

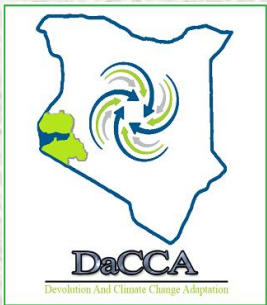
THE DaCCA BULLETIN

A MONTHLY BRIEF ON THE DACCA PARTNERS' ACTIVITIES

NOVEMBER 2017 ISSUE



DaCCA partners organize well attended advocacy campaigns in Homabay County



THE PARTNERS



Photo 1: Participants of the advocacy campaign in Chuoye and Obaria beaches in Homabay



Photo 2: The advocacy procession in Homabay town on the 21st of November, 2017

On the 21st and the 24th of November, 2017, DaCCA partners – SusWatch Kenya and Umande Trust organized advocacy campaigns in Homabay County. The first campaign organized by SusWatch Kenya that went by the theme **“Act now! Adapt to Climate Change”** attracted over 200 participants from civil society, youth and women groups, local community members and government.

The campaign sought to:

- Influence the development of a Homabay County Climate Change Policy.
- Influence Inclusion of Climate Change issues in the second generation of CIDP (2018-2022)
- Advocate for mainstreaming of Climate Change issues in all sectors.
- Create synergy amongst stakeholders working on Climate Change in the County.

At the event, which culminated at Ja'mawego grounds, the Homabay County Director of budget Mr. Willis Obolo emphasized the need for the county government to allocate sufficient funds for projects that are development oriented. He also stated that the county government was well on track with creating environmental conservation awareness within the county, with the assistance and participation of various stakeholders.

On the other hand the DaCCA Programme Coordinator, Mr. Nobert Nyandire in his speech informed the participants that the DACCA Partners were pushing for the development of a Climate Change Policy that would guide climate change adaptation interventions in the county. He also urged all the stakeholders to unite and collectively tackle the menace by fast-tracking the development of policies and promoting effective interventions. He gave recommendations to the relevant ministries such as that of Environment and Natural Resources, Agriculture and Kenya Forest Services to synergize their operations and put in more work towards the conservation of the few water towers within Homabay County.

In a similarly structured event on the 24th of November, Umande Trust organized their community groups, climate change champions and relevant government personnel in a campaign dubbed, **“Our water, my responsibility”**. The campaign sought to promote better management of natural resources and water purification technologies. Participants got to plant tree seedlings and disseminate their advocacy message in a procession at Chuowe beach and later congregated at Obaria beach for speeches.

The residents of the two beaches have plenty of water within their reach but the water is not clean and safe for consumption. This water is the basis for water-borne diseases such as cholera, dysentery and diarrhea. It is therefore important for a form of water purification technology to be adopted within the Chuowe and Obaria beach communities, thus the need for the campaign.

During the speeches, Mr. Othieno, from CREP Programme reiterated the need for better Water, Sanitation and Hygiene practices by stating that the health and economic impact of poor hygiene and unsafe water for drinking are very huge that it affects communities severely and causes about 90% of nature related deaths in the world. He emphasized that not investing in water and hygiene might take about 5% of our income annually and therefore there is a need for communities to embrace the activities of the DaCCA programme so as to get the best practices on Sanitation and water management techniques for a healthy living.

The event’s Guest of Honor, the Homabay Deputy County Commissioner, Mr. Shaban requested the participants to familiarize themselves with different government legislations such as the National Sanitation and Hygiene Policy, the Water Act (2002), the National Water Policy and the National Sanitation and Hygiene Policy in selected Arid and semi-arid land (ASAL) districts.

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