

April 2025; Issue 4

PROMOTING GREEN GROWTH? UGANDA'S 2025/2026 BUDGET PROPOSALS FALL SHORT OF GUARANTEEING GREEN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



A group photo of AFIEGO staff, IGEN-EA partners, Makerere University staff and students after a green jobs fair this month (April). Inadequate national budget allocations were pointed out as a major hindrance towards green growth at the event

In this newsletter:

- Green growth goal still out of reach due to inadequate funding of green economic sectors
- Pictorial of our activities
- Lobbying
- In the media
- Upcoming events

Dear reader, welcome to AFIEGO's April 2025 newsletter.

On March 27, 2025, the State Minister for Finance, Mr. Henry Musasizi, tabled the 2025/2026 financial year (FY) budget estimates of UGX **71.9 trillion** before Parliament.

These estimates are over Shs. 19 trillion more than the proposals that were made in the December 2024 National Budget Framework (NBF) Paper.

The budget proposals were enhanced by the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development following recommendations from Parliament to increase allocations to under-funded priorities.

While presenting the latest budget proposals, Mr. Musasizi observed the following as being the priority areas for FY 2025/2026:

- Maintaining peace, security and the rule of law;
- Human capital development (Health, education, water and social protection);
- Full monetisation of the economy;
- Infrastructural development;
- Regional integration;
- Expanding irrigation to stabilise

agriculture;

- Promoting manufacturing through industrial parks;

- Strengthening anti-corruption measures;

- Conservation and protection of natural resources; and

- Enhancing economic integration at regional and national levels.

More on the above can be seen [here](#).

Africa Institute for Energy Governance (AFIEGO) and our partners under the Inclusive Green Economy Network-East Africa (IGEN-EA) have engaged in several processes to analyse the 2025/2026 national budget proposals for Uganda.

Our work has focused on assessing whether the national budget proposals for key green economic sectors such as sustainable energy, agriculture and fisheries, sustainable tourism as well as natural resources management are sufficient.

Our reviews show that funding for the sustainable energy, agro-industrialisation, tourism as well as the Natural Resources, Environment, Climate Change and Water Management programmes are set to decline in 2025/2026.

For instance, the agro-

industrialisation programme budget is set to decline from over UGX 2.06 trillion in 2024/2025 to about UGX 1.689 trillion in 2025/2026.

This is a decline of a whopping UGX 375.358 billion!

In addition, the sustainable energy, sustainable tourism and Natural Resources programmes are set to experience a decline of UGX166.354 billion, UGX 121.914 billion and UGX 62.22 billion respectively.

Yet government stated that key budget priorities include conservation and protection of natural resources!

Further, agro-industrialisation and tourism development are some of the seven high-impact priority areas identified under the National Development Plan (NDP) IV.

Government has set targets that include growing Uganda's economy from US\$ 50 billion to US\$ 500 billion by 2040 and the above high-impact areas need to be invested in for attainment of this goal.

The budget proposals, which are contained in the **2025/2026** NBF

Paper of December 2024, also fall below the indicative funds that the NDP IV says should be provided to the aforementioned sectors to enable Uganda attain a tenfold economic growth.

In our **Word from CEO and IGEN-EA**, we discuss more on the above and make recommendations to enhance budget allocations to sustainable green economic sectors.

In this newsletter, we also bring you our **pictorial** section through which we share the activities that AFIEGO and our partners implemented this month (April 2025).

In the **lobbying** section, we share some of the lobby and advocacy products that we produced and disseminated in April 2025.

Finally, in **in the media** section, we bring you some of the newspaper articles written by our staff and partners that were published in the leading newspapers in April 2025.

We hope that you will enjoy the newsletter.

