

The LVEMPII 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)

November 2016

Ugandan CSOs provide input to the National Dialogue meeting ahead of the Fifth Annual EAC Secretary General's Forum



Opening session of the Dialogue meeting. The chief guest was the PS MEACA – Ms Edith Mwanje (right)

UCSD participated and made an input at the meeting convened for the private sector and civil society by the Ministry of East African Community Affairs, in the build up to the fifth Annual East African Community Secretary General's Forum under the theme: '15 years of EAC: Towards a Borderless Community'. This was held on November 29, 2016 at Sheraton Kampala Hotel. The objective of the meeting was to provide a platform for the private sector, civil society and other interest groups to discuss issues of regional importance thereby strengthening and deepening regional integration and strengthening partnership between the Government, civil society, private sector and other interest groups.

Officiating at the opening, the Uganda Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of EAC Affairs – Ms. Edith Mwanje, highlighted the obligation of Partner States under the EAC Treaty (Article 127) to create an enabling environment for the private sector and civil society as citizens in shaping the integration process through the principle of participation that is enshrined in the EAC Treaty. She also applauded CSOs for organising events that have contributed to more citizen awareness and participation in the EAC integration including the 4th National CSO fair held in 2014.

At this event UCSD and the East African Sustainability Watch organised a side event: 'pursuing a greener development path in the EAC integration: opportunities and constraints'. The Permanent Secretary emphasized the need to strengthen the national consultative Dialogue by establishing clear structures and coordination mechanism among CSOs and other actors.

Presentations were made on: Public procurement and local content policy as a means of supporting trade and investment (PPDA Uganda); Enhancing food security and agricultural value chains in East Africa (Kilimo Trust); Localising the climate change agenda: from policies to practical interventions (UCSD); Tracking inclusivity and participation of women in economic, political and public leadership (EASSI); Media as a vehicle for effective citizen participation and engagement within the EAC integration process (East African Nation Media Group). In its presentation, UCSD pointed out the current challenges to full implementation of the climate change agenda / policies in Uganda, and made specific practical recommendations to Government (EAC and national level), private sector and civil society actors. The meeting enabled participants to openly discuss all the presentations made, and pick out possible recommendations from the Uganda National Dialogue meeting to the fifth Secretary General's Forum. **Read about recommendations of the 4th Annual EAC Secretary General's Forum held at Hyatt Regency Hotel Dar es salaam- Tanzania on February 4, 2016: <http://tinyurl.com/js8ce3j>**

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UCSD participates in an inspirational Open SDGclub. Berlin for the Global 2030 Agenda implementation



Open SDGclub.Berlin in session at Fabrik23, Berlin – ‘place of ideas’ (Photo: UCSD)

Uganda Coalition for Sustainable Development (UCSD) participated in the Open SDGclub. Berlin on implementation of UN’s Agenda 2030 (17 Sustainable Development Goals) held in Berlin (Germany) at the invitation of the Germany Council for Sustainable Development (RNE). The Open SDGclub.Berlin is an open to change agents who feel committed to and actually act to transport the sense of belonging to the common cause of reaching the SDGs in their universal relevance. The Forum that involved 80 representatives of national Sustainable Development Councils or similar multi-stakeholder and advisory bodies, and persons with a specific competence in dealing with civil society movements or from special interest groups related to SDG implementation

or from the local community level. According to Prof. Dr. Günther Bachmann (RNE Secretary General), ‘invitations were from countries that responded to the UN High Level Panel Forum (2016), actors that have relationship with RNE and CSOs that have keen interest in Agenda 2030’. He emphasised that one of the key features of the Open SDGclub. Berlin is being non-exclusive, repeatable and scalable. He pointed out that, ‘what would happen at the Open SDGclub.Berlin was non-prescriptive, and depends on what the 80 representatives bring in – hence the ‘open event’

As a result, the Open SDGclub.Berlin focuses on innovative solutions, courageous action and possibly new partnerships. In an atmosphere of respect, curiosity and mindfulness this forum strives to initiate a platform to share ideas, to blend lessons, and to follow up with what we collectively find would help make a case for implementation of SDGs. ‘Those steps, even if they might appear small and marginal at first glance, are important if they give direction and show leadership’, according to RNE.

