

# Summary Guidelines for Training of Civil Society Organizations and Journalists on Climate Change Adaptation in RWANDA



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## Introduction

The vulnerability of sub Saharan Africa is unparalleled both in terms of projected climate change and of challenges in building technical and institutional capacity. As a result the need for pragmatic advice on how best to mainstream climate change risk into development decision-making is paramount. Providing targeted, flexible, and rapid assistance when a specific need for knowledge arises or advice on integrating climate change risks into development is productive as this helps hasten integration of climate risk into policy design ensuring development proceeds along pathways that are less at risk from climate change.

Rwanda is one Sub Saharan Africa country amongst others that benefited from this targeted, flexible and rapid assistance from CC DARE. The vulnerability of this country is evident through desertification tendencies, high degradation of arable land due to erosion following torrential regime of rains in different regions across the country. In order to increase the resilience of vulnerable communities in this country, a need

to ensure they have access to information on appropriate adaptive practices has been realised as the starting point in combating this challenge. However knowledge sharing is relatively limited among climate change actors in Africa.

## CC DARE as part of the Solution

Using funds provided by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark, Climate Change and Development – Adapting by REducing vulnerability (CC-DARE) Programme jointly implemented by UNEP and UNDP has been supporting Sub-Saharan African countries tackle climate change adaptation. The overarching aim of CC DARE is to improve the ability of countries to remove barriers and create opportunities for integrating adaptation into their national development agendas with emphasis on meeting the identified country specific needs with quick and tailored support reinforcing existing initiatives on climate change adaptation and on strengthening existing national institutions so that they can be useful in mainstreaming adaptation in development planning processes beyond the project.



CC DARE: Climate Change and Development – Adapting by REducing Vulnerability

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As part of the Rwanda's development efforts, the integration of long-term climate change adaptation activities into their national planning process was facilitated and achieved through the implementation of an Education, Training and Awareness Project titled Enhancing Capacity Building and Raising Awareness on Climate Change for a Sensitive Community in Rwanda. This awareness project laid the groundwork for adopting adaptation consideration into regular policy development activities in the country.

One of the 6 outputs of this project was Training of Trainers (CSOs and Journalists) and the outcome of this output was: 45 CSO members

were trained to train others on climate change issues' and integrating adaptation as well as mitigation measures into various sectors; so far more than 150 individuals have been trained in five provinces in Rwanda by part of 45 NGO representatives. 36 Journalists were trained and through training of trainers Project leaders carryout sensitization workshops in various provinces of the country using the same information gathered and documented. Below is a summary guideline of how these trainings were conducted.



## A. TRAINING OF TRAINEES FOR THE CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS

### Appropriateness of methodological approach

The training is conducted with emphasis on interaction between the trainers and participants and more importantly among the trainees themselves where experiences are shared in group as well as plenary sessions. Expectations should be set at the onset of the training and the training should have a deliberate focus on sharing the lessons learnt with communities. The groups should be organized around sector specific issues and areas such as agriculture, energy and environment. This arrangement for the Rwandan CSO training of trainers provided an opportunity for trainees to share and learn from each other on sectoral issues and challenges as well as strategies that would benefit communities in the subsequent training sessions that will be delivered to communities in train-the-trainer sessions. The reports generated from the group discussions and plenary sessions are integral to the compilation of the training material that was packaged for distribution to wider audience.

## Adopted Strategies within the CSO Trainings

### Action Planning

The trainees should be notified in time to prepare for action planning. The trainees should be stimulated to discuss the planning process they will undertake in support of their activities. There was significant effort to develop an understanding of the planning process in Rwanda and how CSOs can orient their work to identify entry points toward influencing policy, the level at which CC interventions can be most beneficial to communities. To this end, the trainees were reminded to review their strategic plans and identify entry points and indeed integrate CC particularly adaptation into their annual action plans.

