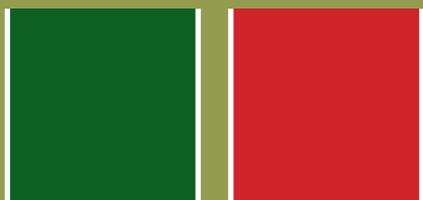




# AFRICA INSTITUTE FOR ENERGY GOVERNANCE



ANNUAL REPORT  
2022



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## ABOUT AFIEGO

Africa Institute for Energy Governance (AFIEGO) is an incorporated company limited by guarantee dedicated to influencing energy policies to benefit poor and vulnerable communities. Based in Kampala, Uganda, AFIEGO 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; and
- 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 agendas that are seeking to end fossil fuel extractivism while promoting sustainable extraction for minerals needed to promote a just energy transition.

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 National Development Plan (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, youth, children and other vulnerable groups.



## TABLE OF ACRONYMS

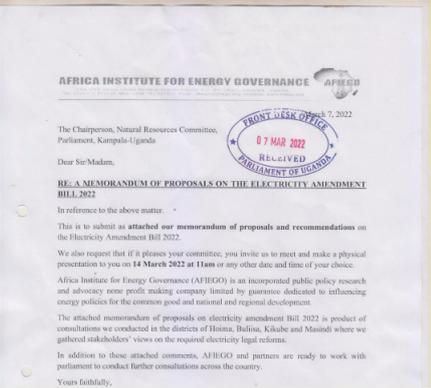
Acronym	Meaning
AFIEGO	Africa Institute for Energy Governance
CSOs	Civil Society Organisations
DRC	Democratic Republic of Congo
EACJ	East African Court of Justice
EACOP	East African Crude Oil Pipeline
EU	European Union
ESIA	Environmental and Social Impact Assessment
ENR Committee	Environment and Natural Resources Committee
FBE	Forest-Based Enterprise
GLA	Green Livelihoods Alliance
GoU	Government of Uganda
IGEN-EA	Inclusive Green Economy Network- East Africa
HSL	Hoima Sugar Ltd
JET	Just Energy Transition
MEMD	Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development
MLHUD	Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development
NDP	National Development Plan
NEMA	National Environment Management Authority
NFA	National Forestry Authority
SBFC	Save Bugoma Forest Campaign
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SEA4ALL	Sustainable Energy for All
UPR	Universal Periodic Review

## KEY 2022 MILESTONES

No.	Photo	Key milestone in 2022
1.		<p>AFIEGO won the prestigious <b>Right Livelihood Award</b> in 2022 for the work that the organisation is doing to promote climate action amidst a repressed civic space.</p>
2.		<p>With our Save Bugoma Forest Campaign (SBFC) and Green Livelihoods Alliance (GLA) partners, AFIEGO participated in meetings with the <b>European Union (EU) and Government of Uganda (GoU)</b> officials to inform the EU's five-year strategy especially in the areas of forest and biodiversity conservation in Uganda.</p> <p>AFIEGO also participated in discussions to inform the GoU-EU Forest Partnership that was signed at COP 27 in November 2022.</p>
3.		<p>AFIEGO supported <b>over ten engagements</b> to enhance local communities' capacity to participate in forest governance to promote forest conservation and livelihoods. Communities thereafter participated in forest conservation efforts.</p> <p>For instance, Bugoma forest host communities participated in meetings organised by government to discuss the Bugoma forest boundary re-opening in 2022.</p>
4.		<p>By the end of 2022, AFIEGO had mobilised <b>over 50 cross-border civil society groups and communities</b> in Uganda and the DRC that were engaged in digital and offline advocacy to promote renewable energy over oil. Some of these targeted financial institutions.</p>

<p>5.</p>		<p>With our Inclusive Green Economy Network-East Africa (IGEN-EA) partners, <b>we created knowledge</b> on the opportunities and challenges for apiculture in the Albertine Graben, the tourism potential of Bugoma forest and what needs to be done to promote pro-poor clean energy policies, including off-grid solar.</p> <p>The above was done through the production of research briefs that were disseminated to over 4,000 people.</p>
<p>6.</p>		<p>In 2022, AFIEGO supported <b>seven advocacy actions</b> targeting central government, district local governments, Area MPs and TotalEnergies by communities affected by the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) project in Kyotera district in southern Uganda.</p> <p>The people were demanding for increased compensation for their coffee and banana plants. Their <b>compensation was increased</b> but yet to be paid by the end of 2022.</p>
<p>7.</p>		<p>In addition, AFIEGO and our partners prosecuted <b>nine court cases</b> in the Uganda High Court, East African Court of Justice (EACJ) and France to promote forest conservation and stop oil dangers under the oil refinery, Tilenga and EACOP projects.</p> <p>The court cases provided advocacy opportunities through which we sensitised stakeholders on oil risks to people, nature and climate.</p>

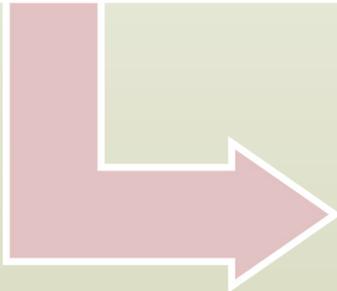


8.	 <p>The Chairperson, Natural Resources Committee, Parliament, Kampala-Uganda</p> <p>Dear Sir/Madam,</p> <p><b>RE: A MEMORANDUM OF PROPOSALS ON THE ELECTRICITY AMENDMENT BILL, 2022</b></p> <p>In reference to the above matter:</p> <p>This is to submit as attached our memorandum of proposals and recommendations on the Electricity Amendment Bill 2022.</p> <p>We also request that if it pleases your committee, you invite us to meet and make a physical presentation to you on <b>14 March 2022 at 11am</b> or any other date and time of your choice.</p> <p>Africa Institute for Energy Governance (AFIEGO) is an incorporated public policy research and advocacy non-profit making company limited by guarantee dedicated to influencing energy policies for the common good and national and regional development.</p> <p>The attached memorandum of proposals on electricity amendment Bill 2022 is product of consultations we conducted in the districts of Hoima, Bulindi, Kikabe and Masindi where we gathered stakeholders' views on the required electricity legal reforms.</p> <p>In addition to these attached comments, AFIEGO and partners are ready to work with parliament to conduct further consultations across the country.</p> <p>Yours faithfully,</p>	<p>AFIEGO advocated for the amendment or review or enactment of over five policies and laws in 2022.</p> <p>Notably, we advocated for <b>enactment of the Electricity (Amendment) Bill, 2022</b> and of the 17 proposals we made for strengthening of the bill before it was passed by parliament, <b>four made</b> it into the Electricity (Amendment) Act that was signed by the president into law in June 2022.</p>
9.	 <p><b>GOVT SHOULD INVEST IN SOLAR ENERGY</b></p> <p><b>EDITOR:</b> Uganda remains highly dependent on hydro power electricity, which is hard to access by vulnerable groups in rural settings. It is important to note that over 90% of Ugandans, especially women, girls, youth and others in Uganda still lack access to clean energy and depend on biomass and other dirty energy sources.</p> <p>Most people, especially women and youth spend a lot of time in collecting firewood or burning charcoal. They also spend time in the kitchen cooking amidst smoke with all its health hazards. Lack of clean energy has worsened environmental degradation through destruction of forests for biomass energy.</p> <p>Under climate change impacts, Uganda continues to pursue exploitation of oil. The signing of Final Investment Decision (FID) has confirmed oil exploitation in 2022. Ugandans need to be ready to protect the environment</p> <p><b>YOUR MAIL</b></p> <p><b>GOT SOMETHING TO SAY?</b> email: <a href="mailto:letters@newswatch.com">letters@newswatch.com</a> or SMS: Text Letters to 8338 amidst oil.</p> <p>Failure to strengthen off-grid solar and investment in the renewable energy to diversify energy sources has continued to provide justification for oil and other dirty energy sources. Oil and other fossil fuels remain the single biggest cause of climate change.</p> <p>It is important to know the harmful impact of oil on vulnerable citizens and also country as large – land grabbing, growth imbalance, food insecurity, environmental destruction, among others. All these challenges will lead to delayed transformation of our country from a peasant country to middle status in line with Vision 2040. Amid such challenges,</p> <p>investing in off-grid solar remains the accessible form of energy for vulnerable communities. Investing in off-grid solar will reduce deforestation hence mitigating climate change impacts. It will also improve the wellbeing of women since they will be free from smoke while cooking using clean energy.</p> <p>I, therefore, call on the Government to invest in renewable clean energy as opposed to oil and other dirty energy sources. I also encourage women and youth to urge policymakers to push for clean renewable energy.</p> <p>The government and other stakeholders should formulate a solar energy policy so that citizens access cheap power. There is also need to reduce on the taxes imposed on the solar equipment so that vulnerable citizens be able to purchase them.</p> <p><b>Freem Twongire, executive Director, Women for Green Economy Movement Uganda</b></p>	<p>In 2022, AFIEGO <b>empowered women and youth</b> to spearhead the campaign for a just energy transition to clean renewable energy, including off-grid solar, in Uganda.</p> <p>Consequently, <b>89.5%</b> of the lobby and advocacy for a JET supported by AFIEGO in 2022 was led on by women or youth.</p>
10.		<p>AFIEGO and our IGEN-EA partners empowered <b>one women's group</b> in Hoima district in Western Uganda to engage in a forest-based enterprise (FBE), beekeeping.</p>
11.		<p>In 2022, AFIEGO <b>built solidarity</b> with our African civil society partners and engaged UN Special Rapporteurs as well as Dutch, French and US government officials among others to promote a conducive civic space in Uganda.</p> <p>We requested the above stakeholders to engage the Ugandan government to promote the <b>conductive civic space</b>.</p> <p>Notably, during the January 2022 Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of Uganda by UN member states, nine countries recommended that Uganda improves its civic space.</p>

