

The **ENERGIZER**

AFIEGO's Monthly Newsletter



July 2019; Issue 7

EACOP PROJECT: NEMA MUST REJECT WEAK ESIA REPORT TO SAFEGUARD ENVIRONMENT & LIVELIHOODS FROM OIL DANGERS



Uganda's national bird, the threatened Crested Crane. The crane is one of the species facing danger from the EACOP project.



Farmlands will also be affected by the EACOP project. This puts communities at risk of food insecurity.



Wambabya forest reserve, which is a corridor forest connecting to Bugoma, Budongo and other forests, is also under threat. The forest is important for the survival of endangered chimpanzees.

In this newsletter:

- EACOP ESIA: Gaps and weaknesses will endanger environment and livelihoods amidst oil threats
- Pictorial of our activities
- Lobbying
- In the media
- Upcoming events

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Last month, on June 19 and 21, 2019, we and our partners participated in the public hearings on the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) report for the Kingfisher oil project.

As we informed you in our June 2019 newsletter, the hearings were organised by the Petroleum Authority of Uganda (PAU) in consultation with the National Environment Management Authority (NEMA). The public hearings took place in Kikuube and Hoima districts.

While a number of stakeholders such as some community groups, civil society and district, cultural and religious leaders made informed comments to prevent the potential negative environmental and community livelihoods impacts of the project, it was evident that the majority of people did not understand the relevance of ESIA and public hearings.

For instance, many community participants thought that the public hearings presented an opportunity to beg CNOOC (U) Ltd, the developer of the Kingfisher oil project, to build hospitals, provide education, give locals jobs and generally ask CNOOC to provide services that government should. This was counter-productive as the public hearings were aimed at collecting stakeholders' views on the Kingfisher ESIA to inform NEMA's decision on the ESIA.

The stakeholders we had sensitised through community meetings, district leaders' workshops, our monthly newsletters, film screenings, radio talkshows, radio spot messages and others to effectively participate and influence ESIA processes submitted informed comments. The majority that we were unable to reach however were unable to make meaningful comments on the Kingfisher ESIA.

Indeed, lack of public empowerment on the role and relevance of ESIA as a tool for assessing and providing mitigation measures against negative oil impacts is failing many communities including directly affected communities from effectively participating and influencing ESIA processes in Uganda.

Without effective public participation in environmental governance processes, the environment and livelihoods are being put at grave risk. Consequently, Uganda may not escape the oil curse that has crippled other oil-producing African countries such as Nigeria, Chad, South Sudan and others.

NEMA and PAU must therefore urgently improve public participation in ESIA processes for ESIA to remain an effective tool for safeguarding the environment and livelihoods from oil risks and threats.

AFIEGO and our partners remain committed to ensuring that citizens effectively participate and influence ESIA processes to promote environmental conservation and livelihoods amidst oil threats and risks. We will continue to engage and empower citizens including host communities to influence

ESIAs and other governance processes that can guard against the negative impacts of oil activities.

On July 23, 2019, **NEMA invited public comments on the ESIA report for the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) project**. The public was given a deadline of **August 30, 2019** by which they should have submitted written comments to NEMA. Through this newsletter therefore, in our **Word from AFIEGO & Partners**, we take the opportunity to simplify the over 3,500 page ESIA report. We also highlight gaps and weaknesses in the report. We believe that this will enable citizens to understand the EACOP ESIA to submit comments to NEMA and participate in the public hearings that will be organised by PAU in consultation with NEMA.

We also call upon relevant stakeholders to prepare to participate in the planned Shared Resources, Joint Solutions (SRJS) programme and AFIEGO's pre-EACOP public hearing activities including community sensitisation meetings, film screenings, radio talkshows and engagements with CSOs, district, cultural and religious leaders among others.

We are also calling upon Ugandans to demand that NEMA does not approve any ESIA for any oil project without citizens' consent acquired through public hearings at which citizens submit informed comments.

In our **pictorial** section, we show activities we implemented this month including undertaking a mid-year review of our work, supporting our staff to acquire skills to operate in the shrinking civil society operational space, serving PAU with court documents in preparation for the hearing of the case challenging approval of the Tilenga ESIA report, obtaining a certified copy of the Tilenga ESIA certificate of approval and its conditions from NEMA, strengthening staff capacity in documenting project outcomes and impact stories and others.

Finally, in our **lobbying** and **in the media** sections, we share some of our lobbying products including a letter by the oil refinery-affected people that was resubmitted to the Hoima district L.C.V chairperson at his request. The L.C.V chairperson committed to use the letter, which documents the abuse of the refinery-affected people's rights, to engage Ministry of Energy.

