



September 2023; Issue 9

PEOPLE OVER PROFIT! AFRICAN LEADERS MUST AVOID FALSE CLIMATE MARKET SOLUTIONS!



Delegates during the Africa
Climate Summit (ACS) this month
(September). Market solutions
for the climate crisis were
discussed at the summit.

Photo credit: AFP



Local communities, indigenous peoples, women, youth, farmers, civil society and others during a climate march at the start of the summit. The people demanded that people are put before profit.

Photo credit: PowerShift Africa

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Editorial

Dear reader, a one-of-a-kind event took place in Nairobi, Kenya between September 4 and 6, 2023. The event was the Africa Climate Summit (ACS). It was hosted by the government of Kenya.

Fourteen (14) African heads of state, Moussa Faki Mahamat, the African Union Commission chairperson, Akinwumi A. Adesina, the African Development Bank (AfDB) president as well as Antonio Guterres, the UN Secretary General, participated in the summit.

So did Ursula von der Leyen, President of the European Commission, John Kerry, the US Climate Envoy, African civil society members, the private sector, local communities, indigenous peoples, women, youth and others.

The summit, whose theme was, "Driving green growth and climate finance solutions for Africa and the world", was a great statement of intent and African countries plus all other actors who want to promote climate action and green growth should have used it for action.

While a number of notable milestones were registered at the summit, major shortcomings were seen as well.

In our **Word from CEO and Partners**, we laud the African leaders for convening the summit. We discuss the notable milestones registered at the summit while also pointing out the summit's shortcomings.

This is aimed at influencing African leaders to ensure that the proposals

they make to address the climate crisis at the upcoming COP 28 and other fora are effective and do not harm African people as well as the environment and biodiversity.

Read more about this in our Word from CEO and Partners.

In this newsletter, we also bring you our **pictorial** section through which we share some of the activities that we and our partners implemented this month.

For instance, we bring you highlights from AFIEGO and our partners' participation in the Africa Climate Summit.

In addition, we bring you highlights from a support visit that AFIEGO made to households and women in Buliisa district that are facing challenges due to air, noise and light pollution arising from TotalEnergies' Tilenga oil project activities in the district.

We documented the communities' experiences with a view of supporting them to engage the relevant stakeholders to end the people's plight.

Further, with the support of our partners who are gender experts, AFIEGO organised a gender training for communities that we work with in the Albertine Graben.

AFIEGO and our partners also reviewed the organisation's Gender Action Plan to ensure that it is responsive to women's needs.

In addition, AFIEGO supported the

organisation's legal team to file conferencing notes at the Court of Appeal to aid prosecution of the court case that we filed for cancellation of the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) certificate of approval for the Kyangwali Mixed Land Use project in Bugoma forest.

This month, AFIEGO staff participated in a Just Energy Transition and Feminist conference in Buenos Aires Argentina.

During the conference, AFIEGO staff presented on Africa's clean energy needs and the scramble for transition minerals on the African continent with a view of drawing strategies to prevent the exploitation of Africa.

With our partners, AFIEGO staff also participated in a Mid-term review of the projects that we and our Global Alliance for Green and Gender Action (GAGGA) partners are implementing. The review took place in the Netherlands.

We bring you highlights from this and our other activities in our pictorial section.

In our **lobbying** section, we bring you some of the lobby and advocacy products that we disseminated this month.

For instance, AFIEGO joined 61 African civil society organisations (CSOs) to write to the Ramsar secretariat.

We expressed concerns over the Ugandan, Tanzanian and Congolese governments' ongoing or planned oil and gas activities in Ramsar wetlands of international importance.

Further, AFIEGO and our Inclusive Green Economy Network-East Africa (IGEN-A) partners submitted a memorandum of proposals for the Consumer Protection Bill to the Minister of Trade.

Through the memorandum, we made proposals to protect farmers and consumers of farm produce.

In addition, AFIEGO and our IGEN-EA partners disseminated IEC materials to mark World Tourism Day. We called for more government investment in the tourism sector.

