

January 2023; Issue 1

AFIEGO'S 2022 IN REVIEW: WHAT WE DID, LEARNED AND ACHIEVED



Some of AFIEGO's 2022 engagements with communities, government officials, cross-border CSOs, the private sector and other stakeholders

In this newsletter:

- AFIEGO in 2022: An account of what we did, learned and achieved
- Our 2022 work: 12 months, 5 milestones
- Lobbying in 2022
- In the media in 2022
- Upcoming events

Dear reader, thank you for reading AFIEGO's newsletters throughout 2022. We continuously received feedback from you during the year and we appreciate you for it. Through this January 2023 newsletter, AFIEGO seeks to share with you what we did, learned and achieved in 2022.

We also look ahead and share what AFIEGO intends to do for the protection of community rights, the environment and our shared climate this year (2023).

What were some of our key 2022 interventions and achievements? They include:

1. Influencing or lobbying for the enactment of over five policies and laws including the 2022 Electricity (Amendment) Bill, a Solar Energy Policy and Consumer Protection law. Others include advocating for a review of the 2020 National Environment (Environmental and Social Assessment) Regulations as well as advocating for completion, debate and enactment of the Land Acquisition Bill. Our policy influencing work was aimed at promoting environmental conservation, clean energy access and protection of community rights. We discuss the achievements registered from this work in the Word from CEO in this newsletter.

2. Continuing the campaign to save Bugoma forest from oil, land grabbing and sugarcane growing challenges: In 2022, AFIEGO continued to work with local communities and our Save Bugoma Forest Campaign (SBFC) partners to engage key duty bearers to protect Bugoma forest from oil, land grabbing and sugarcane challenges. Our years-long work was rewarded when we saw increased participation of forest-host communities

in key processes such as the Bugoma forest boundary opening. The National Environment Management Authority (NEMA) also issued an order through which the authority asked Hoima Sugar Ltd (HSL), which is destroying the forest for sugarcane growing, to restore over 4,854.7 hectares/18.73 sq. miles of Bugoma forest. This newsletter discusses how we contributed to these gains.

3. Protecting oil-affected communities' rights:

Through meetings, radio talkshows, monthly radio messages, TV talkshows and others, we empowered over 2.2 million people in over seven oil-affected districts to defend their land, environment, civic space and other rights amidst oil and gas exploitation activities in Uganda. Over 300 households in districts such as Kyotera had their compensation increased after we supported them to engage in advocacy. You will read more about this and other milestones in our Word from CEO in this newsletter.

4. Mobilising civil society organisations (CSOs) to protect cross-border resources amidst oil risks:

One of the key achievements registered by AFIEGO in 2022 includes mobilising cross-border CSOs to work together to resist the risks posed by oil and gas exploitation in the Albertine Graben. By the end of 2022, we were working with over 50 civil society groups from Uganda and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) to protect our shared cross-border resources from oil risks.

5. Prosecuting nine court courses:

Furthermore, we prosecuted nine court cases in Uganda, at the East African Court of Justice (EACJ) and in France. The cases were aimed at protecting the Tilenga and oil refinery-affected people's rights. The cases were also aimed at protecting Bugoma forest and other protected areas amidst the Tilenga, Kingfisher and East African Crude Oil

Pipeline (EACOP) oil projects in Uganda. In effect, we valiantly defended the rights of an estimated 283.7 million people in East Africa through seeking to protect the natural resources that they rely on for their livelihoods. These resources are endangered by the Tilenga, Kingfisher and EACOP oil projects.

6. Strengthening the promotion of green economic alternatives: Working with our Inclusive Green Economy Network-East Africa (IGEN-EA) partners, we strengthened the promotion of green economic alternatives through conducting and disseminating research, engaging in advocacy, inducting 14 new members from Uganda and Tanzania into the network and others.

7. In 2022, AFIEGO also won the prestigious Right Livelihood Award which is given to individuals who have demonstrated courage.

AFIEGO staff were also recognised by Apolitical and the US Ambassador to Uganda. You will read more about these awards, and what they mean to us, in our Word from CEO.

Despite the above achievements, a number of challenges still exist. These include lack of platforms through which oil-affected people can speak with one voice and take charge of lobby and advocacy matters affecting them.

This contributes to continued abuse of the people's rights while undermining their capacity to protect the oil-affected resources on which they depend.

Another challenge includes the fact that the Bugoma forest boundary

opening report is yet to be shared with the public. Opening of the forest boundaries commenced in 2021 after pressure from the SBFC and AFIEGO. The processes continued in 2022. It also remains to be seen whether NEMA's restoration order to HSL will be effectively implemented.

Furthermore, court processes are slow, undermining access to justice. We however remain determined to prosecute the court cases that we were prosecuting in 2022. Uganda also stands to be left behind in the just energy transition as the country invests in oil and gas while clean energy access remains low. We intend to address this and other challenges such as a constrained civic space that are discussed in **our Word from CEO**.

For those looking for a few minutes catch-up on our key achievements of 2022, we summarise the key milestones we registered in 2022 in the section, **12 months, 5 milestones in 2022!**

In our **pictorial**, we share pictorial highlights that show our key activities in 2022.

In our **lobbying** section, we bring you some of the over 60 lobby and advocacy products that we and our partners produced in 2022.

In **in the media** section, we bring you some of the over 100 media articles that were published from our work.

We hope you enjoy the newsletter and we wish you a happy and successful 2023.

Editorial team:

Diana Nabiruma

Patrick Edema

Balach Bakundane

Key milestones in 2022!

AFIEGO attained various milestones in 2022. In the graphic below, we share five key milestones.



Through meetings, radio and TV messages among others, we empowered over 2.2 million people in the EACOP- and other oil-affected districts to defend their land, environment and other rights. The communities thereafter conducted advocacy to defend their land rights, civic space and livelihoods.



