

## December 2019; Issue 12

### AFIEGO'S 2019 IN REVIEW: WHAT WE DID, LEARNED AND ACHIEVED



**AFIEGO's engagements with MPs, local government leaders, CSOs, affected communities, women and youth clean energy champions, stakeholders from the DRC and the media among others in 2019.**

**AFIEGO engaged with the above stakeholders as part of our efforts to promote environmental conservation and livelihoods amidst oil and other threats in 2019.**

#### **In this newsletter:**

- AFIEGO's 2019 in review: What we did, learned and achieved
- The best of AFIEGO in 2019: Five minute catch-up
- Stakeholders' feedback
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# Editorial

Dear reader, welcome to our final newsletter of 2019. Through this newsletter, AFIEGO takes the opportunity to thank you for the support you accorded the organisation in 2019.

Each and every one of you played an important role that saw AFIEGO making a contribution to ensure that environment is conserved amidst varying threats and that our people, especially those who live on the margins of life, live in better conditions in which their rights and livelihoods are protected.

You did the above by participating in our field and national activities demanding for enactment of new environmental and land laws. You also participated in our activities through which we opposed plans to destroy Murchison Falls and Bugoma forest among other ecosystems.

Furthermore, you joined us to influence the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (EISA) processes for the oil sector and our youth and women clubs endured government harassment to continue empowering their respective communities to fight for their rights and promote equity and social justice in public affairs. In addition, you hosted us on radios and TVs to educate our people on good governance and published our print and online newspaper articles for Ugandans and others beyond the Ugandan borders to read.

Further, you provided us with feedback on our activities and products, provided funds, provided technical expertise during our activities and played other critical roles to enable us deliver on our targets for 2019. We thank you for this.

In this final newsletter of 2019, we provide an account of what we at AFIEGO did, learned and achieved due to your support in 2019. Challenges encountered are also highlighted.

Overall, AFIEGO did the following in 2019:

- We influenced the enactment, formulation and or content of **seven policies, laws and regulations** governing the environment, land, electricity and renewable clean energy sectors.
- In addition, we were part of the stakeholders that mobilised **over 18,000 citizens including** oil affected and host communities, youth, women, cultural institutions, civil society organisations (CSOs), local governments, the media and others to participate in and influence ESIA processes for oil activities to safeguard environmental rights, food security, water rights, land rights and others.
- Furthermore, we implemented **over seven campaigns** to defend the conservation of critical ecosystems including Murchison Falls and Queen Elizabeth national parks, lakes Edward and Albert, Murchison Falls and Bugoma, Wambabya in addition to Budongo forests among others. The above ecosystems were under threat from oil, sugarcane and hydropower dam activities.
- In all, AFIEGO issued or organised **over 60 lobby and advocacy materials or activities** such as open letters to the president and Electricity Regulatory Authority (ERA), communiques, radio and TV talkshows, community meetings and others as part of our wider efforts to stop plans to destroy the above ecosystems. Furthermore, **over 197 media articles** were produced to support the above and other campaigns.

- In addition, we continued to **promote access to justice** through courts of law. AFIEGO and our partners provided support to various groups including youth leaders under the Guild Presidents' Forum on Governance (GPFOG), the refinery-affected people from Hoima and others to attend court during **11 court hearings or case hearing-related processes** in 2019. The cases are challenging the injustices perpetuated by government and companies during the oil refinery land acquisition process and legal violations during the Tilenga oil project's ESIA processes.

- Furthermore, we supported communities in **ten districts in Uganda to defend their land rights** through organising community meetings, trainings, exchange learning visits, radio talkshows, and others in the areas affected by the Tilenga, Kingfisher and East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) projects. In all, over 4,800 people directly benefited from our efforts.

- In addition, we worked with our partners from the DRC to promote **clean energy and to expand the cross-border movement** that is promoting a just energy transition. Community sensitisation meetings, cross-border exchange learning visits, film screenings, radio talkshows, engagements with Uganda's National Environment Management Authority (NEMA) and others in Uganda and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) among others were organised. Over 7,000 stakeholders directly benefited from these empowerment efforts.

In our **Word from CEO**, we provide more details on the above and other major activities which we conducted through partnerships with communities, CSOs, government and business companies

to ensure that people influenced and promoted good energy governance for the common good in 2019. We also discuss the notable achievements that were registered from our work and highlight the challenges that remain as we get into 2020.

In this section, **The best of AFIEGO in 2019: Five minute catch-up**, we provide summarised statistical information that captures the quantity of key activities we implemented in 2019 and the achievements that were registered as a result.

Furthermore, in the section **Stakeholders' feedback**, we share some of the feedback that you our dear stakeholders provided on our work. The feedback helped us to ensure that we remain focused on activities that matter most to our stakeholders.

In the **pictorial section**, we provide you with pictorial information that shows the main activities we implemented in 2019.

Furthermore, in the **lobbying and in the media sections**, we show you some of the over 60 lobbying materials and the over 149 articles that were produced by our staff and were published by major newspapers in Uganda as part of our public education and advocacy efforts. Our press statements and media interviews also resulted in the production of over 48 media stories that were published by the print, broadcast and online media in Uganda, Nigeria, South Africa, France, the United States (U.S.) and other countries.

We hope that you enjoy the newsletter and we wish you a happy and successful 2020.

**Editorial team:**

- 1. Diana Nabiruma**
- 2. Sandra Atusinguza**
- 3. Balach Bakundane**



## AFIEGO'S 2019 IN REVIEW: WHAT WE DID, LEARNED AND ACHIEVED

Dear readers, welcome to AFIEGO's December 2019 newsletter. This newsletter was penned following end-of-year meetings which AFIEGO's board members and staff held in December 2019. The meetings were used to reflect on what AFIEGO did and achieved in 2019 based on the organisation's 2019 annual workplan and targets. The meetings were also used to reflect on the challenges that AFIEGO and our partners encountered in 2019 and how these can be addressed in 2020.

Today, I am faced with the gratifying task of sharing the outcomes of our reflections with you because you, our dear stakeholders, were critical for the success that AFIEGO attained in 2019.

Your support is also critical for helping AFIEGO address the challenges that we faced in 2019. The challenges will form part of AFIEGO's work for 2020 to enable us attain our main goal which is: To promote good energy governance that supports environmental conservation, livelihoods and equitable development for the common good.

What did AFIEGO do in 2019 and what achievements did the organisation, supported by our partners, register?

### ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2019

**(a) Campaign for environmental legal reforms:** The year 2019 commenced with a number of challenges such as failure by government to complete and operationalise environmental laws. This put environment conservation efforts and citizens' livelihoods at risk amidst oil and other threats. For instance, while the National Environment Bill had been passed by parliament in November 2018, the year (2018) ended without the president signing

the bill into law.

This meant that Ugandans' efforts for environmental conservation continued to be weakened by the outdated 1995 National Environment Act. The 1995 law had been declared to be obsolete and ineffective as it did not provide for some of the emerging challenges such as oil threats.

