

AFRICA INSTITUTE FOR ENERGY GOVERNANCE

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A PROCEEDINGS REPORT FOR THE ENERGY TRANSITION WORKSHOP



October 20, 2023

Esella Country Hotel, Kampala

Introduction

On October 20, 2023, Africa Institute for Energy Governance (AFIEGO) and its partners including the Inclusive Green Economy Network-East Africa (IGEN-EA) organised a workshop at Esella Hotel in Kampala to create public awareness and empower Ugandans on the relevance of energy transition. The workshop was organised to also advocate for an energy transition that looks at benefiting thousands of vulnerable communities as well as phasing out fossil fuels. This will mitigate the impacts of climate change that Uganda grapples with daily.

The main objective of the meeting was to empower stakeholders to support energy transition processes and maximize its benefits through advocating for a national energy transition policy, as part of an update of the draft Energy Policy 2019, including a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA).

The workshop was attended by various categories for example the partners, community-based monitors (CBM), oil-affected persons and government officials as well. The meeting attracted 47 participants, among them 17 were women and 30 were men.

Proceedings

Submission from Ineke Steinhauer, the facilitator

Ms. Ineke Steinhauer welcomed participants to the workshop. She noted that for the past 30 years, the Netherlands Commission for Environmental Assessment (NCEA) with funding from the Netherlands Ministry of Development Corporation has been actively involved in development corporation. She added that some international roles of NCEA include; capacity building, training, workshops on the topic of environmental assessment, provision of independent advice on the quality of the environment, social impact assessments and strategic environment assessments.

She introduced the concept of Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) to mean a tool that is applied to specific projects such as the ongoing oil projects in Uganda. She added that the day's discussions will encompass;

- a) Energy Transition.

- b) Strategic environmental assessment (SEA) and environmental and social impact assessment (ESIA) how can tools can make energy transition a possibility.
- c) The role of citizens, citizen platforms and Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) to advocate for a just energy transition in Uganda.
- d) Case study on the SEA for the Energy Transition Policy of Zambia.

She further noted that the concept of energy transition means the structural change in energy production and consumption. Energy transition is about climate change, reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, access to clean energy, sustainability and so on.

Ms. Steinhauers, the facilitator also highlighted the implications of energy transition and these include the following:

- Phasing out GHG-intensive sources such as fossil fuels and biomass as well.
- Rethinking and reorganising energy systems and
- Introducing and scaling up new technologies like solar, wind, hydro, geothermal energy etc.

She went ahead to highlight the relevant policies in Uganda that can used to improve the energy sector in the country and these include the following.

- Renewable Energy Policy 2007
- ESIA guidelines energy sector 2014
- Climate Change Policy 2015
- Energy policy 2023 calls for increased electricity access and uptake of modern forms of energy and the promotion of emerging energy sources such as geothermal, hydrogen, wind other sources.

Lastly, Ms. Ineke Steinhauers outlined the potential issues in the energy transition in Uganda and these are as follows:

- Impact(local, national and international)
- Inequality.
- Contradicting goals and
- Conflicts.

About the Strategic Environment Assessment (SEA)

She defined SEA as a tool designed to influence Policies, Plans and Programs (PPP). It aims at integrating environmental, social and sustainability concerns.

The elements of strategic environment assessments (SEA)

- **Influence:** The policies, assessing of impacts, generating of alternatives, identifying risks and opportunities.
- **Dialogue:** Engaging key stakeholders and organising debates to influence and link up to the decisions.
- **Information:** This provides the available information regarding to police and other strategies that can be used to make the decisions.

About the Energy policy: This is the renewable regional development plan and programs designed to influence the energy sector, it involves hydropower developments and sector plans and others.

Strategic Environment Assessment (SEA) contributions

- Analyses alternative combinations of energy mixes.
- Analyse scenarios.
- Analyse consistency and trade-offs with other goals (e.g. food security, biodiversity)
- Show how energy options can synergise with other plans and trends.
- Finding the best alternatives.
- Stakeholder engagement in decision-making.
- Understanding impacts, and risks and avoiding mistakes.
- Doing cheaper and more effective ESIA's.

