



AFRICA INSTITUTE FOR ENERGY GOVERNANCE



ANNUAL REPORT 2020

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ABOUT AFIEGO

Africa Institute for Energy Governance (AFIEGO) is a registered public policy research and advocacy non-profit organisation dedicated to influencing energy policies to benefit poor and vulnerable communities. Based in Kampala, Uganda, the organisation 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 clean 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

OUR OBJECTIVES

- To empower citizens, especially the poor and vulnerable, to participate in the making of energy policies at all levels
- To empower citizens to demand for transparency and accountability in the management and utilisation of energy resources
- To contribute to the pool of knowledge on energy in Africa through research and documentation
- To promote gender equity in the utilisation of energy resources
- To provide free energy-related legal services and paralegal training to vulnerable and poor communities as a means of promoting access rights

OUR PROGRAMMES



The **Extractives Governance programme**: The objective of the programme is to influence extractives policies to improve the lives of citizens. The programme seeks to contribute to national, regional and global development agendas on poverty reduction arising from inclusive and sustainable exploitation of extractive resources. Some of these agendas include Uganda's National Development Plan (NDP) III and Vision 2040, the Africa Mining Vision, the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) among others.



The **Electricity Democracy Programme**: The objective of the programme is to promote affordable, accessible, reliable, clean and sustainable electricity services for improved livelihoods and national development.

The programme is grounded in national, regional and global development agendas to increase clean and affordable energy access such as Uganda's NDP III, Vision 2040, SDG 7 and the Sustainable Energy for All (SE4ALL) initiative among others.



The **Renewable Energy Efficiency and Climate Change Programme**: The objective of the programme is to promote clean and alternative energy sources in Uganda.

The programme is grounded in global and national efforts to make communities resilient to climate change and to reduce global temperature rises to 1.5 degrees Celsius. These efforts include the SDGs and the Paris Climate Change Agreement. The programme also promotes just energy transition efforts in which clean energy is used to meet the energy needs of all, especially women, children and other vulnerable groups.

TABLE OF ACRONYMS

Acronym	Meaning
AFIEGO	Africa Institute for Energy Governance
AfDB	African Development Bank
AGM	Annual General Meeting
COVID-19	Coronavirus disease 2019
DRC	Democratic Republic of Congo
EAC	East African Community
EACJ	East African Court of Justice
EACOP	East African Crude Oil Pipeline
EU	European Union
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
ESIA	Environmental and Social Impact Assessment
ESMPs	Environmental and Social Management Plans
GLA	Green Livelihoods Alliance
JET	Just Energy Transition
MEMD	Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development
MFNP	Murchison Falls National Park
MWE	Ministry of Water and Environment
NEMA	National Environment Management Authority
NFA	National Forestry Authority
QENP	Queen Elizabeth National Park
SBFC	Save Bugoma Forest Campaign
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SE4ALL	Sustainable Energy for All
SEA	Strategic Environmental Assessment
SRJS	Shared Resources, Joint Solutions
UWA	Uganda Wildlife Authority

PICTORIAL OF KEY 2020 ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS



CAPTIONS FOR THE PICTORIAL

Photo no.	Achievement/key activity	Photo no.	Achievement/key activity
1.	Engaged the European Union (EU) delegation to Uganda to mobilise the EU to support efforts to save Bugoma Central Forest Reserve from destruction by oil and sugarcane threats	9.	Supported court case hearings in the Kampala High Court to quash the Tilenga Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) certificate of approval . The case is yet to be concluded.
2.	Further, engaged the Dutch embassy in Uganda to discuss how the embassy could support efforts to protect Bugoma forest from destruction	10.	In addition, supported the oil refinery-affected people who sued government to participate in their court case hearings to protect communities' land rights. The court case is still ongoing.
3.	Organised a field visit for the EU delegation to Uganda and eight EU ambassadors to Bugoma forest to support efforts to save the forest. The State Minister for Environment , National Forestry Authority (NFA) and Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA) officials also participated in the visit.	11.	Through film screenings, radio talkshows, photo stories and others, empowered over 501, 145 stakeholders including youth, women, leaders, civil society organisation (CSO) actors, the media and others to promote a just energy transition to clean energy
4.	Petitioned the Natural Resources Committee (NRC) of parliament to investigate and cause the penalisation of government officials who are responsible for the giveaway of Bugoma forest	12.	Empowered over 300, 235 stakeholders from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) on oil impacts to build a cross-border movement that is promoting clean energy
5.	Engaged NFA so that the Save Bugoma Forest Campaign (SBFC) could work with NFA to prosecute court cases and implement other efforts to save Bugoma forest	13.	With women and youth clean energy champions, campaigned for the promotion of off-grid as opposed to grid electrification as a means of promoting increased community clean energy access
6.	Filed a High Court case against the National Environment Management Authority (NEMA) and Hoima Sugar Ltd to stop sugarcane growing in Bugoma Forest	14.	Engaged parliament and other partners for the rejection of construction of a hydropower dam at Murchison Falls . The threat remains.
7.	Supported over 877 East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP)-affected people and other stakeholders to petition Total to end the human rights abuses against the EACOP-affected people	15.	Worked with our partners to secure the release of our SBFC allies who were arrested and detained due to efforts to save Bugoma forest
8.	With our partners from East Africa, filed a court case in the East African Court of Justice (EACJ) to stop the EACOP project dangers on the environment, biodiversity and human rights		

OUR REACH IN FIGURES



- Total reached directly and indirectly:
2, 673, 271



- Total reached directly through meetings:
243, 546



- Percentage of women and men reached respectively:
47.7% and 52.3%

SECTION 1

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CHAIRPERSON



Dear reader, welcome to AFIEGO's 2020 annual report. Through the report, AFIEGO accounts to you by sharing the work that the organisation did and the achievements that were registered. The challenges faced are also shared.

The year 2020 was fraught with challenges, key among which was the spread of COVID-19. Despite this, AFIEGO managed to do great work in line with the organisation's mission. The organisation owes this to your tremendous support and, above all, the grace of God.

The board thanks you for your support.

What did AFIEGO do in 2020? The organisation continued its policy lobby and advocacy work and posted some commendable results. A number of **key regulations were enacted and bills adopted** by the Ugandan government following tireless lobby and advocacy efforts by AFIEGO. Among these were the **National Environment (Strategic Environmental Assessment) regulations** which were completed by the National Environment Management Authority (NEMA) and enacted in March 2020. **The National Environment (Environmental and Social Assessment) regulations** were also completed by NEMA and enacted in December 2020. The regulations are key for promoting environmental conservation and community livelihoods amidst oil risks and threats. AFIEGO campaigned for their completion and enactment since 2017.

Further, **cabinet approved the 2020 Electricity (Amendment) Bill** in July 2020. AFIEGO and its partners including women and youth had been campaigning for completion and enactment of the bill since 2018. With the approval of the bill, AFIEGO and its partners now have to campaign for the bill to be presented before parliament for debate and enactment. Enactment of the law is expected to contribute to lower power tariffs and increase power access. To further increase clean energy access, AFIEGO and its partners also commenced on processes to ensure that Uganda enacts a **Solar Energy Policy** to promote off-grid solar energy access. AFIEGO worked with her partners to draft proposals for a solar energy policy for adoption by the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development (MEMD).

The board would like to commend AFIEGO for assuming the **chairmanship of the Save Bugoma Forest Campaign (SBFC)**, a campaign by civil society and private sector actors to save Bugoma forest from land grabbing, oil and sugarcane threats. With AFIEGO at the helm, the **SBFC efforts were revalitalised** in 2020 and members did all it took to **protect the forest**.

The campaign undertook community sensitisation and mobilisation, wide-ranging stakeholder engagements, legal research and pursued court cases to protect the forest in 2020. Notable achievements were realised though the forest remained under threat of destruction by the end of 2020. We remain hopeful that with your support, the forest will be saved.

AFIEGO and its partners also fought tooth and nail to **protect other ecosensitive areas** such as Murchison Falls National Park (MFNP), Queen Elizabeth National Park (QENP), Lake Albert, Lake Edward, Lake Victoria and others from the risks and threats posed by the **Tilenga, Kingfisher and East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP)** oil projects among others.

To this end, AFIEGO and its partners engaged government, development partners, cultural institutions, religious leaders, financial institutions, the United Nations (UN) and others at national as well as international level to ensure that ecosensitive resources and community livelihoods are protected while clean energy is promoted. The gains from these efforts, including those from **building a cross-border movement** for the promotion of clean energy in the African Great Lakes region, are detailed in this annual report.

So are those from the organisation's efforts to **promote off-grid electrification** to improve communities' livelihoods and protect the environment.

The board would like to thank all those who supported AFIEGO to implement **various projects** including the Shared Resources, Joint Solutions (SRJS), Green Livelihoods Alliance-Just Energy Transition (GLA-JET), Movement Building for clean energy 2.0, Promotion of off-grid electrification and Mobilisation of Ugandans to engage the EACOP project developers for the promotion of human rights among others.