In **in the media** section, we bring you some of the over 11 newspaper articles written by our staff and partners that were published in the leading newspapers in the country.

We hope you enjoy the newsletter.

Editorial team:
Diana Nabiruma
Balach Bakundane
Sandra Atusinguza
Patrick Edema

EACOP ESIA: GAPS & WEAKNESSES WILL ENDANGER ENVIRONMENT & LIVELIHOODS AMIDST OIL THREATS

NEMA and citizens must reject the ESIA

On July 23, 2019, NEMA invited the public to make written comments on the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) report for the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) project. The invitation was made in line with Regulations 19 and 20 of the 1998 Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations.

NEMA set August 30, 2019 as the deadline for receiving comments from the public. After receipt of the comments, PAU and NEMA will organise public hearings on the ESIA.

NEMA is mandated to organise the public hearings as under regulation 21(2) of the 1998 EIA Regulations, projects of a transboundary nature such as the EACOP must be subjected to public hearings. The project covers Uganda and Tanzania and will also affect countries such as the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

What is the EACOP project about and why is it of concern?

The EACOP project is one of the key projects being fasttracked by government to commence oil exploitation in Uganda.

Under the project, a 1,443 km pipeline that will transport Uganda's crude oil from Hoima in Uganda to Tanga in Tanzania will be built.

The Ugandan government is jointly developing the project with the Tanzanian government. Oil companies are also part of the project developers. Total E&P (U) Ltd is leading the project in partnership with the Joint Venture Partners of CNOOC (U) Ltd and Tullow Oil (U).

The estimated cost of the project is over \$3.5 billion which will be borrowed from banks.

In terms of required capital and the distance covered, the EACOP is the biggest ever project to be undertaken by the Ugandan government. The project will therefore have grave implications on Ugandans' indebtedness.

Further, the project poses grave environmental, climatic and social threats and risks. It will negatively affect forest reserves, rivers, wetlands, lakes, agricultural land, fisheries, community livelihoods, cultures and others.

The project will also have transboundary

impacts as it will affect the Victoria Nile in addition to lakes Victoria and Albert. River Nile is shared with several countries including Uganda, South Sudan, Sudan and Egypt. Lakes Victoria and Albert are shared with Kenya and Tanzania and the DRC respectively.

While it is clear that the EACOP poses grave environmental, social and transboundary dangers, the ESIA report presented by the project developers to NEMA is too weak to act as a tool against oil dangers.

Ugandans must therefore demand that NEMA does not approve the EACOP project because of the several gaps and weaknesses in the current ESIA report as discussed below.

Key features to be affected by the EACOP

- **3 forest reserves including Wambabya (a corridor forest for chimpanzees), Taala & Kasana-Kasambya.**
- **5 rivers including Kafu, Kibale, Katonga, Nakabazi & Jemakunya.**
- **Over 11 Ugandan or IUCN Red-listed threatened, endangered or vulnerable plant and animal species.**
- **Such species include the Ugandan cherry orange (omuboro), White star apple (nkalate or mululu in Luganda), mulondo, chimpanzees, African golden cat & hippopotamus.**
- **Over 14.02 sq. km (1,402 hectares) of land including farmlands.**

GAPS IN EACOP ESIA

The EACOP ESIA notes that the project will have underground and above-ground key components including:

- (i) A 296 km-long buried pipeline from Hoima to Mutukula on the border with Tanzania;
- (ii) The remaining 1,147km will be hosted in Tanzania;
- (iii) Two pumping stations that will be

powered by electricity made from crude oil to keep the oil from solidifying;

- (iv) New or upgraded permanent and temporary roads;
- (v) Four electrical substations;
- (vi) Four main camps and pipeyards for storage of pipes, equipment and housing of construction workers.

Below are gaps and weaknesses in the EACOP ESIA report.

(a). Failure to protect forests from oil dangers:

Three forest reserves including Wambabya in Hoima district, Taala in Kyankwanzi district and Kasana-Kasambya in Mubende district will be affected by the EACOP project.

The forests play important roles in supporting communities' access to food, income, medicine and water among others. For instance, Taala forest was gazetted by government because it is important for the survival of River Kafu.

The forest protects the drainage systems of Kitumbi and Lugulima rivers that flow into River Kafu.

River Kafu flows through seven districts and meets communities' water needs in Hoima, Masindi, Kyankwanzi, Luwero, Nakaseke, the water-stressed Nakasongola and others. For the survival of the river and to protect communities' water access rights, Taala forest must be conserved.

