

Local governance practices and public trust in the context of climate change adaptation in Monduli and Longido districts, Tanzania

Christina Moses Maeda, Baltazar Mlagara Namwata & Neema Penance Kumburu

To cite this article: Christina Moses Maeda, Baltazar Mlagara Namwata & Neema Penance Kumburu (31 Mar 2026): Local governance practices and public trust in the context of climate change adaptation in Monduli and Longido districts, Tanzania, International Review of Public Administration, DOI: [10.1080/12294659.2026.2646397](https://doi.org/10.1080/12294659.2026.2646397)

To link to this article: <https://doi.org/10.1080/12294659.2026.2646397>



Published online: 31 Mar 2026.



Submit your article to this journal [↗](#)



Article views: 49



View related articles [↗](#)



View Crossmark data [↗](#)



Local governance practices and public trust in the context of climate change adaptation in Monduli and Longido districts, Tanzania

Christina Moses Maeda ^a, Baltazar Mlagara Namwata ^b
and Neema Penance Kumburu ^a

^aDepartment of Human Capital Management and Administration, Moshi Co-operative University, Moshi, Tanzania; ^bDepartment of Community Development and Gender, Moshi Co-operative University, Moshi, Tanzania

ABSTRACT

This study examines the effects of governance practices by Tanzania's Local Government Authorities (LGAs) on public trust in climate change adaptation. Trust is essential to the success of climate policies, particularly in vulnerable communities, but it varies across LGAs. Guided by Good Governance Theory and Organizational Trust Theory, the study assesses how accountability, responsiveness, transparency, and stakeholder participation relate to public trust. The study adopted a convergent mixed-methods design, combining quantitative survey data from 351 village committee members with qualitative insights from 20 key informant interviews and 6 focus group discussions. Results indicate that accountability, responsiveness, and stakeholder participation are significantly associated with trust, whereas transparency is not. Qualitative findings indicate that transparency was symbolic, while accountability and participation enhanced fairness, inclusion, and care. The study provides practical recommendations for strengthening public trust in LGAs by fostering greater inclusion, responsiveness, and accountability in local climate change adaptation.

ARTICLE HISTORY

Received 22 July 2025
Revised 4 January 2026
Accepted 4 March 2026

KEYWORDS

Governance practices; public trust; Local Government Authorities; climate change adaptation; Tanzania

1. Introduction

Building public trust in Local Government Authorities (LGAs) is crucial amid rising climate risks, but how governance practices influence trust is not well understood (Termini & Kalafatis, 2021). While mitigation addresses global emissions mostly driven by high-income countries, adaptation tackles immediate, local climate risks, especially in low-capacity areas like Tanzania (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change [IPCC], 2022). LGAs lead climate adaptation efforts, needing long-term public support and behavioral change, making trust vital for compliance, inclusive decision-making, and collective action (Smith & Mayer, 2018). Persistent governance issues like weak accountability, low transparency, and limited participation undermine trust in many developing countries (Hartanto & Siregar, 2021; Mansoor, 2021). Good governance practices

CONTACT Christina Moses Maeda  maedachristina5@gmail.com; christina.maeda@mocu.ac.tz  Department of Human Capital Management and Administration, Moshi Co-operative University, Moshi, Tanzania

including transparency, accountability, responsiveness, and participation are key to institutional trust (Chien & Thanh, 2022; Gozgor, 2022; Su et al., 2023). Inclusive governance, clear communication, and prompt services boost trust (Davidović & Harring, 2020; Hartanto & Siregar, 2021). During crises such as COVID-19, responsiveness and transparency were vital to trust (Gozgor, 2022; Karunia et al., 2023). Conversely, perceived corruption or non-inclusiveness erodes trust, reducing policy compliance and civic engagement (Pratolo et al., 2022; Safdar et al., 2022). These findings indicate that climate adaptation policies, requiring long-term public engagement, work better, when local governance adheres to good governance principles.

Globally, governance quality and public trust vary across regions. European countries, such as Norway, Sweden, and Denmark, report high trust attributed to democratic processes and transparency (Mansoor, 2021). Germany and the Netherlands also have inclusive decision-making, which support trust during crises such as COVID-19 (Hartanto & Siregar, 2021). In the US, trust declined amid political polarization (Mansoor, 2021). Asia shows high trust in China and Singapore, driven by perceived competence, quick service, and inclusive growth (Nguyen et al., 2023). India and Indonesia display variable trust influenced by corruption and poor service (Hartanto & Siregar, 2021). In Malaysia, good governance strongly affects local trust (Ab Rahman et al., 2023). These differences highlight the need for context-specific research, especially in countries such as Tanzania, where governance faces capacity and legitimacy challenges (Mdee & Mushi, 2021).

According to the Afrobarometer survey, Tanzania ranks among the countries with the highest levels of perceived trust in public institutions in sub-Saharan Africa, with approximately 78% of the respondents expressing confidence in these institutions (Adaba & Boiro, 2024). However, trust in the LGA varies, particularly across sectors such as education, water, and taxation. While the water and taxation sectors report higher public trust due to visible service delivery and community involvement (Byaro & Kinyondo, 2020; Sausi et al., 2021), others, like education and local finance, continue to face public skepticism rooted in weak transparency, poor accountability, and limited citizen participation (Kessy, 2020; Likangaga et al., 2023; Mwangupili & Msilu, 2020).

Numerous studies link good governance practices to public trust, primarily at national or cross-country levels, focusing on overall trust in government rather than specific services (Jameel et al., 2019; Mansoor, 2021; Spiteri & Briguglio, 2018; Yousaf et al., 2016). Few, like Hartanto and Siregar (2021), examine local governance, often-emphasizing on e-governance rather than climate adaptation. Trust is sector-specific; citizens may trust the government in some areas but not others, depending on their experiences. In Tanzania, governance-related trust issues in climate change include weak local structures, limited adaptation information for farmers, and gaps in water governance transparency processes (Mongi et al., 2015; Kweyu et al., 2023; Shemdoh et al., 2015). Despite these insights, little research exists on how governance practices shape trust in LGAs responsible for climate adaptation, which requires local engagement and cooperation. This study addresses the following research question: Do governance practices influence trust in LGAs in the context of *climate change adaptation*?

Understanding how governance is associated with trust in LGAs is vital because, in Tanzania's decentralized system, LGAs are key to climate adaptation (United Republic of Tanzania [URT], 2021). As the main link between the state and communities, the state's

legitimacy encourages participation and compliance, thereby enhancing trust levels. This study, therefore, explores how governance practices affect trust in LGAs regarding climate change adaptation, with the aim of informing policy and strengthening public trust.

2. Literature review and hypothesis development

2.1. Theoretical underpinning

This study draws on Good Governance Theory (GGT) and Organizational Trust Theory (OTT) to explore how governance shapes public trust in LGAs in the context of climate adaptation. GGT, developed by institutions such as the World Bank and the UNDP in the 1990s (Kaufmann et al., 1999), posits that effective governance relies on principles such as accountability, transparency, participation, and responsiveness, which promote legitimacy, service delivery, and citizen trust. However, GGT offers limited guidance on how these practices translate into trust at the LGA level. To address this, the study incorporates OTT, proposed by Mayer et al. (1995), which views trust as a willingness to accept vulnerability based on positive expectations of another's behavior, relying on perceived ability, benevolence, and integrity. This relational trust, extended to government by scholars like Grimmelikhuisen and Meijer (2014), suggests citizens trust that government will act competently, reasonably, and in the public interest. According to OECD (2024), public trust is rooted in perceptions of institutional reliability, integrity, competence, and responsiveness. GGT is relevant to this study because it emphasizes institutional practices that influence how LGAs engage with citizens during climate adaptation. Organizational Trust Theory (OTT) explains why these practices matter by showing that citizens develop trust when they see the LGA as capable, benevolent, and honest. Together, GGT outlines the expected behaviors of LGAs, while OTT explains how these behaviors build public trust. This makes both theories directly applicable to the study of trust in LGAs within the context of climate adaptation. The hypothesized relationships between governance practices and institutional trust are illustrated in Figure 1.

