

January 2025; Issue 1

AFIEGO'S 2024 IN REVIEW: WHAT WE DID, LEARNED AND ACHIEVED



Pictorial highlights of some of AFIEGO's key 2024 work

In this newsletter:

- Looking back: A reflection on AFIEGO's activities, achievements and challenges in 2024
- Our 2024 work: 12 months, 5 key milestones
- Lobbying in 2024
- In the media in 2024
- Upcoming events

Dear reader,

Allow us to wish you a happy and prosperous New Year (2025). We hope that this year will be a good one.

As is traditional at AFIEGO, our January newsletter highlights some of the significant work that the organisation has done in the previous year and the milestones recorded. The newsletter also discusses the challenges that we faced.

Our work in 2024 was guided by three programmes, that is, the **Extractives Governance Programme** that focuses on promoting policies that benefit poor and vulnerable communities; the **Electricity Democracy Programme** that focuses on promoting universal access to affordable and reliable electricity services and the **Renewable Energy Efficiency and Climate Change Programme** that promotes the adoption of clean and affordable energy.

Some of our key 2024 work includes:

1. The production of and dissemination of three research briefs to over 132,071 stakeholders within and outside Uganda. The reports, some of which were produced with our partners, were aimed at protecting fishing livelihoods amidst oil activities, promoting organic farming that is free of petrochemicals (agrochemicals) use, and highlighting the impacts of oil activities on wildlife in Murchison Falls National Park.

Research processes also commenced to demonstrate the tourism potential of the Greater Masaka sub-region vis-à-vis the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) as well as the opportunities and gaps for promoting clean energy in Uganda's 2023 Energy Transition Plan (ETP). The two latter

research processes were still ongoing by the end of 2024.

2. The production of over 58 lobby and advocacy materials through which we advocated for review or the enactment of at least four policies, laws or plans. In particular, we advocated for engendering of the Energy Transition Plan by the Ministry of Energy, debate and enactment of the Consumer Protection and Management Bill by parliament and putting in place a Gender Climate Action Plan by the Ministry of Gender. We also supported women and youth to advocate for enactment of a Solar Energy Policy by the Ministry of Energy among others.

3. The sensitisation of over 2,641,845 people in over 15 districts through community meetings, radio talkshows, monthly newsletters, and press articles among others.

The people, including oil-affected communities, were sensitised on their livelihood restoration rights, ways in which women and vulnerable oil-affected people's rights could be protected amidst oil activities, ways in which communities could contribute to forest conservation, what the European Union-Government of Uganda Forest Partnership entails, the impact of oil activities on fisherfolk, gaps or benefits of the policies discussed under point 2 above, and others.

4. The litigation of 21 court cases in Uganda, at the East African Court of Justice and in France. The cases were filed to protect oil-affected communities' rights, promote the rule of law in Uganda, support climate action and address the shrinking civic space in Uganda. Among

others, we supported lawyers to litigate the cases, supported communities to participate in case hearings in Uganda and Arusha and supported communities to undertake media engagements to create public awareness and pressure for hearing of their cases.

5. Supporting cross-border civil society engagements to stop the expansion of fossil fuels in the African Great Lakes Region. To this end, we organised a capacity strengthening exchange learning for over 50 Ugandan and Congolese civil society organisations (CSOs), supported mobilisation of cultural leaders, media engagements, conference debates and others in Uganda and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). We also linked up oil-affected fisherfolk from Uganda with their peers from South Africa and Nigeria to discuss how they could work together to protect fisherflocks' livelihoods.

6. In partnership with the Inclusive Green Economy Network-East Africa (IGEN-EA), we supported research and promoted public awareness or no financial flows to green economic activities including clean energy, organic agriculture, fishing, tourism and natural resources management. Over 91,848 people were reached during our engagements to promote green economic alternatives.

7. In addition, with our IGEN-EA partners, we established a clean energy hub in Fort Portal in Western Uganda. The hub is helping local communities to learn about the benefits of offgrid solar energy, clean cooking technologies and others as part of efforts to promote clean renewable energy for improved lives and environmental conservation.

8. We also promoted clean energy access by convening a regional workshop for over 50 scholars/academics and other stakeholders from Uganda, Kenya and Tanzania to discuss opportunities for promoting clean energy through Uganda's Energy Transition Plan plus the need to remove oil and gas from the energy transition plan for Uganda. We also organised a cross-border meeting for over 60 youth, women and civil society representatives on what the European Union's Critical Raw Materials Act means for Ugandans and Congolese. Further, we convened a women's clean energy conference.

You will read about the above and much more in our **Word from CEO** in this newsletter.

For those looking for a few minutes' catch-up on our key achievements of 2024, we summarise the key milestones we registered in 2024 in the section, **12 months, 5 key milestones in 2024!**

Our **pictorial** carries highlights of our key 2024 activities.

In our **lobbying** section, you will see some of the over 58 lobby and advocacy products that we and our partners produced in 2024.

In **in the media** section, we bring you some of the over 235 media stories that were published from our work or were written by our staff and partners.

We hope you enjoy the newsletter.

Editorial team:

**Diana Nabiruma
Rachael Amongin
Jenan Apio**

Key milestones in 2024!

AFIEGO attained various milestones in 2024. In the graphic below, we share five key milestones.

The research, community empowerment, lobby and advocacy as well as litigation that we conducted was aimed at promoting a shift away from fossil fuels to clean energy, protecting oil-affected communities' rights, supporting forest and biodiversity conservation amidst oil risks and others.

Conducted & disseminated research to over 132,071 people;
Over 800 people that we reached took action by petitioning President Museveni to stop oil activities in Murchison Falls National Park in July 2024.

Empowered over 2,641,845 people in over 15 districts;

Some of the people reached formed five community-led platforms to drive advocacy for human rights protection amidst oil activities.

Produced & disseminated over 58 lobby & advocacy materials;

Commitments were made by government to table bills such as the Consumer Protection and Management Bill before parliament for debate and enactment after our and others' advocacy.

Over 3,219 citizens supported to access justice through 21 court cases in Uganda, the East African Court of Justice and France;

The court cases also raised public awareness & pressure to stop oil risks while supporting the restoration of human rights of some oil-affected communities.

With IGEN-EA, engaged over 91,848 people to promote clean energy & other green economic alternatives.

We also established a clean energy hub in Fort Portal in Western Uganda to promote clean energy awareness & uptake.

LOOKING BACK: A REFLECTION ON AFIEGO'S ACTIVITIES, ACHIEVEMENTS AND CHALLENGES IN 2024

Dear AFIEGO family,

As we embark on a New Year, it is always a great honor to address you through our January newsletter. The newsletter provides us with an opportunity to share with you our reflections on our past endeavors and challenges.

The reflection exercise helps us to not only account to you, but also to re-strategise, if needs be, to better deliver on our mandate.

What did AFIEGO do and achieve in 2024? What were our challenges?

