

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 2018

Stakeholders Call for More Participation in the Lake Victoria Basin WASH Interventions



Robert Nyandire (SusWatch Kenya) makes a presentation during the Learning Event at the EAC Secretariat in Arusha. Photo: UCSD

The East African Community (EAC) Secretariat in collaboration with the Lake Victoria Basin Commission (LVBC) organised a Regional Learning Event and Donors Roundtable on Environment and Natural Resources Management and Donors Roundtable on Environment and Natural Resources Management. It was organised and supported under the auspices of the USAID Kenya and East Africa (USAID/KEA) funded Planning for Resilience in East African through Policy, Adaptation, Research, and Economic Development (PREPARED) Program. The Event that took place from 1st to 2nd March 2018 at the EAC Secretariat in Arusha Tanzania under the theme of “Building resilience in East Africa: Bridging the Gaps in Policy & Practice”. The Regional Learning Event brought together regional and national practitioners, policy makers, researchers, non-governmental organizations, international organizations, regional intergovernmental organizations, private sector representatives and development partners from the EAC region.

Stakeholders under the Water and Sanitation sector (WASH) noted that Management of shared natural resources requires wisdom, stakeholder involvement and participation in order to establish confidence and minimize conflicts while realizing maximum benefits for the communities. While presenting the benefits of the programmatic approach in the sustainable management of the Lake Victoria Basin, they observed that the LVBC enjoys the trust and support from EAC Partner States, stakeholders and development partners through the Shared Vision and Strategic Framework.

Key threats to the Lake Basin were noted as population pressure, contributing to hotspots caused by human, municipal and industrial waste, nutrient inflows including atmospheric deposition, algae growth, anoxic conditions, fish kills, residual inflows of heavy metals from gold mines, proliferation of water hyacinth, economic losses in near shore areas unsustainable utilization of major wetlands, compromises their buffering capacity and climate Change and variability.

The Executive Secretary of the Lake Victoria Basin Commission - Dr. Ali Said Matano noted that 45 million people approximately 300 people per square kilometre live in the Lake Basin, citing that “increased population growth at a rate of 3% per annum, ill health, poverty and massive land degradation are key challenges of the Lake Basin”. He observed that key sub-basins within the Lake like river Kagera and river Mara which are also trans-boundary in nature need urgent protection.

The potential benefits of the Lake Victoria Basin were underscored as being the source of water for domestic for about 87 cities and towns with 60% coverage; having a rich fishery resource yielding about 1 million metric tons annually, source of hydropower producing about 720 megawatts, an agriculture hotspot and as an enormous eco-system functioning as home for wildlife habitats including Mara and Serengeti, host of numerous wetlands of about 4,000 square kilometres, catchment forests and human settlements.

Under Chapter Nineteen of the Treaty, East African Partner States recognize that a clean and healthy environment is a prerequisite for sustainable development, and development activities may have negative impacts on environment leading to degradation of the environment and depletion of natural resources. In this understanding, Partner States therefore agree, amongst other things, to co-operate and coordinate their policies and actions for the protection and conservation of the natural resources and environment against all forms of degradation. They also agree to take concerted measures to foster cooperation in the joint and efficient management and sustainable utilization of natural resources within the community.

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Regional Forum Calls for Strong Partnership, and integrated approaches to amplify Sustainable Energy Actions in East Africa

Uganda Coalition for Sustainable Development, Suswatch Kenya and Tatedo participated in the first Sustainable Energy Forum for East Africa in Kigali held on 19th - 21st March 2018 at the Kigali Serena Hotel. The meeting was organized by the East African Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (EACREEE), in collaboration with the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the EAC Secretariat, the Austrian Development Agency (ADA), Sustainable Energy For All (SE4ALL), the Ministry of Infrastructure of the Republic of Rwanda (MININFRA) and hosted by the government of Rwanda, aimed at fostering economic transformation of the EAC Partner States through equitable access to sustainable energy for all.



A Household Energy efficient stove
(photo: JEEP)

The meeting attracted more than 400 participants from various actors across the region and discussed opportunities and challenges for East Africa to achieve SDG 7 (affordable and clean energy). It also provided stakeholders with the opportunity to present their services pertaining to sustainable development and promoted exchange of ideas and cooperation to support the acceleration of sustainable solutions to the regions energy situation.