Further, Wambabya forest is an important migratory corridor for chimpanzees. Chimpanzees, which contribute to Uganda's tourism earnings and community incomes, are listed by IUCN as being endangered. All efforts must therefore be made to protect them.

While the above is the case, the EACOP ESIA does not provide adequate information such as what the impacts of oil spills on the forests would be and how these would affect chimpanzees and communities' access to clean and safe water. Should oil spills occur, chimpanzees and communities that survive on the forests' wellbeing would be gravely endangered. Adequate information on planned mitigation measures by the developer is therefore needed for Ugandans to assess whether communities and chimpanzees will be protected from the EACOP project dangers.



The pipeline will affect three forest reserves including Wambabya, Taala and Kasana-Kasambya. This will have consequences on biodiversity, food security, water security, cultures and others.

(b). Endangering vulnerable and threatened species:

Information from Uganda's National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (2015-2025) shows that the number of critically endangered, endangered and near threatened species increased between 2004 and 2008.

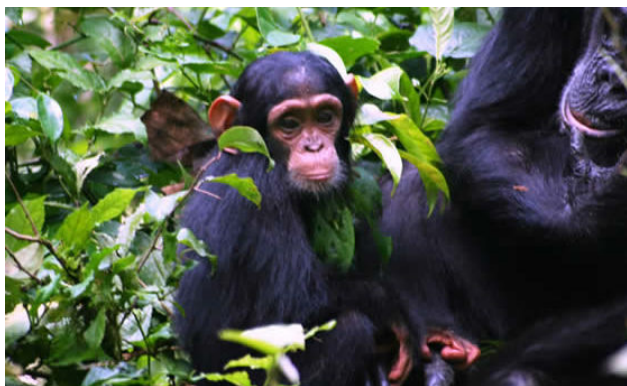
The above occurred as a result of deforestation, destruction of wetlands and other factors. The EACOP project presents even more threats to endangered, vulnerable, threatened and endemic species.

Overall, the project will affect over 11 endangered, vulnerable and endemic animal and plant species. Some of these include chimpanzees, the grey-crowned crane (Crested Crane), hippopotamus, the Ugandan cherry orange (*omuboro*), *Mondia whitei* (*mulondo* in Luganda) and others.

The above species must be protected as they contribute to citizens wellbeing through providing income, herbal medicine, enabling climate stability and others.

While the above is the case, the ESIA does not provide adequate mitigation measures to protect the above species. The ESIA lacks a complete Environment and Social Management Plan (ESMP) that would provide information to assure Ugandans that the financial, technical and human resources needed to protect the endangered, threatened and endemic species exist. Instead, the project developers promise to put in place 20 management plans under the ESMP at a later date.

Ugandans cannot put their vulnerable species at stake while trusting that the promised management plans will protect them. This is more so the case because promises often go unfulfilled in Uganda.



Vulnerable animal and plant species such as chimpanzees and medicinal herbs such mulondo will be affected by the project. The ESIA report fails to provide adequate mitigation plans to protect them.

(c). Rivers and oil spills: In addition to the above, the EACOP will cross or affect rivers including Kafu, Kibale, Katonga, Jemakunya and Nabakazi. The EACOP will also cross wetlands and will affect the Victoria Nile in addition to lakes such as Albert and Victoria.

The above rivers, lakes and wetlands are important and must be protected to safeguard community access to fisheries resources and safe water. The shared water resources such as River Nile, Lake Victoria and Lake Albert must also be protected to avoid insecurity that would be caused by conflicts arising from oil pollution of shared water resources.

While the above is the case, the Netherlands Commission for Environmental Assessment (NCEA) which reviewed the ESIA notes that the ESIA strongly underrates the impact the EACOP will have on rivers and wetlands.

The NCEA, which reviewed and made comments on the EACOP ESIA at the request

of NEMA, notes that the proposed open trench technique that will be used to cross water and wetlands could result in oil spills. Oil spills would not only affect communities and Ugandan citizens at large, they would also have impacts that could be felt in countries such as Sudan, Egypt, Kenya, Tanzania and beyond.

The NCEA recommended that other construction techniques other than the open trench technique be assessed to determine which one has the least impacts.

In addition, it is notable that while the risks from the EACOP crossing water bodies are grave, the measure provided to reassure Ugandans that oil spills will be managed is that an Emergency preparedness and response plan will be put in place at a later date. Ugandans cannot trust that this future plan will be able to protect shared water resources, fisheries and marine life among others. Ugandans need to view and assess the plan before NEMA makes a decision on the EACOP ESIA.