In this section of the newsletter, we shine a light on some of the key work that we did, and the achievements that we registered. We also share the challenges we endured in 2024.

KEY 2024 ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

(a) Conducting research: In 2024, AFIEGO supported the production and dissemination of three research briefs. In April 2024 for instance, AFIEGO produced and disseminated a research brief on the impact of the Lake Albert Development oil project activities on fisherfolk in Buliisa and Kikuube districts.

The research showed how the Tilenga and Kingfisher oil project activities had negatively impacted fisherfolk, including women and youth.

Later, in July 2024, AFIEGO released a research brief documenting the grave impacts of the Tilenga oil project activities on wildlife in the Murchison Falls National Park (MFNP).

In addition, with our partners under the Inclusive Green Economy Network-East Africa (IGEN-EA), in November 2024, we produced and disseminated a research brief that documented small-scale farmers' experiences in the Busoga sub-region with agrochemicals, and the risks the use of these petrochemicals pose to climate.

AFIEGO disseminated the research briefs to over 132,071 people. Some of the research, especially that documenting the impact of oil activities on wildlife in MFNP, spurred over 800 people to petition President Museveni in July 2024, calling for avoidance of oil activities in MFNP. The activities were still ongoing by the end of 2024 however, necessitating more action.

(b) Influencing policies: Because supporting communities and other stakeholders to participate in the making of policies at all levels is one of AFIEGO's core objectives, we dedicated considerable time towards supporting communities, civil society, women and youth among other stakeholders to influence energy related policies for the common good in 2024.

To this end, AFIEGO worked with our partners to produce over 58 lobby and advocacy materials that were used to advocate for the enactment, review or implementation of various policies, laws and plans.

Among the policies that we advocated for alongside our IGEN-EA partners is the Consumer Protection and Management Bill.

We demanded that this bill, which is critical for addressing sub-standard products that are a barrier to mass adoption of solar energy, be completed and tabled before parliament for debate and enactment.

We are happy to report that in July 2024, government indicated that the Consumer Protection and Management Bill was among the 66 bills that would be tabled before parliament for debate and enactment.

We also supported women youth leaders to advocate for a Gender and Climate Action Plan to be put in place.

We are reliably informed that the Ministry of Gender is working to put in place such a plan that is critical to addressing the gendered impacts of climate change.

In the same vein, we also supported women and youth to use newspaper articles, radio talkshows and others to demand that the Ministry of Energy puts in place a Solar Energy Policy to drive offgrid solar electrification in Uganda.

We also advocated for implementation of the European Union (EU)-Government of Uganda (GoU) forest partnership to promote forest conservation among others.

By the end of 2024, the Solar Energy Policy was yet to be put in place. Further, public awareness about the EU-GoU forest partnership remained low, which undermined efforts to promote forest conservation.

(c) Supporting community empowerment and creation of platforms to drive advocacy:

Empowering communities to promote human rights observance, environmental conservation, climate action and clean energy access remains a cornerstone for AFIEGO. In 2024, AFIEGO continued to empower communities and other stakeholders to advance the above goals. To this end, in April 2024, AFIEGO organised community meetings and radio talkshows to train EACOP-affected communities from eight districts to defend their livelihood restoration rights amidst the EACOP project.

In addition, throughout 2024, AFIEGO engaged with Tilenga oil project-affected communities in Buliisa district that are affected by oil-induced elephant-human conflicts.

We discussed the advocacy strategies that could be employed to stop the conflicts for biodiversity conservation and food security among others. The people decided to sue TotalEnergies over the oil-induced elephant-human conflicts.

Further, in August 2024, AFIEGO supported communities affected by the Kingfisher oil project to participate in exchange learnings and a radio talkshow to raise public awareness and spur public pressure for addressing of the challenges that the people are faced with. AFIEGO also supported oil-affected fisherfolk to demand for the protection of their rights.

AFIEGO did so much more to empower communities including organising meetings to strengthen the structures

or platforms through which oil-affected communities could engage to stop the abuse of their rights and destruction of the environment.

Five platforms through which EACOP- and Tilenga oil project affected persons could engage in advocacy, climate-saving activities and others had been formed by the end of 2024. Worth noting is that some of these platforms are composed of persons affected by court cases filed by government against communities.

(d) Supporting community actions for conservation of Bugoma forest: AFIEGO together with the Save Bugoma Forest Campaign (SBFC) local taskforce made up of the forest host communities continued to engage in efforts to save Bugoma forest from destruction induced by oil, sugarcane and land grabbing challenges.

Among others, AFIEGO supported the SBFC local taskforce to hold community sensitisation meetings, radio talkshows and others to mobilise communities to advocate for conservation of the forest.

AFIEGO also supported the community taskforce to work alongside national partners to disseminate at least six advocacy materials demanding for the Bugoma forest boundary opening report to be released, action on the directive by the National Environment Management Authority (NEMA) to Hoima Sugar Ltd to restore the forest and others.

Worth noting is that women and girls played a stronger role in advocating for the conservation of Bugoma forest in 2024. They undertook sensitisation

activities to raise women and girls' awareness of the dangers of destruction of Bugoma, and the power women have to stop this destruction.

Unfortunately, destruction of the forest continued in 2024. On a more positive note, following years of advocacy by AFIEGO as well as our SBFC and IGEN-EA partners, government opened up chimpanzee trekking in Bugoma forest in August 2024. We hope this will contribute to conserving the remaining sections of the forest while contributing to sustainable community livelihoods.

(e) Empowering youth to stop fossil fuel expansion and promote a just energy transition: The notion that today's youth are tomorrow's leaders is one that we take seriously at AFIEGO. We therefore invest in efforts aimed at empowering youth to stop fossil fuel expansion in the African Great Lakes region while promoting clean energy access for all, including the poor and marginalised.

To this end, in March 2024, we organised an online capacity building training in relation to the European Union's (EU) Critical Raw Materials Act (CRMA). The training was aimed at helping Ugandan and DR Congolese youth as well as civil society to understand how the CRMA could affect mineral-rich Uganda and the DR Congo.

Further, in May 2024, we hosted a group of Kyambogo University students at our head office in Kampala where they got to comprehend our work in relation to climate change mitigation better. We also encouraged them to mobilise more youth on the same.

In addition, we supported litigation by

eight anti-EACOP youth who filed court cases against ten police officers that arrested them during peaceful protests, thereby curtailing the youth's enjoyment of their right to freedom of assembly.

Our work with youth saw youth continue to advocate for clean energy while campaigning against fossil fuels in 2024.

(f) Litigation efforts for access to justice: Together with our partners, AFIEGO supported over 3,219 oil-affected communities and others to prosecute 21 court cases in the Ugandan, East African and French courts in 2024. The cases were filed to protect oil-affected communities' human and environmental rights and to put a stop to the continuous shrinking civic space faced by many human and environmental activists who are against destructive oil and other related projects and activities in Uganda.

Among the cases that we litigated was the EACOP court case at the East African Court of Justice (EACJ).