2.2. Governance practices and trust in LGA

2.2.1. Accountability and trust in LGA

Accountability ensures officials justify decisions and remain answerable, reducing arbitrary power, and promoting ethics (Mees & Driessen, 2019). It includes formal mechanisms like audits and informal processes such as community feedback (Quayle et al., 2020). In climate governance, accountability aligns adaptation decisions with community needs and prevents elite capture (Mees & Driessen, 2019; Quayle et al., 2020). According to Organizational Trust Theory (Mayer et al., 1995), organizations are trusted when portraying integrity, benevolence, and competence. Accountability promotes trust by reinforcing integrity through answerability, competence through performance reporting, and benevolence through responsiveness to public concerns. Evidence from Nepal (Han et al., 2024) and Malaysia (Termizi & Ridzuan, 2022) shows that strong accountability builds

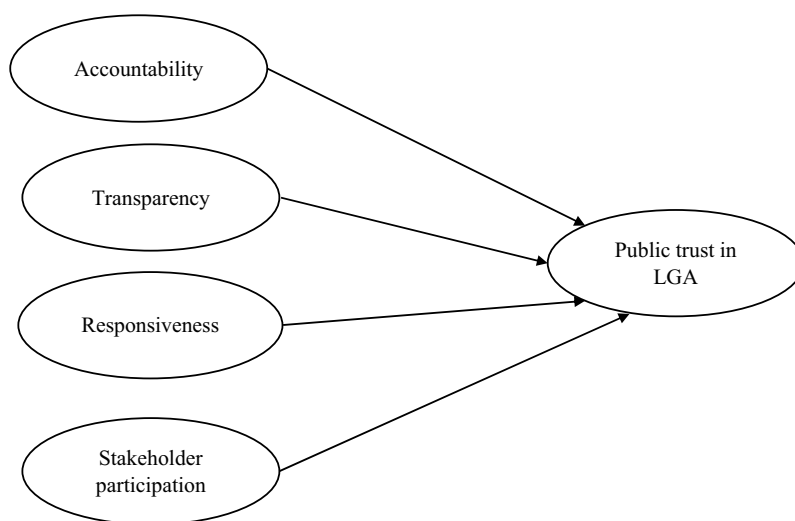


Figure 1. The conceptual framework linking governance practices and trust in LGA in the context of climate change adaptations.

trust, while in Tanzania, weak downward accountability and capacity gaps diminish trust in local governments (Lauwo et al., 2022). Based on this, we hypothesize that,

Hypothesis (H₁): *LGA Accountability is positively associated with public trust in the climate change adaptation context.*

2.2.2. Relationship between transparency and trust in LGA

Transparency involves open, clear, and accessible information about government actions, reducing information gaps and allowing citizens to verify officials' honesty and public intent (Grimmelikhuisen & Meijer, 2014). In climate adaptation, transparency is vital for communicating plans, risk information, and budget decisions in ways that prevent misinformation (Mase et al., 2015). According to Organizational Trust Theory (Mayer et al., 1995), transparency signals integrity and benevolence, boosting trust. It also enhances perceptions of government competence. Good Governance Theory views transparency as essential for accountability, reducing corruption, and strengthening legitimacy (Kaufmann et al., 1999). Empirical studies confirm that transparency increases trust; accessible government information improves citizens' confidence (Beshi & Kaur, 2020; Mansoor, 2021). Research in East Africa shows transparency initiatives like open budgets and public reporting foster higher trust (Wanjala, 2024). Thus, transparency is expected to positively influence trust in LGAs.

Hypothesis (H₂): *LGA transparency is positively associated with public trust in the context of climate change adaptations.*

2.2.3. Association of responsiveness and trust in LGA

Responsiveness refers to how public institutions acknowledge and address citizens' needs promptly and appropriately. In climate adaptation, timely support helps households

manage weather risks, signaling institutional concern and commitment, which, under Organizational Trust Theory (Mayer et al., 1995), such behavior demonstrates benevolence and competence components. Good Governance Theory also sees responsiveness as essential for aligning services with community priorities (Kaufmann et al., 1999). Empirical evidence shows responsive institutions are more trusted (Adger et al., 2005; Termizi & Ridzuan, 2022; Yousaf et al., 2016). In local government, responsiveness strengthens trust by showing attentiveness to citizen concerns (Mansoor, 2021). Limited research has explored responsiveness and trust in LGAs in Tanzania in the climate adaptation context. This study addresses these gap by investigating the following hypothesis:

Hypothesis (H₃): *LGA Responsiveness is positively associated with public trust in the context of climate change adaptation.*

2.2.4. The influence of stakeholder participation on trust in LGAs

Participation involves empowering stakeholders in planning, decision-making, and monitoring public interventions. It is essential to democratic governance; ensuring decisions reflect community values, knowledge, and priorities (Mkonda, 2022). In climate adaptation, participation increases legitimacy and relevance by allowing stakeholders to share vital, context-specific information and resources (Adger et al., 2005). Organizational Trust Theory views benevolence, integrity, and competence as the foundation of organizational trust (Mayer et al., 1995) stakeholder participation fosters these perceptions through shared decisions and fairness. Research shows participation improves trust in the government (Beshi & Kaur, 2020). Studies from Africa further demonstrate that participatory processes increase public trust by aligning decisions with community expectations (Wanjala, 2024). In Tanzania, studies like that of Mkonda (2022) and Sanka (2024) note limited community involvement in climate efforts; these studies offer limited analysis on how participation is associated with trust in climate adaptation, especially in vulnerable areas like Monduli and Longido. This study, therefore, explores the following hypothesis:

Hypothesis (H₄): *Stakeholder participation is positively associated with public trust in LGA in the context of climate change adaptation*

3. Methodology

3.1. Research design and the study area

This study used a convergent mixed-methods design, allowing the collection and analysis of both quantitative and qualitative data simultaneously (Creswell & Plano Clark, 2017). The design was suitable given the complex nature of public trust and local governance, as it captures both statistical relationships between governance practices and trust and the contextual meanings community members associate with these practices. Combining numerical data with lived experiences enhances the validity and depth of the findings' interpretation. Grounded in the pragmatic research paradigm, the design emphasizes

methodological flexibility and the use of multiple forms of evidence to address real-world policy and governance questions where institutional behavior intersects with local realities (Yani, 2018).

The study was conducted in Monduli and Longido districts, Arusha Region, Tanzania. These districts form part of the country's semi-arid rangelands, areas known for high climatic vulnerability. The region is predominantly inhabited by Maasai pastoralist communities, whose livelihoods are based on livestock herding and are highly dependent on the natural environment. This makes climate adaptation governance in the area not only an environmental priority but also a livelihood imperative. From 1940 to 2020, the average monthly temperatures in these districts increased by 1.06°C, leading to more frequent and longer droughts (Verhoeve et al., 2021). During this period, vegetation cover decreased by 9.7%, and about 38% of Longido's land has been classified as degraded (Hagai, 2019). These environmental pressures have seriously impacted livelihoods, and 98.5% of cattle-owning households surveyed reported significant livestock losses, along with disease outbreaks and economic hardships from distress sales and long-distance grazing trips. Adding to these challenges, Citizen (2022) reported that residents have been forced to travel up to 20 km for water, as 67 of 64 local water sources have dried up. According to McCabe et al. (2025), the drought from 2020 to 2023 caused unprecedented migration, with pastoralist households moving three (3) to four (4) months earlier than usual in search of water and pasture. The climatic vulnerability experienced in the area underscores the need for evaluating the relationship between governance and trust in the context of climate change adaptation.

3.2. Sample and data collection

The study's sampling frame consisted of Village Committee Members (VCMs) from Monduli (1,225) and Longido (1,550) districts based on information collected from both district councils at the time of data collection. VCMs serve as key governance actors, bridging communities and LGAs, and were thus selected to assess governance practices and trust in climate adaptation. Using Yamane's (1967) formula with a 95% confidence level and 5% margin of error, the sample size was determined to be 350, with 351 respondents finalized to ensure a balanced distribution across clusters, as supported by Cochran (1977).

A three-stage sampling technique was applied to obtain samples in clusters, in which the first stage selected seven (7) wards from Monduli and six (6) from Longido, which were then randomly selected (Lohr, 2021). The second stage involved random selection of three (3) villages for each ward, and in the third stage, nine (9) VCMs per village were selected from each key climate-related governance committee (e.g. water, land, planning, disaster, and natural resources). This ensured representation across relevant governance structures.