# OUR REACH IN FIGURES



- Total reached (directly and indirectly): **3,614,268**



- Percentage of women and men reached respectively: **42%** and **58%**



## SECTION 1

### MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CHAIRPERSON



Dear reader, welcome to AFIEGO's 2022 annual report. In this report, AFIEGO is pleased to share with you a summary of the organisation's efforts that were implemented under the Extractives Governance, Electricity Democracy as well as Renewable Energy Efficiency and Climate Change programmes that are run by AFIEGO.

In 2022, AFIEGO engaged in efforts to influence policies and laws to promote renewable energy access and community rights. Further, the organisation enhanced community participation in forest governance, defended community rights amidst oil projects, engaged in strategic litigation to promote climate action and strengthened the Ugandan and Congolese (cross-border) movement that is promoting clean renewable energy over oil while also advocating for a conducive civic space in Uganda.

To the above end, AFIEGO advocated for the enactment, amendment or review of over five policies and laws including the 2022 Electricity (Amendment) Bill, a Solar Energy Policy and Consumer Protection law. AFIEGO also advocated for 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.

Of the policies or bills whose enactment AFIEGO advocated for, only the Electricity (Amendment) Bill 2022 was passed by parliament and signed into law by the president in June 2022. It is unfortunate that the other policies and bills were not enacted or amended or reviewed.

However, the board is happy to report that of the 17 proposals that AFIEGO made to parliament to strengthen the 2022 Electricity (Amendment) Bill, four were adopted in the Electricity (Amendment) Act, 2022 that was signed into law by the president in June 2022. We hope that the proposals, which now have the force of law, will promote transparency and accountability to enable Ugandans to enjoy affordable electricity.

In relation to forest conservation, AFIEGO supported two communities, namely the Bugoma and Budongo forest host communities, to participate in governance of the forests to enhance their conservation. AFIEGO empowered the communities to participate in decision-making in relation to the forests. Consequently, in February 2022 when the Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development (MLHUD) alongside the National Forestry Authority (NFA) commenced on processes to re-open the Bugoma forest boundaries, the Bugoma forest host communities were consulted. Unfortunately, by the end of 2022, the report from the boundary opening exercise wasn't publicly available. AFIEGO will work to remedy this challenge in 2023.

Speaking of Bugoma forest: some good news was shared by the National Environment Management Authority (NEMA) in September 2022. The authority ordered Hoima Sugar Ltd to restore over 18.73sq. miles of Bugoma forest. This followed advocacy by AFIEGO and its partners under the Save Bugoma Forest Campaign (SBFC). The board appreciates AFIEGO for its continued work on saving Bugoma forest.

The board also takes note of AFIEGO's efforts to defend oil-affected communities' land, livelihood, environment and other rights. In 2022, communities whose land is being taken for the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) in Kyotera district in southern Uganda breathed a sigh of relief when following seven advocacy actions that AFIEGO supported them to undertake, the people were informed by the EACOP Company that their compensation for coffee and banana plants would be increased. By the

end of 2022 however, some affected people were yet to sign for or receive their compensation. AFIEGO will continue to stand with oil-affected communities to defend their rights in 2023.

The organisation also undertook commendable efforts in ensuring that the voices of the pro-renewable energy cross-border movement that is also advocating against fossil fuels were captured in public discourse and heard by financial institutions. By the end of 2022, over 50 Ugandan and Congolese civil society groups were engaged in the above efforts, thanks to AFIEGO and its Congolese partners' hard work.

AFIEGO continued to promote green economic alternatives with its partners under the Inclusive Green Economy Network-East Africa (IGEN-EA) and to advocate for a more conducive civic space in Uganda. AFIEGO supported the strengthening of IGEN-EA by mobilising 14 new civil society and private sector members to join the network and to conduct activities needed to promote a green economy in East Africa.

The board thanks all AFIEGO's partners for standing with the organisation in 2022 and salutes the secretariat for being among the winners of the 2022 Right Livelihood Award.

The board pledges to continue providing strategic 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 readers, I take this opportunity to appreciate you for taking off time to read AFIEGO's 2022 annual report. In this report, we are delighted to share with you what AFIEGO did from January to December 2022, including our key interventions, achievements and challenges as discussed below.

**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. The gains made from our policy influencing work are captured in the message from the board chair in this annual report.

**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. 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. More in this can be read in Section 2 of this report.

**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. We also supported advocacy efforts by oil-affected communities to defend the communities' rights. I am happy to report that over 300 households in districts such as Kyotera had their compensation for crops such as bananas and coffee increased after we supported them to engage in advocacy.

**Mobilising civil society organisations (CSOs) to protect cross-border resources amidst oil risks:** One of the key 2022 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 while promoting renewable energy. 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.

**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 EACOP oil projects in Uganda. In effect, we valiantly defended our shared climate and 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 and climate action are endangered by the Tilenga, Kingfisher and EACOP oil projects.

**Strengthening the promotion of green economic alternatives:** Working with our Inclusive Green Economy Network-East Africa (IGEN-EA) partners, we advocated for 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.

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 for our human rights and climate change advocacy.

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 on 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 was yet to be shared with the public by the end of 2022. 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. AFIEGO will work towards addressing the above challenges in addition to advocating for a more conducive civic space in 2023.



**Dickens Kamugisha**

**Chief Executive Officer, AFIEGO**



## SECTION 2

### ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

#### 2.1. Introduction

In the year 2022, AFIEGO implemented a number of projects or programmes aimed at attaining the following: (i) Increasing community participation in forest governance to reduce deforestation and forest degradation due to oil threats; (ii) Supporting oil-affected communities to access justice and engage in advocacy to restore their rights; (iii) Empowering oil-affected and cross-border communities in the Albertine Graben to stop oil threats; (iv) Enhancing off-grid solar access and promoting a just energy transition to clean energy; and (v) Promoting green economic alternatives as a precursor to inclusive and sustainable development that addresses climate change and human rights concerns.

In this section, we discuss the work that AFIEGO did to attain the above and other goals. The work falls within AFIEGO's programmes that include: **Extractives Governance, Electricity Democracy** as well as **Renewable Energy Efficiency and Climate Change**.