(d). Land impacts: A total of 14.02 square km (1,402 ha) of land will be required for the project. While the ESIA notes that land for facilities such as access roads, construction camps and pipe yards will be needed for three years with leases lasting up to five years, the same ESIA notes that the land will relapse to government when the leases expire. This raises questions. Why wouldn't communities' land especially that land that will be taken to set up workers' camps be leased from and returned to communities after leases expire? This is more so the case as experience shows that communities compensated under the Tilenga and oil refinery projects were unable to replace their land or land equivalent to the sizes they lost because of inadequate compensation. Moreover, the same ESIA notes that land users without land titles will only be compensated for their crops! Will customary land and *bibanja* owners be compensated for only their crops? This would be unfair, unconstitutional and against international best practices. The 30m right of way needed during the construction phase of the pipeline is also too big and will further deny communities access to land.

(e) No alternative livelihood options provided: The ESIA recognises that farming, fisheries, and other sources of livelihood will be strained by the EACOP project. "Fisherfolk, who fish full time, particularly women, [the] landless who fish on

ivers and employees of aquaculture enterprises are ranked as very highly sensitive as they have no or limited alternative income generating opportunities," the ESIA notes. While recognising the above, the ESIA does not provide adequate alternative livelihoods for the above vulnerable groups. Instead, the ESIA sets high hopes by stating that jobs will be provided by the EACOP project. However, previous experience from the Tilenga, Kingfisher and other projects shows that unskilled local communities are hardly given jobs by oil companies. It is also noteworthy that following review of the EACOP ESIA, experts from NCEA noted that there is no evidence to support the assertion that the EACOP project will create as many jobs as it says it will.



Top: Youth playing cards in Buliisa district. The EACOP ESIA raises false hopes that communities will get jobs under the EACOP project.

Bottom: AFIEGO's Ms Diana Nabiruma during an interview with Mr Gilbert Kaliisa Munange, the L.C. 3 chairperson of Ngwendo sub-county, Buliisa district. Mr Munange, who is the sub-county chairperson of communities in the Tilenga oil project area, said that local communities do not benefit from oil sector jobs.

(f). Climate change: To keep the crude oil that will be transported via the EACOP flowing, the pipeline will be heated using crude-run heaters. The heaters will be located at the two pumping stations to be developed in Uganda. The ESIA notes that the heaters will be the dominant source of Greenhouse Gases (GHG) emissions from the EACOP in Uganda. GHG emissions will

worsen climate change. Climate change has seen Ugandans suffer from flooding, prolonged dry weather, poverty, death and others regrettable impacts. While all efforts must be made to reduce the emission of GHG, developers of the EACOP project stand to derail these efforts by under-declaring the amount of GHG that will be produced by the project. The ESIA notes that "over the project life, the predicted average CI of all the exported oil is 0.043 gCO₂e/MJ." Experts from NCEA note that these predictions are "unrealistically low". The report also lacks a cumulative analysis of GHG emissions from Uganda's oil exploitation efforts under the Tilenga, Kingfisher and other oil projects.

(g) Transboundary impacts: The EACOP "crosses several permanent and ephemeral watercourses and wetlands belonging to Lake Albert, Victoria Nile and Lake Victoria basins," the ESIA says. Lake Albert is shared between Uganda and the DRC while River Nile is shared with several countries including South Sudan, Sudan, Egypt and others. Several countries including Sudan and Egypt primarily rely on the river to provide fresh water. On the other hand, Lake Victoria is shared between Uganda, Kenya and Tanzania. Any impact such as oil spills from the pipeline could affect nationals in the above countries. While this is the case, the ESIA downplays the transboundary impacts of the project and says that "no residual impacts" remained after providing mitigation measures. However, Ugandans cannot be assured of this when the Emergency preparedness and response plan is not in place and Ugandans cannot assess whether it will be good enough to avoid, minimise or mitigate transboundary impacts.

RECOMMENDATIONS

What should be done?

- (i) **NEMA should not approve the EACOP ESIA report.** The EACOP ESIA report still has gaps and weaknesses and it should not be relied on by NEMA for decision-making. Citizens should reject the report and NEMA should listen to the citizens. This will safeguard the environment and livelihoods amidst oil dangers.
- (ii) **NEMA should not approve the EACOP ESIA report as it lacks an analysis on cumulative impacts.** Further, the current

ESIA report does not clearly present details on cumulative impacts oil projects will have on biodiversity, climate change and water insecurity arising from use of water resources such as River Nile and Lake Albert for multiple oil projects. Without detailed information on cumulative impacts, NEMA will not have the right information to make the right decisions that can support conservation and community livelihoods amidst oil dangers.