Following years of advocacy by the Save Bugoma Forest Campaign (SBFC) under AFIEGO's stewardship, in September 2022, NEMA ordered Hoima Sugar Ltd to restore over 4,854.7 hectares/18.73 sq. miles of Bugoma forest.



AFIEGO prosecuted 9 court cases in Uganda, the East African Court of Justice and France for the benefit of biodiversity and millions of East Africans. The cases also served to raise public awareness of the risks posed by Uganda's oil projects.



Further, AFIEGO worked with IGEN-EA to strengthen the network's capacity to promote green economic activities. The network inducted 14 new members from Uganda and Tanzania, conducted and disseminated research as well as influenced national budgeting processes among others in 2022.



AFIEGO won the Right Livelihood Award (RLA) and was recognized by Apolitical as well as the US ambassador in Uganda for our work in resisting climate-wrecking projects in 2022.

AFIEGO'S 2022 IN REVIEW: WHAT WE DID, LEARNED AND ACHIEVED

Dear reader, you have probably heard the African saying that goes, "The one who asks questions does not lose his way". The quote is simple but deeply meaningful. Its purpose is to encourage humanity to maintain curiosity, self-examine and reflect for continuous learning.

At AFIEGO, we engage in self-reflection exercises, especially at the end or beginning of each calendar year. What challenges is Uganda faced with? How can we contribute to addressing the challenges?

This article is a culmination of a reflection exercise that we undertook at the end of 2022. The reflection continued in 2023. What goals did we set in 2022? Did we achieve them? What are our priorities for 2023?

On AFIEGO's behalf, I answer the above questions.

KEY 2022 ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

(a) Successfully influencing the Electricity (Amendment) Bill 2022: In 2022, AFIEGO worked with communities and leaders to advocate for the enactment of national policies and laws for the common good. To this end, we campaigned for the enactment of the Electricity Amendment Bill, 2022. AFIEGO started advocating for amendment of the 1999 Electricity Act in 2019.

An Electricity (Amendment) Bill was approved by cabinet in 2020. During that year and in 2021, AFIEGO campaigned for its tabling before parliament for debate and enactment. When the Electricity Amendment Bill, 2022 was tabled before parliament in 2022, AFIEGO mobilised 15 other civil society and community groups.

We submitted a memorandum of proposals on gaps and weaknesses in the bill to parliament in March 2022. In April 2022, Parliament passed the bill into law. The bill was signed by the

president in June 2022. The law will support efforts to increase renewable energy access in Uganda. However, gaps in the law still exist.

(b) Campaigning for enactment of a Solar Energy Policy, other laws: AFIEGO also engaged in advocacy for the enactment or improvement of other key policies and laws.

In March and August 2022 for instance, we campaigned for parliament, the Uganda National Bureau of Standards (UNBS) and others to complete the consumer protection law to improve the quality of solar energy products on the market. Further, between March and November 2022, we supported women and youth clean energy champions to campaign for the Ministry of Energy to put in place a Solar Energy Policy to streamline the solar sector and increase off-grid solar energy access.

Furthermore, in May 2022, we engaged the Minister of Water and Environment (MWE) to review the National Environment (Environmental and Social Assessment) regulations of 2020 to strengthen public participation in environmental governance processes. However, by the end of 2022, the policies were yet to be put in place. The aforementioned regulations were also yet to be put in place. This will inform our work in 2023.

(c) NEMA orders for restoration of Bugoma forest: Since 2016 when the Ministry of Lands gave away 8,000 hectares of Bugoma forest to Bunyoro Kitara Kingdom (BKK) and Hoima Sugar Ltd (HSL) for sugarcane growing, AFIEGO and our Save Bugoma Forest Campaign (SBFC) partners have campaigned against destruction of the forest.

We filed court challenges in 2020 and an appeal in 2021. The court appeal is yet to be determined. We also mobilised massive public pressure to protect the forest. Further, in January

2021, we alerted the National Environment Management Authority (NEMA) that HSL was violating key conditions in its Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) certificate of approval. The certificate was issued by NEMA to HSL in August 2020. Through the certificate, NEMA authorised HSL's sugarcane growing activities in Bugoma forest.

In January 2021, we and our SBFC partners demanded that NEMA cancels HSL's certificate of approval as the company had violated key conditions in the ESIA certificate. HSL planted sugarcane in areas that NEMA had ordered to be used for other purposes. We were therefore happy to see NEMA stopping part of HSL's destruction of Bugoma forest in September 2022. The authority order HSL to restore over 4,854.7 hectares/18.73 sq. miles of Bugoma forest. We will monitor the implementation of this order in 2023.

(d) Campaigning for completion of opening of Bugoma forest boundaries: In 2022, AFIEGO also worked with our SBFC partners to engage the Ministry of Lands and the National Forestry Authority (NFA) to complete the Bugoma forest boundary opening exercise. This was aimed at protecting the forest from land grabbing challenges.

The ministry and NFA, which commenced the exercise in November 2021, abandoned it in December 2021. In January 2022 therefore, AFIEGO organised strategic meetings with the SBFC local taskforce members and other stakeholders in Kikuube district. We discussed the stalled Bugoma forest boundary opening. AFIEGO thereafter worked with the communities and our SBFC partners to write to the Ministry of Lands and NFA to demand for resumption of the boundary opening exercise with community and citizen participation.

In March 2022, before resuming the boundary re-opening, NFA and the Ministry of Lands engaged the SBFC local taskforce and

communities in Kikuube district. This was commendable and was contributed to by our advocacy. The boundary opening however did not take place in March 2022. It resumed in August 2022. However, whether the exercise was completed remained unknown by the end of 2022. The report from the boundary opening exercise was also not availed to the public in 2022.

(e) Sensitising over 2.2 million people to protect the EACOP- and other oil-affected people's rights: The year 2022 was characterised by a number of challenges related to the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) as well as the upstream Tilenga and Kingfisher oil projects. Among others, the land, livelihood and cultural rights of people whose land is being acquired for the EACOP project in ten districts in Uganda were being abused. So were the rights of the Tilenga oil project-affected people.

Throughout 2022 therefore, AFIEGO organised meetings, radio talkshows and disseminated radio messages to sensitise over 2.2 million people in the EACOP- and other oil-affected districts to protect their land, livelihood, and environment rights. AFIEGO also supported the directly affected people to petition the Ugandan government and oil companies, publish newspaper articles, participate in media interviews and others to create pressure for the protection of the people's rights.

The people's stories were published by the national and international media with over 62 stories that reached over 4 million people being published. The pressure that the people created resulted in gains. For instance, the Ugandan government agreed to increase the compensation of over 300 EACOP-affected families in Kyotera district. TotalEnergies also committed to compensate families that were affected by floods from the Tilenga Industrial Area in Buliisa district. We also remain hopeful that the pressure created will result in the

protection of biodiversity from the EACOP, Tilenga and Kingfisher oil project threats.

(f) Strengthening cross-border co-operation for protection of key ecosystems:

In 2022, AFIEGO continued to strengthen co-operation between Ugandan, Kenyan, Tanzanian and Congolese civil society organisations (CSOs) to support cross-border advocacy for the protection of key ecosystems amidst the EACOP, Tilenga and Kingfisher oil projects. AFIEGO and our partners organised exchange learnings, supported the dissemination of films, IEC and other community sensitisation messages, undertook joint media engagements and engaged in joint advocacy targeted at East African governments as well as financial institutions for the promotion of clean energy. By the end of 2022, the number of cross-border CSOs that were working together for the protection of cross-border ecosystems amidst oil risks was over 50. This coalition needs to be strengthened.

(g) Prosecuting nine court cases: In 2022, AFIEGO prosecuted nine cases in Ugandan, East African and French courts. For instance, together with our partners, we prosecuted a court case through which we are seeking cancellation of the Tilenga oil project's Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) certificate of approval. We, alongside youth groups, filed the court case in Uganda's high court in 2019. Court continued to hear the case in 2022.

In addition, we supported nine Tilenga-affected families to engage the Deputy Chief Justice (DCJ) in 2022. The people requested the DCJ to fix, for hearing, a court appeal that the people filed with AFIEGO's support.

The people filed the appeal in 2021. This

was after high court ruled against them in a case in which the people were being compelled to accept low compensation offered by the Tilenga project developers. Court was yet to fix the appeal for hearing by the end of 2022.

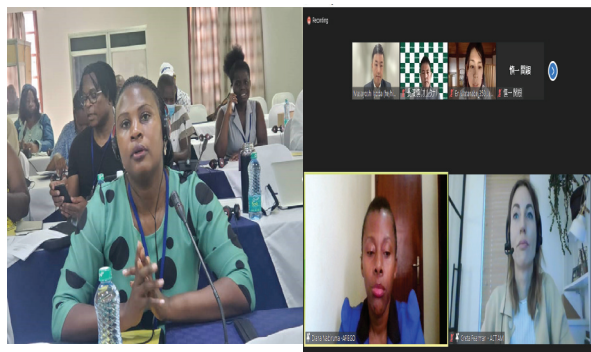
We also supported the oil refinery-affected people to participate in the hearing of their court case against the Ugandan government. With AFIEGO's support, the people sued the Ugandan government in 2014 to stop government from paying them low, delayed and unfair compensation. Hearing of the case was still ongoing in 2022. Hearings were held in January and November 2022. The people's case is aimed at protecting citizens' right to prompt, fair and adequate compensation.

Further, together with our East African partners, we prosecuted the court case that we filed for a temporary injunction against the EACOP project. We filed the court case at the East African Court of Justice in 2020. We prosecuted other court cases in Uganda and France.

(h) Strengthening the promotion of green economic activities: AFIEGO also worked with our Inclusive Green Economy Network-East Africa (IGEN-EA) partners to promote green economic alternatives in 2022. The network conducted research to identify investment opportunities in the green economic sectors and undertook advocacy for enhancement of national budgetary allocations to the green economic sectors.

Further, the network organised media engagements to sensitise over 1.4 million people on Uganda's green economic alternatives. The network also trained women to promote green economic alternatives and inducted 14 new members, who joined IGEN-EA. The network is now composed of over 36 Ugandan and Tanzanian civil society as well as private sector players that are promoting green economic alternatives.

(i) In 2022, AFIEGO also engaged in national and international meetings to advocate for the promotion of clean energy, a just energy transition, improved civic space in Uganda and others.



CHALLENGES

Despite the milestones that we registered, we faced several challenges in 2022 including the following:

(i) Despite the sustained women and youth advocacy, the Ugandan government was yet to put in place a Solar Energy Policy and consumer protection law by the end of 2022.

(ii) The MWE was also yet to review and put in place new National Environment (Environmental and Social Assessment) regulations to promote public participation in ESIA processes.

(iii) In addition, while NEMA issued a restoration order for Bugoma forest in 2022, it remained to be seen whether HSL would respect this order.

(iv) The Bugoma forest boundary opening report was also yet to be shared with the public by the end of 2022, making the forest vulnerable to oil, land grabbing and sugarcane challenges.

(v) Further, community and cross-border co-operation for the protection of ecosensitive resources needed to be strengthened in 2022.

(vi) In addition, the judiciary was still weak in as far as making decisions on community land rights and environmental cases. The case fixing and hearing processes remained slow.

(vii) Shifting of adequate financing to clean energy and other green economic alternatives was also still a challenge by the end of 2022.

(viii) Furthermore, electricity remains unaffordable, limiting the alternative clean energy sources that citizens have.

(ix) Finally, the operational space for CSOs continued to decline. This challenge must be addressed in 2023.

AFIEGO will work towards addressing the above challenges in 2023.

Happy New Year!

Dickens Kamugisha,
CEO, AFIEGO

AFIEGO AND PARTNERS SUPPORT FOREST-DEPENDENT COMMUNITIES TO DEFEND THEIR RIGHTS



In 2022, AFIEGO mobilised Bugoma forest host communities and the SBFC local taskforce to sustain pressure on the Ministry of Lands, NFA and other stakeholders to resume the Bugoma forest boundary opening exercise, which stalled in December 2021 (top photo).

The communities worked with AFIEGO and our SBFC partners to write to the Ministry of Lands and NFA in January 2022. We demanded for resumption of opening of the Bugoma forest boundaries.

The boundary opening exercise resumed in March 2022 with a stakeholder engagement in which the SBFC local taskforce participated (middle photo). The boundary opening exercise stalled again, after which it resumed in August 2022. The report from the boundary opening was yet to be shared with the public by the end of 2022 however.



Additionally, AFIEGO supported the Budongo forest host communities (bottom photo) to engage NFA to address their outstanding grievances following a boundary opening exercise for Budongo forest. The exercise took place in 2019.

The people were seeking a report from the boundary opening exercise. By the end of 2022 however, NFA was yet to avail the report to the people.



AFIEGO AND PARTNERS ENGAGE THE EU TO DISCUSS FORESTS CONSERVATION



In addition, in 2022, AFIEGO and our partners continued to engage the European Union (EU) in Uganda to promote forest conservation. For instance, we participated in a meeting with an EU delegation from Brussels in May 2022 (top photo).

During the meeting, we discussed our efforts aimed at conserving Bugoma and other forests and the challenges that we face. The discussion was aimed at informing the EU's five-year strategy for Uganda.



In the same vein, in March 2022, AFIEGO and our partners engaged French government officials to discuss the negative impacts of the Tilenga and EACOP oil projects in Uganda (bottom photo). The discussions were aimed at promoting climate action, environmental conservation and protection of community rights amidst the project.

AFIEGO AND PARTNERS HIGHLIGHT IMPACT OF OIL PROJECTS ON FORESTS AND COMMUNITIES AT CLIMATE CHANGE AND CBD COPS



In 2022, AFIEGO produced communications materials such as documentaries to highlight the impact of Uganda's oil activities on people and forests.

AFIEGO used these materials to sensitise stakeholders within and outside Uganda. For instance, in December 2022, AFIEGO worked with our partners to sensitise international CSOs using the materials. This was at the COP on the Convention for Biological Diversity (CBD) in Montreal-Canada (bottom photo).

AFIEGO also participated in the climate change COP in Egypt in November 2022. We advocated for climate action (top photo).

AFIEGO AND PARTNERS IN ENGAGEMENTS TO PROMOTE OIL-AFFECTED COMMUNITIES' HUMAN RIGHTS



Throughout 2022, AFIEGO empowered the EACOP- and other oil-affected communities to defend their environment and land rights.

AFIEGO organised community meetings, film screenings, radio talkshows and disseminated monthly energy news updates, IEC materials and others to empower the communities in Uganda.

The empowered communities were able to engage government and oil companies to address some of the land and human rights abuses.

AFIEGO AND PARTNERS TRAIN WOMEN BEEKEEPERS IN HOIMA DISTRICT



In August 2022, AFIEGO and our IGEN-EA partners trained women beekeepers in Hoima district (top photo).

The training followed research that identified opportunities and challenges in promoting beekeeping in the Albertine Graben. The research was conducted by IGEN-EA and a report was produced by the network in June 2022.

AFIEGO and our IGEN-EA partners also held a radio talkshow in August 2022 to sensitise communities to promote beekeeping as a green economic activity.

AFIEGO AND PARTNERS PROSECUTE EACOP, TILENGA AND OIL REFINERY COURT CASES



In 2022, AFIEGO and our partners prosecuted nine court cases in Ugandan, East African and the French courts. The cases are aimed at protecting community land rights, their livelihoods, the environment and our climate.

In the top photo are AFIEGO staff, our partners and lawyers among others during hearing of a court case for a temporary injunction of the EACOP project. The case was filed at the East African Court of Justice. The hearing took place in November 2022.

In the middle photo are AFIEGO staff, the oil refinery-affected people and our lawyers at the Masindi High Court for hearing of a court case that AFIEGO supported the oil refinery-affected people to file against the Ugandan government. The hearing took place in November 2022.

AFIEGO also worked with nine Tilenga oil project-affected people to engage the judiciary to fix, for hearing, a court appeal that the people filed with AFIEGO's support in 2021.

AFRICA INSTITUTE FOR ENERGY GOVERNANCE 

September 15, 2022

For immediate release
Bulisa and Kampala

TILENGA OIL PROJECT HOST COMMUNITIES PROTEST CPF PROJECT IMPACTS

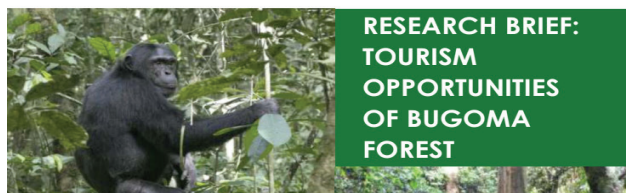
Households living near TotalEnergies' Industrial Area in Bulisa district yesterday protested against failure by TotalEnergies, and its sub-contractor MontaEngil, to mitigate the Tilenga oil project impacts on them.

The Industrial Area is being developed in Kasinyi village, Ngwendo sub-county. It will host a Central Processing Facility (CPF) among other oil infrastructure under TotalEnergies' Tilenga oil project.

In 2021, TotalEnergies sub-contracted MontaEngil to undertake site preparation works such as site clearance, fencing and drainage works in the Industrial Area. Communities say that they have suffered many impacts since MontaEngil started work.

"During the day, we made this noise, but from the CPF, we can hear the noise. The dust

AFIEGO AND IGEN-EA STRENGTHEN PROMOTION OF GREEN ECONOMIC ALTERNATIVES



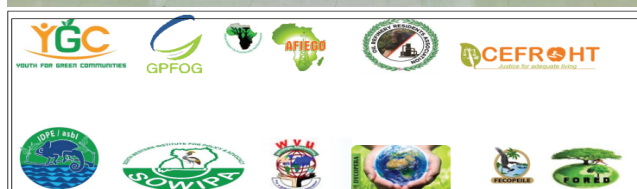
In 2022, AFIEGO worked with our partners to strengthen the promotion of green economic alternatives. The network conducted and disseminated research on key green economic opportunities in Uganda's Albertine Graben.

The network also trained communities in green economic alternatives.

Further, the network engaged in national and international advocacy to campaign for increased funding to Uganda's green economic activities.

IGEN-EA also inducted 14 new members into the network, bringing the network's members to 36. This strengthened the network's research, advocacy, campaigning and other capacities.

AFIEGO STRENGTHENS CROSS-BORDER COLLABORATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION AMIDST OIL RISKS



February 2, 2022

UGANDAN AND DRC CIVIL SOCIETY COMMUNIQUE ON SIGNING OF THE LAKE ALBERT FINAL INVESTMENT DECISION (FID)

1. Introduction and background

The Ugandan government alongside TotalEnergies (U) B.V. and China National Offshore Oil Corporation (CNOOC) (U) Ltd announced the Final Investment Decision (FID) for the Lake Albert oil project yesterday on February 1, 2022.

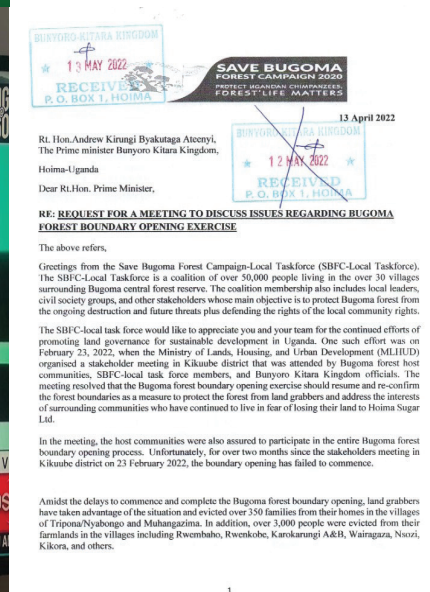
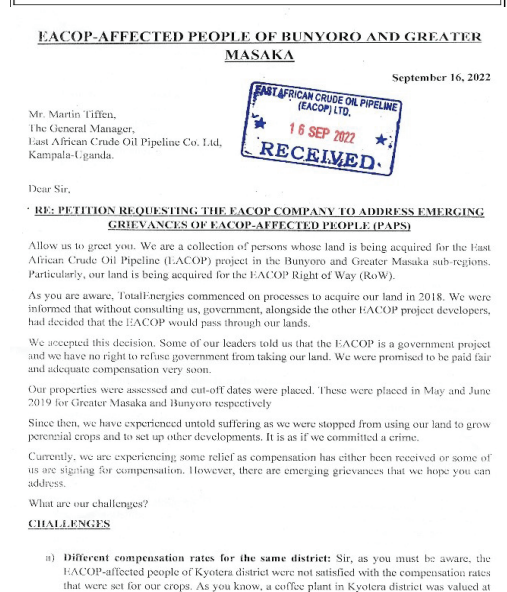
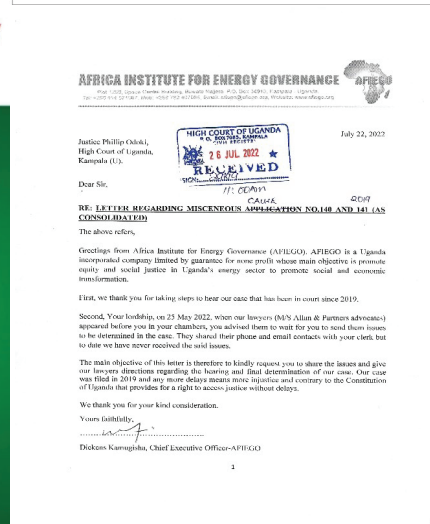
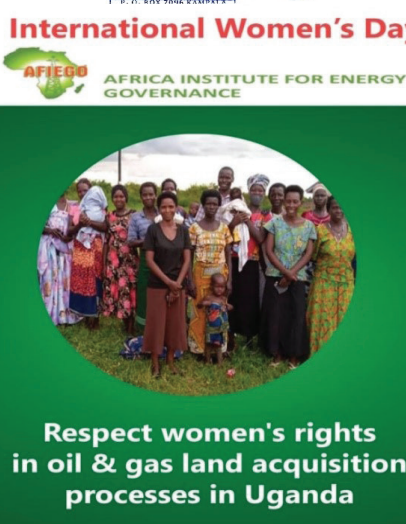
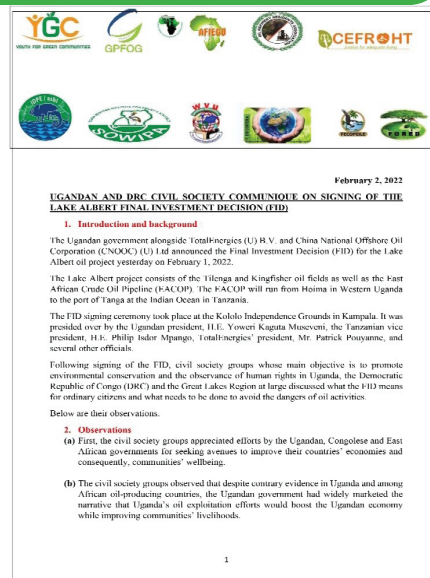
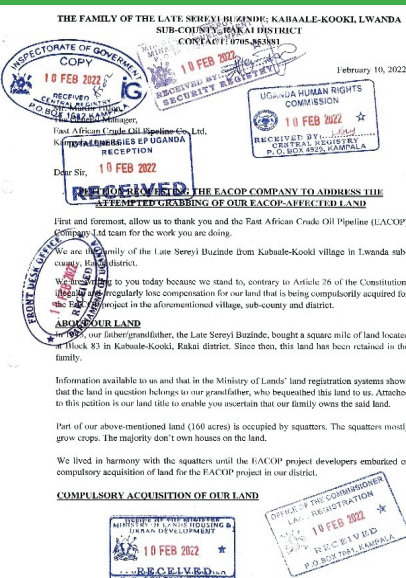
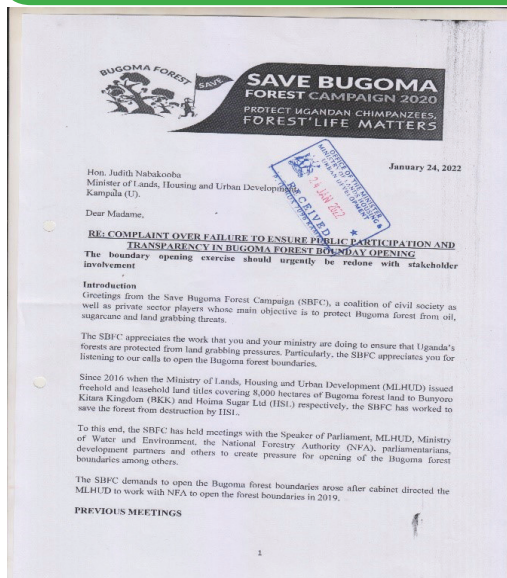
The Lake Albert project consists of the Tilenga and Kingfisher oil fields as well as the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP). The EACOP will run from Hoima in Western Uganda to the port of Tanga at the Indian Ocean in Tanzania.

In 2022, AFIEGO and our partners from the DRC, Kenya and other African countries organised meetings, exchange learnings and film screenings among others to strengthen cross-border collaboration for the promotion of environmental conservation amidst oil risks in the Albertine Graben, which is shared with Uganda and the DRC.

AFIEGO also disseminated IEC materials, media messages and others.

By the end of 2022, over 50 CSOs in Uganda and the DRC were working together for the promotion of environmental conservation amidst oil risks in the Albertine Graben.

AFIEGO and our partners produced over 70 lobby and advocacy materials including briefing papers, communiques, memoranda, advocacy letters, press statements, petitions, and others in 2022. Some of these, which led to the successes discussed in this newsletter, are captured below



**ENHANCING WOMEN PARTICIPATION IN
APICULTURE FOR LIVELIHOOD AND
ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION
IN THE ALBERTINE GRABEN:**

**A CASE OF WOMEN BEEKEEPERS IN
KYAKABOGA OIL REFINERY RESETTLEMENT**



A RESEARCH BRIEF
By
INCLUSIVE GREEN ECONOMY
NETWORK-EAST AFRICA
(IGEN-EA)

June 2022

GAP 3



Regulation 20(1) provides that NEMA may consult affected communities on an ESIA study submitted by a developer to the authority.

This gives NEMA discretionary powers to determine whether to consult affected communities or not.

This will undermine environmental conservation.

Write to @min_waterUg! Ask that the regulations **make it mandatory** for NEMA to consult project host communities on ESIA studies.



AFRICA INSTITUTE FOR ENERGY GOVERNANCE

Plot 1022, Uganda Chamber of Commerce and Industry Building, Kampala, Uganda
Tel: +256 434 211111; Email: info@afiego.org; www.afiego.org

Justice Phillip Odoki,
High Court of Uganda,
Kampala (U).

Dear Sir,

RE: LETTER REGARDING MISCELLANEOUS APPLICATION NO.140 AND 141 (AS CONSOLIDATED)

The above refers.

Greetings from Africa Institute for Energy Governance (AFIEGO). AFIEGO is a Uganda incorporated company limited by guarantee for non-profit whose main objective is promote equity and social justice in Uganda's energy sector to promote social and economic transformation.

First, we thank you for taking steps to hear our case that has been in court since 2019.

Second, Your lordship, on 23 May 2022, when our lawyers (M/S Allum & Partners advocates) appeared before you in your chambers, you advised them to wait for you to send them issues to be determined in the case. They shared their phone and email contacts with your clerk but to date we have never received the said issues.

The main objective of this letter is therefore to kindly request you to share the issues and give our lawyers directions regarding the hearing and final determination of our case. Our case was filed in 2019 and any more delays means more injustice and contrary to the Constitution of Uganda that provides for a right to access justice without delays.

We thank you for your kind consideration.

Yours faithfully,

Dickens Kamugisha, Chief Executive Officer-AFIEGO

1

THE FAMILY OF THE LATE SEREYI BUZINDE; KABAAL-KOOKI,
LWANDA SUB-COUNTY, RAKAI DISTRICT
CONTACT: 0705-853881

April 13, 2022

Mr. Martin Tiffen,
The General Manager,
East African Crude Oil Pipeline Co. Ltd,
Kampala-Uganda.

Dear Sir,

RE: REQUEST FOR A MEETING WITH THE FAMILY OF THE LATE SEREYI BUZINDE TO DISCUSS OUR EACOP-AFFECTED LAND

Greetings from the family of the Late Sereyi Buzinde that is based in Kabale-Kooki, Lwanda sub-county, Rakai district.