Editorial team:

Diana Nabiruma

Babra Kembabazi

Hilda Nsimiire

GREEN GROWTH GOAL STILL OUT OF REACH DUE TO INADEQUATE FUNDING OF GREEN ECONOMIC SECTORS

Ms. Jane Nakintu*, a resident of Kyakachwere village, Kakuuto sub-county, Kyotera district in Southern Uganda was beside herself after a nighttime downpour on April 1, 2025.

Her humble home, which houses her alongside her children, had been invaded by a lot of water! The food crops in her garden had also been affected.

Where would she live, she wondered? How about food? What would she give her children now that the food in her garden was surely going to rot because of being submerged by water?

Ms. Nakintu's house had never flooded. Construction activities for an access road for the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) project, which affected the drainage in her area, were to blame for these problems she was experiencing.

By the time this newsletter was written, Ms. Nakintu was still distraught, wondering where she would find food to feed her family. In addition, while she had temporarily relocated from her home, which is unsafe as it developed cracks following the floods, Ms. Nakintu had returned to her home because she had no money for rent. She was afraid about her and her children's safety.

Enter 2025/2026 budget proposals

A few days before Ms. Nakintu grappled with how to deal with the impacts of investments in brown or dirty industries such as the EACOP, the State Minister for Finance, Mr. Henry Musasizi, presented revised 2025/2026 financial year budget proposals before parliament.

As indicated in our Editorial section of this

newsletter, the proposals were presented on March 27. Would the budget proposals foster green economic growth over investment in brown sectors that are driving the climate crisis and hurting communities?

AFIEGO and our Inclusive Green Economy Network-East Africa (IGEN-EA) partners undertook an analysis of the budget and below, we share our findings. Worth noting is that IGEN-EA is a network of over 36 civil society organisations (CSOs) and private sector entities that are united around a common mission of promoting inclusive green economic activities that conserve the environment while addressing human rights and climate change concerns in East Africa.

IGEN-EA focuses on the following sectors: clean energy, sustainable tourism, agriculture and fisheries, as well as natural resources management.

Analysis of 2025/2026 budget proposals

To assess whether the budget proposals for the upcoming financial year will foster green growth and jobs, AFIEGO and IGEN-EA analysed the 2025/2026 National Budget Framework (NBF) Paper of December 2024 as well as selected Ministerial Policy Statements. Our reflections on the FY 2025/2026 budget proposals can be seen below.

Agro-industrialisation: Agriculture remains a bedrock of Uganda's economy. Indeed, in the country's **National Development Plan (NDP) IV**, the sector is identified as one of the seven high-impact growth areas that need to be invested in to realise a double-digit growth over the NDP IV period and ten-fold economic growth by 2040. Government hopes to grow the economy from the current GDP of about US\$ 50 billion to US\$500 billion

by 2040.

Further, the agriculture sector employs nearly 70% of Uganda's labourforce, and contributes 24% to the country's GDP. The sector contributed UGX 43.9 trillion in absolute terms in the FY 2022/2023.

The NDP IV foresees the agricultural sector doing better if further invested in. For instance, the plan foresees over 1.6 million jobs being created in the sector by FY 2029/2030.

To power agro-industrialisation, the share of the national budget to the agriculture sector needs to be increased. The NDP indicative planning figure for the sector for FY 2025/2026 is UGX 2.606 trillion.

Despite the above, the sector is set to suffer budget cuts with the agro-industrialisation programme being allocated about UGX 1.689 trillion for FY2025/2026. This is less than the over UGX 2.064 trillion that the sector was allocated last year, not to mention being less than the NDP IV indicative planning figure.

Below is a table showing the agro-industrialisation programme budget proposals.

Billion Uganda Shillings		FY2024/25		FY2025/26
		Approved Budget	Spent by End Sep	Proposed Budget
Recurrent	Wage	234.852	53.304	234.852
	NonWage	223.329	28.257	170.117
Devt.	GoU	677.265	11.755	235.655
	ExtFin	929.263	8.346	1,048.728
GoU Total		1,135.447	93.316	640.624
Total GoU+Ext Fin (MTEF)		2,064.710	101.662	1,689.352
A.I.A		0.000	0.000	0.000
Grand Total		2,064.710	101.662	1,689.352

Source: 2025/2026 NBF Paper

Sustainable energy: To attain green growth, Uganda needs to invest in sustainable energy projects that will provide accessible, affordable, and reliable power to citizens.

