



AFRICA INSTITUTE FOR ENERGY GOVERNANCE (AFIEGO)

ANNUAL REPORT 2024



TABLE OF CONTENTS

About AFIEGO	3
Our programmes	4
Our reach in figures	6
Table of acronyms	7
Section 1	8
Message from the board chairperson	8
Executive summary by the CEO	10
Section 2	15
Activities and achievements	15
Influencing key policies and laws	15
Community empowerment/organising	18
Forest conservation efforts	24
Litigation	27
Cross-border advocacy	32
Promoting green economic alternatives	34
Promoting clean energy	37
Institutional partner strengthening	40
Section 3	42
Key achievement, challenges and priorities	42
Highlights of key achievements	42
Challenges in 2024	44
Key priorities in 2025	45
Appendices	46

ABOUT AFIEGO

Africa Institute for Energy Governance (AFIEGO) is an incorporated company limited by guarantee dedicated to influencing energy policies to benefit poor and vulnerable communities. Based in Kampala, Uganda, AFIEGO 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 clean 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

OUR OBJECTIVES

- To empower citizens, especially the poor and vulnerable, to participate in the making of energy policies at all levels;
- To empower citizens to demand for transparency and accountability in the management and utilisation of energy resources;
- To contribute to the pool of knowledge on energy in Africa through research and documentation;
- To promote gender equity in the utilisation of energy resources; and
- To provide free energy-related legal services and paralegal training to vulnerable and poor communities as a means of promoting access rights.

OUR PROGRAMMES



The Extractives Governance programme:

The objective of the programme is to influence extractives policies to improve the lives of citizens.

The programme seeks to contribute to national, regional and global agendas that are seeking to end fossil fuel extractivism while promoting sustainable extraction for minerals needed to promote a just energy transition.

The Electricity Democracy Programme:

The objective of the programme is to promote affordable, accessible, reliable, clean and sustainable electricity services for improved livelihoods and national development.

The programme is grounded in national, regional and global development agendas to increase clean and affordable energy access such as Uganda's National Development Plan (NDP) IV, Vision 2040, SDG 7 and the Sustainable Energy for All (SE4ALL) initiative among others.

The Renewable Energy Efficiency and Climate Change Programme:

The objective of the programme is to promote clean and alternative energy sources in Uganda.

The programme is grounded in global and national efforts to make communities resilient to climate change and to reduce global temperature rises to 1.5 degrees Celsius. These efforts include the SDGs and the Paris Climate Change Agreement. The programme also promotes just energy transition efforts in which clean energy is used to meet the energy needs of all, especially women, youth, children and other vulnerable groups.

