

## UCSD News Bulletin June 2009

Monthly News Bulletin from the Secretariat of Uganda Coalition for Sustainable Development (UCSD)  
*Bio and beyond.....*

---

### **East African SusWatch attends the EAC Common Market negotiations in Kigali**

Rwanda, Tanzania, Burundi, Kenya and Uganda are Parties to the Treaty for the establishment of the East African Community and undertake to establish among themselves a Common Market as a transitional stage to and integral part of the community. The Partner states agreed in the initial meetings to establish the East African Community Common Market. The overall objective of the Common Market is to widen and deepen cooperation among the partner states in the economic and social fields. Hence, the High Level Task Force (HLTF) was formed to negotiate for the directives, regulations, schedules and Annexes to the EAC Common Market Protocol. The HLTF is a team of technical people/experts handling the technical part before the protocol is submitted to Policy Makers and Heads of States to approve, and sign it; and partner states to ratify it.

UCSD / the East African SusWatch Network was invited by the Uganda Ministry of East African Community Affairs to a HLTF negotiation meeting on directives, regulations, schedules and annexes to the EAC Common Market Protocol at the Serena Hotel in Kigali, Rwanda June 8 – 17, 2009. Signing of this Protocol by EAC Summit of the Heads of State in November 2009 is expected to lay the basis for Partner States to embark on fast tracking the subsequent building blocks of the Community - the Monetary Union and ultimately the East African Political Federation. The Customs Union has been in operation since 2005.

Agreement has been reached on elimination of tariff, non-tariff and technical barriers to trade, harmonizing and mutual recognition of standards; Implementing common foreign trade policy; *Progressive* removal of restrictions on movement of labour, harmonizing labour policies, programs, legislation, social services, providing for the transfer of social security benefits and establishing common standards and measures for association of workers and employers, establishing employment policy; *Progressive* removal of measures that restrict movement of services and service suppliers, harmonizing standards to ensure acceptability of services traded; *Progressive* elimination of foreign exchange markets, convertibility of currencies, investment in capital markets (stock exchange) eventually leading to an integrated financial system; *Progressively* ease cross boarder movement of persons and eventually adopting an integrated boarder management system; *Progressive* permission to establish businesses and allow those who have established such businesses to reside in the partner states territory in accordance with the policies and laws of a partner state; and *Progressive* elimination of the restrictions on the establishment and residence of nationals of other partner states and restrictions on the rights of self employed persons, workers and their families to reside in the member states in accordance of the protocol.

However, in addition for the need to clarify terms like '*Progressive*', there remains disagreement including: land ownership, issuance of regional identity cards and permanent residence. Public awareness about the EAC Common Market Protocol is also a huge task ahead

### **The January – June 2009 Issue of the East African SusWatchdog Newsletter**

The bilingual January - June issue of *The East African SusWatchdog* Newsletter that is expected to be ready for dissemination mid July 2009 is focusing on *social development, forests, soil and land management in the Lake Victoria basin*. Read about: *Oil Palm Project on Buggala Islands: A threat to native forests?*; *East African CSOs at the Kyoto World Water Grand Prize during the March 16 – 22, 2009 Fifth World Water Forum in Istanbul (Turkey)*; *Climate Change: perspectives from Africa and the global South*, *Promoting watershed management approach in the Lake Victoria basin: Reflections from India*, and a lot more. Copies will be available at TCSD, Kenya SusWatch Network (c/o KOEE) and UCSD Secretariats as well as some upcoming related regional and national events.

## Ugandan firm wins the Ashden Award – Transforming agricultural waste into a sustainable energy source.

*“The major value of these awards is that they demonstrate what is possible, not only for small scale projects, but what is achievable for the whole world.” - HRH The Prince of Wales, speaking at the Ashden Awards ceremony, June 11 2009 in London.*

This year the Kampala Jellitone Suppliers Ltd (also a coffee processor) won the [Ashden International Award for Avoided Deforestation](#), supported by Waterloo Foundation, for producing non-char biomass briquettes made from agricultural waste. Currently KJS sells about 130 tonnes of briquettes every month to 31 schools, universities and hospitals for cooking, and to five factories to produce heat. Processing of commercial crops generates large volumes of biomass residues including rice and peanut husks, coffee pulp and maize stalks.

The Ashden Awards bring to light inspiring sustainable energy solutions in the UK and developing world and help ensure that they are spread more widely. From an entrepreneur rolling out solar power across rural India to a school adopting clean energy and green learning in England, winners are passionate about bringing change to their communities and the planet.