Data collection involved structured questionnaires that were administered to VCMs by trained and experienced enumerators. The qualitative data included 20 Key Informant Interviews (KIIs) with LGA officials and NGO staff, and 6 Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) with community members, conducted with the lead researcher to ensure depth of inquiry and consistency. Sampling for the qualitative data was guided by the principle of data saturation, where KIIs' saturation was observed after the 18th interview, with two (2)

additional interviews conducted to confirm it. Similarly, recurring themes across the six (6) FGDs indicated that saturation had been achieved (Bouncken et al., 2025).

Data collection began after obtaining ethical approval from Moshi Cooperative University and receiving a field clearance letter from President's Office – Regional Administration and Local Government (PO-RALG). Introduction letters were used to secure permissions at the regional, district, and village levels. The study employed a mixed-methods approach, using questionnaires, KIIs, and FGDs to collect data. Ethical guidelines were strictly followed throughout the research process. Verbal informed consent was obtained from all participants, which was appropriate because the questionnaire was researcher-administered. Before each KII and FGD, participants were informed about the study's objectives, their voluntary participation, and their right to withdraw at any time without consequences. Confidentiality was maintained, and no personally identifiable information was disclosed in the findings.

A pilot study was done to assess the clarity and comprehensiveness of the instruments, including questionnaires and interview guides. The tools were validated through established governance constructs and expert consultation with five public administration specialists. Feedback was used to refine the instruments. A pilot test in two villages helped to identify and correct ambiguities. Reliability was confirmed using Cronbach's alpha and Composite Reliability (CR), with all constructs meeting the acceptable threshold of >0.70 .

3.3. Variable measurements

The study analyzed four governance constructs: transparency, accountability, responsiveness, and stakeholder participation as independent variables, with trust in LGAs serving as the dependent variable. Trust in LGAs represents citizens' perceptions of the authorities' competence, integrity, and benevolence in providing climate adaptation services. Questionnaire items were adapted from previously validated scales and refined to ensure contextual relevance to local governance and climate adaptation. Specifically, transparency items were drawn from Beshi and Kaur (2020) and S. Grimmelikhuijsen (2012); Accountability from Said et al. (2015); responsiveness from Beshi and Kaur (2020); S. Grimmelikhuijsen (2012); stakeholder participation from Jager et al. (2020); and trust in LGAs was measured using items adapted from Mayer et al. (1995) and S. Grimmelikhuijsen and Knies (2017) to capture perceived trust within the climate adaptation context. Table 1 presents the complete list of measurement items and their corresponding sources.

3.4. Data analysis

Data were analyzed by using two approaches. The Partial Least Squares Structural Equation Modeling (PLS-SEM) was conducted for quantitative data and thematic analysis for qualitative data. PLS-SEM was chosen because it effectively models latent constructs and captures complex relationships among governance variables and trust while providing stronger predictive power than traditional regression methods (Hair et al., 2019). The method is also applied by most governance-trust studies, as those reviewed in Section 2 (Beshi & Kaur, 2020; Grimmelikhuijsen & Knies, 2017; Kang, 2023;

Table 1. Variable measurements.

Variables	Items	Code	Sources
Accountability	LGA maintains a regular reporting system on the achievements and results of climate adaptation initiatives.	ACC1	Said et al. (2015)
	LGA implements monitoring and evaluation systems to ensure adaptation actions and budgets are properly used.	ACC2	
	LGA ensures that climate adaptation funds comply with all financial rules and regulations.	ACC3	
	LGA enables community oversight of climate adaptation progress, recognizing its responsibility toward the public.	ACC4	
	LGA clearly defines the roles and responsibilities of stakeholders involved in climate adaptation efforts.	ACC5	
Transparency	LGA transparently discloses its climate adaptation plans and programs to the public.	TP1	Beshi and Kaur (2020); S. Gimmelikhuijsen (2012)
	The entire decision-making process for climate adaptation in the LGA is openly and transparently communicated.	TP2	
	Community members are able to monitor and understand the progress of local climate adaptation actions.	TP3	
	LGA ensures public access to comprehensive reports detailing its performance in climate adaptation efforts	TP4	
Responsiveness	LGA actively considers public input and community opinions in its climate adaptation decisions.	RES1	Beshi and Kaur (2020); Gimmelikhuijsen (2012)
	LGA responds promptly to adaptation needs and public requests.	RES2	
	LGA provides targeted support for vulnerable groups affected by climate impacts.	RES3	
	LGA effectively delivers quality solutions to address local climate adaptation challenges.	RES4	
	LGA conducts timely and regular evaluations of climate adaptation progress and addresses public appeals effectively.	RES5	
Stakeholder Participation	LGA ensures diverse and accepted community representation in adaptation processes.	SP1	Jager et al. (2020)
	Stakeholders receive timely and relevant information to support informed participation.	SP2	
	The public can contribute inputs to climate adaptation decisions through inclusive mechanisms.	SP3	
	There is a two-way, responsive dialogue between the LGA and the public on adaptation matters.	SP4	
	Local communities have the power to plan and implement adaptation strategies.	SP5	
Public Trust In LGA (climate adaptation context)	LGA staff are knowledgeable about climate change adaptation issues	TR1	Mayer et al. (1995); Gimmelikhuijsen and Knies (2017)
	LGA has the technical skills to implement climate adaptation strategies	TR2	
	LGA demonstrates competence in managing climate-related programs	TR3	
	LGA supports citizens needing help with climate change adaptation	TR4	
	LGA is committed to enhancing community climate change adaptation	TR5	
	LGA prioritizes citizens' well-being through climate change adaptation	TR6	
	LGA acts in the community's interest on climate change adaptation	TR7	
	LGA is sincere in addressing climate change adaptation	TR8	
	LGA handles climate change adaptation with honesty and integrity	TR9	

Safdar et al., 2022). Following this established practice and aligning with the principles of Good Governance Theory and Organizational Trust Theory, this study employs SEM to estimate the multiple governance pathways hypothesized to influence trust in LGAs in the context of climate change adaptations, as shown in [Figure 1](#).

Qualitative data from KIIs and FGDs were transcribed verbatim and analyzed deductively through pre-defined themes, including stakeholder participation, transparency, responsiveness, and accountability in relation to how each affects the LGA's trust in the context of climate adaptation strategies. Integration of both datasets was done during presentation and interpretation of the results to provide a richer and more comprehensive understanding of how governance practices influence trust in local government in the context of climate adaptation strategies.

3.5. Common Method Bias control

Common Method Bias (CMB) is a systematic measurement error that occurs when data for both independent and dependent variables are collected from the same respondent, which can inflate or distort the observed relationships (Podsakoff et al., 2012). Both procedural and statistical controls were used to address the CMB. Several procedural steps were taken during data collection to ensure respondents' anonymity, inform them that there were no right or wrong answers, and encourage honest responses, which helped reduce evaluation apprehension and social desirability bias. Additionally, the questionnaire items measuring different constructs were conceptually separated and placed in different sections to reduce the likelihood of automatic or patterned responses. Statistically, Harman's single-factor test was conducted, and results confirmed that no single factor accounted for the majority of variance, suggesting that CMB was not a significant threat (Podsakoff et al., 2012). Together, the procedural safeguards and statistical assessment provide assurance that the observed relationships among governance constructs and public trust are not substantially influenced by common method bias.

4. Results

4.1. Demographic characteristics of the respondents

The majority of participants 71.79% were male, and 28.21% were female. The majority were between 31–40 years (40.17%) and 41–50 years (34.47%), with smaller proportions aged ≤30 (11.68%) and 51+ years (13.68%). Most respondents had served on village committees for 6–10 years (64.96%), while 27.07% had ≤5 years of experience, and only a small number had 11–15 years (4.84%) or 16+ years (3.13%). In terms of education, 59.26% had completed primary education and 28.49% had secondary education; 10.54% had no formal schooling, and 1.71% held a bachelor's degree. The demographic profile indicates that study participants have the practical exposure necessary to assess both governance processes and the factors that enhance or weaken public trust in LGAs.

4.2. Measurement results

The reliability and validity of the measurement model were evaluated using indicator (outer) loadings, Cronbach's Alpha, Composite Reliability (CR), and Average Variance Extracted (AVE), as summarized in Table 2. Cronbach's Alpha estimates the degree to which items within a construct are interrelated, thus indicating internal reliability (Hair et al., 2019). All constructs demonstrated strong internal consistency, with Cronbach's Alpha values ranging from 0.847 to 0.921, exceeding the recommended threshold of 0.70. Similarly, Composite Reliability (CR), which accounts for the varying contributions of individual items based on their loadings, ranged from 0.898 to 0.921, surpassing the minimum standard of 0.70 and confirming the constructs' reliability.

