the slopes weak and vulnerable to floods in low lying areas after heavy rains like those during the months of November, December 2009 and January 2010.



Landslide in Mamba Myamba village – Same District.

However the residents in low lying areas in Kilosa district (especially Kilosa town, Kimamba, Chanzuru, Mabwerebwere, Kasiki, Mbumi Mkwatani and Magomeni) were pre-warned about the impending floods and evacuated ahead of the floods thus avoiding heavy casualties in terms of loss of human life; only 1 death was reported (Kilosa District Council February 2010). In Same District, things were different; both disasters were not predicted and people could not be pre-warned thus the loss of human lives (Mamba Myamba).

Generally, the impacts of these disasters to the people of Kilosa and Same Districts is quite devastating to their life and social economic development. The incomes which they were generating from various social economic

activities has been wiped out or reduced to naught like subsistence farming, livestock keeping and small businesses. Food security for the victims is no longer there because their granaries were swept away and some families lost loved ones who were the only breadwinners. The ability to meet costs for education, medicine and other basic requirements at family level has been pulled and pushed back into poverty due to lack of income generating activities because many of them (especially in Kilosa) are accommodated in tented camps. They depend on handout assistance from both the Central and Local Government, private and public organizations, the Red Cross, individuals, Good Samaritans and friends. The Government is spending a lot of money on rehabilitation programs of infrastructures and services.

What happened in Copenhagen

By Penzi Nyamungumi

Environmental delegations from all over the world met in the capital city of Denmark, Copenhagen from 7th-19th December, 2009 for the United Nations Climate Change Conference.

The Conference included the Fifteenth Conference of the Parties (COP 15) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Fifth Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (COP/MOP 5).

The Copenhagen Conference was attended by more than 40,000 people representing governments,

Non-Governmental Organizations, intergovernmental organizations, faith-based organizations, scientists, media and UN agencies.

Close to 115 world leaders attended the joint COP and COP/MOP high level segment from 16-18, December, marking one of the largest gatherings of world leaders outside of New York.

The world leaders had the opportunity to deliver statements regarding their countries expectations in addressing the issue of climate change world wide.

The Vice President Dr. Ali Mohamed Shein led the Tanzanian delegation at the conference that included ministers responsible for

environment from both Tanzania mainland and Zanzibar.

The Copenhagen conference marked the culmination of a two year negotiating process to enhance international climate change cooperation under the Bali Roadmap, launched by COP 13 in December 2007 and latter negotiations continued in Poland in 2008.

It was hoped that the Copenhagen conference would to “seal a deal” or rather come up with a legal binding document to address climate change after the first commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol when it expires 2012.

The negotiations were divided into



Vice President HE. Dr. Ali Mohamed Shein delivering a speech during COP 15 in Copenhagen Dec. 2009.



Some of delegations from all over the world who attended COP 15 in Copenhagen Dec. 2009

two parts. First, the negotiations were geared to finalize the preparation for the deal that intends to implement the 1992 United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change based on equity and accountability depending on the contribution of a country.

Second, the negotiations focused on developed countries to ensure that they set a goal of limiting global warming as agreed under the Kyoto Protocol after the first phase of its implementation expires by 2012.

Under the new negotiations, Tanzania like other developing countries had expectations to see developed countries commit to reduce their individual and collective emissions, by at least 40% below their 1990 level by 2020.

During the press conference, the Minister of State, Vice President's Office, Dr. Batilda Burian said other expectations from the conference were to ensure that funds are provided for adaptation activities in developing countries.

"Africa in general wanted to get five percent (5%) of the GDP of the developed countries (almost US\$400 billion per year) beginning from 2012," said Dr. Burian and added that "we wanted half of the funds to be used in addressing climate change in African countries."

According to Dr. Burian Tanzania was also expecting the conference would find ways to improve procedures that enables a country to take part in Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) projects to ensure that

African countries also benefit from the system.

"This will increase opportunities to private companies in Tanzania to take part in these projects and expose the nation to projects that are aimed at promoting national economy without polluting," said Dr. Burian.

