

## THE EAST AFRICAN SUSWATCH E-BULLETIN

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

### INFORSE Partners highlight Local Climate and Energy Solutions from East Africa and South Asia at the UN HLPF 2021



Health centers need Low cost reliable renewable energy access to power equipment. Photo: JEEP

The high-level political forum on sustainable development (HLPF) is the core United Nations platform for follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 SDGs.

The theme of the 2021 HPLF was "Sustainable and resilient recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic that promotes the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development: building an inclusive and effective path for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda in the context of the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development".

INFORSE Network partners in East Africa and Partners in South Asia lead by Grameen Shakti and All India Women's Conference (AIWC) organized a side event on July 13, 2021 titled: *Local Climate Solutions for a Sustainable & Resilient Recovery from COVID-19 Pandemic in East Africa, & South Asia; Women's Role; 100% Renewables as Driver for Climate Mitigation from Denmark to Kenya, Globally.*

Mary Swai from TaTEDO (Tanzania) made a presentation on the Catalogue comprising over 60 local sustainable energy and climate solutions in East Africa, that have been compiled by Partners working under the East African Civil Society for Sustainable Energy and Climate Actions (EASE-CA) who have good track-record on development and promotion of practical climate local solutions that solve energy, water, food insecurity for local communities. She noted that the Catalogue (that is available online: <http://localsolutions.inforse.org/>) provides details on socio-economic benefits of the technology, costs for acquiring, lifespan, challenges and limitations, motivation for success, contribution to climate effect, financing & business models and short video on construction and use.

Justus Munyoki from SusWatch Kenya made a presentation on the 100 % renewables scenarios for Kenya. He noted that integrating 100% RE pathways aims to achieve stable energy access for everybody while eradicating poverty, in addition to being an obligation for countries who signed both Agenda 2030 and the Paris Agreement. Kimbowa Richard from UCSD highlighted the importance of the 100% Renewable Energy pathway for Uganda for a Sustainable & Resilient Recovery from COVID-19, noting that households and health centers need of reliable and affordable power. 'Low cost reliable renewable energy access to power equipment, for example to support the ongoing countrywide vaccination exercise; and to enable uninterrupted attendance to the burgeoning number of the sick'

Sohel Ahmed from Grameen Shakti (Bangladesh) made a presentation on the Eco-village Development (EVD) - an integrated socio-economic development concept, in which individual solution combines in clusters to provide synergic benefit to the community. The EVD concept has also been applied in India, Nepal, and Srilanka with poverty- reducing and climate mitigating effects at the local level.

Read more about the Catalogue on Local solutions from: <http://localsolutions.inforse.org/> and the EVD from: [https://www.inforse.org/asia/Pub\\_EcoVillageDev\\_TOT\\_Manual\\_SouthAsia.htm](https://www.inforse.org/asia/Pub_EcoVillageDev_TOT_Manual_SouthAsia.htm)

## SusWatch Kenya Proposals to Power Kenya with 100% Renewable Energy Until 2050



Report calls for prioritization of efficient cooking. Photo TaTEDO

Energy transition is already happening in Kenya, as the country gradually de-emphasizes high carbon fuel oil for power generation while prioritizing renewable primary energy (geothermal, wind and solar). High carbon coal, whether imported or from Kitui prospects, is not a viable option for national power generation.

Leaving coal and oil buried in the ground is gradually becoming a near reality, not imaginable a few years ago. A trend being experienced by new fossil fuel prospects around the world. However, should Kenya discover natural gas it could be accommodated into the power generation mix, as this resource is considered a relatively lower carbon transition energy resource.

The Kenya Government’s “Big 4 Agenda” comprising of Food and Nutrition, Security, Manufacturing, Affordable Housing and Healthcare, unveiled by the President in 2017, is dependent on provision of adequate and competitively-priced energy.

Among the challenges facing Kenya’s energy sector include high electricity tariffs to the manufacturing industry which is lowering Kenyan goods competitive both locally and internationally and to exploit other alternative sources of energy, including power resources such as solar, wind, coal and bio-gas. Related to this is the low investment in the power sector by private investors, while use of new technology such as smart metering to improve billings and collections needs to be scaled up.

Furthermore, the slow expansion to underserved areas – mainly rural areas and the need to strengthen the regulatory framework to encourage competition and efficiency within the sector is a major hindrance.

In view of the above, SusWatch Kenya has invested in the promotion of pro-poor low emission development strategies in East Africa. This has been primarily through promoting community level best practices in the energy sector while at the same time influencing favorable policies are put in place, and ensuring the Civil Society voice is considered in decision making processes.