The board also thanks all those who campaigned and provided other support when AFIEGO's partners and staff were **arrested and detained in Hoima district** in September 2020 as they engaged in efforts to protect Bugoma forest. Your support made all the difference and we hope that you will continue partnering with the organisation.

The board pledges to continue providing direction and oversight over AFIEGO for delivery on the organisation's mandate.

Thank you,



Mr. Edwin Muhereza
Board Chairperson, AFIEGO

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY BY THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



Dear reader, thank you for taking off time to read AFIEGO's 2020 annual report. Through this report, we share with you what AFIEGO did and achieved in 2020 as can be seen below.

Successfully lobbying for enactment of environmental laws:

In 2020, AFIEGO built on our efforts from previous years and influenced the enactment of several policies and laws. Since 2017 when we, alongside NEMA staff, were trained on the importance of Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) as well as Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) as conservation tools, we started campaigning that NEMA provides for the conduct of SEA and ESIA in Uganda's laws. In 2019 when a new National Environment Act was enacted, these tools were provided for in the law. Regulations were needed to provide a framework to guide the conduct of SEA and ESIA in Uganda. Knowing this, AFIEGO empowered the public especially women and youth to campaign for the completion and operationalisation of the SEA and ESIA regulations by NEMA. Since 2017, the empowered youth as well as AFIEGO and our partners engaged NEMA as well as the Ministry of Water and Environment (MWE) to compel NEMA to put in place SEA and ESIA regulations.

This work continued in 2020 and I am happy to say that in March 2020, the 2020 National Environment (SEA) regulations were put in place by NEMA. The 2020 National Environment (Environmental and Social Assessment) regulations were also put in place by NEMA in December 2020. This was a much-deserved win for the environment. Unfortunately, NEMA used the regulations to give itself various discretionary powers and limit public participation in ESIA processes. This stands to hurt environmental conservation and must be addressed.

Saving Bugoma forest: In 2020, AFIEGO assumed the chairmanship of the Save Bugoma Forest Campaign (SBFC) and immediately thereafter, with our partners, we launched the 'Forest Life Matters' Campaign. Following the launch, we employed a wide range of tools including community sensitisation and mobilisation, stakeholder engagement, undertaking a media campaign, conducting legal research and filing court cases to save the forest from destruction by Hoima Sugar, which sought to destroy the forest for sugarcane growing. Our untiring efforts resulted in a number of achievements including mobilising the EU, the Minister of Water and Environment, parliament, the media and public to join efforts to protect the forest. We worked with the National Forestry Authority (NFA) in our work and built momentum for saving the forest. Unfortunately, by the end of 2020, the forest was being destroyed by Hoima Sugar Ltd using the ESIA certificate of approval that NEMA issued the company. This challenge will need to be addressed in 2021.

Working with partners to sop the EACOP project dangers: AFIEGO also worked with our partners in 2020 to address the environmental, biodiversity, climate change and socio-economic dangers posed by the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) project in Uganda. We mobilised and sensitised communities to engage the project developers to stop the human rights abuses against the EACOP-affected communities. When these remained unaddressed, in October 2020, we worked with community monitors and our partners to mobilise over 877 EACOP-affected households and other stakeholders to petition the project developers in November 2020 to end the abuses against the people and to prioritise clean energy over the project. Further, with our partners, we engaged financial institutions such as Standard Bank, the African Development Bank (AfDB) and others to finance clean energy over fossil fuels. We also participated in the 2020 UN Business and Human Rights Forum in November 2020 through which we lobbied for action to stop the climate change, environmental and social impacts of the EACOP project. Our efforts served to mobilise pressure to protect community livelihoods, the environment and our shared climate from the EACOP project dangers. Following our engagements, the AfDB reiterated its commitment to investing in clean energy as opposed to fossil fuels in April 2020. The EACOP project dangers remained by the end of 2020 however.

Litigation efforts: Because the EACOP project dangers remained unaddressed despite our best efforts, we joined three other civil society organisations (CSOs) in November 2020 to file a court case against the Ugandan and Tanzanian governments as well as the Secretary General of the East African Community (EAC) in the East African Court of Justice (EACJ). We argued that the states were failing to protect East Africans' environmental and livelihood rights due to the EACOP project. In addition, we continued to support litigation efforts for cancellation of the Tilenga Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) certificate of approval, which was issued by NEMA to the Tilenga project developers in April 2019. The certificate will not promote environmental conservation and community livelihoods in Uganda. Further, AFIEGO supported the oil refinery-affected people in their court case against government in order to defend not only the people's land rights but those of other oil-affected communities as a precursor to protecting the environment.

Building a cross-border movement for the promotion of clean energy: AFIEGO also built on our previous efforts to further build a cross-border movement for the promotion of clean energy in the African Great Lakes region. To this end, we organised or supported film screenings, radio talkshows and community sensitisation engagements to sensitise communities on the importance of promoting clean energy. We also distributed posters, brochures, banners and others to enable communities understand the importance of promoting clean energy. The above activities were implemented in Uganda and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). The above activities resulted in increased appreciation of the need to promote clean energy by women, youth, members of the media and others.

Supporting communities to increase clean energy use: Following our above community empowerment efforts and with our support, women clean energy champions sensitised fellow community members who increased their uptake of clean energy-saving cookstoves and off-grid solar energy to protect the environment and community livelihoods. By the end of 2020, over 4,660 people engaged by women clean energy champions in Kasese district had bought clean energy-saving cookstoves and off-grid solar home systems. This reduced pressure on Queen Elizabeth National Park. The empowered communities also undertook joint advocacy calling on the Ugandan as well as Congolese governments to promote clean energy as opposed to oil exploitation in cross-border ecosensitive areas. Unfortunately, the governments did not heed these calls.


Protecting Murchison Falls from hydropower dam: AFIEGO also undertook efforts to protect Murchison Falls from destruction for a hydropower dam. To this end, we engaged government and the EU to mobilise support to stop development of a dam at the falls. The EU publically called for protection of the falls in November 2020, providing much-needed support to stop the dam development. Unfortunately, by the end of 2020, government was yet to announce whether it had abandoned the hydropower dam development plans.

We did so much more including **campaigning for lower electricity tariffs**, demanding for the **high new electricity connection fees** that were introduced by government in 2020 to be reduced and others.

AFIEGO also delivered **COVID-19 support** to communities and districts to alleviate some of the COVID-19 impacts on livelihoods.

On behalf of the secretariat, I would like to thank all those who supported AFIEGO to implement the above activities and attain the achievements that we did.

We hope to do more in 2021.



Dickens Kamugisha
Chief Executive Officer, AFIEGO

SECTION 2

ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

2.1. Introduction

The year 2020 was no doubt a difficult one. COVID-19, natural calamities and other challenges made the year hard for many people including Ugandans. Despite this, AFIEGO and our partners worked hard to not only ease the burdens faced by communities due to the COVID-19 challenges but to also deliver on the organisation's mandate.

To this end, AFIEGO implemented a number of activities and campaigns. Overall, AFIEGO's work in 2020 centred on influencing the enactment and enforcement of key policies and laws, leading our Save Bugoma Forest Campaign (SBFC) partners to defend Bugoma forest from destruction due to oil and sugarcane projects and working with our partners to stop the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) project's environmental, biodiversity, climate change, human rights and other dangers.

Our work also centred on building and strengthening a cross-border African Great Lakes movement to promote a just energy transition to off-grid renewable energy and campaigning for electricity sector reforms as well as affordable grid power among others.

AFIEGO worked with women, youth as well as national and international civil society partners to deliver on the organisation's mandate in 2020.

In this section, we highlight key activities implemented in 2020 under AFIEGO's three programmes including the **Extractives Governance, Electricity Democracy** as well as **Renewable Energy Efficiency and Climate Change**.

2.2. Influencing policy enactment and enforcement

In 2020, AFIEGO worked with our partners to ensure that policy gaps that were curtailing environmental conservation efforts, clean energy access and protection of communities' land rights were addressed. To this end, AFIEGO did the following:

Successfully lobbied for the enactment of ESIA regulations: The conduct and implementation of Environmental and Social Impact Assessments (ESIA) has been recognised as an important conservation tool. Consequently, to integrate this tool in Uganda's laws, the Ugandan government has, since 2014, been involved in processes to put in place a new legal framework including a new environmental law, which was enacted in 2019. Efforts to put in place regulations that provide for the conduct of ESIA were commenced in 2017. Unfortunately, the regulations were yet to be put in place by the beginning of 2020.

In 2020 therefore, AFIEGO and our partners including youth built on our work, which commenced in 2017, to lobby NEMA to complete and operationalise the ESIA regulations.

We are happy to report that after nearly four years of advocacy, in December 2020, NEMA put in place the National Environment (Environmental and Social Assessment) regulations.

