

UCSD News Bulletin November 2009

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

World Fisheries Day 2009: SusWatch on Beach Management Units on Lake Victoria

The Partner States of the East African Community (EAC) adopted fisheries co-management in their national fisheries policies and, together as the Lake Victoria Fisheries Organization (LVFO), are implementing the approach on Lake Victoria through Beach Management Units (BMUs). These have since become the foundation of fisheries co-management in East Africa, working with local and national government, the private sector processing industry and non-governmental organizations.

However, BMU practice in the three countries is different from the above policy, as evidenced by the serious decline in the Nile Perch stocks in 2009 and the continued presence of illegal methods of fishing (LVFO, 2009). As part of the World Fisheries Day 2009, the East African SusWatch Network and ECOVIC Uganda Chapter organized a One - day Seminar that brought together BMU representatives and CSOs from Uganda, Kenya and Tanzania to share experience with LVFO and the Uganda National Fisheries Resources and Research Institute (NaFIRRI) totaling to 30 participants, at Brisk Recreation Center in Jinja (Uganda) on November 24, 2009.

From the group discussions plenary sessions on the challenges; proposals to develop and strengthening accountable BMUs, participants came out with 5 areas (and responsible institutions identified) to improve BMU operations in within a year. These include: remittance of the 25 % revenue collected by local authorities to BMUs as a way of 'ploughing back' to support their myriad development needs; Building capacity through training, and financial support; exchange visits involving BMUs within the Lake region to share experiences as part of wider learning opportunities; Creation of awareness amongst fishers about policies, guidelines, laws and bye-laws related to fisheries and related aspects; and improve the health of fishers through hygiene, sanitation and HIV/ AIDs awareness, provision of facilities to counter malaria and cholera outbreaks **among others.** Find one the Presentations made by NaFIRRI on **Uganda's experiences with BMUs** and LVFO presentation: *Overview of the BMU mandate, structures, challenges and proposals for their strengthening and improvement:* www.ugandacoalition.or.ug

SusWatch Lake Victoria Clean Up event held in Shinyanga (Tanzania)

Waste management in the Lake Victoria region is one of the leading challenges for urban development, ranging from hazardous to non-hazardous waste. In order to contribute to more awareness and action on proper handling of waste in a hospital setting, Tanzania Coalition for Sustainable Development on behalf of the East African SusWatch Network organised a Clean Up event in Shinyanga Regional Hospital, highlighting the need to handle the non- infectious waste which can be deposited as household waste, from hazardous and infectious ones which need special care.

The event involved CBOs, CSOs, Medical Officers, Religious Groups, environmental frontiers and Nurses. The exercise took up to three hours and was supervised by Mr. Stephen Mwombeki, Health Environmental department from Shinyanga Hospital in selected waste area in the Hospital. The five area selected participants participated in collection, transportation and disposal of the solid waste to collection point. The Regional Medial Officer - Mr. Muniko who participated in this exercise took part in planting trees offered by Shinyanga Green Group. Mr Godwin Kalokola (TCSD) also planted a tree on behalf of the participating CSOs and CBOs.

EAC integration: A view from SusWatch for the EAC at 10 years

After attending a training course on East African Community Integration that took place from 9th -13th, November, 2009 in Nairobi Kenya, it provided an opportunity for the six East African Suswatch Network participants to express commitment to the activities of East African Community agenda and to collectively implement the actions envisaged in the EAC Treaty and protocol as provided in their Communiqué' on East African Community Integration.

Among other recommendations, the SusWatch participants called for more training of CSOs is needed at both Local, National and Regional level on the EAC integration process; need to start consultative processes with the Secretary General at the national levels; and the need to secure access to information and its dissemination to a wider EAC citizenry. *Read the full SusWatch participants' Communiqué on the EAC Integration from: <http://www.ugandacoalition.or.ug/uploads/statement/East%20African%20Suswatch%20Communique20091.pdf>*

UCSD elects new Executive Committee at its AGM 2009

UCSD held its AGM on November 6, 2009 at which members received progress and financial report from the secretariat, adopted amendments to the Constitution and elected new office bearers who will serve for next three years. The new office bearers include Mr. Nicholas Senyonjo (UEEF) as Chairman (taking over from Mr Frank Muramuzi); Ms Sarah Kisolo (RUDMEC) as Vice Chairman; Mr John Kagambirwe (UGRC) as Secretary General and Mr David Ssemwogerere (Development Plus) elected as Treasurer. Committee members elected include Ramadhan Kalanzi (UFDA), Jeniffer Ochwo (ECOVIC Uganda Chapter), Rose Namirembe (JCI), Grace Bakyayita (KIU) and John Kaganga (KEA). The incoming Chairman – Mr Nicholas Senyonjo thanked Sida and other development partners for the support extended to UCSD and the East African SusWatch Network and called for more partnership that involve civil society in Uganda and East Africa.