We also provided legal support to over 80 EACOP-affected people from Lwengo, Rakai and Kyotera districts that were sued by government in 2024. Government sought orders to deposit the affected people's compensation in court. The people lost the case, and we supported them to file an appeal and other applications to stay the implementation of court orders in order to stop the evictions and demolition of people's properties.

AFIEGO also supported some of the 42 Tilenga oil project-affected persons (PAPs)-families that lost a court case filed against them by government in 2023. The people lost the case and AFIEGO

supported them to appeal in 2024.

We also continued to provide support to the representatives of the over 7,000 oil refinery-affected people in the case that they filed against government over delayed, inadequate and unfair compensation in 2014.

At the international level, we continued to jointly prosecute the court case that Ugandan and French CSOs alongside over 20 oil project-affected persons (PAPs) from Uganda brought against TotalEnergies in France.

Our litigation efforts helped to mobilise public awareness and pressure against the EACOP and related oil projects to promote climate action, human rights observance and biodiversity conservation.

(g) Supporting cross-border advocacy to address oil threats: Cross-border advocacy is imperative if Ugandan and DR Congolese civil society are to address the impacts of oil activities on shared cross-border environmental resources.

To foster effective cross-border advocacy, AFIEGO engaged in a number of activities including organising a Uganda-DR Congo CSOs' exchange learning in June 2024. During the exchange learning, the CSOs' discussed the best strategies that could be employed to address cross-border oil risks.

Further, AFIEGO supported our partners' conference debates, engagements targeting religious and cultural leaders and other activities aimed at strengthening various stakeholders' capacity to stop oil risks.

Our capacity strengthening exercises saw

cross-border CSOs undertake four joint advocacy engagements to address cross-border oil risks to communities and the environment.

The cross-border engagements that we supported targeting oil-affected fisherfolk from Uganda, Nigeria and South Africa also saw Ugandan fishers' capacity being strengthened to defend their rights amidst oil risks. Worth noting is that Uganda got a Fishnet Alliance representative for the first time in 2024. The Fishnet Alliance brings together African fisherfolk to defend their rights.

(h) Promoting green economic activities: In 2024, AFIEGO also worked with our IGEN-EA partners to promote green economic alternatives. To this end, in March 2024, AFIEGO supported our IGEN-EA partners to participate in a two-day CSOs' retreat to review the 2024/2025 national budget proposals for the green economic sectors and assess their adequacy.

We submitted a joint CSO position paper to parliament calling for enhancement of budget allocations to the green economic sectors. We are happy to report that some programmes such as the environment, natural resources and climate change programme experienced budget enhancements of Shs. 265.6 billion.

While the programme was allocated Shs. 417 billion in the 2023/2024 financial year, it was allocated Shs. 682.6 billion in the 2024/2025 financial year.

Unfortunately, the budget allocations to other green economic sectors such as agriculture declined compared to the previous financial year's allocations.

Further, AFIEGO worked with our IGEN-EA partners to enhance citizens' capacity to earn a living from green economic alternatives.

In May 2024, AFIEGO supported its IGEN-EA partners under the network's natural resources working group to hold a training for women beekeepers and youth in Hoima district. During the training, the women and youth were skilled in beehive making, beehive hanging and value addition. The trained women and youth were using the skills to make their own beehives by June 2024.

AFIEGO also supported IGEN-EA to set up a clean energy hub in Fort Portal city, Kabarole district in Western Uganda to promote community awareness of available clean energy alternatives.

We also conducted a community visioning exercise to understand the energy that communities aspire towards using, and what they define a Just Energy Transition (JET) as. We disseminated the communities' views to 17,007 stakeholders in November 2024 during COP 29 to influence public debate.

With our IGEN-EA partners, we also participated in the Renewable Energy Conference and Expo in Kampala between October and November 2024 to raise stakeholder awareness of available clean energy alternatives for increased uptake.

We are happy to report that in 2024, it was reported that due to increased uptake of solar energy products in districts such as Hoima that we have targeted, the use of paraffin (a fossil fuel) reduced.

(i) Promoting conducive civic space:

In 2024, AFIEGO trained women, youth, Community Based Monitors, community observers, and others to work within the repressed civic space in the country. Further, AFIEGO mobilised over 20 CSOs to document and report environmental and human rights violations in Uganda.

These were reported through submissions made to the UN Special Rapporteur on human rights defenders that are promoting SDG 7 on ensuring universal access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy. The report also documented the contributions of CSOs in ensuring that SDG 7 is attained in Uganda.

CHALLENGES

The achievements registered in 2024 notwithstanding, we faced a number of challenges that ranged from the fact that key policies as the Solar Energy Policy and Energy Transition Plan for the promotion of clean energy were either not in place, or had gaps respectively in 2024.

Further, oil activities were still ongoing in forest landscapes such as Murchison Falls National Park in 2024, threatening biodiversity conservation.

In addition, oil-induced human-wildlife conflicts continued to affected many communities especially those living around Murchison Falls National Park, thereby putting biodiversity and human rights protection at risk.

Further, clean energy access was still limited, and awareness of clean energy alternatives was also limited.

In addition, the failure by the courts to

comply with Article 126 and other related provisions of the Ugandan Constitution to hear and conclude cases without delays continued to negatively affect access to justice in all cases filed by oil-affected communities.

To make it worse, while the cases filed by affected communities take many years in court without determination, the cases filed by the government against the poor and vulnerable communities are fast-tracked and concluded by the same courts in a matter of weeks and sometimes within a record of four days from the date of filing.

This clearly shows that the Ugandan judiciary is not independent and is biased. These failures by the judiciary remain the single biggest obstacle to promoting both human and environmental rights in our country.

More so, critical ecosystems such as Bugoma forest continued to be destroyed due to oil, land grabbing and sugarcane growing challenges.

Finally, civil society, human rights defenders and affected communities continued to suffer because of shrinking civic space in the country. Between 2020 and 2024, over 190 rights defenders and affected communities suffered arrests and detentions.

Government continued to take advantage of a weak judiciary to violate the rights of environmental and human rights defenders.

AFIEGO will seek to address the above and other challenges in 2025.

By CEO

Pictorial of our activities

AFIEGO CONDUCTS RESEARCH ON THE IMPACTS OF OIL ACTIVITIES AMONG OTHERS



In 2024, AFIEGO produced three (3) research briefs including **research** documenting the impacts of the Tilenga oil project activities on wildlife in Murchison Falls National Park (MFNP).

AFIEGO also produced a **research** brief on the impact of the Lake Albert oil project on fisherfolk in Buliisa and Kikuube districts.

In addition, AFIEGO and partners under the Inclusive Green Economy Network East Africa (IGEN-EA) produced a **research** brief on small scale farmers' experiences with agrochemicals in agricultural production in Busoga sub-region, Uganda.

The research, was disseminated to over 132, 071 people. Some of the research spurred over 800 people to petition President Museveni in July 2024, calling for avoidance of oil activities in MFNP.

