

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)

May 2014

LVEMP II Water Supply Community- Driven Development Subprojects Projects most beneficial to communities in Kenya and Tanzania



Litei Self- Help Group members talking to Mr. Rotich - the Community Development officer, LVEMP II Kenya. Photo: UCSD



A water hydrant pump. Photo: UCSD



The National Project Coordinator, LVEMP II Kenya – Ms Francesca Owuor (2nd Left receiving the Evaluation Report. Photo: UCSD

Litei self –help group in Nandi hills Kenya is the best implemented community-driven development (CDD) sub-projects funded by LVEMP II. A Report of evaluation and documentation of good practices in water shed management by the Lake Victoria Basin Commission (LVBC) reveals that watershed interventions and practices in both Kenya and Tanzania are already generating benefits for the target communities and have potential to contribute to the overall project objectives.

The evaluation and documentation of good practices was done between the 5th and 19th May 2014 among 6 CDD sub-projects and 2 CMI (Co-Management Interventions) in Kenya and 8 CDD sub-projects in Tanzania.

Three categories of water supply, livelihood improvement and sustainable Land Management were evaluated along the criteria of efficiency, effectiveness, impact and outcome, empowerment and sustainability. The process involved desk reviews, site verification, Focus Group discussions and observations. The peer review team included representatives from the National Project Coordination Teams of LVEMP II Kenya and Tanzania, LVEMP II staff, East African Sustainability Watch Network staff, Evaluators from EAC partner states, staff of Kenya filming service and LVBC staff.

While receiving the report, Ms. Francesca Owuor the Kenya LVEMP II National Project Coordinator was glad that the best project was from Kenya. She hoped that such success would be shared with other communities in the other EAC partner states so that the Lake Victoria Basin population could benefit from viable socio-economic projects that would reduce stress on the Lake. The top three community projects besides Litei Self Help Group Kaptebengwo Water Supply Project in Nandi (Kenya) are: Isengwa Lngangabilili Bee Keeping Project in Bariadi Simiyu (Tanzania) and Rural Organization for a Just Environment (ROJE) doing commercial tree nursery in Nyakach (Kenya).

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Livelihood enhancement sub-projects included greenhouse vegetable farming, bee keeping, tree nursery development, fish processing and motorized boat for water patrol. Sustainable land management projects included re-afforestation of a bare hill in Kajulu in Kisumu-Kenya, Oroba Riverine protection in Muhoroni-Kenya and soil and water erosion prevention in Shigala Tanzania.

In Tanzania, community groups removing water hyacinth from the shore line have received livelihood improvement projects such as fish processing and green house horticulture projects as an enticement for them to continuously remove the water weed. Among such community groups is Nyarusurys Dagga processing group in Musoma urban who have mastered the science of breeding water hyacinth weevils that are used to eat up the water weed in the Lake.

Tree planting activities among the community groups in Kenya and Tanzania have grown even though it is not the main project objective of most CDD sub-projects. This is a realization that communities value trees and in order for them to maintain a balanced eco system, the realization of tree planting is a good lesson.

Notable projects of remarkable importance in the area of water supply are Mwamkala Charco Dam in Magu, Tanzania, Bariki Sisters' Dam in Rorya Mara, and Torit Chelanganga women group in Sitotwet, Ainamoi, Kericho, Kenya. These communities have enhanced the use of water as the main propelling element in development of other livelihood activities with in their communities like on farm drip irrigation, livestock zero grazing and cultivation of paddy rice.

The 16 best performing community groups will be awarded with prizes at the World Environment day on the 5th of July 2014 at a regional event to be held in Mwanza at Furahisha grounds. The celebrations will be preceded by field excursions of LVEMP II projects with in Tanzania. His Excellency the president of the United Republic of Tanzania is expected to preside over the function.

