

June 2022; Issue 6

REALITY CHECK: HOW EACOP & OTHER OIL PROJECT DEVELOPERS ARE FAILING AFFECTED COMMUNITIES



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People whose land is being acquired for the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) project during a meeting organised by AFIEGO in Lwengo district

In this newsletter:

- This is our reality: Our rights have been abused by oil project developers
- Pictorial of our activities
- Lobbying
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Dear reader, welcome to our June 2022 newsletter. This month, we have given space to communities whose land is being acquired for the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP), Tilenga and Kingfisher oil projects to tell you their stories.

This follows various media articles published by the president, Petroleum Authority of Uganda (PAU) and certain members of the public associated with the country's oil sector.

In the above-mentioned articles, the authors have widely explained the state of Uganda's oil sector, what the potential impacts of the sector are and the mitigation measures that are to be implemented to avoid, minimise or mitigate these impacts.

In the articles, the authors have also explained what they are doing to manage the impacts accruing from the EACOP and related upstream oil projects' land acquisition processes.

In a nutshell, the authors have said that oil project-affected persons are being given generous compensation and that the land acquisition processes for the EACOP and related projects are being well-managed.

However, are they? In our **Word from AFIEGO and Oil-affected communities**, communities share their stories in relation to the EACOP, Tilenga and Kingfisher oil projects.

The communities decry the low compensation they are being offered, the inadequate grievance handling mechanisms that they have to grapple with and failure to ensure that they are actively involved/participate in the land

acquisition processes.

They also decry failure to replace them to their original positions and construction of culturally-, economically- and socially-inappropriate houses for them.

They also share how the use of courts against project-affected persons (PAPs) has caused fear. You can read more about this in this newsletter.

In this newsletter, we also bring you our **pictorial** section which highlights the work that we and our partners did this month.

For instance, we supported 2,591 oil-affected people from Uganda and the Democratic Republic of Congo to petition the Uganda Human Rights Commission as well as the UN Human Rights office in Uganda to engage oil project developers to end the human rights abuses against the people.

In addition, AFIEGO and our Save Bugoma Forest Campaign (SBFC) partners organised a meeting with local leaders of the 31 villages that surround Bugoma forest and participated in a radio talkshow at Spice FM in Hoima district.

The talkshow empowered stakeholders including the Bugoma forest host communities to defend their rights as they continue the fight to protect the forest from land grabbers.

Furthermore, AFIEGO and our Inclusive Green Economy Network – East Africa (IGEN-EA) partners conducted research on the tourism potential of Bugoma forest.

A research brief to support lobby and

advocacy for protection of the forest from oil, land grabbing and sugarcane threats is under production.

In addition, with some of our IGEN-EA partners, AFIEGO held a community sensitisation meeting with the oil refinery-affected youth and other groups in Hoima district.

During the meeting, we empowered the youth to engage in green economic alternatives and reject brown economic activities that continue to endanger their livelihoods.

Furthermore, we educated a clean energy women champion group in Hoima district to promote clean energy. Such initiatives will improve community livelihoods while protecting the environment.

We did much more as can be seen in our pictorial section.

In our **lobbying** section, we bring you a research brief titled, "Enhancing women participation in apiculture (beekeeping) for livelihoods and environmental conservation in the Albertine Graben" that we and our IGEN-EA partners produced this month.

In addition, AFIEGO and our civil society partners wrote an open letter to the

President reacting to his article, *Africa can help solve the energy crisis*, that was published in *The Telegraph* newspaper in May 2022.

Our statement noted that Uganda should not be seeking to help solve the energy crises of others yet the majority of citizens do not have access to clean energy.

Furthermore, with 12 civil society partners, we issued a statement reacting to the misinformation that Uganda's oil exploitation efforts could result in the country reducing its Green House Gas (GHG) emissions.

The misinformation is being shared by PAU and others. Our statement debunked these arguments.

Finally, in **in the media** section, we bring you some of the eight newspaper articles written by our staff and partners that were published in the leading newspapers in June.

We hope you will enjoy the newsletter.

