

UCSD News Bulletin August 2009

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

SusWatch at the 2nd World Agroforestry Conference in Nairobi August 23 - 28, 2009

Agroforestry began to attain prominence in the late 1970s, when the international scientific community realized its potentials in the tropics and recognized it as a practice in search of science. During the 1990s, the relevance of agroforestry for solving problems related to deterioration of family farms, increased soil erosion, surface and ground water pollution, and decreased biodiversity was recognized in the industrialized nations too.

Though the potential of the practices has been amply illustrated, the investment in a science base has not reached a level that can meet the demand for technology delivery. In this regard, the [2nd World Congress on Agro forestry on the theme: "Agroforestry - The Future of Global Land Use"](#), took place in Nairobi, Kenya, August 24 - 28, 2009 to assess opportunities to leverage scientific agroforestry in promoting sustainable land use worldwide around the themes: **Food Security and Livelihoods; Conservation and Rehabilitation of Natural resources; and Policies and institutions.**

As part of scaling up networking and information sharing on the sustainable development challenges in the Lake Victoria basin and East Africa in general, as well as facilitating journalists to interface with important regional events, the East African SuSWatch Network participated in this Congress with 4 participants. It also put up an exhibition booth at this event. This [Congress](#) also served as a forum for agroforestry researchers, educators, practitioners and policy makers from around the world to share new research findings, lessons, experiences, and ideas that will help influence decisions that impact on livelihoods and the global environment; explore new opportunities and strengthen existing partnerships in agroforestry research, education, training, and development and to form new networks and communities of practice, and nurture old ones. **For the SusWatch participants, it was also a moment to highlight the high deforestation trends, declining land quality and food productivity in the LVB and East African in general, as well as learning and sharing more experiences on how agroforestry can be a possibility / option for long term investment to reduce poverty and to restore the fast degrading ecosystems.** Read more about the Congress outcomes from the link: <http://www.worldagroforestry.org/wca2009/>

UCSD participates in the CS Capacity Building on Climate Change, Aug. 24 - 26, 2009

An African Civil Society Capacity Building workshop on Climate change was organized by NAPE on behalf of Climate Action Network (CAN) Uganda with support from CAN international and Oxfam from August 24-26, 2009.

The event provided a platform for stakeholders who included the Civil society, media, government officials, with a rare opportunity to interface and jointly discuss ways to ensure a more effective participation, collaboration, and input from Southern colleagues within CAN as a Network; and to strengthen their capacity to engage in National and Regional Climate forums. The meeting drew participants from various countries in Africa with a total of 45 Civil societies were represented including the Ugandan Minister of State for Environment - Hon. Jessica Eriyo.

A three-day workshop discussed various issues. These included: Climate Change and its Impacts on Sub-Saharan Africa; recent and emerging impacts of climate change in Africa: science and observation; the basic science of climate change; UNFCCC and negotiations process and bodies; Advocacy by African NGOs on climate (case study of Pan African Climate Justice Alliance - PACJA); basics of climate negotiation: An overview of UNFCCC and the Kyoto protocol; the history of UNFCCC process dating back from 1990- 2008; demystifying the Kyoto Protocol: key principles and current status; general overview of CAN's positions and current status of negotiations among others were discussed. For details of the workshop outcomes, please contact NAPE (nape@nape.or.ug)

Sign Up! : UCSD volunteers on *The Seal the Deal! Campaign*

“Climate change affects us all, but it does not affect us all equally. The poorest and most vulnerable – those who have done the least to contribute to global warming – are bearing the brunt of the impact.”- UN Secretary General - Ban Ki moon

Seal the Deal! is a powerful new campaign by the UN Campaign on Climate Change, to encourage Governments to agree on a fair, balanced and effective climate agreement when they meet in Copenhagen in December 2009.

Announced by the UN Secretary-General, Ban Ki-moon, **Seal the Deal!** provides a framework for advocacy and public action on climate change in 2009. It features a series of special events and online activities in the lead-up to the crucial UN climate convention meeting. The Campaign is supported by global and regional civil-action campaigns, the business community and major groups around the world. High-profile spokespeople, including the Secretary General and selected UN Goodwill Ambassadors, are leading the call for action.

Appreciating the challenges most of our African countries experience accessing internet (only a few East Africans have signed up to date!), the UN has asked UCSD through the Pan African Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA) to facilitate sign up on the printed out petition forms in Uganda, that will be sent back to the UN for entry into the online system. UCSD will circulate these forms through members and partners as soon as they are received from the UN Campaign on Climate Change. Alternatively one can also sign up online by visiting the site: <http://www.sealthedeal2009.org>

UCSD to highlight Lake Wamala on the World Water monitoring Day 2009

The **World Water Monitoring Day** (WWMD) is an international education and outreach program that builds public awareness and involvement in protecting water resources around the world by engaging citizens to conduct basic monitoring of their local water bodies. To maintain and sustain life, we all need to be involved in protecting and preserving water. Water is a scarce resource and the quality of water affects the quality of life.

