

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)

August 2017

UCSD Petitions Prime Minister, Minister of Water and Environment and Parliament Speaker to a Fair and Equitable Climate Change Law for Uganda



Prime Minister - The Rt Hon R. Rugunda; Speaker – The Rt Hon. Rebecca A. Kadaga; Environment and Water Minister - Hon Sam Cheptoris petitioned for a Fair & Equitable Climate Law in Uganda

Since the draft National Climate Change Bill, 2017 came out for public review at the end of July 2017, the Climate Change Department in collaboration with different stakeholders have held several meetings involving Government Departments and Agencies; Civil Society Organizations; Private sector; Members of Parliament through the Parliamentary Forum on Climate Change, among others.

CSOs are optimistic that the proposed law will create a clear regulatory framework where all the actors in Uganda are obliged to collectively and individually take up climate change adaptation and mitigation actions. In order to advance the numerous concerns already expressed by civil society coming under the Climate Action Network on this draft climate change bill, UCSD has petitioned The Prime Minister and Leader of Government Business - RT. Hon. Ruhakana Rugunda; The Speaker of Parliament of Uganda - RT. Hon. Rebecca Alitwala Kadaga; Uganda Minister of Water and Environment - Hon. Cheptoris Sam; and other relevant law makers - that when this important Bill comes before the floor of Parliament of Uganda, specific glaring **equitable and fairness** related gaps must be addressed.

These include: **an inclusive National Climate Change Advisory Committee; an annual report on climate change** for consideration by Cabinet and Parliament that have a **specific section detailing special measures and initiatives carried out to make the most vulnerable communities and persons resilient to effects of climate change; an annual multi-stakeholder climate change platform at both the national and district local governments for mutual accountability between duty bearers and the general public** that needs to be **elaborated** (for example, a schedule on composition of the multi-stakeholder forum; **strengthening public participation in climate change decision-making** by making it possible for the public to challenge decisions taken where there has not been meaningful participation; **Making it possible for the right of any person to apply to court where a person or entity has acted in a manner that has or is likely to adversely affect efforts towards mitigation and adaptation** to the effects of climate change.

ATTENTION

Sign up in support of this Petition ahead of the Parliamentary Debate on the Climate Change Bill, & Follow Progress From Here:
<http://tinyurl.com/y89zb6ha>

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NWSC Jinja Customers Happier with Reduced Cost of Water at Public Stand Pipes



1.



2.



3.

1. Billing water in Kaliro NWSC area 2. A PSP water operator selling water in Masese – Jinja discussing with Emily Arayo (UCSD) 3. Dr. Scott the Chief of Party of PREPARED with Eng. Stanley Matowo the PREPARED WASH Specialist at a WACOCO meeting in Buwenge Town Council (Photos:UCSD)

With effect from July 1, 2017, National Water and Sewerage Corporation (NWSC) customers obtaining water from Public Stand Pipes (PSP) will buy a 20-litre jerrycan of water at Ugshs 50 (Fifty Uganda Shillings only). Speaking to Local Council 3 councillors in Buwenge Town Council, the NWSC branch manager for Buwenge Mr. Benard Kabangira informed the meeting that a Ministerial directive was given that water is sold at Ugshs 50 per jerrycan by NWSC customers in the new PSP tariff. Previously, water operators on the PSP tariff charged a 20 litre jerrycan for Ugshs 200 and even more.

NWSC Jinja works with Local Council 3 representatives in Sub-Counties, Town Councils, Municipal Division councils in Jinja and Iganga through the Water Community Communication Clubs (WACOCOs) to ensure proper water management including reporting of illegal water users and communicating customer concerns.

The new changes in the water tariffs include an increase in the cost of the domestic tariff which now costs Ugshs 3,305 per unit of water (a unit is equivalent of fifty (50) 20-litre jerrycans of water). Water customers on the institutional tariff are paying Ugshs 3,344 per water unit while water customers on the commercial tariff are paying Ugshs 4,102 per water unit. New water connections for domestic tariffs will not attract any connection charges and new sewerage connections will also not attract any connection charges.