Further, the law had several gaps that could not be used by citizens to protect themselves against risks of oil activities such as oil spills, water stress, food insecurity, loss of livelihoods, climate change and others.

Worse still, parliament was yet to pass the Uganda Wildlife Bill to protect the wildlife in Uganda's national parks and other protected areas that are under immense pressure from oil activities among other threats.

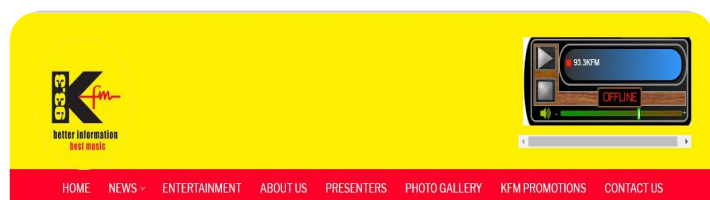
In addition, NEMA was yet to complete and operationalise the Strategic Environment Assessment (SEA), Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA), Petroleum Waste Management and other regulations needed to safeguard the environment from oil and other threats.

Working with communities from the Murchison Falls and Queen Elizabeth landscapes, cultural institutions, CSO partners, district leaders, Members of Parliament (MPs) and other stakeholders therefore, AFIEGO educated the public on the importance of the laws to create pressure and campaigned for signing of the National Environment and Uganda Wildlife bills into law by the president in 2019.

AFIEGO also engaged NEMA to complete the SEA, ESIA, Petroleum Waste Management and other regulations.

We are happy to report that the bills were finally signed into law by the president in March 2019 and July 2019 respectively. This gave Ugandans the laws they need as part of efforts to fight against oil risks and threats in the country.

Furthermore, NEMA shared the draft ESIA regulations for comments with the public. However, the draft regulations had many gaps that will hurt effective public participation in ESIA processes. In addition, other regulations are yet to be completed. These challenges must be addressed in 2020.



## Museveni assents to National environment Act 2019

by David Ruganwa — March 5, 2019

By Benjamin Jumba.

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**The National Environment and Uganda Wildlife acts were signed into law by the president in 2019. This followed our and our partners' efforts for signing and operationalization of the laws.**

**AFIEGO also continued to engage NEMA to complete and operationalize the draft SEA, ESIA, Petroleum Waste Management and other regulations. However, these regulations remain incomplete todate.**

### (b) Defending land rights of communities:

In 2019, AFIEGO continued to work with partners to ensure that good land laws are put in place and bad ones are rejected. Land is the major factor of production on which over 68% of Ugandans in the subsistence economy rely to make a living. However, in 2019, the land rights of Ugandan citizens especially those living in

the districts affected by oil projects were being abused.

For instance, the communities affected by the Tilenga, Kingfisher and East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) oil projects were suffering from under-valuation of their property in addition to suffering from delayed, unfair and under-compensation. The communities also faced a challenge of lack of access to justice as courts are expensive, slow and too far away from the people.

The above challenges were contributed to by absence of a Land Acquisition, Resettlement and Rehabilitation Policy (LARRP), gaps in existing land laws such as the Land Acquisition Act of 1965 and failure to enforce laws such as the 1995 Uganda Constitution among others.

In 2019 therefore, AFIEGO worked with communities from the Murchison and Queen Elizabeth landscapes and partnered with other CSOs to engage the Ministry of Lands to influence content of the LARRP and the process for amending the Land Acquisition Act of 1965. The 1965 Land Acquisition Act is being amended to address the challenges of under-valuation of communities' properties, payment of delayed, unfair and inadequate compensation in addition to the challenge of lack of access to justice and others.

AFIEGO and our partners also engaged oil companies and organised exchange learning visits for district, local council and cultural leaders from 12 districts affected by the Tilenga, Kingfisher and EACOP oil projects to protect communities' land rights.

Furthermore, AFIEGO organised community

empowerment activities such as community meetings, radio talkshows and others through which communities were equipped with knowledge and skills to protect their land rights.

We are happy to report that because of our land rights activities, communities in Buliisa, Hoima, Kakumiro, Kikuube and other districts that were affected by the oil projects continued to defend their land rights.

Importantly as well, district leaders from the districts affected by the EACOP formed a taskforce through which they are working with communities to protect their land rights.

The oil refinery-affected communities also signed for their land titles from the Ministry of Energy in 2019 following AFIEGO and the people's efforts. However, the communities haven't received their titles from government since 2012 when they were displaced.



**AFIEGO also partnered with Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (FES) in 2019 to conduct research on the impact of the oil refinery project on the affected people.**

**The findings of the research are for purposes of informing land acquisition policies and laws to address challenges faced by project-affected persons.**

### **(c) Campaigns to save Murchison Falls National Park, Bugoma forest and others:**

AFIEGO also worked with partners to defend critical biodiversity areas. In 2019, over nine key ecosystems such as Bugoma, Budongo and Wambabya forests, Murchison Falls and Queen Elizabeth national parks, lakes Edward and Albert in addition to the Murchison and Uhuru Falls faced threats from oil activities, sugarcane agribusiness and a hydropower dam.

AFIEGO worked with partners to support public talks, conduct public education campaigns through the media, engage government through petitions, protest letters, communiques and others to create pressure on government, oil companies and sugar companies to save the above ecosystems from being degraded by oil, sugarcane and hydropower activities.

We are happy to report that by the end of 2019, the public was against the giveaway of Bugoma forest, road construction in Murchison Falls National Park and destruction of Murchison falls for a hydropower dam. This public pressure needs to be harnessed to ensure the critical biodiversity areas are protected from degraders.

### **(d) Court cases to protect ecosystems and promote human rights:**

Furthermore, in 2019, AFIEGO supported two court cases, the first ones of their kind, to protect the Murchison Falls landscape from being degraded by oil activities under the Tilenga project.

AFIEGO joined CSOs in France to file a court case against Total for failing to protect Murchison Falls National Park, other key ecosystems and communities from threats posed by the company's Tilenga oil project.

In addition, AFIEGO supported youth and CSOs to file a court case for the cancellation

of the Tilenga oil project's Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) certificate to save the Murchison Falls landscape from being degraded by oil activities under the Tilenga project.

In violation of Ugandan laws, NEMA issued the Tilenga project developers an EIA certificate in April 2019. The certificate allows the government and companies to proceed with the Tilenga project yet laws were violated in procedures that preceded issuance of the certificate. The youth and CSOs want the EIA certificate to be cancelled.

**(e) Supporting refinery-affected people's court case:** AFIEGO also supported the court case that the refinery-affected people filed against government over failure to pay them promptly, fairly and adequately when government acquired their land beginning in 2012 for an oil refinery. Several of the refinery-affected people's rights such as being given access to clean and safe water were restored due to the pressure of the court case.

Moreover, the judge in the people's case agreed to expedite it and to visit Kyakaboga-Hoima where the refinery-affected people were relocated by government.

We remain hopeful that the visit will ensure that justice is served through court ordering government to adequately compensate the refinery-affected people and to address other challenges caused by the oil refinery project.