In 2024, AFIEGO also commenced processes to produce research briefs that document the tourism potential of the Greater Masaka sub-region and strengths as well as gaps in Uganda's Energy Transition Plan.

AFIEGO ENGAGES IN POLICY ADVOCACY TO SUPPORT FOREST CONSERVATION, HUMAN RIGHTS OBSERVANCE



INTRODUCTION

On November 8, 2022, the European Union (EU) and the Government of Uganda (GoU) signed the Uganda-European Union (EU) Forest Partnership. The GoU developed and validated a roadmap for the partnership, whose objectives include:

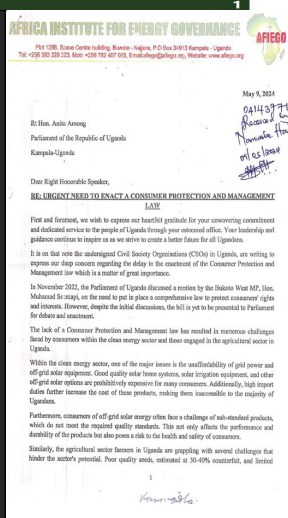
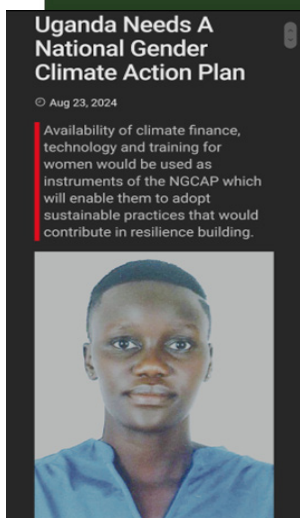
- Increasing the area of protected, restored or sustainably managed forests;
- Increasing the number of forest-related decent jobs;
- Reducing the annual rate of deforestation of natural forests; and
- Looking for ways to facilitate trade in legal and sustainable wood products.

Through this publication, Africa Institute for Energy Governance (AFIEGO) has worked with our partners under the Save Bugoma Forest Campaign (SBFC) to share highlights of the key conditions in the partnership.

We hope that this will promote public participation in the implementation of the partnership to promote forest conservation in Uganda.

KEY COMMITMENTS

Reducing greenhouse gas emissions by approximately 22% by 2030: The GoU committed to use the funds received from the EU to reduce greenhouse emissions that come from unsustainable human activities such as deforestation, industrial processes and fossil fuels for energy among others. Despite this commitment, the GoU continues to invest in fossil fuel projects such as the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP). On May 16, 2024 the Ugandan parliament passed a supplementary budget of ShS132,634Bn for EACOP activities.



In 2024, AFIEGO disseminated over 58 lobby and advocacy materials. Through the materials, AFIEGO advocated for the review, enactment or implementation of various policies, laws or plans. AFIEGO also used the materials to sensitise and mobilise the public. For instance, AFIEGO sensitised the public on what the EU-Government of Uganda forest partnership means and called for its implementation.

Further, AFIEGO supported women to produce communiques, newspaper articles and others calling on policymakers to address gaps in the country's Energy Transition Plan, and to put in place a Climate and Gender Action Plan as well as a Solar Energy Policy.

In addition, together with our IGEN-EA partners, AFIEGO advocated for the Ministry of Trade to complete and table the Consumer Protection and Management Bill before Parliament for debate and enactment.

We are happy to report that in July 2024, government indicated that the Consumer Protection and Management Bill was among the 66 bills that would be tabled before Parliament for debate and enactment.

Peaceful protests among others.

AFIEGO EMPOWERS EACOP, FISHERFOLK AND OTHER OIL-AFFECTED COMMUNITIES TO DEFEND THEIR RIGHTS



In 2024, AFIEGO used community meetings, exchange learnings, radio talkshows, press articles, newsletters, story booklets and others to empower EACOP and other oil-affected communities to advocate for their land and environmental rights.

AFIEGO also organised exchange learnings for Ugandan and Tanzanian oil-affected fisherfolk to strengthen their capacity to defend their rights. Further, we empowered oil-affected communities experiencing elephant attacks to engage government and defend their rights.

We are happy to report that some milestones were registered from the above work. For instance, communities continued to defend their rights throughout 2024. Further, Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA) committed to fence off part of Murchison Falls National Park to address elephant-human conflicts.

We also put the plight of oil-affected fisherfolk on the civil society agenda, who started to advocate for protection of fisherfolk's rights. We hope this will create pressure for the protection of the fisherfolk's livelihoods amidst oil threats.

AFIEGO ENHANCES FOREST COMMUNITIES' CAPACITY TO PROMOTE FOREST CONSERVATION



AFIEGO placed emphasis on enhancing Bugoma forest host communities' capacity to promote conservation of the forest in 2024.

To this end, AFIEGO organised planning meetings with community leaders to put in place a 2024 workplan.

Further, we supported the communities to organise exchange learnings, community meetings and radio talkshows among others during which community capacity to promote forest conservation was enhanced.

By the end of 2024, the forest communities were valiantly defending the forest. The community members were engaged in forest patrols, engaging policy makers and awareness raising. It is hoped that their tireless efforts will result in stopping of destruction of the forest.

AFIEGO AND PARTNERS PROSECUTE EACOP, TILENGA, OIL REFINERY AND OTHER COURT CASES



In 2024, AFIEGO and our partners prosecuted 21 court cases in the Ugandan, East African and French courts. For instance, we supported lawyers to prosecute the EACOP court case at the East African Court of Justice (EACJ).

We also provided legal support to some of the 80 EACOP-affected people from Lwengo, Rakai and Kyotera that were sued by government in 2024 seeking to deposit their compensation in court.

AFIEGO also supported some of the 42 Tilenga project-affected persons (PAPs) that lost a court case filed against them by government. AFIEGO supported the PAPs to appeal the case.

This litigation work empowered communities, who are ready to stand up for their rights knowing that civil society stands in solidarity with them.

Further, the cases, such as the one filed by the oil refinery-affected people against government in 2014 also created pressure, which saw government working to fulfill promises such as the provision of good murram roads, safe water and others to the affected people.

AFIEGO SUPPORTS EFFORTS TO OPEN UP CIVIC SPACE THROUGH LITIGATION



AFIEGO also used litigation in 2024 to promote the opening up of civic space in Uganda, which is repressed.

To this end, we supported eight students to file cases against ten police officers who curtailed their right to peaceful assembly by arresting them during peaceful anti-EACOP protests.

We also continued to prosecute a court case that we filed seeking to stop the NGO Bureau's interference with non-profit companies.

