

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)

March 2014

Over 65 Sign Petition to save Lives on Lake Victoria Waters, 100 Perish on Lake Albert



Needed: Safety levels for water transport on L. Vic. (Photo: BBC)

On March 23, 2014, a boat reportedly carrying up to 250 people (but with a capacity to carry only 80 passengers) on Lake Albert (Uganda / DR Congo border) capsized leaving over 100 people dead. This reminds us that water transport on East African Lakes needs a complete overhaul and more strict surveillance.

For Lake Victoria which regularly witnesses boat accidents, a petition code named [Kampeni ya usalama kwa usafiri Ziwa Viktoria](#) was launched by East African Sustainability Watch Network on Feb 06, 2014. The petition is aimed at convincing the Heads of states of the EAC to improve safety standards in Lake Victoria and implement the Lake Victoria transport Act (2007), that was enacted by the East African Community

Parliament to which all EAC Partner States through their respective Heads of State. This comes as a concern as major accidents and disasters continue to occur on Lake Victoria, since the passenger vessel M/V Bukoba capsized in 1996 with the loss of over 500 lives; the wagon ferry M/V Kabalega collided with a sister vessel MV/Kaawa and sank in 2005 and Cargo vessel MV Nyamageni sank in 2006. At the community levels loss of lives continues: 18 Tanzanian School children drowned when their vessel flipped in strong winds on August 05, 2010; 28 people were feared dead after their ferry capsized in bad weather near Entebbe on July 21, 2011; about 21 people are thought to have perished when the passenger boats capsized in Buikwe and Buvuma districts in Uganda in March 2012; 9 people died in a boat accident while traveling from Kabenyanje to Kigungu Landing Site in Uganda in 2013; four people are feared to have drowned when a canoe in which they were traveling capsized after it was hit by strong winds in Kagera region in Tanzania, February 24, 2014.

Sign the petition: *Kampeni ya usalama kwa usafiri Ziwa Viktoria* from: <http://tinyurl.com/krfz4l3> to make Lake Victoria waters a safer way of transport for communities throughout East Africa.

East African SusWatch Network calls on EAC to promote up-take of appropriate technology to enhance best practices for climate change adaptation



TCSD Executive Committee members receive copies of Annual LVEMP II Civil Society Watch Livelihood Case Study No.1 during the workshop. Photo: TCSD

Participants from more than 12 Civil Society Organizations from Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda who attended the second regional civil society organizations meeting of the East African Sustainability Watch Network have asked the East African Community Partner States to promote institutional capacity building to enable communities provide timely feedback on National and Regional policies and strategies to deal with livelihood challenges affecting them. The meeting held in Kisumu-Kenya also marked the launch of the Annual LVEMP II Civil Society Watch Livelihood Case Study No.1.

It was noted that the partner states of the East African Community (EAC) have a shared heritage and a common interest in Lake Victoria and its Basin; and have committed to ensure proper management and sustainability of the Basin's Natural Resources for the sustainable development of the Lake Victoria Basin.

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Recommendations for action by EAC Partner States, Lake Victoria Basin Commission, Non-State Actors and Development Partners as appropriate include the following:

- Promote institutional capacity building to enable communities to provide timely feedback on National and Regional policies and strategies to deal with livelihood challenges that affect them;
- Scale-up opportunities for livelihood related skills and technical capacity enhancement for community groups;
- Involve community groups in information and knowledge transfer within the communities they operate;
- Urge LVEMP II National secretariats to honour Memoranda of Understanding with community groups engaged in CDD Sub-projects;
- Promote uptake of appropriate technology and build community skills related to livelihood enhancing interventions, and practices towards climate change adaptation;
- Echo the need for LVEMP II to strengthen the capacity of the District Project Coordinating Teams (DPCT) involved in the Technical support and Supervision of the CDD-Sub-projects;
- Facilitate sharing of LVEMP II Needs Assessment and other studies conducted.
- Fast track a multi-stakeholder engagement in advancing the LVEMP II Client Service Charter proposed by the East African SusWatch Network (2013) to fasten processes of CDD Sub- projects implementation.

