

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)

February 2017

Pictorial Evaluation Tool (PET) launched in Uganda as a measure to forecast and plan Agricultural Interventions amidst Climate Change Effects



Left: Dr Ian with field assessors in Karamoja, Centre: Assessing a sun flower garden. Right: A team of assessors in a sorghum garden in Karamoja (Photos by AA International)

The Pictorial Evaluation Tool has been launched in Uganda. Speaking at the function, Dr. Ian Robinson from Agri TechTalk International AAI observed that the PET is a ground based method of rapid assessment of crop yields optimal levels of accuracy. The PET approach compares observations with photo-indicators (annotated images) of operating procedures captured in a data base developed by AA International Ltd. This provides estimates of crop yields at harvest time earlier at the time of assessment; which is better because it informs producers of the future scenario of their crop or livestock. PET can be used as a climate change adaptation measure to inform the future of what yields or livestock conditions will be in the future. He explained that there are various reasons for assessing crop and livestock performance such as for policy and planning with government and international agencies, for commercial farming, managing disaster and food crisis and forecast for humanitarian activities as well as farm range management. The PET-Crops and PET-Livestock applications allow the collection and analysis of crop yield estimates and of body livestock condition scoring during driving and walking transects. The data collected through the app is sent to a database on a server for analysis.

Mr. Ben Cattermoul from DFID noted that “Communities should get ready for weather forecasts. This has other implications when preparing farmers for markets; it helps them to understand when it is good to sell and when it is good to hold on”. He added that with all the climate uncertainty that we have, having good information helps us to do our responses smarter and more intelligent about the way we respond, this is exactly what we need. We know Karamoja always for failed harvest, but the truth is that there is no type of information to help you to know who has been affected and how they have been affected, so that means you can help those people directly much more efficiently and much more effectively”. From an early warning perspective, the PET is going to help government, communities to respond both from a commercial perspective because it gives information both for the farmers and the traders.

Mr. Mark Ilukor the field based researcher working in Karamoja notes that there are different ways of enhancing production in Karamoja. But it is good to monitor the scores of livestock.

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The PET helps in planning and is now a new tool used for assessment in Karamoja by many organizations that are taking it up. Among these are the department of Production in the Local Government administration of the districts in Karamoja who have been trained through support from FAO in applying PET in their crop and livestock security assessments.

Dr. Massimo Castiello the Deputy Country Representative of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in Uganda noted that all the data that has been gathered by the PET tool has the full potential for understanding the weather and seasonal changes in an area. He said that the tool is a friendly, cheap and participatory tool, and has been proved to be effective in countries like Ethiopia, Somalia and Sudan.

“This tool will allow people in the market chain to have effective information and to know which markets to sell and when to sell and buy livestock. Adding that the “analysis of the body condition of the animal gives immediate update situation which helps in strategic thinking .But this is when the PET tool is put to effective use because then everybody knows how much their animals will be sold for”.

Policy, Adaptation, Research and Economic Development (PREPARED) Projects in Uganda have improved Access to Safe Drinking water as part of Climate Change adaptation



Left: WACOCO meeting in Mayuge Town Council. Middle and Left: residents of Kyabalembya accessing clean water from a borehole drilled with support from PREPARED

Communities living with in the Lake Victoria Basin in Uganda have benefited from PREPARED by accessing safe drinking water. This is geared towards climate change adaptation through building networks, improving water access and availing water to people.

Working closely with the National Water and Sewerage Corporation (NWSC) in Jinja and Iganga areas; and with Uganda Coalition for Sustainable Development (UCSD), the PREPARED project has heightened information awareness about safe water supplied by NWSC. Using various fora such as Radio Campaigns, community meetings and sensitization by the Local Council 3 and 4 in 15 Lower local governments in Jinja, Iganga, Kaliiro, Bugiri, Mayuge and Buikwe, many NWSC customers who were prior disconnected from the water grid for failure of paying water bills are slowly getting re-connected due to interventions from the area Councillors who form the Water Community Communication Clubs (WACOCO).

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“At the branch office we have a new system where by suppressed accounts are reactivated by customers paying a percentage of money they owe NWSC, then an agreements is signed and re-connection is done. This enables the customers to be n water supply, while they pay up the bills in instalments”, says Sharifah Mulongo the Iganga NWSC area Commercial officer.

In Bugembe Town Council, the Chairman Local Council III - Mr. Steven Wante is calling for Public Stand Pipe tap operators (persons who sell water in areas densely populated without domestic water supply) to form a Savings and Credit Organization. He notes that “By having the PSPs in organized SACCOs, they can be advanced loans to buy water tanks so that there is constant water supply to the people in Bugembe. The NWSC Bugembe branch manager clarified that PSPs will be approved and connected if the operators sell water at a price agreed upon by NWSC, sell the water in public places and are located in areas within a radius of 200 households.

In Jinja and Iganga WACOCO clubs meet often to plan for water and sanitation issues in their area. The 15 WACOCO clubs in Jinja and Iganga NWSC area include Jinja Municipal Council, Mpumudde Division, Mafubira Sub-County, Budondo Sub-County, Walukuba /Masese Division, Jinja Central Division, Bugembe Town Council, Kakira Town Council, Buwenge Town Council, Njeru Municipal Council, Iganga Northern Division Council, Iganga Central Division Council, Kaliiro Town Council, Bugiri Municipal Council and Mayuge Town Council. The WACOCO clubs have streamlined water and sanitation issues in their work plans; which integrate wider development plans. In Bugiri Municipal Council, councillors are planning to purchase land to re-locate the Karimojong street children who wonder around littering the Municipality as a way of keeping hygiene and sanitation in the Municipality. They also plan to acquire land for a sewerage plant. UCSD was contracted PREPARED to carry out a customer satisfaction baseline in Jinja and Iganga in order to establish a strategy to engagement NWSC customers to stop activities leading to Non –Revenue Water. As part of the Customer Engagement Framework, 15 Water Community Clubs (WACOCO) in selected Divisions and Sub-counties in Jinja and Iganga were established to work with NWSC in a bid to sensitize the community on issues of Non-Revenue Water and to build a stronger rapport between NWSC and its customers in Jinja and Iganga.

Relatedly, two Climate Change hotspot communities of Kyazuka Village, Nsono Parish, Bukhooli County in Bugiri District and in Kyabalembya Village, Kigezi Parish, Maddu Sub County in Gomba District have become more resilient to Climate Change upon getting a clean source of water-boreholes. Working with the Albertine Rift Conservation Society (ARCOS) in partnership with Sustainable Environmental Development Watch – SusWatch Kenya community beneficiaries got support from the Community Climate Change Adaptation Assessment (C3A2) project under PREPARED funded by USAID East Africa. The Communities Developed Community Based action plans (CBAPs), which aim at building the resilience of vulnerable individuals, households, communities and societies. The assessment (C3A2) findings are expected to facilitate the development of the Lake Victoria Basin Commission (LVBC) Climate Change Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan and enable the East African Community (EAC) Partner States to improve their understanding and assessment of impacts, vulnerability and communities’ adaptive capabilities so as to enhance the policy and decision making processes.