Reference is made to a petition that our family submitted to your office on February 10, 2022. The petition was titled, 'Petition requesting the EACOP Company to address the anticipated grabbing of our EACOP affected land'.

Through the petition, we informed you that our family land in Kabale-Kooki, Lwanda sub-county, Rakai district is being compulsorily acquired for the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) project.

The information available to us indicated that compensation for our land was to be given to a one Mr. Kazindiki, instead of the family of the Late Sereyi Buzinde.

Today, through this letter, we would like to appreciate you for replying to our petition. We received a letter from you dated March 3, 2022. In the letter, you indicated that the land belonging to the family of the Late Sereyi Buzinde is not part of the area going to be affected by the EACOP project.

While we thank you for the letter and all your other efforts, we disagree with the conclusion that our land on Block 83 has not been affected by the EACOP project. We are on ground and marketplaces for the EACOP project have been planned on our land.

The tenants/squatters on our land are also going to receive compensation, attesting to the fact that our land is in fact affected. It is these tenants/squatters that alerted us to the fact that a ghost landowner, Mr. Kazindiki, was going to be compensated for our land? We did our own investigations and found this to be true, as we shared with you in our petition of February 10, 2022.

To resolve this impasse, we are requesting that before compensation starts, the EACOP Company visits our affected land and holds meetings with district and village leaders as well

1

In 2022, AFIEGO staff and our partners produced over 100 articles that were published by Uganda's major newspapers. Our press statements and media interviews also resulted in the production of over 103 media stories that were published in Uganda, DRC, Kenya, Nigeria, South Africa, France, the UK, and other countries.

Economic arguments for oil exploitation do not stack up

On January 14, the New Hampshire published an article, 'Why we need African energy banks'. The article was authored by Mr. Aganya, the executive chairperson of the African Energy Bank (AEB).

In the article, Mr. Aganya observed that due to the climate change crisis, international financiers were increasingly withdrawing financing for fossil fuel oil, oil and coal projects.

All over the world, as a result of the climate change crisis, international financiers were increasingly withdrawing financing for fossil fuel oil, oil and coal projects.

Some of these countries include France, Belgium, Netherlands, Germany and Spain. Prior to that, the UK ended international financing for fossil fuel projects by March 2022.

The withdrawal of international financing for fossil fuel projects, Mr. Aganya noted, was a blow to the fossil fuel industry. This led to the need for the establishment of African energy banks so that African countries can finance fossil fuel and renewable energy projects to attract foreign investment and support governments to raise revenues to maintain essential services.

While Mr. Aganya's comments were on the energy and financial crisis in Africa, and while efforts to deal with the challenges of development support the benefits of fossil fuel development as presented by Mr. Aganya are not reflected in various African countries' policies.

Take Nigeria for instance. Nigeria is one of Africa's largest oil producers. The country started oil production in 1958. Despite over 60 years of producing oil, its million Nigerians, representing 63 per cent of the population, do not have access to electricity per the World Bank. In fact, the World Bank says Nigeria has the largest energy access deficit in the world.

Moreover, Nigeria's unreliable power challenges the country's economic growth. Businesses and households personally have to rely on generators to power their work and homes. As a result, the country's electricity access rate is 45.47 per cent, according to the World Bank.

How about Mr. Aganya's arguments on oil exploitation supporting governments' oil cash on credit to support pressing needs? Well, an oil

Nigeria and Angola, points a bleak picture. Nigeria, for instance, is one of the poorest countries in the world. In fact, it is one of the poorest countries in the world. In fact, it is one of the poorest countries in the world.

The poverty rate in the country is high. In fact, it is one of the poorest countries in the world. In fact, it is one of the poorest countries in the world.

Mr. Aganya's arguments on oil exploitation supporting governments' oil cash on credit to support pressing needs? Well, an oil

Open Bugoma forest boundaries, we need to use our land

EDITOR: In February, the lands ministry conducted different engagement meetings with different stakeholders, sensitising them on how and when they are to open the Bugoma Forest Central Reserve. However, to my dismay, they have not opened the boundaries.

The delayed action has become disadvantageous to the neighbouring communities, such as Ruvubu, who are denied usage of the land.

Community members want to make use of their land as its cultivation season and failure to utilize the season will come with its own challenges.

These challenges include famine, rise in school dropouts and family breakups, among others, due to failure to cultivate.

Given that there is a likelihood of peoples' standards of living being affected, this will lead to an increase in poverty levels since communities around Bugoma depend on agriculture.

Therefore, we call on the Government to allow communities to use the land freely by opening the forest boundaries.

We also appeal to the lands ministry to fulfill its obligation of opening the boundaries urgently so as to resolve the conflicts of where the forest and peoples' land is.

Aganyira Comfort

Why solar energy policy is necessary

The government has a responsibility to ensure that the country's energy needs are met. In fact, it is one of the poorest countries in the world. In fact, it is one of the poorest countries in the world.

The government has a responsibility to ensure that the country's energy needs are met. In fact, it is one of the poorest countries in the world. In fact, it is one of the poorest countries in the world.

The government has a responsibility to ensure that the country's energy needs are met. In fact, it is one of the poorest countries in the world. In fact, it is one of the poorest countries in the world.

THE BUREAU OF INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALISM

On the 22nd 2020 AND 2021 ENTERTAINMENT

IT'S THE INNOCENT – NOT THE CLIMATE DESTROYERS – PAYING THE PRICE FOR DEADLY HEATWAVES

Feeling powerless in the face of the terrifying impacts of the climate emergency is understandable. India and Pakistan are in the third month of a deadly heatwave that has seen temperatures reach 50°C in the city of Aachodabad and nearly 50°C elsewhere. The extreme weather is causing fires, flooding and several cases of child deaths. In the past, the heatwaves have been linked to climate change.