Editorial team:

Diana Nabiruma

Rachael Amongin

Balach Bakundane



Through this newsletter, EACOP and other oil-affected communities share their struggles in relation to the projects

THIS IS OUR REALITY: OUR RIGHTS HAVE BEEN ABUSED BY OIL PROJECT DEVELOPERS

Ms. Beatrice B. is a middle-aged, educated and amiable woman from Hoima district. She is also an empowered powerful speaker. She utilises her talents well as her day-to-day work involves sensitising community women so that they protect their land and livelihood rights.

Like tens of thousands of people in the oil region, Ms. Beatrice is a project-affected person (PAP). Part of her land in Hoima district was acquired for the Tilenga oil project's feeder pipeline. The Tilenga project is operated by France's TotalEnergies.

Under the project, Total is expected to pump 190,000 barrels of crude oil per day at peak production from over 400 oil wells in Murchison Falls National Park (MFNP) and Buliisa district. This oil will be cleaned in a Central Processing Facility (CPF) in Ngwedo in Buliisa district.

From the CPF, the oil will be evacuated to the Kabaale Industrial Park (oil refinery) area through a 24-inch feeder pipeline that traverses Buliisa, Kikuube and Hoima districts.

It is for the aforementioned feeder pipeline that some of Ms. Beatrice's land was compulsorily acquired. She was requested to sign some sort of consent form after the acquisition.

"My neighbours, the majority of whom are illiterate, had signed the forms as well. Total's sub-contractors made everyone who owns land within 200 metres of the feeder pipeline to sign these consent forms.

My neighbours did not understand why they were signing the forms. They said that the forms were aimed at barring them from using their land."

Ms. Beatrice adds, "I read the forms and they did not say anything akin to that.

However, people continue to say that they can't use their land. They weren't sensitised enough to

understand the purpose of the consent forms."

CONFUSION IN BULIISA

The same confusion reigns in Buliisa district where a lot of the Tilenga project infrastructure is to be located.

"People have been asking what the consent forms they are being made to sign are for. They are worried that their land could be stolen," Mr. Atuhura Y., who lives in Buliisa district, says.

Some of the households that signed the consent forms in Buliisa live within 200 metres of the Tilenga CPF area and feeder pipeline.

The confusion around these consent forms, alongside a number of practices seen under land acquisition processes for the Tilenga, East Africa Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) and Kingfisher oil projects, is against policies such as the 2017 Land Acquisition and Resettlement Framework that the oil companies in Uganda put in place.

It is also against the international best practices related to land acquisition that the companies committed to adhere to.

Furthermore, the experiences shared by the people are different from those that are being conveyed in the media by the president, PAU and others. The aforementioned parties give the impression that the compensation processes are going on well, contrary to the reality on the ground.

THIS IS OUR REALITY

Throughout this year, AFIEGO has continued to interact with oil project-affected persons (PAPs), community-based monitors, community organisations, observers, women's clubs and youth champions to support them to build more pressure on oil companies, government and other actors to address the grievances they face.

During our interactions, the communities and

above-mentioned stakeholders have shared the following:

(a) Denied opportunity to give informed consent:

EACOP-affected people across various districts in Uganda are signing forms to receive their compensation. Those affected by the Tilenga feeder pipeline project also signed such forms before they received compensation.

The majority of communities however do not understand the contents of the forms they signed.

"I have read the forms signed by communities and even the certificates of translation. These certificates show that the compensation forms the PAPs signed were translated to them. However, if you ask the majority of the PAPs what the forms they signed say, they are unable to explain. PAPs are often illiterate and it is hard for them to understand legal documents.

They also aren't given time to consult say their literate relatives before signing forms. This is why you find that many of them signed forms that they do not understand," Mr. Edward N. from the Bunyoro sub-region says.

(b) Refused to participate in decision-making:

Communities need to be supported to effectively participate in land acquisition processes to protect their rights. In their Land Acquisition and Resettlement Framework (LARF), the oil companies operating in Uganda actually committed to ensure that communities participate in land acquisition processes. In some instances, however, this participation is denied.

Mr. Robert S., a PAP from Kyotera district shares, "On April 13 [2022], we wrote to Total and asked them for a meeting. This is because in November 2021, Total had told us that they were consulting with the Chief Government Valuer to see if they could increase our compensation. You know the company wants to pay us based on very low rates for our crops such as coffee and bananas.

We rejected these rates. Unfortunately, early this year, Total and NewPlan [Total's land acquisition sub-contractor] made some PAPs to sign forms agreeing to receive compensation based on the old rates that we rejected. This is why we wrote to Total on April 13. We wanted the company to clarify on which compensation rates we would be paid.

Over two months later, the company is yet to meet with us. The company has also never replied to our letter. We are afraid we are going to be cheated."

(c) Failing to restore PAPs to original position:

Anger is brewing in Lwengo district where land is being acquired for the EACOP project. Ms. Rose N., a community-based monitor, says, "You know our people, those who have the money, build big houses of eight to nine rooms. Some of these people are being displaced for the EACOP project. At first, these people did not have any problem with the displacement as they were told that their land and houses would be replaced. However, when they were shown the standard houses, which must have only five rooms that they are to receive, the people became very angry. They are still complaining today".

(d) Primary and secondary residence confusion: In Buliisa district, households affected by the Tilenga project are confused about the terminology on primary and secondary residences. The Bagungu people of Buliisa live in extended family settings. A father, his sons and their wives live on the same piece of land in different houses.

The father is usually the owner of the land and after displacement, his house, which is considered the primary one, is the only one that is replaced. The secondary residences belonging to the sons are not replaced.

Mr. Mugisha J., whose house was not replaced when he was displaced for the CPF says, "If someone is saying that they are going to replace you to your original position, how can they refuse to replace your house? I joined other families and

refused the compensation -for land only- that Total was giving me. Government sued us so that we could accept compensation that would not replace us to our original position. Is this fair?"

(e) Court decision setting bad precedent: Mr. John from Buliisa adds that the 2020 Masindi High Court decision allowing government to deposit in court the low compensation that nine households including Mr. Mugisha's refused set a bad precedent. "People now fear. Even when they see that the compensation being given to them is very little, they just accept it. For instance, people are unhappy that for RAPs [Resettlement Action Plans] 2 to 5, only Shs. 600,000 is being provided for the relocation of graves. Under RAP 1, Shs. 1,000,000 was given. People have to perform rituals such as buying and slaughtering goats, procuring the services of mediums, retrieving their dead and transporting them.

The money [Shs.600,000] being given is not enough. But, the people are afraid to reject their compensation as they will be taken to court".

Total has acquired or is acquiring land for various infrastructure under different RAPs. Land for an industrial area where the CPF will be located in Buliisa district was acquired under RAP 1. Land for a feeder pipeline, access roads and other infrastructure is being acquired under RAPs 2 to 5.

(f) Construction of culturally-inappropriate houses: The above isn't the only challenge. On June 17, 2022, the Chinese Ambassador to Uganda, H.E. Zhang Lizhong, posted photos on Twitter. The photos were of houses that CNOOC constructed for families that the company displaced for its Kingfisher oil project.

Culturally, households in Uganda live on fairly large expanses of land. Household heads and their sons build houses on this land. However, the houses that were built for the Kingfisher PAPs are in a squeezed settlement. Sons have no space to build houses next to their fathers. In effect, the houses are breaking the socio-cultural fabric of the affected people.



Tujunwe Mujuni @TujunweH · Jun 17

Replying to @PRC_Amb_Uganda and @CNOOCUgandaLtd

I have a question Sir; These houses you built are per household, and they've children. If one's son(18yrs+) wants to start a family where do they go? I see houses are built like a settlement camp.

Top: The squeezed culturally- and economical-ly-inappropriate houses constructed by CNOOC for the Kingfisher PAPs

Bottom: A Twitter user's reaction to the houses
Photo credit:

https://mobile.twitter.com/PRC_Amb_Uganda/status/1537796638764326912

(g) Inadequate grievance handling: In 2021, one local leader who is part of the EACOP project's resettlement committee that is supposed to document and forward PAPs' grievances to Total informed one of our partners that he had grievances himself but did not know who to forward them to. Lack of offices in the project areas, dormancy of the resettlement committees and others made it hard for some PAPs' grievances to be managed.

CONCLUSION

Other challenges faced by the affected people exist. Sadly, instead of addressing them, oil companies and government give the impression that everything is OK. Together with the affected communities, we call on TotalEnergies, CNOOC and the Ugandan government to address the PAPs' grievances.

By AFIEGO and Oil-affected communities

Pictorial of our activities

AFIEGO AND IGEN-EA ENGAGE OIL-AFFECTED COMMUNITIES TO PROMOTE GREEN ECONOMIC ALTERNATIVES



On June 1, 2022, AFIEGO and some of our Inclusive Green Economy Network-East Africa (IGEN-EA) partners organised three meetings with communities affected by oil activities in Hoima district.

During the meeting, communities including youth, women and men discussed the green economic activities that they can engage in to protect the environment and their livelihoods.

AFIEGO and IGEN-EA are advocating for investments in green economic alternatives to enhance community livelihoods and promote environmental conservation.

AFIEGO AND IGEN-EA SUPPORT RESEARCH TO DETERMINE BUGOMA FOREST'S TOURISM POTENTIAL



Between April and June 2022, AFIEGO and our IGEN-EA partners conducted research to determine the tourism potential of Bugoma forest.

The research was participated in by communities, tour operators, civil society groups, researchers, cultural leaders and government officials.

The research findings will inform lobby and advocacy aimed at protecting Bugoma forest, which is being destroyed due to oil, land grabbing and sugarcane challenges.

BUGOMA FOREST: AFIEGO SUPPORTS RADIO TALKSHOW TO END HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS



On June 2, 2022, AFIEGO with her partners under the Save Bugoma Forest Campaign local taskforce organised a radio talkshow at Spice FM in Hoima district.

During the talkshow, we mobilised stakeholders to stop the violation of the Bugoma forest host communities' rights. The communities can no longer access sections of the forest held by Hoima Sugar Ltd for herbs and others.

We also advocated for protection of the forest from Hoima Sugar Ltd's sugarcane growing activities.

AFIEGO ENGAGES PARTNERS TO DISCUSS OUR ENVIRONMENTAL AND HUMAN RIGHTS PROTECTION WORK



On June 13, 2022, AFIEGO organised a meeting at the Kyakaboga resettlement camp for the oil refinery-affected people.

During the meeting, our environmental and human rights protection work was assessed. The assessment was participated in by one of our partners who works to promote human and environmental rights across the world.

AFIEGO undertakes such engagements to strengthen our work.

AFIEGO STAFF AND PARTNERS STRENGTHENED TO COMPLY TO LEGAL REQUIREMENTS



Between June 21 and 22, 2022, AFIEGO staff and our partners participated in a legal empowerment workshop in Entebbe.

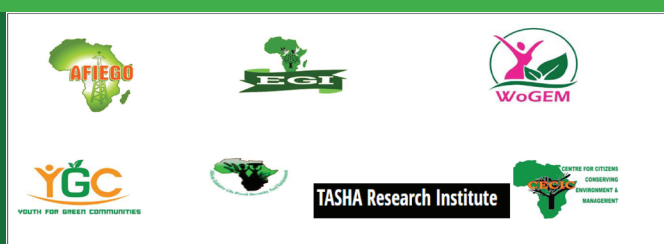
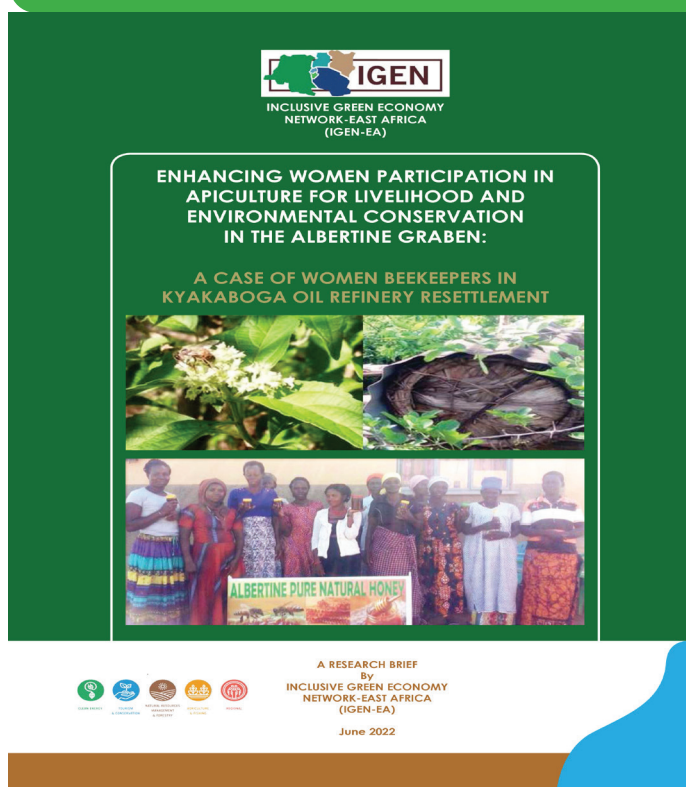
During the workshop, AFIEGO staff and our partners were strengthened to comply with legal requirements for civil society.

