

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)

September 2016

East Africa records surge in renewable energy investment – Global Report

Adapted from: environewsigeria.com



Installing a solar panel - Uganda.
Photo: JEEP

The Renewable Energy Policy Network for the 21st Century (REN21), in cooperation with the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO), on Thursday published the latest in its series of regional reports on the state of renewable energy. The East African Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Status Report reveal that the off-grid market is firmly established in the region and is helping to meet energy access needs.

In 2015, the region saw \$139.8 million of capital raised by off-grid solar companies, representing approximately 50% of all off-grid investment made worldwide (\$276 million). This result was driven by several factors. First and foremost a rapid decline in global prices for PV equipment. In addition, favourable government policies and innovative business models contributed to the region's spectacular market growth.

In the on-grid market, renewable electricity made up 65% of the EAC region's total installed, grid-connected power generating capacity in 2015. This is significantly higher than other parts of sub-Saharan Africa where currently it stands at 28.6% and 23.5% in the ECOWAS and SADC regions respectively.

While trends are generally positive, the report highlights several challenges that remain to be addressed if the region's governments are to ensure energy security and meet energy access needs. These include: paying greater attention to the cooking and heating sector; focusing on making the use of biomass more sustainable; diversifying the renewable mix in the grid; and supporting regional integration in the power sector. Further, there is far less policy focus on transport and, particularly, heating and cooling, so these sectors are progressing much more slowly.

Christine Lins, Executive Secretary of REN21, said, "Renewables are uniquely positioned to provide needed energy services in a sustainable manner – more rapidly and generally at lower cost than fossil fuels. The EAC has a vast potential of, among other renewable energy sources, hydropower, geothermal, and solar photovoltaic (PV), which had been exploited only marginally so far."

"Regional integration is central to rapid growth, addressing the existing challenges of energy poverty and climate change in the EAC region," notes Pradeep Monga, Director of Energy, UNIDO. The EAC Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Report provide a comprehensive overview of the status of renewable energy and energy efficiency policies and markets by drawing on information from national and regional sources and networks, which is critical to unlocking the region's potential and investment opportunities."

The report covers the Republics of Burundi, Kenya and Rwanda, the United Republic of Tanzania and the Republic of Uganda. It was released at the 3rd International Off-grid Renewable Energy Conference in Nairobi, Kenya.

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The EAC Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Status Report is part of a report series that details the renewable energy and energy efficiency developments of a particular region. Their production also supports regional data collection processes and informed decision making. Data are provided by a network of over 50 contributors, researchers, and authors from all over a particular region. **Read the full report from here: <http://www.ren21.net/status-of-renewables/regional-status-reports/#EAC>**

Africa Seeks to Adapt its Agriculture to Climate Change Ahead of the COP22 Climate Talks

Adapted from: moroccoworldnews.com



More climate funds should support Africa's Adaptation

Around 20 African ministers, alongside representatives from various international institutions, as well as scientists and experts, gathered in Marrakech on September 29th and 30th, to attend a High Level meeting ahead of the upcoming COP22 negotiations.

The main purpose of the meeting was to formulate a committee for the initiative for the Adaptation of African Agriculture (AAA) to climate change. Nearly all African states were represented, including the host nation.

Recognising that various changes are needed in terms of African agriculture, the Ministers of Agriculture, as well as Heads of Delegations, amongst other participants have committed developed countries to mobilising at least 100 billion US dollars per year to developing countries, in terms of agricultural aid.

The initiative was launched in April 2016, with Morocco taking the lead. African states found that Africa, Agriculture and Adaptation were not major features in international negotiations and therefore this initiative was born in order to change this.

Participants recognised the vulnerability of Africa's agriculture, in the face of climate change and global warming. The meeting acknowledged that various African states have insufficient funds in order to adapt their agricultural methods in order to sustain productivity.

Overall, Africa only benefits from 5% of climate funds with adaptation projects capturing 20% of climate funds. In order to reduce emissions in the long term, productivity in the agricultural sector is imperative, hence its development at COP22.

The meeting of high-level attendees acknowledged the pre-existing challenges facing Africa, from food security, poverty and water scarcity and also discussed means to eradicate such problems in the continent.

The meeting also witnessed the launch of the **#weareAAA campaign**. This campaign will look to gather public support for the initiative before the upcoming COP22 gathering.

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The attendees further agreed upon allegiance with the African Adaptation Initiative (AAI) fostered by the African Conference on the Environment, in collaboration with the African Group of negotiators, launched during COP21.

The AAA initiative will direct efforts to also raising public awareness and mobilising the international community to support the campaign in the lead up to COP22, which will be held in Marrakech from November 7th-18th.

Ahead of the World Food Day 2016, Join EA SusWatch Network to Urge Uganda to be Swift on its National Irrigation Policy



Photo: AgromaxUg

The global message for World Food Day 2016 is **“Climate is changing. Food and agriculture must too.”**

According to the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), this message resonates with the crucial time in which the day will be observed, just before the next UN Climate Change Conference, COP 22, from 7-18 November 2016 in Marrakech, Morocco.

FAO is calling on countries to address food and agriculture in their climate action plans and invest more in rural development. By strengthening the resilience of smallholder farmers, food security for the planet’s increasingly hungry global population can be guaranteed while reducing emissions at the same time.

In Uganda, EA SusWatch through a Thunderclap (due October 14) is calling upon Government to complete the national irrigation policy as the country’s rain-fed agriculture is no longer reliable and predictable.

Why?: Uganda’s 8th Water and Environment Joint Sector Report (2016) Report has acknowledged that a key undertaking No.8: *“Finalize the national irrigation policy to guide planning, implementation and monitoring of irrigation development and use in the country (by the end of Financial Year 2015/16).”* **was not achieved.**

Who is responsible and what are the consequences?: The constraint given is the **limited willingness on the part of Agriculture and Environment Ministries to work to finalize the national irrigation Policy.** On the contrary, Uganda is severely vulnerable to climate change and its vulnerability is set to increase between 2010 and 2030 (Climate Vulnerability Monitor, 2012). With approximately 70% of the country’s population engaging in subsistence, rain-fed agriculture that is increasingly unpredictable, which also derives significant income from exported crops for the country. We therefore urgently urge the authorities in the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries; and Water & Environment respectively to expedite the finalization of this important policy.

What can You do?: **Be EA SusWatch Network’s Thunderous Supporter by signing up from: <http://thndr.me/mlYchA>**