

# 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)

**February 2018**

## Women’s Day 2018: Why the *Time is Now* to Transform Women’s Lives in East Africa

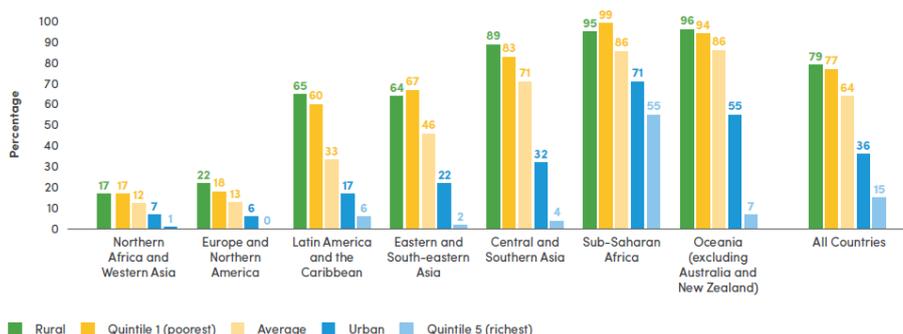
Over the last three decades the frequency of droughts and floods in East Africa have increased (for example, the 2016-2017 drought experienced in Kenya), resulting in crop failures and loss of livestock (EAC, 2017). Impacts of climate change are being acutely felt by women who make up a large percentage of poor communities worldwide that rely on natural resources for their livelihoods.

The 2018 Women’s Day therefore comes at a time when there is near global consensus that successful action on climate change depends on the engagement of women as stakeholders and planners in ensuring that everyone has access to the resources they need to adapt to and mitigate climate change.

The UN Women Report, “Gender Equality in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, highlights the issue of clean energy, notably in the preparation of food. This report leaves no doubt: Gender equality is fundamental to delivering on the promise of the 2030 Agenda. As long as women are economically and socially disempowered in the world of work and in their homes and communities, growth will not be inclusive and we will not succeed in ending poverty. This is because the creation of inclusive and peaceful societies will also remain out of reach until women and girls are safe from all forms of violence and can shape the decisions that affect their lives.

For instance, food preparation across East Africa is overwhelmingly done by women who use cook stoves that rely on solid fuels such as biomass (wood, charcoal, agricultural residues and animal dung) and coal as their primary source. In particular, the use of these dirty solid fuels contributes to harmful emissions of carbon dioxide and black carbon (soot), destructive agents that perpetuate climate change. With regard to the energy sector, traditional biomass accounts for approximately 80% of final energy consumption in Tanzania, Kenya and Uganda. Many households in East Africa practice ‘fuel stacking’, which involves combining woodfuels with kerosene or Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG). Worse still the unsustainable harvesting of woody biomass in East Africa contributes to forest depletion, disruption of key catchment areas that moderate the largely rain-fed agriculture practiced across the region.

**PROPORTION OF HOUSEHOLDS WITH PRIMARY RELIANCE ON SOLID FUELS, BY REGION, LOCATION AND WEALTH QUINTILE, 2013-2016**



Source: UN Women Report (2018)

In 2018 therefore, time is now to transform women’s lives in East Africa by having the Partner States’ National Climate Action Plans (the Nationally Determined Contributions - NDCs) to specifically invest in efficient cook stoves that use cleaner fuels— for example, decentralised renewable solar energy systems that that are simultaneously gender-responsive and environmentally sustainable. This is because the most of the proposed energy related actions in the NDCs focus on strengthening the electricity subsector. But this energy from big infrastructure often does not prioritize energy needs for poor women, and rarely makes economic sense for utilities to connect them. [Read the full UN Women Report ‘Turning Promises into Action: Gender Equality in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development’ at: www.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/sdg-report](http://www.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/sdg-report)

# 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)

## Regional Civil Society Knowledge Sharing Workshop on Scaling Up Climate Action in East Africa Held in Kampala



Group picture during the Workshop. Picture: UCSD

A regional knowledge sharing workshop for the Project: Promoting Implementation of the Paris Agreement in East Africa (PIPA), was held in Kampala on February 22, 2018 at Imperial Royale Hotel in Kampala, Uganda. Attended by 20 participants from Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda, the regional workshop included: the Project Partner representatives (SusWatch Kenya, Tanzania Coalition for Sustainable Development, and the host - Uganda Coalition for Sustainable Development), a member of the Uganda climate change negotiating team (adaptation), PACJA Uganda, Uganda PIPA project campaign partners (ACTADE, Environmental Alert, CAN Uganda, ARCOS), The East African Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency; and members of the International Forum for Sustainable Energy in Uganda.