(iii) **Put in place complete ESMP.** As a matter of urgency, the EACOP project developers should ensure that a complete ESMP that has all the 20 mitigation plans they intend to use to avoid or mitigate project impacts are put in place. Each mitigation plan should have details on funding, time frame, skills required, responsible entities, sanctions for failure to comply and other details. In absence of a complete ESMP that has the biodiversity management plan, Emergency preparedness and response plan, land acquisition and rehabilitation plan and others, the current ESIA report is not fit for the purpose and should be rejected. Relying on it to issue a certificate of approval will have far-reaching impacts on biodiversity, community livelihoods, transboundary relations and others.

(iv) **Put in place forest management plans.** The EACOP ESIA recognises that "there are no adopted management plans for [the Wambabya, Taala and Kasana-Kasambya forest] reserves". Management plans that promote sustainable utilisation of the forests while protecting the reserves from oil and other pressures should be put in place.

(v) **Return land to communities after expiry of leases.** NEMA should ensure that the ESIA report contains a land acquisition resettlement plan that provides that at the end of project lifespan, land will be returned to the PAPs. This will ensure that the PAPs do not lose completely and can get back to their ancestral land.

(vi) **Implement transboundary agreements.** Uganda signed agreements such as the 2007 Uganda-Tanzania Ngurdoto agreement to enable harmonious utilisation of transboundary resources such as Lake Albert. However, communities that are affected by projects are often left out in ESIA public review processes. This must be remedied.

(vii) **Stop oil activities in critical biodiversity areas.** As a matter of urgency, NEMA needs to work with PAU to stop oil activities in critical biodiversity areas such as forests, lakes, rivers and others.

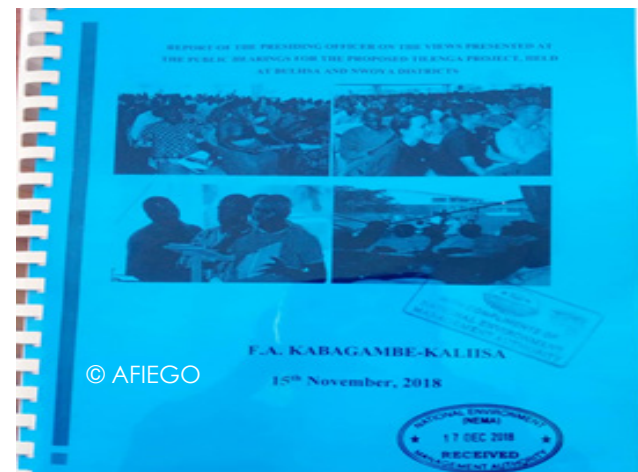
CONCLUSION

All in all, the current EACOP ESIA report is not fit for purpose and Ugandans should not allow NEMA to rely on it to issue any certificate of approval.

By AFIEGO and Partners

Pictorial of our activities

AFIEGO GETS TILENGA EIA CERTIFICATE, REVISED ESIA SUMMARY AND PRESIDING OFFICER'S REPORT AFTER ADVOCACY



Following advocacy by AFIEGO, on July 24, 2019, NEMA availed AFIEGO with a certified copy of the Tilenga EIA certificate of approval and its conditions. The certificate was issued to the developer.

NEMA also availed AFIEGO with the presiding officer's report and the revised Tilenga non-technical summary (NTS). The presiding officer's report captured the proceedings from the Tilenga ESIA public hearings that took place in Buliisa and Nwoya districts in November 2018.

AFIEGO is the first CSO to get the documents. We will use them to support our and partners' monitoring efforts in addition to lobby and advocacy work to promote environmental conservation and community livelihoods amidst oil threats.

NEMA refused to avail AFIEGO with the complete revised ESIA report. The authority only provided the NTS. AFIEGO will continue to engage NEMA to get the full report.

In the picture is the presiding officer's report and the Tilenga EIA certificate of approval.



PROTECTING HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS: AFIEGO SUPPORTS STAFF TO STRENGTHEN THEIR SECURITY



Between July 9 and 11, 2019, AFIEGO supported staff to participate in a four-day training for Human Rights Defenders (HRDs) in the Albertine region.

