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THE EAST AFRICAN SUSWATCH E-BULLETIN (FORMERLY THE LVEMPII CIVIL SOCIETY WATCH E BULLETIN)

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

First East African Civil Society Regional Meeting Raise issues for the Talanoa Dialogue ahead of the 2018 Global Climate Talks in Poland



CSOs at the regional Talanoa Dialogue Workshop & Writeshop. Photo: TCSD

On 13th June 2018, Tanzania the Tanzania Traditional Energy Development Organization (TaTEDO), Uganda Coalition for Sustainable Development (UCSD) and SusWatch Kenya organized an East Africa Civil Society Talanoa workshop and writeshop at White Sands hotel in Dar es Salaam, attended by 24 participants. The event aimed to galvanize and further amplify the voice calling for climate action. The objectives of the workshop were to make the Civil CSOs in East Africa aware of the Talanoa Dialogue process, and to make a collective CSO contribution via the established Talanoa Dialogue Portal.

Talanoa Dialogue refers to an inclusive process of dialogue where all participants, regardless of power or influence, are peers. It is expected to be a new strong push to move forward the global climate agenda. The Presidencies of COP 23 and COP 24 will throughout 2018 socialize/discuss the Dialogue with Party and Non-Party stakeholders via a range of avenues, including workshops, webinars, forums, and relevant meetings. At the same time, Party and non-Party stakeholders are encouraged to have their own meetings on the Talanoa Dialogue to organize, strategize, and consolidate their inputs. This will climax into a high level political discussion that will focus around assessing the collective efforts put forward to meet the Paris Agreement goals and informing the review of the NDCs. The Dialogue is guided by three overarching questions: *Where are we?*, *Where do we want to go?*, & *How do we get there?*

Based on the agreed focus on the question: *How do we get there?*, the CSOs openly discussed and agreed on issues to input into the Talanoa Dialogue via the established web portal, based on the vision: 'Development where poverty reduction focus is part of local, national and regional climate and development strategies including Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and Low Emission Development Strategies (LEDS)'.

East African CSOs focused on the overarching question: How do we get there?

This input will be submitted to the Talanoa Dialogue Portal before the October 2018 deadline. Among others, the CSOs call on the global community to focus on poverty reduction as part of the NDCs as it is partly due to, and is reinforced by climate change. This is affecting many people in East Africa. In addition, the CSOs call for deliberate strategies to empower rural communities at the 'frontline' of climate change in the region so that they are able to plan, undertake and sustain appropriate affordable climate actions that cumulatively adds to East Africa's climate action.

The Paris Agreement set clear goals to reduce emissions and keep our global temperature under 2 degrees Celsius, and as close as possible to 1.5 degrees Celsius. Globally, the National Climate Actions (Nationally Determined Contributions - NDCs) submitted ahead of signing this Agreement, are likely to realize only one-third of the emission reductions required by 2030 to reach the Paris long-term goal.

A decision was taken at COP23 in Bonn in November 2017 to officially launch the Talanoa Dialogue (previously known as the Facilitative Dialogue).

View inputs to the Talanoa Dialogue to date: <https://talanoadialogue.com/view-inputs>

Calling for Local Solutions that Combine Climate Action with Poverty Reduction As Part of the Paris Agreement Work Programme at the Bangkok Climate talks (September 2018)



Human Pyramid at Bonn 2018 in support of Human rights in Climate negotiations. Photo: WECF

The UN Climate Conference (24th session of the Conference of the Parties - COP 24), which will be held from 3-14 December in Katowice (Poland). It is the deadline to deliver an as-of-yet unwritten set of rules (Paris Agreement Work Programme - PAWP) that will govern the Paris accord. According to *Climate Home News*, ‘PAWP matters because a weak set of rules will mean countries will end up doing less to fight climate change’.

The last such meeting that was held in Bonn in May 2018, had an objective to advance work on the PAWP, prompted this extra meeting due to slow progress achieved and the deadline to deliver this in order to facilitate implementation of the Paris Agreement.

Therefore, the Bangkok meeting to be held from Monday, September 3, 2018 to Saturday, September 8, 2018 is part of a series of meetings ahead of the Annual Global Climate talks in Katowice, seen to be key to contribute to successful Climate talks later this year. Others include the G7 Summit, Quebec, 8-9 June; the annual Petersberg Climate Dialogue, 18-19 June; the Second Ministerial on Climate Action (Moca), Brussels, 20-21 June.

This extra negotiation session is supposed to come out with a ‘negotiating text’ for Katowice. This ‘negotiating text’, can serve as a basis for the Katowice talks. This session therefore ‘builds’ from a difficult progress at the May 2018 technical sessions in Bonn.

