

**A PROCEEDINGS REPORT OF A MEETING TO IDENTIFY PRINCIPLES TO GUIDE CSO  
ENGAGEMENTS ON OIL**



*Members of the Civil Society Coalition on Oil and Gas (CSCO) after the meeting. The meeting was supported by funding from the Shared Resources, Joint Solutions (SRJS) programme.*

**25/MARCH/2019**

**NOB VIEW HOTEL, KAMPALA**

## Contents

1. Introduction and background .....	3
2. Proceedings .....	4
2.2. Remarks by the CSCO Chairperson, Ms Irene Ssekeyna .....	4
2.3. Remarks by SICU's Mr Dickens Kamugisha .....	5
2.4. Reactions from CSCO members .....	7
3. Conclusion and way forward .....	8
4. Appendices.....	8
4.1. Appendix 1: Table of outcomes of the meeting .....	8
4.2. Appendix 2: Pictorial of the meeting .....	9
4.3. Appendix 3: List of participants.....	9

## **Introduction and background**

On March 25, 2019, the Shared Resources, Joint Solutions Implementing Uganda (SICU) committee and the Civil Society Coalition on Oil and Gas (CSCO) held a meeting in Kampala.

The Shared Resources, Joint Solutions (SRJS) partners in Uganda include Africa Institute for Energy Governance (AFIEGO), National Association of Professional Environmentalists (NAPE), the Environmental Conservation Trust (ECOTRUST) of Uganda and the IUCN Uganda Country Office (IUCN UCO).

The purpose of the meeting was to enable CSCO members leading on oil lobby and advocacy to identify common principles that will guide their work for good oil governance that will result in promotion of the International Public Goods (IPGs) of food security, water provisioning, climate resilience and biodiversity.

Promotion of the IPGs is the goal of the SRJS programme.

The meeting came at a critical point. It was held at a time when the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) reports for the Kingfisher and East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) projects have been submitted to Uganda's National Environment Management Authority (NEMA).

The public including CSOs will be expected to make comments to avoid or minimise the environmental and livelihood challenges of the above oil projects.

The meeting also came prior to the quarterly meeting that CSOs working in the oil and gas sector have with oil companies to engage on and find solutions for environmental and livelihood challenges caused by oil.

It is envisioned that abiding by the principles set in the meeting and using the skills gained from the *Negotiations* workshop that was organised by SICU in February 2019 will result in good oil governance to promote the IPGs.

The meeting was participated in by 16 CSCO members.

It had the following outcomes:

- i. SICU and CSCO agreed to hold a one-day engagement on April 15, 2019 to review the Kingfisher and EACOP ESIA's with SICU's support. This will help the CSOs to come up with positions and disseminate them widely for effective lobby and advocacy. The meeting will be facilitated by the Netherlands Commission on Environmental Assessment (NCEA).

- ii. SICU and CSCO will review their respective publications on potential impacts of the Kingfisher and EACOP to support the above positions based on evidence.
- iii. SICU and CSCO will take stock of what went well or wrong in the Tilenga ESIA processes and map a way forward to avoid past mistakes in the Kingfisher and EACOP ESIA processes.
- iv. SICU and CSCO will organise a meeting with NEMA to get feedback on how stakeholder comments were incorporated in the Tilenga ESIA.

## **2. Proceedings**

### **2.1. Welcome remarks**

CSCO's Mr Onesmus Mugenyi facilitated the meeting. He welcomed the participants to the meeting and requested them to introduce themselves. The 16 CSCO members at the meeting did so. He read out the agenda and thereafter invited the chairperson of CSCO, Ms Irene Ssekyana, to outline objectives of the meeting.

### **2.2. Remarks by the CSCO Chairperson, Ms Irene Ssekeyna**

Ms Ssekyana thanked everyone for participating in the meeting. She reminded participants that a lot is going on in the oil sector. She noted that the EACOP and Kingfisher ESIA reports have been submitted to NEMA and CSOs in addition to other members of the public will be expected to make comments.

“The Tilenga ESIA experience taught us many things. Among others, it showed us that the public is given little time to review reports, [laws are violated during the ESIA process and communities are not given adequate time to submit their views].

This made it hard for us and the public to make input into the ESIA to promote environmental conservation and livelihoods amidst oil developments.

We [therefore] want to work ahead this time. We submitted good comments on the Tilenga ESIA despite the challenges I mentioned earlier but this time round, we need to strategise to ensure that we avoid the challenges we saw in the Tilenga ESIA process,” Ms Ssekyana said.

She also reminded participants that on Wednesday March 27, 2019, CSOs would have their quarterly meeting with the oil companies operating in Uganda.

“We are all aware that each of us may not have an opportunity to put up our hands and make comments but joint ones can be made.

This is why it is important to have joint principles that will guide the submission of comments not only to the oil companies in the meeting on Wednesday March 27, 2019 but in our future engagements on oil as well,” Ms Ssekyana said.