Submission from Dr Gerald Banaga-Baingi, the assistant commissioner at the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development (MEMD)

Dr. Gerald Banaga-Baingi also appreciated AFIEGO and the partners for organising a nice meeting with the various stakeholders. He then opened the meeting on behalf of the permanent secretary Ms. Irene Pauline Batebe.

Dr. Banaga Baingi started his presentation by noting that the government of Uganda has recently drafted the energy transition plan which will work towards a zero-carbon economy and strategies.

He said that the Energy Transition plans will aim at:

- Promoting rapid economic growth of the country.
- Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) 7 by 2030 and
- Having net zero carbon.

He noted that the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development (MEMD) is putting in place the energy transition policy to achieve the following goals and these include.

- Energy Efficiency: The ministry will set this target to ensure that energy in Uganda is affordable, clean and reliable. By 2050, the energy demand will increase in all sectors.
- Promotion of emerging energy resources: This will be widely generated from geothermal, hydrogen, solar, wind and other resources as well.
- Increased electricity access and uptake of modern forms of energy.
- Strengthen energy generation, transmission and distribution infrastructure
- Promote sustainable utilisation of biogas
- Enhanced energy-related environmental and social safeguards.
- The country becoming a regional energy hub.

The challenges facing the energy sector in Uganda

- Power generation increased but access (affordable and modern services) is still low.
- Unreliable power supply.
- Environmental degradation (90,5% of primary energy consumed is biomass energy)
- Constrained transmission and distribution.
- Overreliance on hydropower.
- High power tariffs.

Reactions from the participants

1. How can redundant energy be made affordable and accessible to the people who are not utilising the power in Uganda?
2. What is the capacity of the energy ministry to achieve the energy transition?
3. What is the energy efficiency among households (the performance of LPG) in Uganda?
4. What is the operationalisation (timelines) of the energy transition plan developed by the MEMD?

The responses by Dr. Gerald from the Ministry of Energy and Mineral development

Regarding electricity affordability and accessibility, Dr. Gerald Banaga-Baingi noted that the government of Uganda will work on increasing the electricity demand, reducing the electricity tariffs and having clear plans while extending the power lines to some communities.

For the operationalisation (timelines), he said that the government will develop an integrated energy master plan to deal with the issues of the timelines.

Lastly, regarding the performance of the LPG, Dr Banaga-Baingi said that it is one of the interventions the government has put in place to reduce carbon emissions and deforestation. The government will activate the demand for the LPG to enable the Ugandans to use the gas.

Submission from Mr. Paolo Tibaldeschi, the SEA/EIA expert

Mr. Tibaldeschi is the project manager for the current Energy Policy ie Zambia Energy Policy 2019 which was inspired by the Zambia National Energy Policy of 2018.

The vision of the Energy Policy of 2019 is Universal access to clean reliable and affordable energy at the lowest socio-economic, social, financial and environmental cost consistent with National developmental goals by 2030.

The revision of the Energy Policy 2018 to form the Energy Policy 2019 was necessitated by the need to take into consideration the dynamics which had changed in the Energy sector such as taking into account the effects of climate change and the advancement in technology.

The 2019 Energy Policy addresses;

1. The issue of cost effectivity through the introduction of multi-tariff framework
2. Issue of the recognition of off-grid technologies for electrification

3. Sustainable utilization of energy
4. Capacity building on technologies which have come on board.

The current situation of Energy Transition in Zambia

Currently, there is utilisation of biomass, hydropower and fossil fuel. However, briquettes biogas and other forms of clean energy alternatives are currently being promoted and trends show that they are being increasingly embraced

- Petroleum accounts for 11% of the energy supply in the country, its consumption is mainly for transportation and mining activities. Plans are being made to start blending petrol and diesel with biofuels.
- Electricity accounts for 12% of the energy supply in the country. The increase in consumption of electricity is due to an increase in population and economic activities in the country and it is mainly consumed by the mines, households and conventional industries. As of 2022, the production capacity of Zambia was at approximately 3800MW on average, demand was at 2400MW, distribution was at Hydro contributes 84%, fuel at 9%, solar at 2% and oil at 2%.

