



Success Story of Cesope



opposing uranium mining in
Tanzania from 2009 to 2017





Civil Education is the Solution to Poverty and Environmental Management (CESOPE)

P.o.box 4124, Dodoma, Tanzania Email: cesopetz@gmail.com Tel.: 255 26 2323342, cell: +255 753340690

Success Story of Cesope opposing uranium mining in Tanzania from 2009 to 2017

Since 2009 CESOPE started a campaign to stop uranium mining plans in Tanzania. Uranium mining is still a potential threat in Tanzania and in the world at large as a result of proliferation of nuclear energy and nuclear weapon. CESOPE we do **Seminars, training, workshops, conferences, meetings, TV programs , documentary films, Radio programs and studies in order to** have strong allies within community who their will able to react immediately on issues of civil rights violations and environmental problems where will be caused with Uranium activities and

- To build up reliable network between organization and communities for easy exchange of information on what is happening at grassroots committees .

Story by Anthony Lyamunda

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2016 to 2017 activities report

General information

Institution: CESOPE (CIVIL EDUCATION IS THE SOLUTION TO POVERTY AND ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT)

Project Title: Deepen and Strengthen active citizenship on stopping uranium mining and Opposing Farkwa dam Construction

Project Start: April, 2016

BAHI CONFERENCE REPORT

KINTINKU MISSION HALL

INTRODUCTION

27-05-2017

Local conference in one the means that CESOPE is using to create awareness of the negative impacts of the farkwa dam project in Bahi, Manyoni and Chemba Districts. CESOPE through this project conducted a Bahi Local Conference which brought together leaders of Bahi pady farming schemes, Village leaders, Ward Councilors, Manyoni East Member of Parliament and other stakeholders of River Bubu in Manyoni and Bahi. The conference was held at Kintinku Mission Hall instead of Bahi after the denial of the permission by Bahi District Commissioner to conduct the meeting in Bahi Mission Hall. The Bahi authority does not approval CESOPE work of creating awareness to the people of bahi on the negative impacts of the Farkwa Project. The Bahi District Commissioner has also previously denied other Organizations that wanted to conduct a meeting to discuss about the development of Farkwa Dam and the impacts it will have to the communities of Bahi and Manyoni. While Bahi district authority is not collaborative to CESOPE, Manyoni District on the other hand provides all the necessary support and collaboration to CESOPE. The Manyoni District Council formed a committee of ward councilors who went to meet with the minister of water to convey their grievances about the planned Farkwa Dam Project which will affect the communities of Manyoni.

Feedback on Farkwa Dam Construction

CESOPE Director Anthony Lyamunda provided a feedback on the progress of Farkwa Dam Project to that participants of the conference. CESOPE Director told the participants that, despite the efforts employed by CESOPE to stop the progress of the farkwa dam project, the government has continued to push the development of the project. Therefore CESOPE director requested the people of Bahi and Manyoni to continue supporting CESOPE and to also take action at their own capacity to make their voices heard and also exert pressure on the decision makers. Through lobbying of channels of influence CESOPE have met with influential people such as MPs and Councilors and urged them to make a follow up on this project at the central government level. During the Parliamentary the MP from Chemba constituency asked a question to the minister of water as to when the government will start the process of compensation to the people of Mombose and Bubutole to give a way for the construction of the dam to start. The response from the minister was soon the evaluation process will start and the government will finance the construction of the dam



Participants of bahi Conference in listening to CESOPE director providing feedback on farkwa dam project.

Feedback of the council committee who visited the Minister of water

The councilors committee which was formed by CESOPE went to visit the ministry of water to seek clarification on the project and to also present their grievances about the project on the threat that the project poses to the people of Manyoni. The committee of councilors told the minister of the gap that exists in the feasibility study which excluded completely Manyoni as beneficiaries of the River bubu which will be blocked by the dam constructed. The Councilors recommended to the minister that, the Tanzania Environmental Council should conduct a new Environmental and Social Impact Assessment that will include the area of Manyoni district that will equally be affected if the construction of the dam will push through. The committee said the ESIA that was conducted by TRESS Consultant is fake and does not represent the reality of the impacts that will happen if the project will be implemented.

The councilors committee raised a concern to the minister that Bahi and Manyoni communities were not initially involved in the project, and the company that did the ESIA did not involve the people that will be directly involved by the implementation of the project, it only consulted leaders at the district level in Bahi who made a decision on behalf of the communities that are not supporting the implementation of the project due to its negative impacts.

