

CDD WATCH IN KATONGA RIVER BASIN UGANDA

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**Information Sheet Based On The LVEMP II Community Driven
Development Sub-project
Watch No. 1 In Katonga River Basin.**



Uganda Coalition for Sustainable Development



Sustainable Environment Development Watch
(SEDEV)



Tanzania National Focal Point

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This info sheet has been developed from a review carried out on the progress in implementation of the Community- Driven Development (CDD) type Sub-projects under the Lake Victoria Environmental Management Project Phase II (LVEMP II) in Rakai and Mubende districts within the Katonga River Catchment in Uganda. The review was commissioned by the East African Sustainability Watch Network (EA SusWatch Network), a network of Civil Society Organizations from Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania with its Regional Secretariat hosted at Uganda Coalition for Sustainable Development (UCSD) in Kampala, Uganda. Uganda Coalition for Sustainable Development (UCSD) is the national focal point for Uganda. The review was part of the ongoing EA SusWatch Network's LVEMP II Civil Society Watch Project that seeks to lobby and advocate for realization of results-based performance from the Lake Victoria Environmental Management Project (LVEMP II) and implementation of the East African Community Climate Change Policy (EACCCP).

LVEMP II project is an East African Community (EAC) project currently being implemented in the five countries that share the Lake Victoria Basin. It is a trans-boundary project designed to achieve two development objectives. Firstly, the project is meant to improve collaborative management of trans-boundary natural resources of Lake Victoria Basin and, secondly, reduce environmental stress in the targeted pollution hotspots and selected degraded sub-catchments as a means of improving the livelihoods of communities who depend on the natural resources of the Basin

The Community – Driven development type (CDD-type) Sub-projects are aimed at reducing non-point sources of pollution, through control of soil erosion by adopting sustainable water and soil management practices. This will in turn increase water use efficiency and improve water quality in the Lake Victoria Basin (LVB), which is also a positive externality to the downstream communities.

Summary of CDD subproject Implementation status as at September 2013

CDD category (stage of Implementation)	Kenya	Tanzania	Uganda	Total
Completed and waiting post completion evaluation	-	10		10
Below 50% of implementation	90	86		176
Above 50% implementation	3	26		29
Approved by NTSC / NPSC but implementation yet to commence	129	28	66	223
No. of proposals still under the approval process	0	0	0	0
Total	222	150	66	438

Source: LVBC, 2013

The review of the progress in implementation of the LVEMP II CDD-type Sub-projects was carried out between July – August 2013 based on the baseline studies carried out in 2012 with the objective of coming up with a CDD-type Sub-projects status

report within Katonga river basin.

The overall objective of the LVEMP II CDD Sub-projects Watch No.1 was to document, share and create learning opportunities aimed at securing maximum communities' benefit from the CDDs implementation within the established project span, in 3 rivers catchments as well as other areas where LVEMP II is being implemented.

The review exercise was undertaken in the Katonga catchment in Uganda covering the districts of Rakai and Mubende, in the sub-counties of Kyebe and Kagamba in Rakai and Kitenga and Kiyuuni in Mubende. The review made reference to a baseline study that had been done by UCSD in 2012 in tracking the progress.

The study employed qualitative and quantitative data collection approaches that ensured an in depth context of the LVEMP II and its CDD type sub project in the study areas. Community views were captured through participatory mechanisms under Focus Group Discussions, Key informant interviews, photograph and audio-visual recordings of River Katonga Catchment Community Members' Voices.

Based on purposive sampling (from the baseline study), the study identified persons at local government and community level that were involved in the consultative and assessment exercise.

Key Issues from the review

In Uganda, the suspension on utilization of project funds by the World Bank has greatly affected progression of project activities. Implementation of CDD-type Sub-projects where the bulk of the budget is allocated has been affected (LVEMP II Uganda Annual progress Report, July, 2012 – June, 2013).

Hence, the assessment that was carried out in Rakai and Mubende focused more on the process aspects in relation to how the CDD-type projects identification, opportunities, challenges, and mobilisation of communities.