*The CSCO chairperson, Ms Ssekyaana (2<sup>nd</sup> R, in black), while making remarks during the meeting. She emphasized the importance of having joint principles and preparing ahead of time to influence the Kingfisher and EACOP ESIA processes for good oil governance.*

### **2.3. Remarks by SICU's Mr Dickens Kamugisha**

Following Ms Ssekyaana's remarks, the facilitator invited Mr Dickens Kamugisha, the CEO of AFIEGO and chairperson of SICU to brief the meeting on the lessons gained from the Negotiations workshop and how they could be applied in the ongoing oil processes.

Mr Kamugisha told the meeting that between February 21 and 22, 2019, SICU organised a Negotiations approach training that was aimed at skilling CSOs with negotiations skills to strengthen their lobby and advocacy efforts.

He noted that the training, which was tailored on the current oil sector and sugarcane agribusiness work that CSOs are currently engaged in, led to the learning of many lessons.

Mr Kamugisha told the participants that the negotiations skills gained could be used in engagements such as the quarterly meetings that CSOs have with oil companies.

He further said, "In addition to the lessons that were gained, it was also clear during the negotiations training that different CSOs have different positions on oil exploitation in Uganda.

Some CSOs were saying that there should be no oil in protected areas while others were saying that oil exploitation will go on and CSOs must work for mitigation of oil impacts."

Mr Kamugisha noted that it is important for CSOs to have a joint position or principles if they are to attain the shared goal of ensuring environmental conservation and protection of community livelihoods amidst oil developments.

“I think we all remember that when the president wanted to give out Mabira forest for sugarcane growing [in 2007], all CSOs said no to sugarcane growing in Mabira.

What about oil advocacy? Do we have a position? Oil companies are saying that they are going to cross River Nile. Do we say that yes oil companies, go ahead?

It is good for CSOs to come up with principles to guide engagements with oil companies,” Mr Kamugisha said.

He also noted the following:

- CSOs should not only look at providing comments on ESIA. They need to influence the appointment of the presiding officers in addition to being involved in ESIA processes from the inception to the implementation stages if negative oil impacts are to be avoided.
- CSOs need to identify a follow-up plan as regards the Tilenga ESIA. CSOs and other stakeholders submitted comments and follow-up actions need to be undertaken to ensure that the comments are addressed.
- CSOs need to have guiding principles on oil so that when they are engaging, they speak with one voice to be taken seriously.



Mr Kamugisha (3<sup>rd</sup> L), the SICU chairperson, addressing CSCO members in the meeting.

He underscored the need for joint principles and follow-up engagement of NEMA on the Tilenga and other ESIA processes if CSOs are to be taken seriously to enable environmental conservation amidst oil developments.

## 2.4. Reactions from CSCO members

Mr Mugenyi observed that Mr Kamugisha had raised important points. He called on other CSCO members to react to the issues raised.

The following comments were made by the CSCO members:

- **Mr Sam Mucunguzi** –Mr Kamugisha made three submissions that are intriguing. The EACOP will affect IUCN red-listed species and Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs). What is our stand on this? *While coming up with our position, we need to be mindful of the lessons from the Negotiations training. We learnt that everyone has power and that we should not set low positions.*  
As regards the Tilenga ESIA, if the presiding officer was appointed in violation of the law, how do we prevent the same law violations again? Do we ask for guarantees?
- **Mr James Muhindo:** I agree that CSOs need to have a common position on oil. We may have differing projects and different strategies of attaining the position but at least the position should be the same so that we are better co-ordinated.
- **Mr Bashir Twesigye** –I agree entirely that we need to take stock of where we are. It is a question I have heard: we did so much on the Tilenga ESIA but do we know what the status of the ESIA is today? We need to follow up on the ESIA.
- **Mr Derrick Lutalo** –The public hearing that I attended [on the Tilenga ESIA] in Buliisa showed that it is good for CSOs to have principles or a position that one person can use to represent CSOs. CSOs were given only 1.5 minutes to present and if we had one person presenting, we would have better used our time. We also need to push for community voices to be better heard at public hearings.
- **Ms Winnie Mirembe** –We need to look at the structures in communities. Do communities have platforms where they raise issues on ESIA and forward these issues to the local council? If they do not exist, we need to agree on how to close gaps.
- **Mr Mwebe Kalibala** –We need to engage oil companies to stop undertaking oil activities while ESIA processes to inform decision-making are ongoing. Land acquisitions for the Tilenga Industrial Area were ongoing in Buliisa when the ESIA review was ongoing as well. Why comment on an ESIA when some of the management plans in the ESIA such the Resettlement Action Plans (RAP) are already being implemented?

- **Dr Grace Nangendo** –We need to pay attention to other ongoing oil developments such as roads. Total has also developed a biodiversity management plan and an offset strategy. I think this is because CSOs and stakeholders asked that the management plans for the Tilenga ESIA should be put in place before NEMA makes a decision on whether or not to approve the ESIA.

