

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)

October 2016

World Mountain Forum in Mbale Calls for Action Not to Leave Mountains Behind



Left to Right: Mont Elgon_ WanaleSipi falls on Mount Elgon enhances agro-forestry in Kapchorwa.2. Ms. Jesca Eriyo giving opening remarks at the WMF. 3. WMF Field Visit to Bududa area. Farmers in Tegres –Kapchorwa Practicing climate smart agric. **Photos: ARCOS**

From the 17th to the 20th October 2016, global Mountain stakeholders met in Mbale – Uganda for the 3rd World Mountain Forum to share lessons and experiences on activities in the Sustainable Mountain Development (SMD) and to discuss challenges and opportunities for SMD as per the recommendations from the WMF 2014 held in Cusco – Peru and in Arusha Tanzania in 2014. The forum attracted over 300 environmentalists from 50 countries, discussed the conclusions of the on-going international policy process including the Paris Agreement on climate change and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

At the opening of the forum, the Minister for Water and Environment in the Government of Uganda, Sam Cheptoris was dismayed at the rate of environmental degradation. “Ugandan people behave badly towards nature. We need to behave better and responsible by not cutting trees, encroaching on forests, wetlands that will lead to destruction of our lives,” Cheptoris said. He noted that the country is faced with the burden of polluted waters bodies, encroachment on forests, and land degradation, adding that leaders should come together and implement policies that save mountains, forests and water bodies.

The deputy Secretary General of the East African Community (EAC), Ms. Jessica Eriyo observed that people living around the mountains need to be involved in sustainable environmental activities that equally contribute to their income. She noted that much as there is a lot of deforestation around the mountains, people can grow coffee alongside food crops. “Coffee tree roots firm the soils to avoid landslides as well as serving as a source of income,” she said. Dr. Sam Kanyamibwa the Executive director Albertine Rift Conservation Society, a key organizer of the WMF 2016 said that. “The WMF 2016 outcomes are expected to inform the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and guide interventions in mountain areas at local, national and international levels”. He noted that the WMF 2016 will offer an opportunity for mountain countries to discuss how to effectively implement the decisions from climate change negotiations and the post 2015 agenda for sustainable mountain development.

An environmental researcher at AFROMONT, an African research institute based in Pretoria, South Africa Sue Taylor told the meeting that Africa’s population is projected to reach 2.4 billion by 2050 from the current 1.2 billion.

She said “With this projected population growth, many people are going to resort to mountainous land and this will destroy the ecological system. At this rate, governments need to emphasize family planning plus education so the population can make sensible choices”.

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Dr. Musonda Mumba, the coordinator of Ecosystem Based Adaptation at the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) said the destructive human activities in mountainous areas have grossly affected natural resources. “On Mount Elgon, for instance, there are rivers and streams that have already dried up and for the uniqueness of Mount Elgon, it is a natural resource in Africa that is trans-boundary, so the destructive activities done on one part of the natural resource affects people on the other side of the resource, too.

His Holiness Kyabgon Chetsang of South East Asia observed that “There is need for our leaders to heavily invest in the livelihood of people surrounding the mountains, water bodies and forest as the only way we shall be able save the environment. There is bad management of natural resources”. Noting that people across the world predominantly rely on farming and animal husbandry for their livelihoods. However, mismanagement of the landscape has resulted in soil erosion and degradation of vegetation and rangelands. He said that communities that depend on these natural resources also face an increased risk of natural disasters, including floods, landslides and drought, particularly due to climate change. He said that healthy highland ecosystems provide protection from these disasters and improve local livelihoods. “As we continue deliberating on issues that affect mountains, there is need for us as leaders to find solutions to challenges forcing communities to encroach on the mountains, water bodies and forests”. He added that, “We should use this conference to come up with strategies to protect environment amidst population out bursting, poor communities that depend on environment for survival without endangering their lives.”

