

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 2017

UCSD member NGOs Empowering Communities to Take Action on Climate Change to Host Global Conference Participants



1.



2.



3.

1. Kikandwa community members at a meeting 2. Making bee hives 3. At the KEA information & resource center.
Photos: KEA

Community-based adaptation to climate change (CBA) focuses on empowering communities to use their own knowledge and decision-making processes to take action on climate change. Ahead of The 11th International Conference on Community-Based Adaptation (CBA11) to Climate Change due to take place in Kampala, Uganda from 26-29 June 2017, we highlight the work of Kikandwa Environmental Association (Mityana district) and Nature Palace Foundation (Mpigi district) to advance CBA in Uganda:

Kikandwa Environmental Association - Learning Centre for Community-Based Adaptation to Climate Change



In Mityana district, central Uganda, Kikandwa Environmental Association-KEA is taking lead in improving livelihoods of the community through this approach. KEA addresses climate change impacts and vulnerabilities using different strategies and methodologies such as information sharing through the community innovation resource center.

This center provides knowledge on agro-ecology, food and nutritional security, environment management, climate change and climate change adaptation, food justice, food and seed sovereignty, market and marketing skills, education, health, provide ICT training, documentation skills to farmers. The Centre provide a place where knowledge and information can be generated and collected on different issues ranging from Environment, Natural Resource management, poverty eradication to food insecurity, health, youth unemployment and ICT Training and climate change mitigation.

In regard to food security, KEA has trained the community to collect, extract and preserve indigenous food seeds and promote traditional foods including such as pulses like pigeon peas and cow peas. They also collect seeds from indigenous trees which are getting extinct but are important for providing nutrition. They do this to improve health, promote biodiversity conservation and as a source of income for smallholder farmers but at the same time adapting to climate change.

Half + Half 1000 Acre Community Forest Project is one of KEA's projects which uses a Nature-Based Conservation approach and innovation, based on small holder farmer initiatives to conserve and restore small forest patches ranging from ½ acre to 5 acres per household or leaving a piece of land to regenerate naturally into a forest as a way of promoting Ecosystem Based Adaptation for Food Security.

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)

These initiatives aim at sensitizing farmers to value forests and their ecological functions for better livelihoods including bee keeping among others. It is no surprise that as Uganda hosts CBA11 in Kampala from 26 to 29 June 2017 a field visit is planned to KEA as one of the suitable places for learning community-based adaptation to climate change. More about KEA: <https://www.facebook.com/KikandwaEnvironmentalAssociation/>

Nature Palace Foundation –Nature Smart Production and Nature Palace Community Botanic Garden



From Left to Right: A woman in a herbal garden; Making of charcoal briquettes; and Men working on a bark-cloth project (Photos: NPF)



In Kasanje - Mpigi district, Nature Palace Foundation (NPF) is community-based Foundation supporting Community-based Initiatives in Natural Resources Management, Livelihood Improvement and Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation. It addresses critical areas for community-based adaptation which include Food Production Systems; Sustainable Energy Access; Indigenous Knowledge preservation and promotion; and, Eco-system-based Conservation.

Increasing biodiversity on the farm, soil rejuvenation using bio-char, nature-compatible production, preventing 'food erosion'- where food is taken to cities and communities remain food insecure are some of the unique practices and strategies to improve resilience and productivity within the community.

NPF practices sustainable energy access for climate change mitigation and community-based adaptation by recycling biomass waste into cooking energy, there by addressing a critical community need (fuel for cooking) while at the same time checking on the high rate of deforestation, controlling indoor pollution, improving community hygiene and sanitation. In doing so, NPF provides access to affordable cooking energy to the most energy-insecure populations by availing low-cost fuel briquettes, low-cost improved energy-saving stoves, developing grassroots energy supply chains – including entrepreneurship skills support such as providing training in energy-efficiency technologies, engaging communities in continuous research and technology development with energy, agribusiness and other livelihoods enhancing linkages.

The approach to conserve and maintain historical and traditional environmental preservation and sharing practices is intertwined in the livelihoods enhancement practices of the community. Knowledge is preserved through what is termed Nature Smart Production and Nature Palace Community Botanic Garden; which among other activities is sustainably producing bark cloth. Bark cloth is a unique fabric produced from the bark of *Ficus natalensis* is locally called 'mutuba' tree.

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)

The craftsmanship steeped in ancient culture and tradition; started way back in the 13th century and played significant cultural, financial, social and environmental roles. Uganda's bark cloth was proclaimed 'a masterpiece of the world's intangible heritage' and is well recognized as a unique indigenous textile production craft by UNESCO.

The Home herbal Gardens is an initiative aimed at counteracting the rapid loss of plant resources and promoting participation of community members in conservation of species while upholding their knowledge and appreciation of medicinal plants. The initiative involves growing of medicinal plants in households as home or backyard gardens. Participating households identify species they use most in treatment of common ailments and grow them so that next time they need them they don't have to go out looking for them in the wild – where chances are that they may fail to get them when they need them.

NPF is also working with communities to conserve ecosystems of critical importance like Mabamba Ramsar site – a Wetland of International Importance. This is done through promoting Community-based Eco-tourism and conservation for community adaptation. More about NPF: <https://www.facebook.com/Nature-Palace-Foundation-100735466653498/>

The Importance of pro-poor focused Climate Plans highlighted for East Africa at Bonn Climate Conference



A PIPA project policy brief and country baseline reports were shared out; Conference session in progress; and NGO observers asking the delegates to 'Scale UP their ambitions on NDCs" (Photos: Velma Oseko and IISD)

In May 2017, The United Nations Climate Change Conference was held in Bonn-Germany. Parties engaged in extensive informal consultations on the issues, offering initial and conflicting views of how different provisions should be elaborated. The concrete outcomes however, were mainly procedural. They adopted work plans for the discussions and on some issues agreeing to some overall structures and principles. One key area discussed was the Nationally Determined Contributions – NDCs (climate plans) guidelines whose discussions covered three sub-items of information to be provided in the NDCs, features of NDCs and accounting of reductions of greenhouse gases in NDCs.

SusWatch Kenya and INFORSE who represented the Partners for the project: Promoting the Paris Agreement in East Africa (PIPA) shared a policy brief and country baseline reports, with the African Group of Negotiator's Coordinator on NDC guidelines, the EU coordinator on NDC guidelines and Danish negotiators.

For more information about the policy brief and the country baseline reports as well as progress in implementation of the PIPA project, please visit: http://www.inforse.org/africa/East_Africa_PIPA.htm