This is commendable. However, major gaps in the enacted regulations exist. These include curbing information access and public participation in ESIA processes. NEMA also gave itself wide-ranging discretionary powers through the regulations. These gaps will worsen environmental degradation amidst oil risks and threats and must be addressed.

Advocating for the enactment of SEA regulations: Relatedly, since 2017, AFIEGO and our partners have campaigned for the completion and enactment of Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) regulations. The regulations are important for providing a framework through which SEA is to be integrated in government's policies, plans and programmes to protect the environment amidst development projects. In 2020, AFIEGO built on our efforts that included engaging NEMA, publishing advocacy products such as letters, communiques, media articles and others to ensure that the SEA regulations were completed by NEMA and enacted. We are happy to report that **in March 2020, NEMA put in place the 2020 National Environment (SEA) regulations.** If implemented, the regulations will support efforts to protect the environment and community livelihoods from oil threats.

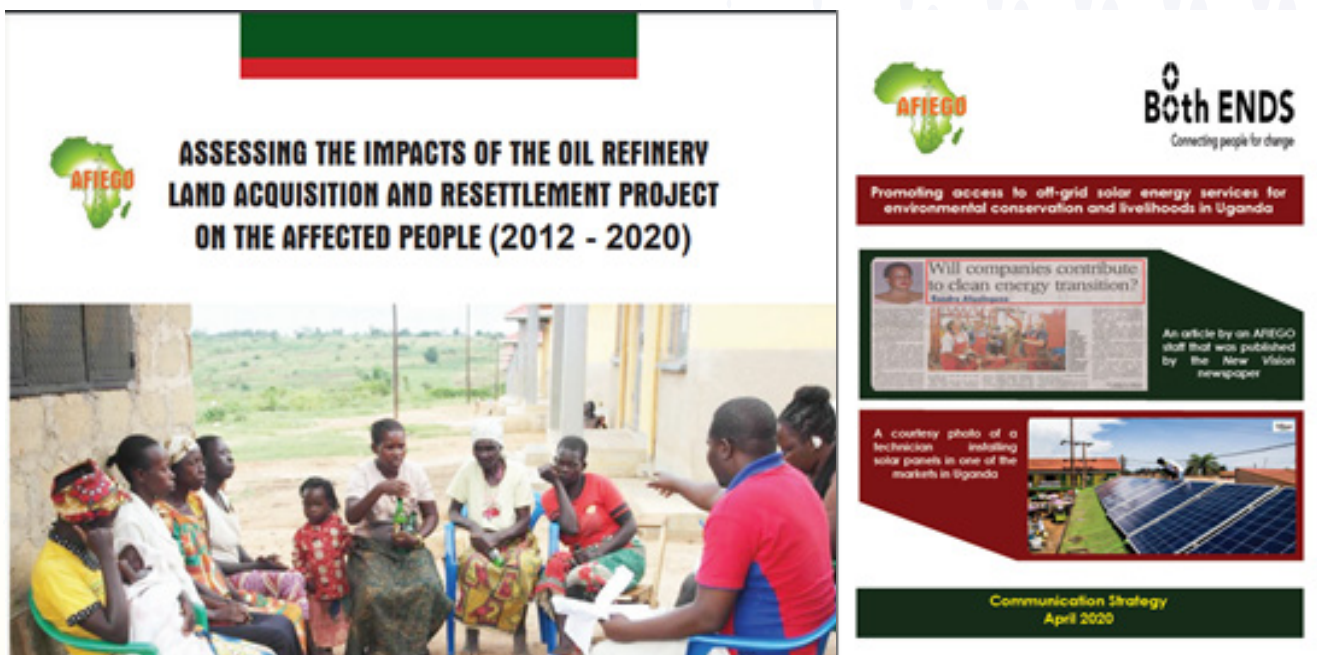
Drafting proposals for a Solar Energy Policy: To further promote environmental conservation and clean energy access, AFIEGO worked towards ensuring that a solar energy policy is put in place by the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development (MEMD).

In 2016, the Ugandan and UK governments signed the Energy Africa Compact Agreement for Uganda. The objective of the agreement is to "... accelerate the adoption of solar home and institutional lighting systems to achieve 100% electrification by 2030."

Following signing of the aforementioned agreement by the two governments, in 2017, AFIEGO joined a multi-stakeholder working group comprised of government, CSOs, development partners such as DFID and others who identified the need for Uganda to put in place a solar energy policy to attain the objectives of the 2016 Uganda Energy Africa Compact Agreement. Unfortunately, at the beginning of 2020, the policy was yet to be put in place. Consequently, in 2020, AFIEGO led our CSO partners and **compiled a memorandum of proposals for a solar energy policy for adoption by the Ministry of Energy.** Unfortunately, 2020 ended when the solar energy policy was yet to be put in place. AFIEGO will continue to influence government to ensure that the Solar Energy Policy is put in place.

Developing a communication strategy for promotion of off-grid solar energy: AFIEGO also worked with our partners to put in place a Communication Strategy for use by state and non-state actors for the promotion of solar energy. The strategy was disseminated to the state and non-state actors.

Published research to influence land laws: In 2020, AFIEGO published the research report, *Assessing the impacts of the oil refinery land acquisition and resettlement project on the affected people*. Through the report, we documented the impacts that the 2012 to 2018 oil refinery compulsory land acquisition project had on the affected people. The report showed how failure by government to pay prompt, fair and adequate compensation affected the oil refinery-affected people's access to land, participation in economic activities and access to social services such as education as well as health. The report also showed how failure to adequately engender the land acquisition project negatively affected women and girls. **AFIEGO made recommendations to government to improve land acquisition laws and bills such as the 2019 Land Acquisition Bill.**



AFIEGO produced research reports and other publications to influence policies and laws

Achievements registered as a result of our policy influencing efforts:

1. After nearly four years of lobbying by AFIEGO and our partners, in December 2020, NEMA put in place the **National Environment (Environmental and Social Assessment) regulations** to protect the environment from oil and other threats.
2. In March 2020, NEMA also put in place the **National Environment (SEA) regulations** after nearly four years of lobbying by AFIEGO and our partners. The regulations will support environmental conservation amidst oil risks and threats.
3. Processes to support the enactment of a **Solar Energy Policy** by government were also commenced when AFIEGO and our partners produced proposals for a Solar Energy Policy for adoption by the Ministry of Energy.

2.3. Saving Bugoma forest

The year 2020 commenced when Bugoma forest, one of the few remaining tropical rainforests in Uganda, was under threat. Bunyoro Kitara Kingdom (BKK) and Hoima Sugar Ltd had laid claim to 8,000 hectares of Bugoma forest and due to a number of errors, courts had upheld their ownership claims. To convert a huge swathe of the forest into a sugarcane plantation among others, Hoima Sugar Ltd conducted an ESIA study and submitted a report to NEMA for approval of its sugarcane project in 2020. **AFIEGO, which assumed the chairmanship of the Save Bugoma Forest Campaign (SBFC) in 2020**, and our partners did the following to save the forest from sugarcane and oil threats:

Launching the 'Forest Life Matters' campaign: Following the assumption of the chairmanship of the SBFC by AFIEGO, we and our partners revitalised efforts to save Bugoma forest by launching the 'Forest Life Matters' Campaign in June 2020 in Kampala. The campaign launch was followed by a media briefing at which we mobilised the media and Ugandan public to defend Bugoma forest from destruction.

Mobilising stakeholders to defend the forest: Stakeholder engagement, community mobilisation, media campaigns and legal strategies were employed in efforts to save Bugoma forest from destruction in 2020. To mobilise stakeholders including communities, women, youth, the media, members of the academia, development partners, Bunyoro Kingdom officials and others, AFIEGO worked with our SBFC partners to organise a webinar in June 2020. During the webinar that attracted over 50 participants, we discussed how various partners could use their positions to save Bugoma forest.

Engaging key government and cultural stakeholders: In addition, AFIEGO and our SBFC partners engaged key government stakeholders to protect Bugoma forest from destruction. To this end, **in June, 2020, we held a meeting with the National Forestry Authority (NFA)** and discussed how the SBFC could work with NFA to save Bugoma forest from land grabbing, sugarcane growing and oil threats. The NFA team was led by the authority's Executive Director (ED), Mr. Tom Okello. As a result of that meeting, the SBFC and NFA undertook joint engagements such as joint stakeholder meetings.

Further, in July 2020, we held **a meeting with the Minister of Water and Environment**, Hon. Sam Cheptoris, and discussed the options that the Ministry of Water and Environment (MWE) could pursue to save Bugoma forest. The minister expressed his support for saving the forest.

Thereafter, in July 2020, **we petitioned the Natural Resources Committee (NRC) of parliament**. In the petition that was received by Dr. Keefa Kiwanuka, the then-Chairperson of the NRC, AFIEGO and our partners called on parliament to act on government officers who are responsible for the giveaway of the forest. We also called on parliament to engage NEMA to refrain from issuing an ESIA certificate of approval to Hoima Sugar Ltd. Further, in August 2020, AFIEGO and our SBFC partners organised **a meeting with the Bunyoro Kingdom Prime Minister**,

Hon. Andrew Byakutaga. The kingdom reiterated the importance of protecting Bugoma forest. We also held **a meeting with NEMA in 2020** through which we petitioned the authority to refrain from issuing an ESIA certificate of approval to Hoima Sugar Ltd. Without the certificate, Hoima Sugar Ltd would not have the legal backing it needed to destroy Bugoma forest. Despite this, in August 2020, NEMA issued an ESIA certificate of approval for Hoima Sugar Ltd's project in Bugoma forest.

Engaging the EU and embassies: Before the certificate was issued however, AFIEGO and our SBFC partners held a meeting with the European Union (EU) head of delegation to Uganda, H.E. Attilio Pacifici, and his team. We discussed how the EU could support efforts to protect Bugoma forest. **The EU agreed to engage the president to protect the forest, among others.** AFIEGO and the SBFC also **engaged the Dutch embassy in August 2020** to mobilise the embassy to support efforts to protect the forest.

In addition, in November 2020, **AFIEGO and the SBFC organised a field visit to Bugoma forest for the EU head of delegation**, H.E. Pacifici, and eight ambassadors from EU countries. The field visit was also attended by Hon. Beatrice Anywar, the State Minister for Water and Environment, NFA led by the ED Mr. Tom Okello, Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA) and other stakeholders. Ways in which Bugoma forest could be protected were discussed.

Conducting legal research: Other than stakeholder engagements, legal strategies were also used to defend Bugoma forest from destruction. To understand the legal options that could be pursued to save the forest, AFIEGO and our SBFC partners commissioned legal research in July 2020.

The research report that was produced informed the legal strategies such as court cases that were filed by the SBFC to save Bugoma forest from destruction.

Filing court cases: Following NEMA's issuance of an ESIA certificate of approval to Hoima Sugar Ltd in August 2020, we supported our partners to file a court case for a temporary injunction to stop destruction of Bugoma forest. This was in September 2020. In the same month, we also filed a court case for cancellation of the ESIA certificate that was issued to Hoima Sugar Ltd by NEMA. The court case hearing was yet to be concluded by the end of 2020.

Media engagements: AFIEGO and our partners also organised press conferences, radio and TV talkshows, interviews and others to enable the publication of over 50 media stories in the national and international press to mobilise public pressure to protect the forest. AFIEGO and our partners also harnessed the power of social media so much so that the hashtag #SaveBugomaForest trended at number 1 on August 24, 2020 on Twitter.



Top L: AFIEGO and our SBFC partners following an August 2020 meeting on saving Bugoma forest with the EU Head of Mission, H.E. Attilio Pacifici, and his team.

Top R: AFIEGO and our SBFC partners after a meeting with the Minister of Water and Environment, Hon. Sam Cheptoris, in July 2020. The meeting was also attended by the NFA ED, Mr. Tom Okello.

Bottom: AFIEGO and our SBFC partners while handing over a petition on saving Bugoma forest to the then chairperson of the Natural Resources Committee of parliament, Hon. Keefa Kiwanuka.

Achievements registered as a result of our and partners' Save Bugoma forest campaign:

1. In 2020, **the EU engaged the Ugandan president and parliament** to save Bugoma forest. Such high level advocacy is needed in continued efforts to protect the forest.
2. The **public was also mobilised and pressured** government to save the forest as evidenced by **#SaveBugomaForest trending at number 1 on Twitter** on August 24, 2021.
3. Youth under **Fridays4Future also joined the campaign** to protect the forest.
4. Further, in 2020, **the NRC of parliament reported** to the EU that they had recommended that **government institutes an inquiry into the giveaway of Bugoma forest** and that the **forest's cadastral maps are made public** to address land grabbing challenges.

Despite the above milestones, Bugoma forest was yet to be saved from destruction by Hoima Sugar Ltd and other land grabbers by the end of 2020.

2.4. Advocacy to stop the EACOP and other oil projects abuses

The year 2020 was characterised by a number of challenges related to the EACOP as well as the upstream Tilenga and Kingfisher oil projects. Among others, the land, livelihoods and cultural rights of an estimated over 20,631 people whose land is being acquired for the EACOP project in ten districts in Uganda were being abused. The education rights of children affected by the same project were also being abused. The behemoth EACOP as well as Tilenga and Kingfisher oil projects were also contributing to or posed grave environmental, biodiversity and climate change challenges. Further, the oil refinery-affected people's livelihoods were yet to be fully restored following their resettlement by government in 2018. Amidst the above, community participation in the oil projects to stop the dangers they pose was limited. AFIEGO did the following to address the above challenges:

Advocacy to restore the oil refinery-affected people's livelihoods: In 2020, AFIEGO engaged the oil refinery-affected community in Hoima district to map ways to address the livelihood rights abuses that the people were faced with. Among others, despite commitments by government, the Ministry of Energy had failed to construct roads to the oil refinery resettlement area in Kyakaboga-Hoima since 2018 as well as failing to construct markets. This was hurting the oil refinery-affected people's capacity to engage in economic activities. Since 2018, AFIEGO supported the people to pressure their district leaders as well as the Ministry of Energy through meetings, petitions, communiques, a court case and media articles to restore the people's livelihoods. We are happy to report that following this pressure, **in July 2020, the Ministry of Energy commenced road development processes to Kyakaboga** to ease transport and trade for the people.

Advocating for community participation in the Tilenga ESMPs review process: In June 2020, Total E&P(U) B.V. invited CSOs working in the oil and gas sector to review and make comments on 28 draft Environmental and Social Management Plans (ESMPs) for the Tilenga project. The ESMPs were developed by Total and they showed measures that the company would take to mitigate its Tilenga project impacts. It will be recalled that the majority of the Tilenga oil wells are located in the ecosensitive Murchison Falls National Park (MNFP). While Total invited CSOs to review and make comments on the Tilenga ESMPs to address any gaps therein, oil host communities, whose resources are being impacted by the project, weren't invited to review and make comments on the draft ESMPs. This not only violated the principles of natural justice but also Uganda's laws. To right this wrong, in August 2020, **AFIEGO mobilised 21 CSOs and wrote a protest letter** to NEMA. In an **August 20, 2020 letter to AFIEGO, the authority noted that it would consult communities on the Tilenga ESMPs**. This was yet to happen by the end of 2020 however. AFIEGO also joined **other CSOs in July 2020 to review and compile comments on the Tilenga ESMPs**. The weakness and gaps identified in the ESMPs were submitted to Total for addressing.

Supporting communities and other stakeholders to petition EACOP project developers: Throughout 2020, AFIEGO sensitised the EACOP-affected people to protect their land, livelihood, cultural and other rights. To ensure that our efforts gained momentum, in October 2020, AFIEGO worked with community monitors and our partners to **mobilise over 877 EACOP-affected households and other stakeholders to sign a petition** calling on the EACOP project developers to end the environmental, climate change and social dangers of the EACOP by among others, investing in clean energy as opposed to the EACOP. Following delivery of the petition in November 2020, **Total, the lead developer of the EACOP project, requested for a meeting with AFIEGO in December 2020** to discuss how the EACOP challenges could be addressed.

Engaging AfDB over funding the EACOP: Because the EACOP project poses immense environmental, climate change and social threats that remain unaddressed, AFIEGO worked with our partners to engage financial institutions over their existing or potential role in the EACOP project. To this end, AFIEGO joined our partners **to write to the African Development Bank (AfDB)** in March 2020 to request that the bank stops the EACOP project dangers by not financing the project. In April 2020, the **bank indicated that it would not finance the project** as it is focused on clean energy.

Participation in the Standard Bank AGM: Further, in June 2020, AFIEGO joined our partners to participate in the **Standard Bank Annual General Meeting (AGM)**. Standard Bank is one of the financial advisors for the EACOP project. During the AGM, we asked the bank to stop the EACOP project dangers by stopping its participation in the EACOP project. Following our engagements, **Standard Bank commissioned a study** to assess the human rights impact of the EACOP project. Unfortunately, the bank reported that its consultants **found no wrongdoing, contrary to evidence on the ground**.

Engaging the Chinese government over the Kingfisher and oil roads projects: In April 2020, we joined **over 260 CSOs from across the world to write to the Chinese government** which was set to provide financial stimuli for overseas Chinese projects affected by COVID-19. We called on China to avoid providing finances to companies involved in the Kingfisher and oil roads projects in Uganda because of their environmental, climate change and social dangers. Through the letter, we and our partners managed to **bring to the forefront the risky oil projects** that Chinese state institutions and banks are participating in in Uganda for addressing of the same.

Engaging the UN over the EACOP project abuses: In addition, AFIEGO **participated in the UN's Business and Human Rights Forum** in November 2020 to highlight the human rights abuses that were being faced by the EACOP-affected people. AFIEGO called for the abuses to end. Our participation in the forum enabled us to bring **the suffering of the EACOP-affected people to an international forum** to build more pressure to stop the people's suffering.

Filing a court case in the EACJ: Because the EACOP project dangers remained despite our lobby and advocacy efforts, in November 2020, we joined three other CSO partners from Uganda, Kenya and Tanzania to **file a court case against the Ugandan and Tanzanian governments as well as the Secretary General of the East African Community (EAC)** to stop the project's dangers. The court case was **filed in the East African Court of Justice (EACJ)**. The court case was yet to be concluded by the end of 2020 however.

The EACOP, Tilenga, Kingfisher and other oil project dangers also remained by the end of 2020.



L: AFIEGO and the oil refinery-affected people following a meeting to discuss how the remaining challenges faced by the people could be addressed.

C: AFIEGO and our partners following signing of affidavits to support the EACOP case in the East African Court of Justice.

R: AFIEGO staff during a presentation at the UN's 2020 Business and Human Rights Forum.

Achievements registered as a result of our campaign to avoid oil dangers:

1. Due to our and our partners' efforts, the **AfDB announced in April 2020 that it would not finance the EACOP project.**
2. Following our engagements, **Standard Bank commissioned a study** to assess the human rights impact of the EACOP project. Unfortunately, the bank reported that its consultants **found no wrongdoing, contrary to evidence on the ground.**
3. The human rights abuses against the EACOP-affected people were discussed **at an international forum in November 2020 to increase pressure for their addressing.**
4. Following three years of advocacy, the Ministry of Energy **constructed a road to the Kyakaboga** oil refinery resettlement in July 2020 to **restore the oil refinery-affected people's livelihoods.**
5. CSOs working on the EACOP project were supported to **put in place an advocacy strategy by 350Africa.org.**

2.5. Championing access to justice and enforcement of laws

The year 2020 commenced when community need for access to justice still existed. For instance, the oil refinery-affected people who sued government in 2014 in a bid to defend their land rights still needed AFIEGO's support as their court case was still ongoing. Furthermore, youth who had filed a court case for cancellation of the Tilenga EIA certificate of approval that was issued in 2019 by NEMA also needed support. The youth and AFIEGO filed the court case in 2019. To support community access to justice and the above court cases, AFIEGO did the following in 2020:

Supporting the court case for cancellation of the Tilenga EIA certificate: In 2019, AFIEGO supported youth to **file a court case for cancellation of the Tilenga EIA certificate of approval.** The certificate was issued by NEMA in 2019. Youth and CSOs filed a court case as the procedural irregularities and violation of laws that occurred during the public review process on the Tilenga ESIA report in 2018 curtailed effective community participation to protect the environment and community livelihoods from the Tilenga oil risks and threats. Hearing of the court case took off in 2019 and continued in 2020. **In February and November 2020, AFIEGO supported lawyers and youth to participate in the case hearings that took place during those months.** Conclusion of the case hearing was delayed. However, it is hoped that its conclusion will stop the Tilenga oil project dangers.

Facilitating the oil refinery-affected people to appear in court: In addition, in 2020, AFIEGO continued to **support the oil refinery-affected** people who filed a court case against government in March 2014 over violation of their land and property rights. The people's rights were violated during the acquisition of over 29 sq. km of land by government for the oil refinery and Hoima International Airport projects among others. The people sued government to defend their right to prompt, fair and adequate compensation. In 2020, the court case was still ongoing. AFIEGO supported the people **to participate in hearing of their case in February 2020**. AFIEGO also **continued to mobilise public interest in the case through publishing press statements**.

Protecting Lake Albert from Kibiro oil spill: AFIEGO also worked for the **protection of communities' environmental rights in 2020**. In April 2020, an explosion at a geothermal well in Kibiro in Hoima district occurred. The explosion resulted in the spillage of drilling fluids, mud, sand and other substances. Community monitors trained by AFIEGO reported that the contents of the **spillage had ran off into Lake Albert and were also contaminating soils**. AFIEGO worked with the community monitors and **over 14 CSOs to issue a statement in April 2020** calling on Uganda's Ministry of Energy to release a report showing the contents of the spillage and how it would be effectively cleaned up. Following our efforts, the **Ministry of Energy engaged the media to allay fears that an oil spill** had occurred. Government also **undertook an assessment of the spillage to ascertain the extent of the damage**. Unfortunately, by the time 2020 ended, the people whose property was destroyed by the spillage were yet to be compensated.



L: Some members of the oil refinery-affected community following their case hearing in the Kampala High Court in February 2020.

R: AFIEGO, youth representatives and their lawyer following hearing of the court case for cancellation of the Tilenga EIA certificate of approval.

Achievements registered as a result of litigation efforts:

1. **Restoration of some of the oil refinery-affected people's rights has been attained due** to the pressure caused by court cases.

Unfortunately, conclusion of the Tilenga and oil refinery court cases has delayed. This challenge must be addressed.

2.6. Building a cross-border movement for a just energy transition

Access to clean renewable energy is a necessity if communities are to develop while the environment is protected. Unfortunately, the Ugandan government and the private sector are investing in fossil fuels and big hydropower dams that have failed to deliver accessible and affordable power to the majority of Ugandans. Moreover, these investments could block Uganda from attaining a just energy transition to clean energy to address climate change and other challenges. To enable a just energy transition in Uganda and the DRC, AFIEGO did the following:

Empowering communities on fossil fuel dangers: Between January and August 2020, AFIEGO worked with our partners such as women, youth, members of the media and others to **organise film screenings and radio talkshows** for women, youth leaders, journalists, communities and others on the environmental, health and other dangers of fossil fuel exploitation. The film screenings, which took place in Uganda and the DRC, strengthened our targeted stakeholders' understanding of the dangers of fossil fuel exploitation. AFIEGO and our partners also **distributed posters, photo story calendars, banners** and others that highlighted the dangers of oil. This increased **women, youth and the media's interest and efforts in promoting clean energy**.

Awarding women and youth to promote clean energy access: Further, in 2020, **AFIEGO awarded women and youth in Uganda and the DRC who are excelling at promoting clean energy access** in their communities. This was aimed at inspiring more women and youth to promote clean energy access. Certificates, public celebration of women clean energy champions on International Women's Day and other efforts were implemented to inspire more women and youth to promote clean energy use in their communities.

Supporting women clean energy champions to sensitise fellow women for the promotion of clean energy: Furthermore, we **supported women clean energy champions in Uganda** to engage fellow women at meetings and other fora to educate them on the benefits of using off-grid solar energy and clean energy-saving cookstoves. Due to the women clean energy champions' efforts, targeted households and women **adopted the use of clean energy. For instance, 266 families with over 2,660 members** bought clean energy-saving cookstoves in Katwe in Kasese district by the end of 2020. The use of clean energy-saving cookstoves **reduced the pressure women put on Queen Elizabeth National Park (QENP)** as they search for firewood. In addition, **over 200 families with more than 2,000 members in Katwe in Kasese had bought off-grid solar home systems** by the end of 2020. Increased access to off-grid solar **reduced gender inequities and improved the safety of families**, which no longer have to rely on paraffin candles to light their homes.

Supporting community petitions to government: In addition, we supported **cross-border communities to petition the Ugandan and DRC governments** to promote clean energy as

opposed to investment in fossil fuels in ecosensitive cross-border areas. We also supported the **community leaders to author joint media articles** to call on the Ugandan and DRC governments to promote clean energy to address climate change and other challenges. The youth and women also demanded that **government puts in place a Solar Energy Policy** in Uganda.

Engaging the Ugandan government and EU over a hydropower dam at Murchison Falls: Further, in 2020, we addressed the threat hydropower dams pose to ecosensitive areas. Specifically, we worked with our partners to address the threat of development of a hydropower dam at Murchison Falls. In 2019, government informed Ugandans that Bonang Power and Energy Ltd, a South African company, would conduct a feasibility study for development of a hydropower dam at Murchison Falls. The threat of a dam being developed at the falls still existed at the beginning of 2020. In February 2020 therefore, **we mobilised 18 CSOs and issued a communique calling on government to stop all activities** that would lead to development of a dam at Murchison Falls. Further, in November 2020, AFIEGO and other CSOs together with UWA participated in a meeting with eight EU Ambassadors. We requested **the EU to engage the Ugandan government to save Murchison Falls** from hydropower dam threats. The **EU publicly spoke out against development of a dam at the falls** in November 2020. Such high level advocacy is important for saving the falls.



L: Youth leaders from the EACOP-affected districts following a film screening and after being awarded in February 2020 for promoting clean energy in their communities.

R: Community members from the DRC following a film screening.

Bottom: A woman and youth clean energy champion in Kasese district while making briquettes that are used for clean cooking.

