

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)

June 2017

PIPA Project Implementing Partners in East Africa Share Knowledge on Climate Change Interventions



Participants at the knowledge-sharing meeting in Arusha. Photos: UCSD.

A knowledge-sharing and networking regional workshop was held in Arusha –Tanzania from the 22nd to 23rd June 2017. The Project: *Promoting the Implementation of the Paris Agreement in East Africa* (PIPA) is implemented by Tanzania Traditional Energy for Development Organization, Sustainable Environmental Development Watch and Uganda Coalition for Sustainable Development. The meeting is one of the ways that the civil society Partners are using to share best practices across borders and to advocate regionally for a broader involvement of civil society and a more pro-poor focus in the implementation of climate actions. PIPA is a regional Civil Society Project with a focus on pro-poor low emission development. The project seeks to contribute to strengthen the pro-poor focus and climate change ambitions in the implementation of the Paris Agreement in East Africa.

At the meeting, partners from Tanzania Pastoral Community Forum, Tanzania Natural Resource Forum (TNRF) and Olmotonyi Forestry Training Institute shared their experience and knowledge in advocating for climate change interventions. From TNRF, community involvement and interactive communication approaches such as “*Mama Mimitu*” have led to awareness about tree conservation in many parts of Tanzania. *Mama Mimitu* is a two year advocacy and awareness raising campaign on governance and forest management. It is an initiative of the Tanzania Forest Working Group. TNRF is a collective civil society-based initiative working towards improving natural resource management and conservation in Tanzania by addressing governance as fundamental in determining how natural resources are managed and how they support the livelihoods of people for sustainable economic development.

The meeting was also an opportunity for the 3 East African Partners to finalize the PIPA project regional advocacy strategy and campaign plan and agree on responsibilities to implement it, discuss and identify topics for the regional policy briefs and agree on tasks amongst partners and to discuss and plan and agree on preparatory work for UNFCCC COP 23 due in November 2017, among others.

The PIPA Project is implemented by the three CSO Partners in East Africa in collaboration with Danish organizations - Sustainable Energy (SE) and International Network for Sustainable Energy (INFORSE). **Follow updates of the PIPA Project from: http://www.inforse.org/africa/East_Africa_PIPA.htm**

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Uganda Minister Echoes Necessity to 'Make Our Planet Great Again' at Opening of the Global Conference on Climate Adaptation in Kampala



From L-R: National CBA Symposium held June 16, 2017 in Kampala ahead of CBA11; Ms. Sophie Kutegeka (IUCN Uganda CO); Irish Ambassador and Mr. John Kaganga (KEA) at the Conference (Photos: RHU, and IIED)

The 11th Conference on Adaptation was hosted in Uganda from 26-30 June, 2017. It was organised by International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED), the International Centre on Climate Change and Development (ICCAD), the Makerere University Centre for Climate Change Research and Innovations (MUCCRI) and the Uganda Ministry of Water and Environment.

On the opening morning, a series of special guests, including the LDC Negotiators Group Chair, Uganda Minister of Water and Environment, the Ambassador for Ireland in Uganda, and UNEP and IIED. The Conference attracted around 280 people, from more than 50 countries

On behalf of the Uganda CSOs, Ms Sophie Kutegeka (IUCN) presented recommendations to the CBA11 from the first ever National CBA symposium held in Kampala.

Amongst the recommendations the (Pre-CBA11) National symposium called for a transformative adaption should have people at the centre; a predictable, scalable climate funding; need to manage population growth rather than population control, creating an enabling environment for private sector involvement in the climate action agenda to leverage climate finance and tech transfer. The statement also recommended catchment level interventions as opposed to site, sector specific and scattered ones. The statement also recommended that subsidies for participation of local actors and partners be provided for, as registration fees are prohibitive.