It is therefore necessary for everyone to become aware of the ways in which they can impact water quality. It is also important for us to change our behaviour where it has a negative impact on Water quality. World Water Monitoring Day is officially celebrated on September 18; however, the monitoring window was extended for the first time in 2009 from March 22 ([World Water Day](#)) until December 31 People are encouraged to choose any borehole, river, stream, dam, or other water bodies to safely monitor the water quality. In fact, one could even monitor the water quality of the Water from a household or community tap!

To further highlight the plight of [Lake Wamala](#) whose water level has reduced due to human and natural causes, UCSD through its integrated freshwater thematic group (led by Kikandwa Environment Association), is planning to monitor its water quality with a test kit that enables everyone from children to adults to sample local water bodies for a core set of water quality parameters including temperature, acidity (pH), clarity (turbidity) and dissolved oxygen (DO). Results will be shared with neighbouring communities; Mityana, Mubende and Mpigi local Governments; NEMA and through the [WWMD Web site](#).

Resources and upcoming Events

UCSD AGM 2009: Update your membership or join us!

UCSD Secretariat still invites organizations to join it as part the process of updating and recruiting more members before AGM that is planned in October 2009. Invitation will as a priority go to registered and paid up members. Regular membership is open to Ugandan CSOs and NGOs, where membership and subscription fees total to Ugshs 45,000. UCSD would like to thank those that have so far paid up. If you wish to pay up, please download the application form from the website: www.ugandacoalition.or.ug which when duly filled will need to be delivered at UCSD Secretariat.

For more information/ questions regarding membership update, please contact Rebecca or Geoffrey on Tel: +256- 414-269461 or rkwagala@ugandacoalition.or.ug.

UN High Level Conference on Climate Change

The Secretary-General will host an all-day high-level event on climate change for Heads of State and Government 22 September 2009 at the UN Headquarters in New York, one day before the opening of the general debate of the sixty-fourth session of the General Assembly. Ahead of this, representatives of The African Union Commission, the NEPAD Secretariat, the Economic Commission for Africa and the Organization for Economic Development and Cooperation gathered today in Addis Ababa to finalize the preparations for the African Partnership Forum (APF) special session on climate change which is scheduled on 3 September 2009 in Addis Ababa. The APF is an AU/NEPAD Secretariat/OECD led initiative, aiming at strengthening partnership efforts towards Africa's development.

Its upcoming special session will focus on Africa's concerns and expectations in the negotiations on a new post-Kyoto agreement on climate change. <http://www.uneca.org/apf/AFPCo-chairs-meet-to-prepare-for-the-Special-Session.asp>

UN MDGs Report 2009: Progress too slow

Nine years ago, world leaders set far-sighted goals to free a major portion of humanity from the shackles of extreme poverty, hunger, illiteracy and disease. They established targets for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women, environmental sustainability and a global partnership for development. In short, they adopted a blueprint for a better world - and pledged to spare no effort in fulfilling that vision.

We have made important progress in this effort, and have many successes on which to build. But we have been moving too slowly to meet our goals. And today, we face a global economic crisis whose full repercussions have yet to be felt. At the very least, it will throw us off course in a number of key areas, particularly in the developing countries. At worst, it could prevent us from keeping our promises, plunging millions more into poverty and posing a risk of social and political unrest. That is an outcome we must avoid at all costs. Read a full report here http://mdgs.un.org/unsd/mdg/Resources/Static/Products/Progress2009/MDG_Report_2009_En.pdf

Progress of the World's Women 2008/9: Who answers to women?

"*Progress of the World's Women 2008/2009: Who Answers to Women? Gender and Accountability*" shows that realising women's rights and achieving the Millennium Development Goals depends on strengthening accountability for commitments to women and gender equality. For gender equality to be realized in practice, women must be able to fully participate in public decision-making at all levels and hold those responsible to account when their rights are infringed or their needs ignored.

Source: <http://www.unifem.org/progress/2008/index.html>

Multiple Global activities to mark the World Social Forum's 10th birthday in 2010

In 2010, the World Social Forum (WSF) will celebrate the 10 years of its process. To mark this date, the WSF International Council (IC) decided in its last meeting, held in May 2009 in Rabat, Morocco, that in the following year the WSF will hold multiple activities throughout the world year-round.

The IC suggested using the global crisis theme to give the 2010 WSF process a common identity. Learn more at: http://www.forumsocialmundial.org.br/noticias_01.php?cd_news=2567&cd_language=2