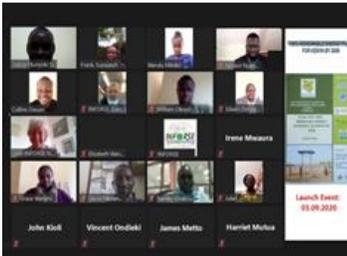


A Monthly from the East African Sustainability Watch Network founded by Uganda Coalition for Sustainable Development (UCSD), Tanzania Coalition for Sustainable Development (TCSD) and SusWatch Kenya

## **SusWatch Kenya Launches 100% Renewable Energy Scenario for Kenya by 2050**



On Thursday September 3, 2020 SusWatch Kenya launched a report on 100% Renewable Energy (RE) scenario in Kenya by 2050 as part of the East African Civil Society for Sustainable Energy and Climate Action (EASE&CA) Project that is being implemented in Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda. The scenario for Kenya by 2050 was developed in collaboration with national and county governments, academia, private sector, Non-State actors and others involved in implementation of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 7.

The virtual event was presided over by the Ministry of energy and attended by National CSOs, GIZ, WWF, academia, private sectors, EASE&CA partners and SusWatch Officials. During the Launch, Mr. Omwenga, The principal Renewable Energy Officer, Renewable Energy Directorate, Ministry of Energy said, “An important aspect of this project feeds in to the national energy priorities including Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and Long-term low Emission Development Strategies (LEDS) to the Paris Agreement, as well as national activities to implement SDG7 (clean energy), including the Sustainable Energy for All strategies. Meaningful participation by civil society organizations in the energy sector is widely recognized as being essential to the process as they act as trusted intermediaries between government, the private sector, and energy users on the ground, as well as having expertise in designing and delivering energy services, particularly for poor and vulnerable groups”.

The Report gives an overview of the Kenyan situation regarding energy supply and demand, and presents a scenario for how Kenya can move into a 100% renewable energy economy until 2050 and at the same time move from a lower middle income country into an upper middle income country as well as reduce biomass use for energy to sustainable levels. It also gives specific proposals that lead to 100% renewable energy development resulting to increased electricity production from renewables, the change of the total primary energy demand to 100% renewables, reduced CO2 emissions, and estimates of costs of energy supply in the scenarios in 2030 and 2050.

The proposals put forward to lead to 100% renewable energy development include: change to more efficient cooking, including efficient electric cooking and new highly efficient wood and charcoal stoves; change of transport gradually to electricity, hydrogen and new fuels; make charcoal production much more efficient, increase conversion efficiency from wood to charcoal from around 10% today to 25%; expand wind power to 9,000 MegaWatt (MWe); expand solar power to 17,000 MWe; expand geothermal power to 5,600 MWe; expand electric international interconnectors to 3,000 MWe capacity and use biomass power plants to balance demand and supply, in addition to existing hydro power

Through the EASE&CA project, International Network for Sustainable Energy, Uganda Coalition for Sustainable Development, Nordic Folkecenter for Renewable Energy, Tanzania Traditional Energy Development Organization and Sustainable Environment Development Watch Kenya seek to increase access to sustainable energy and other climate solutions to local communities in Uganda, Kenya and Tanzania with both women’s and men’s full and effective participation and leadership for improved livelihoods and reduction of poverty. **The Full 100% Renewable Energy Scenario in Kenya by 2050 (August 2020) is available from:** <https://www.suswatchkenya.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/100-Renewable-Energy-Plan-for-Kenya-by-2050-12-08-2020.pdf>

## UCSD Joins Regional Initiative to Revive InterAgency Coordination for Lake Victoria Basin Development



Interagency coordination crucial to serve the poor & vulnerable

Lake Victoria is important for human development and the preservation of ecosystems and biodiversity of the entire East and Central Africa region. As a critical element of the water cycle, the Lake sustains aquatic biodiversity and provides livelihoods, socio-economic and aesthetic benefits that are essential for the quality of life in the lake basin community. Such benefits are shared along river systems that either feed or are fed from the lake and transverse national and regional boundaries.

Various institutions and agencies are at the core of the Lake Victoria Basin sustainable management, each with unique but mutually supportive roles. Some institutions administer the laws and establish policies and rules for management of the resource, others provide a forum for involving those affected by Lake Basin management in improving conditions including conflict resolution, and yet others collect and store knowledge for informed action.

In a bid to create synergies, in 2006/7, the Lake Victoria Regional Local Authorities Cooperation (LVRLAC) and the Nile Basin Initiative took lead in establishing the Lake Victoria InterAgency Partner's Forum for stakeholder dialogue, consultation, and joint action. This was later renamed '*Mtazamo Wa Pamoja*'. The formation of the LPIANF spearheaded by the Nile Basin Initiative, LVRLAC, UN Habitat, and the *East African Sustainability Watch Network* (c/o Uganda Coalition for Sustainable Development), was therefore an attempt to leverage the benefits of interagency cooperation to strengthen synergy for effective impact evaluation. Unfortunately, the initiative lost momentum from 2009 onwards as it was anchored on projects that had to come to an end.