Since the [Ashden Awards for Sustainable Energy](#) was set up in 2001 it has helped more than 100 innovative projects develop their work. Today the Awards are an internationally recognised yardstick for excellence in the field of sustainable energy. Winners from all corners of the globe are presented with prizes in a prestigious ceremony in London, to help further their work. According to the promoters, Ashden Awards are beyond receiving the prize, as it is part of a broader process that's designed to last – sharing knowledge, passing on experience and offering advice and support where it's wanted. Read more about the [Kampala Jellitone Suppliers Ltd](#), whose business is set to double over the next two years targeting to expand to other African markets.

## UCSD to champion the pro-poor dimensions in Reduced Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation (REDD)

Reduced Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation (REDD), which is about carbon emission reductions, has become a preferred term for climate change negotiators. REDD is supposed to complement the afforestation/ reforestation (A/R) mechanisms. In this case, countries that are willing and able to reduce emissions from deforestation should be financially compensated for doing so. While tropical forests hold about 50% more carbon per hectare than trees outside the tropics, everyday, deforestation emits carbon dioxide equivalent to 12.5 million people flying from New York to London (GCP, 2008).

In 2005, a group of countries formally reinitiated a debate on policies and incentives to reduce emissions from deforestation in developing countries (REDD), as a contribution to climate change mitigation in general and has since gained global interest. It is now a major issue if debate as part of the on going Climate talks that are expected to culminate in Copenhagen in December 2009.

As part of *building southern capacity to champion the pro-poor dimensions of REDD* (always neglected or come secondary), noting the need to bring to the front regular information, social and equity issues along technical and scientific matters, UCSD as the Africa Partner will work with **Overseas Development Institute** (UK), **Centro Agronómico Tropical de Investigación y Enseñanza** (Costa Rica ) and **Regional Community Forestry Training Centre for Asia and the Pacific** (Thailand) under the REDD-Net Project. For more information about the REDD- Net Project supported by the Norwegian Forest Initiative, please contact: [ugandacoalition@infocom.co.ug](mailto:ugandacoalition@infocom.co.ug)

## Resources and upcoming events

### Denmark's host country website UN Climate Change Conference 2009

The Fifteenth Conference of Parties (COP 15) United Nations Conference consisting of environment ministers will meet from 7 to 18 December 2009 in the Bella Centre in Copenhagen. **The overall goal for the 2009 (COP 15) United Nations Climate Change Conference hosted by Denmark is to establish an ambitious global climate agreement for the period from 2012.**

For regular views, news and opinions in the build up to COP15, visit [Denmark's host country website UN Climate Change Conference 2009](#)

### How global co-operation is key to a fair and adequate climate deal at Copenhagen?

According to a report released by Oxfam at the UN talks in Bonn early this month, rich countries have a 'double duty' to cut emissions at home and to help fund emissions reductions in poor countries in order to get a fair and safe climate deal. The report '[Hang Together or Separately?](#)', launched, says that only rich countries can break the deadlock now crippling international climate negotiations and prevent the world lurching into climate disaster.

The Report recommends that: **Copenhagen must deliver a fair and adequate climate deal:** one that keeps global warming as far below 2°C as possible, and that reflects the historical responsibility for emissions and the economic capability of developed countries; **Rich countries must agree binding individual country targets** that cut greenhouse gas emissions to at least 40 per cent below 1990 levels by 2020; **A UNFCCC Mitigation and Finance Mechanism must be established** to match mitigation actions from developing countries with the required finance from rich countries - \$100bn per year as an absolute minimum; and that **Rich countries must agree to provide sufficient funding for capacity-building**, mitigation and adaptation, through the purchase of their Assigned Amount Units (AAUs) from the UNFCCC Mitigation and Finance Mechanism. Read a summary of the report: [128 Oxfam Briefing Paper: Hang Together or Separately? How global cooperation is key to a fair and adequate climate deal at Copenhagen](#)

### Food security in Africa: Lessons learned from the food crisis (UNCTAD, 2009)

A Report, prepared by the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) for the 47th session of the Trade and Development Board indicates that the food security situation of African countries could further deteriorate if low productivity and market regulation issues are not addressed. The report indicates that **out of 36 countries worldwide facing a food security crisis, 21 are African**. It estimates that over **300 million Africans are facing chronic hunger**. The report calls for action based on lessons of the 2008 food crisis. [Read the full report](#)