

# UCSD News Bulletin October 2009

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

Rio and beyond.....

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## East African Suswatch Network at the 2nd Annual Lake Victoria Basin Stakeholder's Forum, October 27 - 28, 2009 in Kisumu

East African SusWatch Network as a key member of the Lake Victoria Interagency Partners Forum (LPIANF) facilitated 21 participants from Uganda, Kenya and Tanzania. The Forum was convened by the Lake Victoria Basin Commission in collaboration with LPIANF as part of celebrating the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the East African Community on the theme: *Strengthening Synergies and Cooperation for Sustainable Development in the Lake Victoria Basin*. LPIANF comprises LVRLAC, LVBC, NBI, UNHABITAT Nile Basin Discourse and the East African SusWatch Network (c/o UCSD) and is a platform for dialogue and joint action.

The Forum had plenary sessions, Mini Workshops around 4 themes that enabled participants to contribute much more to issues of their choice. The discussions and recommendations from these thematic workshops were presented and further discussed in a plenary session, resulting in the Kisumu Declaration. SusWatch Network made a presentation: *Monitoring the implementation of national obligations to international agreements and other arrangements for sustainable development in East Africa* in Workshop 3 on *Living conditions, quality of life and population* (available on [www.ugandacoalition.or.ug](http://www.ugandacoalition.or.ug))

Among others, the Kisumu Declaration recognises the myriad challenges facing the Lake Victoria Basin, the responsibility of Partner states to cooperate to ensure proper management and sustainability of its resources for the benefit of the present and future generations. **The Kisumu Declaration list 15 issues where the EAC and Partner states are urged to take measures including the enhancing capacity of LVBC to fully implement the Protocol for Sustainable Development of the Lake Victoria basin. In this respect and in light of earlier engagements, SusWatch is quite keen to see that LVBC particularly operationalises [Art.3 I and n; Art.4 (2h); Art.4 (2j); Art.22, Art 23 and Art.33 (3) of the Protocol, as a way to scale up CSO awareness and participation in the Lake Victoria basin development agenda.**

## TCSD holds Annual General Meeting

TCSD held its Annual General Meeting by 26 members, on October 8, 2009 at Najuosha Hotel Morogoro Region. The meeting considered new TCSD members, its activity & financial Report for 2007-2009, discussed TCSD Membership status, roles and responsibilities; and held general elections for a new Steering Committee.

Mr. Obed Mahenda from *Vijana Vision Tanzania* (VVT) was elected as the new TCSD chairman replacing Mr. Silivan Mnga'nya of AGENDA who chaired from 2006. The AGM also identified some key issues that require immediate follow up for which a four - Person committee was put in place. We congratulate TCSD for having successfully held their AGM and wish the new Executive a prosperous term of office, building on the achievements made to date.

## Joint Review of the Watchdog Project on Lake Victoria held October, 22, 2009 in Kampala

The East African SusWatch Network held its Project Steering Committee for the Civil Society Watchdog Project on sustainable development in the Lake Victoria basin, October, 22, 2009 at City Royal Resort Hotel - Kampala. The meeting among other things discussed progress of the project and Project Proposal for Phase II. The emphasis was on the remaining activities to be accomplished, and preparation of final reports. The meeting continued to discuss content of the Phase 2 proposal in light of the recommendations from the End of Project Evaluation and lessons learnt there from.

## Resources and Upcoming Events

### UCSD AGM 2009

UCSD AGM 2009 is planned for Friday November 6, 2009. It will discuss progress since the last AGM in 2008, the proposed work plan and budget, as well as holding elections for a new Executive Committee. For more information, please contact Geoffrey on Tel: +256- 414- 269461 or [rkwagala@ugandacoalition.or.ug](mailto:rkwagala@ugandacoalition.or.ug).

### November 19 is the World Toilet Day - Cities and towns need Public toilets!

This is a day to celebrate the importance of sanitation and raise awareness for the 2.5 billion people (nearly half of the world's population) who don't have access to toilets and proper sanitation as:

- Diarrheal diseases kill five times as many children in the developing world as HIV/AIDS
- The majority of the illness in the world is caused by fecal matter.
- Lack of sanitation is the world's biggest cause of infection, with one gram of feces can contain 10 million viruses, one million bacteria, 1,000 parasite cysts and 100 parasite eggs

Despite these staggering facts, public toilets in many cities and towns in East Africa are either inaccessible or inexistent all together. Moreover, **public toilets aren't just a matter of convenience; they're a matter of dignity, public health, safety, and a way to make our cities more livable. Hence as a matter of public infrastructure, our cities need to invest far more in public toilets.** Read more about more staggering facts about those without toilets and why we need to reverse this trend: <http://worldtoiletday.com/about.html>

### Learn more about the Lake Victoria Basin Commission (LVBC)

The Lake Victoria Basin Commission (LVBC) is a specialized institution of the EAC that is responsible for coordinating the sustainable development agenda of the Lake Victoria Basin. The establishment of the Commission has, been sequential and basing itself on study outputs and step-wise building of the institution. First the Partner States, in the second EAC Development Strategy (1997-2000), designated the Lake Victoria and its basin as an economic growth zone to be exploited in a coordinated manner. *Learn more about LVBC's shared vision and strategy, operational strategy, coordination arrangement, programme and projects; National Focal Point Ministries in the 5 states from the link: <http://www.lvbcom.org/>*

## Increasing Impact in Sustainable Development Projects

Many NGOs will need to increase the impact of their projects if they are to work successfully with community members in promoting sustainable development. In-country NGOs frequently don't have funding available for training workshops. In an effort to make our impact training courses accessible to a larger international audience, we have launched an Online Learning program. Key courses on project impact, design, and funding are now available inexpensively online. *More information- Centre for Sustainable Development Online Field Courses <http://www.csd-i.org/online-learning/>.*

## Workshop on *Visioning* REDD in East Africa

United Nations negotiations on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation in Developing countries (REDD) are in fast forward mode, both in the negotiating halls and on the ground.

This is partly because of the considerable sums of money being discussed – figures of tens of billions of dollars per year are the norm. Yet many critical questions remain unanswered (FoEI, 2008). **Will REDD help to mitigate climate change or actually negate efforts that have been made so far? Who will really benefit from REDD funds? How might trading in forest carbon credits impact on REDD-related policies and projects?**

Uganda Coalition for Sustainable Development (UCSD), Overseas Development Institute (ODI - UK), *Centro Agronómico Tropical de Investigación y Enseñanza* (CATIE - Costa Rica) and Regional Community Forestry Training Centre for Asia and Pacific (RECOFTC - Thailand) are partners in a REDD-net Project.

This Project aims to build capacity of southern civil society to champion the interests of the poor in the area of REDD. It seeks to build this capacity through the development of a REDD practitioner network, facilitating the two-way transfer of knowledge within the practitioner community through the sharing of field experiences and pilot activities, and the development of tools to help shape REDD policies and projects on a global scale. It is supported by the Norwegian Forest Initiative.

As part of this, REDD-net plans to **hold a regional consultative workshop to meet the objectives to initiate dialogue on grey areas around REDD and specifically generate discussion around the REDDnet themes / areas of focus (Benefit sharing systems, Participation and consultation processes, Policy approaches to achieve REDD objectives and Monitoring, reporting and verification systems for REDD)**. *For More information about this meeting, please contact: [dmwayafu@ugandacoalition.or.ug](mailto:dmwayafu@ugandacoalition.or.ug) Tel: +256 752 521230*