#### 2.2. Influencing policy enactment and enforcement

In 2022, AFIEGO undertook policy influencing work aimed at enhancing off-grid solar energy access especially for vulnerable groups, strengthening oil-affected communities' land rights and promoting affordable access to grid electricity. Our policy influencing work is discussed below.

**Influencing the Electricity (Amendment) Bill, 2022:** Access to electricity in Uganda remains low with only 19% of Ugandans having access to grid power as at June 2020. Lack of access to electricity by the majority of the population, coupled with the unaffordability of power, drives forest loss, worsens gender inequalities and undermines Ugandans' enjoyment of various critical rights. One of the factors that was undermining Ugandans' access to affordable electricity in 2022 and before then was failure by the Ugandan government to complete and table the Electricity (Amendment) Bill before parliament for debate and enactment. Since 2017 therefore, AFIEGO has been advocating for the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development (MEMD) to complete and table the bill before parliament for debate and enactment. When the bill was finally tabled before parliament for debate in 2022, AFIEGO mobilised 15 civil society organisations (CSOs) to submit a memorandum of proposals to fill gaps in the bill. The memorandum was submitted to parliament's Environment and Natural Resources (ENR) Committee in March 2022. Of the 17 proposals we made for strengthening of the bill before it was passed by parliament, four made it into the Electricity (Amendment) Act that was signed by the president into law in June 2022. This was commendable.

**Lobbying for enactment of a Solar Energy Policy:** In 2022, AFIEGO and our partners continued to campaign for the MEMD to put in place a Solar Energy Policy. To this end, AFIEGO empowered women and youth to understand the importance of a Solar Energy Policy in enhancing communities' access to clean energy. The women and youth used the knowledge that they gained to publish newsletters, newspaper articles and others calling on the MEMD to put in place a Solar Energy Policy. Unfortunately, the MEMD was yet to put the policy in place by the end of 2022.

**Advocating for enactment of new land acquisition law:** AFIEGO and our partners also continued our campaign to ensure that the Ministry of Lands completes and enacts land laws that enable oil-affected communities to enjoy their land rights. Gaps in land

laws including failure to define what prompt, fair and adequate compensation is, lack of adequate penalties when government fails to pay project-affected people prompt, fair and adequate compensation as provided for under Article 26 of Uganda's 1995 Constitution and others undermine project-affected people from enjoying their land rights. In 2022, AFIEGO supported oil project-affected people to author press statements, news articles and others highlighting oil project's impacts on them. The articles also highlighted the impunity of oil companies that abuse communities' land rights. It was hoped that these would raise public pressure so that the Ministry of Lands could put in place strong land laws.

## Amend Electricity Act to curb power theft

The electricity distribution company, UMEME, and Uganda Police Force launched a joint operation against illegal power connections and related activities across the country starting with Kampala. The relaunch of the operation dubbed 'Kombob' follows an increase in the level of power losses over the last one year, especially during the lock down, when enforcement was suspended.

According to UMEME, power losses through theft and illegal connections have risen to more than 17 per cent of the total power supplied, up from the 13 per cent recorded a year ago. *Kombob* is Swahili word for 'redeem', and in UMEME's case the operation is aimed at redeeming the network from illegal users and operators, and will involve identifying illegal connections, disconnecting them, arresting and prosecuting the culprits.

The persistence of challenges relating to the electricity distribution continues to cause losses in billions of shillings both for the



age point lost, the monetary value lost is Shs10 billion, much of which is in Kampala alone.

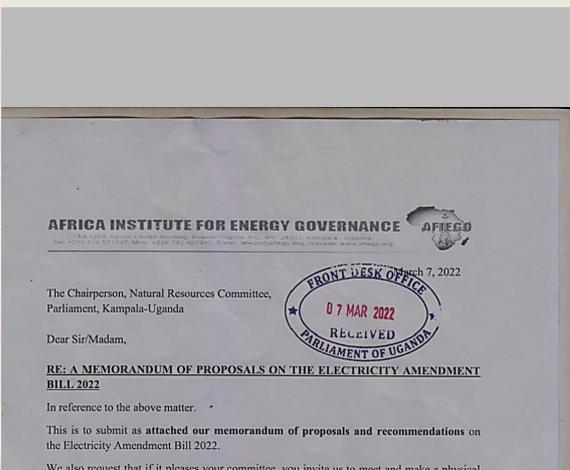
Although the Judiciary created Utilities, Standards and Wildlife court to handle some of the crimes affecting the electricity sector, the court is yet to create sufficient impact to address the challenges in the sector.

ity sector faces other challenges such as faulty metres, power cutoffs in hospitals, constant electrocutions of consumers, oil poles, wires and transformers, among others.

The Ministry of Energy should complete and present the amendments of the Electricity Act 1999 to Parliament for the

er, should also have tougher penalties that will deter the perpetrators of power theft, and vandalism from the rampant vice, among others.

Finally the amended Electricity Act should include a provision that makes it an offence for anyone to supply consumers with faulty equipment such



# Why Electricity Bill 2022 may not address Uganda's power challenges

**R**ecently, as I was vividly watching television and saw how our Members of Parliament were debating the Electricity Amendment Bill 2022. The bill seeks to amend the Electricity Act 1999 described by the government as inefficient to address the electricity generation, transmission and consumption challenges.

However, like many other Ugandans that are connected to the national grid and continue to experience challenges, the electricity bill 2022 still remains silent about the many electricity problems that Ugandans are experiencing for over three decades. Although the government has invested over \$3b in transmission lines and big hydropower dams such as 600MW Karuma, 250MW Bujagala, 185MW Isimba, 42MW Achwa II dams and others, to date, less than 25% of Ugandans have access to the electricity and over 90% of the population remains dependent on firewood and charcoal for

cooking and other key energy needs.

The total installed capacity stands at 1,346.6mw of electricity but only 750mw are consumed during peak hours and during off peak only less than 400mw are consumed and this has forced the few people connected to the grid to continue paying exorbitant power tariffs because they have to compensate for the unconsumed power from the different hydropower dams.

Although the government has been telling Ugandans that they will increase power demand through implementing the 'Free' Electricity Connections Policy (ECP), construction of an electric Standard Gauge Railway (SGR), development of industrial parks and others, it is unfortunate that even before the ECP came to end due to absence of funds by the government, available information shows that electricity distribution companies including the biggest utility, UMEME, failed to attain the 300,000 new customer connection

**PATRICK EDEMA**

targets that the Electricity Regulatory Authority (ERA) set under the ECP; the utility had only connected less than the targeted people across the country. The industrial sector is also yet to effectively

absorb the surplus electricity which remains a burden to the poor Ugandans.

According to the Auditor General's report 2021, it indicated that government lost sh87.7b in unconsumed power in FY2020/2021. In addition, government loses about sh1.4 trillion in ghost electricity as indicate by Daily Monitor dated April 16, 2022.

In addition, available evidence indicates that the commissioning of the \$1.7b 600MW Karuma dam whose construction was launched in 2013 and has been postponed to yet a known date under unclear circumstances, has costed the government that each month of delay costs the government \$12m (about sh44bn) in expenditures and \$17m (about sh62.4b) in lost generation revenue and consequently, a year of delay amounts to \$144m (about sh535.8b) in expenditures and \$204m (about Shs759bn) in lost generation revenue which is unfortunately being paid by taxpayers' money.

More to note, in 2017, the government-imposed tax exemptions for 250mw Bujagali hydropower dam in 2017 have led to financial losses of over sh80b yet it is unit cost still remains at more than 11 US cents that cannot be afforded by the ordinary Ugandans.

Therefore, Ugandans demand that the Electricity Bill 2022 should address the existing challenges in the electricity sector including surplus power that can't be consumed by consumers, high power tariffs, counterfeit equipment by the utility companies, oil electricity poles and wires, power cut off in health sectors, secrecy in signing Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs) and other implementing agreements, deemed power, corruption, limit over borrowing for hydropower dams and others.