Convergent validity was evaluated using AVE, which measures the proportion of variance captured by the construct relative to measurement error. This was confirmed as each construct achieved an AVE above the minimum acceptable level of 0.50 (ranging from 0.610 to 0.761), indicating that more than half of the variance in indicators is explained by the latent construct rather than measurement error. Additionally, all indicator loadings exceeded the 0.70 benchmark, supporting item reliability and confirming that individual items strongly represent their intended constructs (Hair et al., 2019).

Table 2. Measurement model assessment.

Constructs	Outer loadings	Cronbach's Alpha	Composite reliability	AVE
Accountability		0.881	0.912	0.676
ACC1	0.858			
ACC2	0.841			
ACC3	0.800			
ACC4	0.837			
ACC5	0.772			
Transparency		0.847	0.898	0.687
TP1	0.857			
TP2	0.821			
TP3	0.753			
TP4	0.880			
Responsiveness		0.921	0.941	0.761
RES1	0.914			
RES2	0.827			
RES3	0.861			
RES4	0.857			
RES5	0.899			
Stakeholder Participation		0.892	0.921	0.700
SP1	0.893			
SP2	0.804			
SP3	0.820			
SP4	0.812			
SP5	0.851			
Trust		0.919	0.933	0.610
TR1	0.759			
TR2	0.818			
TR3	0.826			
TR4	0.726			
TR5	0.770			
TR6	0.673			
TR7	0.721			
TR8	0.842			
TR9	0.874			

Table 3. HTMT matrix and Fornell–Larcker criterion.

	Accountability	Responsiveness	Participation	Transparency	Trust
HTMT					
Accountability					
Responsiveness	0.393				
Stakeholder participation	0.472	0.530			
Transparency	0.294	0.311	0.473		
Trust	0.561	0.634	0.582	0.357	
Fornell–Larcker Criterion					
Accountability	0.822				
Responsiveness	0.358	0.872			
Stakeholder participation	0.422	0.484	0.837		
Transparency	0.260	0.275	0.415	0.829	
Trust	0.520	0.599	0.539	0.322	0.781

4.2.1. Discriminant validity

Discriminant validity was assessed using both the Fornell–Larcker criterion and the Heterotrait–Monotrait (HTMT) ratio, as displayed in Table 3. According to the Fornell–Larcker criterion, the square root of the AVE for each construct (shown diagonally in the Fornell–Larcker criterion) was greater than its correlations with any other construct in the model (Ab Hamid et al., 2017). On the other hand, the HTMT values further confirmed discriminant validity with all the values below the recommended threshold of 0.85 for strict discriminant validity (Hair et al., 2019). The findings support the discriminant validity of the constructs, in alignment with the Fornell–Larcker criterion and HTMT results.

4.3. Structural model results

4.3.1. Multicollinearity test

Variance Inflation Factor (VIF) values were examined to assess multicollinearity for all predictor constructs. Results in Table 4 show the VIF values range from 1.274 to 1.581, which are well below the critical threshold of 3.0 (Hair et al., 2019). This confirms that multicollinearity is not a concern in the structural model, as the constructs are not excessively correlated with one another. Thus, the estimated path coefficients are interpreted with confidence.

4.3.2. Hypothesis testing

The study tested four (4) hypotheses, which hypothesized whether the four governance practices (accountability, responsiveness, stakeholder participation, and transparency)

Table 4. Structural model results.

Relationships	VIF	β	t	p	Confidences interval		f^2	Decision
					LCI	HCI		
Accountability -> Trust	1.274	0.279	5.293	0.000	1.174	0.174	0.123	Accepted
Transparency -> Trust	1.365	0.056	1.405	0.160	-0.02	0.135	0.005	Not accepted
Responsiveness -> Trust	1.581	0.380	8.017	0.000	0.286	0.471	0.218	Accepted
Stakeholder Participation -> Trust	1.228	0.213	3.871	0.000	0.105	0.324	0.058	Accepted

significantly influence trust in LGA in the context of CCA strategies. The structural results of the hypothesis tests are presented below.

4.3.3. Accountability and trust in LGAs

The structural model results show a statistically significant and positive relationship between accountability and trust in the LGA in the context of climate change adaptation ($\beta = 0.274$, $t = 5.293$, $p < 0.000$). The confidence interval for this path did not comprise zero, and the effect size was $f^2 = 0.123$, suggesting a moderate impact of accountability on trust. Supporting this result, qualitative data from KII supported the structural model results. A participant in the KII from Monduli informed that, '*Citizens oversee the implementation of projects through water committees and youth monitoring groups and grazing committees*' (KII-WEO3, Monduli, 18 August 2024). Additionally, KII participant from Longido pointed that, '*Since we rely on stakeholders, like NGOs, they are accountable to us (LGA) by providing implementation reports or impact evaluation reports*' (KII-EO, Longido, and 8 August 2024).

4.3.4. Responsiveness and trust in LGA

The structural model revealed that responsiveness significantly influences trust in LGAs, with a path coefficient of $\beta = 0.380$, $t = 8.017$, $p < 0.000$. The confidence interval above zero confirmed statistical significance. The effect size of $f^2 = 0.218$ indicated a moderate effect, explaining the importance of timely and effective responses in fostering trust. Qualitative data confirmed this result, with participants highlighting both the presence and absence of responsive action. One participant during FDG noted that, '*Last year (2022) we experienced extreme drought here, LGA officials were the first people to reach us and they welcomed other donors to rescue us, we real felt a relief*' (FGD2, Longido, 13 August 2024) while another participant reflected a more inconsistent experience: '*They listen during disasters, but on normal days, it's like we don't exist*' (FGD3, Longido, 15 August 2024). These accounts illustrate how responsiveness, especially during crises, can significantly influence public perceptions of trustworthiness.

4.3.5. Stakeholder participation and public trust in LGA

Stakeholder Participation demonstrated a statistically significant, though comparatively weaker, relationship with trust ($\beta = 0.213$, $t = 3.781$, $p < 0.000$) as presented in [Table 4](#). The confidence interval of 0.105 to 0.324 indicates a statistically significant relationship between SP and Trust in LGA. The effect size ($f^2 = 0.076$) indicated a small effect, suggesting that meaningful involvement in planning and implementation processes can enhance trust in LGAs. Qualitative evidence reinforced this finding. One participant from Monduli District shared,

Whenever there is a project to be done in our village, we first receive communication from the LGA. They come here to present the idea, and we listen and contribute our own thinking. They always consider what we propose and respect this exchange, so we feel included in the projects. (FGD2, Monduli, 21 August 2024)

The explanation shows the impact of participatory governance, particularly when the community voices are not only heard but also integrated to strengthen trust in the LGA. However, it was sensed that the community participation was done in

a top-down model, which gave little chances for the community members to influence the decisions, as this was learned from the KII participant from the NGO who said,

Generally, it starts from the Donor, where you have your writing, you let it be confirmed by PO-RALG, then launch, where we start from the regional level, where we have an introduction meeting introducing activities that you planned, what budget you have, and where the area you are thinking of working with. From there, it goes to the district again, making an introduction of the project and its activities, to be very transparent from the beginning, having a discussion about where and how the district can assist and be part of different activities. And after that, we now go to the village level. (KII2- NGO2, 21 November 2024)

4.3.6. Transparency and trust in LGA

The results in Table 4 show that transparency, unlike the other governance practices, did not exhibit a statistically significant relationship with trust ($\beta = 0.056$, $t = 1.405$, $p = 0.160$). The result shows the confidence interval of zero and small effect size ($f^2 = 0.0045$), indicating insignificant relationship with LGA trust in the study context. Qualitative responses shed light into why transparency may have failed to significantly influence trust. One participant noted, *'We need to define and get into wider understanding ... We should have open data sharing between stakeholders to reduce confusion for communities'* (KII-NGO1, 21 November 2024). Another added, *'LGAs have not been so transparent and organized us as stakeholders by putting things on air about what each one of us is doing to help and not add to the confusion that we have now.'* (KII-NGO2, 21 November 2024). A further challenge was highlighted in the statement, *'Challenges include stakeholders not disclosing the true costs of projects.'* (KII-WEO4, 19 August 2024) which points to concerns about hidden or partial information. These results emphasize the gap between the concept of transparency and its actual implementation. Incomplete and fragmented information-sharing practices may therefore have weakened citizens' perceptions of transparency, reducing its potential to contribute to trust in this context.