This is especially the case because many other injustices remain and the refinery-

affected people continue to suffer because of the delays by court to conclude their case.



*The refinery-affected people got access to clean and safe water following advocacy efforts by the communities with support from AFIEGO in 2019.*

*Court cases also created pressure for restoration of the refinery project affected people's livelihoods.*

**(f) Promotion of public participation in ESIA processes:** In 2019, stakeholder awareness of citizens' rights, roles and responsibilities in ESIA processes remained low. This meant that citizens' ability to work for the conduct and enforcement of ESIA as a means of safeguarding the environment and community livelihoods amidst oil threats was compromised.

To address this challenge, AFIEGO and our partners organised seven trainings through which stakeholders from over 13 districts affected by the Tilenga, Kingfisher and EACOP oil projects were equipped to make comments on ESIA reports and enforce ESIA certificates of approval.

The stakeholders that were reached included MPs, district political and technical leaders, local council leaders, CSOs, cultural institutions' representatives, women, youth and communities among others.



Furthermore, when NEMA called for public comments on and organised public hearings on the Kingfisher and EACOP ESIA reports in June and October 2019 respectively, AFIEGO also organised and supported 12 meetings to enable communities make comments on the Kingfisher and EACOP ESIA reports. AFIEGO also supported communities and other stakeholders to participate in the public hearings.

We are happy to report that the trainings and support enabled AFIEGO and our partners to be one of the key stakeholders that increased citizen participation in ESIA processes. In 2019, over 18,000 people participated in the public hearings on the Kingfisher and EACOP ESIA reports. This was commendable but also presented challenges such as ineffective public participation.

Nonetheless, we are hopeful that the comments submitted by the communities rejecting the Kingfisher and EACOP ESIA reports will be used by NEMA to reject the reports to protect the environment and community livelihoods amidst oil activities.

**(g) Supporting DRC participation in oil processes in Uganda:** Furthermore, in 2019, AFIEGO supported over 14 activities through which DRC stakeholders engaged NEMA on the Tilenga, Kingfisher and EACOP oil projects. The projects will affect Lake Albert, which is shared with the DRC. This means that the oil projects will affect communities in the DRC.

It is therefore important to engage stakeholders from the DRC in oil processes in Uganda to safeguard the livelihoods of communities and promote harmony between Uganda and the DRC. However, despite the importance of cross-border engagements in Uganda's oil exploitation activities, the Ugandan government had failed to consult communities from the DRC on the Tilenga, Kingfisher and

EACOP projects to promote their interests. This stood to hurt DRC communities' livelihoods, hurt the environment and promote insecurity.

AFIEGO therefore supported stakeholders including political leaders, CSO leaders and fisherfolk to participate in the EACOP ESIA public hearings in October 2019 to enable conservation of cross-border natural resources and protect the livelihoods of cross-border communities in the DRC.

It is noteworthy that this was the first time that the DRC communities participated in public hearings in Uganda.

AFIEGO also supported the DRC stakeholders to engage NEMA through petitions, undertake media campaigns and others to safeguard DRC communities' livelihoods such as fisheries amidst oil activities in Uganda.

**(h) Movement building in the Queen Elizabeth and Murchison landscapes for a just energy transition:** In addition to the above, AFIEGO engaged in movement building efforts aimed at the promotion of a just energy transition to clean energy such as offgrid solar to promote environmental conservation.

To this end, AFIEGO sensitised the public through community meetings, exchange learning visits, film screenings, radio talkshows, photo stories, media articles, award ceremonies and others as a means of raising awareness of the need to promote clean energy over dirty fuels.

The awareness raising efforts resulted in an increase of stakeholders such as community members, youth, women, CSOs, fisherfolk, cultural institutions' leaders, district leaders and others that are supporting the promotion of clean energy.



Consequently, in 2019, citizen efforts to promote clean energy increased. For instance, communities campaigned against the issuance of an oil exploration license for the Ngaji oil block that covers Queen Elizabeth National Park (QENP) and Lake Edward. They demanded that government promotes the use of clean energy instead. The community campaign followed government putting Ngaji oil block up for oil exploration licensing in May 2019.

Furthermore, the communities in Kasese district found innovative solutions to increase offgrid solar energy access for over 200 households as a means of promoting clean energy.

In 2020, the communities' efforts must be supported and the pressure against licensing of Ngaji oil block needs to be harnessed to protect QENP and Lake Edward from degradation by oil activities.



**AFIEGO used community meetings, film screenings, radio talkshows, photo stories and others to raise public awareness on the impacts of oil as a means of promoting clean energy**

**(i) Promoting affordable, reliable and accessible electricity services to promote a just energy transition:** AFIEGO also promoted accessible, affordable and reliable electricity services including offgrid services as a means of providing clean energy alternatives for the over 90% citizens that rely on dirty energy. To this end, AFIEGO and our partners formed a partnership with the Water and Electricity

Consumers' Association (WECA) to enable more effective advocacy aimed at promoting affordable, accessible and reliable electricity.

AFIEGO also worked with stakeholders such as community women and youth clean energy champions, cultural institutions and religious leaders to oppose plans to renew Jacobsen thermal power plant's license. AFIEGO and our partners also opposed the renewal of UMEME's contract and UMEME's license to promote access to affordable electricity. Contracts signed by government with thermal power companies and UMEME continue to make electricity prices too high.

Despite these valiant efforts however, power prices remain too high and offgrid energy access remains low as investments in grid, as opposed to offgrid power, have been prioritised by government. This challenge needs to be addressed in 2020.

**(j) Strengthening CSO partnerships:** In 2019, AFIEGO and our also organised activities aimed at ensuring that CSOs working in the oil and gas sector at the national, Murchison and Queen Elizabeth landscapes are given knowledge and tools to work together while minimising contradictions for effective advocacy.

We are happy to report that the above efforts facilitated CSOs to work jointly to influence oil sector activities such as the Kingfisher and EACOP ESIA reports. The CSOs submitted joint memoranda and comments to NEMA at public hearings.

This makes it hard to ignore CSOs so that efforts to avoid the negative impacts of oil on the environment and community livelihoods are successful.



**AFIEGO strengthened partnerships with organisations such as WECA in Uganda and CSOs from the DRC to promote access to clean energy for cross-border communities in 2019.**

Several other achievements were attained because of our activities in 2019. However, while this was the case, a number of challenges remained. These include:

**i. There is lack of a complete legal framework** including ESIA and other regulations, a land acquisition policy, an amended Land Acquisition Act that is in conformity with the Uganda Constitution and other laws needed to protect the environment and land rights from oil threats. NEMA and the Ministry of Lands need to be engaged to create a complete legal framework;

**ii. In addition, NEMA and the Petroleum Authority of Uganda (PAU) have continued** to violate laws and policies such as the EIA regulations during ESIA public hearings. This is compromising efforts to protect the environment and citizens' livelihoods amidst oil threats. AFIEGO and our partners must engage NEMA and PAU in addition to undertaking other efforts such as sensitisation of the public, use of court cases and others to end the violations;

**iii. Furthermore, there is continued interest to give away Bugoma forest and Murchison or Uhuru falls** for sugarcane growing and

a hydropower dam respectively. Oil roads and other infrastructure under the Tilenga, Kingfisher and EACOP oil projects that are affecting or will affect ecosystems such as Murchison Falls National Park, Budongo forest, Lake Albert and others are also being constructed or are planned. This will compromise the above ecosystems' ability to provide services to Uganda. The ecosystems must be conserved and AFIEGO and our partners will work for their conservation 2020.