The workshop aimed to discuss and share ideas, information and knowledge on how on-going and potential interventions within East Africa can specifically contribute to a global momentum for a bottom-up climate action in line with the ‘Fiji Momentum for Implementation’ / Paris Agreement.

Reflecting on the outcome of the twenty third Conference of Parties (COP23) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) held in Bonn (Germany), this regional workshop was held under the theme ‘Creating momentum for bottom up climate action in East Africa’ in line with the bottom-up structure of the Paris Agreement, where action is not conditional upon international rules. It is expected that forthcoming climate change negotiations (COP24) will result in a ‘package deal’ (Paris rulebook) that addresses the implementation of all mandated items under the Paris Agreement. This is important given that current Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) are likely to realize only one-third of the emission reductions required by 2030 to reach the Paris long-term goal (UNEP ‘The Emissions Gap’ Report 2017). Equally, East Africa needs to prepare for the upcoming review of progress on the broad and multifaceted Paris Agreement’s global goal on adaptation to be done in context of the global stocktake that will take place every five years starting 2023 (UNEP, ‘The Adaptation Gap’ Report 2017)

During the workshop, presentation were made on PIPA project and progress so far; Key issues from the COP23 negotiations (Bonn); creating momentum for regional approach for sustainable energy solutions to contribute to achievement of SDGs and Paris Agreement; update on EAC Roadmap for implementation of Paris Agreement after COP23 (How CSOs are engaged); Uganda’s Green Growth Development Strategy: A blueprint for Low Emission Development?; Lessons learnt for EAC engagement from the climate change related advocacy engagement at the African Union; Collective CSO advocacy engagement with the EAC to create momentum for climate action; Highlights of climate actions under the Project: ‘Increasing access to sustainable and renewable energy alternatives in the Albertine Graben’ in Uganda.

Among others, the workshop called for more CSO efforts in implementation of the Paris Agreement at the national & Regional level, strengthening of coherent platforms for learning, need to focus more efforts of energy for cooking (that affects more poor people) rather than on lighting, sharing of information, Advocacy and knowledge among the key stakeholders (for example through the Talanoa Dialogue), follow up on opportunities emerging in implementation of the EAC Road map for implementation of the Paris Agreement, Uganda Green Growth Development Strategy and other similar national strategies in Kenya and Tanzania.

The Project: “Promoting Implementation of the Paris Agreement (PIPA) in East Africa with a focus on pro-poor low emission development” (January 2017- June 2018) is implemented in Tanzania, Kenya and Uganda in partnership with SustainableEnergy (SE) of Denmark, International Network for Sustainable Energy (INFORSE), Tanzania Traditional Energy Development Organization (TaTEDO), Sustainable Environmental Development Watch Kenya (SusWatch Kenya) and Uganda Coalition for Sustainable Development (UCSD). The Project’s development objective is to contribute to strengthen the pro-poor focus and climate change ambitions in the implementation of the Paris Agreement in East Africa.

# 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)

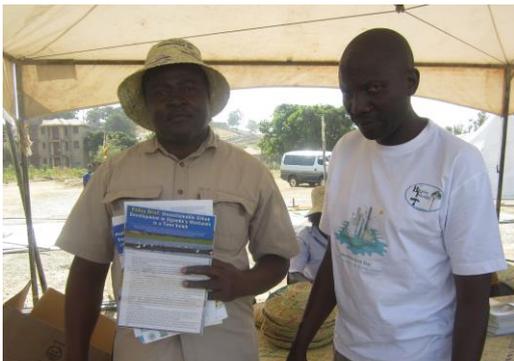
## Pictorial: UCSD and Partners' Participation in the National World Wetlands Day Celebrations on February 2, 2018 in Arua (Pictures by UCSD)



Wetlands story in Uganda's *Daily Monitor* Newspaper



Mr. John Kaganga (Kikandwa Environment Association) engages a Senior Environmental Police Officer



UCSD disseminated several information materials including a policy brief on Uganda's wetlands in relation to climate action



Mr. David Nkwanga (Nature Palace Foundation) explains the improved stoves intervention to Hon. Gabriel Aljedru (Guest of Honor at the Event)



Elephant in Murchison Falls National Park on the way to West Nile (North West Uganda)



Sign post: Arua and Pakwach