

## THE EAST AFRICAN SUSWATCH E-BULLETIN

A Monthly from the East African Sustainability Watch Network founded by Uganda Coalition for Sustainable Development (UCSD), Tanzania Coalition for Sustainable Development (TCSD) and SusWatch Kenya

### INFORSE Network Partners from East Africa and South Asia share Sustainable Energy Plans and Options at a Global High level Virtual meeting



On June 22, 2021, INFORSE Network and Grameen Shakti (Bangladesh) in cooperation with INFORSE Regional and National Coordinators in East Africa, South Asia, and Europe organised a virtual side event during the High Level Dialogue on Energy (June 21 – 25, 2021) to mobilize actions as a major milestone on the road to the High-level Dialogue on Energy (HLDE) in September 2021.

The Virtual side event provided a platform for East African CSOs working together in the East African Civil Society for Sustainable Energy and Climate Action (EASE CA) Project partnership namely SusWatch Kenya, TaTEDO and Uganda Coalition for Sustainable Development to share with the rest of the world the Online Catalogue of more than 60 successful local sustainable solutions in East Africa (Tanzania, Uganda, Kenya). **More:** <http://localsolutions.inforse.org/>

Wendy Mitoko from Suswatch Kenya highlighted that, ‘the local solutions comprise cooking, cooking fuels, light and electricity; water; growing food, oils, transport; solar heat and others have huge potential to contribute to attainment of the SDGs in the East African region.

Justus Munyoki gave an overview of the Kenyan situation regarding energy supply and demand, and how Kenya can move into a 100% renewable energy economy until 2050, as part of a proposed plan for 100% Renewable Energy Scenario in Kenya developed by SusWatch Kenya under the (EASE CA) Project. He compared the business as usual scenario for how Kenya might develop without focus on renewable energy; against the 100% renewable energy option. He concluded that the cost of energy supply of the two scenarios shows an economic benefit of the renewable energy scenario. In this regard, SusWatch Kenya has made a number of proposals towards 100% renewable energy development, including the need to change to more efficient cooking, including efficient electric cooking and new highly efficient wood and charcoal stoves

Kimbowe Richard from Uganda Coalition for Sustainable Development presented a case for 100% renewable energy pathway for Uganda. He noted that UCSD is currently preparing a 100% Renewable Energy Scenario Plan and Strategy for Uganda, as part of the EASE CA Project. However, preliminary information indicates that Uganda has a high potential for renewable energy. ‘Uganda intends to have 60 per cent electricity connectivity access by 2027 – a huge undertaking that can be harnessed through early promotion of renewable energy options, given that the proportion of the country’s population with primary reliance on clean fuels and technology stands at a mere 0.6 per cent’, he pointed out.

The meeting was also exposed to the Eco-Village Development (EVD) a multi-sectoral intervention in South Asia (Bangladesh, Nepal, India, Sri Lanka). Sohel Ahmed (Grameen Shakti) shared some experiences on the current and planned innovations as well as the challenges for the electric 3-Wheelers in Bangladesh.

The High-level Dialogue on Energy in September 2021 represents the first global gathering on energy under the auspices of the General Assembly since the UN Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy held in Nairobi in 1981. **More:** <https://www.un.org/en/conferences/energy2021>

## Entebbe Food Systems Dialogue Focuses on Food Security and Environmental Sustainability in the Lake Victoria Basin



With support from the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO), ICLEI Africa is conducting dialogues in 16 African Cities including the one held in Entebbe on June 22, 2021 on the significance of Lake Victoria to Entebbe's food system: exploring the opportunities for food security, improved livelihoods and environmental sustainability outcomes. The Dialogues seek to highlight the role that African local governments are playing in improving their food systems; generate discussions, action and commitments from local governments on food systems reforms; connect these dialogues with the national Food Systems Summit Dialogues and to achieve a lasting collaboration on urban food systems and strengthen networks for learning.

Kimbowha Richard from Uganda Coalition for Sustainable Development that co-hosted this event said that, 'Contributing to the UN Food Systems Summit Dialogue especially in the context of Lake Victoria is a key area for the organisation as a whole, because in other sustainability engagements, UCSD deals with actors in the Lake Victoria Region in Kenya and Tanzania'.

