

A Monthly from the East African Sustainability Watch Network founded by Uganda Coalition for Sustainable Development (UCSD), Tanzania Coalition for Sustainable Development (TCSD) and SusWatch Kenya

## CSOs Unveil Regional Project to Promote Sustainable Energy and Climate Action in East Africa



Joint Energy and Environment Projects (JEEP), SusWatch Kenya, TaTEDO and UCSD who are also members of the International Network for Sustainable Energy (INFORSE-East Africa), have launched a three-year project (2019 – 2022) to promote sustainable energy and climate action in East Africa. The project primarily works towards Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 1 (poverty), SDG5 (gender), SDG7 (clean energy), SDG 13 (climate action), and SDG 17 (partnerships). The Project will be implemented in partnership with the Nordic Folkecenter for Renewable Energy and the International Network on Sustainable Energy (INFORSE) secretariat (both based in Denmark). It is supported by the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs through the CISU Fund for Climate and Environment

A kick off meeting for the ‘East African Civil Society for Sustainable Energy & Climate Action (EASE-CA) Project’ was held at JEEP Folkecenter (Kyanja) in Kampala, July 22 – 26, 2019 where representatives from the 6 implementing organisations were all represented. The EASE-CA Project will combine activities on local, national and international levels in ways, where they reinforce each other.

At the local level, JEEP will work in 3 districts (Kiryandongo, Nebbi and Nakasongola) in Uganda to empower poor rural communities to increase access to clean energy and energy efficiency; and improved livelihoods in an economic and climate friendly way. Seminars, trainings are planned that will reach out to rural households, trainers, local leaders, planners. Themes include: clean cooking, water, food security, tree planting, solar energy, sustainable energy & development, income generation to reduce poverty through green entrepreneurship initiatives, among others.

At the national level, SusWatch Kenya, TaTEDO and UCSD will strengthen Civil Society Organisations’ activities in Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda respectively to generate strategies & scenarios for 100% renewable energy (for Kenya and Uganda), hold CSO Coalition meetings, discuss and agree on joint CSO proposals, make presentations to national planners & decision-makers, and hold dialogues with stakeholders, as well as media campaigns.

At the International level, advocacy by the Project Partners seeks to strengthen networking and CSOs participation, exchange of experiences and to give voice to participating CSOs at United Nations Climate Negotiations (UNFCCC). Over 70% of East Africa’s population lives without access to sustainable energy technologies. This is a bottle-neck to achieving the SDGs. Therefore, the EASE-CA Project seeks to increase access to sustainable energy and other climate solutions to local communities in Uganda, Kenya and Tanzania with both women’s and men’s full and effective participation and leadership for improved livelihoods and reduction of poverty. The Project will be implemented from July 2019 to June 2022

Read more about the EASE-CA project: <http://www.inforse.org/africa/EASE.htm>

## CSOs Call for More Global awareness on Carbon dioxide Removal Approaches



Participants at the meeting in Nairobi. Photo: RESOLVE

A two-day meeting for 30 CSOs from around the globe, was convened by the Carnegie Climate Governance Initiative (C2G) in Nairobi from July 11 to 12, 2019 to consider Carbon Dioxide Removal (CDR) interventions, proposed as potential supplements to rapid CO<sub>2</sub> emissions reductions (scaling up ambition), in the context of the overall objective of the Paris Agreement and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Carbon dioxide Removal is the process of removing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and storing it. The available technology options for CDR range from the less risky ones like afforestation and reforestation to complex, costly ones like ocean fertilization.

In 2015, Parties to the UNFCCC agreed to limit global temperature increase to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels, and to pursue efforts to limit the increase to 1.5°C. In 2018, the IPCC Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C warned that if the current Nationally Determined Contributions or NDCs do not improve dramatically, the world will need to rely heavily on CDR options that are as yet unproven at scale to meet the 1.5°C limit. Even with improvements in current policies and the NDCs to reduce emissions, significant - if not substantial - CDR will be needed.

However, despite existing provisions in global climate policy for example in the Paris Agreement, many key governance gaps and challenges remain for large-scale CDR and will need to be addressed.