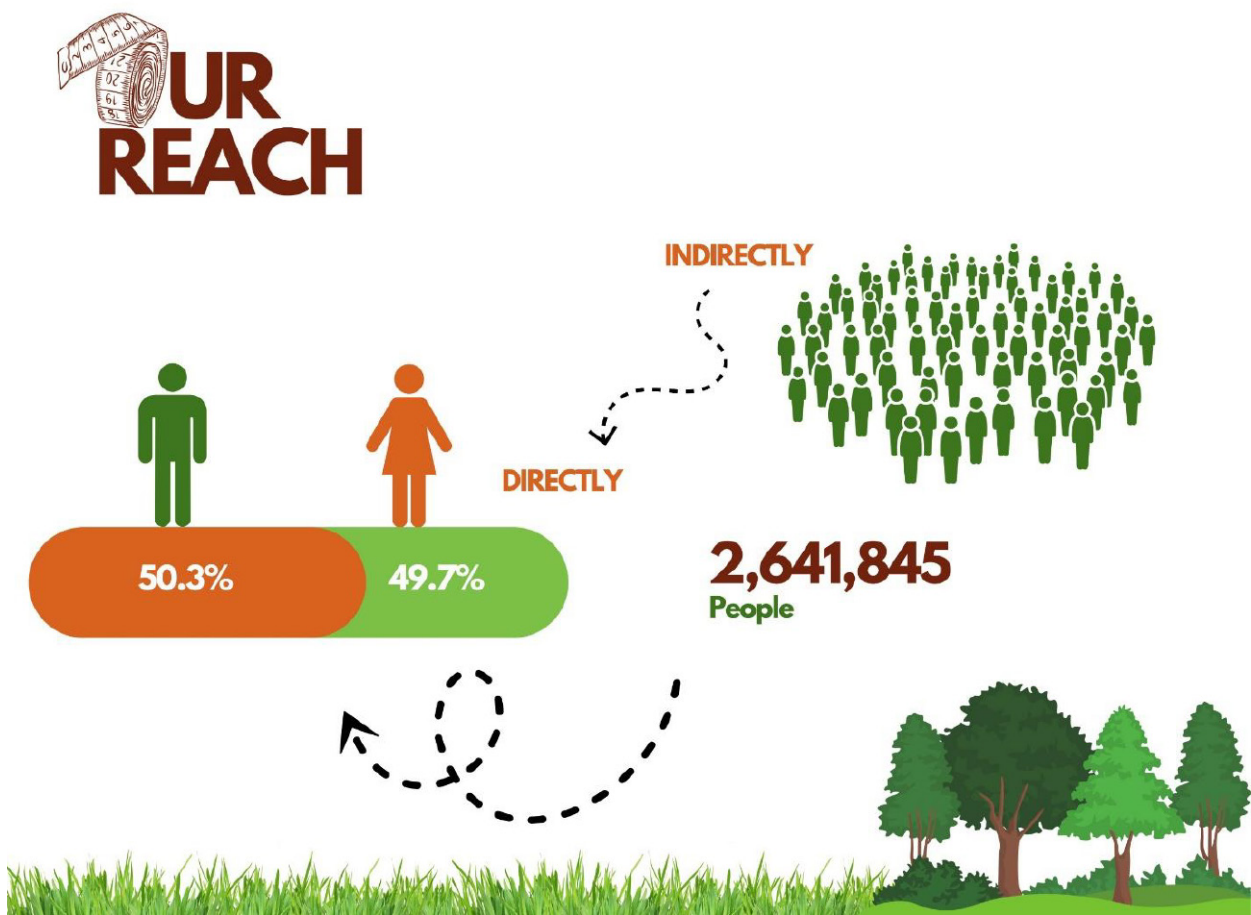


Oil-affected community members following a training on beehive making in 2024



EACOP and Tilenga oil project-affected people during hearing of a case against the EACOP at the East African Court of Justice in Arusha in 2024

OUR REACH IN FIGURES



AFIEGO used community meetings, workshops, traditional media and social media among others to reach the people that we did in 2024

TABLE OF ACRONYMS

Acronym	Meaning
AFIEGO	Africa Institute for Energy Governance
AGMEPP	Association of Greater Masaka EACOP PAPs Petitioners
BUNCCA	Buliisa Natural Climate Conservation Agency
BUPAG	Buliisa Patience Alliance Group
CBMs	Community Based Monitors
CNOOC	China National Offshore Oil Corporation
COP	Conference of Parties
CPF	Central Processing Facility
CRMA	Critical Raw Materials Act
CSOs	Civil society organisations
DRC	Democratic Republic of Congo
EACJ	East African Court of Justice
EACOP	East African Crude Oil Pipeline
EHRDs	Environmental and Human Rights Defenders
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
ELAW-USA	Environmental Law Alliance Worldwide- USA
ESIA	Environmental and Social Impact Assessment
ETP	Energy Transition Plan
EU	European Union
GCPE	Global Coalition of Peoples Facing Extractivism
GLA	Green Livelihoods Alliance
GoU	Government of Uganda
Hon.	Honourable
HSL	Hoima Sugar Limited
IGEN-EA	Inclusive Green Economy Network-East Africa
IPLCs	Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities
JET	Just Energy Transition
JSC	Judicial Service Commission
LARRP	Land Acquisition, Resettlement and Rehabilitation Policy
MEMD	Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development
MFNP	Murchison Falls National Park
MLHUD	Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development
MoGLSD	Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development
NDP IV	National Development Plan IV
NEMA	National Environment Management Authority
NGOs	Non-governmental organisations
PAPs	Project-affected persons
PAU	Petroleum Authority of Uganda
Rt.	Right
SBFC	Save Bugoma Forest Campaign
ULS	Uganda Law Society
UNBS	Uganda National Bureau of Standards
UWA	Uganda Wildlife Authority
(W)EHRDs	(Women) Environmental and Human Rights Defenders

SECTION 1

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CHAIRPERSON



Dear reader, thank you for taking time off to read AFIEGO's 2024 annual report. Through the report, AFIEGO offers an account of the work that the organisation did in 2024, and the milestones that they registered.

As you are aware, AFIEGO's three programmes consist of the Extractives Governance, Electricity Democracy, as well as Renewable Energy Efficiency and Climate Change.

In 2024, AFIEGO undertook research, policy advocacy, community engagement, women and youth empowerment, community-centred forest conservation efforts, and litigation to fulfill the objectives of the above three programmes.

AFIEGO also undertook cross-border advocacy, promotion of green economic alternatives, advocacy to promote clean energy access and institutional strengthening efforts among others.

Some of the most notable work that AFIEGO did includes undertaking research to produce three research briefs. The briefs were disseminated to over 132,071 stakeholders within and beyond Uganda. The briefs discussed the impact of the Lake Albert oil activities on fisherfolk in Uganda, documented the impact of agrochemicals on farmers in the Busoga sub-region in Eastern Uganda, and exposed the impacts of oil activities on wildlife in Murchison Falls National Park (MFNP).

Work also commenced to enable the production of another two research reports, which were hoped to be released in 2025. The briefs that were produced in 2024 created impact, including leading to mobilisation of over 800 people who petitioned President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni in July 2024. The people called on the president to stop oil activities in MFNP to support biodiversity conservation, climate action and thriving green livelihoods.

When it comes to policy advocacy, AFIEGO mobilised communities, women, youth, civil society organisations (CSOs) and others to disseminate over 58 lobby and advocacy materials in 2024. The materials were produced to influence the contents of or call for enactment of at least four critical policies, laws or plans.

These included the Consumer Protection and Management Bill, a Gender Climate Action Plan, a Solar Energy Policy as well as the Land Acquisition, Resettlement and Rehabilitation Policy (LARRP). A win was registered when the Prime Minister, Rt. Hon. Robinah Nabanjja, informed Uganda's parliament in July 2024 that the Consumer Protection and Management Bill was one of 66 bills that would be presented before parliament for debate and enactment. The bill is critical to promoting clean energy access.

Community empowerment to promote human rights observance, environmental conservation, climate action and clean energy access amidst mega energy projects in the oil, electricity and other sectors remains a cornerstone of AFIEGO's work.

In 2024 therefore, AFIEGO organised over 41 community empowerment meetings, radio talkshows, webinars, exchange learnings, press conferences and other engagements. The engagements targeted oil-affected, forest host and other communities. AFIEGO empowered the communities to take charge of their own advocacy, which saw oil-affected

community members forming at least five platforms through which they could engage in advocacy to defend their rights amidst mega projects.

When it comes to litigation, AFIEGO supported 21 court cases in Uganda, at the East African Court of Justice (EACJ), and in France. The cases were aimed at promoting justice for energy project-affected people as well as government and corporate accountability. The cases proved critical in mobilising public awareness about oil sector risks, while empowering communities to exercise their right to say no to harmful projects. The cases were also aimed at opening up the civic space in Uganda.

Regionally, AFIEGO facilitated cross-border civil society engagement to stop the expansion of the fossil fuel industry in Africa's Great Lakes Region. AFIEGO convened exchange learnings, and supported cross-border lobby as well as advocacy efforts to foster the aforementioned goal.

To promote green economic development as opposed to expansion of the fossil fuel

industry, AFIEGO partnered with the Inclusive Green Economy Network-East Africa (IGEN-EA) to undertake research, public awareness raising and advocacy that reached over 91,848 people. AFIEGO and IGEN-EA promoted green economic alternative activities including clean energy, organic agriculture, fishing, tourism and natural resources management.

The organisation also undertook institutional strengthening efforts.

They faced challenges too, which we hope will be addressed in 2025 and beyond. The Board thanks the AFIEGO secretariat for the work done and also extends its sincere gratitude to AFIEGO's donors as well as partners for their continued support. Thank you,



**Mr. Edwin Muhereza,
Board Chairperson, AFIEGO**



AFIEGO's CEO, Mr. Dickens Kamugisha (L), and others following a radio talkshow in 2024

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY BY THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



Dear reader,
Allow me to express my deep appreciation for your continued support and partnership.

It is through the support of partners like you that AFIEGO is able to stay the course in its commitment to promoting a society that equitably uses clean energy resources for socio-economic development.

What did AFIEGO do in 2024 and what did we achieve with your support?

This annual report not only shines a spotlight on the work we undertook, the progress we made, and the challenges we faced over the course of 2024 but also discusses our priorities for 2025. You may read more about our work in 2024 below.

Supporting community-led advocacy through creation of advocacy platforms: AFIEGO recognises that despite facing marginalisation, communities affected by

oil projects in Uganda possess immense potential to drive positive change. Among others, the communities can be the eyes and ears that document human rights violations, environmental destruction and climatic changes, which they report to duty bearers, holding them to account to address the above challenges. Recognising the above, in 2024, AFIEGO continued to place community engagement at the centre of our work. We worked with communities affected by the Tilenga, Kingfisher, and East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) projects across 15 districts in the country to co-create the world that the communities seek to inhabit. To give the communities the knowledge and tools that they need to exercise their power, we organised over 41 community empowerment, planning and exchange learning meetings in 2024. We also supported community-led radio talkshows, media engagements and others.

The communities that we engaged in 2024 decided to form platforms such as Buliisa Natural Climate Conservation Association (BUNCCA), Association of Greater Masaka EACOP PAPs' Petitioners (AGMEPP), Association of Buliisa oil-affected women and others. A total of five community advocacy platforms were created in 2024. Through the aforementioned platforms, community members issued some of the 58 lobby and advocacy materials that AFIEGO disseminated in 2024, contributing to efforts to create a world where human rights are respected, the environment is conserved and climate action is taken amidst oil and gas risks.

Uplifting oil-affected fisherfolk's voices: With oil activities being concentrated around Lake Albert in Western Uganda, fisherfolk are faced with a number of challenges. These range from displacement from their land amidst low compensation, displacement from the lake during certain periods of time, historical oil pollution that destroyed fishing grounds, population influx resulting in increased competition for fish that pushes especially female fish mongers out of business and others. To document the impact of oil activities on fisherfolk in Buliisa and Kikuube districts in Western Uganda, AFIEGO conducted research in 2023, culminating in the production of a research report that was disseminated in April 2024. The report highlighted the impact of the Tilenga and Kingfisher oil project activities on fisherfolk.

Additionally, AFIEGO organised radio talkshows for fisherfolk to share the impact of oil activities on their livelihoods. The radio talkshows reached an estimated 684,100 people in the Albertine Graben. Furthermore, AFIEGO facilitated

fisherfolk exchanges involving oil-affected communities from Uganda, Nigeria, and South Africa, enhancing local capacity to defend livelihoods impacted by oil activities.

As a result of the above engagements, we put the plight of oil-affected fisherfolk on the public and civil society advocacy agenda. Notably as well, Uganda got a Fishnet Alliance representative for the first time in 2024. The alliance brings together African fisherfolk to defend their rights. It is hoped that these efforts will continue to strengthen fisherfolk to defend their rights amidst oil activities.

