

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)

October 2014



A fish truck awaits to be loaded with Nile Perch Fish at Katosi Landing site in Mukono , Uganda; A fisherman holds fish while a woman collects immature fish at KaminOningo landing site in Siaya, Kenya (Photos: UCSD)

Can the EAC Really Act in Unison to Halt Undersize Fishing on Lake Victoria?

'Operation Save the Nile Perch' (OSNP) - a 1.8 million US dollar drive by the East African Community Partners to recover the species' population, which has been depleted from 1.2 million tonnes in the early 2000s to a mere 3,000 tonnes today, seems to be headed for shelving in favor of a 'fishing ban' on Lake Victoria. The controversial ban purported to have been initiated by Tanzania has since been denied by the Fisheries and Livestock Development Minister Dr. Titus Kamani.

Press reports by the *East African Newspaper* were dismissed by the Minister insisting that there are no plans by the Government of Tanzania to ban Nile perch fishing on Lake Victoria because of the social- economic impacts. "When we stop fishing, the market will be lost because a substitute product will take over, what will happen to the factories during the six months?". The Minister noted that the LVFO is behind the ban but there is a growing resistance among the three EAC governments of Tanzania, Kenya and Uganda.

A frame survey by LVFO conducted in 2012 indicates that an upward trend in number of fishermen and fishing craft compared to 2010. A number of illegal fishing gears also increased such as beach seines and monofilaments; some of which are operated in breeding grounds of the Lake.

Opinions across the East African Countries show that much as there is need to have the fish industries maintained with continued fishing, there is need to have checks on illegal fishing practices on Lake Victoria.

Mr. Jamil Kiyangi the Natural Resources Officer for Rakai District in Uganda notes that "Much as there is adequate fish, there is need to have at least 6 months ban on the Lake to allow regeneration of fish.

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There are however, limiting factors such as harmonised policies that may not be flexibly adjusted from country to country. There could be standards for illegal fishing in Uganda that may not be the same with neighbouring countries, which are also a big market for the illegal fish". He adds that there should be strict surveillance of illegal fishing activities.

In a bid to save the estimated 200, 000 jobless people currently earning their livelihood from fishing, and to protect the lucrative European Union Nile Perch fish market, citizens in the Lake basin have suggested measures including the urgent need for the EAC to roll out the co-management opportunity provided by the Beach Management Units (BMUs); More priority to be put on fish farming across Lake Victoria, introduction of more stringent laws to protect fisheries resources and scaling up law enforcement not only on fishermen but also processors, traders and transporters of undersize fish within the region. More suggestions include creating alternatives to capture fisheries in Lake Victoria and scaling up fisheries extension and education

Renewed Hope in Eastern Africa to break free from cycles of Drought, Food insecurity and Water Insecurity



Ban Ki-moon



Jim Yong Kim



Effects of Drought in Africa

United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and the World Bank Group (WBG) President, Jim Yong Kim together with the President of the Islamic Development Bank Group, representatives of the African Union Commission, the European Union, the African Development Bank, and Intergovernmental Agency for Development (IGAD) are combining forces to promote stability and development in the Horn of Africa.

On the 27th of October 2014, Ban Ki-moon and Jim Yong Kim made their third trip in 18 months together in the Horn of Africa following earlier visits in the Great Lakes region and Sahel region in West Africa respectively. They joined regional delegates to promote peace and development. On the first day of the joint trip, the World Bank Group announced a major new financial pledge of \$1.8 billion for cross-border activities in Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, and Uganda. This initiative will boost economic growth and opportunity, reduce poverty, and spur business activity. "This new financing represents a major new opportunity for the people of the Horn of Africa to make sure they get access to clean water, nutritious food, health care, education, and jobs," said World Bank Group President Jim Yong Kim. "There is greater opportunity now for the Horn of Africa to break free from its cycles of drought, food insecurity, water insecurity, and conflict by building up regional security, generating a peace dividend, especially among young women and men, and spurring more cross-border cooperation."

On his part, Ban Ki-moon said "The countries of the Horn of Africa are making important yet unheralded progress in economic growth and political stability.

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Now is a crucial moment to support those efforts, end the cycles of conflict and poverty, and move from fragility to sustainability. The United Nations is joining with other global and regional leaders to ensure a coherent and coordinated approach towards peace, security and development in the Horn of Africa." The European Union also announced that it would support the countries in the region with a total of around \$3.7 billion until 2020, of which about 10 percent would be for cross-border activities; the African Development Bank announced a pledge of \$1.8 billion over the next three years for countries of the Horn of Africa region; while the Islamic Development Bank committed to deploy up to \$1 billion in new financing in its four member countries in the Horn of Africa (Djibouti, Somalia, Sudan and Uganda).

The World Bank Group said its new \$1.8 billion packaging, which is in addition to its existing development programs for the eight countries, would create more economic opportunity throughout the region for some of the most vulnerable peoples, including refugees and internally displaced populations and their host communities. Wars and instability have generated more than 2.7 million refugees along with over 6 million internally displaced people. The Bank Group will also help the region build up its communicable disease surveillance, diagnosis, and treatment capacity.

Many of these diseases are associated with or exacerbated by poverty, displacement, malnutrition, illiteracy, and poor sanitation and housing. Increased cross-border trade and economic activity in the Horn of Africa will necessitate simultaneous investments in strengthening disease control efforts and outbreak preparedness.

Upcoming Events and Announcements



21 November is World Fisheries Day

A recent UN study reported that more than two-thirds of the world's fisheries have been overfished or are fully harvested and more than one third are in a state of decline because of factors such as the loss of essential fish habitats, pollution, and global warming. The World Fisheries Day helps in highlighting the critical importance to human lives, of water and the lives it sustains, both in and out of water.

Water forms a continuum, whether contained in rivers, lakes, and ocean. **Read more about the World Fisheries Day and how you can take part:** http://www.gdrc.org/doyourbit/21_11-fisheries-day.html



Can you imagine not having a toilet? Can you imagine not having privacy when you need to relieve yourself? Although unthinkable for those living in wealthy parts of the world, this is a harsh reality for many – in fact, one in three people on this globe does not have access to a toilet! Have you ever thought about the true meaning of dignity?

World Toilet Day was created to pose exactly these kind of questions and to raise global awareness of the daily struggle for proper sanitation that a staggering 2.5 billion people face. This Day brings together different groups such as media, the private sector, development organisations and civil society in a global movement to advocate for safe toilets. Since its inception in 2001, it has become an important platform to demand action from governments and to reach out to wider audiences by showing that toilets are vital to life. **Read more about the 2014 World Toilet Day and how you can take part:** <http://worldtoiletday.org/>