

# 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)

**August 2016**

## Ugandan CSOs Updated on the Marrakesh Climate Negotiation Process



Civil Society meeting at UCSD office in Kampala. 1: from left is Mr. Sidi M. Salem Saadoun, Othman Boucetta from the COP22 Civil Steering Committee from Morocco; and Richard Kimbowa - UCSD at a consultative meeting in Kampala, 2. Representatives of the CSOs that attended the meeting at UCSD, 3: UCSD network members interacting with the COP22 CS team from Morocco (Photos by UCSD)

From November 7<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> 2016, Marrakech city in Morocco will be a bee hive of activity marking the 22 Conference of Parties on Climate Change-COP22.

In August 2016, the COP22 Civil Society Pole went on a mission to 12 African countries with the goal of strengthening the mobilization of non-state actors on the continent and encouraging their participation in the United Nations Climate Change Conference scheduled in Marrakech, November 7-18. The mission will included a series of meetings in each country with Non-Government Organizations and the Civil Society actors including Civil Society Coalitions and Networks active in the climate change and sustainable development space.

The first phase of the mission prepared in collaboration with and supported by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Morocco, included South Africa, Cameroun, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, Uganda, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Rwanda, Sudan, Swaziland and Tanzania.

“The participation of African civil society at COP22 is essential for several reasons: Firstly, because international civil society played a key role among researchers and experts in the process that ultimately led to the Paris Agreement. Also, COP22 in Marrakech seeks to address the issues of the “South”, notably the African continent and Small Island Developing States. Finally, the resistance to climate change requires that we act on the international, regional and local levels,” declared Mr. Driss El Yazami, COP22 Head of Civil Society Activities.

One of the main focuses of the COP22 Civil Society Pole is to increase awareness and action among non-state actors in Morocco on environmental issues and also to establish strong partnerships with international civil society. Their work is built on a long-term plan to structurally support the development of an engaged and committed civil society sector to address environmental issues and in particular the fight against climate change well beyond COP22. According to Othman Boucetta, “This COP is a COP of action because other meetings have involved planning, but also waiting until 2020 to see how far the commitments from African States go”. He adds that COP 22 will lend ears to the voices of the minority people especially people from the Islands and people from the Mountains who have unique effects of climate change in their communities.” **Follow preparations for the Marrakech COP22 | CMP12 due November 7 – 18, 2016: <http://www.cop22.ma/>**

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## Local Councils in Jinja and Iganga work with NWSC to Improve Water and Sanitation in Communities



**WACOCO Training and Planning Meetings in Jinja and Iganga: 1: A Councillor from Iganga Central Division presenting their work plan 2. Councillors from Jinja Central Division at a group work session during a planning meeting in Jinja 3. A team of WACOCO members from Kampala during panel discussion with councillors from Jinja during the WACOCO training session in Jinja (Photos by UCSD)**

National and Sewerage Corporation (NWSC) Jinja/Iganga area is working closely with Councillors from Jinja and Iganga to improve water and sanitation in the communities. The new collaboration known as Water and Community Communication Clubs (WACOCO), works with councillors from Sub-Counties, Divisions and Municipalities. The mandate of WACOCO clubs are to enhance public awareness about NWSC services, increase public feedback, improve coordination of Water and Sewerage services in the area/branch, synchronize planning of infrastructure development with NWSC, increase pool of resources, enhance safety and protection of NWSC installations. The goal of WACOCO is to have improved Water and Sewerage service delivery for all people by strengthening stakeholder participation through effective communication, planning and coordination to enhance public awareness on NWSC services and provide feedback from communities to Councils and to NWSC.

The WACOCO collaboration was started in Kampala by the Kampala Water office, and is being piloted in Jinja and Iganga by NWSC. This approach is part of the Customer Engagement Framework of working with NWSC customers in a bid to build a good rapport between NWSC and its customers as a way of curbing down the rate of Non-Revenue Water loss (water that has been produced and is “lost” before it reaches the customer).

Working with NWSC is Uganda Coalition for Sustainable Development (UCSD), which is tasked by Planning for Resilience through Policy, Adaptation, Research and Economic Development (PREPARED) through a grant from USAID East Africa, to assess NWSC customer satisfaction and develop a customer engagement framework strategy and test some of the strategies which include radio campaigns, working with communities through community meetings and engaging the political leadership who are the councillors. 15 Water Community Clubs are working with NWSC in Jinja and Iganga. They are composed of elected councillors at the Sub-county, Divisional and Municipality level from Mafubira Sub-County, Buwenge Town Council, Bugembe Division, Kakira Town Council, Budondo Sub-County, Walukuba/Masese Division, Jinja Central Division, Njeru Municipal Council, Jinja Municipal Council, Mpumudde Division; making the ten clubs from Jinja. In Iganga they comprise Iganga Central Division, Iganga Northern Division, Kaliro Town Council, Bugiri Municipal Council and Mayuge Town Council.

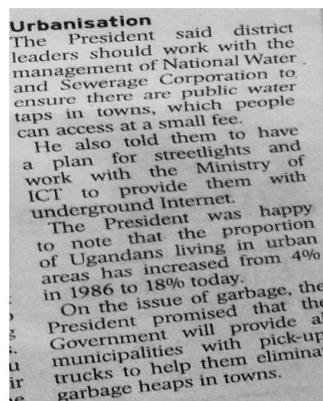
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Speaking at the planning meeting for WACOCO executives in Jinja, the Kampala NWSC WACOCO coordinator Mr. Otema John told councillors that their function is to streamline water and sanitation issues in their respective communities and be able to forecast and plan for water resources especially in public places so as to reduce the spread of diseases in their constituencies. He added that “In Kampala, through WACOCO deliberations, the public now uses KCCA toilets free of charge because water bills for cleaning the toilets are paid for by the councils”. This in the end reduces the number of people who dispose human waste in the open which leads to high infections of cholera and other water borne disease”.

The Jinja district water officer of Jinja Engineer David Eremye while presenting a paper on the oversight role of councillors in planning and managing water and sanitation resources at the WACOCO training in Jinja, observed that there are laws that can be strengthened by councillors if they enact byelaws that will lead to effective implementation of the Water Act.

At the WACOCO Executive planning meeting, the councillors planned to have joint activities with NWSC to increase water coverage to areas without water and improve the sanitation situation in their communities, reach out to public places such as schools and follow up on the infrastructure development of water and sanitation in communities they serve. This follows a pronouncement by the President of Uganda who told Local Council leaders to work with management of NWSC to ensure that there are public taps in towns where people can access water at a cheap cost.



Left: A press cut out from *The New Vision* Newspaper, Middle: Councillors from Njeru Municipality in a group work session, Right: Chelsea Keysler - PREPARED Dep. Chief of Party with Iganga NWSC area Manager at the opening of WACOCO training in Iganga

## Upcoming Events

8th Climate Week NYC in September 19 – 25, 2016.



John A. Kufuor, Special Envoy on Climate Change for UN SG (Photo: Climate group, 2015)

Climate Week NYC, convened by The Climate Group, is a key event in the international calendar that brings together leading governments, investors, businesses, innovators and opinion formers. Host to more than 100 affiliate events from September 19-25, Climate Week NYC 2016 is the collaborative space for innovation, ambition and action in achieving a prosperous low carbon future for all. It is also the collaborative space for climate events in support of the UN SDGs and the Paris Climate Agreement. Follow: <http://www.climateweeknyc.org/>