Sustainable energy is key to facilitating enhanced production and productivity in the agriculture sector, value addition, tourism development, mineral-based industrialisation, and other high impact sectors as identified in the NDP IV.

Investment in the sustainable energy sector is also key to attainment of goals set out in the Energy Transition Plan (ETP) of December 2023. Such goals include ensuring universal clean energy access by 2030, promoting universal clean cooking by 2030, supporting energy efficiency and others.

Unfortunately, the sustainable energy sector is set to suffer budget cuts with the sector being allocated about UGX 1.301 trillion in FY2025/2026. This is less than the approved budget for FY2024/2025 which was over UGX 1.135 trillion.

In addition, while many of the sector's priority areas for FY2025/2026 reflect citizens' needs and emerging trends such as strengthening the national electricity grid in the Kampala Metropolitan Area, promoting electric mobility, promoting energy efficiency, supporting the production of biofuels and others, key priorities are lacking.

These include supporting poor, vulnerable families to access subsidised off-grid solar electricity, and supporting processes to put in place key policies such as the Solar Energy Policy to guide off-grid electrification.

Below is a table showing the budget proposals for the sustainable energy programme.

Billion Uganda Shillings		FY2024/25		FY2025/26
		Approved Budget	Spent by End Sep	Proposed Budget
Recurrent	Wage	7.511	1.771	7.511
	NonWage	38.708	7.375	63.012
Devt.	GoU	141.594	0.842	21.021
	ExtFin	947.455	0.000	1,210.077
GoU Total		187.813	9.988	91.544
Total GoU+Ext Fin (MTEF)		1,135.268	9.988	1,301.622
A.I.A		0.000	0.000	0.000
Grand Total		1,135.268	9.988	1,301.622

Source: 2025/2026 NBF Paper

Tourism: Tourism is one of the seven high-impact growth areas that are hoped to propel Uganda from a US\$ 50 billion economy to a US\$ 500 billion one by 2040. The tourism sector earnings are expected to grow to US\$ 50 billion by 2040. The sector is also expected to create 546,804 jobs alongside other services, per the NDP IV.

To attain the above and other targets, the following is supposed to be done per the NDP IV: promote domestic and inbound tourism, increase the stock and quality of tourism infrastructure, develop a pool of skilled personnel along the tourism value chain, and develop, conserve and diversify tourism products and services among others. To do the above and others, the NDP IV indicates that the tourism development programme should receive UGX 464 billion in FY 2025/2026.

However, the sector is set to receive UGX 175.982 billion only. This figure is over UGX 288 billion shy of the NDP IV indicative planning figure. Moreover, the sector is set to suffer budget cuts from the UGX 297.896 billion that was approved for the 2024/2025 financial year.

Below is a table showing the proposed budget for the tourism sector in FY 2025/2026.

Billion Uganda Shillings		FY2024/25		FY2025/26
		Approved Budget	Spent by End Sep	Proposed Budget
Recurrent	Wage	8.374	1.821	8.374
	NonWage	249.963	52.320	130.539
Devt.	GoU	39.559	0.197	37.069
	ExtFin	0.000	0.000	0.000
GoU Total		297.896	54.337	175.982
Total GoU+Ext Fin (MTEF)		297.896	54.337	175.982
A.I.A		0.000	0.000	0.000
Grand Total		297.896	54.337	175.982

Source: 2025/2026 NBF Paper

Natural resources, environment, climate change, land and water management:

Uganda is currently faced with a conservation crisis with wetlands, forests, national parks and other protected areas being destroyed or put at risk of degradation

due to agriculture, oil and gas exploitation as well as biomass collection activities.

