

## PhD Proposal Plan (refined)

- The PhD plan is jointly prepared by the student and the supervisors at UDSM.
- The PhD plan will be used for setting up a matchmaking process aiming at identifying a relevant co-supervisor at a Danish University
- The PhD plan up max. 5 pages is to be sent to Susanne Amsinck, [sla@dmu.dk](mailto:sla@dmu.dk) no later than **May XX**, 2012.

### 1. Name of the PhD student

William John Walwa

### 2. Project working title

The Conflict Potentials of Climate Change in Tanzania

### 3. Abstract

Tanzania is known as “an oasis of peace in the troubled continent of Africa” (Hirschler, 2004:1). The country neither experienced civil wars, religious conflicts, ethnicity nor coups since independence in 1961 (Hirschler, 2004; Rubanza, 2001). However, the relative peace and security, which Tanzania has enjoyed since independence, appear to be under threat because of the recurring environmental conflicts in recent years. For instance, on 27th October, 2008 fighting involving peasants and farmers of Mabwegere village, Kilosa District, Morogoro region erupted. About eight people were killed and more than 832 villagers took refuge in neighbouring villages. A similar type of conflict broke in Kilosa district, Morogoro in 2000 and more than 15 people were killed (LHRC, LEAT and LRRRI, 2008). This study examines the conflict potentials of climate change and the extent to which climate change is perceived as a contributing factor to the recurring environmental conflicts in Tanzania.

### 4. Project background (including state-of-the-art)

There is a growing recognition that environmental problems, such as climate change can lead to violent conflicts and threaten global peace and security. The 2007 Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate (IPCC) revealed that if the current rate of carbon dioxide emissions continues, the global temperature will increase from 2 to 6 centigrade in the next century. This increase in temperature will cause drought, desertification, floods, diseases and the rise of the sea level (IPCC, 2007; Gebresenbet, 2009; Brown and Crawford, 2009). According to Salehyan (2008) and Brown et al. (2009), climate change-induced problems, like drought, rise of the sea level, desertification, and floods will cause conflicts because they compromise basic human needs and they can reduce governmental capacity to provide human welfare. Besides, Keefer (2009) and Brancati (2007) argue that climate change can cause resource scarcity, which may trigger competition and a reduction of governments' capacity to provide for people's needs.

According to the Strauss Center for Climate Change and African Political Stability (CCAPS) (2011:1), between 1990 and 2009, Africa experienced nearly 6,300 social

conflicts including strikes, coups, riots and protests, which were more common during “extremely wet and dry years than in years of normal rainfall.” This suggests that climate change-induced drought, desertification and floods can lead to violent conflicts, and African countries and other developing countries will be greatly affected because of their limited capacity to adapt (CCAPS, 2011). Burke et. al. (2009:1) conclude that:

We find strong historical linkages between civil war and temperature in Africa, with warmer years leading to significant increases in the likelihood of war. When combined with climate model projections of future temperature trends, this historical response to temperature suggests a roughly 54% increase in armed conflict incidence by 2030, or an additional 393,000 battle deaths if future wars are as deadly as recent wars. Our results suggest an urgent need to reform African governments’ and foreign aid donors’ policies to deal with rising temperatures.

The link between climate change and conflict was evident during flooding in Pakistan in August 2010, in which conflicts and looting properties like food, vehicles and domesticated animals of victims were observed. In villages like Karampur at Sukkur city, “some villagers said that they preferred to guard their flooded homes while sending their wives and children to safety. Others said they had been looted while trying to flee during chaotic scenes” (The Observer, 2010:2; The Citizen, 2010:2).

On the contrary, Lindzen (1992) contend that the global climate is not changing, and there is little evidence to support the IPCC reports that the world is warming. Lindzen and McCarthy (2005) discount the IPCC assessment reports because they use simplistic and unreliable models. According to Lindzen (1992:7), “global warming is not only scientifically controversial, but also unlikely.” Lomborg (2001) views climate change as a phantom being exaggerated to scare the international community. This exaggeration, according to Lomborg may affect economic and human welfare because more resources will be unnecessarily diverted to climate change mitigation and adaptation rather than human welfare development.

Even though, Righarts (2009) maintains that climate change is happening, but people can adapt smoothly without resorting to conflict (Righarts, 2009). Brancati (2007) and Slettebak (2010) point out that climate change-induced disasters, for example, drought and the rise of the sea level cannot cause conflicts or threaten global peace and security; instead they unify people and change their conflict relationships. For example, Hurricane Katrina, the most devastating storm in the past 100 years, which hit the United States Central Gulf cities (New Orland and Gulf Port) in August 2005, caused serious flooding, about 1300 deaths, and the destruction of properties worth above USD 100 billion. Nevertheless, people adapted smoothly without necessarily resorting to conflicts and looting (National Climatic Data Center 2005). However, Benjaminsen et. al. (2012) argue that comparisons of climate-related data in the Sahel (Mali and Niger) indicate no direct link between climate variability and violent conflicts. Violent conflicts in these are not caused by climate variability, but rent seeking behavior of politicians, corruption and land encroachment restricting the movement of nomads. This study investigates the conflict potentials of climate change and the extent to which climate change contributes to the recurring environmental conflicts in Tanzania.

## 5. Hypothesis/aim of project

- Climate change coupled with contextual factors (i.e. poverty, youth unemployment and poor legal and policy framework guiding natural resources

management and allocation) have potential for causing conflicts in Tanzania.

- Climate change contributes to the recurring environmental conflicts in Tanzania.
- Tanzania is not well prepared to address the conflict potentials of climate change.

