

## 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

### The Danish Renewable Energy Centre's 'Passive House' - Memories Remain



Left to Right: The 'Passive House', E-cookers using renewable energy, visitors next to a PV test park & inside the Skibstedfjord (Photos: UCSD)

Three representatives - Mary Swai – Tanzania, Nobert Nyandire – Kenya and Kimbowa Richard – Uganda visited the Nordic Folkecenter for Renewable Energy (NFRE) situated in Thy peninsular overlooking the green picturesque landscape in the North West Jutland of Denmark.” NFRE is proud for ‘working for a world running on 100% renewables since 1983’. The visit took place from June 1 to 4, 2022 as part of the *East African Civil Society for Sustainable Energy and Climate Action (EASE CA) Project*.

Windmills define the Thy region, as it is quite windy during this time of the year (May/June). According to the NFRE, the Thy region has since 1975 been in practice pioneering renewable energy technologies over its 8 hectares of land. At the NFRE, integration of various renewable energy sources (wind, solar power, and biomass) is practiced, so that no one source stands on its own.

Every year, the NFRE hosts more than 6,000 people from different countries, to learn more about renewable energy in the ‘real’ world. These are exposed to its ‘autonomous’ energy system where wind and solar energy are the primary sources for heat and electricity, while biomass is used as a backup. Visitors can see wind energy technology in practice, solar electricity (photovoltaic integrated into buildings), biomass / biogas technology transfer, research and development projects for sustainable transportation including hydrogen and electric vehicles operating on renewable energy. During their stay at the NFRE, the 3 East African visitors were exposed to the various innovations at the NFRE. These include the Folkecenter wind test site where more than 10 small scale windmills are permanently being tested, measured for Danish and Global standards. Here performance of small windmills for electricity and water pumping are measured. In addition, the NFRE hosts a windmill history building where one can see the historical types of windmill components over time since the 1970’s

Another outstanding innovation is the 750M<sup>2</sup> training centre (Skibstedfjord) and assembly house, with low experimental low energy underground architecture, as it is integrated in the hillside and the roof is covered with 1.5 meters of earth. The octagonal assembly with a 200 sitting capacity hosts many Danish and global educational, social and cultural events. During their stay. the 3 East African visitors participated in an information sharing and discussion workshop with a Danish audience on progress of the EASE CA Project. Staying in the NFRE’s ‘Passive House’ remains a memorable experience. This is a building designed to consume as less energy as possible, while still delivering a good indoor climate: all building elements are designed to deliver an optimal combination of energy consumption and comfort. While the outside was windy and cold, the inside of this House was welcoming, warm, well lighted and equipped with all the household power needs from wind power and other integrated renewable energy sources. The ‘Passive house’ is an inspiration that the 100% Renewable energy target is not out of reach from the local level! **More about the NFRE:** <https://www.folkecenter.eu/>



## Herculean Task from the Bonn Sessions to COP27 in Sharm el Shielk, Egypt



Effect of floods due to the rise in Lake Victoria water levels in 2019

Mixed reactions have been received on the outcome from United Nations Climate Change (technical) negotiations held in Bonn (Germany) from 31 May to 16 June 2022. Ambassador Wael Aboul Magd of Egypt, representing the incoming COP27 Presidency noted that “some progress has been made on several agenda items, yet others continue to be affected by divergent views, and hence will require more intercessional work to ensure that the work in Sharm El Sheikh (host for COP27) will start from the most advanced point possible,” (in terms of negotiations on the issues)

But Zambia on behalf of the African Group registered disappointment that consensus could not be reached on the agenda item on the Glasgow dialogue on loss and damage (GD) and stressed the importance of advancing work on clarifying financing arrangements for loss and damage. Likewise, for the Santiago Network on loss and damage (SNLD), it was disappointed with lack of willingness to engage on this item, and hoped for agreement on its operationalization at COP27. On finance, Zambia said that African countries urgently require the means to implement their ambitious nationally determined contributions (NDCs) and are concerned about the lack of focus under the work programme for the new collective quantified goal (NCQG) on finance. On the Global Stocktake (GST), Zambia requested dedicated sessions at the next round of the technical dialogues on cross-cutting issues and linkages, including equity and support and called for a comprehensive aggregate assessment that will help assess ways to collectively meet the goals of the PA and fully implement it with the enabling support, in the context of sustainable development and on the basis of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities (CBDR-RC), equity and best available science.

Looking ahead, whereas loss and damage finance is still not added to the formal agenda, it is clearly established as a priority issue for developing countries, and is likely to re-emerge during the opening plenary of COP27. It would appear that progress on Loss and Damage Finance will be a measure of success from COP27. As noted by COP27 President-designate Shoukry, Egypt seeks that COP27 be a turning point from pledges and promises to actual implementation in reducing emissions, addressing the adaptation gap & empowering developing countries through predictable & sufficient finance”.

In a press release, Climate Action Network International noted that ‘the Bonn Conference once again showed the disconnect between the negotiation rooms and the everyday reality of people suffering from climate-induced loss and damage. Discussions across various issues offered no substantial breakthroughs – on finance, adaptation and emission reduction actions’.

Kimbowo Richard who represented Uganda Coalition for Sustainable Development / INFORSE East Africa in Bonn agrees, and asserts that, ‘time is for action (finance for adaptation, mitigation, loss & damage) availed to address the unrelenting droughts, floods, food and water insecurity; and energy poverty that impact on the most vulnerable communities in East Africa and elsewhere in the world’

Loss and Damage Finance remains a touchy issue for Africa and many other developing countries. Whereas momentum for confronting loss and damage finally gained steam leading up to and during the COP26 climate summit in Glasgow, an urgent appeal from climate-vulnerable countries for a new loss and damage financing facility was vetoed by developed nations. In its place, at COP26, countries established the Glasgow Dialogue to discuss ‘possible arrangements for loss and damage funding’. However the initial discussion in Bonn leaves a lot to be desired ahead of COP27. **More about Unpacking finance for Loss and Damage:** <https://us.boell.org/en/unpacking-finance-loss-and-damage>