

# The LVEMP II Civil Society Watch E-bulletin

A Monthly from the **East African Sustainability Watch Network** comprising: Uganda Coalition for Sustainable Development (UCSD), Tanzania Coalition for Sustainable Development (TCSD) and Sustainable Environmental Development Watch Network (SusWatch Kenya)

**May 2013**

## Are LVEMP II Community-Driven Development Sub-Projects Neglected in Tanzania?



Local Chicken farming. One of the envisaged CDD projects for Ihale community in Magu (Tanzania).  
**Photo: UCSD**



A tree nursery with Avocado trees at LVRAC's Environment Pedagogic Centre – Mwanza (Tanzania).  
**Photo: UCSD**

In Tanzania, the Lake Victoria Community-driven development (CDD) sub-projects are either neglected or have been manipulated in favour of strategic environment interventions. Many rural CDD projects have been halted without clear explanations for beneficiaries who are getting more frustrated and are losing hope. In Magu, the Ihale community is an ideal case.

### The Ihale Community CDD grounding to a halt?

The Community demand driven sub-projects-CDD of eleven community groups in Ihale, Magu district have been frustrated by LVEMP II project in Tanzania. The community presented proposals to the LVEMP II project implementation team for support local poultry enterprises including domesticated birds such as chicken, turkeys, ducks, and geese, for the purpose of farming meat and eggs for food and for marketing as a profitable plan to reduce over fishing in River Simiyu. They planned to raise 520 chicken in one batch with an investment of Tshs 25,332,697 from LVEMP II (excluding local contribution).

The community had a memorandum of understanding signed in November 2011 and subsequently the CDD bank account was opened. In April 2012, Tshs 6,431,774 was sent leaving Tshs 18,900,923 as an outstanding balance to be disbursed to this community

Interestingly, the dates of the contract are ended yet the funds received were only sufficient for the community to construct the foundations of five poultry houses of 10 by 10 square meters.

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It was agreed that the community contribution is the labour for the construction while the CDD funds cater for cement, timber, bricks and stones. Construction aside, the project is meant to have had three trainings in poultry management but so far only one training was conducted.

The Ihale Community CDD Chairman Mr. Hanga Paul laments that they should be informed if the project is just a thought over idea that has failed to be implemented so that they resolve to do other things. Noting the loss of interest in following the project which they do not see taking off. “We don’t know what is happening and no one is giving us up-dates on the project status”. If we have been duped we must also be informed. We are now stopping the project until we are sure of its progress. We have been writing letters to the LVEMP II Coordinator in Magu district but no response has been received, he laments.

“We have weekly meetings with community members and now we are getting frustrated about the CDD funding. The 17% local contribution is guaranteed by the community that is only waiting the 83% contribution from LVEMP II”, he adds.

Poultry farming is very beneficial to the community and was identified as a potential economic viable business in Ihale with mature birds selling between Tshs 10,000-15,000. Other CDD proposals include tree planting, valley water catchment dams, dairy cattle farming and fish farming, which have not all received up to 100 % funding from LVEMP II in Magu District. Mr. Mayombya Lubapula the District LVEMP II Coordinator of Magu was not clear whether the contracts have been cancelled or not.

## River Mirongo Rehabilitation Project

To the contrary, the strategic district environmental intervention projects are getting funding faster and more consistently indicating that the process is better managed than the CDD Sub-projects. In Mwanza city, the rehabilitation of Mirongo River within the city flowing directly to Lake Victoria; is progressing. Mr. Benedict Kwangu who works with Lake Nyanza Environmental and Sanitation Organization (LANESO) says their proposal was approved in 2013 and has already received funding from LVEMP II.

They have received funds worth Tshs 440,000,000 from LVEMP II Secretariat, Mwanza city also has a contribution of Tshs 69,000,000, LANESO’s contribution is Tshs 21,000,000 and Lake Victoria Water office is contributing Tshs 2,000,000 respectively.

River Mirongo was polluted with waste water, it was silted and people had encroached upon the river banks which lead to flooding during heavy rains that flows to Lake Victoria.

The project is creating awareness to the communities to conserve the river, planting grass and trees to strengthen the river banks as a way of addressing soil erosion.

The project will also construct public toilets to divert people from polluting the river with human waste, construct walk overs and bridges along the river to ease pedestrian movement and it will also lay concrete embankment to direct the flow of the river waters to Lake Victoria.

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## EA Suswatch Network expands Public Information Outreach

The East African Sustainability Watch (EA Suswatch) Network has launched a radio campaign in Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania to scale up information on issues of environment sustainability in the Lake Victoria basin. The radio campaign is part of the monitoring project: LVEMP II Civil Society Watch Project that seeks to lobby and advocate for realisation of results-based performance from LVEMP II and implementation of the East African Community Climate Change Policy.

The radio campaign is a contribution towards educative and informative knowledge to communities around the Lake Victoria Basin specifically communities around River Katonga in Uganda, River Nyando in Kenya and River Simiyu in Tanzania.

The Campaign will provide knowledge on best practices of sustainable land management including issues of water pollution, deforestation, wetlands depletion, and sanitation and how communities can engage LVEMP II in attaining effective utilization of the Community-driven development sub-projects. *Bukedde Radio* in Uganda and *Radio Free Africa* in Tanzania will host the radio campaign which was officially launched on 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2013, while in Kenya, a process to identify a suitable media partner is in its final stages.

Media partners are working with EA Suswatch Network to create awareness to women, men and youth listeners as key stakeholders in the conservation of their natural resource as well as preserving Lake Victoria for the future generations and the world at large.

## Resources and up-coming events

- The UN High-level Panel on the Post-2015 Development Agenda (HLP) issued its final report, presenting it to UN Secretary-General on 30 May 2013. The Report recommends a post-2015 framework that pursues **five “key transformations”**: leave no one behind; put sustainable development at the core; transform economies for jobs and inclusive growth; build peace and effective, open and accountable public institutions; and forge a new global partnership. More: <http://www.un.org/sg/management/hlppost2015.shtml>
- **Presentation: ‘Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture: an NGO perspective’** (by Patrick Mulvany): <http://www.dirnat.no/attachment.ap?id=3254> at the 7th Trondheim Conference on Biodiversity (27 – 31 May 2013, Norway)
- **“Think. Eat. Save. Reduce your food print”** is the theme of **World Environment Day 2013**. The Campaign aims to reduce food loss along the entire chain of food production and consumption and specifically targets food wasted by consumers, retailers and the hospitality industry. In Uganda and Kenya the National celebrations will be held in **Kalangala district and in Kisumu City – both in the Lake Victoria basin.**