Supporting women to tap into their power to address oil risks and promote clean energy: Women are often marginalised in society, with their agency and voices being suppressed by unequal power relations, socio-cultural barriers and other factors. Despite this, women possess immense power and in 2024, AFIEGO engaged women from across the country to tap into that power for the promotion of clean energy and climate action. In particular, we supported trainings and advocacy by women. For instance, in October 2024, we organised a Women's Clean Energy Workshop during which women discussed the impacts of fossil fuel projects, barriers undermining clean energy access and ways to address them. The women issued powerful communiques, newspaper articles and others that reached over 91,000 people.

In 2024, AFIEGO also supported women youth leaders to advocate for the development of a Gender and Climate Action Plan. We also mobilised women and youth to demand that the Ministry of Energy puts in place a Solar Energy Policy to drive off-grid solar electrification in Uganda. Overall, 72.6% of the advocacy that was supported by AFIEGO in 2024 was led on by women and youth.

Organising youth resistance for climate action: The saying that today's youth are tomorrow's leaders is one that we take seriously at AFIEGO. We invest in efforts

aimed at supporting youth to tap into their power to foster positive changes, especially those related to climate action. In 2024, AFIEGO expended efforts on providing tools and platforms through which youth could engage in efforts such as promoting a just energy transition and stopping the expansion of the fossil fuel industry. To this end, in March 2024, AFIEGO 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 so that they are better able to promote a just energy transition that addresses human rights, environmental and equity concerns. Further, in May 2024, we hosted a group of Kyambogo University students at our head office in Kampala where they got to appreciate our work in relation to climate change mitigation better. We also encouraged them to mobilise more youth on the same.

In addition, AFIEGO supported the filing of court cases by anti-EACOP activists who were brutally arrested and detained between 2022 and 2024. The youth were arrested while engaged in actions against the EACOP project. They filed cases against ten police officers. Our work with youth emboldened them to continue campaigning against the expansion of the fossil fuel industry in 2024, so much so that they continued to be the face of resistance.

Supporting local communities to participate in forest governance: Indigenous People and local communities (IPLC) play vital roles in forest conservation. They monitor, report, patrol and engage in other forest conservation efforts. As such, in 2024, AFIEGO continued to support forest host communities under the Save Bugoma Forest Campaign (SBFC) local taskforce to participate in efforts aimed at promoting conservation of Bugoma forest in Uganda amidst oil, sugarcane growing, and land grabbing challenges.

AFIEGO organised community planning meetings, and exchange learnings for the forest host communities to aid them to plan and acquire knowledge to promote conservation of Bugoma forest. AFIEGO and its partners also worked alongside the communities to advocate for the release of the Bugoma forest boundary opening report and implementation of the National Environment Management Authority (NEMA)'s directive to Hoima Sugar Ltd to restore degraded forest areas, among others. Encouragingly, women and girls played a more visible role in these efforts, leading awareness campaigns focused on the impacts of forest loss and the power women hold that can help stop the forest destruction.

In addition to our work on Bugoma forest, we engaged in efforts to address oil risks to Murchison Falls National Park (MFNP). To this end, in July 2024, we produced and disseminated a research brief documenting the grave effects of the Tilenga oil project on wildlife in Murchison Falls National Park (MFNP). This particular report was to later spur over 800 people to petition President Yoweri Museveni, calling for the protection of the national park from oil activities.

Promoting community access to justice through litigation: Litigation is an important strategy that is used to promote human rights observance, environmental conservation, corporate accountability and climate action among others. In 2024, AFIEGO harnessed the power of this tool, working together with our partners to support over 3,219 oil-affected community members to seek justice through courts and other fora. With our partners, we prosecuted 21 court cases in the Ugandan, East African and French courts in 2024.

These cases challenged land rights violations, environmental harm, and shrinking civic space linked to oil projects like the EACOP and Tilenga.

Among the key cases AFIEGO prosecuted was the EACOP lawsuit at the East African Court

of Justice (EACJ). AFIEGO also provided legal support to over 80 EACOP-affected persons from Lwengo, Rakai, and Kyotera districts after government sued them for resisting their unfair compensation. AFIEGO also extended support to 42 Tilenga oil project-affected families that were sued in 2023 by government, which sought to compel them to accept low compensation for their land. The people lost the case in 2023 and AFIEGO supported them to file an appeal in 2024. Additionally, AFIEGO continued backing representatives of over 7,000 oil refinery-affected people in their long-running compensation case against government; the case was filed in 2014.

At the international level, AFIEGO remained a party to the case against TotalEnergies in France, brought by Ugandan and French CSOs alongside over 20 Ugandan project-affected persons. The case seeks compensation for the damages suffered by project-affected people due to Total's oil activities in Uganda.

The litigation and advocacy that AFIEGO undertook helped to raise public awareness about oil dangers, emboldened oil project-affected persons to exercise their right to say no to harmful projects and delayed the eviction of some of the 42 Tilenga oil project-affected persons from their land.