AFIEGO SUPPORTS CROSS-BORDER ENGAGEMENTS TO STOP FOSSIL FUEL RISKS



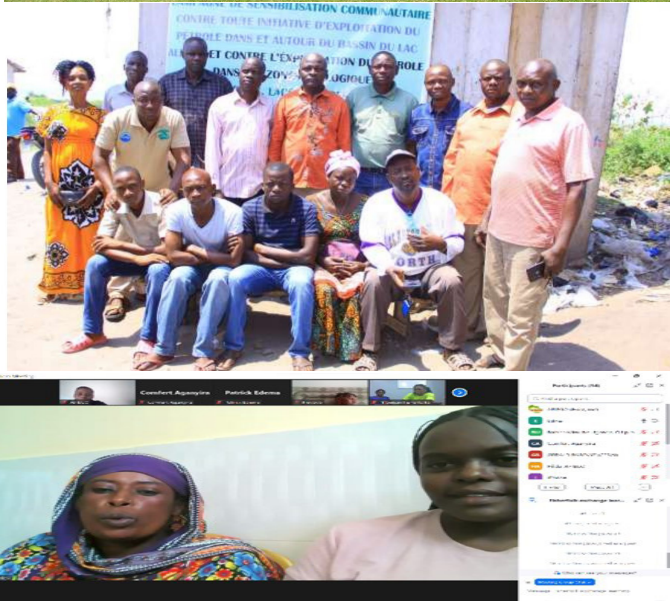
In 2024, AFIEGO engaged its partners from the DRC, Nigeria, Tanzania, Kenya and South Africa to organise exchange learnings for oil-affected communities and CSOs in Uganda as well as the DRC.

During the exchange learnings that targeted communities, oil-affected community members and fisherfolk shared experiences and knowledge to address oil impacts.

During the exchange learnings that targeted civil society, we strategised on the best tactics that could be employed by CSOs to address the risks posed by fossil fuel projects in the African Great Lakes region.

We also supported cross-border engagements targeting religious and cultural leaders. These engagements were aimed at bringing the experiences of oil-affected people to the leaders for their addressing.

Today, communities and civil society are stronger in their efforts to stop fossil fuel risks



AFIEGO AND PARTNERS ENGAGE IN EFFORTS TO PROMOTE A JUST ENERGY TRANSITION



In 2024, AFIEGO and our IGEN-EA partners worked towards promoting a clean and just energy transition by conducting community visioning exercises, organising a women's conference on clean energy, supporting publication of press stories to sensitise the public on clean energy, setting up a clean energy hub and participating in the Renewable Energy Conference and Expo.

Through the above, we planned policy advocacy actions that could be undertaken to promote clean energy access. We also sensitised the public on available clean energy alternatives.

We are happy to report that following a women's clean energy conference that we organised, over 50 women issued a communique calling on government to address barriers to clean energy access.

In addition, available reports indicate that enhanced community uptake of solar energy has greatly **reduced** the use of paraffin (a fossil fuel) in Hoima district, one of the districts that we have targeted for years.



AFIEGO AND IGEN-EA PARTNERS PROMOTE GREEN ECONOMIC ALTERNATIVES



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In 2024, AFIEGO continued to work with our IGEN-EA partners to enhance citizens' capacity to earn a living from green economic alternatives, lobby for increased financial flows to the sectors and engage in research to identify green economic opportunities among others.

For instance, in May 2024, AFIEGO supported its IGEN-EA partners under the network's natural resources working group to hold a training for women beekeepers and youth in Hoima district. During the training, the women and youth were skilled in beehive making, beehive hanging and value addition.

Before that, in March 2024, AFIEGO supported our IGEN-EA partners to participate in a two-day CSO retreat to review the 2024/2025 national budget proposals for the green economic sectors and assess their adequacy. We submitted a joint CSO position paper to Parliament calling for enhancement of budget allocations to the green economic sectors.

AFIEGO also supported IGEN-EA to set up a clean energy hub in Fort Portal city, Kabarole district in Western Uganda to promote community awareness of available clean energy alternatives.

AFIEGO ENGAGES GOVERNMENT TO REDUCE HIGH POWER TARIFFS IN UGANDA



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WEST NILE LIGHTS UP, BUT ELECTRICITY SECTOR CHALLENGES COULD DIM SOCIO-ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION DREAMS

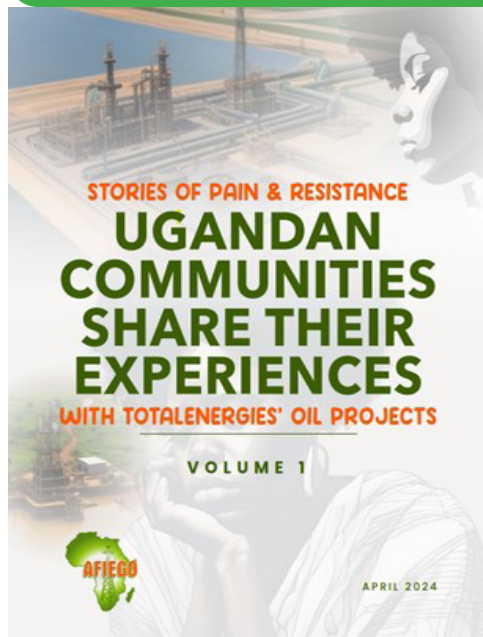


In 2024, AFIEGO supported women and youth champions to undertake advocacy aimed at promoting low power tariffs in Uganda to promote the use of electricity for cooking and other purposes. This was also aimed at reducing pressure on forest landscapes in Uganda.

The supported groups also used radio talks, newspaper articles, and other publications to advocate for low power tariffs.

Lobbying in 2024

AFIEGO and our partners produced over 58 lobby and advocacy materials including research reports, communiques, memoranda, advocacy letters, press statements, petitions and others in 2024. Below are some of the products that were produced.



COMMUNITY PROPOSALS TO PROMOTE AN INCLUSIVE AND JUST ENERGY TRANSITION IN UGANDA

To address the climate crisis and promote universal access to modern energy in line with the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 7, the Ugandan government has put in place a number of policies, laws and plans.

Among these is the Energy Transition Plan (ETP), which was launched by Uganda's Minister of Energy in December 2023. Among others, the plan is aimed at guiding Uganda's efforts to promote a transition to modern energy.

Other stakeholders including development partners, civil society organisations (CSOs), the private sector and others are also promoting a just energy transition. But, what does a JET mean for communities?

In April 2024, Africa Institute for Energy Governance (AFIEGO) conducted a community energy visioning exercise

covering seven districts including Bulisa, Hoima, Kakumiro, Kikuube, Kyotera, Lwengo and Rakai in Uganda.

The purpose of the exercise was to understand the energy that communities aspire towards using in the context of the JET. Through the exercise, AFIEGO also sought to understand the barriers that communities face in efforts to access clean energy and the solutions that they propose to address those barriers.

Through this brief, AFIEGO summarises what a JET means for communities and the recommendations they make to enable the clean energy transition.