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

We also bring you the media stories that were published following various media engagements that we held this month.

We hope you enjoy the newsletter.

Editorial team:
Diana Nabiruma
Balach Bakundane
Rachael Amongin

Word from CEO & Partners

AFRICA CLIMATE SUMMIT CRITIQUE: LEADERS MUST AVOID PUTTING AFRICA ON SALE

Tens of thousands of people descended on Nairobi, the capital city of Kenya, for the Africa Climate Summit (ACS). The summit took place between September 4 and 6, 2023.

It attracted African presidents and leaders, envoys from the United States (US) and the European Union, private sector players, civil society members, local communities and indigenous peoples, women, youth and others.

The theme of the summit was, "Driving green growth and climate finance solutions for Africa and the world". The summit was aimed at addressing the increasing exposure to climate change, and its associated costs, globally and in Africa.

The main output of the summit was the Nairobi Declaration, which African Heads of state and government that participated in the summit made as a commitment to address climate change. They also used the declaration to call on world leaders to take action to address the climate crisis.

OUR PARTICIPATION IN THE SUMMIT

AFIEGO and our partners under OilWatch Africa among others participated in the summit. We joined in various engagements at the summit to enable us to keep track of the commitments made by African leaders. Through this newsletter, we share some of our observations from the summit.

SUMMIT'S MILESTONES

A number of notable milestones were registered at the summit. Key among these was the recognition by African leaders of the seriousness of the climate crisis and the need to address it. In a world where sections of the public, including some leaders, engage in climate change denialism, the

recognition that the climate crisis is real is an important step in addressing the climate emergency.

In addition, the African Heads of State or Government that participated in the summit released the Nairobi declaration through which they committed to focus Africa's economic development on climate positive growth that includes the expansion of just energy transitions and renewable energy generation for industrial activity among others.

The leaders also committed to ensuring climate-aware and restorative agricultural practices, as well as strengthening actions to halt and reverse biodiversity loss, deforestation and desertification.

Overall, the leaders' emphasis on the need for Africa's economic development to be powered by renewable energy as opposed to fossil fuels and the need to upscale renewable energy access for communities is commendable.

So are calls that were made for restructuring of the global financial architecture to meet Africa's immediate needs including efforts to enable access to electricity to over 600 million people in Africa who still live in darkness and the over 970 million people who lack access to clean cooking. Calls such as the need to ensure debt justice while meeting climate finance obligations to Africa are also laudable.

SUMMIT'S SHORTCOMINGS

While we commend the African leaders on the above milestones, we were also concerned by the fact that some African leaders positioned Africa as having the market solutions needed to address the climate crisis.

Whilst it is important to further integrate African products in the world market for job creation and sustainable development, the summit's focus on positioning Africa as a market of resources for others' exploitation could continue the neo-colonial extractivist model that has seen Africa's resources such as land, minerals, forest products and others being used for the benefit of others while Africans are left destitute, diseased and without clean energy.

We elaborate further below.

Carbon sequestration: Africa was marketed as a continent that can provide carbon sequestration services for the rest of the world. African countries would receive money for providing this service, which includes selling carbon credits arising from the capture and storage of carbondioxide by Africa's forests. While Africa needs finances, carbon markets come short as a climate solution because they encourage polluters to continue polluting as long as they pay.

Instead of encouraging more carbon emissions at a time when the UN Panel on Climate Change has indicated that the global community is not on track to keep global temperature rises below 1.5 degrees and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 45% in this decade, African leaders should be calling for a phase out of fossil fuels to address the climate crisis. This way, they will protect agriculture, fishing, forestry, tourism, services and other economic sectors that are some of the most vulnerable to climate change yet they employ the majority of Africans.

