

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

UCSD and JEEP Hold Social Media training for Students and Activists in Uganda



Participants take a look at some of the technologies displayed at JEEP. Photo: JEEP

Joint Energy and Environment Projects (JEEP) and Uganda Coalition for Sustainable Development as part of the East African Civil Society for Sustainable Energy and Climate Action (EASE-CA) Project, held two customized Social Media Training Workshop for Youths and Coalition Members (over 40 in total) on January 27 and 28 2021 at JEEP Folkecenter – Kyanja (Kampala). The training was in support of efforts to popularize the *Catalogue of Local Sustainable Solutions in East Africa* that was launched in December 2020. It sought to popularize the local sustainable energy and other sustainable development solutions (best practices in technical solutions, financing models, business models) amongst participants, through use of the

popular social media platforms while strengthening their ‘voice’ to influence planning and decision-making processes headed for sustainable energy and climate action in Uganda. JEEP is already promoting some of these solutions country-wide, for example in Nakaseke, Nakasongola and Nebbi that are empowering local communities to get access to clean energy and improved livelihoods in an economic and climate-friendly way.

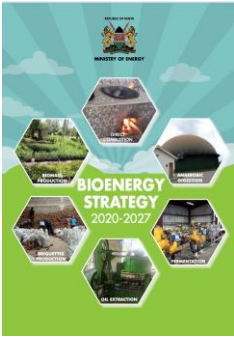
Furthermore, JEEP and UCSD believe that the Catalogue will be a key contribution to scale-up community actions in the context of 2021 as a Covid19 post recovery year ahead of the UNFCCC COP26 in Glasgow (UK) due to take place 1 – 12 November 2021 among other global efforts to raise global ambition on climate action.. The customised training therefore sought to scale up the ‘voice’ of communities, youths, activists students and other frontline actor to contribute to these global efforts, through use of *social media for information sharing* (Facebook), *contributing to discussions* in local, national and global sustainable development processes (twitter and Facebook) to inform and influence decisions, as well as *social networking* (for example through sharing action-oriented pictures and short videos to influence friends and likeminded people in use of local sustainable solutions.

In addition to sharing basic skills, knowledge and experiences on use of selected social media (including twitter and Facebook), a draft Social Media Action Plan was discussed and agreed upon as a follow up action to promote the *Catalogue of Local Solutions in East Africa*.

Under the EASE CA Project (2019 – 2022) that seeks for increased access to sustainable energy and other climate solutions to local communities in Uganda, Kenya and Tanzania with both women’s and men’s full and effective participation and leadership for improved livelihoods and reduction of poverty, JEEP and UCSD works with SusWatch Kenya, TaTEDO working as the International Network for Sustainable Energy (INFORSE) East Africa Coordinators in partnership with INFORSE secretariat and the Nordic Folkecenter for Renewable Energy with financial support from CISU-Denmark.

Read more about the *Catalogue of Local Sustainable Development Solutions in East Africa*: <http://www.inforse.org/africa/EASE.htm>

Kenya Unveils Strategy to Elevate the Use of Bioenergy by 2030



On 18 November 2020, Kenya's Ministry of Energy launched the Bioenergy Strategy (2020-2027) whose overarching objective is sustainable production and consumption of bioenergy for all bioenergy users. Bioenergy refers to electricity and gas that is generated from organic matter, known as biomass. This can be anything from plants and timber to agricultural and food waste – and even sewage. The term bioenergy also covers transport fuels produced from organic matter. The Strategy places Kenya firmly on track towards achieving 100% access to modern bioenergy services by 2030, including a commitment to meet clean cooking targets by 2028.

Among others, the strategy aims to promote the sustainable production and consumption of bioenergy with attendant human health, economic and environmental benefits; provide potential investors with requisite information on viable opportunities for bioenergy development in Kenya; accelerate transition to clean cooking technologies and fuels; and to serve as a framework for regional cooperation and trade in bioenergy and related feedstock as called for by the Africa Bioenergy Policy Framework and Guidelines (African Union & UNECA).

The Bioenergy Strategy sets and strategic interventions to sustainable utilization of over the 2020-2027. To achieve identifies three crucial features coordination mechanism to strategy, including clear private recognition of adaptive consultations around innovation learning and feedback.