**iv. In addition, Ugandan and DRC citizens' awareness of oil impacts on the environment and livelihoods remains low.** Uganda and DRC citizens need to be made to understand these impacts and AFIEGO will work towards realisation of this goal in 2020;

**v. Furthermore, electricity remains unaffordable, limiting the alternative clean energy sources** that citizens have. In addition, there is lack of an enabling legal framework to promote clean energy. AFIEGO will work towards addressing this challenge in 2020.

**vi. Finally, the operational space for CSOs continues to decline.** This challenge must be addressed in 2020.

AFIEGO and our partners will work towards addressing the above and other challenges in 2020.

**Dickens Kamugisha,**  
**CEO, AFIEGO**

## The best of AFIEGO in 2019: Five minute catch-up

In 2019, AFIEGO was able to register several achievements as discussed in the Editorial and Word from CEO due to the various activities that staff supported by our partners implemented. In this section, the work that led to realisation of the achievements that we registered is captured.

The number of empowerment meetings we organised, advocacy materials we produced, media activities and institutional building exercises among others that we implemented are captured.



Organised 33 empowerment events on land rights, environmental protection, stronger CSO engagements and others for 12 oil-affected districts in Uganda



Organised over 12 ESIA sensitisation and mobilisation engagements including three for over 152 women and youth. This increased citizen, women and youth participation in ESIA public hearings in Uganda to over 18,000 people in 2019



Organised over 20 engagements, exchange learning visits, film screenings, and others that mobilised stakeholders such as CSOs, women and youth to defend Queen Elizabeth National Park from oil threats while promoting clean energy



-Organised over 14 engagements such as exchange learning visits and others that mobilised stakeholders from the DRC Ituri region to participate in ESIA public hearings in Uganda for the first time.  
-Further, conducted three cross-border campaigns with partners from the DRC for conservation of the Greater Virunga landscape.





Influenced the enactment, completion and content of seven policies, laws or regulations for environmental conservation and protection of community livelihoods



Campaigned for the conservation of eight key ecosystems. However, the ecosystems including Bugoma, Wambabya and Budongo forests and Murchison and Uhuru falls among others remain under threat.



Mobilised, supported and worked with other CSOs to file two court cases in the High Court of Uganda to stop oil threats and protect community rights. The cases are still in court pending determination.



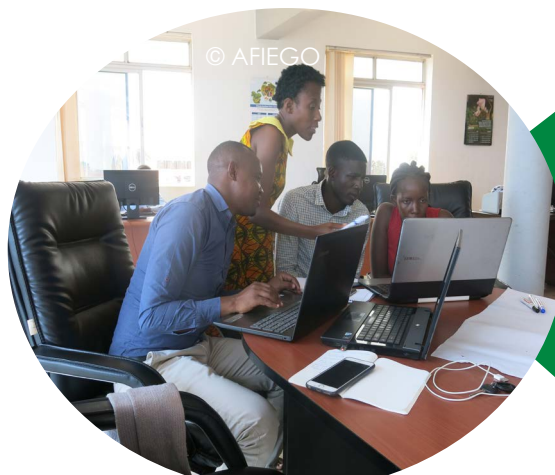
AFIEGO was able to do all the above through partnership building, producing over 60 memoranda, communiques, press statements, petitions, newsletters, advocacy letters in addition to over 197 staff and other articles that were published by the media.



Participated in seven international lobby & advocacy meetings to promote a just energy transition to clean energy, promote better response to climate change, build skills for engaging with businesses and others



Supported three case hearings for the refinery-affected people's court case. A total of 11 Tilenga and refinery case hearings were supported by AFIEGO in 2019.



Conducted five institutional strengthening trainings in outcome harvesting, documenting impact stories and others



Awards received: 1

-AFIEGO also became an IUCN member in 2019.

## Stakeholders' feedback

**Dr. Joseph Kobusheshe,**  
Director of Environment,  
Health, Safety and  
Security Management at  
Petroleum Authority of  
Uganda (PAU)

The feedback that you gave us helped to improve the way the Kingfisher ESIA public hearings were organised.  
[Comment made during the Kingfisher ESIA public hearing in June 2019 in Kikuube district.]

**Hon. Norah Bigirwa,**  
Woman MP, **Buliisa**  
district

AFIEGO, thank you for mobilising communities and sensitising them on the impacts of oil and gas projects. It is not easy to do advocacy on oil and gas because of a lot of threats, risks and intimidations. However, AFIEGO has done its best. Communities and leaders should work hand in hand with NGOs to ensure that the oil and gas projects have no adverse effects on the environment. [Comment made after an exchange learning visit on land rights and environmental governance in Hoima district in May 2019.]

**Mr. Fredrick B.**  
**Kakoraki, Hoima**  
district vice  
chairperson

Thank you AFIEGO and your partners under the Shared Resources, Joint Solutions [SRJS] programme for organising this district leaders' training to help us participate in the enforcement of SEA and ESIA. Knowledge is power and because of the training, we are better equipped to participate in the implementation of SEA and ESIA. [Comment made after an April 2019 training for district political and technical leaders from the 12 districts affected by the Tilenga, Kingfisher and EACOP oil projects.]





Edgar A.,  
Bunyoro Kingdom  
cabinet minister

We are happy with oil in Uganda. However, based on the education we have received through films, photo stories, news, research studies and others, we have discovered that there are adverse negative impacts of oil activities. We should ensure that such effects are avoided in Uganda. *[Comment made after being educated on the impacts of oil.]*



Irene S., CSO  
leader in  
Uganda

Well done team AFIEGO and all that ably represented at the public hearings (PHs). The PHs had many flaws. The law is very clear on where to conduct PHs for projects with a likelihood of harming the environment, so by just having three instead of the ten as previously planned, [PAU and NEMA] gravely violated citizens' right to participate and NEMA and PAU can be challenged in court over this. *[Comment made in reaction to a CSO communique of October 2019 that discussed failures in the EACOP ESIA public hearings.]*



Peter K., NGO  
leader from the  
DRC

We are very happy that you are promoting transparency because the oil exploitation will put the lives of men and women at risk if environmental studies are not seriously conducted. We encourage you to put a lot of emphasis on the importance of human life, ecology and the environment. *[Comment made in reaction to a CSO communique of October 2019 that discussed failures in the EACOP ESIA public hearings.]*



