

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)

June 2013

Budget Speech of the East African Community (2013 / 2014): A quick search for sustainable development winners and losers

The budget for the EAC for the financial year 2013 / 2014 was presented on May 30, 2013 in Kampala. A quick look at it vis a vis the region's sustainable development challenges highlights both wins and losses:

- On key *wins*, the budget speech highlighted that 170 LVEMP II Community Driven Development subprojects in Tanzania and Kenya have been implemented while 66 in Rwanda and Burundi are in advanced stage of being implemented; the Lake Victoria Basin Commission finalised the water hyacinth surveillance, monitoring & control strategy with guidelines that are already in use; EALA plans to complete review of the Lake Victoria Basin Commission Bill to establish the Commission that had gone to 'limbo' due to disagreement between the Council of Ministers and EALA
- On key *losses*, weak supervision of the EAC secretariat by the Council of Ministers; failure to curtail excessive travel remains an 'annual' challenge that takes up substantive resources that could be used elsewhere; The budget is not straight forward on creating alternatives for 'threatened' fishers and the Lake Victoria fishing industry; Donor support is close to 66% while Partner states' contribution is 34%. **Read more about the EAC budget Speech 2013 /1014:** <http://bit.ly/1aNtKp7>

Rwanda's LVEMP II Rehabilitates Lake Victoria Catchment



Members from Kayonza and Ngoma districts



LVEMP CDO, Mrs. Vivine Amariza

Lake Victoria Environmental Management Project Phase II in Rwanda is rehabilitating the Lake Victoria Basin catchment through watershed management activities that started in the Ngoma (Jarama Sector) and Bugesera (Rweru sector) Districts. Activities include the removal of water hyacinth through a community-driven approach with communities implementing activities.

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Removal of the water hyacinth is by locally made canoes and packed in locally made troughs and disposed. The Strategic Intervention projects co-managed by the LVEMP II Project and communities.

Communities in Ngoma district have adapted to the system previously used in Mugesera to rehabilitate Lake Rweru. Rehabilitation activities include digging trenches of about 35 kilometers in Ngoma and 37 kilometers in Bugesera on the shores of Lake Rweru to be proceeded by planting trees around the trenches and making terraces on 140 hectares on adjacent hills to reduce soil erosion, which are slated for July 2013. Adherence to the Environmental law paramount in this project.

In accordance with the organic law No 04/2005 of 04.08.2005 that determines the modalities of protection, conservation and promotion of environment in Rwanda and the Ministerial Order No. 007/16.1 of 15/07/2010 which determines the length of land on shores of lakes and river banks transferred to public property, the buffer zones around water bodies of 20 meters adjacent to the water bodies and 30 meters upstream making it 50 meters in total from the water bodies to cultivation land.

The overall loan budget for LVEMP II activities in Rwanda is 15,000,000 US Dollars from IDA. The environmental intervention project also referred to as the wetland complex will focus on 13 Districts with in Lake Victoria basin including Gasabo, Kicukiro, Gakenke, Rulindo, Huye, Muhanga, Nyamagabe, Kamonyi, Rwamagana, Bugesera, Karongi ,Ngoma and Musanze Districts.

According to the chairman of the supervisory Community Committee Mr. Rajab Sindayigaya, the benefits of rehabilitating the wetland complex include the removal of the deadly water hyacinth which had declined the number fish species in the lake. He also notes that economically the project has created employment to the residents in the area especially those involved in water hyacinth removal and other rehabilitation activities. He adds that "Runoff water from the steep mountains which used to flow into the lake is also likely to reduce since the upstream are going to be covered by radical terraces". The status of the project activities in the wetland complex include the demarcation lines for protected areas around the lake which is up to 99% complete. The preparation and acquisition of tools for the rehabilitation works and acquisition of tree seedlings to be planted around the complex has been done. Notwithstanding the sensitization of the community on the modalities to rehabilitate the complex has been done and the Water hyacinth removal using local mechanisms have is on going. It is anticipated that by September 2013, the rehabilitation works would have reached an advanced stage.

The LVEMP CDO, Mrs. Vivine Amariza, the project has strengthened the partnership and collaboration with key stakeholders by participation of key actors namely Rwanda Environment Authority, district authorities and local communities in Ngoma district in sustainable development and poverty alleviation. "Improved ecosystem management is also evident, natural resources including climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies have been achieved through the implementation of this project by enhancing public participation in the management of the Eco system of Rweru-Akagera wetland complex", she adds.

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“Dry lands Champions” recognized as Kenya celebrates World Day to Combat Desertification



Dr. Kaudia planting commemorative tree



School children holding a banner to mark the day (Photo: Susy Wandera)

The World Day to Combat Desertification (WDCD), was marked in Kenya on the 17th of June 2013. The day, which is a global event under the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) which Kenya is a signatory to, was celebrated under the theme “Droughts and Water Scarcity,” but domesticated as “Don’t Let Our Future Dry Up.” The celebration was in Elgeyo Marakwet County at the A.I.C Cheptebo which is a network of faith-based rural development and environment community based organizations. The 16th June 2013, events started with tree planting and visit to local farms showcasing practical examples of actions that combat the encroachment of desertification. On June 17, a procession to the venue for the official event of the WDCD 2013 where more commemorative trees were also planted.

Speeches on behalf of the UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon, Cabinet Secretary of the Ministry of Environment, Water and Natural Resources Prof. Judi Wakhungu were read. Three “Dry land Champions” were recognized as well as those organizations that had exhibits, with the issuance of certificates. Seed money was provided to the A.I.C Cheptebo by the National Environment Trust (NET) Fund to further their environmental conservation efforts. The National Coordinating Committee on Desertification in Kenya (NCCD-K) chairs the National Steering Committee, comprising representatives from government, parastatals, universities, research organisations and civil society.

Resources and up-coming events



The Uganda National CSO Fair due July 4 - 5, 2013 at Hotel Africana (Kampala) is on the theme: *‘Our Country, Our Dignity, My duty’* organised by the Uganda NGO Forum. ALL ARE WELCOME. For more information: www.ngoforum.or.ug

Forum on Wetlands for Livelihoods July 8 - 12, 2013 in Kigali, Rwanda co-organized by UNESCO-Institute for Water Education and Rwanda's Environmental Management Authority to discuss current challenges and solutions to wetland management, and pave a way forward, both regionally and beyond. More: http://www.ramsar.org/pdf/FORUM_Wetlands_for_Livelihoods_2013.pdf