

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 2014



Africa joined the 'mass-die' in Lima. (Photo: PACJA)



Reducing water levels in R. Simiyu in Tanzania (Photo: UCSD)

Lima Call for Climate Action?

The Lima Accord, a [four-page document](#), was adopted by climate negotiators following talks that were at times acrimonious, more than 30 hours behind schedule. While member countries tacitly agreed to curb their rates of Greenhouse Gas emissions, a raft of things weren't decided, adding hurdles to securing a truly global climate agreement in Paris next December. To some people, by establishing a new structure in which all countries will state (over the next six months) their contributions to emissions mitigation, this latest climate accord moves the process in a productive direction in which all nations will contribute to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. Others have views ranging from being laidback to outright pessimism. Below are some opinions from a cross-section of Civil Society and other actors on the Outcome from this just concluded Lima Climate Change negotiation:

'We will not get a deal in Paris without progress on finance and what Lima delivered is simply not enough. Not only is the need immense, a balanced package cannot be produced unless finance is a strong component.' - **Winnie Byanyima - Oxfam International Executive Director**

'But when you place the \$10 billion cashed next to the estimated \$650 billion of climate finance flows 2011-2012, you see it's not that much. And you can understand why poorer countries feel so aggrieved and suspicious that the \$100bn a year by 2020 they were promised won't turn up' - Ed King (Responding To Climate Change)

'Lima witnessed the end game of a 20-year old negotiation around doing away with differentiation between countries at different levels of development and the beginning of negotiations on a global pact for sharing the carbon budget. It is all about geopolitics, not about the global environment' - **Mukul Sanwal (Director UNFCCC 1995-2007)**.

'In the final negotiations, the African group and others had insisted on a clear delineation between climate efforts undertaken by developed and developing countries. Other parties said that while no one wished to deny the importance of CBDR, they would not accept a bifurcated approach to differentiation' - **BioRes Lima Update #3 (ICTSD)**

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'The positions of the four big blocs have remained almost unchanged: The EU still wants a robust legally binding agreement; The US still wants a hybrid agreement that does not take the form of a Treaty; China and India are still opposed to an external monitoring, review and verification processes; The Less Developed Countries still want greater commitments to financial assistance from the developed countries.' - *Joseph Curtin (Institute of International and European Affairs)*

'These Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCS) will constitute the Paris deal. The absence of a legally binding language makes the Lima Accord a short-term achievement, but in the long term unquantifiable, unpredictable and unenforceable. After all, the world does not just depend on "peer pressure" for nuclear disarmament'. - *Pawan Khera, Political Analyst working with Indian National Congress (Huffington Post)*

'The Lima Decision reaffirmed that governments are now on the spot to put the individual climate pledges on table in the first half of next year, that will form the foundations of the global climate agreement due in Paris next December, but some of the big issues that have been plaguing the talks for years were shirked and could cause headaches later on'. - *Climate Action Network International*

2014 is the International Year of Family Farming. Hunger is looming in Eastern Africa



Siblings hold fresh green maize harvest (photo: UCSD)



Spraying an orchard in Mityana –Uganda (photo: UCSD)

The goal of the 2014 International Year of Family Farming –IYFF aimed at repositioning family farming at the centre of agricultural, environmental and social policies in the national agendas by identifying gaps and opportunities to promote a shift towards a more equal and balanced development. It was meant to promote broad discussion and cooperation at the national, regional and global levels to increase awareness and understanding of the challenges faced by smallholders and help identify efficient ways to support family farmers. It meant to raise the profile of family farming and smallholder farming by focusing world attention on its significant role in eradicating hunger and poverty, providing food security and nutrition, improving livelihoods, managing natural resources, protecting the environment, and achieving sustainable development, in particular in rural areas.

There are over 500 million family farms in the world. In Eastern Africa, farming families range from smallholders and medium scale farmers, to peasants, indigenous peoples, traditional communities, fisher-folk, pastoralists and many other groups that could be the solution to a world free from hunger. Linking farming to climate change makes the scenario complex.

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According to the Famine Early Warning System Network – FEWS NET East Africa Food Security Outlook Update December 2014, there are twelve million four hundred (12.4 million) people are in need of humanitarian assistance. In November 2014 alone, the majority were in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) in north eastern Djibouti, eastern and north eastern Ethiopia, northern and eastern Kenya, southern and central Somalia, western and southern Sudan, and the Greater Upper Nile States in South Sudan. Significant populations remain Stressed (IPC Phase 2) in these countries and in Burundi, Rwanda, and north eastern Uganda.

Cumulative October and November rainfall was below average in parts of southern Somalia and north eastern Kenya. However average to above-average rainfall is expected to continue through December in the rest of the eastern Horn. As a result, food insecurity is anticipated to ease to Stressed (IPC Phase 2) from January to March in most of the eastern Horn, outside of southern Somalia and north eastern Kenya. The report indicates that in IPC Phase 3, food shortage will continue through to March 2015 in localized areas, including pastoral areas in northern and southern Djibouti, southern and north eastern Afar, and some areas in eastern Amhara and Tigray Regions, and the lowlands of East and West Hararghe and West Arsi Zones in Oromia Region in Ethiopia. Most of these areas had below-average rainfall during their rainy seasons at various points in 2014, leading to low production. This is due to conflict and heightened insecurity. A large number of conflict-affected, households in wide areas of the Greater Upper Nile States are likely to deteriorate from Crisis (IPC Phase 3) to Emergency (IPC Phase 4) between January and March 2015. Households in these areas have limited access to humanitarian assistance, markets, and labour opportunities, constraining their access to food and income.

Staple food prices continued to decline between October and November 2014 in areas where harvests are continuing, including Sudan, South Sudan, western Ethiopia, Kenya, and Uganda. In particular, above-average harvests in Tanzania this year have increased exportable surpluses and moderated prices there and in areas that import from Tanzania, including north eastern and eastern Rwanda, Burundi, and southern Kenya. Low production and constrained market access have sustained above-average food prices in conflict-affected areas, including localized parts of southern and central Somalia, northern Kenya, and the Greater Upper Nile States in South Sudan. These high prices remain in the Greater Upper Nile Conflict has contributed to food insecurity among other issues.

Resources and Upcoming Events

- The **Lima Call for Climate Action** from the UNFCCC COP20:
http://unfccc.int/files/meetings/lima_dec_2014/application/pdf/auv_cop20_lima_call_for_climate_action.pdf
- **Infographic on The Path to Paris: Reaching a New Universal Climate Agreement in 2015** by IISD:
<http://www.iisd.org/infographics/PathToParis.htm>
- **The Road to Dignity by 2030: Ending Poverty, Transforming All Lives and Protecting the Planet.** A Synthesis Report of the Secretary-General on the Post-2015 Agenda:
http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/5527SR_advance%20unedited_final.pdf
- Intergovernmental Negotiations on Post-2015 Development Agenda (New York)
The intergovernmental negotiations on post-2015 development agenda will take place over several sessions starting in January 2015. The first session is due 19-21 January 2015. More: http://www.un.org/pga/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2014/11/141114_post-2015-agenda.pdf