On September 3, 2020 a proposal to revive the Lead Partners Interagency Forum Network was unanimously agreed upon by a virtual meeting convened by LVRLAC. The meeting was also introduced to the Lake Victoria Basin Ecosystem (LVBE) for consideration for nomination and eventual designation by the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) as a Transboundary Biosphere Reserve. This has been followed up by continued planning meetings that have brought on board new actors like UNESCO and the Lake Region Economic Bloc (LREB), reviewed the current state of actors and issues at hand as well as opportunities and challenges.

Dr. Ali Matano noted 'the Shared Vision of Lake Victoria Basin (*A prosperous population living in a healthy and sustainably managed environment providing equitable opportunities and benefits*) and its 5 key policy areas should remain as a guide for aspiration of LPIANF, as it is a culmination of views from over 10,000 people in the Lake Victoria region in Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda'. George Wasonga who was at the helm of the LPIANF formation noted, 'in re-casting, it is important to take forward the motivation of this Forum which was interagency networking, information, capacity building, synergy with LVBC and quick-wins'. He pointed out the missing link as being sustained institutional anchor, sustained common interest, sustained action agenda and sustained measure of benefit. He highlighted the current challenges as being the changing Lake Ecosystem, climate change induced variations to the Lake environment; the socio-economic conditions and the COVID19 pandemic.

As a follow up, LVRLAC plans to continue virtual planning meetings. Among others, one such meeting has involved a subcommittee chaired by Dr. Matano (LVBC) that includes Mr. Alex Kivumbi and M. Sebuliba (LVRLAC Uganda), Mr. George Wasonga (Civil Society Urban Development Platform - Kenya), Mr. Billy Brown (LVRLAC Tanzania) and Ms. B. Kyamazima (youths) and Mr. Kimbowa (EA Suswatch Network / UCSD as members, to come up with a draft LPIANF goal, purpose and strategies for discussion at the broader forum in early October. **For more information about this initiative, please contact: Mr. Mercy Sebuliba on email: [theprojectofficer@lvrlac.net](mailto:theprojectofficer@lvrlac.net)**

## World Marks Clean Air Day, Highlights Plight of the ‘Forgotten’ 3 billion Poor



For the first time ever, the world marked the International Day of Clean Air for blue skies on 7 September. Adopted by a UN General Assembly Resolution in 2019, the International Day of Clean Air for blue skies – whose observance is facilitated by the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) – stresses the importance of and urgent need to raise public awareness at all levels and to promote and facilitate actions to improve air quality.

According to the UNEP Global Environment Monitoring System, in 1988 only 20 percent of the world's 2.26 billion urban dwellers at that time lived in cities where air quality is acceptable. About 3 billion people cook and heat their homes using solid fuels (i.e. wood, crop residues, charcoal, coal and dung) in open fires and leaky stoves. Most of these are poor people, which live in low and middle income countries including East Africa. Furthermore, each year, more than 4 million people die prematurely from illnesses attributable to domestic air pollution from cooking with solid fuels and kerosene. Almost half of pneumonia deaths in children under 5 are due to inhalation of particulate matter from indoor air pollution. The UN Secretary General António Guterres underscored this when he noted that, “The extent of this challenge requires decisive action on the part of governments, businesses and communities to end reliance on fossil fuels in favour of clean affordable renewable energy’.

As part of this observance, a webinar on Improving Air Quality in African Cities: A way to prevent and mitigate COVID19-like pandemics was organized by UNEP on 7 September 2020. This Webinar brought together National focal points for relevant chemicals and waste Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) in Africa; United Nations Country Teams; Air quality management practitioners at city and national level; Technical experts in Air Quality management; and decision makers. According to Dr Magaran Monzon Bagayoko from the World Health Organization, “inefficient cooking fuels and technologies produce high levels of household air pollution with a range of health damaging pollutants including small soot particles that penetrate deep into the lungs. The poorly ventilated dwellings, indoor smoke can be 100 times higher than acceptable levels for fine particles. Exposure is particularly high among women and young children, who spend the most time near the domestic fireplace”.

According to the United States Environment Protection Agency, “Changes in climate can result in impacts to local air quality. Atmospheric warming associated with climate change has the potential to increase ground-level ozone in many regions, which may present challenges for compliance with the ozone standards in the future. The impact of climate change on other air pollutants, such as particulate matter, is less certain, but research is underway to address these uncertainties. Emissions of pollutants into the air can result in changes to the climate. Ozone in the atmosphere warms the climate, while different components of particulate matter can have either warming or cooling effects on the climate. For example, black carbon, a particulate pollutant from combustion, contributes to the warming of the Earth, while particulate sulphates cool the earth's atmosphere”. Efforts on air pollution reduction and fighting climate changes can mutually strengthen each other: improving air quality can enhance climate change mitigation, and climate change mitigation efforts can improve air quality.

Therefore, to address the plight of the 3 billion people facing indoor pollution, both practical and strategic actions must be taken. While marking the International Day of Clean Air for blue skies is a (belated) step in the right direction, a lot more is yet to be done. For example, local solutions that empower women and young children who spend the most time near the domestic fireplace must be an area of action. Scaling up access to clean cooking should be part of Local and Central Government development planning and budgeting in low-income countries towards 2030 if indoor pollution is to be branded a thing of the past.