In his remarks, the Ambassador of Ireland to Uganda noted that time is for implementing the Paris Agreement in form of scaling up local adaptation actions. He decried the US President Donald Trump's move to pull out of the Paris Agreement, but emphasised the EU position to uphold implementation of this Agreement. He applauded Uganda Government efforts to address climate change including current actions climate change sensitive planning and budgeting, as well as the launch of the National Adaptation Plan (NAP) process.

On his part, Mr. Gebru Endalew, LDC Negotiators Group Chair, called for increased funding for climate action and more partnerships on climate change. He stressed the importance of the listening to the voice of the poorest who are the least responsible for climate change but most vulnerable to climate change.

The Uganda the Minister of Water and Environment - Mr. Sam Cheptoris, underscored the need to scale up adaptation amongst vulnerable communities, noting that Uganda has experienced record drought and floods that continuously affect them. The Minister highlighted Government's strategic and practical actions to address climate change, including development of a National Climate Change Policy and its costed implementation strategy, Nationally Determined Contribution whose implementation roadmap is being finalised, development

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of a Green Growth Development Strategy, and drafting of a climate law that is underway. He ended his speech by borrowing from the French President – Emmanuel Macron’s response to Trump over Paris pull-out, urging participants to: 'Make our planet great again'.

For proceedings from the just concluded CBA11: <https://www.iied.org/11th-international-conference-community-based-adaptation-cba11>

Ugandan President Cautions People to Respect the Environment by Keeping off Cultivation of Crops in Wetlands



The President of Uganda, Yoweri K. Museveni has called upon was the chief guest at the ceremony. He urged Ugandans to stop degrading wetlands because they would be destroying God’s creation. Speaking at the World Environment Day celebration event on the 5th June at Ibanda district, he cautioned people to stop cultivating within 200 meters of the Lakeshores” he advised.

At the same function, CSOs under the Climate Action Network – Uganda presented a statement with the call to action by Government to re-focus on their commitments to the environmental conservation, noting that there is a lot of encroachment on wetlands and forests as a result of the population increase; the need for more enforcement of laws, and the need for government to increase budget support to the environmental sector respectively. The Executive Director of National Environment Management Authority - Dr. Tom Okurut urged people to preserve the environment noting that “It is human beings who positively interact with the environment therefore protecting it is our responsibility because human beings are an integral part of the environment”. On her part, the French Ambassador to Uganda H.E. Ms. Stephane Rivoal noted that it is every one’s responsibility to be friendly to nature , noting that the planet does not belong to anyone “It belongs to all of us, the planet has given us much and it is now our time to give back to it”, she added.

National celebrations were held in Ibanda district- in western Uganda at Kiburara Integrated Primary School grounds. Ibanda is a renowned cattle keeping area and forms part of the cattle corridor in Uganda that is always hard hit by long droughts. It is also within the catchment of Lake Victoria, closer to the source of River Rwizi that pours water to Lake Victoria. The Rwizi catchment is facing severe degradation. **Read the full CSO statement from:** <https://www.scribd.com/document/350166464/Final-CAN-Uganda-on-WED2017-CSO-Statement>

Up-coming Events

Symposium on Climate Change and Droughts Resilience in Africa, 16th-18th October 2017 in Nairobi, Kenya

The “Symposium on Climate Change and Droughts Resilience in Africa” will showcase experiences from research, field projects and best practice to foster climate change adaptation among countries in the region, with a focus on droughts, which may be useful or implemented elsewhere. **For more details:** <http://bit.ly/2pnzLHP>

High-Level Political Forum (10/7 – 19, 2017): "Eradicating poverty & promoting prosperity in a changing world".

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development encourages member states to “conduct regular and inclusive reviews of progress at the national and sub-national levels, which are country-led and country-driven’. Voluntary National Reviews to facilitate the sharing of experiences, including successes, challenges and lessons learned, with a view to accelerating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda are expected from Ethiopia, Kenya, Togo and Zimbabwe among other countries. **More:** <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/hlpf#vnrs>