Guidance questions to this exercise

1. Identify key activities for mainstreaming Climate Change in your strategy/action plan
2. Indicate specific actions/approach you will take to mainstream Climate Change.
3. Develop a realistic budget that will facilitate the mainstreaming of climate change in your strategy
4. Provide a list of partners for the mainstreaming process
5. Develop a monitoring and evaluation plan for tracking progress on climate change activities

Key activities	Specific actions	Budget	Partners	Monitoring & Evaluation





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## Recommendations for training of trainers for CSO

It is necessary and useful to follow up on the implementation of the resolutions from the training particularly the execution of the action plans developed in the course of and in the immediate aftermath of the training. This will facilitate the identification of needs and put in place measures for effective support to CSOs in mainstreaming CC. Also there is a huge replication potential for this training across Africa and elsewhere

## B. TRAINING OF TRAINERS FOR JOURNALIST

One of the project components was to ensure that media houses and groups have scientific knowledge on climate change reporting so that legitimate information is disseminated and gathered. In regard to achieving the above, a one day Journalists' training was organised so that so that Rwandan journalists are equipped with climate change facts.



## Appropriateness of methodological approach

The training should be conducted in a conducive environment with class lectures with interactive discussions. Journalists should be led through several introductory topics regarding climate change with a view of gradually introducing them to what appeared to be a perplexing subject matter. Through a gradual participatory approach, trainees should be able to understand the basics of climate change and its relevance to their daily work as reporters. Emphasis throughout the one day training should center on effective communication particularly for print and audio as well as Television. The lecture methodology should be use with handouts given to trainees to reinforce the lectures deliver.

## Contents: of Journalist training

- Introduction and outline of the learning programme. Setting goals
- The organised reporter , dealing with stress and deadline pressure
- Basic introduction to climate reporting
- What is weather, climate and climate change
- The basic science of climate and its importance and relevance to the global community
- Brief mention of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change
- Understanding climate, media and society
- Defining the climate and climate change story
- Identifying sources, researching the story, compiling data and crafting the story
- Good strong intros to the climate story
- Writing sector related climate story-Widening the climate story ( agriculture, health, rural

livelihoods, , finance, infrastructure, socio economic impacts etc)

- Intros to good climate change stories that impact on the people
- Developing people oriented and community centered media articles
- The politics of climate change
- Establish a mentoring concept for further empowering of trainees on climate change reporting

## Introductory Session

1. Ground Breaking Participatory Exercise-10 minutes. Trainees hand in pre workshop assignment. They should complete skills audit assessment form for pre workshop evaluation.
2. Introducing Climate Change and Related Sector Reporting.
3. Basic definitions: What is weather, climate and climate change
4. The basic science of climate and its importance and relevance to the global community
5. Brief mention of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change
6. The politics of climate change
7. Understanding climate, media and society

## Scientific and Climate Reporting and Discussions on introductory session

- Introduction to Core skills of effective writing: creation of message, organization of main ideas, drafting, editing and publishing
- Defining the climate and climate change story
- Identifying sources, researching the story,





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compiling data and crafting the story

- Good strong intros to the climate story
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## EXERCISE SESSION

- a. Group I: Assessment of available of sources, building sources and resource data base for Media Reporting on Climate Change in the country
- b. Group II: Assessment of innovative approaches to climate and climate change reporting that will take better advantage of the resources of the media, the government and nongovernmental organizations so that the value, use and dissemination of climate and climate change information can become more strategic and more effective.



## CLIMATE, CLIMATE CHANGE AND THE MEDIA IN AFRICA

1. Re-energizing Exercise: Role Play/ Interviewing/pitching
2. The Role of the Media
  - Awareness raising and popularization of climate reporting using electronic and print media
  - Participatory exercise leading to effective reporting using other media including video, public mass communication, online, print (leaflets, newsletters, posters, billboards etc)
  - Establish a mentoring concept for further empowering of trainees on climate change reporting.
  - Opportunities to linking to existing Climate Change Networks and regional training opportunities

## DISCUSSION AND EVALUATION OF TRAINING

Individual Journalists are tasked to describe their overarching, long-term goals, and present a vision of how they will make a difference in the contribution to the betterment of their communities or societies through effective reporting and covering of climate and climate change stories. At the end of the training the participants should be able to come out with how they viewed the training.

### Conclusions

This training gives reporters, editors and selected participants an overview of the learning programme and an understanding of the expectations, and to establish a common understanding of news and newsroom terms that are relevant to the climate change reporting.

The training introduces participants to climate change, rural development, gender, agriculture and sectors related to climate especially in Africa.





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#### Disclaimer

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For more information visit [www.ccdare.org](http://www.ccdare.org)

#### Prepared by:

Richard Munang, PhD  
United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)  
Richard.Munang@unep.org