

# 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)

**March 2017**

## **Project on the Implementation of the Paris Agreement on Climate Change in East Africa launched in Uganda**



Participants at the Launch meetings: Kampala (L); Mbale (Centre), and a Participant intervenes during a plenary session in Mbale (Photos: UCSD)

Globally, climate change and continued poverty are probably the two largest, long-term challenges for human development. In a bid to find solutions to reduce these challenges, a regional Civil Society project “Promoting Implementation of the Paris Agreement (PIPA) in East Africa was launched in Uganda. This project focusing on pro-poor low emission development is a one and a half year project running from January 2017 to June 2018 is implemented by Uganda Coalition for Sustainable Development (UCSD). At the launch, Civil Society stakeholders and Government conceded that there is urgent need to address climate change impacts Uganda.

The First Secretary of the Danish Embassy in Kampala Mr. Søren Høgsbro Larsen noted that the Project is well aligned to the Danish strategy 2018 - 2022 for Uganda which seeks to address issues of climate change. On her part, the Assistant Commissioner in the Ministry of Water and Environment, Ms. Lucy Iyango said that when Uganda accented to the Paris Agreement in 2016, it was a confirmation that the climate change impacts were devastating .She noted that stakeholders should formulate progressive and ambitious climate change strategies through interventions like the PIPA. She was grateful to Denmark for supporting climate change initiatives in Uganda.

Richard Kimbowa - Programme Manager at UCSD observed that there are challenges of energy as well as water which all affect the environment. “In our region we are experiencing more drought and temperatures are high, which affect livelihoods in various ways”.

Speaking at the regional launch in Eastern Uganda in Mbale, the Vice chairperson of Mbale District Mr. Mayanza Jorum observed that stakeholders should participate in climate change adaptation around the Mount Elgon area because it is a trans-boundary area that is shared by Uganda and Kenya. “I urge the local government and the civil society actors to address the excessive use of fire wood. Encourage terracing in the highlands and put funds from Northern Uganda Social Action Fund (NUSAF) to proper use to save the environment”. In Uganda the project was launched at a national level in Kampala and at a local -regional level in Mbale in Eastern Uganda. In January 2017, the regional project was launched in Nairobi – Kenya.

Implemented with support from Sustainable Energy (SE) of Denmark, International Network for Sustainable Energy (INFORSE) and implemented by Tanzania Traditional Energy Development Organization (TaTEDO), Sustainable Environmental Development Watch Kenya (SusWatch Kenya) and Uganda Coalition for Sustainable Development (UCSD).

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## National Water and Sewerage Corporation – Jinja marks World Water Day 2017 – Unblocks choked sewerage system in Jinja Children’s Hospital



Staff of NWSC – Jinja cleaning the Children’s hospital in Jinja to commemorate World Water Day, March 22, 2017. (Photos by Charles Okuonzi)

National Water and Sewerage Corporation – Jinja has celebrated World Water Day by supporting Jinja Children’s’ hospital in a hygiene and clean-up exercise by unblocking a clogged sewerage system that could have costed the hospital an estimated seventy million Uganda shillings.

Marking this day on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of March 2017 under the theme of managing waste water, twenty (20) staff from NWSC - Jinja provided sewerage services as part of a Corporate Social Responsibility. For the entire week they also demonstrated to the community in Jinja town how to clean water tanks in residential areas as a routine practice that their customers should do in order to have clean water.

“At the hospital the sewerage system was rotten with flies all over but in 4 hours, the NWSC team had cleaned up the entire system and everything was clean and flowing. This contribution is beyond NWS responsibility but we had to demonstrate cleanliness. This has saved the hospital 70,000,000/= . The hospital is one of NWSC clients “, said Mr. Charles Okuonzi - the General Manager NWSC Jinja area.

The Jinja children’s’ hospital was donated by Madhvani group of companies and annexed to Jinja Main hospital to handle children’s’ ailments.

World Water Day is globally marked on 22 March every year aimed at taking action to tackle the water crisis. Currently there are over 663 million people living without a safe water supply close to home, spending countless hours queuing or trekking to distant sources, and coping with the health impacts of using contaminated water. This year's theme is “Why waste water”? in support of SDG 6.3 on improving water quality and reducing, treating and reusing wastewater.

### World Water Day 2017

This year's theme: *Why waste water?* Is in support of SDG 6.3 **on improving water quality and reducing, treating and reusing wastewater.**

Globally, the vast majority of all the **wastewater from our homes, cities, industry and agriculture flows back to nature without being treated or reused** – polluting drinking and bathing and irrigation and losing valuable nutrients and other recoverable materials. Reducing and safely treating and reusing wastewater, for example in agriculture and aquaculture, protects worker, farmers and consumers promotes food security, health and wellbeing.

[Source: WHO](#)

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## UCSD elected to serve East African Regional Civil Society body for the next 2 years

The 9<sup>th</sup> East African Civil Society Organisations' Forum (EACSOF) was held at Corridor Springs Hotel in Arusha, March 30 – 31, 2017. As a member, UCSD was one of the 2 members elected to EACSOF's Governing Council (Exec. Board), representing Uganda for the period 2017 /2019.

EACSOF was founded in 2007 as an autonomous umbrella body of Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and civil society organizations, (CSOs), in East Africa. Since its founding, EACSOF has been working to strengthen the institutionalization of the relationship between East African CSOs and the Community, (EAC). It also works to build a critical mass of knowledgeable and empowered civil society in the East African region, in order to foster their confidence and capacity in articulating grassroots needs and interests in the East African Integration Process. It also works to ensure that East African citizens and their organizations work together to play a more effective role in the integration process through building stronger citizen organizations that respond to citizens needs and hold duty bearers to account. More: <http://eacsof.net/EACSOF/>

Below are some of the pictures from the event that included a hand-over occasion to EACSOF's first woman President (Photos: UCSD).