Achievement of the Bahi local conference

The conference was attended by the MP of Manyoni East Constituency who made a commitment to the participants who to a large extent was his voters that he will make a follow up to the minister of water and irrigation the ESIA to be able to understand the scope of impact of the project the people of Manyoni and Bahi. The MP also made a



Participants of Bahi Conference

- commitment to the people of Manyoni that he will bring the minister responsible to visit Manyoni and listen to the concern of the people regarding Farkwa Dam Project.
- The participants of the conference also said as a result of the lobby and advocacy work of CESOPE the people of Manyoni and bahi have been able to understand the impacts of the farkwa dam construction to their lives as it will affect the availability of water for paddy irrigation, livestock, fishing in Bahi swamp and for domestic use as most of the villages along the river bubu have no access to safe water for domestic use than water from river bubu.
- The paddy farmers in Bahi and Manyoni made a self arrangement for them to visit Farkwa Dam construction site inBubutole. The organizer of the trip is paddy farmer from Bahi named Yona. They contributed 20,000/= from 20 farmers and they used the money to hire a car that took them to Bubutole. This motivation came after they had attended the bahi conference and got the feedback on the progress of farkwa Dam.
- Paddy Farmers from Bahi refused to pay a tariff that was introduced by Bahi District Council during a meeting with paddy farmers in bahi, that each owner of a farm in the Bahi Paddy scheme will have to pay 20,000/= per year as a levy. The paddy farmers having attended CESOPE conference they raised a question, why should we be paying taxes for our farms while river bubu is going to be blocked by the construction of farkwa dam and the Bahi district is not doing anything to stop that government plan which will affect the production of rice in Bahi; that question was support by all farmers and ended the meeting between bahi district officials and the paddy farmers of Bahi.
- The participants of the meeting urged CESOPE to continue the good work and the people pledged to continue their support to CESOPE because river bubu is their life. The

water that flows to Bahi wetland is the one that sustains their life and the life of their livestock, without river bubu their life will collapse.

The participants of the meeting urged CESOPE to involve the media to make this issue be heard to the responsible authorities especially the President to hear the grievances of the people of Manyoni and Bahi. CESOPE should also use Social Media to make this issue know to the entire world.

CONCLUSION

The farkwa dam Project is implemented will threaten livelihoods of thousands of people in Bahi and Manyoni who depend on the river bubu for pady farming, livestock keeping and fishing. Implemtation of this project also is incompatible with the sustainability of the bahi wetland and river bubu ecosystem. Water from river bubu that flows into bahi wetland is the lifeline of the biodiversity bahi wetland and river bubu ecosystem. CESOPE will continue the lobby and advocacy work on farkwa dam to make sure the government understands the negative impacts of this project and entirely abandon this project.

LOBBYING MEETING REPORT

AFRCAN DREAM CONFERENCE HALL

INTRODUCTION

07-06-2017

Lobbying of channels of influence is one of the key strategies for CESOPE to influence the decision making spaces to abandon the Farkwa dam project. CESOPE conducted a lobbying meeting that brought together different stakeholders to discuss the issue of Farkwa Dam and how we can have a united front in lobbying and advocating to stop the Farkwa dam project because of the negative impacts it has to the Bahi wetland biodiversity and river Bubu ecosystem. In this meeting also CESOPE and the participants stakeholders discussed the issue of the relationship between the government and CSOs, when it comes to the issue of Farkwa Dam Project the government especially at the regional and district level in Dodoma and Bahi respectively they are reluctant to provide a room for the CSOs to engage the citizens Bahi into a meaningful discussion on how they will be affected by the Farkwa dam project.

Feedback on Farkwa Dam Construction

CESOPE Director Anthony Lyamunda provided a feedback on the progress of Farkwa Dam Project to that participants of the conference. CESOPE Director told the participants that, despite the efforts employed by CESOPE to stop the progress of the Farkwa dam project, the government has continued to push the development of the project. Therefore CESOPE director requested the people of Bahi and Manyoni to continue supporting CESOPE and to also take action at their own capacity to make their voices heard and also exert pressure on the decision makers. Through lobbying of channels of influence CESOPE have met with influential people such as MPs and Councilors and urged them to make a follow up on this project at the central government level. During the Parliamentary the MP from Chemba constituency asked a

question to the minister of water as to when the government will start the process of compensation to the people of Mombose and Bubutole to give a way for the construction of the dam to start. The response from the minister was soon the evaluation process will start and the government will finance the construction of the dam. The participants were CSOs working in Dodoma region, Selected ward councilors from Dodoma municipal and representatives from the government the registrar of NGOs.