The bottom-line should be that poverty reduction and sustainable low-emission development; and local solutions that combine climate action with poverty reduction should be part of the PWP

According to *IISD Reporting Services*, there were mixed views on progress made in Bonn on the issues related to finalizing the PAWP. Some of the items discussed most in the closing statements were: **Transparency framework**: There are different views on how the framework should help provide information on countries’ actions and support to developing countries, but many highlighted this issue as one needing further work; **Information on finance**, especially provided by developed countries in advance of its provision: Many developing countries noted this issue is important to them in the

overall PAWP package; **Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform (LCIP)**: Many countries and non-party stakeholders said they were disappointed with progress on this issue; **Action on Climate Empowerment (ACE)**: Parties agreed to a decision, the first issue completed in the PAWP, that will continue parties’ and stakeholders’ efforts on issues such as public participation, education, and access to information.

Like in Bonn, UCSD, SusWatch Kenya and TaTEDO working with Partners (INFORSE Network and SustainableEnergy) resound their call ahead of Bangkok. The bottom-line should be that poverty reduction and sustainable low-emission development and local Solutions that combine climate action with poverty reduction should be part of all climate action plans (NDCs), Global Stocktake and others in the PWP. They are also in support of the “Great 8” for People-Centered Climate Action for NDCs (human rights, indigenous peoples’ rights, public participation, gender, just transition, food security, ecosystem integrity and the protection of biodiversity, and intergenerational equity) by Women Engage for a Common Future (WECF).

- Read the full policy brief from UCSD, SusWatch Kenya and TaTEDO after the Bonn 2018 talks 'Local actions for Poverty reduction & Village development in NDCs & Paris agreement WP - Africa & Asia: <https://bit.ly/2vbu9Tt>
- Follow IISD Reporting Services on the Bangkok Climate technical meeting from: <https://bit.ly/2LXAqf5>

East Africa Scores Low on Energy Access and Clean Cooking Fuels - Report

A Joint Report by the International Energy Agency (IEA), the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD), the World Bank, and the World Health Organization (WHO) titled, 'Tracking SDG 7: The Energy Progress Report,' was released during the 4th Sustainable Energy for All Forum held in Lisbon (May 2018). It shows that global progress is too slow to achieve access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all by 2030 (SDG 7). Particularly worrying are the global trends regarding energy access and clean cooking fuels.

For example, the Report notes that three billion people – or more than 40% of the world's population – do not have access to clean cooking fuels and technologies. The proportion of population with primary reliance on clean fuels and technology is calculated as the number of people using clean fuels and technologies for cooking, heating, and lighting divided by total population, expressed as percentage. "Clean" is defined by the emission rate targets and specific fuel recommendations (that is, against unprocessed coal and kerosene) included in the normative guidance World Health Organization guidelines for indoor air quality: household fuel combustion.

In this regard, the report highlights that household air pollution from burning biomass for cooking and heating is responsible for some 4 million deaths a year, with women and children at the greatest risk. Dr Maria Neira, Director, Department of Public Health, Environmental and Social Determinants of Health, at the World Health Organization (WHO) noted that "It is unacceptable that in 2018, 3 billion people still breathe deadly smoke every day from cooking with polluting fuels and stoves. Every year, household air pollution kills around 4 million people from diseases including pneumonia, heart disease, stroke, lung disease and cancer,"

117 million – Number of people in Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda without access to clean cooking

In Sub-Saharan Africa, population growth in recent years has outstripped the number of people gaining access to clean cooking technologies by a ratio of four to one. On the contrary, clean cooking continues to lag the furthest behind of all the four energy targets, due to low consumer awareness, financing

gaps, slow technological progress, and lack of infrastructure for fuel production and distribution. If the current trajectory continues, 2.3 billion people will continue to use traditional cooking methods in 2030.

According to the World Health Organization (2016), East Africa remains home to millions of poor people without access to clean cooking. The IRENA Report points at Tanzania leading in the region followed by Kenya and Uganda respectively (see table below)

Country	Size of the population without access to clean cooking (in millions)	Global share (as part of the 20 largest access-deficit countries)
Kenya	42	1%
Tanzania	54	2%
Uganda	41	1%
Total	117	5%

Source: IRENA Report, 2018

The top 20 access-deficit countries to which East Africa is part, cumulatively account for 83% of the global population without access. In East Africa, this represents a population of 117 million out of East Africa's 145.5 million people. The Report warns - rapid deployment of clean cooking fuels and technologies has not received adequate attention from policy makers, and it lags behind the rate of electrification. High entry costs for many clean cooking solutions, the lack of consumer awareness of their benefits, financing gaps for producers seeking to enter clean fuel and stove markets, and slow progress in the development of cookstove models and fuel production solutions exacerbate the challenges to uptake of clean cooking solutions (World Bank 2015).

Read the full IRENA Report Chapter: Chapter 3 - Access to Clean Fuels and Technologies for Cooking:
<https://bit.ly/2MfI3KZ>