Cross-border advocacy to stop oil risks: Cross-border advocacy is imperative if Ugandan and DR Congolese civil society are to stop the impacts of oil activities on shared cross-border environmental resources. In 2024 therefore, AFIEGO strengthened cross-border collaboration between Ugandan and Congolese civil society to tackle oil-related threats to shared ecosystems. We did this through organising joint strategic planning meetings, and supporting joint advocacy. For instance, in June 2024, we organised an exchange learning for CSOs from both countries to develop joint strategies against cross-border oil risks.

We also supported conferences, cultural and religious leaders' engagements, and

other activities aimed at strengthening various stakeholders' capacity to stop oil risks. We also engaged in advocacy, with four joint actions being undertaken by cross-border CSOs. Our joint work strengthened our voices and demands for a fossil-free Uganda and African Great Lakes region.

Promoting green economic alternatives:

In 2024, AFIEGO worked with our IGEN-EA partners to promote green economic alternatives through research, policy advocacy, and public awareness campaigns. We also supported advocacy to enhance financial flows to the green economic sectors. To this end, in March 2024, we supported IGEN-EA representatives to participate in a two-day CSO retreat that reviewed the 2024/2025 national budget proposals. The review led to production of a joint CSO position paper that was submitted to Parliament. Through the paper, IGEN-EA advocated for increased budget allocations to the green economic sectors.

The environment, natural resources and climate change programme later saw an increase of Shs. 265.6 billion - from Shs. 417 billion in 2023/2024 to Shs. 682.6 billion in 2024/2025. However, allocations to other key sectors such as agriculture declined. Further, in May 2024, AFIEGO and its IGEN-EA partners, supported women and youth in Hoima to acquire skills in beehive making, beehive hanging and value addition.

By June 2024, trainees had begun independently producing beehives, enhancing their green livelihoods. Together with our IGEN-EA partners, we also established a clean energy hub in Fort Portal city to promote community awareness of available clean energy alternatives.

In 2024, AFIEGO also supported IGEN-EA members to conduct research on the impacts of agrochemicals on farmers in the Busoga sub-region, as well as the tourism potential of the Greater Masaka sub-region vis-à-vis EACOP project risks. The latter research was still ongoing by the end of

2024.

Worth mentioning as well is that in August 2024, the Ugandan government launched chimpanzee trekking in Bugoma forest, following research and advocacy by IGEN-EA that called for promotion of tourism in the forest, instead of its destruction.

Advocacy for renewable energy access and a just energy transition:

Clean energy access remains low in Uganda with over 20% of the population having access to the grid, 38% to off-grid options and only 15% having access to clean cooking options. In 2024 therefore, AFIEGO placed emphasis on working with our partners to advocate for addressing of barriers that undermine clean energy access. For instance, we partnered with IGEN-EA to engage parliament in August 2024 for the debate and enactment of the Consumer Protection and Management Bill.

In addition, in April 2024, we conducted a community visioning exercise to capture community views on what a just energy transition (JET) is. These views were shared with over 17,007 stakeholders at COP29 in November 2024 to influence public debate. In addition, together with our IGEN-EA partners, we, in November 2024, participated in the Renewable Energy Conference and Expo in Kampala to promote clean energy uptake. Furthermore, we supported women and youth clean energy champions to publish newspaper articles and conduct other media engagements to promote clean energy access. Our efforts contributed to enhancing public awareness, which is critical for promoting access.

We registered several achievements, as has been discussed, but also faced a number of challenges. For instance, key policies like 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. Bugoma forest also continued to be destroyed in 2024. Further, clean energy access was still limited, and awareness of clean energy alternatives was also limited.

In addition, courts continued to delay justice in cases filed by oil-affected communities yet the cases filed by government against the poor and vulnerable communities were fast-tracked and concluded within days or weeks.

Besides, human rights defenders and affected communities continued to suffer because of shrinking civic space in the

country. Between 2020 and 2024, over 198 rights defenders and affected communities suffered arrests and detentions.

In 2025, AFIEGO will work towards addressing these and other challenges.

Kamugisha

Chief Executive Officer, AFIEGO



AFIEGO staff and our partners during a Uganda-DRC CSO exchange learning in 2024

SECTION 2

ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

2.0. Introduction

This section of the annual report highlights AFIEGO's main activities in 2024. During the year, AFIEGO implemented activities under the organisation's three programmes, namely: **Extractives Governance, Electricity Democracy as well as Renewable Energy Efficiency and Climate Change.**

In 2024, AFIEGO engaged in efforts such as influencing energy sector policies for the common good, empowering oil-affected communities to defend their rights, mobilising women and youth to advocate for the protection of their rights amidst oil projects while promoting clean energy, supporting local communities to engage in forest conservation to address oil, land grabbing and sugarcane risks, and supporting litigation by local communities defending their land and natural resources rights amidst mega oil projects.

AFIEGO also engaged in cross-border organising to address oil risks to cross-border resources, mobilised CSOs and the private sector to advocate for the promotion of green economic alternatives to address oil threats, and engaged in advocacy to promote access to affordable electricity as well as other renewable energy services. Further, AFIEGO engaged in efforts aimed at ensuring that the civic space in which Environmental and Human Rights Defenders (EHRDs) in Uganda operate is opened up. AFIEGO also engaged in institutional strengthening efforts among others. More on the above and other work is discussed hereunder.