Through promotion of sustainable energy and climate solutions in East Africa, SusWatch Kenya is currently implementing the East African Civil Society for Sustainable Energy and Climate Action (EASE CA) Project, alongside Partners in Tanzania, Uganda and Denmark. Part of this has involved development of Reports on 100% Renewable Energy Plan for Kenya.

The Plan gives an overview of the Kenyan situation regarding energy supply and demand, and presents a scenario on 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 focuses on how to supply energy for Kenya’s development with renewable energy and how to limit energy use with modern, energy efficient technologies. The report provides specific proposals leading to 100% renewable energy development. These include increased electricity production from renewables, the change of the total primary energy demand to 100% renewables, and biomass sustainability with reduced biomass demand. The Report proposes prioritizing of efficient cooking, and making charcoal production much more efficient, from less than 15% today to 33% by 2050. **Read the full SusWatch Kenya 100% Renewable Energy Plan for Kenya from:** <https://www.suswatchkenya.org/100-renewable-energy-plan-for-kenya-by-2050/>

## Africa Must Fight its Way Out of the Myriad ‘Exclusion Fronts’– SDG Report (2021)



On July 22, 2021, The Sustainable Development Goals Center for Africa (The SDGCA) held a virtual international conference to discuss social inclusion in Africa with a theme *Africa 2030: SDGs within Social Boundaries*. The main objective of this conference was to present the key findings of the Report: *Africa 2030: SDGs within Social Boundaries – Leave No One Behind Outlook* and create a multispectral platform to debate on the progress made, challenges faced and what should be done with perspective of advancing social inclusion in Africa.

The Conference also gathered senior officials of UN agencies (UNECA, UNDP, FAO and UNEP), Professor Jeffery D. Sachs, Director of the Center for Sustainable Development at Columbia University and the Board Member of The SDGCA, Eng. Hani Salem Sonbol, Chief Executive Officer, International Islamic Trade Finance Corporation, Acting Director General of The SDGCA, Ms. Caroline Makasa, distinguished academicians from renowned universities, financial institutions and development actors. During this event, speakers highlighted efforts and strategies instigated by countries and organizations in implementing SDGs, challenges and status of social inclusion in Africa; and ultimately proposed strategies to ensure SDGs are met within social boundaries without leaving anybody behind.

In her opening remarks, Hon. Lumumba from Uganda appreciated that the conference was a timely initiative and highlighted Uganda’s progress in implementing the SDGs including integrating SDGs in the national development plans. Hon Dr. Uzziel Ndagijimana, Minister of Finance and Economic Planning (Rwanda), highlighted key challenges faced by African countries in realization of SDGs and how COVID-19 is worsening the already fragile situation and put achievement of SDGs at risk.

According to the SDGCA, ‘ The Forum enabled honest reflection of the perspectives on progress made on achievement of SDGs, lessons learnt, and the right way forward in advancing social inclusion in Africa’. The key thematic areas of discussion revolved around education for all, youth and agriculture, food system and food security, inclusive health, energy and women in Africa, universal and equitable access to infrastructure, financial inclusion and women inclusion across SDGs.

Professor Jeffery D. Sachs, Director of the Center for Sustainable Development at Columbia University noted that SDGs are an investment agenda in key sectors which requires mobilization of finance for implementation. He highlighted that the tragedy and the central challenge is that African countries are left behind without access to finance as they are not considered credit worthy to borrow from international market. ‘Developed countries have not delivered what they have affirmed in Paris agreement to mobilize \$100 billion annual contribution to scale up climate finance’, he added. Sachs further observed that COVID-19 vaccines are hoarded by rich countries and that any tangible plan has not been put in place as a way forward to reach out poor countries. He concluded that, ‘acceleration of SDGs in Africa requires mobilization of adequate financing and one of the ways of realizing this objective is pressing the representation of AU (like European Union) to be a part of G20 and participation of AU in the imminent financial meetings’

Dr. Enock Nyorekwa Twinoburyo - Senior Economist at The SDGCA, presented the findings of “Africa 2030: SDGs within Social Boundaries – Leave No One Behind” noting that covid19 has exacerbated poverty, inequality, and broader exclusions in Africa. **Read the Full Report from: [https://sdgcafrica.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/20210721\\_Full\\_Report\\_Final\\_Web\\_En.pdf](https://sdgcafrica.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/20210721_Full_Report_Final_Web_En.pdf)**