The meeting noted that the Lake Victoria and its Basin is ecologically stressed and in danger of irreparable damaged if environmental degradation including loss of biodiversity continues unabated. **Read the full CSO statement on Livelihood and Community Driven Development Interventions under LVEMP II in the Lake Victoria basin from:** <http://tinyurl.com/pzxv4th>

IPCC Report confirms vulnerability of poor communities to climate change



Reducing water levels as a result of climate change. Photo: UCSD



Construction of valley dams is one way of adapting to climate change impacts. Photo: UCSD

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) issued a report March 31 that says the effects of climate change are already occurring on all continents and across the oceans. The world, in many cases, is ill-prepared for risks from a changing climate. The report also concludes that there are opportunities to respond to such risks, though the risks will be difficult to manage with high levels of warming.

The report, titled *Climate Change 2014: Impacts, Adaptation, and Vulnerability, from Working Group II of the IPCC*, details the impacts of climate change to date, the future risks from a changing climate, and the opportunities for effective action to reduce risks.

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A total of 309 coordinating lead authors, lead authors, and review editors, drawn from 70 countries, were selected to produce the report. They enlisted the help of 436 contributing authors, and a total of 1,729 expert and government reviewers.

"Nobody on this planet is going to be untouched by the impacts of climate change," predicted the IPCC chief Rajendra Pachauri. In many parts of East Africa, this is already being felt in terms of the unclear rain patterns, extended drought conditions and unusually high temperatures during the dry spells.

The researchers documented how climate change affects everything from retreating glaciers in East Africa, the Alps, the Rockies and the Andes to the bleaching of corals in the Caribbean Sea and Australia's Great Barrier Reef. The stern message from this report is that the world has to adapt and mitigate. The report is designed to guide global lawmakers as they devise policies to reduce heat-trapping emissions and make their infrastructure, agriculture and people more resilient to a warmer world. This report comes in the wake of the World Water Day remarks by UN Secretary -General Ban Ki-moon on 21st March 2014 in Tokyo-Japan where he stressed that water must be used and electricity must be generated effectively so all users get their fair share. He further said that "climate change, driven in great part by the unsustainable use of energy, will exacerbate water stress and scarcity in many regions." Relating this to East Africa, many considered water stress an issue in semi-arid and arid areas, but today, clean water is getting hard to find. Women and children usually bear the burden of water collections pending up to 40 billion hours every year walking for water, usually in unsafe environments, which make them vulnerable to accidents, sickness, distances from home and school make girls more prone to sexual assault. The sanitation scenario is equally appalling with contamination of drinking water points. 70% of the earth is water - but less than 1% is drinkable.

The report concludes that responding to climate change involves making choices about risks in a changing world. The nature of the risks of climate change is increasingly clear, though climate change will also continue to produce surprises. The report identifies vulnerable people, industries, and ecosystems around the world. It finds that risk from a changing climate comes from vulnerability (lack of preparedness) and exposure (people or assets in harm's way) overlapping with hazards (triggering climate events or trends). Each of these three components can be a target for smart actions to decrease risk. **Read the IPCC Summary report from here:** <http://tinyurl.com/lju5jo6>

EA Suswatch gets new national level Staff



Welcome: Ms. Velma Oseko (in picture) joins EA Suswatch team at Suswatch Kenya as the Information Assistant

Upcoming Event: 1st Water Integrity Summit

The 1st African Water Integrity Learning Summit with the theme: "Accelerating towards a water secure world" will be held on April 29-30, 2014 in Lusaka, Zambia. It is hosted by UNDP-Water Governance Facility, The Water Integrity Network, UNDP/Cap-Net, WaterNet and the Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI)