

Activity 1.1.1 CUTS VCA HOMABAY COUNTY INCEPTION MEETING REPORT.

DATE: 26/08/2012 **VENUE:** HOTEL STARIDGE-HOMABAY

Introduction:

CUTS facilitated the Inception meeting for the Voices for Just Climate Action (VCA) Project in Homabay County led by the climate change directorate under the Department of Environmental Water and Natural Resources.

In addition to having the Climate Action Stakeholders in Homa Bay County identified, mobilized and briefed on the VCA project, CUTS also sought to build capacity of the various stakeholders on climate change concepts and role of communities on climate change actions, mitigations and adaptations.

Among the participants included other like-minded CSOs representatives, Climate

change CBOs in Homabay county and key stakeholders drawn from the pilot wards namely Kaksingri West, Gwasi North and Lambwe both in Suba South and Mbita Sub Counties respectively. Also in attendance were government officials including the Chief Officer Department of Environmental Water & Natural Resources, Director Budget, Gender Officer, CUTS Team, H-Bay CSO Network, and other non-governmental organizations supporting climate change actions in Homabay County including the Devolution and Climate Change Adaptation Programme (DaCCA), Women Empowerment Link (WEL) and the South Sustainability Watch (SUSWATCH) representatives.



Director Water (Mr. Omulama) addressing participants while outlining the focus of water department in relation to Addressing Climate change impact.

Session Objectives:-

- 1) To sensitize the climate change and environment stakeholders including teams from various government departments, CBOs, and NGOs on the VCA Program.
- 2) To learn from both state and non-state actors regarding their experience on Climate Change Financing



Participants attending the Project Inception meeting

- 3) To build synergy with state and non-state actors on climate change policy and climate change finance regulation
- 4) To establish VCA-CDFs in the wards i.e. Kaksingri West, Gwasi North and Lambwe
- 5) To build the capacity for stakeholders on climate change concept, local climate actions and climate financing opportunities including budget tracking process.

Session Outcomes:-

After being taken through the project outline and the intended outputs and outcome and the climate change concepts by Mr. Daniel Asher of CUTS, the stakeholders then had an interactive session for



Director Economic Planning & Budget (Mr. Bolo) leading the session on climate change action budgeting process and on issue of CIDP and Public Participation during inception meeting

sharing on the gaps and agreeing on action points. The stakeholders present identified the following critical areas as gaps requiring collaboration and synergy building for the realization of climate change actions.

- i. Need for a concerted effort by all actors towards the realization of the following, which are lacking for winning the war against climate change effects in Homa bay county:-
 - Climate change Act
 - Climate change fund regulation
 - Climate change action regulation
- ii. The team appreciated the previous efforts of CUTS under SPE project that saw the realization of the Renewable Energy Policy and expressed confidence on the realization of the Climate Change Act and financial regulation through the VCA support and that of other partners.

General Comments

The stakeholders discussed and cited key areas of concern to be strengthened in order to address some of the existing climate change legal framework gaps.

- i. Need to Engage the County Assembly through the elected MCAs on formulation of climate change legal framework.



Director Energy (Mr. Oduma) making his remarks during the project Inception meeting

- ii. Need to lobby and hold a joint stakeholders consultative meeting with the Governor on the adoption to push for the passage of the draft Climate Change Bill and its finance regulation.
- iii. The importance of engaging the County Assembly Speaker on adoption of the Climate Change Policy
- iv. Plans to establish and adopt the ward development forum as key avenues for desired climate change actions at the community level.
- v. Need to liaise with the Director of Budget and sensitize stakeholders and Community Dialogue Forums on Budget tracking process.
- vi. Need to ensure that the third generation CIDP caters for climate change planning for mitigations and adaptation.

Resolution:

- i. All the partners implementing VCA resolved to partner with other partners and Director Climate Change to fast track adoption of the climate change policy.
- ii. The office of the county clerk through the deputy Clerk present agreed to support the linkage and paper work for the smooth passage of the climate change policy and other incidental regulation.
- iii. An ad hock committee of three people including the Climate Change Director was selected to team up with the CUTS consultant to harmonize the climate change fund regulation, review the draft climate change bill and avail their financial documents for verification by the stakeholders and MCAs.
- iv. The partners agreed to engage and plan for a joint meeting with MCAs & Speakers and discuss the climate change policy.

Conclusions:

The stakeholder engagement session ended successfully and with support from the county government.

PARTICIPANTS LIST

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