4.4. Coefficient of determination and predictive relevance

To assess the explanatory and predictive powers of the structural model, the coefficients of determination (R^2) and Q^2 were examined. Figure 2 shows the R^2 value of 0.506, indicating that approximately 50.6% of the variance in trust in the LGA in the context of climate change adaptation is explained by governance practices: accountability, responsiveness, and stakeholder participation. According to Hair et al. (2019), R^2 value above 0.50 is considered moderate, thus confirming good explanatory power. On the other hand, the study reports on the Q^2 value of 0.489 which is well above zero, indicating strong predictive relevance of the model (Hair et al., 2019). A Q^2 value greater than zero suggests that the model has adequate out-of-sample predictive accuracy, supporting its usefulness in anticipating trust based on the governance practices predictors in the climate change adaptation context.

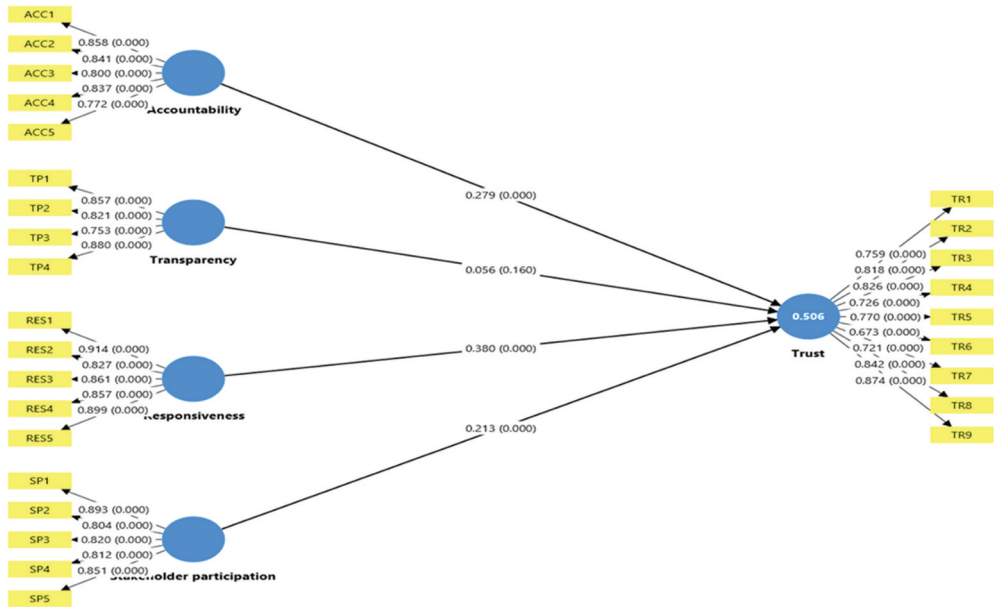


Figure 2. Structural model results.

4.5. Robustness checks

As recommended in most of PLS-SEM literature, robustness checks were conducted to ensure that the study’s results are trustworthy in different conditions (Hair et al., 2019, 2024; Sarstedt et al., 2020). This was relevant in the current study to confirm estimates obtained in the structural model. Some of the robustness checks in PLS-SEM for the estimated model include nonlinear relationships and endogeneity (Hair et al., 2024). In the first place, the study analyzed quadratic effects in SmartPLS to assess potential nonlinear relationships. Based on the bootstrapping with 10,000 resamples, the study established non-significant findings on all quadratic terms as shown in Table 5. The findings confirm that the relationships between constructs included in the structural model are described as adequately linear. Therefore, the assumption of linearity is met.

In addition to that, the study assessed the potential endogeneity by using the Gaussian copula approach (Park & Gupta, 2012). The approach in SmartPLS allows researchers to assess and control for potential endogeneity by modeling the dependence structure between endogenous regressors and the error term without requiring instrumental variables (Sarstedt et al., 2020;). The study’s findings, as presented in Table 6, show that none of the Gaussian copulas were found to be statistically significant for all

Table 5. The quadratic effects of non-linearity in the structural model.

Relationships	Original sample	Sample mean	Standard deviation	T statistics	P values
QE (Accountability) -> Trust	-0.018	-0.021	0.026	0.679	0.497
QE (Responsiveness) -> Trust	-0.047	-0.044	0.039	1.206	0.228
QE (Stakeholder participation) -> Trust	-0.046	-0.046	0.041	1.112	0.266
QE (Transparency) -> Trust	0.027	0.026	0.032	0.843	0.399

Note(s): QE denotes quadratic effect.

Table 6. Endogeneity test using the Gaussian copula approach.

Model	Relationships	Original sample	Sample mean	Standard deviation	T statistics	P values
1	GC (Accountability -> Trust) -> Trust	-0.144	-0.142	0.098	1.471	0.141
2	GC (Transparency -> Trust) -> Trust	0.163	0.172	0.139	1.172	0.241
3	GC (Responsiveness -> Trust) -> Trust	-0.157	-0.152	0.099	1.588	0.112
4	GC (Stakeholder participation -> Trust) -> Trust	-0.014	-0.016	0.087	0.163	0.870
5	GC (Accountability -> Trust) -> Trust	-0.147	-0.145	0.098	1.491	0.136
	GC (Transparency -> Trust) -> Trust	0.167	0.174	0.142	1.178	0.239
6	GC (Responsiveness -> Trust) -> Trust	-0.159	-0.158	0.098	1.627	0.104
	GC (Transparency -> Trust) -> Trust	0.167	0.172	0.147	1.132	0.257
7	GC (Responsiveness -> Trust) -> Trust	-0.205	-0.200	0.111	1.851	0.064
	GC (Stakeholder participation -> Trust) -> Trust	-0.097	-0.096	0.098	0.989	0.323
8	GC (Accountability -> Trust) -> Trust	-0.183	-0.185	0.106	1.738	0.082
	GC (Responsiveness -> Trust) -> Trust	-0.185	-0.186	0.103	1.791	0.073
	GC (Transparency -> Trust) -> Trust	0.172	0.175	0.149	1.149	0.250
9	GC (Accountability -> Trust) -> Trust	-0.089	-0.091	0.053	1.690	0.091
	GC (Responsiveness -> Trust) -> Trust	-0.158	-0.157	0.082	1.911	0.056
	GC (Stakeholder participation -> Trust) -> Trust	-0.045	-0.047	0.072	0.624	0.532
	GC (Transparency -> Trust) -> Trust	0.106	0.109	0.153	0.692	0.489

Note(s): GC denotes Gaussian Copula.

relationships and respective combinations, which confirmed that endogeneity did not appear to be a major issue in the study. These findings support the robustness of the structural model (Sarstedt et al., 2020).

5. Discussion

This study assessed the influence of governance practices (accountability, responsiveness, stakeholder participation, and transparency) on the trust of LGAs in the climate change adaptation context in Tanzania. The findings are generally consistent with the broader governance literature and help fill empirical gaps identified in previous studies. Accountability emerged as the strongest predictor of institutional trust, affirming its foundational role in Good Governance Theory, which considers accountability a key pillar for democratic legitimacy and institutional performance (Grindle, 2007). It also aligns with OTT, which posits that consistent and transparent accountability practices send strong signals about an institution's ability, integrity, and benevolence. (Grimmelikhuijsen & Meijer, 2014). The findings from this study show that accountability enhances perceptions of ability, as citizens are better able to assess performance when they can monitor implementation through mechanisms like community water committees and youth oversight groups. These structures also promote integrity by encouraging openness and responsiveness, which reassures citizens of their leaders' honesty and fairness. In addition, benevolence is reinforced when local authorities engage in mutual feedback processes and accept community oversight, demonstrating care and respect for citizen concerns. This is consistent with empirical findings from Han et al. (2024), Termizi and Ridzuan (2022), and local studies such as Lauwo et al. (2022) from Tanzania, which all emphasize that downward accountability builds trust when citizens feel empowered to question decisions. Furthermore, the presence of external

actors such as NGOs providing evaluation and implementation reports reflects a multi-stakeholder model of accountability, contributing to broader trust building. This supports Uddin's et al. (2021) view that trust is strengthened when reporting and accountability are visible across all governance actors. In climate change adaptation, where project outcomes are complex and long-term, accountability becomes more than procedural compliance; it is a demonstration of respect, and citizen control, all of which are critical to sustaining trust in local governance.