Angella M., Kasese  
woman community  
clean energy  
champion

Thank you AFIEGO for coming to Kasese district and for collecting all the people from the Queen Elizabeth area to teach us about the impacts of oil. Your work has helped us promote clean energy especially solar. Today, over 200 households have solar and they want to engage government more to promote solar instead of those energy sources like oil which will destroy Lake Edward and our national park [Queen Elizabeth National Park].  
*[Comment made after a community training on clean energy in Kasese district in June 2019.]*

## Pictorial of our 2019 activities

### TILENGA OIL PROJECT & LAND RIGHTS: AFIEGO TRAINS COMMUNITY LEADERS TO PROTECT LAND RIGHTS



*In April 2019, AFIEGO partnered with the Buliisa Woman MP's office to strengthen protection of the Tilenga oil project-affected communities' land rights.*

*AFIEGO and the Buliisa Woman MP, Hon. Norah Bigirwa, organised an exchange learning visit for women and other councillors.*

*Over 56 leaders from the Tilenga project area participated in the exchange learning visit.*

*Lessons and skills to protect the Tilenga-affected communities' land rights were shared. The lessons gained are being used to protect the land rights of the Tilenga oil project-affected people.*

*In the picture is Hon. Bigirwa and local council leaders from the Bunyoro sub-region during the exchange learning visit to the oil refinery-affected people in Hoima in May 2019.*

*AFIEGO also empowered communities to fight oil threats to the environment, water, food security and others.*



### EACOP OIL PROJECT & LAND RIGHTS: AFIEGO AND PARTNERS EQUIP EACOP DISTRICT LEADERS TO PROTECT LAND RIGHTS



*In addition to the above, AFIEGO and our SRJS partners organised an exchange learning visit to protect the land rights of the EACOP-affected communities.*

*The April 2019 visit was participated in by district leaders from the ten EACOP-affected districts including natural resources, environment, lands and community development officers among others.*

*The exchange learning visit enabled the district leaders to gain knowledge on how to avoid land, environment and social impacts affecting the refinery-affected people in Hoima.*

*In the photo are the district leaders during the visit. The oil refinery-affected people can also be seen.*



## REFINERY-AFFECTED PEOPLE & LAND RIGHTS: AFIEGO SUPPORTS REFINERY-AFFECTED PEOPLE TO DEMAND FOR THEIR LAND TITLES



Furthermore, throughout 2019, AFIEGO supported the oil refinery-affected people to protect their livelihoods. In February 2019 for instance, AFIEGO organised community meetings through which the affected people discussed their remaining challenges.

Lack of land titles, water, housing and other challenges were identified. AFIEGO supported the people to engage the president through the Hoima district RDC, Ministry of Energy, Ministry of Lands, the Hoima district chairperson and others.

The people demanded for their land titles, access to water and houses for the over 20 households that did not receive any from the Ministry of Energy among others.

Consequently, in March 2019, SBI, the company that is constructing the Hoima International Airport constructed a borehole for the people, giving them access to water. The people engaged the company with support from AFIEGO. Further, in November 2019, the people signed for their land titles from the Ministry of Energy.

In the photo at the top are the refinery-affected people after a meeting in February 2019 to lay strategies to address their challenges. The meeting was supported by AFIEGO. The people can also be seen in the photo at the bottom at the borehole constructed by SBI.



## OIL & BUSINESS ENGAGEMENT: AFIEGO AND PARTNERS ENGAGE OIL COMPANIES FOR LAND RIGHTS, ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION



In addition to the above, AFIEGO engaged other stakeholders such as oil companies to protect the Tilenga, Kingfisher and EACOP project-affected communities' land rights.

The companies including Total E&P (U), CNOOC (U) and Tullow Oil (U) are acquiring land for the above oil projects on government's behalf.

AFIEGO participated in quarterly meetings with oil companies and invited them to meetings organised by AFIEGO and our partners to discuss how to protect communities' land rights.

In the photo at the top is AFIEGO's Mr. Dickens Kamugisha during an engagement with oil companies in March 2019. In the photo at the bottom is CNOOC's Mr. Moses Oteng during a workshop organised by AFIEGO and our partners.

With our partners, we also lobbied for environmental conservation amidst oil activities during the engagements with oil companies.





**OIL & ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION: AFIEGO TRAINS DISTRICT LEADERS IN SEA AND ESIA FOR ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION**



*In addition to our land rights work, AFIEGO also engaged in environmental conservation efforts.*

*For instance, in April 2019, AFIEGO and our SRJS partners organised a three-day training for district political and technical leaders on their role in SEA and ESIA.*

*The training was participated in by over 36 L.C.V chairpersons, district vice chairpersons and natural resources, environment, lands in addition to community development officers among others.*

*It enabled the above district leaders from the Tilenga, Kingfisher and EACOP oil project areas to gain knowledge and skills to participate in SEA and ESIA enforcement.*

*In the photo are the district leaders in addition to experts, NEMA and oil companies' officials during the training and field visits to Nyamasonga oil waste treatment facility in Hoima district.*

**AFIEGO STRENGTHENS LOCAL COUNCIL LEADERS' ESIA KNOWLEDGE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION**



AFIEGO and Buliisa Woman MP trainings of Bunyoro communities on the role of leadership in natural resources governance. 9-13 April, 2019

*AFIEGO built on efforts to promote leaders' participation in SEA and ESIA enforcement for environmental conservation when in April 2019, AFIEGO partnered with the office of the Buliisa district MP, Hon. Norah Bigirwa.*

*AFIEGO and Hon. Bigirwa organised five trainings to equip local council leaders from Bunyoro with knowledge on environmental conservation tools such as ESIA.*

*The trainings, through which over 150 participants were reached, took place in Buliisa district. They enabled AFIEGO to build a group of leaders with knowledge to monitor oil companies for compliance to SEA and ESIA.*

*In the photo are Hon. Bigirwa, youth, women and local councillors from the Albertine region after a training in April 2019.*



## AFIEGO TRAINS WOMEN AND YOUTH LEADERS FOR COMPLIANCE TO ESIA



Furthermore, in February 2019, AFIEGO supported youth under the Guild Presidents' Forum on Governance (GPFOG) to train over 100 women and youth leaders on ESIA as a tool for conservation.

The training, which was participated in by women and youth leaders from over five districts in the Queen Elizabeth and Murchison landscapes, enabled the leaders to gain skills to participate in ESIA processes for environmental conservation.

All the trainings on SEA and ESIA enabled AFIEGO to build a citizenry comprised of youth, women, vulnerable persons, district and sub-county leaders that are participating in SEA and ESIA enforcement.

In the photo are the women and youth leaders after their training in February 2019.

## AFIEGO SUPPORTS COMMUNITIES TO DEFEND QUEEN ELIZABETH NATIONAL PARK AND LAKE EDWARD FROM OIL EXPLOITATION



AFIEGO and our partners' activities extended to the Queen Elizabeth landscape.

For instance, in February, May and June 2019, AFIEGO supported women and youth clean energy champions to understand the impacts of oil through exchange learning visits, community trainings, radio talkshows and others.