Deliberations from the Mbale met under the 4 themes of Mountains and Climate Change, Mountain Communities and Livelihoods, Mountain Ecosystem Services and Sustainable Mountain Agriculture recommended policy, knowledge and action areas at the global, regional and National levels respectively. [Read more through this link http://www.iisd.ca/mtnforum/wmf16/](http://www.iisd.ca/mtnforum/wmf16/).

The 2016 WMF was jointly organised by Albertine Rift Conservation Society and the Government of Uganda through Ministry of Water and Environment with financial and technical support from the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), Embassy of France in Uganda, Sustainable Mountain Development for Global Change (SMD4GC) partners all over the world including CONDESAN from Latin America.

The 6th Conference on Climate Change and Development in Africa is held in Addis Ababa-Ethiopia



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1. The conference was held at the United Nations Conference Centre at UNECA, Addis Ababa –Ethiopia 2. Youth & CSO representatives attending the Conference. 3. Ms. Velma Oseko from SusWatch Kenya centre with other participants (Photos: V. Oseko)

The sixth Conference on Climate Change and Development in Africa (CCDA-VI) was hosted in Addis Ababa from the 18th to 20th October 2016 at the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, at Africa Climate Policy Centre.

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The theme of the conference was “*The Paris Agreement on climate change: What next for Africa?*” It was attended by over 300 participants from institutions of higher learning, CSOs, youth and women networks, political leaders and representatives from various international bodies and agencies such as the UNFCCC, AMCEN, UNEP, AUC, NEPAD, IUCN and the African Development Bank (ADB).

At the opening, Mr. Justus Kabyemera from ADB noted that there was lack of Intended National Determined Contributions INDCs/NDCs in National Adaptation and development plans of African nations stressing that there is need for domestication of the Paris Agreement which comes into effect on November 4th, 2016 and the engagement of state and non-state actors in combating the issue of climate change. Built on the 5th Conference on Climate Change and Development in Africa, which was held prior to the 21st session of the Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC (COP21), the conference focused on revisiting article 2 of the Framework Convention, with the theme “Africa, Climate Change and Sustainable Development: What is at stake at Paris and beyond?” CCDA-VI aimed at facilitating Science-Policy dialogue and providing a marketplace for innovative solutions that integrate climate change into development processes. Repeatedly noted was the importance of engaging with the Paris Agreement within the framework of Africa’s development aspirations as underscored in Agenda 2063, which embodies the vision of the “Africa we want”, and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which sets global targets with a vision of “leaving no one behind”.

The specific objectives include examining the implications of the Paris Agreement for Africa’s future economic growth and sustainable development agenda, deepening the understanding of the nuances in the decisions of COP21 particularly with regard to the means of implementation (capacity, finance and technology transfer), as well as the domestication of the agreement in Africa in alignment with the national development priorities of African countries. Identifying strategies for implementing the Agreement especially through pan-African initiatives and institutions, public-private partnerships, and the engagement of State and non-State actors, providing a solution space for innovation and a platform for dialogue between State and non-State actors, facilitating networking between climate and development stakeholders, providing a platform to raise awareness of the importance of climate information services and enhance its uptake in development policy processes, exploring new and evolving challenges in Africa related to climate change. Interactive sessions discussed, the issue of INDCs which were submitted by world leaders prior to the COP 21 conference, The deliberations from the conference will act as a guide for African states prior to the discussions at the COP 22 to be held in Marrakech, Morocco between the 7th and the 18th of November, 2016.

Upcoming Event



MARRAKECH COP22 | CMP12 | CMA1
UN CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE 2016
مؤتمر الأمم المتحدة لتغير المناخ

The 22nd Session of the Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP22) will be held in Marrakech, November 7 to 18, 2016.

It will focus on action items in order to achieve the priorities of The Paris Agreement, especially related to adaptation, transparency, technology transfer, mitigation, capacity building and loss and damages. Follow tweets: @COP22 & hashtag #COP22

Website: <http://www.cop22.ma/>