The protection mechanisms available to us as human rights defenders were also shared.

In June 2022, AFIEGO and our IGEN-EA partners published a research brief on enhancing women participation in apiculture for livelihood and environmental conservation in the Albertine Graben.

In addition, we wrote an open letter reacting to President Museveni's Telegraph article titled, *Africa can help solve the energy crisis*.

Furthermore, with 12 other civil society groups, we disseminated a statement showing that Uganda's oil exploitation activities will not help the country reduce its GHG emissions.



7th June 2022

H.E. Yoweri Kaguta Museveni,
The President,
Republic of Uganda,
State House,
Kampala (U).

Dear Mr. President,

CSO OPEN LETTER TO THE PRESIDENT: YOUR TELEGRAPH ARTICLE UNDERMINES THE CLIMATE CHANGE FIGHT AND ENDANGERS UGANDANS

1. Your Excellency, on May 2, 2022, you published a newspaper article titled, "Africa can help solve the energy crisis" in the UK's *Telegraph*. In the article, you noted that being a friendly country, Uganda, which is seeking to commercialise its oil and gas finds through the Lake Albert oil project, can play a crucial role in helping the West to enjoy energy security.
2. You also noted that Uganda is an environmentally-friendly country by nature, and that the families affected by the oil and gas exploitation activities in Uganda are receiving the most generous compensation packages among others.
3. Your article contained some important truths namely, that Africa needs energy to develop and that Uganda is an environmentally-friendly country. You also rightly noted that Africa has contributed the least to climate change among others.
4. With the above being said, we have some points of departure from your arguments. First, we are curious to know why your government is thinking of helping Europe and America to end their energy crisis while Ugandan citizens suffer from energy poverty. As at June 2020, only 19% of Uganda's population had access to grid power and yet since 2012, it

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June 30, 2022

CSO STATEMENT: UGANDA'S OIL AND GAS SECTOR NOT PART OF CLIMATE SOLUTIONS

1. Introduction

Recently, government agencies led by the Petroleum Authority of Uganda (PAU) have published media articles through which they have made a case for Uganda's oil and gas exploitation efforts. Amidst warnings from scientists that no new investments in oil, gas and coal must take place if the world is to meet the goal of net zero carbon emissions by 2050, PAU and others have argued as follows:

- That Uganda needs to exploit its oil and gas resources to reduce its Green House Gas (GHG) emissions. In effect, to take climate action, Uganda needs to use fossil fuels.
- In addition, that oil and gas exploitation will reduce deforestation in Uganda.
- Furthermore, that the exploitation of Uganda's oil and gas resources will drive economic growth and create jobs among others.