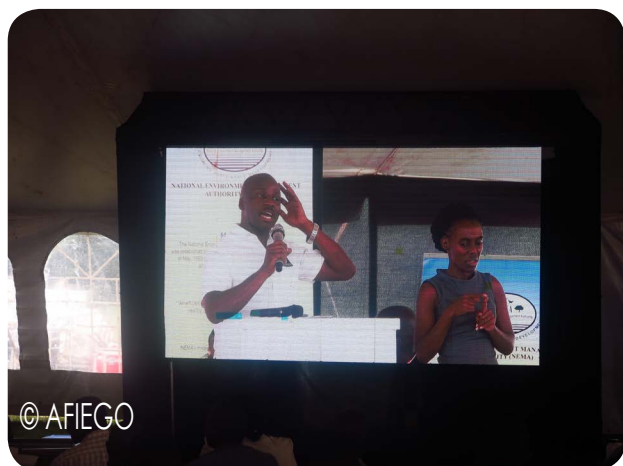
The communities realised the need to protect Queen Elizabeth National Park and Lake Edward from oil exploitation activities after the above activities. AFIEGO therefore supported communities and CSOs in Kasese, Kanungu, Rukungiri, Rubirizi and other districts to campaign against licensing of the Ngaji oil block that covers Queen Elizabeth National Park and Lake Edward.

In the photo at the top are community champions during a May 2019 meeting to discuss a petition to government to stop licensing of Ngaji oil block. The communities called for a just energy transition to clean energy.

In the photo at the bottom are a youth and woman clean energy champion from Kasese during an exchange learning visit to Hoima district in February 2019.



## AFIEGO AND PARTNER CSOS PARTICIPATE IN KINGFISHER & EACOP ESIA PUBLIC HEARINGS



*In June and October 2019, AFIEGO and our partner CSOs participated in the Kingfisher and EACOP ESIA public hearings in Kikuube, Hoima, Kakumiro, Mubende and Rakai districts.*

*We submitted comments on the ESIA reports as part of our efforts to promote environmental conservation.*

*In the photos are AFIEGO's Ms. Diana Nabiruma and Mr. Dickens Kamugisha during submission of comments to NEMA to reject the Kingfisher and EACOP ESIA reports in June and October 2019 respectively.*

## AFIEGO SUPPORTS COMMUNITIES TO PARTICIPATE IN KINGFISHER AND EACOP ESIA PUBLIC HEARINGS



*In addition to the above, in June and October, 2019, AFIEGO mobilised, sensitised and facilitated oil project-affected communities to participate in the Kingfisher and EACOP ESIA public hearings respectively.*

*The oil project-affected communities were equipped with knowledge and skills to analyse the ESIA reports for both the Kingfisher and EACOP Oil projects.*

*The affected communities used the acquired knowledge and skills to submit comments and made presentations during the public hearings to NEMA. AFIEGO supported the communities to participate in the public hearings.*

*In the picture is, Ms. Betty Bagadira, an affected woman from Kaiso landing site who survives on Lake Albert, while making a presentation during the Kingfisher ESIA public hearing in Hoima district in June 2019.*

*The public hearings were organised by PAU in consultation with NEMA.*



## AFIEGO SUPPORTS CROSS-BORDER COMMUNITIES FROM DRC TO PARTICIPATE IN OIL PROCESSES IN UGANDA



Between October and December 2019, AFIEGO also supported cross-border communities and stakeholders from the DRC to engage Uganda's government to protect their livelihoods and promote environmental conservation amidst oil activities in Uganda.

The stakeholders called for promotion of clean energy as a means of attaining the above goal.

AFIEGO supported the stakeholders including communities, fisherfolk, women, CSOs and others to understand the impacts of oil through film screenings, publications and exchange learning meetings.

AFIEGO also supported the above groups to participate in public hearings, petition NEMA, and engage the media among others to protect their livelihoods. Communities in the DRC will be affected by oil activities on Lake Albert.

In the photo are the stakeholders during submission of comments to NEMA during the EACOP ESIA public hearings in October 2019 and during a film screening in the DRC in November 2019.



## AFIEGO PROMOTES A JUST TRANSITION TO CLEAN ENERGY THROUGH FILM SCREENINGS



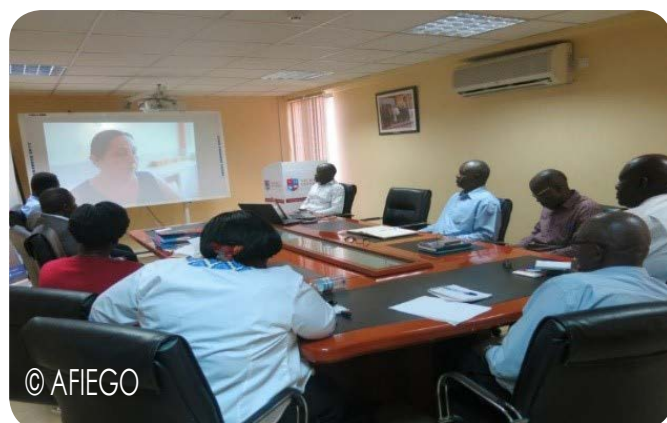
Furthermore, in 2019, AFIEGO supported stakeholders such as MPs, district leaders, CSOs, cultural institutions' leaders, members of the academia, women, youth, communities and others to understand the impacts of oil.

The above was done through film screenings, experience sharing, radio talkshows, dissemination of photo stories and others.

The above activities strengthened stakeholders' understanding of oil impacts as documented in Nigeria, Ecuador, the U.S. and Uganda.

The increased understanding of oil impacts strengthened the stakeholders' resolve to promote clean energy.

In the photos are district political and technical leaders and cultural leaders during an experience sharing meeting and film screening in April and June 2019 respectively.



## AFIEGO ENGAGES ELECTRICITY SECTOR PLAYES TO ADDRESS ELECTRICITY SECTOR FAILURES TO PROMOTE A JUST ENERGY TRANSITION



*In addition, throughout 2019, AFIEGO engaged government to address electricity sector failures such as high power prices, lack of reliable power, cheating of power consumers, and disconnection of electricity supply to hospitals among others.*

*The above was done through meetings, radio talkshows, public talks and others. The objective of the engagements was to promote a just energy system to enable citizens to transit to using clean energy.*

*Captured in these photos is an engagement by AFIEGO of the Electricity Regulatory Authority (ERA) and UMEME in August 2019 to promote accessible, reliable and affordable power.*