Achievements registered as a result of promoting clean energy access:

1. AFIEGO strengthened **women, youth and the media's understanding** of the need to promote clean energy.
2. Consequently, women and **youth champions promoted the use of clean energy-saving cookstoves and off-grid solar energy**. In Katwe in Kasese district, **over 4,660 people** accessed clean energy-saving cookstoves and off-grid solar home systems by the end of 2020.
3. The use of energy-saving cookstoves **reduced the pressure women put on Queen Elizabeth National Park (QENP)** as they search for firewood.
4. With our partners, we **engaged the EU** who **publically spoke out against** development of a dam at Murchison Falls to support saving of the falls. Such high level advocacy is needed to save the falls.

2.7. Promoting electricity sector reforms

In 2020, electricity prices continued to be high, curtailing citizen access to affordable power. Further, government continued to pursue an investment strategy that centred on investment in large hydropower dams that have failed to increase citizen access to clean energy. Electricity connection prices were also increased by the Electricity Regulatory Authority (ERA). Implementation of the 'Free' Electricity Connections Policy was also stopped by government, thereby contributing to exorbitant electricity connection prices that were out of many citizens' reach. We did the following to address the above challenges:

Advocating for change in the electricity sector investment strategy: Having identified that **investment in grid power at the expense of off-grid options** was a challenge that was curtailing clean energy access by the majority of Ugandans, AFIEGO supported **women and youth clean energy champions** to sensitise fellow women and youth to pressure government to stop prioritising investment in grid power at the expense of off-grid options. AFIEGO also supported the women and youth clean energy champions to **engage government** to change the investment strategy. Further, AFIEGO invested in working with our partners to **analyse Uganda's 2020/2021 budget** to assess whether it would promote clean energy access. When we found that it wouldn't, **in June 2020, we worked with CSOs to author and disseminate a statement** calling for a change in investment strategies by government to promote off-grid options. Development partners such as **GIZ are investing in mini-grids** among others. However, more needs to be done.

Campaign to stop deemed power challenges: In 2020, Ugandans continued to grapple with the **challenge of payment for deemed power**. This challenge arose because the Ugandan

government has invested in the development of hydropower dams which produce expensive power that Ugandans cannot consume. Consequently, electricity supply outstrips demand as Ugandans suppress their demand. Unfortunately, government has to pay for this unconsumed power and so do electricity consumers. To address this challenge, **AFIEGO worked with our partners and supported women as well as youth clean energy champions to campaign for more investment in off-grid options** as opposed to hydropower dams.

Advocating for low electricity connection charges: In December 2020, ERA increased electricity connection charges without consulting consumers. The new charges that were set were too exorbitant so much so that they would curtail new electricity connections. Consequently, in December 2020, AFIEGO wrote to ERA and demanded the authority rescinds the policy directive through which the new electricity connection charges were increased.

Campaign for amendment of 1999 Electricity Act: Further, in 2020, AFIEGO continued to campaign for amendment of the 1999 Electricity Act to support efforts to reduce power tariffs. Because the 1999 Electricity Act does not adequately address the challenge of power theft by consumers, the law fails to ensure that this vice, which contributes to high power prices, is addressed. AFIEGO campaigned for amendments to the current electricity law to address this vice for lower power prices. We are happy to report that following years of advocacy, **in July 2020, cabinet approved the 2020 Electricity (Amendment) Bill.**



Some of the newspaper articles published by AFIEGO staff and youth clean energy champions to lobby for addressing of electricity sector challenges

2.8. International meetings and networking

In 2020, AFIEGO participated in international meetings to influence international processes for the promotion of clean energy and green jobs. Some of these meetings included:

- **In February 2020**, AFIEGO participated in a meeting organised by the World Bank group in Uganda to gain insights into the state of job opportunities in Uganda and how the country could promote inclusive green growth.
- **In August 2020**, AFIEGO participated in a virtual meeting that was organised by our Dutch partners, Friends of the Earth, Netherlands, to develop policy recommendations on promoting green growth in the global south by the Dutch government.
- **In October 2020**, AFIEGO staff made a presentation at a high-level policy webinar on integration of environmental, social and sustainability considerations in natural resource contract negotiations.
- **In November 2020**, AFIEGO participated in virtual meetings including the 'Finance in Common Summit' as well as the G20 Fossil Fuel Funding and COVID-19 meeting.

2.9. Institutional strengthening and development

AFIEGO undertook the following institutional strengthening exercises in 2020:

- With our partners, we reviewed the achievements and challenges we registered under the **2016-2020 Shared Resources, Joint Solutions (SRJS)** project to strengthen our capacity to address challenges that are undermining environmental conservation in Uganda.
- In addition, with our partners under the **Green Livelihoods Alliance-Just Energy Transition efforts**, we reviewed the impact of our work in promoting a just energy transition to enable us to identify and address gaps that are undermining clean energy access.
- Further, AFIEGO undertook a **mid-term and end-of-year review** of its work to enable us to take stock of our achievements, challenges and capacity gaps to enable us to fill them.



AFIEGO staff during review of the mid-year performance in 2020

SECTION 3

This section highlights our key achievements in 2020, challenges faced and key priorities for 2021.

3.1. Highlights of key achievements

Some of our key achievements in 2020 included:

(a) Successfully lobbying for the enactment of key environmental regulations: AFIEGO reaped the fruits of nearly four years' work of lobbying and advocating for the enactment of key regulations that Uganda needed to protect the environment and community livelihoods from oil threats. In December 2020, NEMA put in place the **National Environment (Environmental and Social Assessment) regulations** to protect the environment from oil and other threats. Before that, in March 2020, NEMA put in place the **National Environment (SEA) regulations** after four years of lobbying by AFIEGO and our partners. AFIEGO worked with partner CSOs, youth and women leaders to lobby for enactment of these regulations.

(b) Influencing electricity amendments: Another key milestone was also reached when **cabinet approved the 2020 Electricity (Amendment) Bill in July 2020**. AFIEGO and our partners had been campaigning for fasttracking of the amendment of the 1999 Electricity Act to address challenges such as power theft that have kept power prices up. In 2020, we continued with this advocacy and are happy to note that the Electricity (Amendment) Bill was approved by cabinet. Further, we and our partners commenced on processes to support the enactment of a **Solar Energy Policy to promote off-grid solar energy**.

(c) EU engages president and parliament over Bugoma forest: Following our and our SBFC partners' engagement of the EU delegation to Uganda and EU ambassadors for the protection of Bugoma forest, the **EU engaged parliament and the president of Uganda** in 2020 to save Bugoma forest. Such high level advocacy is needed in continued efforts to protect the forest.

(d) Public mobilised for the protection of Bugoma forest: Further, our efforts that included organising meetings, webinars and media engagements among others led to mobilisation of the **public which pressured** government to save the forest. This was especially evidenced by **#SaveBugomaForest trending at number 1 on Twitter** on August 24, 2021. Youth under **Fridays4Future** also joined the campaign to protect the forest.

(e) Parliament commences actions to save Bugoma forest: Further, in 2020, the **Natural Resources Committee of parliament** reported to the EU that they had recommended that **government institutes an inquiry into the giveaway of Bugoma forest** and that the **forest's cadastral maps are made public** to address land grabbing challenges. These efforts are important in the continued fight to save the forest.

(f) **Promoting climate-smart financing amidst the EACOP project:** In addition, due to our and our partners' efforts, the **AfDB announced in April 2020 that it would not finance** the EACOP project which is a threat to our shared climate, environmental conservation and community livelihoods. The AfDB reiterated its commitment to financing clean energy projects instead. The achievement was attained following advocacy by our national and international partners.

(g) **Holding businesses under the EACOP project accountable:** Further, following our and partners' engagements in 2020, **Standard Bank commissioned a study** to assess the human rights impact such as land, cultural and others rights abuses under the EACOP project. Unfortunately, following the study, the bank reported that its consultants **found no wrongdoing, contrary to evidence on the ground.**

(h) **Government pressured to partially restore oil refinery community's livelihoods:** In addition, following three years of advocacy, the Ministry of Energy **constructed a road to the Kyakaboga** oil refinery resettlement in July 2020 to **restore the oil refinery-affected people's livelihoods.** The road construction came after AFIEGO supported the oil refinery-affected people to, since 2018, engage their district leaders as well as the Ministry of Energy to fulfil its commitment to construct a road to the Kyakaboga resettlement site as part of the livelihood restoration efforts to ensure that the oil refinery-affected people engage in economic activity once again. The people were displaced from their land by government beginning in 2012.

(i) **Building a cross-border movement to end oil threats:** In 2020, AFIEGO strengthened Ugandan and Congolese **women, youth and the media's understanding** of the need to promote clean energy through organising sensitisation meetings, film screenings and radio talkshows as well as through distributing Information, Education and Communication (IEC) materials such as posters and photo stories. The empowered youth and women from Uganda and DRC **continued to undertake joint advocacy** to protect cross-border resources from oil threats.

