

# 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)

**December 2013**

## **East African Sustainability Watch Network Voices out the Challenge of Environmental Degradation in East Africa**



**Images: (1) Degraded & polluted wetland (2) Deforestation (3) EA SusWatch Network Partners with their final contribution to the *Pyramid 2030 Campaign***

EA Suswatch Network has identified environmental degradation as the top most hindrance to environmental sustainability In East Africa. At a *Pyramid 2030 Campaign* workshop held in Kampala on 16<sup>th</sup> December, 17 representatives from Uganda Coalition for Sustainable Development (UCSD), Sustainable Environmental Development Watch (Suswatch Kenya) and Tanzania Coalition for Sustainable Development (TCSD) noted that deforestation, and poor sustainable land management pose threat to sustainable development. The pyramid 2023 workshop is a follow up of one of the main outcomes of the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) Conference where member States agreed to launch a process to develop a set of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), to build upon the Millennium Development Goals and converge with the Post 2015 development agenda.

To address the challenge of environmental degradation, EA Suswatch Network agreed to create awareness and sensitize communities on environmental conservation practices, advocate for enactment of suitable environmental conservation policies, and lobby and advocate for implementation of environmental conservation policies and to establish strong networks and coalitions with other global networks on environmental conservation.

Pyramid 2030 is a global, volunteer-driven campaign organized by the AtKisson Group, a global network of sustainability consultants, trainers, educators, facilitators and communicators. It grew out of Pyramid 2012, a voluntary initiative that engaged about 1,200 people in more than 20 countries in doing Pyramid workshops. Workshop participants ranged from professional groups in Washington DC, to farmers in Colombia, to high schools students in Southeast Asia. They explored local and global issues and generated ideas for local sustainability projects, as well as proposals to the United Nations. The results were submitted to the Rio+20 global summit on sustainable development in Rio de Janeiro, June 2012.

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The Rio+20 Conference decided to establish an "inclusive and transparent intergovernmental process open to all stakeholders, with a view to developing global sustainable development goals to be agreed by the General Assembly".

According to the Rio+20 Outcome Document, member States agreed that sustainable development goals (SDGs) must be based on Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation; must fully respect all the Rio Principles; be consistent with international law; build upon commitments already made; and contribute to the full implementation of the outcomes of all major summits in the economic, social and environmental fields. SDGs should also focus on priority areas for the achievement of sustainable development, being guided by the Outcome Document, address and incorporate in a balanced way all three dimensions of sustainable development and their inter linkages be coherent with and integrated into the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015. **More about the Pyramid 2030 and how you can take part:** <http://pyramid2030.net/>

## **Tanzania Civil Society Commit to Support the EAC Integration Process**

Tanzania Civil Society Foundation held its Annual Forum was from 26<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> November 2013 at the Arusha International Conference Center in Tanzania. The event that was jointly organized by Trademark East Africa was premised on the theme of "Roles of Civil Society Organizations in Strengthening East African Regional Integration". The Forum was attended by Civil Society Organizations in Tanzania and from other EAC partner states including Kenya, Uganda, Burundi and Rwanda. The event provided a dialogue platform for CSOs to learn discuss and share experience on issues related to the East Africa Community integration agenda.

The District Commissioner – Arusha, Hon. John Mongela noted that the current challenges experienced in EAC will help to strengthen the integration process. He further noted that integration should be for the citizens and therefore CSOs should provide a link to the local community and play a role of sensitization as the foundation for integration. He reiterated that there is need for partner states to open their borders for movement of goods and people to hasten economic growth in the East African Community. During the conference the Tanzania CSOs committed to support the EAC integration process.

## **Managing Plastic Waste in Masaka District: Case of a successful Community-Driven Development subproject before LVEMP II Intervention in Uganda**

The Waste Plastics to Economic Wealth (WAPEWE) Project in Masaka district in Uganda has become a catalyst for income generation and employment to persons with disabilities and as a point for environmental conservation. The project is based on a participatory approach to improve implementation of activities and enhance productivity of Masaka District Union of Persons with Disabilities (MADIPU), a community Based Organization. WAPEWE Project collects plastic waste and recycles plastics in Masaka Municipality and its adjacent rural communities in areas of Kyanamukaka, Kyasiga, Bukakata, Mukungwe.

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The community has supported the project by identifying and willingly offering premises from which waste is recycled. Masaka town just like many urban centers around Lake Victoria faces a challenge of waste management. It is estimated that in Masaka Municipality alone has over 900,000 plastic mineral water and soda bottles littered daily from hotels, restaurants, bars, moving cars, homes, schools and hospitals and nearly eight out of ten bottles end up in a land fill and Namajjuzi river wetland, which is a RAMSAR site and an inlet to Lake Victoria.

The project was approved by Lake Victoria Environment Management Project Phase II – LVEMPII as a strategic intervention project, which was to be funded in 2011 but since then no funds have been remitted to the project. In spite of the delayed funds from LVEMP II, the project received alternative funding from Century Bottling Co. Ltd. (Coca-Cola company) that has supported the construction of a waste collection container, 5 bicycles, fencing materials, weighing scale, banner, and protective gears (rubber boots and gloves). On the other hand, Masaka Municipality provided land for waste collection centre. The WAPEWE project aims to be instrumental in saving and conserving Masaka's environment by managing, collecting, sorting, recycling all plastic waste for re-use. The project's objectives is to create direct and indirect employment to persons with disabilities and their families through collection, transportation, sorting, washing and processing of plastic waste, adding value and qualifying from plastic waste to certified recycled plastics which can obtain market globally. The project also aims at maintaining environmental sanitation, and to strengthen MADIPU capacity to coordinate, and evaluate progress of the project. Enhanced capacity among local authorities to engage in public-private partnership, particularly involving less formal private sector is one of the benefits of this project. **More about MADIPU's work from:** <http://tinyurl.com/l8mqydp>

## Resources and Upcoming Events

### Gender equality from UNFCCC COP19 in Warsaw: Achievements and outstanding issues

Despite the low ambition demonstrated throughout the negotiations in Warsaw, COP19 Parties adopted FCCC/SBI/2013/L.13 (Gender and Climate Change: Conclusions proposed by the Chair) which takes significant steps towards meaningful implementation of the COP18 Gender Decision. But outstanding elements include allocation of resources for (1) strengthened participation of women delegates and (2) capacity building for negotiators, the UNFCCC Secretariat and stakeholders. **Read more:** <http://tinyurl.com/mtktu2g>

### Follow the 7<sup>th</sup> Session of the Open Working Group on SDGs (January 6 – 10, 2014)

The seventh session of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals will deal with Sustainable cities and human settlements, sustainable transport; Sustainable consumption and production (including chemicals and waste); Climate change and disaster risk reduction. **More:** <http://tinyurl.com/l7ugo2g>

EA SusWatch Network Wishes ALL Our Readers a Prosperous New Year – 2014!