Progressive: Kenya's Bioenergy Strategy (2020 – 2027) is set to facilitate existing energy multi-stakeholder associations to champion the planning and coordination of bioenergy innovation platforms around specific bioenergy types

forth guidelines, approaches promote development and bioenergy resources in Kenya the set objectives, the Strategy which are: (a) a delivery and oversee implementation of the sector involvement; (b) planning and multi-stakeholder platforms and; (c) strong role of

In order to roll out, the Strategy identifies key next steps to ensure institutionalization within the Ministry's Renewable Energy Directorate and coordination at sub-national level.

These key immediate and long-term actions are: Harmonizing institutional mandates – with the aim of resolving conflicting mandates among state agencies in order to enable effective delivery and coordination of programmes, mapping of country's biomass resources – to develop a comprehensive inventory with estimates of potential for bioenergy development, facilitating existing energy multi-stakeholder associations to champion the planning and coordination of bioenergy innovation platforms around specific bioenergy types and bioethanol blending – with gasoline for transport sector consumption.

The Strategy further identifies research and development as a key action to better inform bioenergy policy and support sector development by assessing existing gaps and opportunities

Kenya's Bioenergy Strategy (2020-2027) was developed with support from World Bank, GIZ and the World Agroforestry (ICRAF). Bioenergy is an important form of energy in Kenya, contributing 68% of the country's final energy demand for diverse needs, especially cooking and heating.

Huge Gap to Finance and Implement Africa's Climate Change Adaptation – UN Report (2020)



Adaptation – reducing countries' and communities' vulnerability to climate change by increasing their ability to absorb impacts – is a key pillar of the Paris Agreement on Climate Change. The Agreement requires its signatories to implement adaptation measures through national plans, climate information systems, early warning, protective measures and investments in a green future.

The UNEP Adaptation Gap Report 2020 finds that while nations have advanced in planning, huge gaps remain in finance for developing countries and bringing adaptation projects to the stage where they bring real protection against climate impacts such as droughts, floods and sea-level rise.

The UNEP Adaptation Gap Report further notes that while the pace of adaptation financing is rising, it continues to be outpaced by rapidly increasing adaptation costs. Annual adaptation costs in developing countries are estimated at USD 70 billion. This figure is expected to reach USD 140-300 billion in 2030 and USD 280-500 billion in at the turn of the century. Furthermore, the latest data from the Copernicus Climate Change Service shows that 2020 was the joint warmest year on record, together with 2016. Temperatures around the globe were 0.6 DegC above the 1981-2010 average. In fact 2020 also concluded what was the hottest decade on record.

According to *Reliefweb* (January 2021), all nations must pursue the efforts outlined in UNEP's Emissions Gap Report 2020 despite a dip in 2020 carbon COVID-19 pandemic, the temperature rise in excess of for a green pandemic Determined Contributions commitments. In addition, finance and implement support those nations least

Ambition: The World must plan for, finance and implement climate change adaptation to support those nations least responsible for climate change but most at risk.

that underscored the fact that dioxide emissions caused by the world is still heading for a 3°C this century. It therefore called recovery and updated Nationally that include new net-zero the world must also plan for, climate change adaptation to responsible for climate change but

most at risk. The adverse consequences of climate change are concentrated in regions with relatively hot climates, where a disproportionately large number of low-income countries are located (IMF, 2020).

The UN Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA)'s African Climate Policy Centre projects that the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in the five African sub regions would suffer significant decrease as a result of a global temperature increase. For scenarios ranging from a 1 °C to a 4 °C increase in global temperatures relative to pre-industrial levels, the continent's overall GDP is expected to decrease by 2.25% to 12.12%. West, Central and East Africa exhibit a higher adverse impact than Southern and North Africa. Therefore Africa needs poverty reducing interventions that also promote socioeconomic growth, in order to counter climate related risks and extreme event impacts especially in the agricultural sector which employs 60% of its population (WMO, 2020). One such intervention should be rolling out value-addition techniques using efficient and clean energy sources that are reported to be capable of reducing poverty two to four times faster than growth in any other sector.

Read the full UN Adaptation Gap Report from: <https://www.unenvironment.org/resources/adaptation-gap-report-2020>