CESOPE feedback on the lobby and advocacy on the farkwa dam project

CESOPE provided a detailed feedback on the lobby and advocacy activities on the farkwa dam project to the participants because some of the invited participants especially ward councilors from Dodoma municipal .

Some of the participants of the lobbying meeting conducted in

was their first meeting with CESOPE therefore they want to have full background of the project so that they can be on page as well

Participants from Dodoma municipal was not aware of the environmental impact of the dam construction to the bahi wetland and the river bubu ecosystem as what they know from the government is the dam will supply more water to Dodoma town for the expected increase of population due to the government decision to move its capital to Dodoma.

CESOPE explained how the people of Bahi and Manyoni have not being adequately involved in this project and how their paddy farming and other livelihood activities depend on the flow of river Bubu and the Bahi wetland, the continuation of the farkwa dam project will completely destroy the economy of the people of Bahi and Manyoni.

CESOPE provided alternatives to the participants that the government can use to get more water for the capital rather than implementing the farkwa dam project which has negative impacts to the communities of Bahi and Manyoni. The Mzakwe, Goima and Hombolo water sources if well utilized can supply enough water for Dodoma town and they will be no need for them to construct the farkwa dam and destroy the lives of the people of Bahi.



Participants of the lobbying meeting attentively listening to the facilitator

Discussion from the Participants

Yona Samwel from Bahi representing paddy farmers from Bahi Paddy farming schemes He was the first contribute and he had the following to say,

“We the paddy farmers of Bahi we support CESOPE initiative to oppose the construction of the farkwa Dam project, this project will destroy the paddy farming in Bahi, Paddy farming employees at least 90% of the people living in Bahi, Bahi makulu, Nagulo, Uhelela, Mkakatika, Chipanga, Chikola, Chimendeli and Ngulugano villages, continuing with this project will completely destroy the lives of all the people living in these villages, we are urging the government through the ministry of water to stop this project”

A participant from Kintinku Manyoni district who is also farmer from Udima Paddy scheme had the opportunity to provide his opinion about the farkwa dam project and how it will affect their lives in Kintinku especially the Udima paddy farming schemes



“We regret that the feasibility study of the farkwa dam project did not consider the presence of Udima Paddy farming schemes and completely ignored the needs of water for irrigation from river for the development of udima paddy farming schemes, this must be a very fake feasibility study because udima paddy scheme is the first paddy scheme even before Bahi paddy schemes were established, Udima Paddy schemes were already in existence, we cannot accept this project is a disaster to our lives, the government if real cares for us they should abandon this project for good”

Recommendations from the participants

Participants of the lobbying meeting provided the following recommendations to CESOPE and the government:-

The participants strongly recommended CESOPE to convene another meeting that will bring together representatives from all the communities that will be affected by this project negatively or positively to discuss the impacts of this project and make recommendations to the government.

The participants urged the government to give space to CSOs to engage the communities in any government project because its their constitutional right for the citizens to participate in the affairs of their government.

The CSOs that participated in the lobbying meeting condemned with all strong terms possible the government interference in CSOs operations, that it is against the law because CSOs are registered to operate according to their objectives and CSOs code of conduct they do not need permission from the district commissioner to do their legally mandated activities.

CONCLUSION

The farkwa dam Project is implemented will threaten livelihoods of thousands of people in Bahi and Manyoni who depend on the river bubu for pady farming, livestock keeping and fishing. Implementation of this project also is incompatible with the sustainability of the bahi wetland and river bubu ecosystem. Water from river bubu that flows into bahi wetland is the lifeline of the biodiversity bahi wetland and river bubu ecosystem. CESOPE will continue the lobby and advocacy work on farkwa dam to make sure the government understands the negative impacts of this project and entirely abandon this project.

CHEMBA COUNCILORS MEETING REPORT

DEAR MAMA HOTEL

INTRODUCTION

19-05-2017

CESOPE continued the lobby and advocacy on Farkwa dam construction project. The government has continued to push the work of Farkwa dam construction and they have reached a stage of evaluating the property and land of the villagers of Mombose and Bubutole who are going to be compensated to move to another area to give a way for the project to take off. CESOPE conducted a meeting with ward councilors from Chemba district at Dear Mama Hotel to discuss the progress of the project and also discuss their level of involvement in the evaluation process that is going on. CESOPE also discussed with the ward councilors the role of civil society organizations and their relationship with the government because recently the relationship between government and CSOs especially at the district level has been worsened because of following up on the farkwa dam project, therefore it was important for CESOPE to discuss with the ward councilors to continue providing all the necessary support to CESOPE so that we can support the people of Chemba, Bahi and Manyoni to claim their rights that will be violated through the implementation of this project.