Responsiveness showed a significant and positive influence on institutional trust, underscoring the importance of timely and appropriate action by LGAs in addressing community needs. This finding is consistent with GGT, which views responsiveness as a core dimension of accountable and citizen-centered governance. It also aligns with OTT, which suggests that citizens assess organizational trustworthiness based on how quickly and effectively authorities respond to their concerns, signaling both competence and care. Grossman and Slough (2022) found that rapid governmental responses to local issues foster public trust. Similarly, Hartanto and Siregar (2021) observed that during crises, such as COVID-19, responsiveness was critical in sustaining trust in public institutions. Ab Rahman et al. (2023) reported comparable dynamics in Malaysian municipalities. Field insights from this study further reinforce this relationship. Participants frequently cited visible and timely actions, especially during droughts, as key trust-builders. However, concerns were raised that such responsiveness was often ad hoc or externally driven, rather than consistently embedded in institutional practices. This raises an important theoretical and practical point for responsiveness to function as a long-term trust-building mechanism; it must be institutionalized rather than reactive. In this way, responsiveness becomes not only a situational benefit but also a structural signal of reliability and commitment central to sustaining trust in climate governance.

Stakeholder participation showed a modest but significant link with trust, confirming the value of inclusive and meaningful involvement in governance. This supports the work of Newig et al. (2023), who argue that authentic participation where communities genuinely engage in decision-making boosts mutual understanding, shared ownership, and transparency, all crucial for building trust. Participants in this study echoed these principles, saying they felt more included when their input was actively considered and reflected in village plans. This aligns with Bruley et al. (2024), who emphasize that meaningful engagement enhances perceptions of fairness and legitimacy. However, the influence of stakeholder participation was weaker than other governance factors, suggesting potential limitations in the depth and quality of engagement. Qualitative findings revealed instances of tokenism, where consultations seemed superficial or symbolic. Some participants noted that decisions were often pre-made and that community input was sought only to fulfill formalities, highlighting a gap between participatory rhetoric and actual practice. This confirms concerns raised by Newig et al. (2023), who warn that shallow participation can lead to public disappointment and disengagement. From the perspective of OTT, this suggests trust is not built through simple procedural inclusion but through the perception that community voices genuinely influence decisions. As Bruley et al. (2024) state, trust develops only when real power is delegated to local actors. This study adds to Tanzanian literature (Malipula, 2022; Mkonda, 2022; Nyambitta & Mohamed, 2022) by providing evidence that the quality of participation rather than just its presence is key to building trust in climate adaptation governance. To sustain trust in

LGAs, especially in climate-vulnerable areas, participation needs to go beyond checkbox consultations and shift into ongoing dialogue and shared decision-making.

Transparency, unlike the other governance constructs, did not have a statistically significant influence on trust. This outcome diverges from the expectations of GGT, which highlights transparency as essential for building public confidence, and from OTT, which views openness as a signal of institutional integrity and reliability (Grimmelikhuijsen & Meijer, 2014). A plausible explanation lies in the nature and quality of transparency practiced in the study areas. While some information was made publicly available, participants noted that it was often incomplete, technical, or poorly communicated, limiting its accessibility and usefulness. Because transparency was perceived as limited across LGAs, the quantitative construct likely lacked the variation required to detect a statistically significant effect. This finding supports recent findings that latent transparency does not reliably influence trust and can sometimes reduce it - (Grimmelikhuijsen et al., 2020). In this context, information asymmetry and poor dissemination may have weakened the intended trust-building function of transparency. This underscores the need not only to disclose information but also to ensure it is clear, actionable, and timely for all stakeholders.

6. Conclusions and recommendations

This study provides empirical findings on how governance practices influence public trust in LGAs within the context of climate change adaptation in Tanzania, an area where evidence remains scarce. The findings show that accountability, responsiveness, and stakeholder participation are key predictors of public trust, whereas transparency, despite being a core element of good governance, did not have a statistically significant effect. These results suggest that trust is built not just through formal policy statements disclosure but also through the practical, daily enactment of governance behaviors that are seen as responsive, inclusive, and accountable. Theoretically, this study adds to the climate change governance literature by linking trust formation to behavioral governance practices and challenging assumptions about the centrality of transparency. In practice, the findings emphasize the need to go beyond mere adherence to governance frameworks and to actively implement governance principles that communities can see, experience, and assess through their interactions with LGAs.

Based on these findings, the study recommends that LGAs strengthen their accountability systems by enhancing the capacity of local committees and institutionalizing downward accountability to improve transparency and citizen oversight. Furthermore, accountability should not be limited to times of crisis; instead, LGAs should adopt proactive and flexible governance approaches that regularly address citizens' climate adaptation needs. Improving stakeholder participation is also vital, so LGAs must ensure that community members are involved not just as observers but as co-creators in adaptation strategies, including participatory budgeting, inclusive planning workshops, and recognizing traditional governance systems. Although transparency was not statistically significant in this model, its normative importance in building trust remains relevant. Therefore, LGAs should invest in timely, accessible, and comprehensive information sharing, avoid opaque practices, and support clear communication channels. Future research should expand on these findings by using longitudinal studies to track

how trust develops in changing governance practices over time. Comparative studies across districts or regions within Tanzania and possibly across East Africa might reveal how specific contextual factors shape the governance–trust relationship. Additionally, exploring the role of informal institutions, such as traditional leadership systems, and their interactions with formal governance structures could provide culturally grounded pathways to strengthen public trust in climate adaptation governance.

Acknowledgement

The work was supported by the Moshi Co-operative University.

Authors' contribution

Christina Moses Maeda was responsible for designing, writing, and developing the manuscript. Baltazar Mlagara Namwata and Neema Penance Kumburu provided critical supervision, review, and editing. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.

Disclosure statement

No potential conflict of interest was reported by the author(s).

Notes on contributors

Christina Moses Maeda serves as an Assistant Lecturer, at the Department of Human Capital Management and Administration from Moshi Co-operative University, Tanzania. She has a Master of Philosophy in Public Administration and a Bachelor of Public Administration in Human Resources Management. Currently undergoing PhD studies at Moshi Co-operative University. Her academic and professional interests include governance, policymaking, policy implementation, human resources management, crisis management and preparedness, performance management, and organizational effectiveness.

Baltazar Mlagara Namwata is an Associate Professor of Development Planning and Agricultural Extension in the Department of Community Development and Gender at Moshi Co-operative University (MoCU). His areas of interest, expertise, and experience include agricultural and commodity value chains, strategic development planning and management, urban farming, agricultural education and extension methods, climate change adaptation and mitigation, strategic leadership and governance, gender equality and social inclusion (GESI), capacity needs assessment, Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH), and Integrated Water Resources Management, as well as resilience, livelihood, disability, vulnerability analysis, adoption and impact studies, baseline, monitoring, and evaluation, community resource mobilization, and stakeholder engagement and mapping.

Neema Penance Kumburu is an Associate Professor at Moshi Co-operative University, specializing in Administration and Policy. She holds a PhD in Business Management and extensive experience in research, teaching, and consultancy. Her research focuses on leadership, public sector reforms, governance, rural development, cooperatives, and entrepreneurship. She has also published over 30 papers in peer-reviewed journals and has actively participated in various projects focusing on gender inclusion, governance, and socio-economic development.

ORCID

Christina Moses Maeda  <http://orcid.org/0009-0008-8963-2018>

Baltazar Mlagara Namwata  <http://orcid.org/0000-0001-8493-2099>

Neema Penance Kumburu  <http://orcid.org/0000-0003-4262-6493>

Data availability statement

The data used in this study can be accessed upon reasonable request from the corresponding author (Christina Moses Maeda)

Ethical approval

The study obtained ethical approval from the Moshi Cooperative University ethical committee under the reference number HD/T/MoCU/121/22.