In addition, Uganda has one of the highest deforestation rates in the world, with information from the National Environment Management Authority (NEMA) showing that if deforestation continues at 2010 rates, Uganda will have **lost** all its forest cover by 2050.

Climate change is also a challenge with prolonged dry weather conditions, heavier-than-normal rainfall, landslides, and others being recorded in the country.

As such, conservation agencies such as the Ministry of Water and Environment (MWE), the National Forestry Authority (NFA) and NEMA need to be adequately funded.

Despite the above, the Natural Resources, Environment, Climate Change, Land and Water Management programme continues to be under-funded. The sector is set to be allocated UGX 411.500 billion in FY 2025/2026. In FY2024/2025, the sector was allocated UGX 473.720 billion, implying a decline of UGX 62.220 billion.

NEMA and NFA are set to be allocated only UGX 25.934 billion and UGX 47.033 billion respectively for FY 2025/2026.

Below is a table showing the proposed budget for the natural resources programme in FY 2025/2026.

Billion Uganda Shillings		FY2024/25		FY2025/26
		Approved Budget	Spent by End Sep	Proposed Budget
Recurrent	Wage	51.192	10.404	41.809
	NonWage	97.787	8.324	82.637
Devt.	GoU	77.385	0.797	50.566
	ExtFin	247.356	28.759	236.489
GoU Total		226.364	19.525	175.011
Total GoU+Ext Fin (MTEF)		473.720	48.284	411.500
A.I.A		0.000	0.000	0.000
Grand Total		473.720	48.284	411.500

Source: 2025/2026 NBF Paper

Petroleum development: This national budget proposals analysis would be incomplete if we did not look at the oil and gas sector.

Despite its huge contribution to the climate crisis and the risks the crisis poses to the Ugandan economy, the petroleum sector has been identified as one of the high-impact ones that are to be prioritised under the NDP IV.

In the 2025/2026 financial year, the sector, which also includes minerals development among others, has been allocated UGX 635.948 billion.

This is higher than the allocations made to the natural resources programme. The funds are supposed to be invested in the Tilenga, Kingfisher and EACOP projects. The funds are also supposed to support development of the Kabalega Industrial Area where an oil sector airport is being constructed. Further, the funds are supposed to be invested in minerals programmes.

Recommendations

In light of the above, AFIEGO and our IGEN-EA partners recommend the following:

(i) The agro-industrialisation sector budget should be increased to UGX 2.606 trillion in line with the indicative planning figure in the NDP IV.

(ii) Further, the sustainable energy sector budget should not be reduced as planned. Parliament should also task the Ministry of Energy to prioritise

efforts such as subsidising off-grid solar technologies for the poor while also enacting relevant laws such as a Solar Energy policy to promote off-grid electrification.

(iii) In addition, in line with the NDP IV indicative planning figure, the tourism sector budget should be increased to UGX 464 billion.

(iv) To promote conservation, oil exploitation, sugarcane growing, illegal timber logging, charcoal burning and other illegal activities taking place in forest landscapes should also be stopped to aid tourism development.

(v) In addition, the budget allocations to NEMA and NFA should also be enhanced. Under-funding NEMA and NFA aids corruption and curtails the two agencies from playing their conservation roles.

(vi) Further, in light of the climate crisis and the risks it poses to seeing Uganda's economy grow tenfold to US\$ 500 billion by 2040, funding for petroleum activities should stop. Instead, clean energy projects that meet the needs of all should be funded.

(vii) Finally, parliament should ensure that Ministries and Agencies allocate funds to marginalised groups at community level working on eco-friendly initiatives, supporting their efforts towards a greener economy.

By AFIEGO's CEO AND IGEN-EA

Pictorial of our activities

AFIEGO SUPPORTS ELEPHANT VICTIMS TO MEET UWA OFFICIALS



On April 2, 2025, AFIEGO in partnership with Environmental Conservation Alliance Group (ECAG) organised a meeting between Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA) and people who have been affected by oil-induced elephant-human conflicts in Buliisa district.

The meeting enabled the elephant victims to share their challenges with UWA.

The meeting agreed on various actions to address the elephant-human conflicts while providing justice to the victims.

PUBLIC LITIGATION: AFIEGO HOLDS LAWYERS' RETREAT



Between April 10 and 11, 2025, AFIEGO held a lawyers' retreat at the Great Outdoors.

The objective of the retreat was to facilitate lawyers working with AFIEGO to reflect on ongoing court cases, improve legal strategy, and create consensus on the next steps in the ongoing public interest litigation.

The litigation is aimed at promoting human rights, environmental justice and civic space.

AFIEGO SUPPORTS IGEN-EA TO HOLD A GREEN JOBS FAIR



On April 16, 2025, AFIEGO supported IGEN-EA to hold a green jobs fair at Makerere University in Kampala. The purpose of the fair was to raise youth awareness of the employment opportunities and potential in key green economic sectors.

During the fair that brought together over 100 participants, the university students committed to form a green jobs club among others.

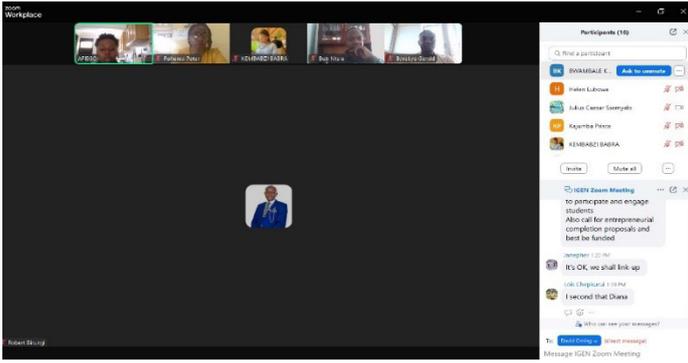
AFIEGO SUPPORTS EACOP-AFFECTED PEOPLE TO CONVENE A MEETING



Following the meeting held between representatives of EACOP-affected people and the Deputy Katikiiro of Buganda Kingdom and his secretary in Bulange-Mengo in Kampala on March 18, 2025, AFIEGO supported the people to hold a meeting and update other members on their visit to the Buganda kingdom headquarters in Mengo and also to discuss other plans for the group.

The meeting took place on April 11, 2025. The people agreed on a plan to enhance awareness raising and advocacy.

AFIEGO SUPPORTS IGEN-EA TO CONVENE MONTHLY REFLECTION AND PLANNING MEETING



On April 24, 2025, AFIEGO supported IGEN-EA members to hold a monthly meeting. The objective of the meeting was for the various working groups to update members on the implemented activities and aid planning for upcoming activities.

Lobbying

In April 2025, AFIEGO together with DRC partners wrote a petition to local authorities calling for conservation of lakes Albert and Edward and protection of local communities' rights. In addition, a letter was written requesting the Ministry of Water and Environment to address challenges faced by the fishing communities on lakes Edward and Albert. Further, in April 2025, our partners submitted a complaint against his lordship Jesse Byaruhanga Rugyema. We did much more as can be seen in the photos below.

CHAMBERS OF THE PRINCIPAL JUDGE
01 APR 2025
RECEIVED CLIENT'S RETURN COPY

4th March 2025

The Registrar,
High Court Civil Division,
Kampala.

RE: URGENT REQUEST FOR A HEARING DATE IN MISCELLANEOUS CAUSE NO. 133 OF 2024; BOB BARIGYE V. ALEX MIREMIRUNGI & 3 OTHERS

Your Worship,

I am writing to express my deep frustration regarding the delay in scheduling a hearing date for my case, Miscellaneous Cause No. 133 of 2024, which I filed on 22nd July 2024. Since then, over 230 days have passed without the case being fixed for hearing, despite my lawyers making two formal requests, one on 2nd September 2024 and another on 16th December 2024.