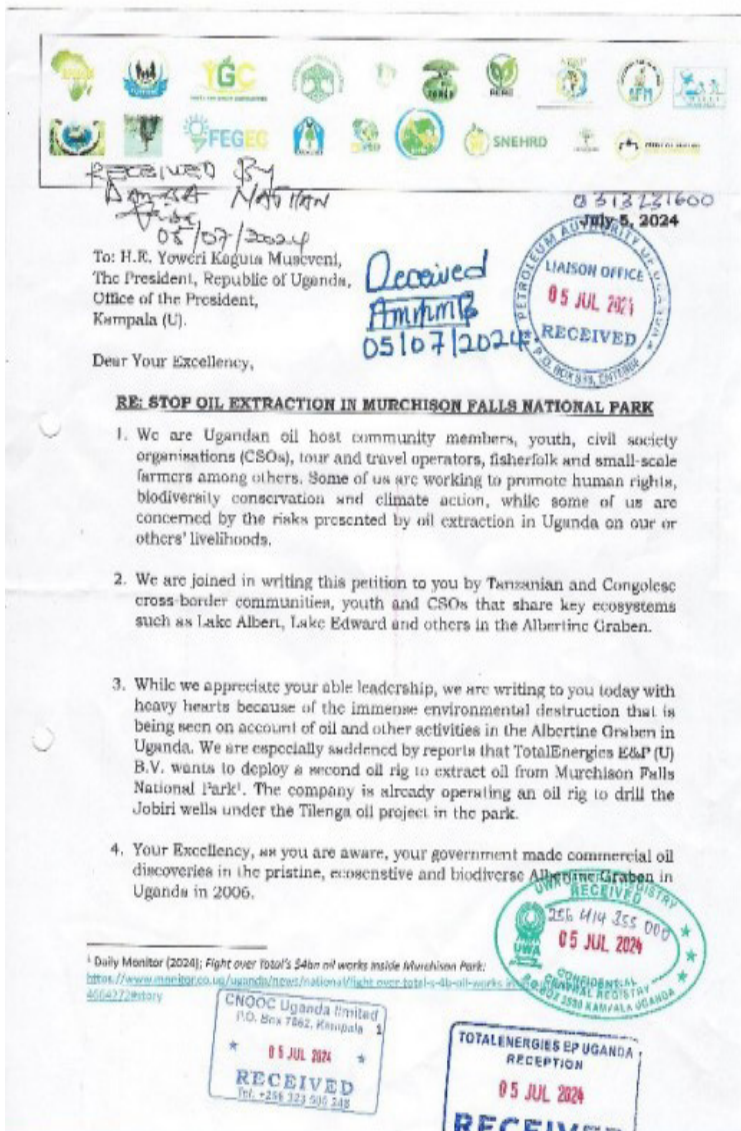
The objective of this summary report is to enhance stakeholder awareness of community aspirations for a JET to support government and others' efforts to promote universal access to clean energy and take climate action.



FACTSHEET: EACOP APPEAL CASE AT THE EAST AFRICAN COURT OF JUSTICE

Judges and lawyers during hearing of a case at the East African Court of Justice

EACOP-affected people during a court appearance



FISHERFOLK VS OIL EXTRACTION

An online exchange to strengthen Ugandan & Tanzanian fisherfolk to defend their rights amidst the Tilenga, Kingfisher & EACOP oil projects

WHEN: February 15, 2024

TIME: 2pm EAT/ 1pm SAST/ 12 noon Nigerian time

WHERE: Zoom



CROSS-BORDER TRAINING ON THE EU'S CRITICAL RAW MATERIALS ACT

WHEN: MARCH 28, 2024

WHERE: ONLINE

TIME: 3pm EAT/2pm Eastern DRC Time/1pm CET

IGEN-EA'S PROPOSALS FOR UGANDA'S 2024/2025 NATIONAL BUDGET

Introduction

In March 2024, the Inclusive Green Economy Network-East Africa (IGEN-EA) alongside other civil society actors reviewed the 2024/2025 national budget proposals for Uganda. Below, the network of over 36 members from Uganda, Kenya and Tanzania whose main objective is to promote green economic activities including clean energy, organic agriculture and fisheries, natural resources management and tourism, shares its insights on Uganda's 2024/2025 national budget proposals.

SUSTAINABLE (CLEAN) ENERGY PROGRAMME

Through the 2024/2025 National Budget Framework (NBF) Paper of December 2023, the Ugandan government has proposed to allocate UGX 1,325.509 trillion to the sustainable energy vote. More information is shared in the infographic below.

AFRICA INSTITUTE FOR ENERGY GOVERNANCE

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October 4, 2024

COMMUNIQUE BY WOMEN CLEAN ENERGY CHAMPIONS- GOVERNMENT SHOULD DO MORE TO ENSURE WOMEN'S ACCESS TO CLEAN ENERGY

A. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

Between September 19 and 20, 2024, Africa Institute for Energy Governance (AFIEGO) in partnership with the Inclusive Green Economy Network-East Africa (IGEN-EA) and with support from BothEnds organised a High-Level Women's Clean Energy Conference. The conference, whose main objective was to enable women to discuss how to strengthen efforts to promote clean renewable energy services for all in Uganda and the East African region, took place at Esella Country Hotel-Kampala. Over 50 women leaders from Uganda, Tanzania, Kenya, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and the Netherlands participated in the conference.

The first-of-its-kind conference was organised as part of AFIEGO and IGEN-EA's efforts to enable citizens shape implementation of Uganda's 2023 Energy Transition Plan (ETP). The ETP is the Ugandan government's blueprint for increasing universal access to modern energy.

The conference recognised the critical environmental, social, economic and cultural importance of universal access to clean, affordable and reliable electricity.

Further, the conference appreciated the role of women, other citizens, government, development partners and private sector's efforts in improving access to clean energy services. These efforts have been promoted through policies, laws and projects including Uganda's 1999 Electricity Act as amended, the National Energy policy, the Renewable Energy policy, the Electricity Scale-Up Project, the Free Electricity Connection policy and others.

However, the participants at the conference expressed concern that despite the above efforts, access to clean affordable and reliable renewable energy remains a challenge. Women's access to clean energy especially remains a challenge with available information showing that at national level in Uganda, of the 24% households with access to grid power, 52.4% are male-headed compared to 48.4% female-headed ones¹.

At the end of the two days' conference, the over 50 participants including the private sector, civil society, the academia, district women leaders, youth activists, journalists, religious leaders and

¹ Energo: <https://www.energo.org/sectors/2013/03/Country-Brief-Uganda-Nov2020.html>



INTRODUCTION

On November 8, 2022, the European Union (EU) and the Government of Uganda (GoU) signed the Uganda-European Union (EU) Forest Partnership. The GoU developed and validated a roadmap for the partnership, whose objectives include:

- Increasing the area of protected, restored or sustainably managed forests;
- Increasing the number of forest-related decent jobs;
- Reducing the annual rate of deforestation of natural forests; and
- Looking for ways to facilitate trade in legal and sustainable wood products.

Through this publication, Africa Institute for Energy Governance (AFIEGO) has worked with our partners under the Save Bugoma Forest Campaign (SBFC) to share highlights of the key conditions in the partnership.