References

- Ab Hamid, M. R., Sami, W., & Mohamad Sidek, M. H. (2017). Discriminant validity assessment: Use of Fornell & Larcker criterion versus HTMT criterion. *Journal of Physics: Conference Series*, 890(1), 1–5. <https://doi.org/10.1088/1742-6596/890/1/012163>
- Ab Rahman, F. A., Mohd Suki, N., Mohd Yusof, M. I., & Yusof, R. (2023). Residents' trust in local government councils in an emerging nation: Effect of political efficacy, good governance and performance. *Transforming Government: People, Process and Policy*, 17(1), 39–53. <https://doi.org/10.1108/TG-02-2022-0015>
- Adaba, K. A., & Boiro, D. (2024). *Africans' trust in key institutions and leaders is weakening* (Afrobarometer Dispatch No. 891). Afrobarometer.
- Adger, W. N., Arnell, N. W., & Tompkins, E. L. (2005). Successful adaptation to climate change across scales. *Global Environmental Change*, 15(2), 77–86. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.gloenvcha.2004.12.005>
- Beshi, T. D., & Kaur, R. (2020). Public trust in local government: Explaining the role of good governance practices. *Public Organization Review*, 20(2), 337–350. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11115-019-00444-6>
- Bouncken, R. B., Czakon, W., & Schmott, F. (2025). Purposeful sampling and saturation in qualitative research methodologies: Recommendations and review. *Review of Managerial Science*, 1–37. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11846-025-00881-2>
- Bruley, E., Scolobig, A., Allen, S. K., Erokhin, D., Komendantova, N., Bharwani, E., Stoffel, M., Bruley, E., Gómez-Baggethun, E., & Lavorel, S. (2024). Enablers and barriers to co-design, co-develop and co-implement solutions for climate resilience. *Ambio*, 54(2), 212–224. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10084-023-03289-1>
- Byaro, M., & Kinyondo, A. (2020). Citizens' trust in government and their greater willingness to pay taxes in Tanzania: A case study of Mtwara, Lindi, and Dar es Salaam regions. *Poverty & Public Policy*, 12(1), 73–83. <https://doi.org/10.1002/pop4.271>
- Chien, N., & Thanh, N. N. (2022). The impact of good governance on the people's satisfaction with public administrative services in Vietnam. *Administrative sciences*. *Administrative Sciences*, 12(1), 35. <https://doi.org/10.3390/admsci12010035>
- The Citizen Report. (2022, November 12). How prolonged drought shook agriculture, livestock keeping - 1. *The Citizen*. <https://www.thecitizen.co.tz/tanzania/news/national/how-prolonged-drought-shook-agriculture-livestock-keeping-1-4035714>
- Cochran, W. G. (1977). *Sampling techniques* (3rd ed.). John Wiley & Sons.
- Creswell, J. W., & Plano Clark, V. L. (2017). *Designing and conducting mixed methods research* (3rd ed.). Sage Publications.

- Davidović, D., & Harring, N. (2020). Exploring the cross-national variation in public support for climate policies in Europe: The role of quality of government and trust. *Energy Research and Social Science*, 70, 101785. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.erss.2020.101785>
- Gozgor, G. (2022). Global evidence on the determinants of public trust in governments during the COVID-19. *Applied Research in Quality of Life*, 17, 559–578. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11482-020-09902-6>
- Grimmelikhuijsen, S. (2012). Linking transparency, knowledge and citizen trust in government: An experiment. *International Review of Administrative Sciences*, 78(1), 50–73. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0020852311429667>
- Grimmelikhuijsen, S. G., & Meijer, A. J. (2014). Effects of transparency on the perceived trustworthiness of a government organization: Evidence from an online experiment. *Journal of Public Administration Research & Theory*, 24(1), 137–157. <https://doi.org/10.1093/jopart/mus048>
- Grimmelikhuijsen, S. G., Piotrowski, S. J., & Van Ryzin, G. G. (2020). Latent transparency and trust in government: Unexpected findings from two survey experiments. *Government Information Quarterly*, 37(4), 101497. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.giq.2020.101497>
- Grimmelikhuijsen, S., & Knies, E. (2017). Validating a scale for citizen trust in government organizations. *International Review of Administrative Sciences*, 83(3), 583–601. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0020852315585950>
- Grindle, M. S. (2007). Good enough governance revisited. *Development Policy Review*, 25(5), 533–574. <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1467-7679.2007.00385.x>
- Grossman, G., & Slough, T. (2022). Government responsiveness in developing countries. *Annual Review of Political Science*, 25, 131–153. <https://doi.org/10.1146/annurev-polisci-051120-112501>
- Hagai, M. (2019). Sustainable environmental management: A case of assessment of land degradation using space technologies in Longido District, Arusha, Tanzania. *Journal of Environmental Science & Engineering B*, 8(6), 249–257. <https://doi.org/10.17265/2162-5263/2019.06.006>
- Hair, J. F., Risher, J. J., Sarstedt, M., & Ringle, C. M. (2019). When to use and how to report the results of PLS-SEM. *European Business Review*, 31(1), 2–24. <https://doi.org/10.1108/EBR-11-2018-0203>
- Hair, J. F., Sarstedt, M., Ringle, C. M., Sharma, P. N., & Liengaard, B. D. (2024). Going beyond the untold facts in pls-sem and moving forward. *European Journal of Marketing*, 58(13), 81–106. <https://doi.org/10.1108/EJM-08-2023-0645>
- Han, Y., Aryal, N., & Hwang, K. (2024). Local governments' accountability and public trust in Nepal: Does participation make a difference? *Asia and the Pacific Policy Studies*, 11(2), e387. <https://doi.org/10.1002/app5.387>
- Hartanto, D., & Siregar, S. M. (2021). Determinants of overall public trust in local government: Mediation of government response to COVID-19 in the Indonesian context. *Transforming Government: People, Process and Policy*, 15(2), 261–274. <https://doi.org/10.1108/TG-08-2020-0193>
- Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. (2022). *Climate change 2022: Impacts, adaptation and vulnerability. Contribution of working group II to the sixth assessment report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change*. <https://www.unep.org/resources/adaptation-gap-report-2022>
- Jager, N. W., Newig, J., Challies, E., & Kochskämper, E. (2020). Pathways to implementation: Evidence on how participation in environmental governance impacts on environmental outcomes. *Journal of Public Administration Research & Theory*, 30(3), 383–399. <https://doi.org/10.1093/jopart/muz034>
- Jameel, A., Asif, M., & Hussain, A. (2019). Good governance and public trust: Assessing the mediating effect of e-government in Pakistan. *Lex Localis*, 17(2), 299–320. <https://doi.org/10.4335/17.2.299-320,2019>
- Kang, W. (2023). Exploring the nexus between transparency and citizens' intention to participate in climate change policy-making. *Sustainability*, 15(21), 15520. <https://doi.org/10.3390/su152115520>

