

Using ICTs to monitor implementation of a Regional Transboundary Lake Victoria Project: A Case of the LVEMP II Civil Society Watch Project (2011 – 2014)



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Civil Society Organisations through the East African Sustainability Watch (SusWatch) Network comprising Sustainable Environmental Development Watch Network (SusWatch Kenya), Tanzania Coalition for Sustainable Development, and UCSD are implementing a three-year Lake Victoria Environment Management Project - LVEMP II Civil Society Watch Projects supported by the Government of Sweden (November 2011 – October 2014) - a watchdog of the LVEMP II Project (see below)

About the Lake Victoria Environment Management Project II

The Lake Victoria Environment Management Project (LVEMP II) is an eight-year regional initiative by the East African Community: (www.eac.int), coordinated by the Lake Victoria Basin Commission (LVBC). The World Bank through IDA and the EAC partner States are funding the Project. Other sources are Global Environmental Facility (GEF) and Sweden. **More about LVEMP II Project (Kenya side) from:** <http://www.lvemp2kenyas.org/>



The LVEMP II Civil Society Watch Project has a goal to lobby and advocate for realization of results-based performance from LVEMP II and implementation of the East African Climate Change Policy (EACCP, 2010):

Current work relating to ICTs and Climate Change under the LVEMP III Civil Society Watch Project

The project will use ICTs as one of the tools to enable participating CSOs and project beneficiaries to actively use, share and contribute to knowledge content in form of 'real time' evidence that inform EA SusWatch's planned periodic briefs (the Annual LVB Climate Change Readiness briefs) that are aimed at providing proposals to improve mechanisms for implementation of the EACCP provisions (water supply and sanitation, agriculture & food security, energy supply).

Key Activities relating to ICTs

- ✓ Conduct tailor-made ICT training session on basic computing, networking and social media tools (blogging, micro blogging, instant messaging, photo and video share, podcast etc.) based on the free and open source software; basic photography skills.
- ✓ Develop an Electronic Communications policy (along the Communications and Advocacy Strategy)
- ✓ Launch and maintain a regional SusWatch listserve and other social media tools to facilitate and scale up interactions, communication and information sharing amongst citizen groups, NGOs and CBOs working within the Lake Victoria basin
- ✓ Set up 3 Rapid Response Events using Freedom Phone – information and communication tool marrying mobile phone and Interactive Voice Response (IVR) to scale up 'real time' citizen monitoring and feedback on LVEMP II implementation, generation of news, views and information for advocacy and media attention.
- ✓ Develop an interactive website (for example a Ning) for the regional and the three project national focal points with profiles of members and their activities (use of google plotting) within the LVB – to encourage more networking & through the planned Working Groups around the LVEMP II Civil Society Watch Project focus
- ✓ Produce and disseminate East African SusWatch Network's publicity, IEC and advocacy materials through email lists, listserves, blogs (and More using other open source social networking tools)

Expected Project Results

- Use of ICTs for sustainable development (climate change) advocacy – using open source social media tools
- The 3 Rapid Response Events have begun to generate timely information on the progress in implementation of LVEMP II project at the national level among other things
- EA SusWatch listserve has generated discussions, news, opinions and viewpoints from CSOs, interested citizens on implementation of the LVEMP II Project, which can be used by the media and the Project implementers.
- Responses received and actions taken by the LVEMP II implementation teams and other actors, based on the EA SusWatch's monitoring reports (evidence) presented at the national, district and lower levels in Uganda, Kenya and Tanzania