

# 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 2016**

## **Why Reporting Progress in Implementing Global Wildlife conservation Commitments at National Level will make a difference in East Africa.**



**Illegal wildlife trade is decimating elephants in East Africa. Photo: Environmental Investigation Agency, 2016**

The World Wildlife Day was first marked on March 3, 2015. This Day was established by the UN General Assembly and facilitated by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), to celebrate the planet's extraordinary array of wildlife, as well as to raise awareness around illegal wildlife trade.

In 2016, it is under the theme "The future of wildlife is in our hands", which reinforces the inextricable link between wildlife, people and sustainable development. It is the responsibility of each generation to safeguard wildlife for the following generation. It also imparts the pressing need for national action to ensure the survival in the wild of both charismatic and lesser known species.

Wildlife commerce – legal and prohibited – sits at the nexus of trade, development, and the environment. Indeed, a key negative impact of wildlife trafficking is that it unsustainably strips countries of vital natural resource assets (BioRes, 2014). This extends well beyond terrestrial mega-fauna such as rhinos and elephants to include key trade industries such as fish and timber. A multifaceted approach that includes demand reduction, law enforcement, as well as sustainable use, will be vital to tackling various illegal wildlife trade challenges.

Unfortunately, stories related to continued illegal trade in wildlife are awash in the East African media. For example this month (February 2016) alone, in Tanzania two residents of Kondoa District in Dodoma Region have been sentenced to 20 years in jail or payment of a five million Tanzania shs fine each after being arrested with elephant tusks worth thirty eight million Tanzania shs (IPP media). In Uganda, Police arrested one person for illegal possession of three Grey Crowned Cranes — the country's national emblem, whose populations are rapidly declining due to loss and degradation of wetlands (ChimpReports), while weak laws have exposed the Kenya's game parks to poaching even as government officials lead global campaigns to end the menace (Business daily Africa).

This raises serious operational questions: What can tangibly change events at source (communities and wildlife sanctuaries) to reduce demand and scale up sustainable use options especially for the endangered species like elephants, rhinos and others? How far are the mandated institutions willing and able to execute their respective roles in line with global commitments? How effective are they to reach out to the target / public in the destination countries of this trade?

In February 2014, the UK government hosted a high-profile London Conference on the Illegal Wildlife Trade to discuss the challenge posed by illegal wildlife trade. Forty-six heads of states converged on London, duly agreeing to an official declaration designed to showcase political will to tackle this problem.

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The Conference issued a Declaration that underline the scale and consequences of the illegal trade in wildlife, noting the need to build on the existing international framework for action, and committing themselves to providing the political leadership and practical support needed to take 5 essential actions.

From the London Conference, among others, under the sustainable livelihoods and economic development, States committed themselves and called upon the international community to take action, to recognise the negative impact of illegal wildlife trade on sustainable livelihoods and economic development; Increase capacity of local communities to pursue sustainable livelihood opportunities and eradicate poverty; Initiate or strengthen collaborative partnerships among local, regional, national and international development and conservation agencies to enhance support for community led wildlife conservation and to promote retention of benefits by local communities for the conservation and sustainable management of wildlife, including actions to reduce illegal use of fauna and flora; and to work with, and include local communities in, establishing monitoring and law enforcement networks in areas surrounding wildlife.

Given the gravity of this problem, it would therefore be prudent for all the States represented at this Global Conference (and other forthcoming ones) to report back on what they have done. For example, the [Kasane conference on the illegal wildlife trade, 25 March 2015](#) was a UK Government self-assessment of progress on commitments in the London declaration.

This is especially important for East Africa and other countries that are faced with the huge challenge of containing illegal wildlife trade that could best handle it through regional and global partnerships. This can only be known if the self-assessment or independent reporting is done to ascertain actions taken, future actions planned, and ways forward. For the London Conference, we strongly believe that this needs to be done by April 2016 in order not to further lose momentum, one year afterwards.

## International Women's Day 2016: Why Gender Parity remains an issue for East Africa



Gender parity (having equal number of women and men in leadership, decision making, and other interventions) is a critical challenge for community development, and improvement in the living conditions of vulnerable poor women, youth and other social groups. In development terms, gender parity is 'double sided' - meaning that it touches on both the institution delivering the services as well as the target group. Below are three cases to shed light on this challenge and proposals put forward to address it:

1. In March 2008, UNDP launched a Gender Parity Report that sought to examine policy implications of how it could achieve organizational gender parity in the workforce (equal number of men and women at all grade levels). The report noted that although the entire UN system is striving towards gender parity in the workforce, achieving parity had been uneven amongst United Nations organizations. The Report came against the backdrop of the Beijing Platform for Action in 1995, where the General Assembly had repeatedly urged the United Nations system organizations to achieve 50/50 gender balance in managerial posts. The Report put forward specific measures to meet gender parity and equality goals.

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These include leadership and accountability mechanisms; institutional arrangements; monitoring and evaluation; recruitment and promotion; staff development and career planning; gender planning and statistics; enabling culture; staff mobility; communications and advocacy. Read more about 'Gender Parity in UNDP' from:

<http://www.iposc.org/documents/Gender%20Parity%20Report%2017%20March%2008%5B1%5D.pdf>

2. At the global level, 2016 provides a test. After the appointment of eight male Secretaries-General, a female Secretary-General is timely to foster gender equality in the leadership of the UN. The Women's Major Group specifically calls for a woman Secretary-General who has a demonstrable commitment to: Advancing a bold, comprehensive women's human rights agenda in intergovernmental fora that recognises the indivisibility and universality of women's human rights; Challenging inequality in all of its forms, including economic and social inequality between countries, between rich and poor, and between men and women. Taking urgent and equitable action to halt current environmental crises and their social impacts, including climate change; Ensuring that the UN implements the reforms necessary to protect its status as a genuinely democratic multilateral institution that acts in the interests of all people and all countries, and not just the most powerful; Taking action to ensure that feminist and civil society movements are not just observers in policymaking, but active and equal participants; Promoting women's leadership at all levels; and Ensuring that the integrity of the UN and its agencies is not undermined by the influence of private funding, including by the corporate sector. Read more about the Women Major Group Sign on: <http://bit.ly/1TPUlo6>
3. At the National level, many countries still grapple with decisions and leadership lapses arising from lack of spaces for women contribution. Agenda2030 provides an opportunity to enhance gender parity in different ways. It is therefore to note that the following SDGs (and the anticipated indicators), will be important to enhance gender parity:
  - SDG 2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture
  - SDG 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls
  - SDG 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

## Resources and upcoming events

- **Webinar: SDGs and the Paris Climate Agreement: Achieving gender parity in African Agricultural Systems**  
Climate and Agriculture Network for Africa and partners have organised a webinar on SDGs and the Paris Climate Agreement: Achieving gender parity in African Agricultural Systems. Date: 8<sup>th</sup> March Time: 2:00 – 3.30 PM EAT. More information: <http://bit.ly/1Uw1GOG>
- **Migration and Conservation: A toolkit for conservation and development practitioners by IISD**  
The Migration and Conservation Toolkit is intended as a roadmap to guide users toward a better understanding of human migration dynamics and impacts, an understanding they can then use to better protect ecosystems. More: <https://www.iisd.org/sites/default/files/publications/migration-conservation-toolkit.pdf>
- **UNDESA and UNDP invitation to participate in the 2016 ECOSOC E-Discussion: Implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, February 29 – March 25, 2016.**  
The discussion will focus on the scope and implications of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, national implementation and follow-up and review. More: <https://www.unteamworks.org/openhome>