2.1. Influencing key policies and laws for the common good

AFIEGO believes that working with various stakeholders including local communities, women and youth to influence policies

for the common good is critical to promoting good energy governance. As a result, in 2024, AFIEGO mobilised various stakeholders to engage in policy influencing processes including the following:

Advocating for debate and enactment of the Consumer Protection and Management Bill: The Ugandan market is flooded with counterfeit items, with solar power products being among them. Indeed, in 2021, the Uganda National Bureau of Standards (UNBS) noted that 70% of solar products that were on the market were sub-standard. The country continues to face the aforementioned challenge due to lack of sufficient legal regulatory instruments.

To address the above challenge, in 2023 and before then, AFIEGO mobilised our partners under IGEN-EA to engage the Ministry of Trade to complete and table a Consumer Protection and Management Bill before parliament for debate and enactment. Consequently, in July 2024, the Prime Minister of Uganda indicated that the Consumer Protection and Management Bill was among 66 bills that would be tabled before Parliament for debate and enactment.

Thereafter, we mobilised our IGEN-EA partners and wrote to the Speaker of Parliament in August 2024, requesting that the bill is debated and enacted. We also supported women and youth to write and publish articles through the mainstream media; through the articles, the women and youth requested that parliament debates and enacts the Consumer Protection and Management Bill. By the end of 2024 however, the bill was yet to be debated and enacted by parliament.

Supporting women and youth to advocate for a Gender and Climate Change Action

Plan: The climate crisis is one of the biggest threats that humanity is faced with today. Available evidence shows that women, children, youth and other marginalised populations are more vulnerable to climate change impacts than other sections of the population. As such, it is imperative that governments have policies to address the gendered impacts of climate change. In 2024 therefore, AFIEGO supported women and youth to use the media to advocate for a Gender and Climate Change Action Plan.

The women and youth called on government, through the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development (MoGLSD), to put the plan in place. By the end of 2024 however, the plan was yet to be put in place.

Advocacy for a Solar Energy Policy: Uganda operates without a Solar Energy Policy to guide offgrid solar electrification efforts. The lack of the policy that would support the coordination of off-grid solar electrification efforts while spurring more investments undermines government efforts to promote universal access to clean energy. Through Uganda's Energy Transition Plan of December 2023, government recognises that in order for all Ugandans to gain access to clean energy by 2030, the majority of Ugandans need to access off-grid electricity options. To support off-grid electrification efforts therefore, throughout 2024, AFIEGO supported women and youth to use the media to advocate that government, through the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development (MEMD), puts in place a Solar Energy Policy.

Empowering stakeholders to participate in implementation of the Energy Transition Plan: In December 2023 in Dubai, the government of Uganda launched the country's Energy Transition Plan (ETP), some of whose goals include promoting universal access to clean energy by 2030, enabling Uganda to attain carbon neutrality and others. Following launch of the plan, AFIEGO mobilised stakeholders

including government officials, private sector representatives, academics, CSOs, and community leaders to convene a workshop in September 2024 in Kampala. During that workshop that attracted over 50 participants, the aforementioned stakeholders discussed whether the ETP could promote clean energy access. They made recommendations to strengthen the plan to promote a just and clean energy transition in Uganda.

Mobilising oil-affected women to make input into the Land Acquisition, Resettlement and Rehabilitation Policy (LARRP): To develop oil, electricity sector and other projects, the government of Uganda works alongside developers to displace people from their land. Land is an important factor of production, especially for women, who at 88% constitute the majority of the agricultural labourforce in Uganda. When displacements for oil and electricity sector projects occur, women, who are charged with providing food for their households, suffer unique impacts. These impacts need to be avoided, minimised or mitigated through strong policies and laws.

To ensure that women participate in the formulation of policies such as the LARRP to enable their engenderment, AFIEGO engaged oil-affected women from seven districts including Buliisa, Hoima, Kikuube, Lwengo, Kyotera and Rakai in April 2024. During the engagements, we gathered women's views on the LARRP. These views were developed into a memorandum of proposals for the LARRP that was supposed to be submitted to the Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development (MLHUD).

Empowering stakeholders for implementation of the EU-Uganda forest partnership: In November 2022, the Government of Uganda (GoU) signed a forest partnership, whose objectives include increasing forest cover by addressing deforestation and forest degradation while supporting

forest restoration efforts, creating decent jobs in forest-based value chains and enhancing forest resources governance. The partnership, which was signed at COP 27 at Sharm El-Sheikh in Egypt, is important for Uganda, which has some of the highest deforestation rates in the world. NEMA also says that Uganda stands to lose all its forest cover by 2050 if deforestation rates con-

tinue at 2010 rates. To ensure that the forest partnership was implemented, AFIEGO simplified and disseminated the contents of the partnership to over 17,749 people in August 2024. It was hoped that stakeholder awareness raising would promote accountability that would see the GoU implementing the partnership.



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.



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.