*The writer is an environmental engineer and projects assistant at the Africa Institute for Energy Governance*

**Achievements registered as a result of our policy influencing efforts:**

AFIEGO influenced provisions in the Electricity (Amendment) Bill 2022. AFIEGO made 17 proposals to parliament's ENR Committee to strengthen the bill and four of these were adopted. Gaps remained however. In addition, by the end of 2022, the other policies and bills that we advocated for were yet to be enacted into laws.

### 2.3. Strengthening community participation in forest governance

AFIEGO believes that in order for forests to be conserved, host communities must participate in conservation efforts. In 2022 therefore, AFIEGO supported Bugoma and Budongo forest host communities to engage government agencies and other stakeholders to promote conservation of the forests and community rights. AFIEGO also strengthened communities to participate in forest-based enterprises such as bee-keeping to enhance community livelihoods and forest conservation. More on our efforts is discussed below.

**Supporting communities to participate in Bugoma forest boundary opening meetings:** Bugoma forest in the Albertine Graben in Western Uganda continued to face challenges such as deforestation by Hoima Sugar Ltd, land grabbing and lack of clear boundaries in 2022. Following advocacy by AFIEGO and our Save Bugoma Forest Campaign (SBFC) partners in 2021, the Ministry of Lands and NFA commenced a boundary opening exercise for Bugoma forest in November 2021. However, this exercise was abandoned in December 2021. In 2022, AFIEGO supported Bugoma forest host communities to engage the Ugandan government, demanding that the boundary opening exercise is completed. In February 2022, the exercise re-commenced with a stakeholder engagement being held first. AFIEGO supported representatives from the host communities to participate in the meeting. They demanded for community participation in the boundary opening. Unfortunately, communities were not involved in the actual boundary re-opening. The report from the boundary re-opening exercise had also not been shared with the public by the end of 2022.

**Supporting communities to defend their rights:** In April 2022, about 350 households were evicted from their homes around Bugoma forest. Security forces also destroyed farmlands belonging to thousands of families. AFIEGO supported the families to mobilise public pressure through the media. The people demanded that the Bugoma forest boundary opening report is publicised to protect the forest and communities from destruction and eviction respectively. The people also demanded for compensation for their crops. As earlier noted however, the boundary opening report was yet to be publicised by the government by the end of 2022.

**Supporting Budongo forest host communities to engage NFA:** For forests to be conserved, forest host communities' rights must be respected. This way, the communities will be allies in conservation. In 2022, Budongo forest host communities approached AFIEGO, expressing dissatisfaction with an earlier boundary opening exercise through which they said their land was taken as part of Budongo forest. In March 2022 therefore, AFIEGO supported Budongo community representatives to discuss their grievances such as contested Budongo forest boundary opening results, destruction of community crops without compensation and others during a meeting with NFA. NFA committed to investigate the communities' grievances and forge a way forward. This commitment had not been honoured by the end of 2022 however.

**Conducting research to determine the tourism potential of Bugoma forest:** To promote the conservation of Bugoma forest, AFIEGO partnered with our Inclusive Green Economy Network-East Africa (IGEN-EA) partners to conduct research on the tourism potential of Bugoma forest. The research took place between April and June 2022. In July 2022, AFIEGO and IGEN-EA produced a research brief revealing the tourism potential of Bugoma forest. It is hoped that awareness of the alternative economic potential of the forest, other than the unfortunate sugarcane growing, will promote conservation of the forest.

**Participating in processes to inform the EU-Uganda Forest partnership:** AFIEGO continued to engage development partners to maintain their interest in engaging the Ugandan government for conservation of Bugoma forest. To this end, in May 2022, AFIEGO participated in a meeting with European Union (EU) representatives from Brussels to

discuss the status of forest conservation in Uganda. The discussions were aimed at informing the EU-Uganda strategy for the next five years. In addition, in October 2022, AFIEGO participated in discussions between the EU and the Government of Uganda (GoU) on a memorandum of understanding (MoU) for a forest partnership between the two parties. AFIEGO's views on the MoU were sought. The Forest Partnership was signed between the EU and GoU in November 2022 during COP 27.



AFIEGO organised community and stakeholder engagement meetings in 2022 to protect Bugoma forest from sugarcane growing, land grabbing and oil challenges. AFIEGO also supported forest host communities to engage NFA to protect their rights.

#### Achievements registered as a result of our and partners' forest conservation work:

1. In September 2022, NEMA ordered Hoima Sugar Ltd (HSL) to restore over 18.73 sq. miles of degraded parts of Bugoma forest. This followed advocacy and sustained pressure by AFIEGO and our SBFC partners.
2. In addition, in February 2022, the Ministry of Lands and NFA resumed process of opening Bugoma forest boundaries with community involvement. The boundary opening report was not publicly available by the end of 2022 however.
3. Further, with our IGEN-EA partners, we made a business case for protecting Bugoma forest by producing research on the tourism potential of Bugoma forest in July 2022.
4. We also empowered one women's group in Hoima district to successfully engage in a Forest Based Enterprise (FBE), beekeeping.

## 2.4. Empowering communities, women and youth to stop oil project abuses

The ongoing oil and gas exploitation activities in Uganda have led to various human rights abuses. These range from land to access rights abuses. Communities' livelihoods have also been destroyed due to the oil activities. Others include abuse of the right to education, intimidation of oil project-affected people and much more. Oil and gas exploitation activities in Uganda are also a threat to Ugandan and East Africans' environmental rights and risk Uganda violating commitments made under the Paris Climate Change Agreement. To stop the oil project rights abuses and risks, AFIEGO and our partners did the following in 2022:

**Strengthening the pro-renewable energy and anti-fossil fuel cross-border movement in Uganda and DRC:** In 2022, AFIEGO sought to strengthen the movement that is campaigning against the expansion of fossil fuels while promoting renewable energy to promote climate action and the protection of human rights in the African Great Lakes

region. To achieve the above goal, between February and November 2022, AFIEGO implemented various cross-border activities including empowering communities, women and youth in the African Great Lakes region to understand the risks posed by fossil fuels to communities' rights, livelihoods, the environment and climate change. AFIEGO empowered the above through meetings, radio and TV talkshows, newsletters, newspaper articles, social media, monthly radio updates and others. AFIEGO reached an estimated over 2.2 million people in Uganda owing to the meetings and our use of the media. In addition, AFIEGO supported our partners in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) to sensitise cross-border communities, fisherfolk and others to build a cross-border movement that is advocating for the prevention of oil risks in the Albertine region, which covers Uganda and the DRC. By the end of 2022, the cross-border movement was engaged in joint advocacy aimed at stopping the expansion of fossil fuels while promoting renewable energy. Notably, over 50 civil society organisations (CSOs) were working together for promotion of the above.

**Empowering youth movements to promote environmental conservation amidst oil risks:**

In 2022, AFIEGO placed strong emphasis on empowering youth and university students so that they could engage in advocacy to promote environmental conservation and climate action amidst oil and gas risks in Uganda. In May 2022 therefore, AFIEGO supported youth groups to organise a workshop that discussed the roles and responsibilities of youth in natural resources governance. The youth also discussed the importance of promoting off-grid electrification for increased clean energy access and environmental conservation. The meeting took place in Kampala. Furthermore, in November 2022, AFIEGO and our partners organised two meetings with youth and university students in Kampala during which the youth were empowered on their roles and responsibilities in natural resources governance and promoting climate action. By the end of 2022, the youth were engaged in digital and other campaigns for the promotion of renewable energy and climate action over oil exploitation.

**Supporting documentation of the impacts of oil activities on communities and forests:**

Films are an important advocacy tool that contribute to awareness raising and spur people to action. In 2022 therefore, AFIEGO commissioned the production of a documentary to highlight the impacts of oil activities on communities and forests in the Albertine Graben in Uganda. The documentary, which was produced and disseminated to over 5,220 people in July 2022, helped to raise stakeholder awareness on the impacts of oil activities in Uganda. Notably, the documentary was screened to various stakeholders from China at the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) COP in Montreal-Canada in December 2022. It is hoped that the awareness raising arising from the documentary will help to prevent the expansion of fossil fuels in Uganda and Africa at large.

