

The LVEMP II Civil Society Watch E-bulletin

A Monthly Newsletter 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)

April 2014

EA SusWatch Launches CDD Sub-projects Watch No.1 as LVEMP II Uganda sets to disburse community-driven development funds



Nobert Nyandire (Suswatch Kenya National Coordinator) holding a copy (Photo: Suswatch Kenya)



Uganda launch: Simon Akweteireho (LVEMP II Uganda) hands over the book to Rakai district Environment officer in Kampala (Photo: UCSD)



Kenya Launch: Displaying copies of the LVEMP II CDD Subprojects Watch in Kisumu. (Photo: SusWatch Kenya)

A book of review findings of progress in implementation of the Community Driven Development (CDD) type sub-projects LVEMP II Community – Driven Development Sub-projects Watch No. 1; has been launched by the East Africa Sustainability Watch Network. The study was conducted in November 2013 with in the River catchments of Simiyu in Tanzania, Nyando in Kenya and Katonga in Uganda. The CDD sub-projects are aimed at reducing non-point sources of pollution, through control of soil erosion by adopting sustainable water and soil management practices .This will in turn increase water use efficiency and improve water quality in the Lake Victoria Basin.

The National level focus on LVEMP II component 3 is based on the need to secure maximum community benefit, effective and efficient resources use in livelihoods.

At the launch of the book in Kisumu-Kenya, various stakeholders, including community beneficiary group representatives, who participated in the study conducted in the Nyando River Basin, LVEMP II staff from Kenya and representation from the Department of Environment in the Kisumu County Government, attended. Participants were urged to observe the MDGs 1: *To eradicate poverty and hunger*, 7: *To ensure environmental sustainability* and 8: *To develop a global partnership for development*. The communities were urged to embrace sustainable land management practices. In Kenya, a total of 225 projects have already been funded out of the targeted 240, with most of the sub-projects engaging in bee keeping, dairy farming, poultry farming, tree nursery establishments, tree planting and the construction of soil conservation structures.

In Uganda, the national launch was held in Kampala and subsequent strategic meetings were held at district headquarters within the River Katonga catchment. Mr. Simon Akweteireho the Community Development Specialist from LVEMP II Secretariat, who was the chief guest at the national launch, appreciated EA SusWatch Network through its partner Uganda Coalition for Sustainable Development for monitoring LVEMP II in Uganda.

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He clarified issues regarding the progress of CDD sub-projects in Uganda and LVEMP II activities in general. He announced that the project would send funds to the district to enable CDD sub-projects take off. He explained that 45 Community Based Organizations in nine districts are to receive 6 billion Uganda shillings. The districts benefiting include Mubende, Rakai, Masaka, Mpigi, Mityana, Kalungu; in the Katonga river catchment and Kalangala in the Islands of Lake Victoria and Namayingo in Eastern Uganda respectively. He noted however that 24 District Strategic intervention projects will be funded. The districts are to implement strategic intervention projects related to wetland reclamation and afforestation. "50% of the funds are to be disbursed in April 2014 of which communities should utilize in nine months. Upon satisfactory utilization and accountability, more of the 50% funds will be disbursed", Simon cautioned.

Districts with in the River Katonga catchment will receive funding for CDD projects in the following order:

1. Masaka 5 CDD sub-projects funding to a tune of 356,68,000/= (Three hundred and fifty six million, sixty eight thousand shillings)
2. Rakai 6 CDD sub-projects funding to a tune of 432,717,40,000/= (Four hundred and thirty two million, seven hundred and seventeen and twenty thousand shillings)
3. Mpigi district 5 CDD sub-projects funding to a tune of 216,000,000/= (Two hundred and sixteen million shillings)
4. Kalungu District 2 CDD sub-project funding to a tune of 175,263,0000 (One hundred and seventy five million, two hundred and sixty three thousand shillings)
5. Mubende District 3 CDD sub-projects funding to a tune of 159,000,000 (One hundred and fifty nine million shillings)
6. Mityana District 5 CDD sub-projects funding to a tune of 135,174,000 (One hundred and thirty five million one hundred and seventy four thousand shillings)
7. Gomba District 3 CDD sub-projects funding to a tune of 126,859,600 (One hundred and twenty six million eight hundred and fifty nine thousand six hundred shillings)

Besides the Community Driven Development sub-projects, LVEMP II is funding strategic intervention in partnership with the District Local Governments in specific districts. Masaka district will implement a strategic Intervention on re-forestation and Biodiversity conservation in Manywa local forest reserve with in the Lake Nabugabo catchment worth 155,681,000/=, with the district contributing Ugshs 20,000,000 as its contribution. Activities include income generation and natural resources conservation through tree planting.

Other strategic intervention projects around River Katonga are of livelihood improvement through adoption of alternative energy sources for schools and households, manual removal of the evasive water hyacinth weeds from the shoreline area of Lake Victoria, restoration and rehabilitation of forest reserves and sustainable land use management intervention to mitigate degradation of River Katonga catchment area through participatory training and sensitization of the communities to adopt improved farming practices. It was also noted that, the LVEMP II project has been extended to end in June 2015 and not June 2013 as earlier planned. Uganda had previously halted LVEMP II activities due to financial mismanagement but the ban has since been lifted by World Bank.

View a video about the progress in implementation of the LVEMP II CDD sub-projects in Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda, click this link https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kX_i1HTJicQ

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More lives lost in Lake Victoria: Sign the Petition: *Kampeni ya usalama kwa usafiri Ziwa Viktoria* to save life on Lake Victoria. Your individual petition counts!



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.

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 to happen: 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; 9 people dies in a boat accident while travelling from Kabenyanje to Kigungu Landing Site in Uganda in 2013.

No month passes without a report of water accidents on Lake Victoria due to over loading water vessels, boats with no licenses, lack of trained boat operatives and failure to ensure safety on boats like wearing life saving jackets are reported weekly. **Join the campaign and sign the petition by clicking on this link** <http://www.gopetition.com/petitions/kampeni-ya-usalama-kwa-usafiri-ziwa-viktoria.html>

Upcoming Events and Announcements

- This year's Call for **school essay competition for Secondary schools** by EA SusWatch Network around Lake Victoria as part of the LVEMP II Civil Society Watch Project will be announced in May 2014. Details will be relayed through the Network chapters in Kenya (SusWatch Kenya), Tanzania (TCSD) and Uganda (UCSD).



22nd May is **World Biodiversity Day**: The theme for this year is Island Biodiversity to coincide with the designation by the United Nations General Assembly of 2014 as **the International Year of Small Island Developing States**. **More:** <http://www.cbd.int/idb/2014/>

- 31st May is **World No-Tobacco Day: Raise taxes on tobacco**. Specific goals of the 2014 campaign are that governments increase taxes to 10% tax on tobacco to levels that reduce tobacco consumption and individuals and civil society organizations encourage their governments to increase taxes on tobacco to levels that reduce consumption. **More:** <http://www.who.int/campaigns/no-tobacco-day/2014/event/en/>