

Enhancing Tanzania's Climate-Resilient Development:

Integrating Nature-Based Solutions, Climate Services, Gender Inclusion, and Indigenous Knowledge

POLICY BRIEF

January 2026

Executive Summary

This policy brief synthesizes key insights and strategic recommendations from the Multi-Level Policy Analysis, conducted as part of the ALBATROSS Horizon Europe project across five Sub-Saharan African countries- Ghana, Kenya, Madagascar, South Africa, and Tanzania. In total, 252 policy documents were reviewed, including 48 from Tanzania. The analysis highlights opportunities to strengthen policy coherence, expand the integration of Nature-Based Solutions (NbS) and Climate Services (CS), and embed equity and Indigenous & Local Knowledge (IKLK) into climate governance.

Tanzania faces mounting climate risks, notably drought (52%), flooding (46%), soil erosion (40%), and heat waves and coastal degradation (17%). While national policies and strategies including sectoral frameworks acknowledge these hazards, responses remain fragmented. The review shows that 70% of Tanzanian

policies integrate NbS, yet only 20% demonstrate high-level cross-sectoral integration. Similarly, the uptake of Climate Services is limited: fewer than 25% of policies reference them, and just 12% achieve comprehensive integration.

Equity dimensions are also underrepresented, with only 21% of policies explicitly addressing gender equality, whilst IKLK is referenced sporadically, often in community-based conservation or traditional farming practices, but without systematic mainstreaming.

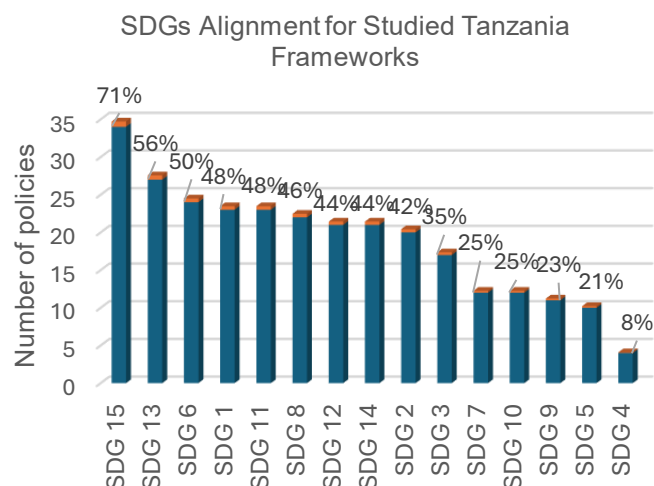
To advance inclusive, evidence-based, and climate-resilient development, Tanzania must prioritize innovative financing for nature-based solutions, embed climate services into national and subnational development frameworks, update gender strategies with measurable gender-disaggregated indicators, and formalize the integration of indigenous local knowledge across policy and practice.



Key Findings

Policy Alignment with SDG

The assessment of the 48 Tanzania policy frameworks on their alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) reveals strong coverage of environmental and socio-economic goals, though notable gaps remain in gender equality and education.



Policy Recommendations

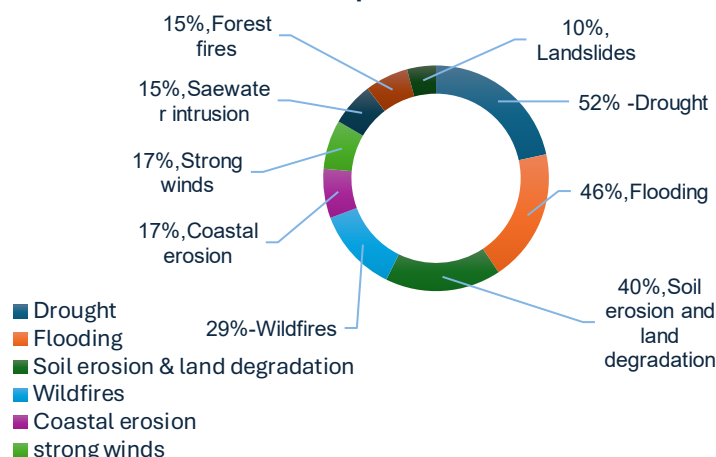
To maximize SDG alignment, Tanzania should:

- Expand coverage of gender equality and education within climate and environmental policies.
- Strengthen integration of clean energy (SDG 7) into national development and climate strategies.
- Ensure cross-sectoral coordination and finance for nature-based solutions and climate services so that climate action (SDG 13) is systematically linked with poverty reduction, food security, and economic growth.