**Supporting advocacy initiatives by oil project-affected people:**

In 2022, AFIEGO continued to support communities whose land is being taken for the Tilenga and EACOP projects to engage the Ugandan government, district local governments, relevant Area MPs and oil companies to protect their rights. To this end, AFIEGO supported EACOP-affected communities from Kyotera and Rakai districts in southern Uganda to write and disseminate over seven advocacy petitions to the aforementioned stakeholders. The people demanded for prompt, fair and adequate compensation especially for their crops as provided for under Article 26 of Uganda's 1995 Constitution. In addition, AFIEGO supported households in Buliisa, Hoima and Kikuube whose land and other rights were being abused by oil TotalEnergies to write and disseminate newspaper articles in the national and international press; the articles reached an estimated 4 million people. The people demanded for an end to the abuse of their rights. By the end of 2022, TotalEnergies had increased the compensation rates for crops including coffee and bananas for communities in Kyotera district. Processes were also ongoing to support households that were not going to get compensation in Rakai district yet they were supposed to receive their compensation. Human rights abuses such as fencing off some affected household's land prior to compensation were still ongoing however.

**Supporting advocacy to stop flooding of Tilenga host communities' gardens:** After site clearance works for the Tilenga Industrial Area in Buliisa district commenced, communities living near the industrial area started experiencing flooding of their gardens in 2021. The communities lost their crops and were not compensated. In September 2022, AFIEGO supported the communities to amplify a protest they held demanding for compensation. AFIEGO also supported the communities to use the media to demand for compensation. By the end of 2022 however, they were yet to be compensated.



AFIEGO and our partners empowered oil-affected communities, cross-border stakeholders, women and youth to strengthen the cross-border movement that is promoting renewable energy over oil and gas in Uganda and the DRC. We also supported oil-affected communities to engage in advocacy to end the abuse of their human rights.

#### Achievements registered as a result of our cross-border campaigns:

1. A vibrant cross-border movement that was engaged in advocacy to stop the expansion of fossil fuels while promoting renewable energy in the African Great Lakes region existed by the end of 2022.
2. The advocacy tools such as films that were produced by AFIEGO in 2022 were used to engage stakeholders from China to promote biodiversity conservation and climate action amidst the EACOP project.
3. By the end of 2022, the compensation rates for coffee and bananas belonging to EACOP-affected people in Kyotera had been increased by TotalEnergies. However, the people were yet to receive this compensation.

## 2.5. Strategic litigation

In 2022, AFIEGO and our partners prosecuted over nine court cases at the Uganda High Court, East African Court of Justice (EACJ) and in France. Our litigation efforts were aimed at defending community rights, protecting biodiversity and promoting climate action. The cases that AFIEGO prosecuted in 2022 are discussed below.

**Supporting the oil refinery-affected people's court case:** AFIEGO uses litigation as a tool to defend communities' land rights. Litigation also offers AFIEGO an opportunity to promote the improvement of laws that have gaps, which undermine communities' rights. One case that is enabling AFIEGO in the above is one that we supported the oil refinery-affected persons to file against the GoU in March 2014. In the case, the people are seeking justice following the violation of their constitutional rights to prompt, fair and adequate compensation. The people's rights were violated by the Ugandan government during the compulsory acquisition of the people's property beginning in 2012. The people's land was acquired by GoU for the oil refinery project. In the case that was up for hearing at the Masindi High Court in 2022, AFIEGO also wants court to define the terms prompt, fair and adequate compensation, as provided for under Article 26 of the 1995 Uganda Constitution. Failure to define these terms leaves ambiguities that are

used to abuse project-affected people's land and property rights. AFIEGO supported the people to participate in hearing of their case in 2022.

**Supporting EACOP court case hearings:** In November 2020, AFIEGO and our partners filed court cases requesting for temporary and permanent injunctions against the EACOP project at the EACJ. The cases are aimed at protecting East Africans' land, food and environmental rights. The cases are also aimed at protecting Lake Victoria from the EACOP project risks and at compelling the East African governments to take climate action by avoiding investments in climate-wrecking projects. In 2022, AFIEGO supported our lawyers, staff and partners to participate in hearings that were held by the EACJ in Arusha and in Uganda.

**Engaging in advocacy on the above court case:** Related to the above, AFIEGO and our partners engaged in advocacy to popularise the EACOP case at the EACJ. AFIEGO also engaged in advocacy to popularise the nine court cases that we were prosecuting in 2022. To this end, we produced and disseminated factsheets, press statements and advocacy letters that reached tens of thousands of people. AFIEGO also used the media including newsletters, radio and others to popularise the cases so as to build public interest in the same. It was hoped that public interest would create pressure for protection of East Africans' rights and for climate action.

**Engaging the Ugandan judiciary to fasttrack hearing of court cases:** One of the factors undermining access to justice in Uganda is failure by the judiciary to expeditiously hear court cases. By 2022, AFIEGO had filed the aforementioned 2014 oil refinery-affected people's case, a 2019 court case for cancellation of the Tilenga Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) certificate of approval, an appeal filed in 2021 for cancellation of the ESIA certificate issued by NEMA to Hoima Sugar Ltd for sugarcane growing in Bugoma forest and an appeal filed in 2021 against a high court ruling compelling nine Tilenga oil project-affected people to receive low compensation. AFIEGO had also filed a constitutional court case aimed at preventing government agencies from giving away protected areas for projects without public consultation. The judiciary failed to hear the cases expeditiously. AFIEGO continued to engage the judiciary through advocacy letters among others to remedy this challenge.



AFIEGO supported communities to participate in hearing of their court cases in 2022 to protect the environment and communities' rights while also promoting climate action.

## 2.6. Promoting a just energy transition

A just energy transition is required to promote universal access to clean renewable energy, gender equity, youth employment, forest conservation and other benefits. In 2022 therefore, AFIEGO and our partners engaged in a number of efforts to promote a just energy transition in Uganda. These include:

**Empowering women and youth to promote a just energy transition:** Between May and December 2022, we empowered women and youth with advocacy skills to promote a just energy transition. We trained the women and youth to use advocacy letters, newsletters and the media among others to engage duty bearers for promotion of clean energy. Consequently, we saw more Ugandan women and youth engage in advocacy to promote a just energy transition. Of the over 19 lobby and advocacy products such as open letters, press releases, public statements, newspaper articles and others that were produced calling for the promotion of clean energy in 2022 with AFIEGO's support, 89.5% were produced by or led on by women or youth.

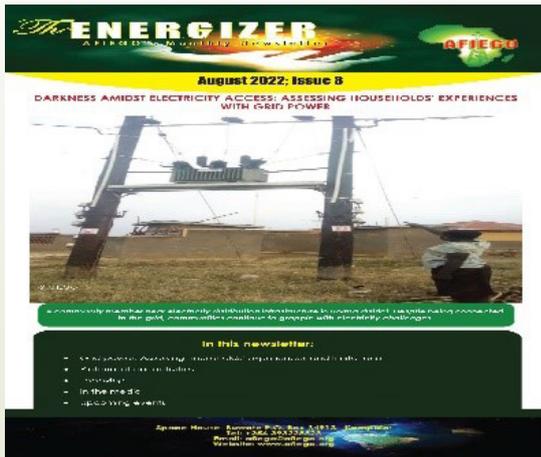
**Conducting a study to assess households' experiences and limitations with grid power in Uganda:** Between August and September 2022, we conducted research through which we documented communities' experiences with grid electricity and the challenges communities face in using the grid-based power. The study area included Hoima district. Households in the Kyakaboga-Hoima oil refinery resettlement were studied. The study findings were disseminated to over 5,000 stakeholders to inform policies and advocacy to promote renewable energy access including off-grid solar.

**Creating evidence of the impact of oil activities on forests in Uganda:** Further, to demonstrate the importance of promoting clean renewable energy over oil, we produced a research brief on the forests that have been affected by the EACOP project in Uganda. The research, which was produced in December 2022, identified the biodiversity found within the forest and the socio-economic roles played by the forests. The research further analysed what Ugandans stood to lose if the EACOP, instead of clean energy, is promoted. The research report was distributed to over 4,027 people within and outside Uganda to influence advocacy aimed at promoting clean renewable energy over oil.