The undersigned Ugandan civil society groups have assessed these arguments and we find them misleading. They should be rejected by all. We call on all Ugandans, Africans and global citizens to understand the following:

2. Why PAU's assertions are wrong

- a) **Fossil fuels won't reduce emissions:** Fossil fuels such as coal, oil and gas remain the main contributor of GHG emissions. Estimates show that these fuels contribute 65% of global carbon emissions. With Uganda seeking to exploit its 6.5 billion barrels of crude oil of which 1.4 to 1.7 billion barrels are recoverable, the country will be increasing its contribution to global GHG emissions, and not reducing them. It is estimated that when burnt (used), the oil transported by the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) project alone at peak production will produce over 34.3 million metric tonnes of carbon per year. These emissions are equal to those of nine coal-fired power plants.

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This month, AFIEGO staff, research associates and youth champions wrote over 8 newspaper articles that were published in the leading newspapers. The media also published articles from the media interviews we held this month. Some of the published articles are captured below.

We should concentrate on pv solar systems

Uganda is endowed with renewable energy resources for energy production and provision of energy services.

The total estimated electrical power potential is about 3300MW. These resources, however, remain largely unexploited, mainly due to the perceived technical and financial risks.

Despite the abundance of solar energy, its use as a power and heat source is still limited. Response towards solar energy schemes has been minimal due to insufficient funds and lack of solar energy policies to create public awareness despite numerous causes by population growth, urbanisation and economic growth.

The escalating oil prices on the international market, which impose a heavy burden on the economy and constrain the individual consumers' budgets, should be an eye opener to the government. The government needs to plan and invest more in clean renewable energy for sustainable development.

Besides, fossil fuels have an uncertain future. Studies show that if the world continues to consume energy at the current rate, the non-renewable sources will be exhausted in the near future.

Oil is expected to last for only 40 years. Natural gas can be available for the next 70 years and coal may be available for the next 280 years.

Solar power can play a significant role in a secure and diversified energy future for Uganda as the country becomes a hub for industrialisation.

More specifically Photovoltaic (PV) systems could have a unique role in Uganda's energy mix. Its potential to easily add storage could unlock dispatchable and base-load power, setting the stage for larger renewable energy penetration.

Utilising PV solar energy potential will help protect the environment and safeguard public health.



particularly the health of children, pregnant women, the elderly and other vulnerable populations, as well as those who work and play outdoors.

Here are three main factors that energy markets consider when deciding on power sources: cost of energy, ancillary services, and power dispatchability on demand.

Obviously, for energy investors, the competitive cost of energy is the most important issue. And, since PV is a lot cheaper than concentrated Solar Power (CSP), more and more energy investors choose it. This trend of investors choosing PV over CSP will continue so long as PV remains cheaper. And it seems like that's going to continue because PV panels have recently demonstrated a large price drop of about 30 percent to 40 percent in just a couple of years.

Aside from the cost, energy market players have also reported that PV systems are a lot easier to build. Building them doesn't cost much, and it also doesn't take too much time. CSP plants need more space for large-scale applications and they also have greater risks such as higher investment, challenges with thermal storage, and cooling.

By powering millions of homes

and businesses, renewable energy is reducing the threat of climate change and making the air safer to breathe. A familiar part of the landscape and solar panels have spread across rooftops nationwide. Yet we have only begun to tap the potential of clean energy alternatives in order to reduce climate change pollution and sustain economic growth in Uganda.

Despite these advantages, much more needs to be done to scale up PV sustainability.

Uganda National Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Alliance (UNREEEA) should help to bring the benefits of renewable energy to more communities.

Government should persistently develop and support existing policies that unleash growth in solar power, working at the state level to secure renewable energy standards, promote net metering (which allows solar consumers to sell off the excess power they generate onto the grid), and encourage officials to develop strong plans to reduce carbon pollution.

The Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development should support incentives that spur innovation in renewable energy and push for a federal standard that would require 30 percent of all

Uganda electricity to be generated from solar by 2030.

And part of increasing solar power is also making sure that the power plants and the transmission grid needed to support them are designed and sited carefully to minimize the impacts on wildlife, which we work to mitigate. I call upon government officials on meeting the nation's solar energy goals and adopting financial structures that encourage clean renewable energy projects.