*In the photo at the top is UMEME's Executive Director, Mr. Selestino Babungi.*

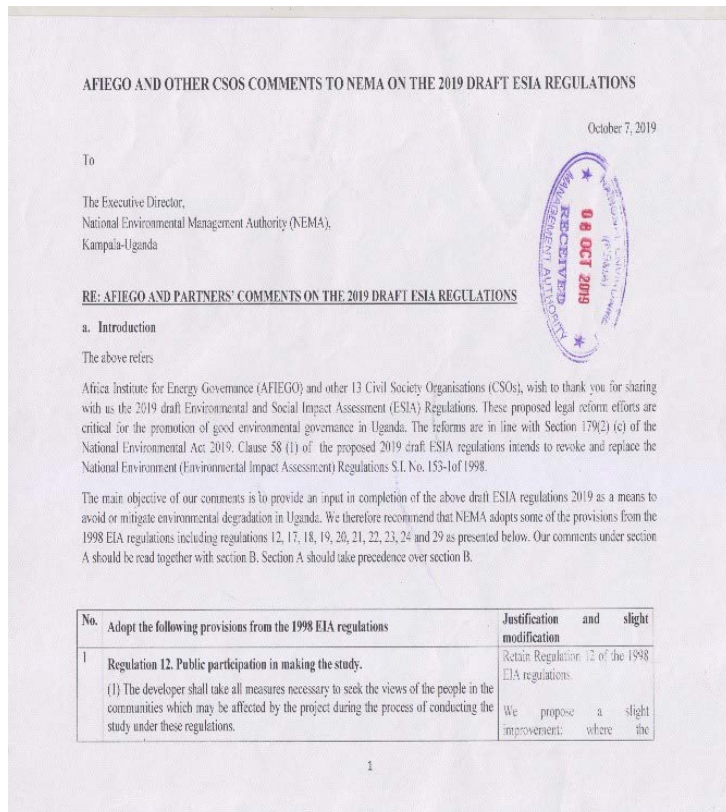
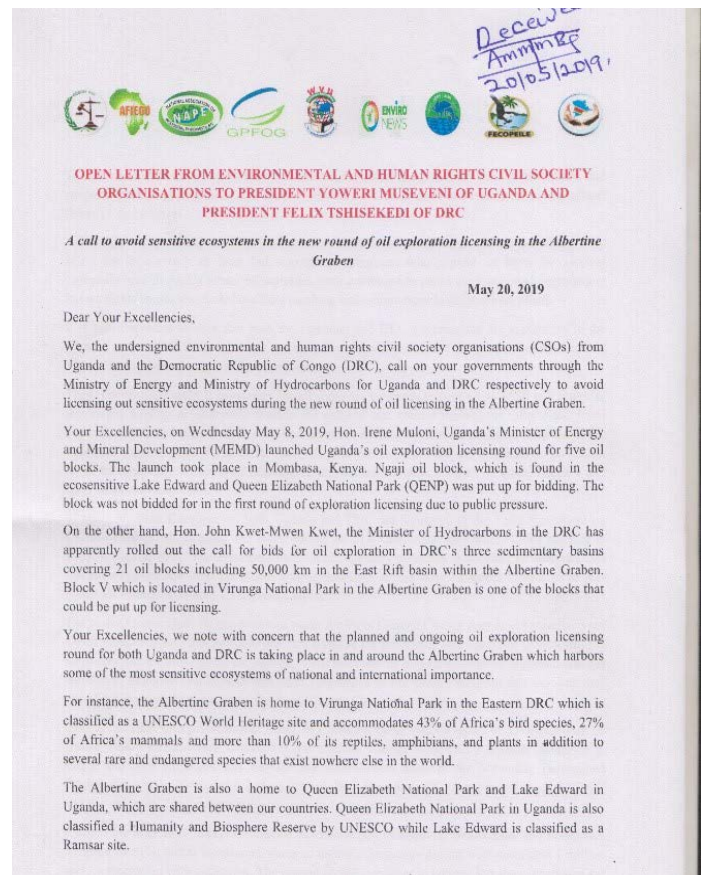
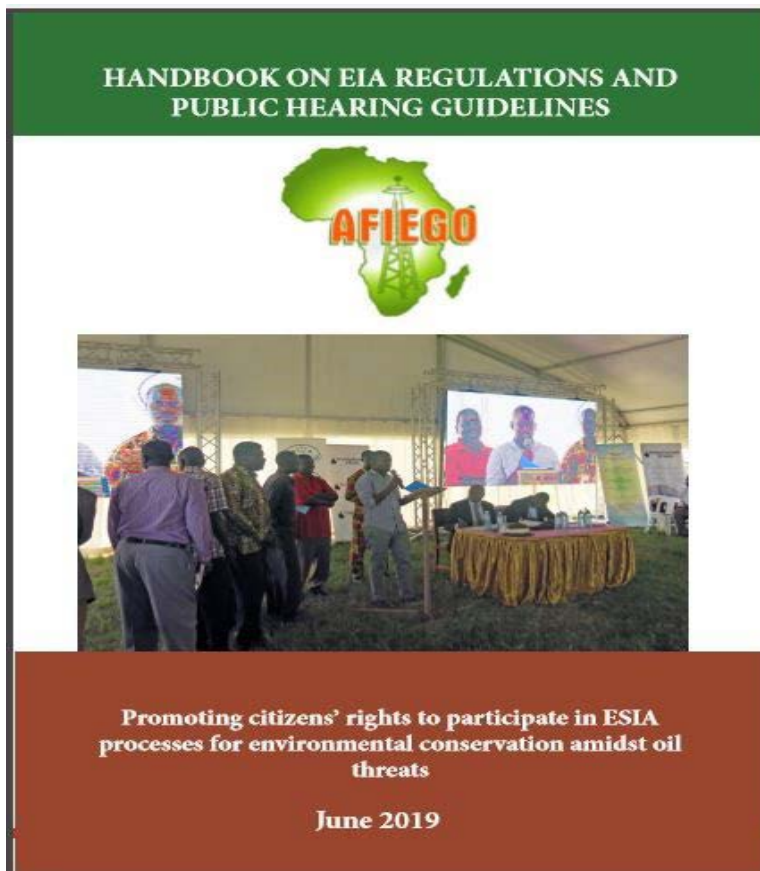
*In the photo at the bottom is AFIEGO's Ms. Diana Nabiruma during an engagement with UMEME and ERA in August 2019.*

*AFIEGO also participated in international lobby and advocacy meetings to promote a just energy transition.*



# Lobbying

AFIEGO produced over 60 lobby and advocacy materials including research briefs, communiques, memoranda, advocacy letters, press statements and others in 2019. Some of these, which led to the successes discussed in our Word from the CEO, are captured below.





September 6, 2019

Eng. Ziria Tibalwa Waako,  
 The Chief Executive Officer,  
 Electricity Regulatory Authority (ERA),  
 P.O. Box 10332,  
 Kampala (U).

Dear Madame,

**OBJECTION LETTER TO ERA AGAINST PLANS TO RENEW LICENCE OF JACOBSEN UGANDA'S THERMAL POWER PLANT**

Reference is made to the *Notice of intended renewal of licence number 061A for generation and sale of electricity issued to Jacobsen* that was published in the *New Vision* newspaper on August 26, 2019. In the notice, ERA called on interested stakeholders and the public at large to inspect and submit comments on the application for renewal of Jacobsen's licence.

Africa Institute for Energy Governance (AFIEGO) thanks you and ERA for efforts to regulate the electricity sector for the benefit of Ugandans. AFIEGO is a registered public policy research and advocacy organisation dedicated to influencing energy policies to benefit poor and vulnerable communities in Uganda and the Great Lakes region.

