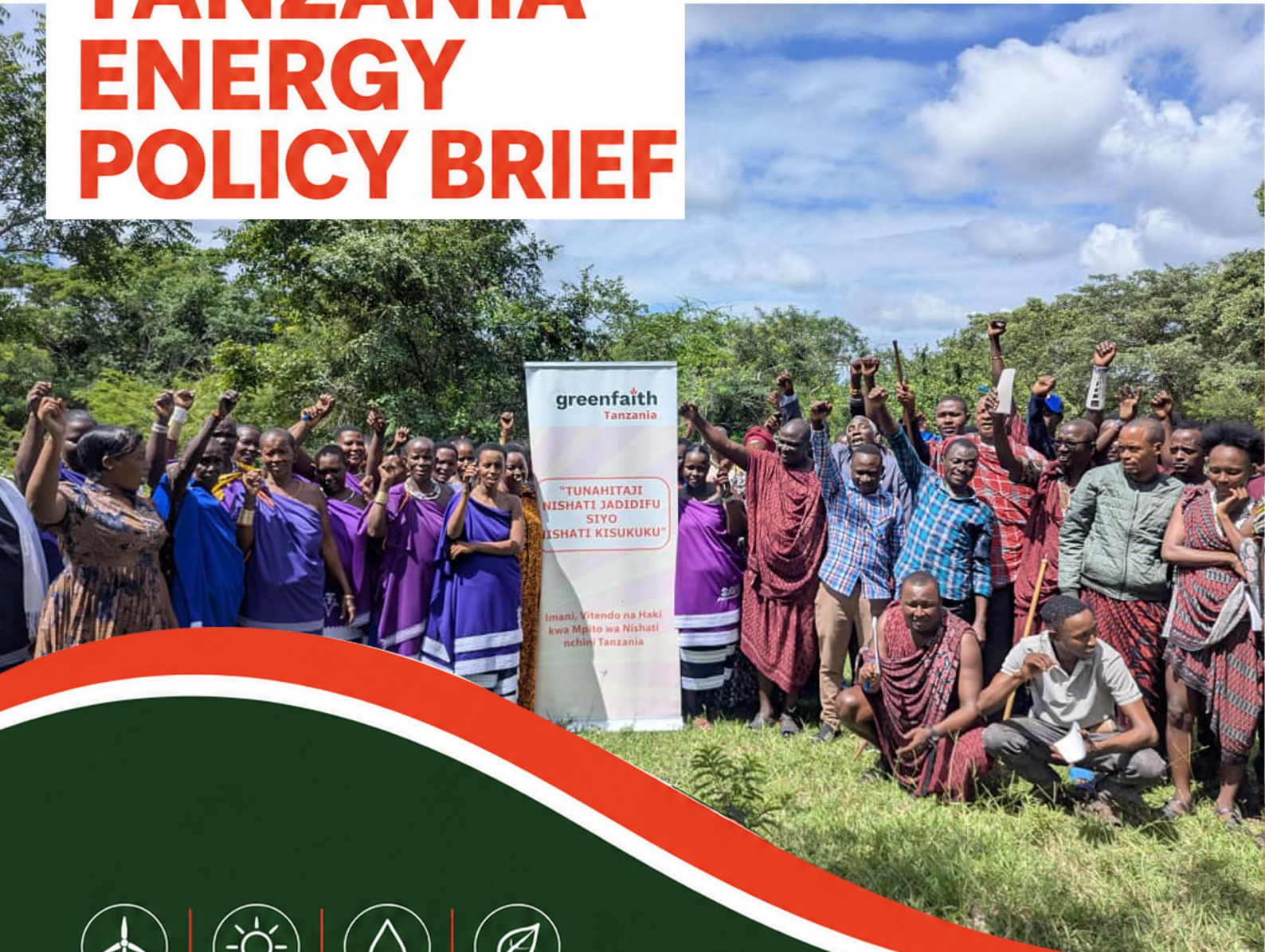


Centering Faith & Indigenous Communities Lense:

TANZANIA ENERGY POLICY BRIEF



POLICY BRIEF

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KEY FINDINGS IN NUTSHELL

- 1** | Tanzanian indigenous groups and faith leaders strongly perceive exclusion from the country's energy planning and decision-making process.