Carbon markets and ceding community land rights: In relation to carbon markets, last month (August 2023), it was reported that Liberia was in talks with a company from the United Arab Emirates to give the

company rights to manage about 10% of the country's land over a 30-year period for a carbon market scheme. The land is home to over 1 million hectares of forest. It was reported that Tanzania and Zambia were also in talks with the same company over a similar scheme. Carbon markets, which include compensation by businesses or other entities, for their greenhouse gas emissions through the purchase of carbon credits from entities that remove or reduce greenhouse gas emissions per the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), are not only problematic because they delay meaningful climate action, but also because they can lead to countries or communities or households ceding sovereignty over their land and the benefits that accrue from land ownership. Such schemes should be avoided.

Land grabs: The fact that Africa has the world's largest amount of arable land was also discussed during and after the summit. It was noted that Africa could feed the world. While Africa should sustainably use its resources to enable socio-economic transformation for African citizens, it is worrisome when land is showcased as one of Africa's market solutions to the climate crisis. Agricultural productivity has declined by 21% since the 1960s due to the climate crisis. Arable land is needed to enable food production amidst the above. This increases the demand for land. If African leaders market Africa's arable land without ensuring that sufficient safeguards are in place to protect communities, a land grabbing crisis could brew on the continent. Unfortunately, in Africa, land grabs are perpetuated by powerful individuals and state-backed corporations.

Green minerals: Africa is home to **30%** of the world's minerals such as copper, lithium, graphite, nickel and others needed to drive the clean energy transition. The minerals are

in high demand with the International Energy Agency (IEA) noting that their market doubled to **USD** 320 billion between 2018 and 2022. The IEA also noted that the market would increase by 3.5 times by 2030. Currently, China dominates Africa's minerals market; most of the minerals mined in Africa are exported in ore/unrefined form. The minerals are used to make parts of electric vehicles, solar panels and wind turbines among others.

The US and Europe also have a great demand for the minerals and have put in place laws to prioritise clean energy products manufactured in their markets. If African leaders market Africa as a source of minerals without ensuring manufacturing capacity on the continent, Africa could continue being a source of raw materials, undermining job creation and economic development.

RECOMMENDATIONS

In light of the above, we make the following recommendations:

- (i) African leaders must mobilise themselves and the rest of the world to phase out, not phase down, fossil fuels. False climate solutions such as carbon markets should be abandoned. Market solutions that could lead to land grabs and the abuse of community rights should also be avoided.
- (ii) More so, rich countries and polluters must stop using carbon markets to confuse African countries to carry the pollution burden. Instead, the big polluters must take responsibility or be pushed to pay for the damage caused by climate change disasters especially in poor countries.
- (iii) Further, African leaders should unite and work together to ensure that Africa

builds a critical human resource base and manufacturing as well as financial capacity so that the continent does not become a source of raw materials, instead of finished products, for the rest of the world for the clean energy transition.

- (iv) In addition, African leaders should build synergies to lead the just energy transition and green economy agenda in order to achieve sustainable development. African leaders should not be misled by multinational corporations and others who spread misconceptions that Africa needs fossil fuels to develop.
- (v) More so, African leaders must avoid the trap made by those who argue that fossil fuels will help the continent address energy poverty. This thinking is false because for decades, oil has continued to fuel poverty amongst oil host communities, worsening debt, land grabbing and displacements, community conflicts, civil wars and many other problems in Africa while failing to increase energy access, especially in Sub-Saharan Africa.
- (vi) African leaders must also ensure good governance in terms of building strong national institutions, respect for the rule of law, constitutionalism and good leadership. Without good governance, the Nairobi declaration will remain a mere commitment on paper and irrelevant to Africans.
- (vii) Finally, to lead the just energy transition and green economy agenda, Africa must use its current position as a low greenhouse gases emitter to put pressure on the big polluters to comply with the commitments of the Paris Agreement on climate change and COP27. African leaders should also use COP28 to push for a just energy transition and green economy agenda.

By CEO and Partners

Pictorial of our activities

AFIEGO AND OUR OILWATCH AFRICA PARTNERS PARTICIPATE IN AFRICA CLIMATE WEEK



Between September 4 and 8, 2023, AFIEGO and our OilWatch Africa partners participated in the Africa Climate summit and week in Nairobi-Kenya.

