

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

East African CSOs Call on COP24 Negotiators to Scale up Local Poverty-Reducing Climate Actions in view of the 1.5oC Special Report and Talanoa Dialogue ‘Stories’



School children being exposed to conservation Agriculture in practice: Photo: UCSD

Seven East African Civil Society Organizations and Partners (the East African SusWatch Network, TaTEDO, SusWatch Kenya, Uganda Coalition for Sustainable Development, INFORSE East Africa, SustainableEnergy, DaCCA Programme Partners) have raised policy recommendations to COP24, that highlight the importance of the IPCC 1.5°C Special Report and the Talanoa Dialogue in raising ambition for climate action in East Africa and globally, as well as finalizing the NDC guidelines and other rules needed to make the Paris agreement operational. In this Policy brief, the CSOs believe that Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) guidelines and other issues in the Paris Rulebook will be useful for many countries to improve their NDCs until 2020, following the Talanoa Dialogue for increased ambition.

The CSOs call on the COP24 to make use of the Intergovernmental panel on Climate Change (IPCC) 1.5oC ‘eye-splitting wake-up call’ 1.5oC Special Report, starting with existing mechanisms like Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage (WIM) and Talanoa Dialogue to put in place Agreement goal of within the scope of addition, the CSOs appeal organizations to framework, modalities Finance. Related to this, constructive guidelines for features of the NDCs (additional guidance is desirable), for the information in the NDCs to facilitate their clarity, transparency, and understanding, as well as for the accounting used.

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what is needed to meet the Paris limiting warming to 1.5°C science and human capability. In to Parties to allow observer participate in the transparency for the accounting of Climate the CSOs call on Parties to adopt for NDCs, including guidance (additional guidance is

The CSOs also emphasize that the general design of the Global Stocktake must be finalized to ensure that it provides the momentum for the much needed global ambition to step up climate action. Hence, the CSOs call upon Parties to agree on a political declaration and a COP decision on the Talanoa Dialogue that “sends a strong political message” to strengthen a global response to climate change. They further propose that the Talanoa Dialogue should be institutionalized within the UNFCCC processes, as one way to sustain stakeholder engagement, information exchange and action learning.

At UNFCCC COP24 in Katowice (Poland) December 3 – 14, 2018, countries aim to agree on guidelines that govern the Paris Agreement, and to create a set of rules to help countries implement their national contributions and meet their targets. Without these guidelines, it will be increasingly difficult for countries to implement climate actions needed to meet the Paris Agreement goals and unlock the vast opportunities offered by shifting towards zero-emissions. **Read the full East Africa CSOs statement from here: <https://bit.ly/2DBXcVb>**

Vulnerable States break New Grounds to Hold Virtual Climate Summit ahead of COP24 in Poland



Photo: CAN International

The Virtual Climate Summit 2018 was a 24-hour emission-free event led by The Climate Vulnerable Forum (CVF) and chaired by the Republic of Marshall Islands, to offer a global platform for national leaders to raise climate ambition and step up their NDCs, stand in solidarity with those vulnerable to the growing impacts of climate change, and reinforce efforts under the Paris Agreement to limit global warming to 1.5°C. It involved ten thematic topic-specific sessions organized by partner organizations; short films and online mobilization with tweets using the hashtag #StepUp2018 calling on world leaders to act.

The CVF Summit was particularly in response to the Special Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC 1.5 report) which confirms that significantly strengthened mitigation efforts are essential. The CVF was the political force that helped elevate awareness around the importance of including the 1.5° Celsius (2.7° Fahrenheit) goal in the Paris Agreement, which also triggered the just released alarming IPCC 1.5 Report. Summit host - Dr. Hilda Heine announced new and ambitious climate targets becoming one of the the Paris Commitments and countries to follow to secure vulnerable communities

The “Jumemmej Declaration” announces that all CVF countries will enhance their own climate contributions by 2020.

first along with Fiji to respond to setting an example for other survival and protection of worldwide.

