



Media Gap analysis in Women Climate Change Adaptation

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ABSTRACT

Zanzibar, an archipelago consisted of more than 50 islands is highly affected by climate change. Around 150 sites on the islands have been identified as being affected by saltwater intrusion and are now not suitable for agriculture¹. This has contributed to food insecurity, lack of access to land and an increase in the unemployment rate affecting mostly marginalized women who are largely dependent on rainfall.

On the other hand, women have been at the core front addressing climate change hazards albeit, unknowingly. This include forest patrolling, mixed farming and mangrove plantation. Yet, their role and actions are not taken into consideration not even reported in the media houses. This research has found a glaring gap of report in the media house. Out of 608 issues reviewed, only 34 (5.5%) articles addressed women leadership and climate change adaptation featuring particularly women minister and the President of the United Republic of Tanzania². The research has conducted media review, interviews with climate change actors and Focus Group Discussion with journalists & editors in Zanzibar.

The research has therefore recommended women full recognition of their role and media coverage of their active and leadership role in addressing the climate change hazards and be part of the national agenda. This will therefore be the game changer addressing climate change issues at all its sphere policy, budget level, transparency and accountability.

Keywords: community; sea-water; stories; leadership, accountability

¹ Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar (2021) "Status of Environmental Report", Publication of the Second Vice President, Zanzibar.

² Ali, Mzuri Issa (2023)" Media Gap analysis in Women Climate Change Adaptation", unpublished report.