Solophina Nekesa, Professional Officer - Urban systems at ICLEI Africa, noted that future food systems in Africa need to regenerate nature and conserve natural resources: indigenous vegetation as primary food sources and improving efficiencies to reduce wastage and degradation of resources such as land, water and air that are critical to the food system. She also added that, 'Such food systems should also connect our citizens: through urban community food gardens and other open spaces but also end injustice in form of preventing stunting and obesity through education and awareness of nutritious and healthy foods'

Samson Semakula, Agriculture Officer in Entebbe Municipality informed the meeting that Entebbe remains a net importer of foodstuffs from neighboring countries, but has also just developed a 1,000 vendor green-friendly agricultural produce market to encourage local green production. On the challenges faced, Mr. Semakula said 'bad fishing methods, uncontrolled fishing and the recent heat wave that kill a lot of fish in the lake have led to the declining fish stocks. There is also a poor road infrastructure network with less access to competitive fish markets and poor social services, while diseases like HIV/AIDS, diarrhea and COVID19 continue to ravage lives'

On behalf of the Lake Victoria Region Local Authorities Cooperation (LVRLAC), Mercy Sebuliba gave suggestions including a need for contingency plans to address impacts of future multiple crises on small-scale fishing communities and to scale up (budget) support in nature-based green innovations for food security and income supplement for vulnerable households in Entebbe and other lakeside communities.

The series of Dialogues dubbed '2021 African City Food Exchange' by ICLEI Africa with support from the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), seek to elevate the voices of African cities towards the UN Food Systems Summit 2021' and reinforce the National Food Systems Dialogues. The UN Secretary-General will convene a UN Food Systems Summit starting 1st September 2022, that is expected to awaken the world to the fact that we all must work together to transform the way the world produces, consumes, and thinks about food. The primary objective of the Food Systems Summit 2021 (FSS 2021) is to achieve multiple Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by internationally coordinated actions across the food system chain (production, distribution, and consumption). **Follow the UN Food Systems Summit process from here: <https://www.un.org/en/food-systems-summit>**

## Civil Society Launch First Global SDG Accountability Report



The Global SDG Accountability Report is a first-of-its-kind publication that aims to survey the current state of accountability (or lack thereof) for the 2030 Agenda at subnational, national, and international levels. In addition to a varied body of expert insight, this report presents an analysis of the collected reflections and inputs from the SDG Accountability Survey, completed by a diverse set of stakeholders from around the world. The Global Report is an effort of global CSO networks including Together 2030, TAP Network, Forus, CIVICUS and the Global Call to Action Against Poverty, among others.

The 2030 Agenda acknowledges the contribution of civil society to SDG implementation, recognizes the importance of partnership including civil society, and encourages the inclusion of civil society within country-level preparations for a government's Voluntary National Review.

According to the TAP Network - one of the authors of this Report, SDG accountability is a form of social accountability that aims to hold government duty bearers accountable to their commitment to the 2030 Agenda to realize a sustainable and prosperous future for all humanity. Therefore, SDG accountability requires three main elements namely: responsibility, answerability and enforceability.

With the SDGs representing a voluntary agenda, it is critical that a wide range of stakeholders and processes are used to hold governments accountable, including civil society, parliaments, national Human Rights Institutions, Journalists and the media, academia, donors and philanthropy, international / multilateral organizations, social movements and government representatives.

The Report notes that the approach to accountability include working with Government institutions, working with formal processes, working on oversight and for accountability, working with informal processes, working on oversight for accountability and working with informal processes.

During the Launch, John Romano (TAP Network) noted that, 'Governments and other duty-bearers should be accountable for not only delivery of the basic goods and services outlined throughout the SDGs, but also effectively working to secure and preserve the fundamental human rights and dignity of all people, in all contexts'. 'Governments must be accountable to this foundational principle of the 2030 Agenda, if any progress is to be made on any of the 17 SDGs, and towards all of them', John Romano stressed. Sainora Konig-Reis from the Danish Institute for Human Rights noted that, 'National Human Rights Institutions have a key role of assessing the human rights impact of States and other actors to secure compliance with SDGs and human rights obligations across different sectors in line with international standards, and working with other stakeholders'.

The Report highlights the negative effect of the COVID 19 pandemic on accountability due to shrinking civic space and reduced social cohesion. This highlights the challenge to the international community to secure that no one is left behind in provision the vaccines

The Report aims to provide a "snapshot" of SDG Accountability, and gives readers the necessary resources and guidance to develop their own approach and forge meaningful partnerships. The Report also provides insights and recommendations for advancing accountability for the 2030 Agenda through the Campaign for a Decade of Accountability for the SDGs. **Read More about this Global Report from here: <https://www.sdgaccountability.org/report/>**