

## UCSD News Bulletin July 2009

Monthly News Bulletin from the Secretariat of Uganda Coalition for Sustainable Development (UCSD)

*Rio and beyond.....*

---

### **Growing famine and hunger around us: *Beyond handouts***

It is clear that the food situation in East Africa is worsening as evidenced in media reports since the start of 2009. For example, according to *The Sundaynews* of Tanzania, while closing the 16<sup>th</sup> session of the National Assembly at the end of last week, Tanzanian Prime Minister – The Rt. Hon Mizengo Pinda, warned of a looming famine in Arusha, Kilimanjaro, Manyara, Tabora, Tanga, Ruvuma, Morogoro and Coast regions. Other regions that could face a similar predicament include Shinyanga, Mwanza, and Mara

In Kenya, as early as this year, the food situation has demanded emergency response as communities recover from the effects of the 2007 post –election violence coupled with extended dry spells and sporadic rains. In Uganda, the situation is no different, since the start of this year, there have been reports of escalating famine and hunger that is now close to 50% of the districts for which Uganda has been ill-prepared. Leaving aside, the politically charged discussion on the cause of famine, we propose that, quick but long-term strategies to address this additional development challenge from local to regional level is urgently needed, instead of short-term handouts (involving declaration of disaster zones and sending SOS to the international community) as a sole option.

**Strategies like food storage (especially cereals that are our key source of food) by national Governments and supporting vulnerable households to store food should famine and drought strike, must be urgently taken up as deliberate part of a pro-poor public expenditure in agricultural development (through extension support).**

**In addition, the regional nature of the famine and hunger challenge in the East African region now calls for the East African Community to put in place measures and additional mechanisms to those at national level, to mitigate drought and effects of climate change and other external food shocks. For example, package information to the most vulnerable communities and geographical areas so as to prepare for impending droughts and likely famines; develop and promote food security-conscious trade and investment in this region.**

### **East African SusWatch Network's Lake Victoria Project under Evaluation**

The process to evaluate SusWatch's East African Civil Society Watchdog (EA Suswatch) project of sustainable development in the Lake Victoria basin that sought to *"to build capacity of CSOs' of the three networks in collective advocacy and lobbying activities aimed at supporting/enhancing sustainable development policies at local, national and regional levels"* is underway. The Evaluation team has already had national level consultations in Uganda and Kenya. In Tanzania, due to the necessity to give TCSD more time to organize respondents, the process will take place from week starting August 10. The final report is expected after mid September 2009. **The outcome of this Evaluation is expected to provide lessons for the expected Phase 2 of the Project.**

### **SusWatch planning for follow up phase**

Parallel to the Evaluation process, SusWatch is also undertaking a process to follow up (Phase 2) of the current Lake Victoria project. **The process involves information review and consultations; carrying out national consultations within the partner networks Executive / Steering Committees on the draft Logical Framework developed from the above process; and incorporation of the findings, suggestions and recommendations from the evaluation process (above).**

## **REDDnet Project inception meeting held in UK**

David Mwayafu and Richard Kimbowa on behalf of UCSD attended the inception workshop 13 - 17 July 2009 for the REDDnet Project - an initiative launching in July 2009 to establish a network for supporting Southern civil society to champion the interests of the poor in reducing emissions from deforestation and degradation (REDD). The initiative is being funded by the Norwegian Government and the World Bank and will initially run for three years. It is being run by a consortium of partners including, ODI (UK), RECOFTC (Thailand), CATIE (Costa Rica), Uganda Coalition for Sustainable Development (UCSD, Uganda). It aims to do this by building capacity through the development of a REDD practitioner network, facilitating the two-way transfer of knowledge within the practitioner community by the sharing of field experiences and pilot activities, and the development of tools and thematic analyses to help shape REDD policies and projects on a global scale.

At the start of the workshop a dialogue on **“What is the state of art on the socio-economic implications of reducing emissions from deforestation and degradation (REDD)?”** attended by participants from 18 UK and REDDnet institutions. Presentations were made from the World Bank, ODI, CATIE and Birdlife.

The rest of the inception workshop involved clarifying the REDDnet vision and mission, funding issues, audience and membership, structure and activities and themes among other things. The first phase of the project (July - December 2009) to start with Uganda and Tanzania, will involve scoping and case studies, workshops with audiences, preparation of bulletins, thematic and analytical papers. For a copy of the outcome of the dialogue outcome: **“What is the state of art on the socio-economic implications of reducing emissions from deforestation and degradation (REDD)?”** and other planned activities, please contact David Mwayafu: [dmwayafu@ugandacoalition.or.ug](mailto:dmwayafu@ugandacoalition.or.ug)

## **SusWatch trained in Results - Based Management**

15 SusWatch participants from UCSD, Kenya SusWatch Network and Tanzania Coalition for Sustainable Development attended a tailor- made Results Based Management (RBM) training, July 27 - 31, 2009 at MS-Training Centre for Development Cooperation (MS-TCDC), Action Aid Denmark in Arusha Tanzania. *The training involved introduction to concepts, principles and key elements of RBM; defining the development results chain; managing assumptions and risks; development of performance measurement framework; managing for results; project information management and decision making.* **It is expected that the skills and knowledge will be useful in the (current) process of developing Phase 2 of the SusWatch Project on Lake Victoria as well as improved reporting based on results in the long-run**

## **Resources and Training opportunities**

### **Photography Campaign: Humanizing Development Global**

This Global Campaign was launched by the UNDP International Policy Centre for Inclusive Growth (IPC-IG) in collaboration with over 30 partners worldwide on 1 June 2009, in order to show development through a new lens, depicting examples of people winning the battle against poverty, social exclusion and marginalization, rather than the usual desolation and despair we see in the media. The campaign aims at showing hope and success of development initiatives, empowering and inspiring people!

Debate on *Humanizing Development* has been sparked bright by campaign partner *Ideas for Development Blog*. In the discussion forum they have created, you have the chance to share thoughts, information and ideas on “the common goal of advancing the cause of development”. The [Humanizing Development Global Photography Campaign](http://www.ideas4development.org/humanizing-development/en/) website has received 35,000 visitors since the campaign launch, and hundreds of beautiful pictures! Photos keep flowing in every day from all corners of the world - from Saudi Arabia to Argentina, Nepal to Uganda, Indonesia to Switzerland! **Be part of the discussion; send us your thoughts at <http://www.ideas4development.org/humanizing-development/en/> !**

### **Free online self guided Course on REDD**

The Nature Conservancy, Conservation International, the Climate, Community, and Biodiversity Alliance, GTZ, the Rainforest Alliance, and the World Wildlife Fund, have created a self-guided online course on REDD. The course features 14 fun and interactive lessons that provide a comprehensive overview of REDD. The course is free and available to all at: <http://www.conservationtraining.org/>

### **Climate Change and Technology Transfer: The Need for a Regional Perspective**

The international negotiations on climate change actions, including mechanisms for the efficient and equitable transfer of technologies for mitigation and adaptation, are currently being deliberated under the auspices of the UNFCCC Bali Road Map and are at a crucial stage. The discussions stress the need for countries to move effectively from emission and impact assessments to project and programme implementation.

This brief suggests that it is essential to incorporate a regional perspective on technology transfers and that regional technology innovation centres be established to tailor technology development and adaptation better to regional and country needs. Regional mechanisms that allow for pooling of resources and achieving economies of scale could provide a bridge between what global arrangements can offer and what developing countries need in terms of cost-effective action programmes tailored to their own context. [Read this view in the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs Policy Brief No.18](#)