## 6. Project description

This study examines the conflict potentials of climate change and the extent to which climate change contributes to the recurring environmental conflicts in Tanzania. It also investigates the degree to which Tanzania is prepared to respond to the conflict potentials of climate change. The study is informed by the human needs theory and the political ecology approach. It uses the following data collection methods: interviews, focus group discussions and informal consultations. The study will be divided into six chapters: The first chapter provides background information and sets the context of the study. The second chapter discusses the literature review informing the study. The third and fourth chapters offer the theories and research methods, respectively. The fifth chapter provides the findings and the last (sixth) chapter offers the general conclusion and recommendations emanating from the findings.

## 7. Methodologies

### Data Collection Methods

This study employs the following data collection methods: interviews, observation, focus group discussions, document review and informal consultations.

**Interviews:** In this data collection method, the researcher will carry out face-to-face conversations with the people of Pangani and Kilosa and officials of NEMC, Meteorological Department, Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Water, Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Defense and National Service, Sea Sense, Lawyers Environmental Action Team (LEAT) and Carbon Tanzania. The interview method allows for the collection of first-hand information directly from the respondents and permits data collection from both literate and illiterate people. The method allows the respondents to ask questions or seek clarification about aspects arising from the interview. Face-to-face interviews empower the respondents to express themselves in their own words and at their own time and pace. Additionally, the interview method allows the researcher to learn the feelings of interviewees regarding climate change and conflict. A total of 30 respondents will be interviewed.

**Focus Group Discussions (FGDs):** This data collection method will gather information from the collective point of view of local people from Kilosa and Pangani. The method empowers people to participate and express their perceptions and feelings regarding the conflict potentials of climate change. In this method, local people will be divided into groups of five to eight people to share, discuss and dialogue about the conflict potentials of climate change the extent to which climate change is the contributing factor to the recurring environmental conflicts in Tanzania. To encourage participation, each FGD will comprise heterogeneous groups of people, like elders, youth, women and men. A total of 15 FGDs will be organized.

**Document Review:** Reliable documents like books, journals, newspapers and

speeches on climate and the recurring environmental conflicts in Tanzania will be analysed to determine the conflict potentials of climate change, contextual factors that can compound climate change to create conflicts, and the extent to which Tanzania is prepared to respond.

**Data Analysis:** Data collected through interviews, FGDs, informal consultations and document review will be analysed using content and contextual analysis techniques. According to Babbie (1995), content analysis focuses on the content of communication, such as interviews, speeches and FGDs on the conflict potentials of climate change. Content analysis allows for determining and analysing what, how and why people talk about climate change and conflict. On the other hand, contextual analysis will be used to analyse collected data on the basis of the contexts, like Pangani, Kilosa, Ministry of Water, Ministry of Environment and LEAT.

## 8. Work plan

### 1. Year

Activity	Period	Place
Refine my PhD proposal to meet registration requirements at the University of Dar es Salaam.	June 2012	University of Dar es Salaam
Present my PhD Proposal at the Department, College and Senate levels.	July –September 2012	University of Dar es Salaam
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Attend classes and review further literature to sharpen my proposal</li><li>Consult supervisors, experts and fellow students to strengthen my proposal</li><li>Prepare research tools and test my research methodology with fellow students and professors.</li></ul>	October 2012 to June 2013	Copenhagen University? Danish Institute for International Studies (DIIS)?

### 2. year

Activity	Period	Place
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Conduct Field Research</li><li>Cross check the collected data</li></ul>	August – December 2013	Kilosa and Pangani
Data analysis and interpretation	January –June 2014	University of Dar es Salaam

### 3. Year

Activity	Period	Place
Presenting findings to my supervisors	July – August 2014	University of Dar es Salaam?? Copenhagen University?
Proof reading and editing	September - February 2015	University of Dar es Salaam
Presentation and Defense	March 2015	University of Dar es Salaam
Final write up and submission	April – June 2015	University of Dar es Salaam

## 9. References

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<b>10. Proposed PhD courses</b>		
<b>Course title</b>	<b>Institution</b>	<b>Suggested ECTS-points</b>
Introduction to Research Ethics	University of Copenhagen	??
Research Writing in English for PhD Students at the Faculty of nSocial Sciences	University of Copenhagen	
Conflict management	University of Copenhagen	
Global Environmental Governance	University of Copenhagen	
Research Design for Political Science	University of Copenhagen	
Advanced Analysis of Qualitative Data using Nvivo and other software	University of Copenhagen	
Failed States, Conflict Management & Capacity-Building in Africa	Danish Institute for International Studies (DIIS)	
Weapons of Mass Destruction, Non-Proliferation & Disarmament	Danish Institute for International Studies (DIIS)	

Land tenure and land conflict	Danish Institute for International Studies (DIIS)	
Climate Change and Conflict	Danish Institute for International Studies (DIIS)	
Academic Writing	University of Copenhagen	

**11. Time schedule** (courses, stays in Denmark/abroad/at other national institutions, publishing of results).

Please refer to item No. 8 in which the time schedule (stays in Denmark/abroad/at other national institutions, publishing of results) has been indicated.

**12. Scientific competences that the student will get from the project**

The project will equip me the following scientific competencies:

- Advanced research methodology techniques and academic writing skills.
- Solid academic independence and ability to engage in research and publication.
- Academic exposure and experience regarding climate change and conflict from professors and fellow students in Denmark, Ghana and Tanzania.
- Advanced pedagogical knowledge, skills and attitude in environmental and conflict-related issues.
- Critical thinking, analytical skills and attitude in managing, resolving and transforming climate change-related conflicts.

**13. Date and signatures**

	Date	Name	Signature
Principal supervisor	May 18, 2012	Dr. Bruce Heilman	
Project supervisor			