The implementation of the renewable energy policy will positively respond to the various instruments and programmes, which address poverty, catalyse industrialisation and protect the environment. These include the Constitution, Poverty Eradication and Action Plan, Sustainable Development Goals, Electricity Act 1999, National Environment Act 1995, Programme for the Modernisation of Agriculture and the Kyoto Protocol.

Fighting climate change by cutting carbon pollution is the best way to build a better world for our communities and future generations.

Babara Kembabazi,
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How should NEMA address environmental challenges?

EDITOR: There is no reason a country like Uganda joined the celebration of the world Environment Day on June 5, when the environment is still under a big threat by locals carrying out human activities in the sensitive biodiversity.

There is still massive destruction of the forests and wetlands across the country.

The 2016 water and environment report indicates that Uganda has lost 37% of its forest cover. This is terrible to the people's livelihoods, the country's economy and the environment.

Therefore, to ease the work for government agencies, such as the National Environment Management Authority (NEMA) and the National Forestry Authority (NFA), we need to enforce activities to ensure forests, wetlands and wildlife are conserved. These include:

Putting the proper systems between the local governments across the country and

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government agency NEMA. This will help to ease the collection and understanding of the data regarding environmental destructions and increasing environmental conservation efforts.

Enhancing the capacity of the environmental Police units in the districts and cities. This will help to respond to escalating environmental issues, increase enforcement and reduce a lot of work imposed on the Police. It is noted that currently, the country is having only 40 Police women and men under the environmental Police unit.

National Environment Management Authority

(NEMA) engaging the natural resource committee of Parliament to enable them allocate enough funds for facilitating the environmental conservation activities that they intend to implement every year.

Increased awareness efforts on the environment issues to enable the public understand the negative impacts resulting from the destruction of the forests and the wetland cover.

Enabling behaviour change among Ugandans. This will help the Ugandans to understand that it is everyone's responsibility to conserve the environment and report those

who encroach on areas, such as wetlands.

Those who encroach on gazetted areas should be prosecuted, to act as a lesson for others who would try to tamper with the forests and wetlands, as well as reduce the number of people encroaching on the forests and wetlands.

Finally, NEMA and NFA need to involve all the stakeholders in environmental conservation activities, especially the schools with the big number of the students in the conservation of the environment. At least every student should plant a tree before completing school or higher institutions.

I believe the above strategies will help to ease the work of government agencies and promote environmental conservation efforts in the country.

Paul Kato, is a research
associate at Africa
Institute for Energy
Governance

END CORRUPTION: UGANDA COULD MISS OUT ON OIL REVENUES

EDITOR: Upon completion in 2025, the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP), will be the world's longest heated pipeline, transporting 200,000 barrels of oil per day from Hwila in Uganda's Lake Albert region, to the Tanzanian Indian Ocean port of Tanga, spanning a distance of 1443km. The pipeline will generate up to 34 million tonnes of carbon emissions each year. As Uganda nears production of oil, the country should address the corruption vice or else proceeds from oil might be lost to corruption.

In addition, this year, Total Energies and partner, China National Offshore Oil Corporation, reached a deal with Uganda and Tanzania to invest more than \$10b in developing crude oil production in East Africa.

This large sum of money once mismanaged by government leaders and officials, there is a possibility that we shall not revert the money invested in the project or even get profits from it. Due to high levels of corruption in our country, some funds from oil have been used already even

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before the first drop is out.

However, we need to put into considerations that this project should not only benefit government officials, oil companies and their partners, but also vulnerable women, children, youth, the elderly and girls who are being impacted negatively by oil activities.

It is noted that the country loses over sh20 trillion a year to corruption as reported by *The Independent*. It is for this reason that, unless corruption is fought, Uganda would be losing a substantive amount of money which will hinder development.

These funds lost in mismanagement, could be used in the implementation of strategies, like Vision 2040, National

Development Plan 111 and Sustainable Development Goals by 2050. While government is investing more in extra sectors, such as oil and gas, other sectors like tourism, agriculture and fisheries which help in promotion of green economy are being left behind, hence causing delay in social economic development.

In my opinion, there is need as Ugandans to not only invest in money making projects, but also build the integrity of the people because the corruption index shows how much the country loses.