- Karunia, R. L., Darmawansyah, D., Dewi, K. S., & Prasetyo, J. H. (2023). The importance of good governance in the government organization. *HighTech and Innovation Journal*, 4(1), 75–89. <https://doi.org/10.28991/HIJ-2023-04-01-06>
- Kaufmann, D., Kraay, A., & Zoido-Lobaton, P. (1999). *Governance matters*. World Bank Policy Research Working Paper No. 2196.
- Kessy, A. T. (2020). Transparency in local government finance and service delivery: The case of Mwanza City and Moshi District Councils in Tanzania. *Journal of Humanities & Social Sciences*, 12(2), 194–211. <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-7104-6845>
- Kweyu, R. M., Asokan, S. M., Ndesanjo, R. B., Obando, J. A., & Tumbo, M. H. (2023). Climate governance in Eastern Africa: The challenges and prospects of climate change adaptation policies. *State Politics and Public Policy in Eastern Africa: A Comparative Perspective*, 347–369. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-13490-6_16
- Lauwo, S. G., Azure, J. D. C., & Hopper, T. (2022). Accountability and governance in implementing the sustainable development goals in a developing country context: Evidence from Tanzania. *Accounting Auditing & Accountability Journal*, 35(6), 1431–1461. <https://doi.org/10.1108/AAAJ-10-2019-4220>
- Likangaga, R., Kumburu, N., & Panga, F. (2023). Influence of accountability indicators on service delivery among local government authorities in Dodoma, Tanzania. *East African Journal of Education and Social Sciences*, 4(3), 96–108. <https://doi.org/10.46606/eajess2023v04i03.0281>
- Lohr, S. L. (2021). *Sampling: Design and analysis*. (3rd ed.). Chapman and Hall/CRC.
- Malipula, M. M. (2022). Enhancing citizen's participation in planning and budgeting in Kibaha Town Council, Tanzania. *BISNIS & BIROKRASI: Jurnal Ilmu Administrasi dan Organisasi*, 29(2), 118–127. <https://doi.org/10.20476/jbb.v29i2.1362>
- Mansoor, M. (2021). Citizens' trust in government as a function of good governance and government agency's provision of quality information on social media during COVID-19. *Government Information Quarterly*, 101597(4), 101597. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.giq.2021.101597>
- Mase, A. S., Gramig, B. M., & Prokopy, L. S. (2015). Climate change beliefs, risk perceptions, and adaptation behavior among Midwestern U.S. crop farmers. *Climate Risk Management*, 9, 37–46. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.crm.2016.11.004>
- Mayer, R. C., Davis, J. H., & Schoorman, F. D. (1995). An integrative model of organizational trust. *Academy of Management Review*, 20(3), 709–734. <https://doi.org/10.2307/258792>
- McCabe, J. T., Quandt, A., & Leslie, P. W. (2025). “Those with many cattle were better off”: Herd size preferences and perceived tradeoffs in the face of extreme events. *Pastoralism: Research, Policy and Practice*, 15, 14511. <https://doi.org/10.3389/past.2025.14511>
- Mdee, A., & Mushi, A. (2021). Untangling blame and responsibility for service delivery and local governance performance: Testing a grounded social accountability approach in Tanzania. *Local Government Studies*, 47(6), 993–1013. <https://doi.org/10.1080/03003930.2020.1842735>
- Mees, H., & Driessen, P. (2019). A framework for assessing the accountability of local governance arrangements for adaptation to climate change. *Journal of Environmental Planning and Management*, 62(4), 671–691. <https://doi.org/10.1080/09640568.2018.1428184>
- Mkonda, M. Y. (2022). Stakeholders' engagement in the process of adapting to climate change impacts: A case of central Tanzania. *Management of Environmental Quality an International Journal*, 33(4), 975–990. <https://doi.org/10.1108/MEQ-11-2021-0258>
- Mongi, H. J., Mvuma, A. N., Kucel, S., Tenge, A. J., & Gabriel, M. (2015). Accessibility and utilization of mobile phones for governance of water resources in the Lake Victoria Basin: Constraints and opportunities in Tanzania. *African Journal of Environmental Science and Technology*, 9(5), 438–450. <https://doi.org/10.5897/AJEST2014.1818>
- Mwankupili, E. A., & Msilu, S. S. (2020). Community participation and service delivery: An assessment of legal safeguards in the context of local governance in Tanzania. *ResearchGate*, 25(8), 30–37.
- Newig, J., Jager, N. W., Challies, E., & Kochskämper, E. (2023). Does stakeholder participation improve environmental governance? Evidence from a meta-analysis of 305 case studies. *Global Environmental Change*, 82, 102705. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.gloenvcha.2023.102705>

- Nguyen, T. M., Ngo, L. V., Ruël, H., & Patterson, P. (2023). Determinants of public trust in e-government services and participation in social media. *Government Information Quarterly*. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.giq.2023.101824>
- Nyambitta, T. A., & Mohamed, M. H. (2022). The effects of stakeholder's involvement on performance of public authorities in delivering water services in Tanzania: Lesson from DAWASA. *Journal of International Trade, Logistics and Law*, 8(2), 154–161.
- OECD. (2024). *OECD survey on drivers of trust in public institutions: 2024 results—building trust in a complex policy environment*. OECD Publishing. <https://doi.org/10.1787/9a20554b-en>
- Park, S., & Gupta, S. (2012). Handling endogenous regressors by joint estimation using copulas. *Marketing Science*, 31(4), 567–586. <https://doi.org/10.1287/mks>
- Podsakoff, P. M., MacKenzie, S. B., & Podsakoff, N. P. (2012). Sources of method bias in social science research and recommendations on how to control it. *Annual Review of Psychology*, 63(1), 539–569. <https://doi.org/10.1146/annurev-psych-120710-100452>
- Pratolo, S., Sofyani, H., & Maulidini, R. W. (2022). The roles of accountability and transparency on public trust in the village governments: The intervening role of COVID-19 handling services quality. *Cogent Business and Management*, 9(1), 2110648. <https://doi.org/10.1080/23311975.2022.2110648>
- Quayle, B., Sciulli, N., & Wilson-Evered, E. (2020). Accountable to who, to whom, for what and how? Unpacking accountability in local government response to climate change. *Australasian Accounting Business & Finance Journal*, 14(3), 56–74. <https://doi.org/10.14453/aabfj.v14i3.5>
- Safdar, S., Khan, A., & Andlib, Z. (2022). Impact of good governance and natural resource rent on economic and environmental sustainability: An empirical analysis for South Asian economies. *Environmental Science and Pollution Research*, 29(55), 82948–82965. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11356-022-21401-9>
- Said, J., Alam, M. M., & Aziz, M. A. B. A. (2015). Public accountability system: Empirical assessment of public sector of Malaysia. *Asian Journal of Scientific Research*, 8(2), 225–236. <https://doi.org/10.3923/ajs.2015.225.236>
- Sanka, E. (2024). Impact of stakeholder engagement on the success of water, sanitation, and hygiene projects in Babati, Tanzania. *Journal of Policy and Development Studies*, 17(1), 46–53. <https://doi.org/10.4314/jpds.v17i1.4>
- Sarstedt, M., Ringle, C. M., Cheah, J. H., Ting, H., Moisescu, O. I., & Radomir, L. (2020). Structural model robustness checks in PLS-SEM. *Tourism Economics*, 26(4), 531–554. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1354816618823921>
- Sausi, J. M., Kitali, E. J., & Mtebe, J. S. (2021). Evaluation of local government revenue collection information system success in Tanzania. *Digital Policy, Regulation & Governance*, 23(5), 437–455. <https://doi.org/10.1108/DPRG-04-2021-0055>
- Shemdoe, R., Kassenga, G., & Mbuligwe, S. (2015). Implementing climate change adaptation and mitigation interventions at the local government levels in Tanzania: Where do we start. *Current Opinion in Environmental Sustainability*, 13, 32–41. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cosust.2015.01.002>
- Smith, E. K., & Mayer, A. (2018). A social trap for the climate? Collective action, trust and climate change risk perception in 35 countries. *Global Environmental Change*, 49, 140–153. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.gloenvcha.2018.02.014>
- Spiteri, J., & Briguglio, M. (2018). Does good governance foster trust in government? An empirical analysis. In S. Grima & P. Marano (Eds.), *Governance and regulations' contemporary issues* (Vol. 99, pp. 121–137). Emerald Publishing Limited. <https://doi.org/10.1108/S1569-375920180000099006>
- Su, H., Lu, Y., Lyulyov, O., & Pimonenko, T. (2023). Good governance within public participation and national audit for reducing corruption. *Sustainability*, 15(9), 7030. <https://doi.org/10.3390/su15097030>
- Termini, O., & Kalafatis, S. E. (2021). The paradox of public trust shaping local climate change adaptation. *Atmosphere*, 12(2), 241. <https://doi.org/10.3390/atmos12020241>
- Termizi, F. N. F. M., & Ridzuan, M. R. (2022). Whether to trust local government?: From the good governance perspectives. *Journal of Governance and Integrity*, 5(3), 408–414. <https://doi.org/10.15282/jgi.5.3.2022.7632>

- Uddin, M. S., Haque, C. E., & Khan, M. N. (2021). Good governance and local level policy implementation for disaster-risk-reduction: Actual, perceptual and contested perspectives in coastal communities in Bangladesh. *Disaster Prevention & Management: An International Journal*, 30(2), 94–111. <https://doi.org/10.1108/DPM-03-2020-0069>
- United Republic of Tanzania. (2021). *National climate change response strategy (2021-2026)*. https://www.taees.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/NCCRS-2021-2026_
- Verhoeve, S. L., Keijzer, T., Kaitila, R., Wickama, J., & Sterk, G. (2021). Vegetation resilience under increasing drought conditions in northern Tanzania. *Remote Sensing*, 13(22), 4592. <https://doi.org/10.3390/rs13224592>
- Wanjala, D. (2024). Effect of transparency initiatives on public trust in government in Kenya. *Journal of Public Policy*, 9(2). <https://doi.org/10.47604/jppa.2896>
- Yamane, T. (1967). *Statistics: An introductory analysis* (2nd ed.). Harper & Row.
- Yani, A. (2018). Reframing concept of governance in public administration researches: A philosophical discussion. *International Journal of Administrative Science & Organization*. <https://doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.3521631>
- Yousaf, M., Ihsan, F., & Ellahi, A. (2016). Exploring the impact of good governance on citizens' trust in Pakistan. *Government Information Quarterly*, 33(1), 200–209. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.giq.2015.06.001>