The EAC Deputy Secretary General in charge of Finance and Administration, Hon. Christophe Bazivamo informed the meeting that the EAC is still lagging behind on the energy sector except Kenya that is a bit advanced. For example, Modern energy consumption in East Africa region is still one of the lowest in the world (about 130 kWh per capita per year) with 80% of people living in rural areas. He therefore called for collective solutions noting that the EAC has less than 5000MW of electricity capacity.

However, progress in every area of sustainable energy falls short of what is needed to achieve energy access for all and to meet targets for renewable energy and energy efficiency. Meaningful improvements will require higher levels of financing and bolder policy commitments, together with the willingness of EAC Partner States to embrace new technologies on a much wider scale. EACREEE is set to support creation of an enabling environment by mitigating existing barriers and in promoting a competitive sustainable energy market as well as economies of scale in the EAC region.

In addition, the climate change challenge will continue changing in the next decades, coupled with increased energy consumption that comes with increased carbon dioxide emissions. Rachel Kyte the Special Representative for the UN Secretary General and CEO of Sustainable Energy For All noted that, 'We are living in a world where the world is getting warmer and warmer, vaccines not working because of warmth. When we get solutions to energy challenges, we will save our people, medicines and our planet'. She therefore advised that for financial support to flow to the projects that can help close the energy access gap

Mr. Tareq Emtairah - UNIDO Director of energy department added that, 'The implementation of the 2030 agenda and the Paris Agreement calls for a global transformation in all the aspects of life especially in the production and consumption of energy'.

Minister D'Ujanga from Uganda's Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development said that access to energy transforms people's lives. It changes the way they behave, their productivity and engages the most marginalized in society

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It was noted that there is a need for the EAC to move from business as usual to ‘business unusual’ scenario in order to make energy accessible, available and affordable for the populations for them to use it for cooking beyond lighting limited by high tariffs associated with electricity.

Rachel Kyte advised that EAC member states should build energy efficiency into their growth models to achieve SDG7 quickly, cheaply and inclusively. She also noted, while confirming support to EACREEE’s mission that various business models that attract investment are needed to close energy access gap.

Eric Naivasha, General Manager- Equity Group Foundation, highlighted the major hindrances to adoption of clean energy by households in the region that is linked to affordability and accessibility.

On the way forward, CSOs raised their viewpoints. Mr. Sawe (Tanzania Traditional Energy Development Organization) suggested that there is need to ensure local capacity building is done for local institutions to be able to get funding because in many cases it is only available to foreign institutions. Mr. Mwayafu David (Uganda Coalition for Sustainable Development) noted that to avoid ‘development coming after planning’, there is need for East Africa to have master plans which can project development for over 50 years.

Highlight of the CALL to Action from the First Sustainable Energy Forum for East Africa



A Session in progress during the Forum. Photo: DevelopmentAid.org

Participants at the First Sustainable Energy Forum for East Africa held in Kigali, Rwanda from the 19th to 21st March 2018 CALL UPON:

- The EAC Partner States and Development Partners to strengthen the capacity of EACREEE to be the lead institution in the EAC region in promoting equitable universal access to modern, efficient, reliable, affordable, renewable energy to all households, businesses, industries and institutions in order to stimulate sustainable socio-economic development of the region;
 - The EAC Partner States to put in place mechanisms to reward good innovations in renewable energy and energy efficiency
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- The EAC Partner States to put in place an enabling environment to enhance public private partnerships for investments in grid extension, decentralized and distributed generation systems to increase rural electrification, energy efficiency and sustainable and inclusive industrialization.
 - The EAC Partner States, Development Partners, Civil Society Organizations and the Private Sector to promote use of low carbon and clean fuels and technologies for clean cooking, including LPG as a transition fuel.
 - The EAC Partner States and Development Partners to support gender-inclusive programmes specifically those aimed at empowering women, youth and the disadvantaged in sustainable energy entrepreneurship, productive uses of energy and strengthening their involvement in sustainable energy development leadership and workforce.
 - The EAC Partner States, Development Partners, Civil Society Organizations and the Private Sector to pursue initiatives such as energy efficiency, solar photovoltaic and thermal systems, waste-to-energy programmes and alternative transportation, geared toward achieving Sustainable Development Goal #11 (Sustainable Cities)

Read the full CALL FOR ACTION Adopted at The First Sustainable Energy Forum for East Africa 19-21 March 2018, Kigali, Rwanda from here: http://www.eacreee.org/sites/default/files/articles/files/Call%20for%20Action_Final.pdf