**Engaging parliament and the Auditor General over Karuma dam challenges:** In July 2022, AFIEGO and our partners engaged the Auditor General to carry out an independent forensic audit of the Karuma hydropower project whose completion has been delayed due to poor workmanship. The delays are costing taxpayers' money, which could further deter clean energy access.

**Engaging partners at a symposium on advancing technology for clean energy access:** In October 2022, AFIEGO joined our partners and government stakeholders during the KTA Annual symposium to discuss available technology for advancement of the energy sector. The meeting also enabled the participants to discuss the roadmap for a clean energy transition in Uganda.

**Publications:** In 2022, AFIEGO staff and the clean energy champions we work with published monthly newsletters, newspaper articles, petitions, letters, communiqués, and others through which we campaigned for the promotion of off-grid solar energy. We reached over 70,000 people to raise public awareness to accelerate access to clean renewable energy.



In 2022, AFIEGO empowered women and youth to undertake advocacy to promote a just energy transition

### 2.7. Promoting an inclusive green economy in East Africa

In 2022, AFIEGO continued to host the Inclusive Green Economy Network-East Africa (IGEN-EA). The network, which was formally launched in May 2021, brings together East Africans who are advocating for green economic alternatives. AFIEGO supported the network to implement the following key activities in 2022:

**Creating knowledge on key green economic alternatives:** In June, July and October 2022, IGEN-EA produced three research briefs that discussed the following: opportunities and challenges for apiculture in the Albertine Graben, the tourism potential of Bugoma forest and pro-poor clean energy policies for Uganda respectively. The research briefs were preceded by studies that were conducted by IGEN-EA. The research briefs created knowledge aimed at promoting apiculture, tourism and clean energy access especially for poor communities to promote their participation in the green economy.

**Enhancing women beekeepers' capacity in apiculture:** Further, following the above research, IGEN-EA organised an August 2022 training for one group of women beekeepers in Kyakaboga, Hoima. Through the training, the women gained knowledge

on ways in which they can improve earnings from their beekeeping enterprise. In addition, IGEN-EA organised a radio talkshow that reached people in over six districts in the Bunyoro sub-region in August 2022. IGEN-EA sensitised stakeholders on how to engage in successful apiculture.

**Undertaking public education to promote green economic alternatives:** Between May and November 2022, IGEN-EA members used radio talkshows, newspaper articles, newsletters, IEC materials and other forms of media to sensitise the public on the economic potential of green economic alternatives. IGEN-EA members disseminated information from the above-mentioned research briefs and advocated for the promotion of religious tourism among others. The advocacy messages by IGEN-EA reached an estimated 1.4 million people.

**Engaging in advocacy to promote financial flows to green economic activities:** In addition, in 2022, IGEN-EA engaged in advocacy aimed at increasing public financing of the green economic alternatives in Uganda. To this end, between February and March 2022, IGEN-EA analysed Uganda's 2022/2023 National Budget Framework (NBF) Paper and other budget documents and submitted memoranda of proposals to Uganda's parliament. Through the memoranda, we requested for increased budget allocations to the green economic sectors. In May 2022 when the 2022/2023 Uganda national budget was passed, budget allocations to the green economic sectors increased from those that had been originally proposed in the NBF Paper. For instance, the sustainable energy development docket was allocated UGX 1.57 trillion (4.9% of the [national budget](#)) while agriculture was allocated UGX 1.4 trillion (4.5% of the budget). The tourism allocations increased from 0.4% of the budget to 0.6% (UGX 194.7 billion). While these allocations were insufficient, they were an improvement from what was proposed in the NBF Paper.

**Strengthening the network through media training:** Throughout 2022, IGEN-EA strengthened the network members' capacity to engage in effective advocacy. In February 2022 for instance, the network members were strengthened to use the media to advocate for green economic alternatives. In addition, between August and November 2022, the network recruited 14 new members, bringing the network's membership to 36. The network also organised online monthly meetings and two physical meetings to aid reflection and planning for the network.



IGEN-EA members during some of the activities that were implemented by the network in 2022

#### Achievements registered by IGEN-EA:

1. IGEN-EA created knowledge on the economic potential of apiculture, tourism and clean through production of three research briefs in 2022.
2. Further, IGEN-EA and others successfully advocated for national budget increases to the clean energy, tourism and agricultural sectors in 2022.
3. In addition, IGEN-EA increased the network's members by 14 in 2022, which enhanced the network's capacity to advocate for green economic alternatives.

## 2.8. International advocacy on civic space and to end oil project abuses

With our partners, AFIEGO engaged in a number of international advocacy efforts in 2022 including the following:

**Engaging Dutch ministry of foreign affairs on civic space:** In February 2022, AFIEGO participated in a meeting with the Dutch Minister for Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation, Hon. Liesje Schreinemacher. The meeting was also participated in by Ms. Kitty van der Heijden, the Director for International Affairs in the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The meeting took place in Kampala. We discussed the civic space challenges faced by civil society groups in Uganda and called on the Dutch officials to engage the Ugandan government to improve the civic space in Uganda.

**Engaging UN Special Rapporteurs:** Further, in March 2022, AFIEGO engaged representatives of four UN Special Rapporteurs in Geneva, Switzerland. We discussed the situation of Human Rights defenders in Uganda and the civic space challenges faced by civil society groups working in the oil and gas sector. AFIEGO and other civil society representatives also engaged with US government representatives on human rights and the ambassador to Uganda in 2022. We discussed civic space challenges in Uganda.

**Engaging the Pope and French government officials:** In addition, in March 2022, AFIEGO and our partners engaged the Pope, members of the Vatican government, French MPs, French Ministry of Foreign Affairs officials and others on rights abuses under the EACOP project and the need to engage the Ugandan government to improve the civic space in Uganda.

**Participating in African environmental defenders' reflection meeting:** In September 2022, AFIEGO joined our partners in the African Environmental Defenders reflection meeting in Nairobi, Kenya. The reflection meeting provided a safe space for networking, capacity building and reflection on the experiences of frontline defenders.

**Supporting Oilwatch Africa to visit oil-affected communities:** Further, in September 2022, AFIEGO hosted a delegation from Oilwatch Africa in Uganda. We supported the members to visit oil-affected communities to enable solidarity building.



Some of AFIEGO's international engagements and solidarity building activities in 2022

## 2.9. Institutional strengthening and development

AFIEGO strengthened its staff and partners' capacity in outcome harvesting, gender mainstreaming of programmes and projects and in safety. Some of our key institutional strengthening activities are captured below:

**AFIEGO staff and partners trained to operate safely amidst shrinking civic space:** In April and July 2022, AFIEGO and our partners were trained to operate safely within the repressed civic space in Uganda.

**AFIEGO staff trained in outcome harvesting:** Further, in September 2022, AFIEGO and our partners under the Just Energy Transition (JET) and Green Livelihoods Alliance-Uganda programme participated in an outcome harvesting training.

**AFIEGO awarded for courageous work:** AFIEGO's capacity was also strengthened when in November 2022, we and three others received the Right Livelihood Award at a ceremony that was held in Stockholm-Sweden. The Right Livelihood Award is given to individuals and organisations that have demonstrated courage in their work. AFIEGO staff were also recognised for the work they do in standing up to big polluters by the US Ambassador to Uganda in March 2022.





AFIEGO staff and our partners after joint activities that strengthened our capacity. AFIEGO was also recognised by Right Livelihood and the US ambassador to Uganda for our work in 2022.



## SECTION 3

### KEY ACHIEVEMENTS, CHALLENGES AND PRIORITIES

This section highlights our key achievements in 2022, challenges faced and key priorities for 2023.