In consumption of the available electricity;

- Mines consume 61% of the electricity produced
- Domestic 34%
- Commercial and others 15%

He added that the projected demand for electricity by 2030 is 9500MW and the population is expected to be at 25.3bn.

It was further noted that there has been increased investment in non-hydro technologies to reduce the effect of drought. And recent data shows that due to these investments in other technologies non-hydro technologies such as solar 94% to 84% as of 2022.

The Strategic Environment Assessments (SEA) framework and regulations

Mr. Paolo Tibaldesch, the SEA/EIA expert from Zambia noted that the National Energy Policy (NEP) 2019 framework consists of planning strategies, programmes, projects and the policy as well. He added that in terms of the regulations of the strategic environmental assessments(SEA), it is very important to consider them in the SEA processes for example in Zambia, the strategic environment assessments (SEA) regulations were formed in 2021 under the environmental management act.

He also noted that Strategic Environmental Assessments in Zambia are supposed to last for 24 months and they cover the legal aspects.

Regarding the Strategic Environment Assessment (SEA) in the energy infrastructure lifecycle, Mr. Paolo Tibaldesch noted that the lifecycle encompasses more than the single project lifecycle and includes the decision-making phases that are upstream of planning for any specific project.

Mr. Paolo Tibaldesch, the SEA/EIA expert further noted that the regulations are applied to policies, plans or programmes with a possible adverse effect on the environmental management or sustainable management and utilisation of natural resources. This is a very important stage because it requires finances, operation and management, policies, rules, regulations and others.

Roles and responsibilities of the SEA/ NEP 2019

- **Stakeholders**

Mr. Tebaldesch noted that during the SEA processes, different stakeholders are involved in the exercise. He added some play the positive roles while others play the negative. The stakeholders involved in the SEA processes include the communities, NGOs, ministries, individuals, private companies and others.

He finally noted that it is the responsibility of the Zambia Environmental Management Agency, the national agency to oversee and regulate environmental management in their country.

Challenges in the energy sector

- The low tariffs which make it challenging to attract investors to the energy sector
- Fiscal challenges in the utility service providers
- Domination of energy generation by hydroelectricity
- Wide use of biomass

- High costs of importation of petroleum and other petroleum products which are also widely used.

Response of SEA

SEA is being undertaken for the first time in the country. There is however the challenge of costs due to the vast geographical scope of the study.

Lessons learned from SEA

On lessons learned from the SEA conducted in Zambia, the presenter stated the following;

- There is a need to raise awareness about the SEA process since it is a new concept in the country which is being done without previously available data.
- There is a need to promote SEA as a constructive process for all investments arising from PPPs to ensure sustainability not just profitability in the utilisation of renewable energy resources.
- There is a need to enhance capacity for SEA facilitation: Strengthen expertise and resources to effectively facilitate SEA processes, ensuring comprehensive analysis and informed decision-making.
- There is a need to advocate for the screening of high-risk PPPs: Encourage Civil Society organizations to demand the thorough screening of high-risk PPP projects through the SEA process, promoting transparency and risk mitigation.
- Strive for maximum participation from various stakeholders in the SEA process, fostering inclusivity and diverse perspectives while keeping it simple.
- Establish a baseline data repository: Develop a central repository for baseline data. While not a hindrance to SEA initiatives, this repository will aid in collecting crucial information for informed decision-making.

Closing remarks

Mr. Dickens Kamugisha, the Chief Executive Officer at AFIEGO appreciated all the participants for attending the workshop. He then stated that when the countries are talking about just energy transition, they need to look at the appropriate energy and the one which is meeting the people's needs.

He noted that the reason for organising the energy transition was to engage various stakeholders who will start the debates with the government to ensure that they invest energy transition. This will help to reduce the 90% of the Ugandan population which is still depending on biomass.

List of the Participants

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