

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)

August 2013

Promoting Cleaner Production technologies on track to ease L. Victoria pollution



Mr. Silver Ssebaggala:
'By being resource
efficient you produce
more with less'

The subcomponent on promotion of cleaner production technologies under the Lake Victoria Environmental Management Project (LVEMP II) on point source pollution control and prevention is on track according to Mr. Silver Ssebaggala of the Uganda Cleaner Production Centre. The subcomponent whose objective is to reduce environmental stress in the Lake Victoria Basin, through the implementation of mitigation and prevention measures through rehabilitation, improvement of wastewater treatment facilities, promotion of cleaner production technologies and pollution risk management and safety of Lake Victoria navigation, has raised awareness of the environmental impacts associated with industrial and manufacturing processes.

This has led to adoption of resource efficient and cleaner production technologies and approaches. Mr. Silver Ssebaggala says that one of the development objectives of the East African Community is to promote balanced and competitive industry in the region. This is reflected in the East African Industrialization policy, of which one of the interventions under the development objective is to improve the resource efficiency and cleaner production. Another intervention is the promotion of local industry especially the Small and Medium Enterprises. "We know that production with no regard to the environment leads to pollution of water, land, air, which can lead to degradation and large scale global impacts in general." To create a more sustainable production system we need to shift attitudes and focus away from pollution control towards pollution prevention, which is the application of Resource Efficient and Cleaner Production (RECP) – a continuous application of an integrated preventive environmental strategy to processes, products and service to increase efficiency and reduce risks to humans and environment. He adds that "Much of the current thinking on production is on the end-of-pipe approach focusing on the waste after it has been generated, while resource efficiency avoids generating waste, reduces consumption of natural resources and reducing pollution in the first place". "By being resource efficient you produce, more with less". Noting that the profitability that industries get from cleaner production propels them to be more efficient, he adds that in practical terms industries may not consider environmental protection as a first result in cleaner production but the minimization of costs and high productivity using less resources is attractive to them.

Under LVEMP II, the Cleaner Production Services rolled out to their stakeholders including top management of industries, sensitizing them that environmental management can bring them profit by focusing on pollution prevention if resources are used efficiently.

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This optimises productive use of natural resources in the region like energy, water, as it minimizes impacts on the environment through reduction of waste and emissions. “Even when waste is generated it should not be ‘wasted’ but used in a profitable way. There are the early wins that stimulate cleaner production efficiency like reduction in energy costs, motivated staff, and reduction of water costs.

Mr. Ssebagala however, notes that there is need to jointly work with local and urban authorities to address solid waste management from the point of generation. “ This can be through prevention of waste, re-use of waste, simple prevention practices like minimizing excessive water use, electricity, sorting of waste and recycling waste. This will contribute to human development in the region because it minimises health and other risks to the people and the communities for which intended development is meant”, he says. For this LVEMP II sub component a tune of 3 million US Dollars was allocated for Uganda, Kenya and Tanzania for three years, and so far there is an improvement in the resource efficiency for targeted industries. In recognition of this, Cleaner Production awards have been given to excelling industries including Crown bottling company, Kakira Sugar works and Uganda Leather Industries.

The International Programme of National Cleaner Production Centres was launched in 1994 as a follow-up to the Rio Conference and has 42 National Cleaner Production Centers and Programmes established worldwide. In East Africa, there are 4 centers: Uganda, Rwanda, Kenya and Tanzania working under the mandate of the Partner States under a Joint UNIDO-UNEP Programme to establish and foster the uptake of Cleaner Production concepts, methods, practices and policies in developing and transition economies. Five common service areas are: awareness building and information dissemination, professional training in plant assessments/technical assistance, policy advice and transfer of Environmentally Sound Technologies.

EA SuSWatch Joins Mara Day Celebrations on September 15, 2013 in Tanzania



Spectacular: Wildebeest jumping into the Mara River. (Source: www.maasaimara.com)

EA SusWatch Network is set to participate in the second Mara Day celebrations to be held on 15th September 2013 in Mugumu Town Serengeti, Tanzania. The occasion is organized and convened by the United Republic of Tanzania, coordinated by the Lake Victoria Basin Commission (LVBC) Secretariat under the theme “A healthy Mara, our Wealth, our Heritage”. (*Mara ni Mali Yetu na Urithi Wetu Tuitunze*). The Mara is one of the critical ecosystems in the Lake Victoria basin. It supports a range of important economic, environmental and social activities including tourism and conservation of biodiversity.

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According to LVBC, the 10th Sectoral Council of Ministers for Lake Victoria Basin held May 4, 2012 in Kigali, Rwanda recognised the importance of the Mara ecosystem, and declared September 15 the Mara Day, to coincide with the great migration of wildlife from Serengeti National Park in Tanzania to Masaai-Mara National Game Reserve in Kenya.

For EA SusWatch Network's Lake Victoria Environment Management Project Civil Society (LVEMP II CS) Watch Project, Mara day marks the climax of a three months Schools Essay Writing on Environment competition involving 30 schools in the three river basins of Nyando in Kenya, Katonga in Uganda and Simiyu in Tanzania (all part of Lake Victoria). The Essay competition theme is "Let's conserve Lake Victoria". The objective of these competitions is to stimulate the young learners to be conscious of the environment. Ken Oluoch - the LVEMP II CS Watch Project Regional Advocacy Officer says, "Issues of conservation start with the young people. Mara is Africa's spectacle known as the 7th wonder of the world with the migration of the wildlife, yet this important river basin is under threat". Richard Kimbowa, the LVEMP II CS Watch Project Regional Coordinator says joining in the Mara day celebration with school winners of the Essay competition highlights the importance of taking heed of future generations in trans-boundary resources management like the L. Victoria basin. "Trans-boundary resources are not well managed. Each country seems to be doing their own management of their water shore line, so exposing school children to such celebrations gives them the feeling that their efforts in planting trees, conserving wetlands in their respective localities contribute to proper use of threatened resources like the L. Victoria. This will expose their worldview beyond looking at their own community". He however notes that there are other trans- boundary areas that need to be highlighted similarly to the Mara Basin, including Mount Elgon, Mugahinga Mountain Conservation area, and Sango Bay forest.

The inaugural Mara Day celebration, under the theme of *Mara –Uhai Wetu* (Mara –Our Life) was held in Mulot town in the Republic of Kenya on 15th September 2012.

Resources and upcoming events

- **E-Learning Course: Introduction to a Green Economy - Concepts and Applications, 4th Edition 21 Oct. - 13 Dec. 2013.** Participants will learn about different concepts & facets of the green economy, acquire basic skills for applying the concept in an economic, policy-making & personal context. More: <https://www.unitar.org/event/introduction-green-economy-concepts-and-applications-4th-edition>.
- **World Water Week, September 1 - 6, 2013, Stockholm (Sweden).** This will convene under the theme "Water Cooperation - Building Partnerships". More: <http://www.worldwaterweek.org/>
- **World Tourism Day 2013** will be celebrated under the theme "Tourism and Water: Protecting our Common Future" on Sept. 27. Take part in the upcoming WTD Photo Competition; join the conversation on Twitter (#WTD2013). More: <http://wtd.unwto.org/>