- 2** | Communities impacted by fossil fuel expansion projects worry about losing their lands, water sources, biodiversity, and way of life.

- 3** | More women and young people are becoming interested in climate justice leadership and organizing work.

- 4** | Faith leaders have a lot of influence in their communities and can contribute to climate change awareness, building peace, and caring for the environment.

- 5** | Communities are in favour of renewable and sustainable energy solutions rather than dependency on fossil fuels.

- 6** | Organizing frameworks like GreenFaith Circles prove to be very efficient in mobilizing communities.

- 7** | Human rights, the environment, transparency, and community involvement were stressed as essential aspects of an energy transition plan.

- 8** | The need for policies protecting indigenous communities and accountability in the extractive sector projects is crucially high.

- 9** | A cooperation between civil society organizations, religious institutions, indigenous leaders, women, and youth is vital for climate justice in Tanzania.

1.0 Executive Summary

The energy transition process in Tanzania is influenced by the country's development aspirations, the global energy economy, and the needs of local indigenous communities. Although the government seeks to develop the country's energy sector, attract investors, and improve its energy infrastructure, the indigenous and faith communities seek justice and inclusiveness in the energy transition process.

Indigenous people, as well as those living in rural areas, feel the effects of energy initiatives but lack involvement in the decision-making processes. Most of these populations also have poor energy service delivery.

Faith-based actors, alongside the indigenous community groups, perceive the energy transition as an ethical issue. They campaign for energy transition from non renewable sources to renewable sources and help bridge the gap between policymakers and local communities on issues such as displacement and pollution.

Main Ideas



1

Community under-representation in energy decision-making



2

Inequitable energy benefits distribution



3

Faith-based actors advocate for ethical energy policies



4

Potential energy transition reproduction of social inequality



5

Call for just energy transition that ensures justice and equity

2.0 Introduction: Just Energy Transition

2.0: Objective of Indigenous Centering Faith & Indigenous Communities Lense Analysis

The goal of centering faith and indigenous communities' Lens on Energy Transition is to ensure that, the energy policy formulation and implementation are inclusive and just, considering the realities on the ground. It implies going beyond the technical and economic considerations in energy transitions to incorporate ethical, social and cultural elements.

Specific Objectives

More specifically, the goal is to:

-  1 Engage indigenous and grassroots communities in the decision-making processes surrounding energy development
-  2 Foster energy justice by ensuring that both advantages and disadvantages of energy development activities are equitably distributed
-  3 Defend land ownership, livelihoods, and environment impacted by energy projects
-  4 Elevate the voice of faith communities in terms of morality and ethics in energy development
-  5 Enhance accountability and inclusivity through collaboration between policymakers and affected communities
-  6 Enable the people-centred and environmentally sustainable energy transition in Tanzania

3.0 Methodologies

Methodology involved community engagement, participatory methods, and policy analysis (desktop review), which together provided an all-encompassing approach for analysing the energy transition process in Tanzania. Through such a methodological approach, it was possible to not only capture but integrate the local knowledge and spiritual beliefs into the analysis, along with other dimensions such as policy and institutions, thus giving rise to a more holistic view of energy justice and sustainability issues.

4.0 Context: Indigenous & Faith Communities and the Just Energy Transition in Tanzania

The energy transition in Tanzania exists against a larger backdrop of national developmental considerations, increasing energy demands, and a global move towards decarbonization. In spite of government efforts to develop access to energy, energy infrastructure, and investments, there is significant pressure experienced by indigenous and rural populations living in resource-endowed communities, who suffer the consequences of land grabbing, environmental changes, and a lack of involvement in decision-making about energy development initiatives.

