

The LVEMP II Civil Society Watch E-bulletin

A Monthly from the **East African Sustainability Watch Network** comprising: Uganda Coalition for Sustainable Development (UCSD), Tanzania Coalition for Sustainable Development (TCSD) and Sustainable Environmental Development Watch Network (SusWatch Kenya)

April 2017

Regional Centre of Excellence to promote Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency in East Africa



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1. Mr. Michael Kiza making a presentation at the Dialogue 2. Participants at the Dialogue 3. Men off-loading firewood from the Islands of Lake Victoria at Ggaba landing site in Kampala

Speaking at a regional Civil Society Dialogue as part of the Project: Promoting Implementation of the Paris Agreement (PIPA) in East Africa organized by Uganda Coalition for Sustainable Development (UCSD), Mr. Michael Kiza - the Programme Management Expert at the East African Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (EACREEE) said that achieving universal access to modern energy is one of the greatest priorities for East Africa. Noting that there is high reliance on traditional biomass technology for thermal energy needs (cooking and industrial applications), electricity access is about 22%, well below the average of 33.5% for Sub-Saharan Africa yet there is increasing demand for transport fuel for private cars due to an inefficient public transport system.

EACREEE contributes towards increased access to modern, affordable and reliable energy services, energy security and mitigation of negative externalities of the energy system such as local pollution and GHG emissions there by creating an enabling environment for renewable energy and energy efficiency markets and investments. In 2012 the EAC requested the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) to support the establishment EACREEE. This project to establish EACREEE was launched in 2014, and in June 2016, EACREEE Secretariat was officially launched at Makerere University (Kampala) at an interim secretariat in Uganda. EACREEE contributes to growth of investments in Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency by creating enabling environment, harmonization of related policies, legislations, regulations and standards and takes leadership in the coordination and harmonization of donor activities and acting as a regional hub for the UN Sustainable Energy for All (SE4ALL) initiative.

While reflecting on the share of the population using solid fuels for cooking in EAC partner states as at 2013, Mr. Kiza noted that Burundi uses up to 98%, Kenya 84%, Rwanda 98%, Tanzania 96% and Uganda 97%. While responding to the question about the level of readiness of EACREEE to contribute to a coordinated regional climate action in East Africa, he noted that legal registration of EACREEE is in process; awaiting the appointment of Executive Director and currently mobilizing resources for regional projects such as: Energy Efficient Lighting and Appliances in Africa – Sida (for EAC & SADC regions), Geothermal development project – Japan, South-South cooperation on Renewable Energy (mini hydro, biogas and solar) with China.

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He however added that there is limited EAC Partners' demonstration of EACREEE ownership given the limited budget allocation. The Centre will focus on activities and projects with regional impact or national projects which demonstrate high potential for scaling-up or regional replication; such as developing technologies of mini-hydro-dam turbines with University of Dare salaam, promoting biogas, solar energy and geothermal capacity building in Kenya. Makerere University already has a biomass testing facility that can be replicated in the EAC region. Also at the Dialogue, UCSD presented findings from a Regional and National Baseline study for *Promoting the Implementation of the Paris Agreement in East Africa (PIPA Project - with focus on pro-poor, low emission development)*. Among the Participants at the dialogue were representatives from Sustainable Energy Denmark, International Network for Sustainable Energy (INFORSE), African Centre for Trade and Development (ACTADE), CAN Uganda and media. Read about the Uganda Baseline Report: <http://tinyurl.com/m5lbgk3>

NWSC –Jinja and Iganga area Reduce Levels of Non - Revenue Water as Supply Reliability Improves



1. Emily Arayo, Praxedes Nekesa and Stanley Matowo at a PSP tap in Kikoromojo –Walukuba /Masese Division 2. Charles Okuonzi, Titus Niwamanya and Stanley Matowo at NWSC Jinja board room 3. David Mwayafu speaking to WACOCO members in Bugiri Municipality