During the summit, we participated in various activities and kept track of the commitments made by African leaders with a view of mobilising communities to create pressure for implementation of the good commitments while rejecting the bad ones.

AFIEGO VISITS HOUSEHOLDS AND WOMEN AFFETED BY TILENGA OIL POLLUTION



On September 12, 2023, AFIEGO paid a solidarity visit to families in Buliisa district that have been affected by air, noise and dust pollution arising from the Tilenga project activities.

The visit was aimed at giving the affected families psychosocial support while mapping a way forward for the challenges faced by the communities.

AFIEGO AND PARTNERS FILE CONFERENCING NOTES IN BUGOMA COURT CASE APPEAL



THE REPUBLIC OF UGAND

IN THE COURT OF APPEAL OF UGANDA HOLDEN AT KAMPALA

CIVIL APPEAL NO. 299 OF 2021

- WATER & ENVIRONMENT MEDIA NETWORK(U) LTD
 NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF PROFESSIONAL ENVIRONMENTALISTS (NAPE)

VERSUS

- 1. NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY
- 2. HOIMA SUGAR LIMITED RESPONDENTS

APPELLANTS' CONFERENCING NOTES

BRIEF FACTS

On the 26th day of June 2020, in a meeting with the 1th Respondent over plans is relating to save Bugena Forest, the Appellants learnt of the fact that the 2nd Respondent had commenced the pocess of Environmental and Social Impact Assessment study for the Kyangwari Mixed Land Use project despite protests and requests from the 15°, 2nd and 3nd Appellants to halt the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment process pending the 2nd Pocks and Social Impact Assessment process pending the 2nd Pocks and Social Impact Assessment process pending the 2nd Pocks and Social Impact Assessment process pending the 2nd Pocks and Social Impact Assessment process pending the 2nd Pocks and Social Impact Assessment process pending the 2nd Pocks and Social Impact Assessment Pocks and Social Impa

That on 14^{th} August 2020 the 1^{tt} Respondent issued to the 2^{td} Respondent a certificate of approval for Environment and Social Impact Assessment for

In September 2023, AFIEGO supported the organisation's legal team and our external lawyers to file conferencing notes at the Court of Appeal in Kampala. This was aimed at aiding prosecution of the court case that we filed for cancellation of the ESIA certificate of approval for the Kyangwali Mixed Land Use project in Bugoma forest.

The notes were aimed at helping the lawyers of the defendants to understand the issues that we would argue in court.

AFIEGO AND PARTNERS PARTICIPATE IN JUST ENERGY TRANSITION AND FEMINIST CONFERENCE



Between September 18 and 20, 2023, AFIEGO and our partners participated in a Just energy Transition and Feminist conference in Buenos Aries-Argentina.

During the conference, AFIEGO staff presented on Africa's clean energy needs and the scramble for transition minerals on the African continent with a view of drawing strategies to prevent the exploitation of Africa.

AFIEGO AND PARTNERS EMPOWER COMMUNITY OBSERVERS ON GENDER



On September 29, 2023, AFIEGO and our Green Livelihoods Alliance (GLA) partners conducted a capacity building workshop on project monitoring and gender mainstreaming for the community observers that AFIEGO works with in the Albertine Graben.

The observers were equipped with knowledge to enable gender mainstreaming in their activities.

AFIEGO STAFF REVIEW ONGOING PROJECTS AND PLAN FOR 2024



On September 26, 2023, AFIEGO staff participated in a reflection and planning meeting.

The meeting was aimed at monitoring the progress of the ongoing projects and planning for 2024.

Lobbying

This month, AFIEGO joined 61 African civil society organisations (CSOs) to write to the Ramsar secretariat. We expressed concerns over the Ugandan, Tanzanian and Congolese governments' ongoing or planned oil and gas activities in Ramsar wetlands of international importance.