I have been informed that the judge previously handling the matter is no longer at this station. However, I strongly believe that this should not justify such an extended delay in allocating a hearing date. The Constitution of Uganda guarantees the right to a fair and speedy hearing under Article 28(1), and my case being one concerning the enforcement of fundamental human rights, ought to be given priority in accordance with Article 50(4). The continued inaction violates these constitutional principles and denies me justice.

The delay in hearing my case has subjected me to untold suffering, distress, and uncertainty. The very reason I approached this honorable court was to seek protection and enforcement of my rights, but instead, I find myself further victimized by the slow judicial process. Justice delayed is justice denied, and I respectfully urge your office to take immediate steps to ensure that my case is scheduled for hearing without any further delay.

I kindly request that you provide me with an update on when my case will be heard. I trust in the court's duty to uphold the Constitution and ensure that all matters, especially those concerning human rights, are given the urgent attention they deserve.

I appreciate your time and consideration and I look forward to your prompt response.

Yours faithfully,
Bob Barigye
BOB BARIGYE

C.c. The Respondents
C.c. The Principal Judge

KAMU ADVOCATES & SOLICITORS
Advocates, Commissioner for Oaths, Notary Public, Solicitors, Company Secretaries, Conveyancers, Debt Collectors, Trademark and Patent Agents

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COMPLAINT MADE AGAINST HIS LORDSHIP BYARUHANGA JESSE RUGYEMA

TO: The Secretary
Judicial Service Commission
Kingdom - Kampala
Nile Avenue
8th Floor, COURSE OF JUSTICE
P. O. Box 7679

Dear Madam,

Greetings!

Reference is made to the above complaint that was filed against His Lordship Byaruhanga Jesse Rugyema on December 18, 2023 by some of the respondents including myself. In the said complaint, we challenge the alleged incompetence, bias, irregularities and illegalities exhibited by His Lordship Byaruhanga Jesse Rugyema vide High Court of Uganda at Hoima Miscellaneous Cause No. 24 of 2023 - Attorney General Vs Kiseembo Rugadya & 41 others.

Madam, to briefly restate the facts of this complaint, On December 4, 2023, the Attorney General instituted a suit against 42 Tilenga oil project affected families from Bullisa at the High Court of Uganda Hoima circuit. In this suit, government sought to obtain leave of court to deposit contested compensation monies for the Tilenga oil project affected families with the court, evict the families from their land, take vacant possession of the suit land and be absolved from any further liabilities regarding the suit land.

Between December 5-7, 2023, some of the projected affected persons were served with court documents and told to appear in High Court Hoima circuit on December 8, 2023 for hearing of the case.

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In April 2025, AFIEGO staff and research associates wrote newspaper articles that were published in the leading newspapers. Some of the published articles are captured below.



Upcoming events

May 2, 2025; Kampala: Support families affected by EACOP access roads floods to petition the EACOP Company

May 6, 2025; Kampala: Organise a meeting with Justice Douglas Singiza on the pending ruling in the case for cancellation of the Tilenga Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) certificate of approval

May 8, 2025; Kampala: Disseminate a simplified guide to Uganda's Energy Transition Plan

March 12, 2025; Kampala: Engage Uganda's Prime minister to table the Consumer Protection and Management Bill before Parliament for debate and enactment

May 15, 2025; Fort portal: Organise an exchange learning for oil-affected communities to the IGEN-EA clean energy hub

May 15, 2025; France: Hearing of the Tilenga and EACOP cases in France

May 21, 2025; Hoima: Hearing of the compensation case brought by the oil refinery-affected people against government

May 26 - 31, 2025; Bunyoro and Greater Masaka: Organise community sensitisation meetings on EACOP compliance requirements during the construction phase

About AFIEGO

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