We hope that this will promote public participation in the implementation of the partnership to promote forest conservation in Uganda.

KEY COMMITMENTS

Reducing greenhouse gas emissions by approximately

22% by 2030: The GoU committed to use the funds received from the EU to reduce greenhouse emissions that come from unsustainable human activities such as deforestation, industrial processes and fossil fuels for energy among others. Despite this commitment, the GoU continues to invest in fossil fuel projects such as the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP). On May 16, 2024 the Ugandan parliament passed a supplementary budget of ShS132.634Bn for EACOP activities.



November 14, 2024

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE KAMPALA, NAIROBI & ZANZIBAR

EAST AFRICAN COURT OF JUSTICE TO HEAR APPEAL AGAINST EAST AFRICAN CRUDE OIL PIPELINE (EACOP) PROJECT

Tomorrow, the Appellate Division of the East African Court of Justice (EACJ) will hear an appeal filed by four East African civil society organisations (CSOs) against a judgment made by the First Division of the EACJ in relation to the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP). The hearing will take place in Arusha, Tanzania.

The appeal was filed by Africa Institute for Energy Governance (AFIEGO) from Uganda, Centre for Food and Adequate Living Rights (CEFRHOHT) from Uganda, Natural Justice (NJ) from Kenya and Centre for Strategic Litigation (CSL) from Tanzania on December 13, 2023.

This followed the dismissal of a court case, Reference No. 39 of 2020, that the CSOs filed in November 2020. The case, through which the CSOs sought temporary and permanent injunctions against the EACOP due to its non-compliance to national and international laws or agreements, was dismissed by the First Instance Division of the EACJ on November 29, 2023.

The case was dismissed following the Solicitor General of Tanzania raising preliminary objections among which was the assertion that the case was filed out of time, and that the EACJ lacked jurisdiction to hear it. The First Instance Division of the EACJ agreed, resulting in dismissal of the case.

The CSOs believe that the judges at the First Instance Division erred in their ruling, and in their appeal, they make the following arguments that they want the Appellate Division of the EACJ to rule on. The CSOs argue as follows:

- That the court case was filed in time and in compliance with relevant East African Community (EAC) laws.
- That the First Instance court misinterpreted East African Community (EAC) laws and misapplied procedural law to find that the case was filed out of time.
- In addition, that the First Instance court erred in dismissing the case when Tanzania's Solicitor General challenged only two of the 12 grounds on which the case was premised.

In the media in 2024

In 2024, AFIEGO staff and our partners produced 84 articles that were published by Uganda's major newspapers. Our press statements and media interviews also resulted in the production of 151 media stories that were published in Uganda and other countries. Some of our 2024 media output is captured below.

LETTER OF THE DAY

Prioritise agriculture sector in the FY2024/2025 budget

In January 2024, the Parliament of Uganda approved the FY2024/25 National Budget Framework Paper (NBF) amounting to Shs2.7 trillion. The passing of the NBF is in line with the requirement of the Public Finance Management Act 2015 that sets February 1 as the deadline for Parliament to approve it.

However, it is concerning that the agro-industrialisation sector that plays a key role especially for the rural communities that depend on agriculture, the resources were reduced for FY2024/25 as compared to FY2023/24. The agriculture sector plays a central role in Uganda's economy and is a source of livelihood for a significant proportion of Ugandans. The sector accounts for up to 50 percent of exports and employs 64 percent of all Ugandans as well as 72 percent of all youths. However, in the budget, agricultural sector resources were reduced to about Shs170 billion, Shs1.65 trillion in FY 2024/25 from Shs1.813 trillion in FY 2023/24 despite the government's commitments to invest in agricultural transformation.

Additionally, it should be noted that currently, there is absence of the National Irrigation Master Plan.

The country continues to face numerous climate-related changes, particularly prolonged droughts which impede all year-round production for farmers. For instance, in FY 2021/22, the Ministry constructed 110 valley tanks each with a capacity ranging from 10,000m³ to 20,000m³ in the water-stricken districts of the cattle corridor to increase access to water for livestock production and ultimately control the movement of animals.

However, the absence of a national strategy or plan to guide investments in water for agricultural production, especially among small-scale farmers is continuously affecting the efforts to improve the sector. In the Ministerial Policy Statements of the MPFS FY2023/24, it indicates that the MAAP has abandoned the finalization of the irrigation master plan and is proposing to attain a legal framework for irrigation. While this legal framework is necessary, it does not negate the need for the irrigation master plan to coordinate investments in water for agricultural production and productivity. This can be evidenced by the funding gap of Shs25 billion which is required for the provision of small-scale irrigation to support production at Parish level under the Parish Development Model (PDM).

Worse of all, the agriculture sector for FY2024/25 is highly dependent on external financing to realize its objectives and 1 trillion of the program budget is expected from external financing. Up to 70 percent of the development budget in the program is externally funded. This increased dependence on external funds to finance the agro-industrialization programme greatly contributes to financial instability and economic crises as the agricultural economy becomes vulnerable to changes in donor priorities and funding levels. Therefore, in order to improve the agricultural sector which is the green economic sector and has a potential to provide jobs, improve community livelihoods, Gross Domestic Product (GDP) as well as reducing climate change effects, the government should ensure that the agricultural sector resources allocations for FY2024/2025 is increased. Government through parliament should also task the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal, Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF) to finalize the process of developing the National Irrigation Master Plan as an effort to improve the agro-industrialization program in Uganda.

Olive Atubaire, Research Associate, AFIEGO

LETTER OF THE DAY

Power up Ugandans with lower tariffs

On February 2, 2024, the Minister of Energy and Mineral Development, Mr. Ruth Nankabirwa, launched the Electricity Access Scale up projects (EASAP) in Mt. Muboma District.

The project aims at increasing electricity access to households, commercial enterprises and public institutions in rural areas through on-grid and off-grid solutions. It also aims at increasing access to clean energy cooking services by supporting private sector enterprises in promoting efficient cooking solutions.

Early this month, the Energy ministry officially launched free electricity connections as part of the Electricity Scale up Project (EASAP) in Nebbi District, which will be rolled out in the entire West Nile. This is a good move.

I therefore take this opportunity to appreciate the government for the good work it is doing.

More so, in connecting all Ugandans to the grid, especially rural areas that are dominated by mostly vulnerable people who depend on biomass for domestic use that is unclean and have a negative health, gender and environmental consequences.

However, the current power tariffs that are still high and costly for domestic consumers with the current domestic charge of Shs303 per kWh may not favour the vulnerable who wish to use this power for cooking.

The high power tariffs makes it difficult for the vulnerable small scale businesses like the trading, salons, and retail shops to increase their productivity levels.

Additionally, the high power tariffs have increased pressure on natural resources especially forests, causing degradation, which increases gas emissions that cause climate change resulting in frequent prolonged periods of drought and erratic rainfalls. This affects food security and decreases agricultural productivity making it difficult for people to meet their needs.