Simultaneously, faith actors, such as churches and mosques, have begun to consider the energy question not only from the point of view of its practical application but also in terms of ethical questions of justice, environmental preservation, and

5.0 Analysis Findings

Section 1: Indigenous & Faith Communities in Energy Sector Policies (Tanzania)

The analysis has shown that energy policies in Tanzania are largely focused on increasing access to energy, promoting investment, and enhancing infrastructure development. Nevertheless, in relation to the overall policy context, indigenous people and faith-based organizations are only partly involved in the policy process. One of the findings from the analysis is the lack of involvement of indigenous and rural communities in the structures that govern energy issues, even though the projects that are implemented have an impact on their lives, such as transmission lines, energy extraction, and infrastructure building.

Another critical aspect found was that there was a gap regarding justice and equity, since the advantages generated through investments in energy projects were not equally distributed between the different segments of the population, particularly those located in rural areas.

In terms of the role played by faith-based organizations, they are beginning to have a say when it comes to the discussion of energy issues by focusing on energy ethics and energy justice.

Overall, while there are policy frameworks in place, there seems to be a need for further actions in order to institutionalize community engagement.

Section 2: Key Concerns Raised by Indigenous Communities

Several issues were raised by the indigenous peoples (Maasai, Akie, and Taturu peoples), regarding extractive and fossil fuel operations:

- The loss of grazing areas, forests, and territories.
- Low levels of consultation and participation in the planning processes of the projects.
- The threats posed by water sources, biodiversity, and food systems.
- The heightened risk faced by women and children due to the disruption of the environment.
- Ineffective measures for preserving Indigenous knowledge systems and cultures.

Section 3: Voices of Faith Leaders

The faith leaders present during the discussion highlighted the importance of protecting the environment on grounds of ethics and spirituality. They recommended:

- Enhancing the ethical dimension of investments in energy.
- The need to protect creation and future generations.
- Making peace-driven development models.
- The inclusion of faith-based communities in climate and energy policy negotiations.
- The investment in sustainable energy options

It was further pointed out by the faith actors that communities trust religious organizations and faith leaders can be helpful in raising climate justice awareness among the masses.

Section 4: Policy Gaps Identified

The participants highlighted various issues within the Tanzanian energy transition process:

- Poor representation of grassroots and Indigenous voices in the development of national energy strategies.
- Poor transparency in negotiations and environmental impact assessments related to extractive industries.
- Insufficient development of decentralized renewable energy sources in rural areas.
- Poor safeguards for the communities affected by fossil fuel-based initiatives.
- Lack of acknowledgment of the Indigenous ecological knowledge base in environmental governance.

6.0: Conclusion

The evaluation of the energy policies of Tanzania through the lens of indigenous and religious organizations highlights a significant paradox between the developmental objectives of the country and the reality of life experienced by indigenous populations. Even though Tanzania currently prioritizes its energy generation, investment, and infrastructure development, its policies do not adequately address the interests of the local people. The native population is still struggling with land ownership problems, environmental degradation, and lack of participation in decision-making processes. In contrast, religious organizations have emerged as active participants in the discourse by considering the moral and ethical dimensions of adopting renewable energy and advocating for social justice within the energy sector.

To sum up, the findings show that a socially just transition to clean energy sources is crucial for Tanzania. It is essential to integrate.

7.0: Advocacy priorities

The policy dialogue generated the following recommendations for the Government of Tanzania, policymakers, development partners, and civil society actors:

1. Advocate for Just Energy Transition

The country needs to emphasize its energy transition from reliance on fossil fuel resources into energy systems that consider social, economic, environmental, and human rights issues at the same time.

2. Ensure Meaningful Community Engagement

Communities, particularly indigenous people, women, young persons, and religious leaders, need to play their roles in all aspects of energy policy processes.

3. Secure Indigenous Land and Livelihoods

Protection for the rights of indigenous people in their land and other natural resource assets threatened by extractive industries should be guaranteed.

4. Accelerate Renewable Energy Access

Renewable energy access in rural areas must receive greater attention through more investments in alternative energy systems.

5. Acknowledge Faith Communities as Climate Leaders

Climate advocacy should recognize the faith-based role in climate change education, peacebuilding, and environmental management initiatives.

6. Ensure Transparency and Participatory Process

Transparency and participatory process should become important considerations in energy-related agreements and environmental impact assessment.

Thank You



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