#### 3.1. Highlights of key achievements

Some of our key achievements in 2022 include:

**Influencing provisions in the Electricity (Amendment) Act, 2022:** Starting in 2017, AFIEGO and our partners engaged different relevant institutions and ministries to advocate for amendment of the Electricity Act, 1999 to address barriers to affordable electricity. In January 2022, the Electricity (Amendment) Bill, 2022 was presented before parliament for debate and enactment. AFIEGO mobilised our CSO partners and submitted a memorandum of proposals to fill gaps in the bill; the memorandum was submitted to parliament in March 2022. The bill was passed by parliament and signed by the president into law in June 2022. Of the 17 proposals that AFIEGO made to parliament to strengthen the bill, four of these were adopted in the law that was signed by the president.

**NEMA orders Hoima Sugar Ltd to restore degraded parts of Bugoma Central Forest Reserve:** Since Hoima Sugar Ltd and other parties laid claim to 8,000 hectares of Bugoma forest and since the company received approval from NEMA to begin growing sugarcane in the forest in August 2020, AFIEGO and our SBFC partners have been engaged in efforts aimed at compelling NEMA to stop HSL's activities in the forest. For instance, we filed and prosecuted court cases since 2021 to date. We also together with the forest host communities engaged in advocacy through which we called for conservation of Bugoma forest. In January 2021, we also informed NEMA that Hoima Sugar Ltd had violated key conditions in its ESIA certificate of approval for the Kyangwali Mixed Land Use project. We called on NEMA to cancel Hoima Sugar Ltd's ESIA certificate of approval. In September 2022, NEMA confirmed that Hoima Sugar had violated some of the conditions in its ESIA certificate of approval and ordered the sugar company to restore over 18.73 sq. miles of Bugoma forest.

**Enhancing community participation in Bugoma forest boundary opening processes:** One of the major factors driving the destruction of Bugoma forest is the lack of information on the boundaries of the forest. As such, parties such as Hoima Sugar Ltd claim that the areas in which they are growing sugarcane are outside Bugoma forest. This is despite NFA maintaining that the area in which Hoima Sugar is growing sugarcane is part of Bugoma forest. To ensure that the Bugoma forest boundaries are known, AFIEGO and our SBFC partners have since 2020 campaigned for the opening of the Bugoma forest boundaries. NFA and Uganda's Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development (MLHUD) commenced the boundary opening processes in November 2021 but stopped the exercise in December 2021. In 2022 therefore, we worked with our partners and the forest host communities to advocate for the boundary reopening exercise to resume. Ministry of Lands and NFA commenced the boundary re-opening exercise with meetings in February 2022 in which community representatives participated. This was commendable but challenges remain.

**Protecting oil-affected communities' compensation rights:** In 2022, the land and other property rights of communities whose land is being compulsorily acquired for the EACOP project were being abused. Communities in Kyotera district in southern Uganda were especially unhappy because of the low compensation rates set for crops such as coffee and bananas. AFIEGO therefore supported seven advocacy actions targeting central government, district local governments, Area MPs and TotalEnergies by communities

affected by the EACOP project in Kyotera district. The people demanded for increased compensation for their coffee and banana plants. Their compensation was increased by TotalEnergies but yet to be paid by the end of 2022.

**Prosecuting nine court cases:** In 2022, AFIEGO and our partners prosecuted nine court cases in Ugandan, East African and French courts. The court cases were aimed at protecting community land and other rights as well as promoting environmental conservation and climate action. The court cases offered AFIEGO and our partners an opportunity to strengthen the public's understanding of oil risks and the importance of promoting clean energy over oil. The cases also created pressure that is needed to protect community rights.

**Strengthening the cross-border movement that is advocating for renewable energy over oil:** AFIEGO continued its efforts aimed at strengthening the cross-border movement that is advocating for renewable energy over oil in 2022. AFIEGO organised empowerment meetings, radio talkshows, TV engagements and disseminated monthly radio messages, newsletters, advocacy letters, petitions, communiques, press statements and IEC materials among others through which we ensured that pro-renewable energy and anti-fossil fuel voices were captured in national, regional and international debates. By the end of 2022, over 50 Ugandan and Congolese CSOs were working together to engage in advocacy aimed at promoting renewable energy over oil in the African Great Lakes region.

**Documenting oil impacts:** In 2022, AFIEGO produced a documentary and other materials that were used to engage international actors to promote community rights as well as biodiversity conservation and climate action over oil. Notably, the documentary was screened to stakeholders from China at the CBD COP in Montreal-Canada in December 2022. It is hoped that increased stakeholder awareness of oil risks in Uganda will promote vigilance to stop the risks.

**Supporting women and youth champions to promote a Just Energy Transition including off-grid solar:** In 2022, we empowered women and youth with advocacy skills to promote a just energy transition. We trained the women and youth who used advocacy letters, press statements, newsletters, newspaper articles, IEC materials and social media among others to engage duty bearers for promotion of clean energy. Of the over 19 lobby and advocacy products such as open letters, press releases, public statements, newspaper articles and others that were supported by AFIEGO calling for the promotion of clean energy including off-grid solar in 2022, 89.5% were produced by or led on by women or youth.

**Advocating for investment in green economic alternatives:** AFIEGO supported our IGEN-EA partners to conduct research for the promotion of green economic alternatives. Three research briefs aimed at promoting apiculture, tourism in Bugoma forest and pro-poor clean energy policies were produced by the network in 2022. The research findings were disseminated through radio talkshows and other media platforms. IGEN-EA also supported a training for one women's group in Hoima district to improve its earnings from apiculture. The network undertook other activities in 2022.

**Promoting a conducive civic space:** In 2022, AFIEGO built solidarity with our African civil society partners and engaged UN Special Rapporteurs as well as Dutch, French and US government officials among others to promote a conducive civic space in Uganda. We requested the above stakeholders to engage the Ugandan government to promote the conducive civic space.

**AFIEGO also participated in COP 27** and called for the promotion of clean energy to promote climate action.

### 3.2. Challenges in 2022

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

- i. By the end of 2022, **Hoima Sugar Ltd was yet to commence the restoration** of Bugoma forest as ordered by NEMA.
- ii. In addition, by the end of 2022, the Ministry of Lands **was yet to publicly share the report from the boundary** re-opening of Bugoma forest.
- iii. Furthermore, by the end of 2022, some of the **EACOP-affected communities of Kyotera** who had signed for updated compensation for their coffee and banana plants were yet to be compensated.
- iv. In addition, there were **gaps in mobilising EACOP communities** to build the unity needed to speak with one voice to defend their rights.
- v. Moreover, despite the efforts of the cross-border movement, the Ugandan and Congolese governments were still interested **in exploiting oil and gas** instead of prioritising renewable energy. Financial institutions and others were enabling them.
- vi. The prosecution of court cases aimed at protecting community rights and promoting environmental conservation **was undermined by state capture** of the judiciary, slow court processes and other factors. The media also came under corporate capture in 2022.
- vii. Furthermore, there was **inadequate public discourse** of the importance of green economic alternatives by the end of 2022.
- viii. In addition, despite sustained women and youth advocacy, the Ministry of Energy was yet to put in place **a Solar Energy Policy** by the end of 2022.
- ix. Finally, the **civic space** in Uganda remained hostile and repressed.

