



REGIONAL CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS STATEMENT ON LIVELIHOOD AND COMMUNITY DRIVEN DEVELOPMENT INTERVENTIONS UNDER LAKE VICTORIA ENVIRONMENT MANAGEMENT PROJECT (LVEMPII) IN THE LAKE VICTORIA BASIN

We, the participants of the 2nd Regional Civil Society Organizations Meeting of the East Africa Sustainability Watch Network held at Kisumu Hotel, Kenya on Tuesday the 4th March 2014:

Recognizing that the Partner States of the East African Community (EAC) have a shared heritage and a common interest in Lake Victoria and its Basin and have committed to ensure proper management and sustainability of the Basin's Natural Resources for the benefit of present and future generations through the ratification of the Protocol for Sustainable Development of the Lake Victoria Basin:

The Regional CSOs working on Environmental Sustainability in East Africa held a meeting to discuss the issues, challenges, lessons learnt and recommendations from the Annual LVEMP II Civil Society Watch Livelihood Case Study No. 1.

The Case Study is an assessment of changes in community livelihoods within selected areas of Rivers Nyando (Kenya), Simiyu (Tanzania) and Katonga (Uganda) with specific focus on Water and Sanitation, Renewable Energy and Aquaculture.

The meeting was attended by Civil Society Organizations from Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda.

Declaration

Having deliberated on the issue of mechanisms to understand the obligations of partner states in LVEMPII under the EAC and after mapping out a way forward in the implementation of LVEMPII Civil Society Watch project, members unanimously agreed to communicate the following to the Lake Victoria Basin Commission (LVEMPII Regional Secretariat) and EAC Partner states.

Acknowledging the shared commitment by Partner States to promote a coordinated effort towards sustainable development of the Lake Victoria Basin, in line with the Shared Vision and Strategy Framework for management and development of the Lake and its Basin;

Aware that the Lake Victoria Basin is a designated regional economic growth zone to be managed in a coordinated manner for the benefits of the people of East Africa;

Conscious that the Lake Victoria and its Basin is ecologically stressed and in danger of irreparable damage if environmental degradation including loss of biodiversity continues unabated;

Agree and recommend for action by EAC Partner States, Lake Victoria Basin Commission, Non-State Actors and Development Partners as appropriate to:

1. Promote institutional capacity building to enable communities to provide timely feedback on National and Regional policies and strategies to deal with livelihood challenges that affect them;
2. Scale-up opportunities for livelihood related skills and technical capacity enhancement for community groups;
3. Involve community groups in information and knowledge transfer within the communities they operate;
4. Urge LVEMP II National secretariats to honour Memoranda of Understanding with community groups engaged in CDD Sub-projects;
5. Promote uptake of appropriate technology and build community skills related to livelihood enhancing interventions, and practices towards climate change adaptation;
6. Echo the need for LVEMP II to strengthen the capacity of the District Project Coordinating Teams (DPCT) involved in the Technical support and Supervision of the CDD-Sub-projects;
7. Facilitate sharing of LVEMP II Needs Assessment and other studies conducted.
8. Fast track a multi-stakeholder engagement in advancing the LVEMP II Client Service Charter proposed by EA SusWatch Network (2013) to fasten processes of CDD Sub-projects implementation.

For more information about this statement, Please contact:

The Regional Coordinator - LVEMP II Civil Society Watch Project
C/o Uganda Coalition for Sustainable Development - Rio and Beyond
P.O.Box 27551 Kampala (Uganda)

Tel: +256 414 269461

Email: ugandacoalition@infocom.co.ug | rkimbowa@ugandacoalition.or.ug

Website: www.easuswatch.org