

ENERGY The IGE model could serve as a blueprint for other national goals, including Tanzania's long-term Vision 2050

Researchers and policymakers unite for clean energy future

This initiative comes as Tanzania continues to grapple with the heavy reliance on biomass fuels for cooking—a staggering 85 percent of the population still depends on firewood and charcoal

By Jacob Mosenda
@jmosenda
mjacob@tz.nationmedia.com

Dar es Salaam. In a move that experts believe could accelerate Tanzania's transition to clean energy, researchers and senior government policymakers have sealed a collaborative pact aimed at delivering evidence-based reforms to fast-track the country's clean cooking ambition.

This initiative comes as Tanzania continues to grapple with the heavy reliance on biomass fuels for cooking—a staggering 85 percent of the population still depends on firewood and charcoal, according to government estimates.

The resulting emissions not only endanger human health but also undermine the country's environ-

mental and climate targets.

Speaking at a work-

shop hosted at the University of Dar es Salaam (UDSM) on July 27, 2025, as part of the Inclusive Green Economy (IGE) programme, Deputy Commissioner at the ministry of Finance, Dr Remidius Ruhinduka, emphasised the urgency of this partnership.

"Energy plays a pivotal role in achieving development objectives, particularly in improving citizens' quality of life while safeguarding the environment. If we want to reduce emissions by 2030, there must be a shared understanding between researchers and policymakers," Dr Ruhinduka said.

The event also marked the graduation of the programme's first cohort of civil servants, who, over the past year, have worked alongside researchers to tackle the theme

of "Energy Efficiency and Reduced Emissions" under the IGE initiative. Funded by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida), the IGE programme has been implemented since 2021 across five East African countries—Tanzania, Uganda, Kenya, Rwanda, and Ethiopia.

In Tanzania, it aims to build capacity within ministries and government agencies to formulate sustainable policies grounded in research and economic-environmental policy instruments.

"In the past, there was a significant gap between policymakers and researchers. Researchers had solutions, but decision-makers were unaware of them. Through IGE, we have successfully bridged this gap," said the IGE Lead in Tanzania, Dr Aloyce Hepelwa.

According to Dr Hepelwa, this collaboration has already resulted in policy reform recommendations that will serve as catalysts for

improved clean energy advocacy at household level. The ministries involved in this cycle of the programme included the Ministry of Energy, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Industry and Trade, Ministry of Transport, and the Rural Energy Agency (REA).

"The aim is to promote the adoption of energy-efficient domestic appliances and identify strategies to improve policy enforcement," Dr Hepelwa added.

The collaboration aligns with Tanzania's broader energy reform agenda, which includes the recently launched National Energy Efficiency Strategy (2024–2034). The strategy seeks to: Enhance energy security, promote innovation, reduce poverty and mitigate climate change.

These reforms, according to Dr Ruhinduka, are essential if the country is to realise its 2030 emissions reduction targets, as committed under international climate frameworks.

Yet, despite this ambitious policy landscape, the uptake of clean cooking technologies remains low. According to experts, this is due to a combination of factors including lack of awareness, high costs, and cultural preferences.

"Even though electric cookstoves are available, many Tanzanians are unaware of their benefits. There are companies offering incentives for electricity usage, but the public response is still minimal," noted an environmental expert from the Vice President's Office-environment, Mr James Choyi.

Mr Choyi, who is also among the first cohort of the programme, stressed the importance of providing consumer incentives and strengthening community-level awareness to complement policy-level reforms.

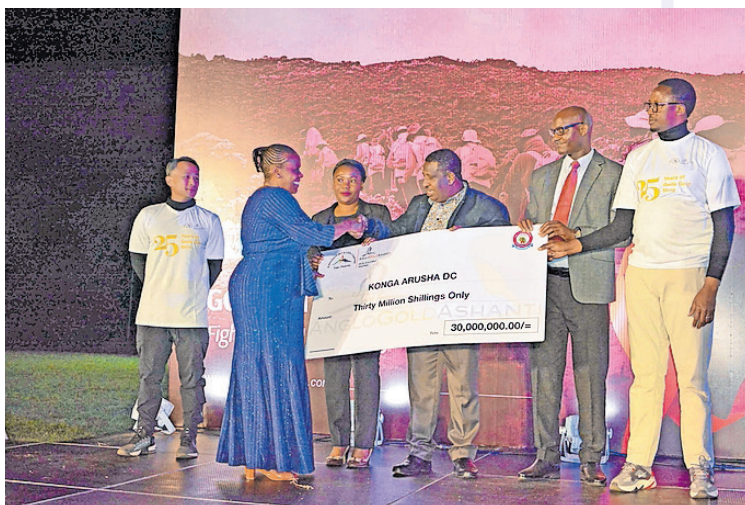
Research-backed policies for vision 2050

The IGE model could serve as a blueprint for other national goals, including Tanzania's long-term Vision 2050, which seeks to transform the country into a middle-income, climate-resilient economy.