ISSUES DISCUSSED

During the meeting CESOPE had two facilitators one who presented two topics; the compensation act, and the CSOs and government relationship.

CSOs and Government Relationship

The facilitators told the ward councilors that, CSOs are legally registered to carry out the activities according to the NGOs Act of 2002 and the NGOs code of conduct. However CSOs has been perceived and labeled differently because of the nature of the projects they carry out. CSOs that are implementing advocacy work such as CESOPE are been labeled as activists that are intending to disrupt peace, or they anti government development projects. Therefore the lobby and advocacy work on the farkwa dam project has made CESOPE an enemy of the government especially the district governments of Bahi and Chemba. Therefore there is a need of having regular communication between CESOPE and the government at the district levels where CESOPE is working to clarify expectations and to smoothen the working relationship between the government and CESOPE.

The Ward Councilors of their part congratulated CESOPE for the good work they have been doing on the farkwa Dam project, they have learned significantly from the seminars and meetings that have been conducted by CESOPE, despite the challenges that CESOPE is facing from the government the ward councilors still emphasized on CESOPE to continue the lobby and advocacy work on this project because there are still so many challenges that has



not been resolved. They gave an example of land grabbing issues that are happening in Villages, people come outside the villages in the name of investors and they take people's land without compensation, the ward councilors requested CESOPE to work on this issue as well.

Evaluation Process and Compensation

CESOPE through the facilitator provided an extensive knowledge to the ward councilors on the compensation act. Due to the ongoing process of evaluating the properties of the villagers of Bubutole and Mombose for compensation CESOPE made decision to provide education to ward councilors on how they can supervise the evaluation process so that there can be a fair, prompt and adequate compensation. The ward councilors complained the evaluation process is not done according to the law and therefore it will lead to unfair compensation to most of the villagers, for example the evaluators are not evaluating the crops that are found in their farms for the reason that until they start implementation they will have already harvested the crops, this is against the compensation act which says the evaluator will take into consideration all the properties available during the time of evaluation, skipping crops in the farm is going against the compensation act. CESOPE assured the ward councilors to follow up on this matter but also urged the ward councilors to follow u this matter to the district level and discuss this during the council's meeting in Chemba District Council.



As a result of the challenges that still exists in the implementation of the farkwa dam project, the ward councilors from Chemba suggested that, CESOPE should conduct a meeting that will involved ward councilors from all the districts that will be affected by the implementation of this project, so that together they can discuss and come up with recommendations that will sent to the central government particularly the ministry of water and the ministry of environment. CESOPE took this idea and in the next phase of this project CESOPE bring together ward councilors from Bahi, Chemba, Manyoni districts and Dodoma municipal council to discuss about this project and come up with resolutions that will be submitted to the ministry of water, and the ministry of environment.

The ward councilors also recommended CESOPE in collaboration with the ward councilors themselves to collect and document all the villagers complaints on the execution of the compensation process and to find a solution for them otherwise villagers will not be fairly compensated or being paid promptly as the law demand.

“During the implementation of this exercise there have been cases of human rights abuse that has been observed therefore we request CESOPE investigate on the cases of violation of human rights as a result of this projects. Indigenous people of Sandawe tribe have not been listened to their rights as they solely depend on river Bubu for their domestic use of water and they have no any other source of water, if this project will go through their lif is going to be even more difficult than it is right now” Ward Councilor from sanzawa said.

CESOPE observed even among councilors there is no freedom of expression on this issue, ward councilors and people who will be affected by this project are not free to express their grievances because they being intimidated by government officials, freedom of expression is a constitutional right of the all citizens, that is why CESOPE in the next phase of the project will conduct a thorough investigation and documentation of human rights abuses as a result of the implementation of the farkwa dam project.

CONCLUSION

The farkwa dam Project is implemented will threaten livelihoods of thousands of people in Bahi and Manyoni who depend on the river bubu for pady farming, livestock keeping and fishing. Implemtation of this project also is incompatible with the sustainability of the bahi wetland and river bubu ecosystem. Water from river bubu that flows into bahi wetland is the lifeline of the biodiversity bahi wetland and river bubu ecosystem. CESOPE will continue the lobby and advocacy work on farkwa dam to make sure the government understands the negative impacts of this project and entirely abandon this project.