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THE EAST AFRICAN SUSWATCH E-BULLETIN (FORMERLY THE LVEMPII CIVIL SOCIETY WATCH E BULLETIN)

A Monthly E bulletin from the East African Sustainability Watch Network founded by Uganda Coalition for Sustainable Development (UCSD), Tanzania Coalition for Sustainable Development (TCSD) and SusWatch Kenya

The UN Climate Panel's 1.5°C Special Report: Why East Africa should be in full support of 1.5°C Temperature Goal



The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the leading international body for the assessment of climate change, is due to release its Special Report on the impacts of global warming of 1.5°C on Monday 8 October, after meeting to consider and approve the report in Incheon, Republic of Korea, starting from Monday 1 October. Representatives of the IPCC's 195 member governments will work with scientists from the IPCC from 1 to 5 October to finalize the Summary for Policymakers of the report.

Governments invited the IPCC to prepare the report in 2015 when they adopted the Paris Agreement to combat climate change. The report, known as SR15, will be the main scientific input at the Talanoa Dialogue in the Katowice Climate Change Conference (COP24) in December this year in Poland. Commenting on his expectations for the report, Gebru Jember Endalew, Chair of the Least Developed Countries Group said, "It will be important that the report and the Summary for Policy Makers clearly sets out the scientific necessity of limiting global warming to 1.5° C as opposed to 2°C to protect people and the planet, and highlights the vast discrepancy between this goal and our current global emissions pathway. In doing so, the report will shine a spotlight on the scale of the challenge the international community must rise up to meet. A future where warming is limited to 1.5°C is a brighter future for all."

UCSD & EA SusWatch Network Partners really hope the report clearly highlights loss and damage, which increasingly stands in the way to prosperity for millions of poor and vulnerable communities in East Africa.

The Paris Agreement which officially entered into force on 4 November 2016 contains a long-term temperature goal (LTTG) of holding the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2°C and pursuing efforts to limit this to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels. The 1.5°C limit in the Paris Agreement goes significantly further than the previous 2°C goal adopted under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The Paris Agreement obliges countries to progressively increase their level of ambition and action, as reflected in their nationally determined contributions (NDCs), so as to meet the long term temperature goal of the agreement.

Limiting warming to 1.5°C is not only a moral imperative, but technically feasible and economically beneficial. Stabilizing warming to 1.5°C by cutting emissions in the near term will help realize the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and alleviate poverty and inequality. A degree seems little, but is sufficient to melt a monumental part of the ice of the poles. A study published in the peer-reviewed scientific journal - *Nature Climate Change* estimated that a rise of 2°C – a scenario that is enviable, at this stage, would melt a portion of great ice sheet of the Antarctic, sea level rise of four meters in a few centuries.

Many climate change Non State Actors are in support of the Paris goal to limit warming to 1.5°C as a matter of survival for all. UCSD and EA SusWatch Network Partners really hope that the report clearly highlights loss and damage, which increasingly stands in the way to prosperity for millions of poor and vulnerable communities in East Africa. This is in form of the unpredictable and extended droughts, floods and other extreme weather conditions. For Climate Action Network, following the approval of the IPCC 1.5C report, the expectation is that governments strongly promote and support the presentation of the scientific results during pre-COP and the UNFCCC COP24 in Poland, as well as its integration in the Talanoa Dialogue conclusions and the Paris rulebook. CARE International calls on the IPCC report to address sustainable pathways to achieve 1.5C, loss and damage, international solidarity on climate finance and adaptation & differentiated impacts.

Gloomy Depiction of the Step Towards ‘Zero Hunger’ in East Africa due to Climate Extremes



Indigenous grain seed. Photo: UCSD

The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World is an annual flagship report jointly prepared by Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN, the International Fund for Agricultural Development, the UN Children’s Fund, the World Food Programme and the World Health Organization to inform on progress towards ending hunger, achieving food security and improving nutrition and to provide in-depth analysis on key challenges for achieving this goal in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The report targets a wide audience, including policy-makers, international organizations, academic institutions and the general public.

The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2018 released in September points out that hunger is on the rise to levels from a decade ago. This reversal in progress sends a clear warning that more must be done and urgently if the Sustainable Development Goal of Zero Hunger is to be achieved by 2030. This situation is particularly worsening in most regions of Africa. The Report puts forward new evidence to confirm that lower levels of per capita food consumption in some countries and increased inequality in the ability to access food in the

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populations of other countries, have contributed to what is projected to be a further increase in the percentage of people in the world having insufficient dietary energy consumption in 2017. These new estimates (*Table 1 below*) confirm that during the period 2005 – 2017, Prevalence of Undernourishment in Sub-Saharan Africa is almost twice that at the global level, while that of Eastern Africa remain high and with insignificant change during this period.