Among others, we appreciate that ERA has continued to involve the public in the affairs of electricity sector regulation through convening public hearings regarding a number of electricity sector matters such as modification of UMEME's licence, tariff applications by power utility companies and others. This is commendable even when the quality of the hearings and other public engagements remain a big concern and need to be improved.

As an organisation that works to promote electricity policies that benefit citizens, AFIEGO would like to take this opportunity to inform you that we object to the renewal of Jacobsen's licence at a time when Uganda has surplus hydro-electricity that is not benefiting Ugandans. Moreover, at \$25.8 cents per unit, the power supplied by thermal power companies, which Ugandans do not need because the country has excess power, is too expensive!

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**COALITION OF KASESE WOMEN AND YOUTH CLEAN ENERGY CLUBS, KASESE**

May 2, 2019

**PETITION TO THE MINISTER OF ENERGY TO DESIST FROM LICENCING OUT NGAJI OIL BLOCK IN THE SECOND LICENCING ROUND DUE IN MAY 2019**

**1. Introduction**

On April 26, 2019, the coalition bringing together civil society organisations (CSOs) and members of Kasese women and youth clean energy clubs held a meeting at the office of Africa Institute for Energy Governance (AFIEGO) in Kasese.

The objective of the meeting was to discuss the fact that the Minister of Energy and Mineral Development, Hon. Irene Muloni, informed the country that Uganda will launch a second licensing round for oil blocks on May 8, 2019.

The minister informed the country of the above through a media briefing held on Wednesday April 10, 2019.

The coalition of Kasese women and youth clean energy clubs brings together women and youth clubs in addition to CSOs that are promoting environmental conservation in Kasese through enabling community access to clean energy.

The coalition and its members is opposed to exploitation of dirty energy such as oil in protected areas as this results in environmental degradation, destroys biodiversity, harms community livelihoods through loss of jobs in the fishing and tourism sectors and others.

The coalition and its members therefore campaign against government plans to explore for oil in Lake Edward, a Ramsar site, Queen Elizabeth National Park (QENP), a Human and Biosphere Reserve, and other protected areas in Kasese and the Greater Virunga landscape at large.

The information that the coalition gathered is that five exploration blocks including some that were left over from the last competitive licensing round of 2016 will be put up for bidding on May 8, 2019. Ngaji block was one of these blocks. Owing to community, CSO and international pressure, oil companies feared to bid for the block, and rightly so.

Ngaji oil block, which covers Lake Edward and QENP, serves economic, social, cultural and aesthetic purposes that no amount of money from oil exploitation can replace.

Moreover, government is already destroying other critical ecosystems by allowing polluting oil activities in Murchison Falls National Park (MFNP), giving away forest lands to squatters and investors to develop tax centers among others, allowing sand mining and rice growing in lakes and wetlands such as Iwera and others.

After degrading our environment, government issues Ugandans with warnings to prepare for famine such as the one that was issued on April 3, 2019.

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**COMMUNIQUE CALLING ON PARLIAMENT TO USE ITS OVERSIGHT POWERS TO STOP GOVERNMENT FROM VIOLATING LAWS ON OIL REVENUE AND ENSURE TRANSPARENCY**

April 30, 2019

**Introduction and background**

On April 23, 2019, Africa Institute for Energy Governance (AFIEGO) and partner civil society organisations (CSOs) met at AFIEGO's head office in Kampala to discuss the continued misuse and violation of oil revenue laws in Uganda by the executive.

The CSOs also discussed failure by parliament to use its oversight powers to ensure compliance to oil revenue laws for the benefit of the citizens.

The meeting followed government's withdrawal of Shs 200 billion from the Petroleum Fund in March 2019 without parliamentary approval to reportedly fund deficits in the 2018/2019 budget. This is against provisions of the Public Finance Management Act of 2015 which provides for how oil revenues are supposed to be spent.

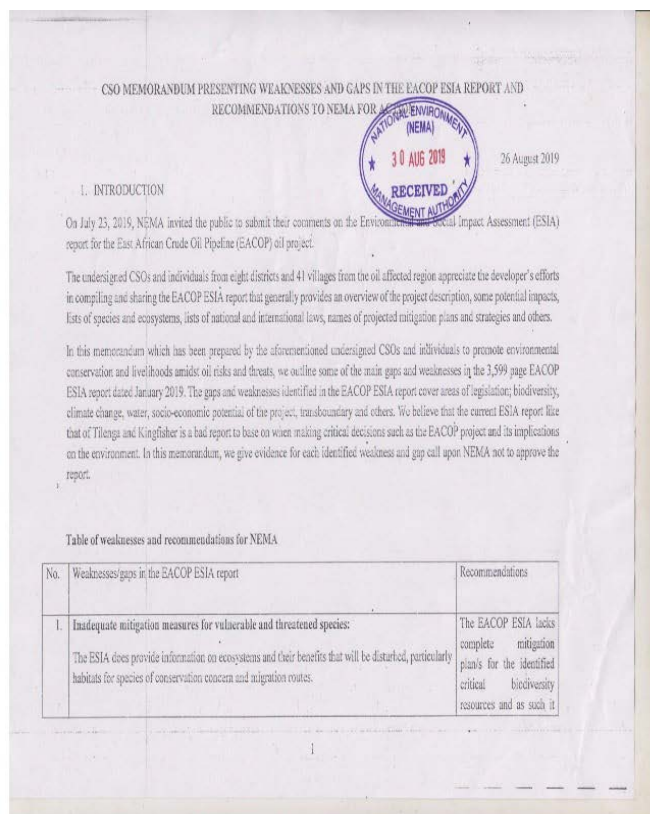
The main objective of the meeting therefore was to discuss and agree on how civil society organisations (CSOs) can work with relevant stakeholders to pressure government to refund the Shs 200 billion that was withdrawn by government from the Petroleum Fund in March 2019 contrary to the law.

The CSOs also want government to refund the oil funds amounting to Shs 125.3 billion that government withdrew from the Petroleum Fund as shown in the Auditor General's report of 2017/2018 contrary to sections 58 and 59 of the 2015 Public Finance Management Act (PFMA).

Further, the CSOs want the president and his government to implement the 2017 parliamentary recommendation that the Shs 6 billion oil revenues that was illegally given to 42 government officials be refunded.

The CSOs which participated in the meeting included National Association of Professional Environmentalists (NAPE), World Voices Uganda (WVU), Center for Constitutional Governance (CCG), Guild presidents Forum on Oil Governance (GPIOG), Green Organisation Africa, Girl Power Foundation, Kanungu Youth and Women Empowerment Group, Oil Refinery Residents Association (ORRA), Kakindo Orphans and others.

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## NGOs say French group Total failed to address impact of Uganda oil project

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Date created : 25/06/2019 - 22:19

**TOTAL IN UGANDA**  
CAMPAIGN GROUPS ACCUSE TOTAL OF BREACHING DUTY LAW

**EYE ON AFRICA**





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## 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