AFIEGO staff and other HRDs working in the oil sector operate within a difficult environment in which they are arrested, threatened and their offices are closed by government. Smear campaigns are also used to intimidate organisations such as AFIEGO and HRDs in the oil sector among others.

The training strengthened staff capacity to effectively collect response mechanisms to ensure their safety and security.

In the picture is AFIEGO's Hoima Field Officer and other HRDs that participated in the training.

OIL VS. CLEAN ENERGY: AFIEGO IN RADIO TALKSHOW TO PROMOTE CLEAN ENERGY



Between June and July 2019, AFIEGO and our partners under the Green Livelihoods Alliance (GLA) organised radio talkshows that reached stakeholders in Hoima, Kikuube, Kakumiro, Kyankwanzi, Kasese and other oil districts.

During the radio talkshows, we sensitised communities on oil impacts in countries such as Nigeria, Ecuador and the U.S. The radio talkshows were held before communities in Hoima and Kikuube districts made comments on the Kingfisher ESIA at public hearings held in the districts. Community champions used the knowledge gained to make comments on the Kingfisher ESIA.

Government also re-opened Ngaji oil block in Kasese for oil exploration licensing in May 2019. There is need to continually sensitise communities to promote clean energy.

In the picture are Ms. Diana Nabiruma, staff and partners while talking about oil impacts among others. This was during a radio talkshow at Spice FM on June 20, 2019.

OIL AND ACCESS TO JUSTICE: AFIEGO SUPPORTS REFINERY-AFFECTED PEOPLE IN CASE HEARING AND SERVES PAU IN TILENGA CASE



On June 19, 2019 AFIEGO facilitated the oil refinery-affected people during their case hearing. The people sued government for under-compensating and delaying to compensate them.

The court case is important to promote the rights of the refinery-affected people and in efforts to ensure that government stops under-compensating and delaying to compensate communities affected by compulsory land acquisitions.

In the picture are the refinery-affected people, their lawyer Mr. Adonijah Bemanyisa (2nd L), AFIEGO's Legal Assistant Ms. Doreen Namara (C) and AFIEGO's CEO, Mr. Dickens Kamugisha (R).

At the bottom is the refinery-affected Mr. John Bosco Wandera during submission of evidence in court.

Further, this month, in preparation for hearing of the case youth and CSOs filed against NEMA and PAU for violating laws in the Tilenga ESIA public hearings, AFIEGO served PAU court documents on Monday July 22, 2019.

Through the case, CSOs and youth are calling on court to cancel the Tilenga EIA certificate due to the irregularities and violations that marred the Tilenga ESIA processes.

The court documents that were served to PAU can be seen in the Lobbying section.



OIL AND LAND RIGHTS: AFIEGO KICKSTARTS RESEARCH ON ASSESSING IMPACTS OF OIL REFINERY PROJECT ON PAPS



On July 24, 2019, AFIEGO in partnership with Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES) kickstarted research to document impacts of the oil refinery land acquisition and resettlement project on the project-affected persons (PAPS).

The research, through which over 319 stakeholders in five districts will be reached, will be used to provide data needed to make evidence-based recommendations to address the negative impacts of land acquisitions and resettlement processes including for projects such as Tilenga, Kingfisher and the EACOP.

Available anecdotal and other evidence shows that land acquisitions impoverish communities, make them landless, cause school dropouts, result in teenage pregnancies and cause family breakdowns among others.

In the picture are AFIEGO and our partners during a meeting at AFIEGO's office to finalise the research plans.

AFIEGO IN MID-YEAR REVIEW AND STAFF CAPACITY STRENGTHENING MEETINGS



On July 23, 2019, AFIEGO held a mid-year review to assess whether the organisation is on course to meet this year's targets.

While it was found that project implementation is on course, staff observed that challenges such as ineffective stakeholder participation in ESIA processes, inadequate stakeholder awareness of oil impacts, lack of harmony in environment laws, high power prices, plans to destroy biodiversity areas such as Murchison falls for hydropower dams and failure by government to respect climate change agreements among others remain.

Staff, led by the CEO Mr. Dickens Kamugisha (top photo, L), resolved to use the rest of the year to address the challenges.

In addition, staff were trained on project Outcome Harvesting and writing of impact stories. This was on July 23, 2019.

In the photo at the bottom is AFIEGO's Senior Communications Officer, Ms. Diana Nabiruma (standing), while training staff on writing impact stories.