Climate hazards

Tanzania faces mounting climate risks, notably drought (52% of policies), flooding (46%), soil erosion (40%), and coastal degradation (17%).

Climate hazards identified in studied Tanzania policies



Policy Recommendations

Tanzania should adopt a three-pronged approach:

- Mainstream climate adaptation into all sectoral policies (agriculture, water, energy, urban planning, health, etc.).
- Leverage hybrid (green-blue-grey) infrastructure and technology (irrigation, drainage, seawalls, resilient buildings)
- Enhance nature-based solutions and governance reforms (reforestation, mangrove restoration, land-use planning, IKLK).

Nature-Based Solutions (NbS)

Current Status

- Around 70% of policies include NbS measures, with only 20% showing high level of integration.
- Strong integration in the National Climate Change Response Strategy (2021–2026) and the National Environmental Master Plan (2022–2032).
- Prioritized ecosystems include Freshwater (71%), Forests (50%), Coastal/Marine (48%), Wetlands (35%), Agriculture (29%), Urban areas (13%).
- Identified gaps are limited integration in legislation (e.g., Environmental Management Act, Land Act), weak financing mechanisms, and minimal uptake of urban NbS.

Policy Recommendations

- Mandate NbS into urban planning frameworks (e.g., Urban Planning Act, Dar es Salaam Masterplan.).
- Strengthen legal mandates for NbS in environmental and land-use laws. (e.g. Environmental Management Act, Land Act).
- Establish innovative nature financing mechanism and instruments (biodiversity credits, blended finance, carbon markets, thematic bonds, payment for ecosystem services).
- Institutionalize cross-sectoral NbS coordination across water, agriculture, forestry, and disaster management.
- Enhance monitoring frameworks with NbS-specific indicators.

Climate Services (CS)

Current Status

- The integration of Climate Services (CS) remains limited, with fewer than 25% of policies referencing CS and only 12% achieving comprehensive integration.
- Strong provisions in the Tanzania Meteorological Authority Act (2019) and the National Climate Change Response Strategy (2021–2026).
- Sectoral focus areas include Disaster Risk Reduction (15%), Water (15%), and Agriculture (13%).
- Current measures include climate observations (29%), information systems (27%), and research/modelling (25%).
- Identified gaps are limited mainstreaming in high-level frameworks (e.g., Development Vision 2050), weak cross-sectoral coordination, and underutilization for decision-making.

Policy Recommendations

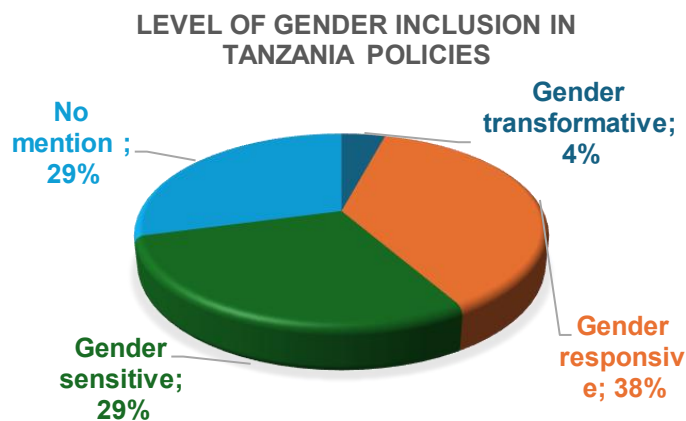
- Institutionalize Climate Services in national and subnational development frameworks and sectoral strategies (Vision 2050, National Environmental Policy (2021), National Agriculture Policy (2013)).

