



# CLIMATE CHANGE SERVICES IN SWAZILAND

Ms Hlob'sile Sikhosana  
*Meteorological Officer (Climate Change)*  
*Swaziland Meteorological Services*  
*September 2010*



- Swaziland Background information
- Climate change programme
- Awareness campaign
- Youth summit
- Dialogue
- Achievements
- Challenges

- Swaziland is a landlocked country in the southern part of Africa and she has ratified both the Convention and the Kyoto Protocol.
- In Swaziland we have 4 geographical regions which are; Shiselweni, Hhohho, Manzini and Lubombo. We also have 4 ecological zones which are: Highveld, Middleveld, Lowveld and the Lubombo Plateau.
- The house of Assembly in Parliament comprises of Members of Parliament who represent their respective constituencies and these constituencies are called Tinkundla in our language.

- Like any other country Swaziland is not an exception to the adverse effects of climate change which have evident impacts on the country's main economical sectors like agriculture industry and forestry therefore it is the country's duty to address climate change issues at both national and international level.
- The Department of Meteorology is the body responsible for climate change and it is under the Ministry of Tourism and Environmental affairs. However there are other Government Department, Ministries, Agencies, NGO's and CBO's which are very active on climate change issues.

- Objectives :
  - To inform the public on the effects of climate change.
  - To collect the public's views on a possible action plan to address issues on climate change.
  - To engage all climate change stakeholders in the country and to share roles between them.
  - To formulate a national climate change strategy with public involvement

- 12 Tinkhundla (constituencies) were identified 3 per geographical region such that they cover almost the whole country which are visited by the climate change team together with other stakeholders accompanied by a drama group which plays a very informative stage drama on climate change in our vernacular language. The stage drama is followed by presentations by climate change team and stakeholders which is followed by a question and answer session.
- In every constituency we introduce a competition where the public is invited to suggest a SiSwati name of climate change and the winner will be announced in the national dialogue.
- We also invite the public to involve themselves in climate change and take an individual initiative of addressing climate change.

- With the help of the Ministry of Education there will be school debates on climate change in all the regions which will eventually feed to the youth summit where we will have representatives from all youth organizations and schools in the country coming together to discuss climate change issues.

- This will be in 2 stages with the first stage being regional dialogues in the 4 geographical regions and a two day national dialogue where all stakeholders, youth representatives, NGO's, CBO's representatives of the civil society will share views on possible measures to address climate change.
- The national dialogue had been scheduled for the last week of October but we had been delayed by the COMESA and the National Reed Dance.



- Project is still at its early stage but an achievement so far is that we have been able to accommodate even the illiterate on climate change issues as we are using our own language.
- Members of Parliament have been sensitized to play their role as legislators on climate change policies
- The public has been sensitized to take initiative on climate change issues.

- Internal delays due to politics in the Ministry.
- Difficulties in translating some scientific terms relating to climate change.
- Financial constraints otherwise we could have covered all the 55 constituencies in the country as most of the MP are complaining of being left out of the Programme.

- In order to get public attention, just put everything in their mother language in that way they will feel involved.
- The general public is very keen to take individual initiatives towards addressing climate change the only challenge is that they lack relevant knowledge and funding.
- The best way to deliver a message is to dramatize it.
- Adaptation is the main priority for the general public.
- People at grass root level are having difficulties with the science of climate change.



**THANK YOU**