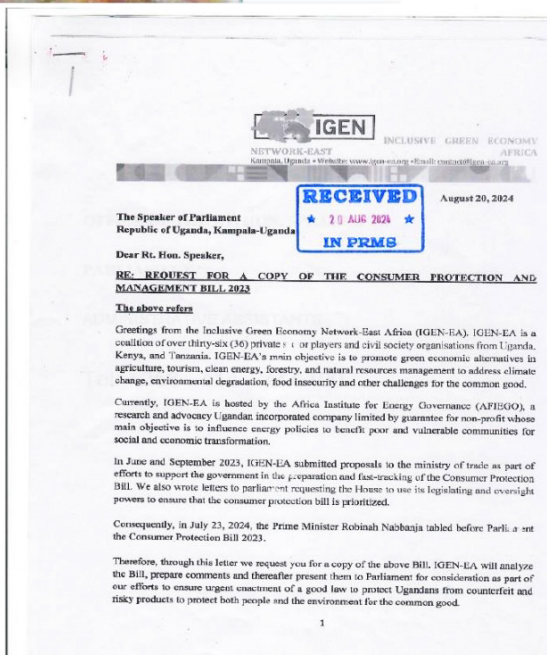
We hope that this will promote public participation in the implementation of the partnership to promote forest conservation in Uganda.

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.

Photo highlights of some of the lobby and advocacy materials which AFIEGO and our partners produced to influence key policies and laws for the common good in 2024.

AFIEGO also held meetings with oil-affected women in 2024 to mobilise views for the Land Acquisition, Resettlement and Rehabilitation Policy (LARRP).



Achievements/milestones registered as a result of our policy influencing efforts

AFIEGO and our partners' policy influencing work resulted in the following achievements:

1. By the end of 2024, the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development was developing a National Gender and Climate Change Action Plan;
2. In addition, we continued to sustain public awareness on the need for a Solar Energy Policy to guide off-grid electrification efforts in Uganda; and
3. There was enhanced public awareness of the EU-Government of Uganda (GoU) Forest Partnership by the end of 2024, with over 17,749 people being reached by our awareness raising efforts. It is hoped that this will create accountability and public participation in implementation of the partnership.

Despite the achievements, challenges such as a Solar Energy Policy, Consumer Protection law as well as National Gender and Climate Change Action Plan not being in place by the end of 2024 existed. There was also limited public participation in implementation of the EU-GoU forest partnership, and failure by the Ministry of Lands to complete the LARRP.

2.2. Community empowerment/organising

Empowering communities so that they take leadership in promoting human rights observance, environmental conservation, climate action and clean energy access remains a cornerstone for AFIEGO. We believe that communities should be empowered to take leadership in creating the world that they seek to inhabit. In 2024 therefore, AFIEGO continued with our community empowerment or organising work by doing the following:

Supporting Tilenga oil project-affected communities in Buliisa to create advocacy platforms: Oil activities in Uganda are concentrated in districts such as Buliisa in Uganda. A Central Processing Facility (CPF), feeder pipelines, an industrial area, oil roads, oil rigs and others have been or are being developed in the district under the Tilenga oil project that is operated by TotalEnergies. The aforementioned infrastructural developments necessitated the compulsory acquisition of land from poor and vulnerable households. The infrastructural developments have also

led to environmental impacts such as flash floods, dust pollution, noise pollution, light pollution, elephant-human conflicts and others. The activities also threaten to create negative changes to the micro weather in Buliisa district, which is worrisome for farmers. The people need to be in charge of their own advocacy to address oil impacts and risks. As such, in January, July, August, October and November 2024, AFIEGO organised meetings with the oil-affected people in Buliisa district. We discussed ways in which the people could work together to protect their rights. The people elected to form platforms such as Buliisa Patience Alliance Group (BUPAG), Buliisa Natural Climate Conservation Agency (BUNCA) and others through which they could undertake collective advocacy to protect their rights.

Strengthening the advocacy skills of Kingfisher oil project-affected communities: The year 2024 commenced when communities affected by the Kingfisher oil project activities in Kikuube district had weak advocacy skills. The communities were affected by challenges such as

compulsory acquisition of their land amidst low compensation, oil-induced livelihood disruptions, oil-induced environmental conservation risks, gender-based violence, oil-induced militarisation and others. While the people were faced with many challenges, they remained isolated from other oil-affected communities and their advocacy was weak. To connect the people to other oil-affected communities to build solidarity and strengthen their advocacy skills, AFIEGO organised an exchange learning between the Kingfisher, Tilenga and oil refinery-affected communities in August 2024. The exchange learning enabled Kingfisher oil project-affected people to learn how they could engage government and China National Offshore Oil Corporation (CNOOC), the operator of the Kingfisher oil project, to restore their rights.

Empowering EACOP-affected households through seven trainings: It isn't only the Tilenga and Kingfisher oil project-affected people from Buliisa and Kikuube districts that are suffering oil impacts. Households that live in the ten districts affected by the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) also are. To support them to document the impact of oil activities on their lives, and to enable them to engage the EACOP Company to restore their livelihoods, AFIEGO convened seven meetings for EACOP-affected communities from seven districts in April 2024. During the meetings, AFIEGO trained the communities to understand the compliance requirements for the EACOP Company and its sub-contractors during the livelihood restoration phase. Worth noting is that the trainings were conducted at a time when the livelihood restoration process was being implemented by the EACOP Company. AFIEGO also trained the communities to document the impact of oil activities. Following their empowerment, the people were able to not only document the human rights violations that they were facing, they were also able to petition relevant stakeholders to stop the human rights abuses. To this end, the people submitted or published over 26 petitions,

letters, videos and newspaper articles that targeted duty bearers to address their plight.