The official outcome of the “Jumemmej Declaration” against threats) will feed into promote enhanced action by all nations party to the Paris Agreement dubbed the “Talanoa Dialogue” and sends a powerful call to arms to all leaders and non-state actors to enhance ambition by 2020 while emphasizing the role of the UN Secretary General’s Summit in 2019. The Declaration also announces that all CVF countries will enhance their own climate contributions by 2020.

Summit, particularly the (Marshallese for vigilance the agreed mechanism to

During the 24-hour online event, which featured interactive debates and live statements from more than 40 global leaders, the Marshall Islands also announced a new and enhanced climate target, or Paris Agreement NDC, highlighting the conviction of the most vulnerable “to move from words to action”.

President Emmanuel Macron of France responded to the plea of the vulnerable nations in his statement to the Virtual Summit: “in 2020 our countries should present new more ambitious national contributions and increase the pace of their implementation. France will stay on course,” and adding “we must raise our ambitions.” “Decisions that affect our survival are being taken now” said President Heine, while referring to findings of the October Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change’s Special Report on 1.5 Degrees which indicated that surpassing this level of warming would create unmanageable and existential risks.

According to Climate Action Network International, the Summit kicked off a snowball for enhanced commitments, which civil society will keep pushing to build up to a significant size during the climate talks in Katowice through to the UN Secretary General’s Summit in 2019.

Read the official outcome of the Summit, particularly the “Jumemmej Declaration” from: <https://thecvf.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/CVF-Virtual-Summit-Leaders-Communique-advance-copy.pdf>

East African Civil Society Launch Online Petition to promote implementation of the Paris Agreement in the Region



From the Climate March; Press briefing at SusWatch Kenya Secretariat in Kisumu (Photos: UCSD / SusWatch Kenya)

Addressing the press in Kisumu November 28, 2018 during the *Climate March 2018* organized by the Devolution and Climate Change Adaptation Program Partners in Western Kenya in collaboration with others in Tanzania and Uganda, the Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) say Climate Change is derailing the efforts towards achieving the SDGs and efforts to reduce poverty. In their Online Petition read to the Press by Kimbowa Richard (Uganda Coalition for Sustainable Development) the CSOs, call upon the EAC to incorporate provisions of the Paris Agreement in its Climate Change Policy under review as well as the proposed EAC Climate Change law. ‘This will further strengthen climate action in the region in addition to what is already underway at the respective Partner State level.’ the Petition added.

The CSOs Online Petition acknowledges that the EAC has adopted a Roadmap on how to approach implementation of the Paris Agreement that includes concrete steps to be taken by the six Partner States. ‘But actions taken are more important than the intentions, given the urgency for East Africa to be part of the collective global fraternity to address the climate change challenge’, the CSOs note in their on line Petition.

In the Petition, the CSOs remind the EAC that, ‘In black and white, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) 1.5oC Special Report makes it amazingly clear that 2050 must be the global Co2 emissions phase out. To of life have to be turned live, eat, move around,

The CSOs Petition acknowledges: The EAC has adopted a Roadmap on how to approach implementation of the Paris Agreement that includes concrete steps to be taken by the six Partner States. BUT actions taken are more important than the intentions

do this, almost all areas upside down: how we and what we consume!’

The CSOs point out six addressed. These are: full equality and women’s regional climate change per the Gender Action Agreement; explicit

areas that need to be incorporation of gender empowerment in all discourse and actions as Plan from the Paris promotion of civil

society and private sector participation in implementation of the nine major activities in the EAC roadmap; review of the current engagement mechanisms and processes in order to institutionalize wider stakeholder involvement; development of monitoring and evaluation mechanisms for tracking the level of implementation of the EAC Climate Change Policy and strategy; putting in place mechanisms to integrate the climate change actions in all planned region-wide micro – to mega investments, projects and programmes, rather than the climate policy being implemented on its own; and reminder to the EAC to join the call on all Parties including Least Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States to strive to formulate and communicate Low Emission Development Strategies (LEDS) to be submitted not later than 2020. **Read & support the East African CSOs Online Petition here: <https://bit.ly/2Se9TJS>**