National Water and Sewerage Corporation (NWSC) customers in Jinja and Iganga have less to complain about water reliability following the replacement of water pumps at the main water production point in Masese. “Water extensions have been done in in some of the dry zones where water was very scarce. The old water pumps in Masese have been replaced and now there is faster pumping of water, distribution and supply to customers in Jinja”. The General Manager also reported that the results of the NRW indicated that the levels of NRW had reduced to 20%, which is good progress for NWSC. Regarding the progress in Iganga, Eng. Paul Isagara the Cluster Manager for Iganga noted that he was taking on new branches that have new challenges. However, there are improvements in the NRW levels that are at 23.5% for Iganga down from 27% in December 2016. He noted that Bugiri branch has received 1 pump set to be installed soon and the second pump to be procured in the next financial year 2017-2018. NWSC customers in Kikoromojo - Masese 3 area were glad to have water throughout the day and the night. They observed that the water tank could be redundant in future since they do not need to store water all the time since the water supply is now steady. The teams from PREPARED Project and Uganda Coalition for Sustainable Development and NWSC that visited 15 Local Government Leadership Councils in Jinja and Iganga known as the Water Community Communication Clubs (WACOCO) were glad to note that community leaders have good plans related to water and sewerage for their people.

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The Jinja Municipal Council and Jinja Central Division councillors plan to have a joint meeting with market vendors of Napier road market in order for the vendors to allow NWSC trench a new sewerage line passing through the market. NWSC has plans of expanding the sewerage system in Jinja town to cater for more customers.

WACOCO members in Mayuge Town Council and Kaliiro Town Council plan to map out areas in their communities that do not have piped water and request for public sand pipe taps (PSPs) to cater for their communities. In Buwenge Town Council, WACOCO members have realised the need to dialogue with Pride Micro-finance bank to have NWSC customers of Buwenge pay their water bills through the bank which is cheaper than paying through the mobile phone operators.

In Mpumudde Division (Jinja), WACOCO members have plans of inviting NWSC staff to their village meetings, to speak to customers about water and sanitation related issues and to sensitize the customers about the new water tariffs. In Iganga Central Division, the WACOCO members have plans of arresting NWSC Field staff with corruption tendencies. According to Mr. Titus Niwamanya, WACOCO has been aggressive in negotiating for their customers for reconnection of suppressed accounts which has led to an improvement of community leadership and re-connection of suppressed accounts.

WACOCO is a platform of community leaders at the Municipal, Division and Sub-County level who work together with the NWC branch manager to address issues of water in their communities. It is one strategy besides using Radio Campaigns, NWSC staff visiting Places of worship to speak to congregations about the dangers of Non-Revenue Water, holding Community Meetings with NWSC customers and conducting a quality service improvement programme (QUSIP) by staff of NWSC to improve customer care. These are part of the Customer Engagement Framework from 2015 to 2017 November. Planning for Resilience through Policy, Adaptation, Research and Economic Development (PREPARED) issued a grant to Uganda Coalition for Sustainable Development (UCSD) to support National Water and Sewerage Corporation (NWSC) to design and implement a Customer Engagement Framework and document best practices in Jinja and Iganga area.

Opportunity and upcoming Event

Apply: 1 million USD UN DESA Energy Grant (deadline: 15 June 2017)

The 2017 cycle of the UN DESA Energy Grant has started. The thematic focus for 2017 is "Sustainable Energy for Eradicating Poverty and Promoting Prosperity in a Changing World". It is aligned with the theme of the High-level Political Forum (HLPF) on Sustainable Development taking place in New York in July 2017. As you know, the Grant carries an award of one million USD for the winner. More: <https://poweringthefuture.un.org>

International Biodiversity day: 'Biodiversity and Sustainable Tourism'



This theme has been chosen to coincide with the observance of 2017 as the *International Year of Sustainable Tourism for Development* as proclaimed by the UN General Assembly in its Resolution 70/193 and for which the United Nations World Tourism Organization is providing leadership. More: <https://www.cbd.int/idb/2017/>