

# 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)

**January 2017**

## **EA SusWatch Network Partners, INFORSE & SustainableEnergy Launch Project to Promote Implementation of the Paris Climate Change Agreement in East Africa**



Participants at the Inception meeting at Ngong Hotel Nairobi. Photo: UCSD

A Project on Promoting the Implementation of the Paris Agreement in East Africa (PIPA) has been launched. The project focus is on pro-poor, low emission development will be implemented by Uganda Coalition for Sustainable Development, SusWatch Kenya and Tanzania Traditional Energy Development and Environment Organisation (TaTEDO) with support from Sustainable Energy and the International Forum for Sustainable Energy (INFORSE). The East African countries may have small greenhouse gas emissions, but with likely developments, emissions are expected to increase substantially.

On the other hand, the region has large opportunities for renewable energy, including development of sustainable biomass. For example, several low-emission/renewable energy solutions are effective to reduce poverty including cook stoves, biogas, solar PV, solar driers among others. Thus, the Project envisages East African countries to be in position to benefit from ambitious, pro-poor Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and Low Emission Development Strategies (LEDS), combined with international support & finance to realise them.

The eighteen (18) months project running from February 2017 to June 2018 will cost DKK 3,486,215 (approx. USD 500,241); has a development objective to contribute to strengthening the pro-poor focus and climate change ambitions in the implementation of the Paris Agreement in East Africa and an intervention project: LEDSs and NDCs in Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania are incorporating civil society viewpoints and recommendations.

Speaking at the inception meeting involving all the partners, Maria Graversen (Project Coordinator) noted that, “a major part of the project will be to develop and implement coordinated regional and national advocacy efforts to influence both national decision-makers, regional institutions, as well as the international climate negotiations”. On his part, Gunnar Olesen from INFORSE adds that, “a key result is that LEDSs and NDCs in Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania are incorporate civil society viewpoints and recommendations”. Project activities will include mapping the current situation on NDCs, LEDSs, nationally and regionally, holding national launch meetings, strengthening involvement of CSO networks and inviting other stakeholders, holding national and regional knowledge sharing workshops. Among the key outputs international policy briefs and one (1) issue of Sustainable Energy News will be prepared. These will form a key basis for the planned lobby and advocacy work for which the project will facilitate CSOs to develop regional climate policy briefs and to participate in regional events to interface with key regional institutions.

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At the global level, participating CSOs will be supported to attend climate negotiations in Bonn and COP23 primarily to follow negotiations on NDCs, LEDSS, and the Global Climate Fund (GCF) in addition to participation in relevant climate financing events. Communication with likeminded CSO networks including sharing experiences and lessons learned with INFORSE-West Africa will be supported in this project.

The Paris Agreement is an agreement within the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change dealing with greenhouse gases emissions mitigation, adaptation and finance starting in the year 2020. Representatives of 195 countries at the 21st Conference of the Parties of the UNFCCC in Paris adopted this Agreement by consensus on 12 December 2015. It was opened for signature on 22 April 2016 (Earth Day) in New York. By December 2016, 194 UNFCCC members had signed the treaty, 127 have ratified it. The agreement went into effect on 4 November 2016. The Agreement has received global acclaim and described as a "historic turning point" in the goal of reducing global warming. But as the dust settles down after this global 'celebration', actions to get it implemented are slowly evolving, dictated by the escalating climate change impacts across the world.

The aim of the Paris Agreement as described in Article 2, "enhancing the implementation" of the UNFCCC through: holding the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2 °C above pre-industrial levels and to pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5 °C above pre-industrial levels. Therefore recognizing that this would significantly reduce the risks and impacts of climate change; increasing the ability to adapt to the adverse impacts of climate change and foster climate resilience and low greenhouse gas emissions development, in a manner that does not threaten food production; making finance flows consistent with a pathway towards low greenhouse gas emissions and climate-resilient development.

The Agreement is non-binding, depending on countries' own "nationally determined contributions" (NDCs) - contribution that each individual country should make in order to achieve the worldwide goal that is determined by all countries individually. These were submitted prior to the Paris summit. Another crucial provision of the Paris Agreement is the call on all countries to develop "long-term low greenhouse gas emission development strategies, taking into account their common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, in the light of different national circumstances" (UNFCCC 2015, Article 4.19). LEDSS are generally used to describe forward-looking national economic development plans or strategies that encompass low-emission and/or climate-resilient economic growth. LEDSS can serve multiple purposes but are primarily intended to help advance national climate change and development policy in a more coordinated, coherent and strategic manner. LEDSS have been specifically mentioned in negotiating texts from COP15 and beyond, as well as in the Copenhagen Accord, which recognised that a LEDSS is indispensable to sustainable development.

The hope in the successful implementation of the Paris Agreement will depend on the deployment of LEDSS and NDCs. Furthermore, the Paris Agreement acknowledges the GCF as the main mechanism to support investments to catalyse LEDSS in developing countries.

**For more about the PIPA project: [http://www.inforse.org/africa/East\\_Africa\\_PIPA.htm](http://www.inforse.org/africa/East_Africa_PIPA.htm)**

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## SusWatch Kenya Kenya Commissions Climate Change Adaptation Projects



Norbert Nyandire of Suswatch Kenya and health extension workers commission Kakmie Health Centre. Community members draw water from a borehole; and outside the Kakmie Health Centre. Photo: SusWatch Kenya

SusWatch Kenya has been overseeing the implementation of climate change adaptation projects in 8 communities in the Lake Victoria Basin. SusWatch Kenya is implementing Community Climate Change Adaptation Assessment in 10 selected hotspot communities in the Lake Victoria Basin. The project supported by the USAID-PREPARED Project kicked off in November 2015.

The small scale projects were selected by communities based on their areas of priority and guided by the climate related hazards they face. These are mainly drought, floods and human diseases. The total grant amount for the projects was USD 4,000. Each of the 10 hot spot communities received USD 6,000.

In December 2016, SusWatch Kenya commissioned community Climate Change Adaptation projects. In Wakula South community on Mfangano Island, a rain water harvesting project was implemented while in Ugina Primary School, four (4) ten thousand (10,000) litre water tanks were installed to serve both the school pupils and the community with clean water for household consumption. On 19<sup>th</sup> January 2017, SusWatch commissioned Kakmie Health Centre in Nyando Sub-County. The health centre is the first public health facility in the area. It is hoped to serve the community of Kakmie who suffer from water related diseases during the flood times and drought seasons. In collaboration with the Ministry of Health, Kakmie health facility acts as a malaria monitoring centre. During the ceremony, the Community Health Extension worker in Kakmie stated that the health centre will help improve the health indicators of the Sub-County and will also help manage the community health volunteers' work.

## Upcoming Events

### International Women's Day 2017

The theme for International Women's Day, 8 March, 2017, focuses on "Women in the Changing World of Work: Planet 50-50 by 2030". - See more at: <http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/in-focus/international-womens-day#sthash.Q66YgHfB.dpuf>

### World Water Day 2017: 'Waste water'

By exploiting this valuable resource, we will make the water cycle work better for every living thing. And we will help achieve the Sustainable Development Goal 6 target to halve the proportion of untreated wastewater and increase water recycling and safe reuse. More: <http://www.worldwaterday.org/>