Tanzania also expected that the conference would enable African countries to obtain finance and technological support for capacity building to enhance the fight against climate change and ensure the system of enhancing removals of greenhouse gas emission by forests benefit developing countries like Tanzania for sustainable development.

However, for the two weeks there was what many characterized as “intense negotiations” at the level of experts, Ministers and Heads of State. Differences, therefore, emerged during the negotiations between developed and developing countries and each side defending itself. However, the negotiations were not reached as it was expected.

Such a situation was expected to happen because developed countries which are the major cities in emitters the world were not ready to announce plans with regard to cutting greenhouse gas emissions as it might affect industrial production and eventually their economy.

On the other hand, developing countries and Africa in particular which is the most affected continent

with climate change wanted the meeting to come up with the binding treaty to make developed countries fulfill their commitment. However, the adoption of a legally binding outcome had not taken place.

Following such confusion Denmark Prime Minister Lars Lokke Rasmussen who chaired the high level panel under COP called a meeting of 24 Presidents who then prepared the Copenhagen Accord which was strongly criticized by many developing countries including Africa.

The Copenhagen Accord immediately faced strong criticism due to the fact that the Accord did not take into account that the global temperature should not be over 1.5 degrees by 2020 which is the stand of Africa.

Others lamented on the lack of transparency regarding the procedure leading to the Copenhagen Accord. A small number of developing countries, with Venezuela, Bolivia, Cuba and Nicaragua in the forefront, voiced strong objections to an “untransparent and undemocratic” negotiating process and denounced the Copenhagen Accord.

Generally, many countries were insisting to come up with a legally binding document because of the adverse effects of climate change which has already been experienced in some countries including Africa.

“Countries like Tanzania are impacted in all fronts, like extreme drought, devastating floods and land slides. Diseases such as malaria



Minister of State, Vice President Office - Environment, Hon. Dr Batilda Burian attending a COP 15 meeting in Copenhagen Dec. 2009.

are claiming lives in areas they were not prevalent before; inland lakes are drying at worrying rates; sea level rise is destroying the coastal infrastructure and leading to sea water intrusion into fresh water wells, erosion of coastal areas and submergence of small islands,” said Dr. Shein The Maldives delegation leader explained the way the Islands are at risky to sink giving an example of the October 2009 cabinet meeting in the Islands that it took place under the sea. In Nepal, the ice of mountain Everest is melting, similar to mountain Kilimanjaro.

Following that situation, African leaders impressed upon developed countries to fulfill their commitment of setting their targets of reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

They also insisted that the finance and technological support must be provided to developing countries to enable them address the adverse impacts of climate change.

The climate change impacts mentioned above shocked the Swedish Minister for Environment who on behalf of the European Union expressed the importance of adopting a legally binding treaty in order to make the world a safer place to live.

In general, all leaders who delivered their statements at the conference

agreed unanimously that climate change has adverse impacts particularly to the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and so there is need to take immediate action.

“In that meeting, there is no single leader who has said climate change is not a problem. All of them confessed that it is a problem, some said, let us take action today before tomorrow, and others, let us take action right now,” said Dr. Shein at a press conference at Julius Nyerere International Airport soon after his arrival from Copenhagen.

The US President Barack Obama also told the gathering that he did not go to Copenhagen to talk, but to take proper action to address climate change and thus urged world leaders to adopt a binding treaty.

Despite such intense negotiations, the conference, eventually, agreed to “take note” of the Copenhagen Accord as the basis of negotiations towards a better legally binding outcome at the sixteenth conference in Mexico, December this year.

However, the meeting established a procedure without precedent under the UNFCCC for countries willing to do so to register their support for the Accord and submit their targets by 31 January, 2010.

What many characterized as the

most successful part of the Accord relates to a short – and long – term financing. Developed countries came to Copenhagen with clear promises to fund mitigation and adaptation actions in developing countries. According to Copenhagen Accord, US\$30 billion for the period 2010-2012 will be provided, and long-term finance of a further US\$100 billion a year by 2020 will be mobilized from different sources as well as mechanisms to support technology transfer and forestry.