(j) **Promoting community clean energy access:** Further, as a result of our above actions, women and **youth champions promoted the use of clean energy**-saving cookstoves and off-grid solar energy. In Katwe in Kasese district, **over 266 families with over 2,660 people had** bought the cookstoves by the end of 2020. **Over 200 families with over 2,000 members** in Kasese had bought off-grid solar home systems by the end of 2020. The use of energy-saving cookstoves **reduced the pressure women put on Queen Elizabeth National Park (QENP).**

(k) **Advocacy to stop hydropower dam development at Murchison Falls:** In 2020, AFIEGO continued to mobilise CSOs to advocate against development of a hydropower dam at Murchison Falls. With our partners, we also **engaged the EU** who **publically spoke out against** development of a dam at Murchison Falls to support saving of the falls. By the end of 2020, the feasibility study for a dam at the falls was yet to be produced.

3.2. Challenges in 2020

While AFIEGO registered several gains in 2020, challenges that could hinder the achievement of AFIEGO's mission still exist. Some of these include:

(i) Enacted regulations have gaps: While it is commendable that NEMA put in place key regulations such as the 2020 National Environment (Environmental and Social Assessment) ones, the regulations have many deliberate gaps through which NEMA is seeking to undermine information access and public participation in ESIA processes. NEMA also gave itself wide-ranging discretionary powers in the regulations. This will hamper environmental conservation. These gaps must be addressed.

(ii) Key ecosystems still under threat: Despite our best efforts, key ecosystems such as Bugoma forest and Murchison Falls remained under oil, sugarcane and hydropower dam threats respectively. Queen Elizabeth National Park (QENP) also remained under threat as government had put up five oil blocks including Ngaji in QENP for oil exploration licensing in 2019. In 2020, expressions of interest for the oil blocks were received by government from oil companies. Some companies could express interest in Ngaji oil block.

(iii) Parliament failure to debate report on Bugoma forest: Further, by the end of 2020, the NRC of parliament was yet to table its report on Bugoma forest before the entire parliament for debate and action. This means that the recommendations such as government instituting an inquiry into the giveaway of Bugoma forest and making the forest's cadastral maps public remained undebated and un-adopted by parliament for action.

(iv) Justice system unresponsive to the needs of the poor and environmental conservation: Courts remained slow and expensive in 2020. Judges were also yet to appreciate the import of their decisions against the protection of forests such as Bugoma.

(v) Community support for Bugoma forest protection inadequate: Furthermore, while the public had been mobilised against the destruction of Bugoma forest, some communities that live near the forest supported its destruction as they had been promised jobs.

(vi) Just energy transition efforts curtailed: Uganda's ability to attain a just energy transition was still at stake in 2020 as investments in fossil fuel projects were still ongoing. This could lock Uganda into being a fossil fuel economy while other countries transition for their citizens' benefit.

(vii) Inadequate efforts to harness renewable energy: Little effort had been made to promote off-grid solar energy by government by 2020. A Solar Energy Policy was yet to be put in place and investment in the off-grid sector was largely left to the private sector, hampering clean

energy access. Electricity prices also remained high and the electricity sector was hampered by weak regulation.

(viii) Restrictive operational space: Further, we worked under a restrictive operational space in which draconian laws, freezing of bank accounts, arrests and others were used to limit the operational space of CSOs in 2020. The COVID-19 challenges that the country faced in 2020 also hampered face-to-face community sensitisation meetings, holding government accountable and others. These challenges were addressed through undertaking electronic-based advocacy.

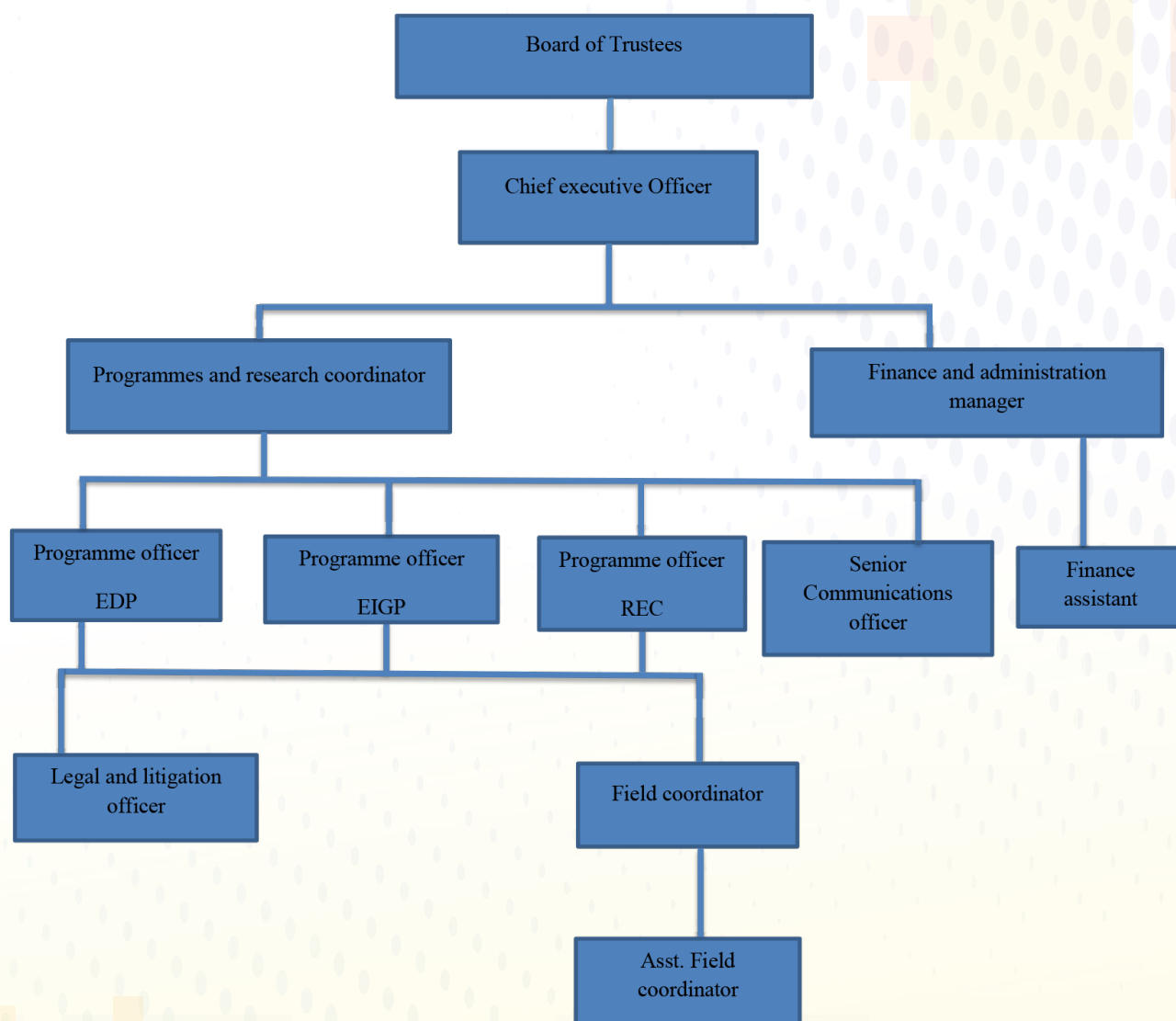
3.3. Key priorities in 2021

In view of the challenges and lessons highlighted above, AFIEGO's key priorities for 2021 will include:

- Continue using community sensitisation, stakeholder engagement, legal and other strategies to defend Bugoma forest, Queen Elizabeth National Park and other ecosensitive areas from land grabbing, oil and sugarcane threats.
- Engage government leaders including MPs who will be elected in 2021 to address the challenges faced by Bugoma forest, Queen Elizabeth National Park and other ecosensitive areas that are faced with land grabbing, oil and sugarcane threats.
- Undertake advocacy to support the enactment of a Solar Energy Policy, the 2020 Electricity (Amendment) Bill, the Climate Change Bill and other laws.
- Further undertake advocacy to ensure that gaps in various laws and regulations such as the 2020 National Environment (Environmental and Social Assessment) regulations are filled.
- In addition, continue engaging courts and other stakeholders to enable fast, affordable and effective access to justice for the poor and for the promotion of environmental conservation.
- Continue to work with our partners to mobilise and engage communities, government, the private sector, financial institutions, development partners and others for investment in clean energy as opposed to dirty or brown investments.
- Further, continue empowering the public with knowledge on the impacts of oil through film screenings, radio talkshows, dramas and others to support efforts to promote a just energy transition.
- Finally, continue lobbying for more affordable electricity tariffs and a better regulated electricity sector.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX I: ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE



APPENDIX II: AFIEGO BOARD MEMBERS' PROFILES

Mr. Edwin Muhereza: Mr. Muhereza is the current chairperson of the Board of Trustees of AFIEGO. He holds a Master's degree in Law from Makerere University. Mr. Muhereza works with Sserwada & Co. Advocates. He previously worked with the Registrar of Titles as a Registrar.

