

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)

March 2015

EA Suswatch Network Hypes Sanitation Campaigns Along Lake Victoria Shores to Mark the 2015 World Water Day



Local Sanitation Campaigns across the Lake Victoria landing sites organised by EA SusWatch Partners in March as part of the World Water Day 2015. *From Left to Right* (Rambira Beach in Homa Bay County - Kenya; Bubinza in Tanzania; Sennyondo Landing site in Mpigi – Uganda (Photos: EA SusWatch Network)

The East African Sustainability Watch Network has called upon communities living along the shoreline of Lake Victoria to promote hygiene and sanitation to avoid polluting water.

Across Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda, three vibrant sanitation campaigns were held as precursor to the March 22, World Water day 2015.

In Kenya, sanitation clean up event was held at Rambira Beach in Homa Bay County, In Tanzania, a sanitation event was held at Bubinza and in Uganda it was held at Sennyondo Landing site in Mpigi.

The events marked general clean up exercise with support of cleaning tools such as wheel barrows, spades, hoes, rakes, gumboots and brooms. Speaking at the Sennyondo Landing site sanitation campaign in Uganda, the Environment officer from Mpigi district Local Administration Mr. Polly Birakwate said that communities along the Lake shores have become proactive towards abetting pollution. "Fishing communities have become more organized and are keen to stamp out elements that lead to contamination of fish". He notes that the fisher folk no longer dry fish on the ground but have adapted the use of drying racks because of the realization of the quality of clean dry fish that is priced higher in the market.

On his part, Mr. David Mwayafu the National Coordinator of Uganda Coalition for Sustainable Development (UCSD) advised the community in Sennyondo to maintain hygiene because consumers of fish will be attracted to their fish products if the environment in which the fish is handled is clean. 'You will increase your business if you maintain a clean landing site. This therefore requires that you constantly clean your homes, your latrines and the fish processing areas', he said.

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Pictorial: EA Suswatch Local Sanitation Campaigns ahead of World Water day 2015 (Kenya event in Rambira Beach, Tanzania Event in Bubinza, Uganda event in Sennyondo Landing Site)



1. Community in Homabay receives cleaning tools from Suswatch Kenya 2. Women cleaning Rambira Beach in Homa Bay 3. National Coordinator - Suswatch Kenya, Mr. Norbert Nyandire addressing the community at the event. (Photo: SusWatch Kenya)



1. TCSD Coordinator - Mr. Damas Nderumaki (center in purple shirt at the event) 2. Manual removal of water hyacinth by the Bubinza community. 3. School children joined the sanitation campaign in Bubinza (Photos by TCSD)



1. Community in Sennyondo receiving cleaning tools from UCSD. 2. Community in Sennyondo at the event 3. Chairman LC I, LVEMP II Focal Person Mpigi District Natural Resource Officer Mr. Polly Birakwate and UCSD Chairperson Nicholas Senyonjo and National Coordinator at the campaign.

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UCSD in a Global Roll-out Consultation on Sustainable Lifestyles and Education.



Uganda Coalition for Sustainable Development (UCSD) joined other actors from across the globe to participate in the first meeting of the Multi-stakeholder Advisory Committee (MAC) of the Sustainable Lifestyles and Education Programme (SLE) under the 10-Year Programme Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production (10YFP SCP) that took place March 18 – 19 in Tokyo (Japan). The 10YFP bring actors together for collective impact, delivering capacity building, primarily at national and regional levels.

This first meeting was to clarify and develop a common understanding among MAC members of the objectives of the SLE programme; to understand the role of the MAC and develop a governance mechanism; to set priorities and activity schedule (for Years 1 & 2); to integrate commitments from MAC members into programme planning; and to develop initial project proposals for implementation. Speaking at the opening session, Mr Soichiro Seki, Vice Minister for Global Environmental Affairs in the Ministry of Environment of Japan noted that citizens across the globe need to live more sustainably and that Japan is willing to support the SLE programme activities that promote Low carbon growth. Dr Arab Hoballah (UNEP) noted that SLE has a large impact on success of the overall 10YFP SCP with the youths playing a key role, noting that simple communication is key in order to ensure success of the SLE programme. ‘Breathe, Smile and Laugh for sustainable lifestyle’, he summed it up.

The meeting received updates on the 10YFP from UNEP, after which discussion were held on the SLE programme. It was noted that there is need to link it to the Sustainable Energy For All Programme (another Rio+20 outcome) since they are closely relate especially in developing countries; need to scale up business engagement so that they play a part in providing information and education to consumers. The meeting also received inspirations from Japan and Asia by AEON Group that gave examples of consumer engagement by business, driven by its sustainability policy that links peace to humanity and local communities involving a wide range of projects. The meeting went into concrete strategic planning that involved brainstorming through groups on governance mechanism for the SLE Programme; developing priorities / work areas on the sub-objectives under the SLE Programme; resource mobilisation; outreach and communication (where a communication strategy was agreed upon as a key tool that can link the SLE Programme the others). Group work identified possible flagship projects and consortia that also allowed interested MAC members to support, take lead or be part. UCSD expressed interest in taking part in making use of existing research to put a case for business to switch to Cleaner Production technology to save water, energy and other resources as well as reducing solid waste; scaling up good practices in the Lake Victoria region based on Community-Driven Development subprojects related to SLE; and fostering regular information sharing on best practices, challenges and lessons learnt in form of petitions, newsletters, and online interactions.

The 10YFP SCP is a concrete outcome of the Rio+20 Conference (June 2012) for international cooperation to accelerate the shift towards SCP in both developed and developing countries. It supports the implementation of regional and national policies and initiatives and builds capacities for the mainstreaming of SCP into sustainable development policies; facilitates access to financial and technical assistance for developing countries; and serves as an information and knowledge platform on SCP to enable all stakeholders to share tools, initiatives and best practices. The SLE Programme is one of the six ‘umbrellas’ under the 10YFP mandate with Co-leads (Ministry of Environment of Japan, Government of Sweden, and World Wildlife Fund). **More about the Sustainable Lifestyles and Education Programme (SLE) Programme: <http://bit.ly/1BGVmpT>**