

# 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)

**August 2015**

## Lake Victoria Basin Commission applauded for management of Trans-boundary Resources



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1. A CDD subproject beneficiaries fetching water from Mwamkala charco Dam in Tanzania, 2. A member of Rural Organization for a Just Environment (ROJE) tree seedling CDD sub-project watering seedlings in Nyakach, Kenya 3. A member of Women in Modern Agriculture (WIMA) harvesting tomatoes from a greenhouse constructed with support from LVEMP II Kenya. (Photos by UCSD)

Dr. Raymond Mngodo, the LVEMP II Regional Coordinator has noted that out of 690 Community Driven Initiatives implemented in the region, 214 are successfully completed and 254 are above 50% completion level. Out of 117 regional Strategic Intervention Initiatives, over 61 have crossed 50% completion levels. This was said at a meeting where the Permanent Secretaries in the East African Community Regional Policy Steering Committee (RPSC) has commended Lake Victoria Basin Commission (LVBC) for laudable efforts in mobilizing resources amidst challenges characterizing the management of trans-boundary resources. The twelve person committee was among the more than one hundred delegates from the EAC partner States and LVBC executives and staff reviewed implementation status, financial plans and policy guidance for future programmes and projects.

Engineer Mbogo Futakamba, the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Water, from the United Republic of Tanzania who is also the Chairperson of the RPSC for Lake Victoria Basin., said "Managing shared and trans-boundary resources is challenging. Amidst this, LVBC has made commendable work in coordinating projects that produce tangible results on the ground," said He commended management practices at LVBC siting quality audits which has earned LVBC confidence by the Partner States and Development Partners.

The Principal Secretary for the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resource, the Republic of Kenya, Dr. Richard Lesiyampe also commended LVBC, noting that such efforts can make the World's second largest Fresh Water, Lake Victoria, "feed the peoples of the Great Lakes East African Region." He however urged for urgency in making decisions and implementation of programs and projects of the Lake Victoria Basin Commission. The Executive Secretary of LVBC, Dr. Canisius Kanangire highlighted the Commission's past successes relating to implementation of programmes and projects, fiduciary management and institution's efforts in mobilizing resources for new projects.

The Regional Policy Steering Committee is responsible for assessing and providing policy guidance on the overall performance of the development projects and programmes for sustainable development of Lake Victoria Basin.

(Source: LVBC website)

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## NEMA Uganda Vows to Implement Total Ban of Plastic (Kaveera)



*Kaveera options needed*

The Uganda cabinet meeting recently unanimously agreed to back the total implementation of the ban without any reservations. This decision has energised the National Environment Management Authority (NEMA Uganda), that had launched the ban on use, manufacture, and distribution of plastic carry bags (popularly known as 'kaveera') in April 2015. However this was met with resistance from mainly business lobby groups. In a recent meeting with environment NGOs, NEMA Uganda acknowledged the support NGOs have rendered since the launch of the 'kaveera' ban in April 2015, despite various drawbacks including contradictory messages from Government on whether the ban was in effect or had been lifted.

According to Enid Turyahikayo a Senior Environment Inspector, NEMA Uganda has since April 2015 confiscated 18,000 kgs of the outlawed plastics and received voluntary delivery from others like Uchumi supermarket.

### Kaveera ban reloaded, but porous borders limits implementation

According to the Executive Director of NEMA Uganda - Dr Tom Okurut, the law prohibiting Kaveera use manufacture and distribution is on. However, a sizeable amount of *kaveera* is smuggled from Kenya to serve the East and Northern parts of Uganda. This calls for vigilance and joint strategies from NEMA Uganda and Uganda Revenue Authority to effectively address this. However, this opens up the discussion on how far Kenya is ready to join in this struggle so that *kaveera* becomes contraband across the 2 borders. According to the NEMA Executive Director, the strategy now is to 'deny' the 'middle-class' the *kaveera* option, while engaging business entities (manufacturers and importers). 'On the enforcement front, NEMA Uganda is now set to prosecute offenders,' emphasized Dr. Okurut.

### NEMA Uganda to work with NGOs

The meeting with environment NGOs agreed on actions including upscaling awareness raising with varied audiences, developing harmonised messages and strategies to popularise the *kaveera* ban. In addition, promote alternatives and options for use, manufacture and distribution of *kaveera*.

The meeting also agreed to document and regularly share experiences that can help to mould people's mind-sets to transit from treating *kaveera* as a 'indispensable item in life'. These include NEMA Uganda's case stories from across the country since April 2015, when the *kaveera* ban was launched; and from the supportive initiatives that NGOs have undertaken. Based on the already on going [Anti - Kaveera Campaign](#), Greenwatch Uganda was mandated to coordinate with NEMA Uganda and bring on board more NGOs and citizens.

The proposal to ban polythene bags in Uganda, first came out in financial year 2007/8, was later enshrined in the Finance Act 2009 and the Finance (Permitted Plastic Bags and Other Plastics for Exceptional Use) regulations, 2010. However over these years NEMA had not implemented it.

Learn more about the ban on Kaveera, from NEMA Uganda on Tel: 256-414-251064 / 256-414-251065 / 256-414-251068 | Email: [info@nemaug.org](mailto:info@nemaug.org)

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## Scientific Innovations by Kisumu students carry the day at Environmental Exhibition



Kisumu Junior Academy students' exhibition. Photos: SusWatch Kenya

The International Youth Day was marked on the 12<sup>th</sup> of August, 2015 was set aside by the UN to promote ways of engaging the youth in becoming more actively involved in making positive contributions to their communities. In Kisumu, the National Environment Management Authority (NEMA), Western Kenya Regional office, students of the Kisumu Junior Academy, aged between 11 and 13 exhibited environmental waste management best practices.

One student took the participants through her bean inoculating project, where the regular bean seed is inoculated with bacteria found on the surface of the soya bean, to enable it to be both drought and erosion resistant. Another project christened the "Auto-Gradiator" presented by Nunj and Daksh Patel was specifically designed for factories that are notorious for the emission of GHGs.

Another different group of students, sought to deal with the problem of shaved hair disposal, "We have observed and determined that barber shops do not have a proper way of disposing the shaved hair from their clients, and since hair contains a Sulphur element, we sort to extract the Sulphur from the hair in our labs. We then collected the hair from the barber shops, mixed it with some chemicals and produced Sulphur. Sulphur can be used in the production of several products, including medicine." said a bubbly Year 7 girl, one of the innovators in the 3 member team. Also among the projects, were innovations designed to deal with the increase in road accidents. For instance, two young boys in year 7, had come up with a way for a vehicle not to start once it senses the alcoholic breath of the driver, the boys' named it "Automobile Alco-lock". The alcohol sensor is embedded in the steering wheel of the car.

Harun Gullah from the Kisumu County Government, who was the Chief Guest at the event, applauded the projects and hoped that they could be funded, so as to tackle some of the issues that need urgent addressing in our society.

## Upcoming Events



**4th Mara Day Celebrations, 12th to 15th September 2015 at village Butiama District, Tanzania.** Butiama village is the birth place of Tanzania's founding father Mwalimu Julius Nyerere. The theme of the celebrations is "*Mara River. My Livelihood*" (*Mto Mara Maisha yangu, Maendeleo yangu*). [More:www.lvbcom.org](http://www.lvbcom.org)



**Global Citizens Day of Action #Action2015 on 24 September, 2015** will bring together thousands around the world call on leaders to light the way to a better future for people and planet ahead of the forthcoming (September) 2015 UN General Assembly to adopt a new set of Global Goals. [Find Event near you: http://action2015.org/light-the-way/](http://action2015.org/light-the-way/)