Speaking at the same WACOCO meeting, the Chief of Party for the Planning for Resilience through Policy, Adaptation, Research and Economic Development (PREPARED) Project - Dr. Scott McCormick informed the Councillors that with support from USAID, NWSC Jinja has been able to improve customer care in Jinja and Iganga, and improved engineering and ICT services. He was grateful that WACOCO is working closely with NWSC to inform them of water challenges in the communities. He added that this has led to a reduction in levels of Non-Revenue Water (NRW).

NWSC in Buwenge Town Council obtains water from a borehole system and has expanded operation to cover most of the Town Council. In the new water expansion programme – Service Coverage Accelerated Programme (SCAP 100), NWSC hopes to extend water to most parts of Uganda.

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Buwenge and Namulesa NWSC branches are new water branches opened in 2016 to meet the demand of water by people in Jinja. They bring the number of NWSC ranches in Jinja to 5 after Jinja Town Center branch, Njeru Branch, Bugembe Branch.

Uganda Coalition for Sustainable was contracted by Planning for Resilience through Policy, Adaptation, Research and Economic Development to carry out a customer satisfaction baseline in Jinja and Iganga in order to establish a strategy to engagement NWSC customers to stop activities leading to NRW. As part of the CEF, 15 weekly radio campaigns were aired, community meeting with NWSC customers were held, NWSC staff visited places of worship and 15 Water Community Clubs in selected Divisions and Sub-counties in Jinja and Iganga were established to work with NWSC in a bid to sensitize the community on issues of Non-Revenue Water and to build a stronger rapport between NWSC and its customers in Jinja and Iganga.

Lake Victoria Site Champions training Workshops held in Kenya, Tanzania, Rwanda and Uganda.



Group presentation for Masirori swamp held in Musoma, Tanzania)

As part of the “Lake Victoria Freshwater Biodiversity Project” funded by the MacArthur Foundation and coordinated by the IUCN Global Species Programme, 4 Site Champions training workshops were held in newly identified Freshwater Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) - “Sites contributing significantly to the global persistence of biodiversity”. They were facilitated by RUBICON and UCSD / EA SusWatch Network. For Kakamega forest (Kenya) this was based on the presence of *Commelina albiflora*, a plant endemic in this forest, where it occurs in moist forest along streams at 1,500-1,700 m above sea level; Mara Bay and Masirori Swamp (Tanzania) for the presence of at least 3 fish species: *Labeo victorinus*, *Oreochromis esculentus*, and *Oreochromis variabilis*; Lake Wamala Catchment for

the presence of the same three fish species and the dragonfly *Agriocnemis palaeforma* which is classified as ‘Vulnerable’ by IUCN Red List; and the West system of the Nyabarongo Wetlands that hosts two Vulnerable fish species: *Synodontis ruandae* and *Barbus claudinae*. Site Champions are individuals or organizations with an interest and ability to either advocate for or implement conservation actions at the KBA

In Tanzania, the output is expected to be incorporated in the Integrated Management Plan currently under development and hopefully implemented following a donors’ forum to be held later this year. In Uganda, the steps towards the definition of Lake Wamala as a Ramsar site, were defined and the need to develop an Integrated Management Plan pointed out. In Rwanda capacity building needs were identified, as well as a research and advocacy strategy to stop the ongoing loss of the Nyabarongo wetlands which are currently legally defined as ‘Conditional wetlands’ – open to being transformed into agricultural land after a (largely formal) EIA process. In Kenya, having adequate information on the species ecology and uses available for guiding management and conservation actions of *C. Albiflora*, and reducing the impact of gold and sand mines and agriculture on river and stream banks were identified.

The primary goal of the *Lake Victoria Freshwater Biodiversity Project* is to refine, expand and validate the existing network of proposed freshwater Key Biodiversity Areas throughout the catchment as the basis for a climate resilient network of priority sites for the conservation and sustainable use of freshwater biodiversity benefiting associated livelihoods.