### 3.3. Key priorities in 2023

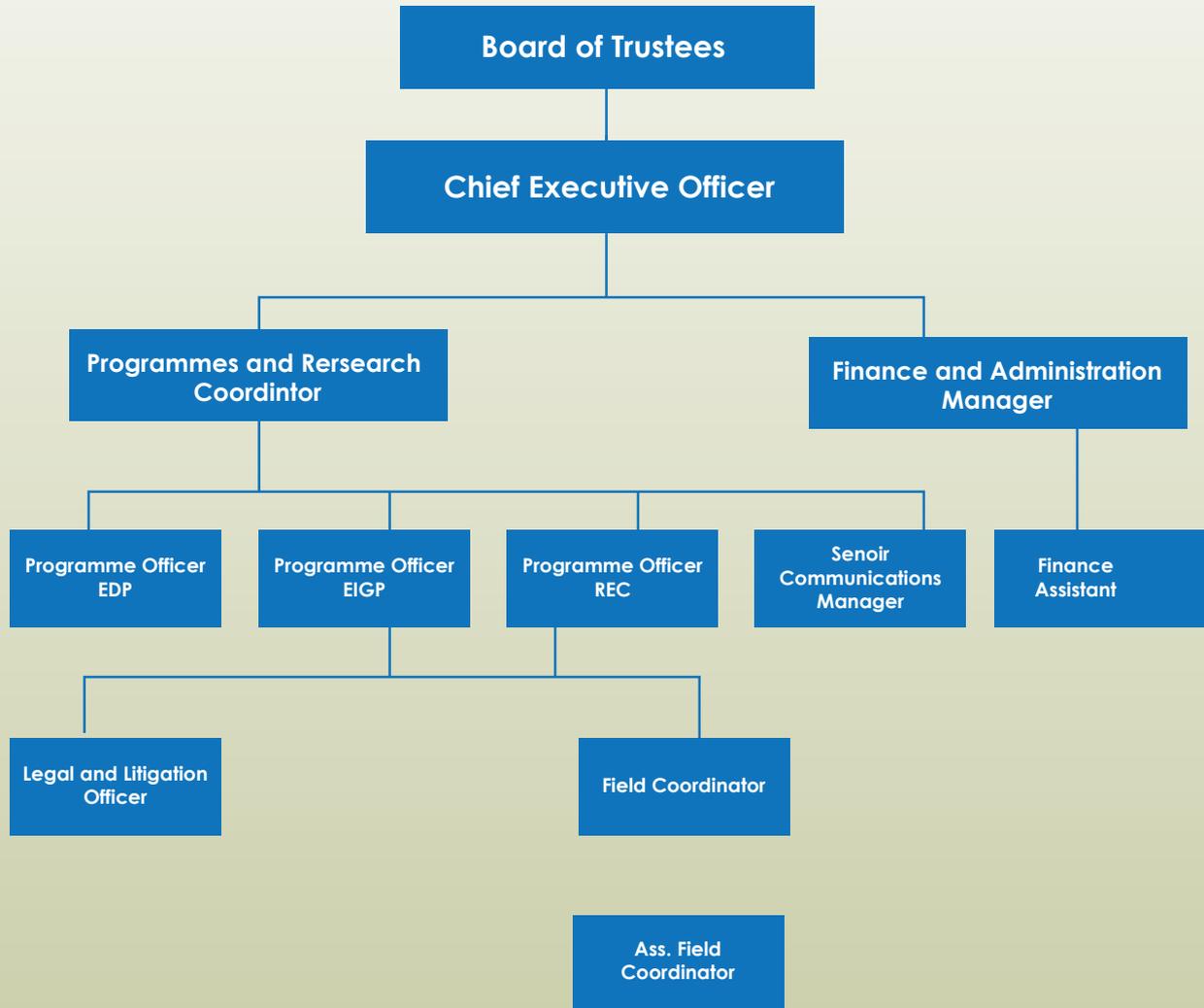
In view of the challenges highlighted above, AFIEGO's key priorities for 2023 will include:

- Engage NEMA and other stakeholders for the restoration of Bugoma forest.
- In addition, undertake advocacy to pressure Uganda's Ministry of Lands to publicly disclose the Bugoma forest boundary re-opening report.
- Further, support oil-affected communities to engage duty bearers and oil companies to defend their land and other rights.
- In addition, support oil-affected communities to build networks to enable joint and more effective advocacy.
- Continue to work with the cross-border movement to build pressure on governments, oil companies and financial institutions among others for the promotion of clean renewable energy over oil in the African Great Lakes region.

- Further, expand our engagements to promote green economic alternatives in East Africa.
- Undertake advocacy to support the enactment of a Solar Energy Policy, land acquisition bill and other laws.
- In addition, continue to prosecute the nine court cases that AFIEGO filed in the Uganda High Court, at the EACJ and in French courts.
- Further, engage courts and other stakeholders to enable fast, fair and effective access to justice for the poor and for the promotion of environmental conservation.
- Finally, work with our partners to promote conducive civic space in Uganda.

# 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 Sserwadda & Co. Advocates. He previously worked with the Registrar of Titles as a Registrar.

**Mr. Nicholas Bariyo:** Mr. Bariyo is the current Board treasurer of AFIEGO. He holds a Bachelor's degree in Education majoring in Literature from Makerere University. Mr. Bariyo works with Dow Jones News Wire, an international media company based in London.

**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 of 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. Racheal Amongin:** Ms. Racheal Amongin is a AFIEGO's Commiunictions Assistant. She obtained a Bachelor's Degree in Journalism, Media and Communications Studies from Uganda Christian University, Mukono. Before joining AFIEGO, Ms. Amongin worked as an intern at the National Agricultural Resources Research Intitute (NaCRRI)-Namulonge as an Assistant Development Communications Officer (DCO). Ms Amongin also worked with BankTrack, an International Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO), as an intern under the Human Rights Campaign team.

**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. 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.

**Ms. Comfert Aganyira** is a Field Assistant who holds a Bachelor of Business Administration Degree from Ugandan Christian University. Before joining AFIEGO, she worked as a research administration officer at Pan African Center for Aspiring Entrepreneurs and Researchers (PACER Researchers Limited), Masindi. Ms. Aganyira is passionate about defending communities' land and environmental rights.

## APPENDIX IV: AFIEGO'S RESEARCH ASSOCIATES

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

## APPENDIX V: AFIEGO'S FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

### AFIEGO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2022

1.

#### Statement of income and expenditure

	2022	2021
	Shs	Shs
Programme income		
Grant revenue	1,400,342,868	3,361,011,235
Total income	1,400,342,868	3,361,011,235
<b>Expenditure</b>		
Project expenses	(1,203,839,194)	(1,508,033,080)
Administrative expenses	(825,054,368)	(711,118,441)
Surplus for the year	(628,550,694)	1,141,859,714

#### 2. Fund accountability statement

	2022	2021
	Shs	Shs
<b>Fund balances</b>		
Accumulated fund	516,920,191	1,145,470,885
Deferred income	-	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	516,920,191	1,145,470,885

Represented by  
Non Current Assets

PPE	75,543,534	4,484,310
<b>Current assets</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents	467,946,907	1,153,450,575
	467,946,907	1,153,450,575
<b>Current liabilities</b>		
Payable	26,570,250	12,464,000
<b>Net assets</b>	441,376,657	1,140,986,575
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>516,920,191</b>	<b>1,145,470,885</b>

### 3. Statement of change in accumulated fund

#### Year ended 31 December 2022

	Accumulated funds Ushs	Deferred Income Ushs	Total Ushs
At 1 Jan 2022	1,145,470,885	-	1,145,470,885
Deficit for the year	(628,550,694)	-	(628,550,694)
At end of the period	516,920,191	-	516,920,191

#### Year ended 31 December 2021

	Accumulated funds Ushs	Deferred Income Ushs	Total Ushs
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At 1 Jan 2021	3,611,170	-	3,611,170
Surplus for the year	1,141,859,714	-	1,141,859,714
At end of the period	<u>1,145,470,885</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,145,470,885</u>

#### 4. Statement of cash flows

	Notes	2022 Ushs	2021 Ushs
Net surplus for the year		(628,550,694)	1141859714
<b>Add:</b>			
Depreciation		14,100,694	849,101
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>		(614,450,000)	1,142,708,815
Increase in trade and other receivables		-	-
Increase in trade and other payables		14,106,250	5,428,129
		14,106,250	5,428,129
<b>Net cash flow from operating activities:</b>		(600,343,750)	1,148,136,944
<b>Investing activities</b>			
Cash paid for purchase of property and equipment		(85,159,918)	-
Net cash used in investing activities		(85,159,918)	-
<b>Net cash flow from financing activities:</b>			
Fund flow to project		-	-
		-	-
Net cash used in financing activities		-	-

Increase in cash and cash equivalents	(685,503,668)	1,148,136,944
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**Movement in cash and cash equivalents**

Cash and cash equivalents at start of year	1,153,450,575	68,303,152
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Increase in cash and cash equivalents	(685,503,668)	1,148,136,944
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Cash and cash equivalents at end of year	467,946,907	1,216,440,096
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