Further, AFIEGO and our Inclusive Green Economy Network-East Africa (IGEN-A) partners submitted a memorandum of proposals for the Consumer Protection Bill to the Minister of Trade. Through the memorandum, we made proposals to protect farmers and consumers of farm produce.



September 2, 2023

To: Dr. Musonda Mumba,

The Secretary General.

Secretariat of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance.

Dear Madam,

RE: REQUEST TO ADD TILENGA- AND EACOP-AFFECTED WETLANDS AS WELL AS VIRUNGA NATIONAL PARK TO MONTREUX RECORD OF WETLANDS

INTRODUCTION

Greetings from the undersigned African civil society organisations (CSOs) working to promote environmental conservation, human rights observance and climate action in Africa.

We thank you and your secretariat for promoting conservation of Ramsar and other wetlands across the world. The wetlands protection work that you do is important for climate stabilisation efforts, and we celebrate you, more so as Africa Climate Week (September 4-8, 2023) begins in Nairobi-Kenya.

We are however concerned that your valiant work stands to be undone by Uganda, Tanzania as well as the Democratic Republic of Congo's oil and gas exploitation efforts.

As you may be aware, Ugandan made commercial oil discoveries in the ecosensitive and biodiverse Albertine Graben in 2006. The Ugandan government alongside TotalEnergies and China National Offshore Oil Corporation (CNOOC) are commercialising Uganda's oil reserves through the upstream Tilenga and Kingfisher oil projects that are operated by TotalEnergies and

This month, AFIEGO staff, research associates and youth champions wrote newspaper articles that were published in the leading newspapers. Some of the published articles are captured below.

Address agricultural sector challenges

t is noted that Uganda's agricultural potential is considered to be among the best in Africa with low temperature variability fertile soils, and two rainy seasons over much of the country leading to multiple crop harvests per year. According to the UN's Food and Agriculture Organisation, Uganda's fertile agricultural land has the potential to feed 200 million people. Eighty percent of Uganda's land is arable but only 35 percent is being cultivated. In 2021/22, agriculture accounted for about

Eighty percent of Uganda's land is arable but only 35 percent is being cultivated. In 2021/22, agriculture accounted for about 24.1 percent of CGP and 35 percent of export earnings. The UBOS estimates that about 70 percent of Uganda's working population is employed in agriculture. Unifortunately, the commercialisation of the sector is impeded by many challenges faced by farmers and some of these are: limited use of fertiliser, lack of quality seeds, substandard agrochemical inputs, limited access to finance caused by high-interest rates, expensive farming equipment, poor farming practices and lack of irrigation infrastructure, rendering production vulnerable to climatic extremes and pest infestations. According to Integrated Seed Sector Development Uganda, it is estimated that less than 15 percent of Ugandan farmers use quality, mainly hybrid seed. This stems from inadequate access to quality seeds, preferred crop varieties, high price of seed, unsupportive policies and inadequate knowledge of available varieties.

policies and inadequate knowledge of available varieties.

As the climate change crisis worsens and as commercial interests continue to take hold. Uganda stands to lose its indigenous seeds and plants, which are bud for both farmers and consumers of farm produce. Various reports have indicated that to fatter their animals or prolong the shelf life of their farm produce, farmers and traders use chemical substances such as antiretroviral drugs to feed pigs and formalin to preserve meat. Moreover, some of the pesticides used by tomato farmers are retained in the produce

invest more in agricultural sector and address these challenges affecting the sector to enable it realise its potential.



that farmers send to the market.

A survey done by Anti-Counterfeit Network covering Mbale and Sironko in March 2022 shows that 50 percent of the seeds and agro-inputs on the market were fake. A 2017 World Bank assessment also showed that 30 percent of the ricides across Uganda contain less than 75 percent of the active ingredient that is advertised. Pake agrochemicals result in the exploitation of farmers and poor productivity. The use of agro-chemicals also presents challenges for the consumers of the farm produce and environmental conservation efforts. Available information indicates that only 23 percent of farmers in Uganda have the recommended training in pesticide use including pesticide application techniques, storage and safety measures. The misuse of agrochemicals affects soil biodiversity and causes human health problems.