The Lake Victoria Basin Commission is coordinating the implementation of LVEMP II which is implemented in the five partner States of the East African Community –Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda for the Adjustable Program Lending 1(APL1) and Burundi and Rwanda for the APL2. For the APL1 countries, Uganda has lagged behind in the implementation of the CDD sub-projects due to funds freeze last year, while Kenya and Tanzania are on course. LVEMP II is a trans-boundary project designed to achieve global environmental development of improving the collaborative management of trans-boundary natural resources of the Lake Victoria Basin for the shared benefits of the partner states. It is also working towards improving environmental management in targeted pollution hotspots and selected degraded sub-catchments for the benefits of communities who depend on the natural resources of the Lake Victoria Basin.



Paddy rice farming using water from Bariki Dam. Photo: UCSD



Cattle drinking water at Mwamkala Charco Dam. Photo: UCSD



A lady draws water from a rain water harvesting Tank in Nandi. Photo: UCSD

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Sign the Petition: *Kampeni ya usalama kwa usafiri Ziwa Viktoria* to save life on Lake Victoria! 100 survive on stalled M/V Pearl in Uganda and 5 feared dead on capsized M/V Kitoko II in Tanzania.



A Petition code named *Kampeni ya usalama kwa usafiri Ziwa Viktoria* was launched by East African Sustainability Watch Network on Feb 06, 2014. The petition is aimed at convincing the heads of states of the EAC to improve safety standards in Lake Victoria and implement the Lake Victoria transport Act (2007), that was enacted by the East African Community Parliament to which all EAC Partner States through their respective Heads of State.

This comes as a concern as major accidents and disasters continue to occur on Lake Victoria, since the passenger vessel M/V Bukoba capsized in 1996 with the loss of over 500 lives; the wagon ferry M/V Kabalega collided with a sister vessel MV/ Kaawa and sank in 2005 and Cargo vessel MV Nyamageni sank in 2006. At the community levels threats and loss of lives continues to happen. Many reports of water accidents on Lake Victoria resulting from over loading water vessels, boats with no licenses, lack of trained boat operatives and failure to ensure safety on boats like wearing life saving jackets are reported weekly.

This month, over 100 passengers aboard a ferry on Lake Victoria were thrown into panic when the vessel stalled for nearly an hour on Friday. The ferry was plying from Bukakata to Kalangala when its propellers reportedly got entangled with fishnets. The water vessel was also carrying cargo that included 4 lorries, 3 mini-buses, 3 cars and numerous merchandise (*The Monitor*, May 23, 2014). In Tanzania, 5 people were feared dead after a boat they were traveling in (MV Kitoko II) from Bugombe Island to Mwalo wa Muganza Island via Kasenyi in Chato district, Geita region, was hit by strong waves and capsized near Rubondo Island in Muleba District, Kagera Region (*The Guardian*, May 27, 2014). **Join the campaign and sign the petition by clicking on this link <http://www.gopetition.com/petitions/kampeni-ya-usalama-kwa-usafiri-ziwa-viktoria.html>**

Lake Victoria Scientific Conference seeks to link research and innovation

The Lake Victoria Research Initiative (VicRes) of the Inter-University Council for East Africa and the Lake Victoria Basin Commission (LVBC) held a scientific conference in Entebbe May 26 – 28, 2014 that aimed to provide a platform for sharing 106 scientific research project results done since 2003. The conference also discussed how to make use these results in the Lake Victoria (LV) basin development in policy and planning processes. Key innovative results with potential for addressing key development challenges in the LV basin include: *Value addition and development of plant-derived medicinal products for management of HIV and AIDS* by Phillip J. Aduma et al | *Commercialization of technology for drying fish and its by-products in LV* by Emrod Elisante et al | *Improved fish production through value addition of locally used fish feeds* by Harisson Charo-Karisa et al. Though legislators and planners were conspicuously absent, the conference underscored the need to link innovations to policy and decision making processes. Also, high population growth rate of the LV region was a concern in the conference but no clear evidence-based solution was put forward. **More:** <http://tinyurl.com/pc9uxhl>

World Environment Day 2014 on the theme: *Raise your voice, not the sea level*

The World Environment Day is on June 5, 2014. Regional celebrations organized by LVBC will be held in Mwanza Tanzania at Furahisha Grounds. More about the event: <http://www.unep.org/wed/>