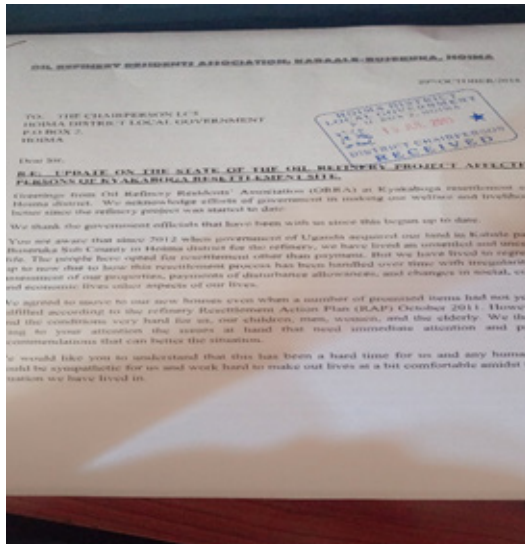


Lobbying

This month, AFIEGO produced a report which showed the economic value of Bugoma forest in a bid to save the forest amidst oil and sugarcane challenges.

Further, Mr Kadir Kirungi, the L.C.V Chairperson of Hoima district, requested the refinery-affected people to share a letter detailing their grievances so that he could engage Ministry of Energy over them.

In addition, as earlier shown, we served PAU with court documents in preparation for hearing of the case in which youth and CSOs want the Tilenga EIA certificate cancelled.

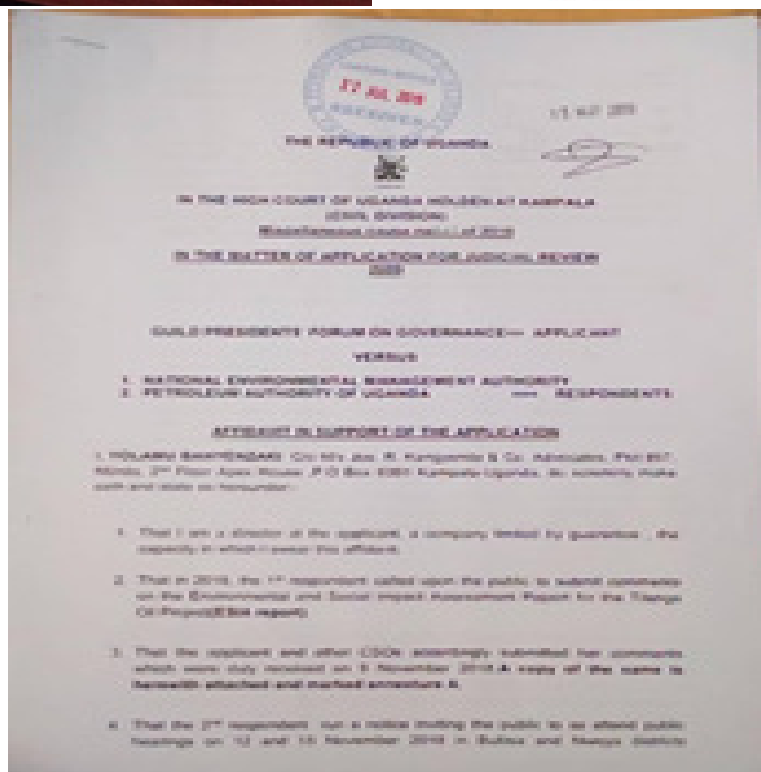


A CASE STUDY OF BUGOMA FOREST AMIDST OIL AND GAS DEVELOPMENTS IN THE ALBERTINE REGION.



A DRAFT RESEARCH REPORT BY AFIEGO

July 2019



In the media

This month, staff and research associates wrote 11 newspaper articles which were published in the leading newspapers including the New Vision, Daily Monitor, The Observer, Earthfinds magazine and others. Some of the published articles are captured below.

Air pollution in Kampala is killing us

July 2, 2019 Written by Denise Nakimuli



In the week hours of June 19, 2019, I, together with work colleagues, left Kampala for Kibuka district.

After Kibuka, we went to Nema district to participate in the public hearings on the Kingfisher oil project's Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) study report. The public hearings were organized by the Petroleum Authority of Uganda (PAU) in partnership with National Environment Management Authority (NEMA).

The hearings, which were held in Kibuka and Nema districts, were aimed at enabling NEMA ascertain that the information

LETTER OF THE DAY

Daily Monitor 24/7/2019

Improve transparency in oil sector

It was reported in the media that Uganda is in the final stages of joining Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) by October. This is an effort to showcase the country's commitment to accountability and transparency in the oil and gas sector. The decision follows Cabinet endorsing the Uganda's entry into EITI in February.