"We have trained policymakers to use economic policy instruments to design impactful, evidence-based strategies that support economic growth without harming the environment," Dr Hepelwa noted.

Kili Challenge climbers hailed for supporting HIV fight

Kilimanjaro Regional Commissioner Nurdin Babu presents a dummy cheque worth Sh30 million to Agnes Mao, chairperson of Konga Arusha DC, one of the beneficiaries of the 2025 Kili Challenge campaign, during a ceremony in Moshi to honour 49 mountain climbers and 17 cyclists. Looking on is Mbogwe District Commissioner Sakina Jumanne alongside officials from GGML and TACAIDS. PHOTO | THE CITIZEN CORRESPONDENT



By The Citizen Reporter
@TheCitizenTZ
news@tz.nationmedia.com

Moshi. Kilimanjaro Regional Commissioner Nurdin Babu has praised this year's Kili Challenge campaign for supporting the fight against HIV and AIDS.

Speaking at a weekend event in Moshi to recognise 49 mountain climbers and 17 cyclists, Mr Babu said the campaign aligns with the government's goal of ending HIV/AIDS as a public health threat by 2030. This year's campaign aims to raise over Sh2 billion.

"The Kili Challenge supports the national goal of achieving three targets—zero new infections, zero discrimination, and zero AIDS-related deaths," he said. "When people climb mountains and cycle for this cause, it shows that fighting HIV is a shared responsibility."

He commended the organisers, sponsors and participants for their role and stressed the importance of HIV testing, adding that many were screened during the event and only a few tested positive. "As leaders, we should get tested during public health campaigns. It encourages others to do the same," he added. Acting GGML managing director Ashraf Suryaningrat said this year's campaign theme: "What if we gave up?", reflects commitment to those affected by HIV. "Our climbers and cyclists didn't give up on the goal or the people we support. That's the message," he said.

He noted that the campaign is part of GGML and Anglo-Gold Ashanti's efforts to support communities. To mark 25 years of operations in Tanzania, GGML raised a flag at the summit of Mount Kilimanjaro.

GGML supports projects in education, health, clean water, and entrepreneurship under the slogan "Mining to Empower People and Advance Communities."

Mbogwe District Commissioner Sakina Mohamed, who represented Geita Regional Commissioner Martine Shigela, said the campaign shows the importance of resource mobilisation and public education.

TACAIDS acting executive director Dr Samwel Sumba said the funds raised go directly to beneficiaries and are managed transparently.

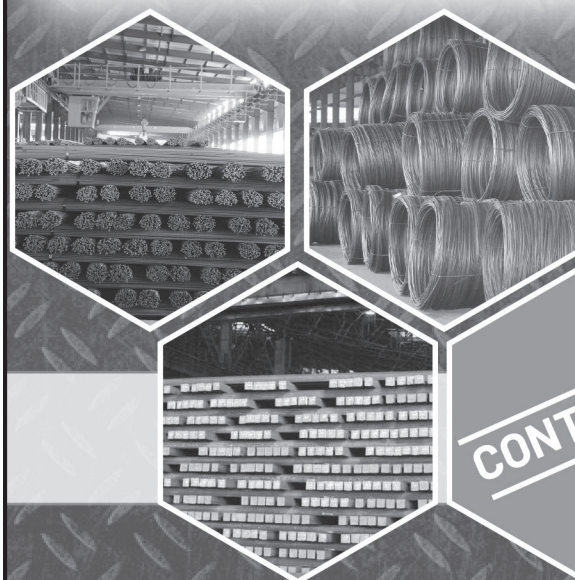
"We thank all the climbers, cyclists, sponsors and especially GGML for their continued support," he said.

The fundraising drive runs until October 2025. Members of the public and partners are invited to contribute to the Sh2 billion target.

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CONTACTS

0746197777, 0750419999
sales@dfsteel.co.tz
www.dfsteel.co.tz

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