Increasing electricity access is good. However, it should go hand in hand with reduction of power tariffs.

The ministry of Energy should consider the consumption rate of this electricity because spending too much on connection and the electricity remains unconnected is also considered as wastage of government's resources. That's why I think the EASAP project will be more beneficial to people if the government considers reducing electricity costs.

People will get more opportunities to matter their status and improve on their standards of living. Vulnerability to changing precipitation patterns will be reduced, staff life will be increased, and income and employment opportunities in rural areas will also be strengthened.

Affordable and reliable energy powers sustainable development and helps countries reduce poverty, catalyse economic growth and improve human well-being.

As of 2020, however, more than 18 million Ugandans (54 percent of the total population) continue to live without access to electricity (ESMAP), limiting the country's potential for economic growth and human development.

Lowering the power tariffs and providing open access to affordable and up-to-date spatial information on resources, infrastructure and demand for productive use of energy is critical toward bridging the access divide and achieving the Sustainable Development Goal seven of universal access to affordable, reliable and sustainable energy services, requires expanding access to electricity and clean, cooking fuels and technologies, improving energy efficiency and increasing the share of renewable energy by 2030.

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https://twitter.com/newvisionwire/status/1768249645312954574?s=20

Post

The New Vision @newvisionwire

"It is evident that even with the recently installed capacity of 1,379mw, this power has never been exhaustively consumed by the country at peak demand," said Patrick Edema, an environmental engineer.

DETAILS #VisionUpdates

Will connected Karuma dam power revamp high power tariffs?

From newvisionapp.page.link

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STAKEHOLDERS CALL FOR ACTION AGAINST LAND ALLOCATION, ENCROACHMENT

UBC


10:28:22 PM

TIME TO SAVE UGANDA - LOP QUERIES "SILENCE" OF HOUSE ABOUT SOCIAL MEDIA ALLEGATIONS, SPEAK

Uganda Needs A National Gender Climate Action Plan

Aug 23, 2024

Availability of climate finance, technology and training for women would be used as instruments of the NGCAP which will enable them to adopt sustainable practices that would contribute in resilience building.



Activists demand juicy jobs for women in Green Economy

The Independent March 8, 2024 AFRICA, JOBS Leave a comment



Female fishmonger, Buliisa district

"We have experienced strong hardships. Fish used to be abundant. My parents were fisherfolk and they used to catch excess fish, preserve, sell, and pay my school fees. They could earn about Shs. 2 million in a week. Today, fishermen and fishmongers may not be able to get fish and sell in a week because of various factors. As a result, people are poor. They could have worked in the oil sector but casual workers for the sector are gotten from Buganda, Lango, Karamoja and other areas. Our brothers have now become thieves because they have no opportunities."

Home > News > AFIEGO trains journalists on environmental risk in energy reporting

AFIEGO Trains Journalists On Environmental Risk In Energy Reporting

By Editor On May 3, 2024



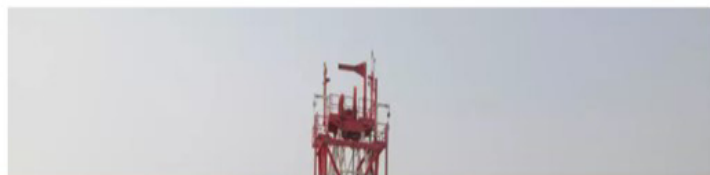
France Africa International Culture Sports Science & technology Environment

UGANDA

TotalEnergies oil project 'devastating' for Ugandan national park, NGO says

Production has yet to begin, but TotalEnergies' controversial East African oil project is already taking a dire environmental toll in Uganda's largest national parks, a leading conservationist group said Friday.

Issued on: 13/07/2024 - 12:43 3 min



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Advocacy group links Uganda oil infrastructure to human-elephant conflict

MUSINGUZI BLANSHE

30 JUL 2024 AFRICA

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LETTER OF THE DAY

Let's empower our youth to implement sustainable forest management practices

Globally, Uganda has one of the highest deforestation rates with a 2.8 percent annual loss in forest cover and its loss is a significant driver of climate change within the country impacting its biodiversity, weather patterns, local climate, agricultural productivity and general quality of life.

According to Global Forest Watch, 12,383 deforestation alerts were reported in Uganda between April 18, to April 26, covering a total of 151 hectares whereas none of these were high confidence alerts detected by a single system and none were alerts detected by multiple systems.

Despite the strategic ecological importance of forests, they continue to face threats mostly from youth such as illegal logging, land use conflicts, charcoal burning, and many others. This is because youth have not been empowered enough to lead in policy and development processes because they have the potential to make a huge impact in forest conservation efforts and in Uganda host many refugees, it also endangers forests due to the over-reliance on the wood fuel and income generation. This has led to loss of biodiversity, fish floods, prolonged droughts, and loss of food security.

However, the country has established forest legal and policy frameworks as well as private sector initiatives aimed at curbing deforestation, implementation and enforcement of these laws and policies have remained weak. This is because youth have not been involved in key decision and development processes as they are the ones mostly involved in charcoal burning, deforestation, corruption with conflicting interests, and conflicting land use priorities which have hindered implementation of these laws.



Notably, the alarming level of deforestation is attributed to a lack of citizen awareness of the importance of forest covers, and alternative and sustainable sources of income from forests. As a result, laws, policies, and institutional agreements such as the European Union-Uganda Forest Partnership of 2002 are not enforced and deforestation levels continue to spike. For instance, some forests such as Bugoma and Toro forests have been at the center of land allocation conflicts for sugarcane corporations. The influx of uninvolved youth, refugee hosts, and demand for wood fuel has led to severe degradation and reduced forest cover.

Therefore, addressing this problem necessitates a transformative approach that empowers the local youth, integrates them into conservation of forests, and harnesses their potential to advocate for and implement sustainable forest management practices. This will not only help in aligning local actions with the broader objectives of the EU-Uganda Forest Partnership and other forest laws and policies but also ensure the long-term preservation and restoration of forests, maximize efforts to combat climate change challenges, and improve lives in and outside Uganda.

Olive Atukwase,
Research Associate

Upcoming events

February 3, 2025; Kampala: Litigation support to students who filed a case against government and police officers for violating their right to freedom of assembly

February 5, 2025; Kampala: Litigation support to students who were sued by government over protesting against EACOP

February 11, 2025; Kampala: Dissemination of ToRs for a consultant to conduct a political-economy assessment of the tourism industry

February 14, 2025; Buliisa: Meeting with women and youth to share research findings on the negative impacts of oil activities on Murchison Falls National Park

February 21, 2025; Kampala: IGEN-EA strategic planning and reflection meeting

February 24, 2025; Kigali: Hearing of the EACOP case filed by AFIEGO and others at the East African Court of Justice

February 28, 2025; Masaka: Updates sharing meeting with EACOP-affected communities

About AFIEGO

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

Our Vision

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

Our Mission

To promote energy policies that benefit poor and vulnerable communities