Our agricultural sector is dominated by small holder farmers, many of whom find it hard to access credit from financial institutions. This is because the banks charge high interest rates, among other factors. Indeed, in

which employs the majority of Ugandans, was only 12.2 percent. Interest rates that are charged by Ugandan banks are some of the highest in Africa.

Expensive farming equipment is also a challenge. The government has been encouraging farmers to mechanise their agricultural practices to increase efficiency, enhance
productivity and attract labour especially
the youth, among others. However, available
information indicates that despite various
governments mechanisation programmes,
70 percent of Ugandans employed in the agricultural sector cannot afford machinery.
Framing equipment is priced out of farmers'
range. Moreover, through Naads, among other partners, the government of Uganda procured some agricultural equipment and suppiled them to farmers. However, some of the
equipment supplied got mechanical issues
and broke down. This equipment such as
tractors could not be repaired due to lack of
spare parts. Some equipment that is imported is also incompatible.

I call upon the government to invest more
in agricultural sector and address these challenges affecting the sector to enable it realise
ts potential.

The government should sensitise farmers
on the dangers of poor pesticide and other
chemicals use and empower citizens and the
Ugandan police to arrest farmers and traders
who use harmful chemicals to preserve farm
produce and ensure all butchers have testing gadgets to ensure that meat sold is not
contaminated and qualifies for human consumption. Agro ecology as one of the farming systems which brings healthy and quality food for consumption must be recognised.

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Will climate summit foster energy transition in Africa?



Patrick Edema

\$7-\$15B

EDITOR: World Tourism Day, celebrated on September 27, every year, is a significant global observance introduced by the UN World Tourism Organisation. The celebration is to raise public awareness among the global community about the social, cultural, political and economic worth and value of tourism.

The occasion also underscores the potential of tourism in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals stated by the UN, including poverty eradication, job creation and environmental preservation.

Under the National Development Plan III, the Government identifies tourism

Take action to benefit from the tourism sector

as a priority economic sector that must be developed to reduce poverty levels, increase jobs and accelerate economic growth.

The Government, which recognises that the sector attracted over 1.5 million visitors in 2018 and earned the country \$1.6b in the same year, set targets to increase the sector's revenue to \$1.862b.

To boost the sector, the budget allocation increased to sh249b in financial year 2023/24 from sh194.7b in 2022/23.

Despite the increase in finances and all

the above strategies to boost the sector, the Government must address the challenges affecting the tourism sector such as the oil and gas exploration and the destruction of Bugoma Forest Reserve.

As we celebrate World Tourism Day the Government should stop oil activities in the Murchison Falls National Park and upgrade Bugoma forest to a national park to protect its biodiversity and promote tourism.

Catherine Twongyeirwe

Upcoming events

October 2, 2023; Kampala: Support cross-border communities to petition NEMA to prevent the Lake Albert oil project risks on communities and the environment

October 4, 2023; Regional: Disseminate IEC materials on clean energy alternatives for Ugandan citizens

October 11, 2023; Bunyoro and Greater Masaka: Conduct a validation exercise for research on the socio-economic impact of the EACOP project on the affected people

October 18-19, 2023; Kampala: Stakeholder empowerment workshop on ESIA reports monitoring and compliance

October 20, 2023; Kampala: Stakeholder empowerment workshop on ESIA compliance in energy transition processes

October 21, 2023: Kampala: Exchange learning between Tanzanian and Ugandan civil society on oil project impacts

October 27, 2023; Hoima: Hearing of a court case that the oil refinery-affected people filed against government over low compensation

About Africa Institute for Energy Governance (AFIEGO)

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

Our Vision

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

Our Mission

To promote energy policies that benefit poor and vulnerable communities