The survey results indicate that Subsistence crop farming is a major source of livelihood, for both district communities; Rakai and Mubende as was indicated by 83% and 98% response rates respectively. In Rakai, 98% of the respondents had knowledge of LVEMP II, although 67% could tell the activities supported and undertaken by the project. About 83% of communities in Mubende District also had knowledge of LVEMP II, but only 33% knew the activities supported and undertaken by the project especially the men. Key informants in both districts had knowledge of the LVEMP II and knew activities supported and undertaken by the project. The CDD type sub-projects identified among communities included; fish farming, piggyery, cattle keeping, goat rearing, tree planting and eco-tourism.

This was particularly true in Rakai District. Mubende district was a bit unique as cattle keeping, SACCOs and rainwater harvesting were the CDD projects most preferred by the communities. In both districts, people were still waiting for the LVEMP II funds to be released to effectively implement the projects.

About 83% of individuals that were engaged in household survey in both Rakai and Mubende districts, knew the processes involved in identification and prioritization of CDD- type sub-projects. In addition, 58% of the respondents in Mubende and Rakai districts reported having received training and sensitization at inception of LVEMP II, although they complained that the training was for only one day and therefore not adequate.

The study revealed that the CDD-type sub-projects would be implemented under Community-based Organization (CBO) frameworks that received awareness raising and capacity building from both government and Non-Governmental Organization (NGOs) that promote community development.

The groups were reportedly stable in both districts and operating in harmony among the members. However, the requirement for membership fees as a precondition for one being a member of a CBO undermined the membership, emergence and development of the CDD groups. For groups that had formed, the members reported contributing money, labor, land and knowledge towards starting CDD-type sub-projects and were still willing to contribute more towards success of CDD-type sub-projects.

While this was a requirement of the LVEMP II CDD-type sub-projects, the amount of contributions some members had already made was beyond the stipulated 10% ceiling in the LVEMP II project documents. Communities are expecting to be compensated for the contributions they had already made that are beyond the stipulated ceiling.

It was noted that the marginalized and disadvantaged groups are allowed to join the CDD groups without any special consideration.

It was discovered that the proposal approval processes was (is) laborious, expensive and too technical and bureaucratic for the community members. It required communities to draft a fairly elaborate and technical proposal, which was too much to ask of the community members considering their relatively low knowledge and academic levels. It involved an initial approval process at the local government level and a final approval at the LVEMP II Secretariat in Entebbe.

Community members' knowledge and understanding of Sustainable Land Management issues, although appreciated by them, is still limited.

In addition, the study also identified lack of coordination amongst the district technical focal persons in LVEMP II implementation, especially in Mubende district where the NAADs officer, Production officer and Fisheries officer reported having not been engaged in LVEMP II processes.

Recommendations

In light of the above assessment, EA SusWatch Network makes the following recommendations to the following respective actors:

LVBC / Regional LVEMP II Secretariat

- Spearhead improvement in information sharing across

the 5 Partner states where LVEMP II is being implemented including success stories, answers to Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs), challenges and how to overcome them. This could range from having a dedicated website, make more use of social media tools, a regular newsletter, and other options

- Translate and popularise key information documents related to CDD-type sub-projects, for example the CDD-type sub-projects Operational manual, Water hyacinth Surveillance, Monitoring and Control Strategy

- Develop and implement a guide for compliance of the CDD-type sub-projects to address climate change and variability that is increasingly impacting on rural livelihoods and natural resources conservation interventions.

- Planning for APL3 should commence as soon as possible to secure adequate time for consultations and consideration of lessons learnt as well as how to tackle emerging issues like climate change, declining fisheries, scaling up sustainable energy options to offset impact on watersheds.

Communities, Community Groups, NGOs and CSOs

- Make special consideration of the most vulnerable and marginalised community members in terms of taking up their aspirations, membership requirements, provision of project resources and in decision – making, as they are key targets of LVEMP II interventions.

- Scale up information sharing, regular information updates (simplifying and translations where necessary) to ease the information gaps currently being experienced. This should include independent assessment and community perceptions that could be shared through working with the media, through meetings and online platforms.

- Provide technical backstopping to initiate CDD-type sub-projects within their respective expertise, for example organizational strengthening, extensions and training in technical aspects.

- Popularise the Water hyacinth Surveillance, Monitoring and Control Strategy so as to enlist community support for all forms of actions at the regional, national and local levels as early as now