Table 1: Prevalence of Undernourishment in the Eastern Africa, 2005–2017

	Prevalence of Undernourishment (% of the population)					
	2005	2010	2012	2014	2016	2017
World	14.5	11.8	11.3	10.7	10.8	10.9
Sub-Saharan Africa	24.3	21.7	21.0	20.7	22.3	23.2
Eastern Africa	34.3	31.3	30.3	30.2	31.6	31.4

Source: The 2018 State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World (FAO et. al)

The annual UN report found that climate variability affecting rainfall patterns and agricultural seasons, and climate extremes such as droughts and floods, are among the key drivers behind the rise in hunger, together with conflict and economic slowdowns. ‘The alarming signs of increasing food insecurity and high levels of different forms of malnutrition are a clear warning that there is considerable work to be done to make sure we ‘leave no one behind’ on the road towards achieving the SDG goals on food security and improved nutrition,’ the heads of the FAO, the International Fund for Agricultural Development, the UNICEF, the World Food Programme and the WHO warned in their joint foreword to the Report.

Analysis in the report shows that the prevalence and number of undernourished people tend to be higher in countries highly exposed to climate extremes. Undernourishment is higher again when exposure to climate extremes is compounded by a high proportion of the population depending on agricultural systems that are highly sensitive to rainfall and temperature variability. Temperature anomalies over agricultural cropping areas continued to be higher than the long-term mean throughout 2011–2016, leading to more frequent spells of extreme heat in the last five years. The nature of rainfall seasons is also changing, such as the late or early start of rainy seasons and the unequal distribution of rainfall within a season. As a result, the harm to agricultural production contributes to shortfalls in food availability, with knock-on effects causing food price hikes and income losses that reduce people’s access to food. **Read the full State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World, 2018 from here:** <https://bit.ly/2N7Vzjk>

Uganda CSOs Welcome Formalization of Working Relations with Government on Environment and Natural Resources, Call for More Actions



ENR and Water CSOs reps. make input at the JSR meeting Photo: UWASNET

The Ministry of Water and Environment in Uganda organized the 10th Government of Uganda / Development Partners' Water and Environment Sector Review (JSR) 2018 from September 19 to 20, 2018 at Speke Resort Munyonyo under the theme: 'Bridging the gap between increasing service demand and existing sector financing'. The Environment and Natural Resources Civil Society Organizations (ENR-CSO) Network participated in the Review by presenting its self-assessment report and contributions to the sub-sector and an assessment of government's performance against the agreed undertakings for the previous Financial Year (FY) 2016/2017.

This year's CSOs' input was from 26 members who submitted reports with a total expenditure of USD 2,755,750, indicating a fall by approximately 50% from USD 4,559,079 in FY 2016/2017. The fall is attributed to lack of financial resources across the board.

Despite this drawback, CSOs noted a number of notable achievements during the FY 2016/17. One of this is the endorsement of a five-year Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Water and Environment & the ENR-CSOs Network. This formalizes the working relations between the two institutions and strengthens engagement which have previously been through informal arrangements.

In a position paper presented to the Annual JSR by Uganda Coalition for Sustainable Development on behalf of the ENR-CSOs, CSOs highlighted their contribution in the thematic areas of forestry; environment; extractives industry; weather, climate and climate change; wetlands; and governance. The CSOs congratulated the Ministry of Water and Environment for making progress by constituting task teams to spearhead stakeholder engagement for ENR mainstreaming, deploying staff to de-concentrated structures within the regions, implementation of the gender strategy for the ENR Subsector, engaging Ministry of Finance Planning and Economic Development to mainstream environment and climate change issues into the budget among others.

In addition, the CSOs noted the progress on presentation of the National Environment Bill 2017 to Parliament, the presentation of National Environment Management Policy for a Regulatory Impact Assessment, the initiation of the review of the National Wetlands Conservation and Management Policy and drafting of a sector specific Wetlands Resources Management Bill, initiation of the review of the National Forestry Policy and the National Forestry and Tree Planting Act, the presentation of the Climate Change Bill before Cabinet for discussion and approval and the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding between Ministry of Water and Environment and the ENR-CSO network to establish a modality for collaboration with the Ministry.

However, the CSOs raised sector specific challenges related to environment, forestry, wetlands, weather, climate and climate change. Based on these, they urge the Ministry of Water and Environment to urgently expand the shortlist of high impact sectors to include oil and gas and security sectors as targets for mainstreaming climate change. The CSOs also urge the Ministry of Water and Environment to engage the Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development and exploit the existing political clout surrounding the Land Inquiry Commission to cancel the said land titles in wetlands and forest reserve and publish a list in the gazette.

Regarding the legal and policy reforms, the CSOs call for harmonization and clarity of mandates of the different ENR institutions in the on-going legal reform processes Environment Bill, Climate Change Bill, Wetlands Bill and review of the National Forestry and Tree Planting Act.

Read the full ENR CSOs Position Paper on performance in the ENR subsector for the Financial Year 2017/18 from here: <https://bit.ly/2Oifln>