DIANA NABIRUMA
Africa Institute for Energy Governance
@cgtnafrica @cgtn_africa CGTN Africa

Support women to participate in conservation

What you need to know:

- Therefore, I call upon government, oil companies, environmental activists and all the civil society organisations to empower the oil affected persons.

Last week I had an engagement meeting with the oil refinery affected women in Buseruka Sub-county, Hoima District to equip them with knowledge and skills of environmental conservation efforts, human rights and climate mitigation and adaptation as well.

Beekeeping could be game changer for Parish Model

The parish model is a new approach to land management. It is a new approach to land management. It is a new approach to land management.

The parish model is a new approach to land management. It is a new approach to land management. It is a new approach to land management.

The parish model is a new approach to land management. It is a new approach to land management. It is a new approach to land management.

GLOBAL BUSINESS

DIANA NABIRUMA
Africa Institute for Energy Governance
@cgtnafrica @cgtn_africa CGTN Africa

GO SOLAR FOR JOBS

The off-grid solar and mini-grid sectors in Uganda employ nearly 30,000 people

Challenges such as policy gaps & lack of funds undermining more investment in the sector must be addressed.

AFIEGO

Right Livelihood AWARD 2022

AFIEGO: RIGHT LIVELIHOOD AWARD WINNER 2022

Alongside three deserving teams or individuals, AFIEGO won the 2022 Right Livelihood Award to celebrate its milestones, AFIEGO shares four key achievements that we have registered between 2018 and 2022.

- Over 900,123 people in Uganda empowered to defend land rights, protect forest landscapes & promote clean energy alternatives
- Over 791,004 people engaged and among others, their views collected to influence over 13 policies, laws and regulations for the common good
- Over eleven forests, national parks, game reserves, lakes and rivers with an estimated combined economic value of over USD 124.4 billion (UGX 4.65 trillion) defended against oil exploitation, oil roads and dams. Some campaigns have been successful while others are yet to be.
- Over 371,771 women empowered to defend their rights and promote clean energy access

Space House, Bwamba, P.O. Box 34913, Kampala, Uganda
Tel: +256 392228323
Email: info@afiego.org
Website: www.afiego.org

Uganda secures \$300M for crude oil pipeline

How should NEMA address environmental challenges?

EDITOR: There is no reason a country like Uganda should celebrate the celebration of the world Environment Day on June 5, when the environment is still under a big threat by local carrying out human activities in the sensitive biodiversity. There is still massive destruction of the forests and wetlands across the country.

The 2015 water and environment report indicates that Uganda has lost 37% of its forest. 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 reduce activities to ensure forests, wetlands and wildlife are conserved. These include:

- During the proper process between the local governments across the country and

LETTER OF THE DAY

HAVE YOU GOT SOMETHING TO SAY?
email us at letters@newvision.co.ug

DIANA NABIRUMA
Africa Institute for Energy Governance
@cgtnafrica @cgtn_africa CGTN Africa

Why solar energy policy is necessary

The popular perception of solar energy in Uganda is that it is a clean, renewable energy source. However, the reality is that solar energy is not a clean, renewable energy source. In fact, it is one of the poorest countries in the world. In fact, it is one of the poorest countries in the world.

The popular perception of solar energy in Uganda is that it is a clean, renewable energy source. However, the reality is that solar energy is not a clean, renewable energy source. In fact, it is one of the poorest countries in the world. In fact, it is one of the poorest countries in the world.

The popular perception of solar energy in Uganda is that it is a clean, renewable energy source. However, the reality is that solar energy is not a clean, renewable energy source. In fact, it is one of the poorest countries in the world. In fact, it is one of the poorest countries in the world.

REOPEN BUGOMA FOREST BOUNDARY

EDITOR: Over the years, local communities around Bugoma Forest and different organisations have advocated for the Bugoma Forest boundary opening.

Last year, the lands ministry officials promised to have the boundaries opened. Engagement meetings were held and some decisions were agreed on. It was agreed that community sensitisation be carried out with the involvement of different stakeholders and local community members.

However, surprisingly, and November 2021, the National Forestry Authority (NFA) officials started the land demarcation process in total disregard of the issues that had earlier been agreed on. The team comprised security

pondering on what to do next because some have nowhere to go. The affected communities are also wondering whether President Yoweri Museveni is aware of what is happening or whether the people behind the exercise are acting on his orders. Why did the NFA officials go ahead with the process, contrary to what was agreed upon by the lands ministry.

Local communities around the forest are appealing to the President to intervene and have the process done as soon as possible. Many members of the community no longer access their gardens because they were encroached on by the NFA team.

We are going through a lot of suffering Mr. President. Please help your voters in Bwumbe.

Aganyira Comfort

Upcoming events

February 7-8, 2023; Bunyoro: Empowerment meetings for communities in the Bugoma, Kingfisher, EACOP and Tilenga areas

February 9, 2023; Hoima: Court case hearing for the oil refinery-affected community

February 13, 2023; Bunyoro: Collection of community signatures for petitions to the Ministry of Lands

February 16, 2023; Kampala: Engagement with the Chief Justice over delayed hearing of the Tilenga oil project-affected people's case in the Court of Appeal

February 20, 2023; Kampala: Community petitions to the Ministry of Lands demanding for the public release of the report of the Bugoma forest boundary opening

February 23, 2023; Kikuube: Engagements with Bugoma forest host communities on the restoration of Bugoma forest in line with NEMA's directive

February 24-27, 2023; Greater Masaka and Bunyoro: Land rights legal clinic for EACOP-affected communities

February 28, 2023; Kampala: Engagement with NEMA to discuss the progress of restoration of Bugoma forest

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