East African Workshop on Visioning REDD held in Kampala

Climate change is one of the biggest global problems posing challenges to sustainable livelihoods and economic development, particularly for Developing Countries. The adverse impacts of climate change on environment, human health, food security, human settlements, economic activities, natural resources and physical infrastructure are already noticeable in many African countries.

There are a large number of global and national efforts to address the problem of climate change through adaptation and mitigation activities. The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) recognises various mitigation and adaptation options including forestry activities. The Reduced Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD) is one such initiative that is under intense discussion for inclusion in the successor treaty to the Kyoto Protocol expected December 7 - 18, 2009 in Copenhagen, Denmark

Civil Society contribution to this global discussion includes REDD-net for which UCSD is a partner in Africa, that aims to build capacity of Southern Civil Society to champion the interests of the poor in the area of REDD. Owing to the intense debate around REDD and the rather low input from East African CSOs, despite the implications it has on this region, UCSD on behalf of REDD-net organised a Regional Workshop on: **Visioning REDD in East Africa on November 12, 2009 at Grand Imperial Hotel in Kampala. The Workshop sought to discuss and share: the state of the art of REDD in the region; explore two cross-cutting themes in more depth (benefit sharing; participation based on existing experience; the key gaps in information and understanding in target audience for REDD-net among others.**

Resources and upcoming Events

New Publications from the East African SusWatch Network

The East African SusWatch Network proudly announces its new publications: *A Guide to Climate Change Effects, Challenges and Options in the Lake Victoria Region* and *A student Companion on Lake Victoria Issues, Actors and Processes*. Copies are available from *Tanzania Coalition for Sustainable Development (Dar es Salaam)* and *Kenya SusWatch Network c/o Kenya Organization for Environmental Education (Nairobi)* and UCSD in Kampala

A Vision document on Mercury from IPEN

The Mercury Treaty negotiations are beginning. The International Persistent Organic Pollutants (PoPs) Elimination Network (IPEN) will be participating in these important negotiations, as well as its subsequent implementation. IPEN envisions playing a key role in the negotiations, along with the members and the various bodies within IPEN, cooperating and coordinating efforts with other key networks such as Health Care Without Harm, Zero Mercury Working Group, Basel Action Network, and others.

In anticipation of the Ad-Hoc Open- Ended Working Group meetings on mercury, IPEN created a Mercury Vision Document. This is a working document, drafted to provide clarity on the issues that may come up throughout the mercury treaty process, as well as a vision of what could be achieved if mercury is addressed in all its aspects. This Vision Document is currently available on the IPEN website: <http://ipen.org/ipenweb/work/hg.html>

Rio + 20: Another World Summit?

Increased debate is on around whether another World Summit on Sustainable Development is relevant and if it is what the justification would be. Dr Miquel Munoz and Prof. Adil Najam, writing in a new series of policy briefs called *Sustainable Development Insights* (by the Sustainable Development Knowledge Partnership in collaboration with the Frederick S. Pardee Center for the Study of the Longer-Range Future) argues that Summits seldom solve problems. But, when successful, they can frame the debate for years and decades to come. Both Stockholm and Rio did so.

Any world summit in 2012 will not be successful if it is held merely to grab the global limelight for a brief moment or simply because 'it is time' to meet again. To be meaningful, such a summit will need a grand purpose with the potential to define the next 20 years of sustainable development action, policy and discourse. They further emphasize that whatever goal is chosen for a summit needs to be not only grand, but truly meaningful. If it is, then future generations will remember that event like we remember Stockholm and Rio. If it is not, then another summit is not what the world needs right now. Read the full paper from: <http://www.bu.edu/pardee/files/2009/11/UNsdp002sin.pdf>

'Making our Homes Environmentally Just, and thus lighter on our planet' by ESG (India)

As the world warms up to a variety of climate change conventions and conferences, the Environment Support Group (ESG) of India decided to do something local and within the reach of millions. In collaboration with the Karnataka State Council for Science and Technology, ESG organised a workshop for residents of Bangalore on "How to make our Homes Environmentally Just". Some of the environmentally benign techniques proposed in the workshop, and documented in the report, are applicable across the tropical and subtropical worlds, and thus could help people across the world. [View the workshop report with many details of how you can step into your home and make the world change for the better.](#)