The Forum took place at Moevenpick Hotel that was formerly a Siemens Company premise, which lies at the border between the former East and West Germany and also bears World War II scars. By design the meeting was shifted to another venue (‘place of ideas’) – Fabriks 23, a former industrial plant turned meeting place with several important remembrance places including the Holocaust memorial sites

The Open SDGclub.Berlin emphasizes collective responsibility of all the global actors on the 2030 Agenda and shared its Germany experiences that have resulted in building constituencies (through the European sustainable development week). In challenging business as usual, a voluntary reporting – *The Sustainability Code* (based on 20 code criteria that include measures relating to environmental, social and economic dimensions of sustainability they have undertaken) – a transparency standard and a benchmark for sustainability management developed in Germany, now engages up to 170 companies and up to 500 waiting to join.

The Open SDGclub.Berlin also encourages ‘walking the talk’ through the ‘Partners for Review’ transnational multi-stakeholder network for government representatives, CSOs, private sector and academia involved in the national review and monitoring process towards achieving the SDGs. The Project initiated by the Germany Government to meet the demand for extended follow-up, continued exchange and space for discourse based on the experiences from the first (2016) High-Level Political Forum after adoption of the 2030 Agenda. **View a (video) summary and other outcomes from the Open SDGclub.Berlin: <http://tinyurl.com/hxxu2tp>**

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Expert Workshop on Resource Use and Livelihoods, Reviews uses of Plants and Fish Species in the Lake Victoria Catchment



Participants during the workshop at Sovereign Hotel – Kisumu (Kenya)
Photo: Ken Oluoch

A resource use and livelihoods workshop was held in Sovereign Hotel in Kisumu from October 24 – 27, 2016. The workshop was attended by 13 fisheries and plants experts drawn from the Lake Victoria catchment. The objective of the workshop was to review the uses of various plants and fish species in the Lake Victoria catchment. The meeting came as a follow to the Red List review workshop which was held in Entebbe Uganda from June 27 – July 1, 2016.

In his welcome remark on behalf of EA SusWatch Network, Ken Oluoch noted that UCSD / EA SusWatch Network is pleased to be part of the site champions approach to conservation, as this

will spur local actions to plant and fish conservation. He reiterated that UCSD/EA SusWatch Network anticipated to use the information generated from the project to influence policy and key decisions making towards conservation of the various species in the Lake Victoria Basin.

Catherine Sayer from IUCN Species Program then gave a brief introduction about IUCN and its programmes. She noted that IUCN has 110 members. IUCN Species Survival Commission Network has 7500 volunteers. She noted that globally, 64% of wetlands have been lost since 1900 and 32% of fresh water species are under threat of extinction.

Laura Maiz Tome from IUCN Species Program then gave a brief introduction of the project: A critical sites network for freshwater biodiversity in the Lake Victoria catchment: Building a blueprint for species conservation, protected areas, climate resilience and sustainable livelihoods implemented by IUCN Global Species Programme with support from the MacArthur Foundation. She noted that the project is designed tool undertake the field surveys to fill information gaps, species red list assessment, species climate vulnerability assessment, species use and livelihood assessment, fresh water key biodiversity areas, identification and training of Key Biodiversity Areas (KBA) site champions.

She noted that IUCN has identified global standards for identification of the KBAs this year. The role of KBAs have also been clearly defined to include information, strategic planning, protected Areas expansion and management, raise profile of biodiversity, allow , identification of potential Ramsar sites, help states meet commitment to Aichi biodiversity targets, systematic conservation planning.

The next activity in the project will be the stakeholder’s workshop which is planned to take place in February 2017. The stakeholder’s workshop will help in identification of critical sites to be incorporated in the key biodiversity areas and which will then be targeted for conservation efforts through empowerment of the “site champions”