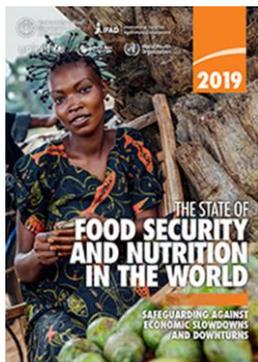
The CSO meeting sought to learn about the CDR approaches that included: sustainable agriculture and soil carbon, restoration of degraded lands and protection of primary forests, Bio-Energy with Carbon Capture and Storage (BECCS) and Direct Air Carbon Capture and Storage (DACCS). It specifically sought to explore and assess the concerns and opportunities related to CDR and the four approaches (above) at the local, national and international level; and to bolster environmental community readiness to engage in ongoing and upcoming activities related to CDR options.

During the meeting, discussions were held against the understanding that no single or group of CDR efforts could act as a substitute for the required rapid and deep reductions in greenhouse gas emissions in all sectors and all countries. These CDR options can only be considered in addition to these mitigation actions. The meeting involved expert presentations on the technical, policy, political overview and discussions on 4 CDR approaches (Agriculture and Soil Carbon; Forestry-based natural solutions; BECCS, and DACCS), that were followed by plenary sessions and group work. Information gained from a prior survey and interviews with the participants regarding their familiarity, prioritization and concerns about CDR approaches provided a useful starting point for the meeting.

After the presentation, the groups came up with priorities on based on the 4 approaches, to be reflected in the NDCs; and how the global North could support NDCs of the global South with respect to carbon removal. Generally, the CSOs were of the view that agriculture and soil carbon; forestry-based solutions be prioritized in terms of contributing to CO<sub>2</sub> removal with livelihood co-benefits accrued to millions of people, rather than a few. The CSOs were however hesitant on BECCS and DACCs, as this needs more research and public discussion. They also called for more awareness creation amongst CSOs and other climate change actors across the globe on CDR options, risks and trade-offs.

Read more about the Carnegie Climate Governance Initiative from: <https://www.c2g2.net/governing-large-scale-carbon-dioxide-removal-are-we-ready/>

## Upward Trend of Global Hunger With Highest Prevalence in Africa - State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World (2019)



The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World is an annual flagship report jointly prepared by the FAO, IFAD, UNICEF, WFP and WHO to inform on progress towards ending hunger, achieving food security and improving nutrition and to provide in-depth analysis on key challenges for achieving this goal in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The report targets a wide audience, including policy-makers, international organizations, academic institutions and the general public.

The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World (SOFI 2019) confirms a rise in world hunger for a third year in a row. There were 821 million chronically undernourished people in the world last year, up from 811 the previous year. *One in nine people in the world now face hunger.*

*The situation is most alarming in Africa, as the region has the highest rates of hunger in the world and which are continuing to slowly but steadily rises in almost all sub regions. In Eastern Africa in particular, close to a third of the population (30.8 percent) is undernourished. In addition to climate and conflict, economic slowdowns and downturns are driving the rise. Since 2011, almost half the countries where rising hunger occurred due to economic slowdowns or stagnation were in Africa.*

The upward trend of world steady decline – yet again challenge of achieving the Zero number of hungry people in the was nearly a decade ago. The to meet the goals of ending food for all.

The pace of progress in halving are stunted and in reducing the low birth weight is too slow, nutrition targets further out of reach, according to the SOFI 2019 Report.

### SOFI 2019 key facts and figures

Number of hungry people in the world in 2018:

- 821.6 million (Or 1 in 9 people).
- 256.1 million are in Africa

hunger – after decades of underscores the immense Hunger target by 2030. The world is back up to where it world is not currently on track hunger and ensuring access to

the number of children who number of babies born with which also puts the SDG 2

This year's Report introduces a new indicator for measuring food insecurity at different levels of severity and monitoring progress towards SDG 2: the prevalence of moderate or severe food insecurity. This indicator is based on data obtained directly from people in surveys about their access to food in the last 12 months, using the Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES). People experiencing moderate food insecurity face uncertainties about their ability to obtain food and have had to reduce the quality and/or quantity of food they eat to get by.

Conflict and the climate crisis constitute the greatest drivers of hunger. This year's Report has a specific focus on economic downturn. Hunger has increased in many countries where the economy has slowed or contracted, mostly in middle-income countries. However, *the greatest threat is where there is a combination of drivers – conflict, climate change and economic marginalization.*

Read more about the 2019 State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World from: <http://www.fao.org/publications/sofi/en/>