Parliament too ought to be responsible to make sure that tax payers' money is not mismanaged. Lastly, if Uganda saves the sh20 trillion lost to corruption, there shall be enough money to be given to parishes to establish infrastructure and capitalise people's businesses, hence promoting social economic development. For God and my country.

Ireen Twongirwe,
executive director, Women for Green
Economy Movement Uganda

ENGAGE OIL AFFECTED WOMEN IN ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION ACTIVITIES



Mrs. Kato Paul
kato.paul@gmail.com

Worth Noting:

The oil affected persons especially the women needs to be empowered on how to do the environmental conservation activities such as planting of both indigenous and fruit trees which will help them in food and income generation and as the same time absorb the emissions that are expected from the oil and gas sector, attract the investment which will support agriculture sector which is under a big threat by the climate change, carry out bee keeping, poultry and fish rearing among others.

In addition to that they need also to be supported in the use of clean energy for instance the solar and energy services to reduce the pressure imposed on the forests and the wetlands for firewood.



Empowering Oil Affected Women with Environmental Conservation Activities

Last week I had an engagement meeting with the oil industry affected women in Hwila wetland country house district to assist them with knowledge and skills of environmental conservation activities, human rights and climate change, and agriculture as well. The meeting was organized by Oil Industry Environment Association (OIEA) to prepare the oil affected persons for the expected negative impacts of climate change that are likely to come from the oil and gas sector.

I found out that oil affected women in Hwila wetland country house district are the most vulnerable group of the people already struggling with the negative impacts of the climate change such as the reduction of the land for farming and the loss of the forests and the wetlands for firewood.

The negative impacts of the climate change were explained by the district crop, fish and forestry, among others which had attracted the women and as the same time absorb the emissions that are expected from the oil and gas sector, attract the investment which will support agriculture sector which is under a big threat by the climate change, carry out bee keeping, poultry and fish rearing among others.

In addition to that they need also to be supported in the use of clean energy for instance the solar and energy services to reduce the pressure imposed on the forests and the wetlands for firewood.

It is noted that the only biggest threat to Hwila wetland country house district is the loss of the wetland area. To protect the oil affected persons especially the youth and women in the environmental conservation activities like the planting of indigenous and fruit trees, fish rearing, bee keeping and others which are a sustainable source.

Therefore, I call on the government of Uganda, oil companies, environmental activists and all the civil society organizations to empower the oil affected persons especially the youth and women in the environmental conservation activities like the planting of indigenous and fruit trees, fish rearing, bee keeping and others which are a sustainable source.

Kato Paul (Oil Industry affected person)
kato.paul@gmail.com

Upcoming events

July 4-6, 2022; Bunyoro: Meetings on women and youth's roles in ensuring that government puts in place regulations for the Climate Change Act

July 8, 2022; Kampala: Petition the Minister of Environment to put in place regulations for the Climate Change Act

July 15, 2022; Buliisa and Kampala: Support nine Tilenga-affected families to engage the Court of Appeal to set a hearing date for their court case

July 15, 2022; Kampala: Mid-year reflection meeting for IGEN-EA members

July 20-22, 2022: Stakeholder sensitisation on the EACOP case at the East African Court of Justice (EACJ)

July 26-29, 2022; Kasese and Kampala: Seminars to empower women and youth clean energy champions to promote clean energy

About Africa Institute for Energy Governance (AFIEGO)

AFIEGO is a non-profit company limited by guarantee that was incorporated under Uganda's Companies Act. AFIEGO undertakes public policy research and advocacy to influence energy policies to benefit the poor and vulnerable. Based in Kampala-Uganda, the non-profit company was born out of the need to contribute to efforts to turn Africa's clean energy potential into reality and to ensure that the common man and woman benefits from this energy boom. Through lobbying, research and community education, AFIEGO works with communities and leaders to ensure that clean energy resources are utilised in a way that promotes equitable development, environmental conservation and respect for human rights.

Our Vision

A society that equitably uses clean energy resources for socio-economic development

Our Mission

To promote energy policies that benefit poor and vulnerable communities