### 3. Conclusion and way forward

Following the above submissions, Mr Mugenyi summarised the outcomes of the meeting. The outcomes are shown in the table in appendix 1.

Mr Mugenyi and Ms Ssekyaana also thanked SICU for supporting the meeting.

“CSCO mostly relies on the funding of its members. We therefore commend AFIEGO and SICU for supporting this meeting,” Mr Mugenyi said.

The meeting was closed thereafter.

## 4. Appendices

### 4.1. Appendix 1: Table of outcomes of the meeting

No.	Agreed position
1.	Hold one-day engagement to review Kingfisher and EACOP ESIA's with SICU's support; come up with positions and disseminate them widely for effective lobby and advocacy
2.	Further, review SICU and CSCO's publications on potential impacts of Kingfisher and EACOP to support above positions based on evidence
3.	Take stock of what went well or wrong in Tilenga ESIA and map way forward
4.	Write a letter to avoid procedural and legal challenges in the Kingfisher and EACOP ESIA processes
5.	Organise a meeting with NEMA to get feedback on how stakeholder comments were incorporated in Tilenga ESIA
6.	Request for one-day quarterly engagements between CSOs and oil companies to adequately discuss CSO positions on oil to avoid oil impacts
7.	Request for quarterly engagements with government for information sharing and to promote accountability



## 4.2. Appendix 2: Pictorial of the meeting



Mr Mucungunzi (3<sup>rd</sup> R) reminded CSCO that every stakeholder has power. He called on them not to set low positions while identifying principles to govern CSCO's oil engagements. These lessons were learned from the Negotiations training organised by SICU.



Mr Twesigye noted that there was need to have follow-up engagements on the Tilenga ESIA to ensure that stakeholders' comments were addressed.



Mr Kalibala (3<sup>rd</sup> R) said that CSOs have to stop oil companies from undertaking oil activities such as land acquisitions before ESIA's that contain instruments such as RAPs that guide the land acquisitions are approved.



CSCO's Mr Mugenyi (C), who facilitated the meeting. He noted that CSCO survives on funding by its members. He thanked SICU and AFIEGO for supporting the meeting.

## 4.3. Appendix 3: List of participants

No.	Name	Sex	Institution & Position	Email and Tel.
1.	Winnie Mirembe	F	WWF-Uganda Oil and gas officer	<a href="mailto:wmirembe@wwfuganda.org">wmirembe@wwfuganda.org</a>

2.	Dickens Kamugisha	M	AFIEGO- Director	<a href="mailto:dkamugisha@afiego.org">dkamugisha@afiego.org</a>
3.	Julius Ssenyonjo	M	PEMO-	<a href="mailto:s-juliu-s@y.com">s-juliu-s@y.com</a>
4.	Diana Nabiruma	F	AFIEGO – Senior communications Officer	<a href="mailto:dnabiruma@afiego.org">dnabiruma@afiego.org</a>
5.	Enock Nimpamya	M	ACCC – Director	<a href="mailto:nimpamyaenock@gmail.com">nimpamyaenock@gmail.com</a> 0783003803
6.	Sam Mucunguzi	M	CICOA – National Coordinator	<a href="mailto:samzoo2014@gmail.com">samzoo2014@gmail.com</a> 0782562098
7.	James Muhindo	M	ACODE	<a href="mailto:muhindoj@gmail.com">muhindoj@gmail.com</a>
8.	Onesmus Muygenyi	M	ACODE	<a href="mailto:omugyenyi@acode-u.org">omugyenyi@acode-u.org</a>
9.	Alexie Felisse	F	ASF, Quality, learning and partnership officer	0756017237
10.	Bashir Twesigye	M	CRED Executive Director	<a href="mailto:bashirtwesi@gmail.com">bashirtwesi@gmail.com</a> 0772848801
11.	Irene Ssekyana	F	Green watch – National coordinator	<a href="mailto:issekyana@gmail.com">issekyana@gmail.com</a> <a href="mailto:irene@greenwatch.org.ug">irene@greenwatch.org.ug</a> 0788707260
12.	John Mwebe	M	IAP- Program coordinator	<a href="mailto:mwebejohn@gmail.com">mwebejohn@gmail.com</a>
13.	Grace Nangendo	F	Wildlife Conservation Society	<a href="mailto:gnangendo@wcs.org">gnangendo@wcs.org</a> 0782738248
14.	Derrick Lutalo	M	UCCA Project officer	<a href="mailto:ddlutala@gmail.com">ddlutala@gmail.com</a>
15.	Catherine Twongyeirwe	F	AFIEGO	<a href="mailto:ctwongyeirwe@afiego.org">ctwongyeirwe@afiego.org</a>
16.	Laster Ogola	M	Uganda wildlife Society Membership officer	<a href="mailto:uws@uws.org.ug">uws@uws.org.ug</a> 0784497870