Another important issue that seem to be an achievement on the part of the conference relates to the American decision to announce for the first time her plans with regard to cutting greenhouse gas emissions by 17%. We are all aware that America has never signed up for the Kyoto Protocol and therefore, her decision was received positively by the delegates hoping that it will increase the battle against climate change.

However, as things stand, the Copenhagen outcome highlights that a lot of work remains to be done before people can safely believe that the world has seen a turning point in the fight against climate change.

The challenge now is to turn what is agreed into something that is legally binding in Mexico December, this year.

Director of Environment in the Vice President's Office retired

By: Our Correspondent

Mr Eric K. Mugurusi, Director of Environment in the Vice President's Office retired from Government service on the 24 November 2009. Mr Mugurusi's journey in the civil service started in the Ministry of Lands, Housing and Human Settlements in 1974, where he headed the Master Planning and Research Section, coordinated environmental affairs at a time when environment had not attained the profile it commands today. It was under that Ministry that the National Environment Management Council was first established later in 1983. Mr. Mugurusi was later to become the first Director of the Division of Environment when it was first created in Government structure, building the Division from its infancy, under the then Ministry of Tourism, Natural Resources and Environment in 1990, a post he retained until his retirement. The Division of Environment was later moved into the Vice President's Office in 1995, along with Mr. Mugurusi.

Mr Mugurusi's extensive experience, knowledge and contribution to the environment agenda at the policy and strategy, as well as at the planning and management levels is widely recognized among environmental stakeholders, nationally as well as internationally. Any one familiar with his style of writing can easily detect his footprints in the National Environment Policy, and in numerous policy, strategy and planning documents for which he was responsible. He was the coordinator of the national process leading to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, popularly known as the Earth Summit, held in Rio de Janeiro, 1992. In this process, and in subsequent periods, he was deeply

involved in the negotiations leading to the adoption of a number of global and regional environmental treaties, including the Convention on Biological Diversity and its Protocol on Biosafety, the UN Framework Convention on Climate change and its Kyoto Protocol, the UN Convention to Combat Desertification and Drought, the Protocol for Sustainable Development of Lake Victoria Basin, the Convention for Sustainable Management of Lake Tanganyika, etc. From these, and other agreements, an impressive catalogue of programmes and projects were conceived and implemented through the Division as well as by other national institutions and stakeholders. Until his retirement, Mr Mugurusi was the Chairman of the Lake Tanganyika Management Committee, advisory to the Conference of Ministers. He was on the national team of six, to the Regional Negotiating Committee for the Nile River Cooperative Framework, under the Nile Basin Initiative.

During his tenure in civil service, Mr. Mugurusi sat on governing bodies of several national and international institutions, including the Board of Directors of the Tanzania National Parks Authority, National Environment Management Council, Cleaner Production Centre of Tanzania, Tanzania-Zambia Pipeline Ltd- TAZAMA, etc.

At the international front, Mr. Mugurusi was one of two Africa's Regional representatives as Vice President on the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate change from 2007 December 2009. He was Africa's single Regional representative on the Global Advisory Committee for the Marrakech Process under UNEP and UN-DESA for the development of the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production from April 2008 until his retirement last year.



Mr. Eric K. Mugurusi

Undoubtedly, Mr. Mugurusi's pool of knowledge, insight and inspiration, and his ability to activate consultation added flavour to the scale of the environmental challenges at all levels.

In his retirement, while attending the 15th Conference of the Parties to UN framework Convention on Climate change in Copenhagen, Denmark, in December 2009, Mr Mugurusi was elected a member to the Consultative Group of Experts, one of Africa's 5 members on this Group which consists of 24 members representing Latin America and the Caribbean, Asia and the Pacific, Africa, developed countries and international organizations. Recently, at its first meeting in Bonn, Germany, 29 March 2010, the Consultative Group of Experts elected Mr. Mugurusi to be its Chairman.

Mr. Mugurusi is a graduate from the University of Nairobi (Kenya), Bsc(Eng.) Land Survey and Photogrammetry(1974); the University of Sydney (Australia), Master of Town and Country Planning(1978); and is a Humphrey Fellow of Urban and Regional Studies (Environmental Infrastructure), from Massachusetts Institute of Technology, MIT (USA).