- Strengthen multi-hazard early warning systems across Agriculture, Water, Health, and Disaster Risk Reduction.
- Expand climate data and information accessibility and capacity building for local governments and communities.

Gender and Social Inclusion

Current Status

- Around 40% of the reviewed policy documents include specific gender-responsive measures.
- An additional 30% acknowledge the need to address gender inequality without listing specific actions.
- The remaining one-third of the reviewed policy documents included limited or no consideration of gender inclusion.
- The National Strategy for Mainstreaming Gender in Climate Change (2013), and National Guidelines for Mainstreaming Gender into Environment (2014) provide a strong foundation for gender-responsive policies.



Policy Recommendations

- Expand integration of gender and social considerations across climate and environmental policies and strategies, e.g., the National Adaptation Plan, Environmental Master Plan (2022-2032), and the Biodiversity Strategy.

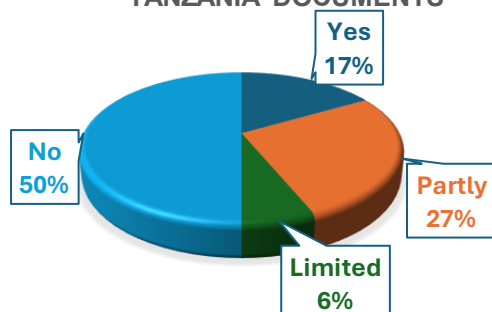
- Embed gender-responsive approaches in climate services. Extend provisions beyond the National Disaster Management Strategy (2022–2027) to laws such as the Meteorological Authority Act (2019) and Disaster Management Act (2015).
- Strengthen sectoral policies to enhance women's participation in green jobs and climate resilient livelihoods- agroforestry, conservation agriculture, and ecotourism.
- Improve women's land tenure rights and resource access through reforms in land policies and planning acts.
- Mandate gender-disaggregated indicators in climate monitoring and reporting.

Indigenous Knowledge and Local Knowledge (IKLK)

Current Status

- Around 45% of policies contain concrete provisions for integrating IKLK, either comprehensively or partially.
- The remaining documents include limited considerations or do not mention IKLK systems.
- Focus areas are natural resource management, climate change adaptation, disaster risk management, and sustainable agriculture.
- Policies promote IKLK through documentation, integration with scientific knowledge, and, to a lesser extent, capacity-building and formal governance mechanisms.

LEVEL OF IKLK INTEGRATION IN STUDIED TANZANIA DOCUMENTS



Policy Recommendations

- Strengthen IKLK in national adaptation planning and sectoral strategies. For example, the National Environmental Policy, the National Agriculture Policy, National Forest Policy and the National Climate Change Response Strategy (2021-2026) acknowledge IKLK, but integration of IKLK-based approaches into decision-making and conservation efforts is limited.
- Integrating IKLK into regulatory frameworks should move beyond acknowledgement in laws, e.g, Forest Act (2002), Environmental Management Act (2004), and Wildlife Conservation Act (2022), acknowledge IKLK but do not include legally binding requirements.
- Promote co-production of knowledge between scientists and local communities.
- Shift from Documentation to Implementation. Ensure IKLK is actively applied in conservation, climate adaptation, water governance, and resource management.

Conclusion

Tanzania has made significant progress in embedding NbS and climate adaptation into policy frameworks. However, systematic integration of Climate Services, Gender & Social Inclusion, and Indigenous Knowledge remains limited. Policymakers should prioritize:

- Legal and institutional reforms to mainstream NbS and CS.
- Innovative nature financing mechanisms and instruments for large-scale NbS and gender-responsive adaptation and to incentivize private sector investments.
- Inclusive governance structures that elevate IKLK and marginalized voices.
- Monitoring and evaluation frameworks with gender disaggregated indicators to track progress.

By embedding these measures, Tanzania can strengthen climate resilience, safeguard ecosystems, and ensure equitable evidence-based adaptation pathways.

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Source: This brief is based on ALBATROSS Horizon Europe Deliverable D6.1: *Multi-level policy analysis* (Nyasimi, Almassy, Muhwanga, et al., 2025). For more detailed information and supporting evidence, readers are referred to the full report and country specific summaries.