The decision to join EITI was informed by the appreciation of the values that EITI promotes with regard to disclosure of information about the whole extractive governance chain and this would support authorities' efforts to ensure transparency and tax collection in order to build long-term trust and attract investment.

The EITI is a global standard that helps countries improve the governance of the extractive sector along all stages of the industry's value chain.

It is based on the understanding that a transparent and well-managed extractive sector can contribute to social and economic development for citizens of resource-rich countries.

To promote the good governance of the sector, governments, companies



work together to implement the EITI Standard in more than 51 countries around the world.

At its core, the EITI Standard requires that governments disclose what payments they receive from extractive companies operating in their country. Oil and gas companies are also asked to disclose payments they make to the government, and an independent third-party reconciles the data to identify possible gaps.

The government also has to disclose additional information about the sector such as license holders and outcomes of license allocations, beneficial owners of extractive companies,

extractive revenues are allocated. The whole process is overseen by a national commission, known as a multi-stakeholder group (MSG), where civil society participates on an equal footing with government and industry.

The lack of transparency in oil and gas contract cause public suspicion and rise corruption concerns and as a result, the country has been urged by stakeholders to join the initiative in order to avoid such concerns. Uganda's move to formally sign the EITI will attract local and foreign investments into the sector, which will bring confidence between government, oil companies and other stakeholders.

Therefore, Uganda must join the initiative for the sake of its global integrity and the millions of people who would benefit from greater transparency in the oil and gas sector.

With politically connected Ugandans involved in oil and gas activities, it is imperative that government improves on transparency and lead the country out of its so-called 'resource curse' the paradoxical relationship between mineral wealth and weak developmental outcomes.

PATRICK EDUMA,

Daily Monitor 16/7/2019

Oil pipeline: Protect Unesco world heritage sites

On July 15, the *New Vision* reported about the Museveni, Magufuri discussion regarding the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP).

The two leaders agreed to urgently sort out the pending issues that are stalling the project ahead of the third Uganda-Tanzania joint permanent

commission and Uganda-Tanzania business scheduled for September in Dar-es-Salaam.

While appreciating the efforts of the two leaders to speed up the processes of developing the EACOP, I noted with concern that the EACOP as well as Environmental and Social Impact Assessment report that was

submitted to Nema by Total East Africa, will impact both Unesco's World Heritage listed natural sites and ecosystem.

The EACOP project area of influence is largely in the natural habitats in and outside areas protected by the law.

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Sunday Vision 12/7/2019

Attention must be paid to oil-rich areas

The Petroleum Authority of Uganda together with the National Environment Management Authority (NEMA) held two public hearings on June 19 and 21 to gather public comments on the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) report for the Kingfisher oil project.

During the public hearings, over 9,000 people participated and communities observed a number of concerns and irregularities which must be addressed before NEMA takes any decision of approving the report for the oil project. The ESIA report indicates that the Kingfisher oil project components will affect eco-sensitive areas including Lake Albert, Bugoma Central Forest Reserve, Kabwoya Game Reserve and others, which are of great importance in regulating climate

change and provides a number of free ecosystem services for both human and wildlife survival.

It is, therefore, clear that the activities of the proposed Kingfisher oil project will impact on Lake Albert which is a shared lake with the DR Congo and Uganda. For the past generations, Uganda and DR Congo have been experiencing conflicts over the management of the shared Lake Albert. The government of Uganda and the Kingfisher oil project developer did not consider and involve the transboundary communities who are also depending on Lake Albert for their livelihoods and are also likely to be affected by the project in case of oil spills or decrease in the water levels.

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Upcoming events

August 1-15, 2019; oil region: Research on impacts of the oil refinery project on the social-economic conditions of the refinery PAPs

August 8, 2019; Kasese: Awarding community women and youth champions promoting clean energy

August 19, 2019; Kakumiro and Kyankwanzi: Community sensitisation meeting on the EACOP ESIA report

August 22, 2019; Masaka: Community sensitisation meeting on the EACOP ESIA report

August 30, 2019; Kampala: Submission of memorandum on gaps in EACOP ESIA to NEMA

About Africa Institute for Energy Governance (AFIEGO)

Africa Institute for Energy Governance (AFIEGO) is a public policy research and advocacy NGO dedicated to influencing energy policies to benefit the poor and vulnerable. Based in Kampala, Uganda, the organisation was born out of the need to contribute to efforts to turn Africa's 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 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 energy resources for socio-economic development

Our Mission

To promote energy policies that benefit poor and vulnerable communities