Dr. Emmanuel Kasimbazi: Dr. Kasimbazi is the current legal advisor to the Board. He holds a PhD in Environmental Law from the University of Kwazulu Natal, South Africa. Dr. Kasimbazi is an Associate Professor of Law at Makerere University and he has been teaching Law at Makerere University's School of Law for over 20 years.

Ms. Grace Atuhairwe: Ms. Atuhairwe is a board member in charge of enabling civil society and legal aid partnerships. She holds a Bachelor of Laws degree from Makerere University and a diploma in legal practice from the Law Development Centre in Kampala. Ms. Atuhairwe works with Uganda Law Council in Kampala.

Ms. Adrine Tumukwatse: Ms. Tumukwatse is a member of the board in charge of gender, inclusiveness and energy. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Leadership and Governance from Makerere University Business School (MUBS) in Kampala, Uganda. She currently works with LP Enterprises.

Ms. Doreen Elima: Ms. Elima is a member of the board in charge of civil society and government partnerships. She is an advocate and currently works as a Senior State Attorney in the Directorate of Public Prosecutions' (DPP) office in Uganda. She holds a Bachelor of Laws degree from Makerere University and a diploma in legal practice from the Law Development Centre (LDC) in Kampala.

Ms. Sarah Bireete: Ms. Bireete is the Board Member in charge of Regional Partnerships. She is a lawyer and the current Programme Officer at Centre for Constitutional Governance (CCG). Previously, she worked as a Legal Advisor with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Kampala.

Mr. Dickens Kamugisha: Mr. Kamugisha is the Chief Executive Officer of AFIEGO and is an ex-officio and secretary to the Board. Mr. Kamugisha holds a Master's degree in Law from Makerere University and diploma in legal practice from the Law Development Centre (LDC).

APPENDIX III: AFIEGO STAFF PROFILES

Mr. Dickens Kamugisha: Mr. Kamugisha is the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of AFIEGO and head of the secretariat. He is also an advocate of the High Court of Uganda and a member of both the Uganda and East African Law Societies. He holds a Master of Laws Degree majoring in Energy Governance from Makerere University, Kampala.

Ms. Margret Kwijuka: Ms. Kwijuka is the Finance and Administration Manager at AFIEGO. She holds a Bachelor of Business Administration degree from Kampala International University (KIU). She also holds certificates in computerised accounting using tally and QuickBooks from Africa Population Consult-Makerere. Ms. Kwijuka is also a registered CPA student at the Institute of Certified Public Accountants of Uganda (ICPAU). Prior to joining AFIEGO, Ms. Kwijuka worked with Dynapharm International in Congo-Brazzaville as the Finance and Administration Manager. She also worked with Vision Fund Uganda and Micro Enterprise Development Network.

Ms. Diana Nabiruma: Ms. Nabiruma is the Senior Communications Officer of AFIEGO. She holds a Master of Arts degree in Journalism and Communication and Bachelor of Arts degree in Mass Communication from Makerere University. Ms. Nabiruma has over ten years' experience in development communication and journalism. She is also a respected public speaker and a widely published author. Ms. Nabiruma's work won her recognition in 2018 when she was selected by IUCN NL as a Face of Conservation from Africa. Before joining AFIEGO, Ms. Nabiruma worked with *The Observer* newspaper and the British Council in Uganda as a journalist and digital communications officer respectively.

Ms. Doreen Namara: Ms. Namara is the Legal Assistant at AFIEGO. She holds a Bachelor of Laws degree from Uganda Christian University (UCU) Mukono and a postgraduate diploma from the Law Development Centre (LDC). She is a passionate lawyer with keen interest in energy and humanitarian law.

Ms. Sandra Atusinguza: Ms. Atusinguza is AFIEGO's Field Officer in Hoima district. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Development Studies from UCU, Mukono. Ms. Atusinguza boasts of community mobilisation, community sensitisation and communication skills among others.

Ms. Catherine Twongyeirwe: Ms. Twongyeirwe is the Finance Assistant at AFIEGO. She holds a Bachelor of Business Administration degree from Uganda Christian University (UCU). Before joining AFIEGO, Ms. Twongyeirwe volunteered as a Finance Assistant at Build Africa, Masindi branch.

Mr. Balach Bakundane: He is an IT and project assistant at AFIEGO. He holds a Diploma in Information Technology Science (ITS) from Uganda Institute of Information and Communications Technology. He also obtained a Cisco Certified Network Associate (CCNA) certificate from

Makerere University in addition to a certificate in IT 11: Network Operating system and Hardware from the same university.

Mr. Patrick Edema: Mr. Edema is a project assistant at AFIEGO. He holds a Bachelor's degree in Environmental Engineering and Management from Kyambogo University.

APPENDIX IV: AFIEGO'S RESEARCH ASSOCIATES

Mr. Cyrus Kabaale: Mr. Kabaale was a research associate at AFIEGO. He holds a Bachelor's degree in Social Work and Social Administration from Islamic University in Uganda (IUIU), Mbale. Prior to joining AFIEGO, Mr. Kabaale volunteered with Family Life Education Programme (FLEP), Jinja.

Mr. Paul Kato: Mr. Kato is a research associate with AFIEGO and holds a Bachelor's degree in Social Work and Social Administration from Kyambogo University.

Ms. Ireen Twongirwe: Ms. Twongirwe is a research associate at AFIEGO. She holds a Bachelor's of science degree in Accounting and Finance from Kyambogo University. Before joining AFIEGO, Ms. Twongirwe volunteered as a Finance intern at Civil Society Budget Advocacy Group.

Mr. Christopher Opio: Mr. Opio is a research associate with AFIEGO and holds a Bachelor's degree in Social Work and Social Administration from Kyambogo University. He is also the Secretary General of the Oil Refinery Residents Association (ORRA).

APPENDIX V: AFIEGO'S FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Statement of income and expenditure

Programme income	Note	2020 Shs	2019 Shs
Grant revenue	4	1,532,209,341	1,364,009,341
Total income		1,532,209,341	1,364,009,341
Expenditure			
Project expenses	5	(1,010,420,125)	(904,312,320)
Administrative expenses	6	(518,178,046)	(394,862,914)
Surplus for the year		<u>3,611,170</u>	<u>64,834,107</u>

Fund accountability statement

	Note	2020 Shs	2019 Shs
Fund balances			
Accumulated fund		3,611,170	69,169,464
Deferred income		-	-
		<u>3,611,170</u>	<u>69,169,464</u>
Represented by			
Non-Current Assets			
PPE	9	5,333,411	6,366,312
Current assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	8	5,313,631	68,303,152
		5,313,631	68,303,152
Current liabilities			
Payable	7	7,035,871	5,500,000
Net assets		(1,722,240)	62,803,152
Total Assets		<u>3,611,170</u>	<u>69,169,464</u>

Fund accountability statement

		2020	2019
	Notes	Ushs	Ushs
Net surplus for the year		3,611,170	64834107.38
Add:			
Depreciation	9	1,032,902	1,262,045
Cash flows from operating activities		<u>4,644,072</u>	<u>66,096,152</u>
Increase in trade and other receivables	-		
Increase in trade and other payables	7	1,535,871	946,000
		<u>1,535,871</u>	<u>946,000</u>
Net cash flow from operating activities:		6,179,943	67,042,152
Investing activities			
Cash paid for purchase of property and equipment	9	-	3,400,000)
Net cash used in investing activities		<u>-</u>	<u>(3,400,000)</u>
Net cash flow from financing activities:			
Fund flow to project		(69,169,464)	(783,201,386)
Net cash used in financing activities		<u>(69,169,464)</u>	<u>(783,201,386)</u>
Increase in cash and cash equivalents		<u>(62,989,521)</u>	<u>(719,559,234)</u>
Movement in cash and cash equivalents			
Cash and cash equivalents at start of year	8	68,303,152	787,862,386
Increase in cash and cash equivalents		(62,989,521)	(719,559,234)
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year	8	<u>5,313,631</u>	<u>68,303,152</u>

Fund accountability statement

Year ended 31 December 2020

	Accumulated funds	Deferred Income	Total
	Ushs	Ushs	Ushs
At 1 Jan 2020	69,169,464	-	69,169,464
Surplus for the year	3,611,170	-	3,611,170
Utilisation during the year	(69,169,464)	-	-
At end of the period	<u>3,611,170</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>72,780,635</u>

Year ended 31 December 2019

	Accumulated funds	Deferred Income	Total
	Ushs	Ushs	Ushs
At 1 Jan 2019	4,335,357	783,201,386	787,536,743
Surplus for the year	64,834,107	(783,201,386)	- 718,367,279
At end of the period	<u>69,169,464</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>69,169,464</u>



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