Training Community Based Monitors (CBMs) in documentation and reporting of oil sector impacts: Communities remain crucial for monitoring the environmental and human rights impacts of oil and gas projects. Communities can act as the "eyes and ears" on the ground, providing valuable insights and early warnings of potential problems. To support community leaders in the form of CBMs to document and report human rights violations, AFIEGO organised two trainings in the Bunyoro and Greater Masaka sub-regions in April 2024. During the trainings, CBMs were equipped with knowledge to support them to document violations and oil sector impacts during the livelihood restoration and construction phases.

Supporting exchange learning for Lake Albert oil-affected fisherfolk: In 2023, AFIEGO conducted research to document the challenges faced by fisherfolk that operate on Lake Albert in Buliisa and Kikuube districts in Western Uganda. The lake is subject to oil activities, with oil extraction expected to take place from the lake. Oil sector infrastructure such as an oil rig, wellpads, water abstraction stations and others have also been set up or are expected to be set up at the lake. Consequently, fisherfolk operating on the lake in Uganda are faced with challenges such as historical oil pollution, periodic loss of access to fishing grounds, displacement from their homes, competition and others that negatively affect their livelihoods. AFIEGO documented the above during the research that we conducted in 2023 and disseminated in 2024. To support the fisherfolk to learn from their peers that have been affected by oil activities in other African countries, AFIEGO organised an exchange learning in February 2024. During the exchange learning, Ugandan, Tanzanian, Nigerian and South African fisherfolk discussed ways in which they can

work together to overcome the challenges that they face due to oil activities.

Organising radio talkshows for oil-affected fisherfolk and other oil-affected communities: Further, to build public pressure to ensure that the oil-affected fisherfolk's challenges are addressed by the Ugandan government and oil companies, we, in February 2024, organised radio talkshows in the Bunyoro sub-region. During the radio talkshows that reached an estimated 684,100 people, the fisherfolk discussed the impact of the Lake Albert oil project activities on their livelihoods.

Supporting linking and learning between Ugandan and Nigerian oil-affected communities: Nigeria has been an oil-producing country since the 1960s. Oil production in the country has led to impacts such as oil pollution, livelihood losses in the farming, fishing and other sectors, increased crime rate and others.

With Uganda seeking to produce oil from the country's Albertine Graben beginning in 2027, it is prudent to share and learn from the Nigerian experience. To support Ugandan oil-affected communities to learn from the experiences of their Nigerian peers, AFIEGO organised an exchange learning in November 2024. During the exchange learning meeting, Ugandan communities learnt of the livelihood disruptions, environmental degradation, social challenges, and health impacts among others that can arise with oil exploitation. Ugandan communities also learnt about strategies such as legal action, use of social media, and community mobilisation among others that they can employ to address the challenges they are faced with. The exchange learning better equipped Ugandan oil-affected communities with knowledge to advocate for the avoidance of oil impacts in Uganda.





Photo highlights of some of AFIEGO's community engagement efforts in 2024

Achievements registered as a result of our community engagement efforts

AFIEGO and our partners' community engagement work resulted in the following achievements:

1. Five platforms through which EACOP- and Tilenga oil-project affected persons could engage in advocacy, climate action and others had been formed by the end of 2024;
2. Further, EACOP- and Tilenga oil project-affected persons as well as Community Based Monitors' capacity to monitor oil sector impacts was enhanced in 2024. These monitored and reported impacts to support national, regional and international advocacy for restoration of oil-affected people's rights among others;
3. In addition, oil-affected fisherfolk were connected to their African peers, resulting in a Ugandan representative to the FishNet Alliance, an alliance of oil-affected fisherfolk across Africa, being selected. This stands to strengthen the fisherfolk's advocacy capacity to protect their rights amidst oil activities; and
4. The advocacy capacity of Kingfisher oil project-affected persons was enhanced. This capacity was used to advocate against militarisation in the Kingfisher project area in 2024 among others.

Despite the achievements, challenges such as the human rights of oil-affected persons continuing to be abused still existed by the end of 2024. In addition, despite some oil-affected communities petitioning the Ugandan president and requesting that an alternative to the EACOP project is sought, development of the project continued in 2024.

2.3. Empowering women and youth

Women and youth constitute the majority population in Uganda, with available information showing that while there were 21,566,736 males as at May 2024, there were 24,338,681 females.

In addition, 50.5% of Uganda's population is between the ages of 0 and 17 while 22.7% of the population is aged 18 to 30 years. The latter is considered the youth population in Uganda. Overall, the country's population is young.

It therefore follows that oil projects that have displaced people in Uganda have affected more women and youth, than they have affected men. Indeed, available information shows that the number of women displaced for oil projects including the oil refinery, Tilenga and EACOP in Uganda is over 35,079.

Women also often bear disproportionate impacts arising from payment of delayed, inadequate and unfair compensation to oil project-affected persons (PAPs).

To empower women and youth to address the oil sector impacts that they are facing, while also preparing them to address the challenges that could arise from other extractive projects including mining of critical raw materials, AFIEGO did the following in 2024:

Training EACOP- and other oil-affected women on their livelihood restoration entitlements: In 2024, the EACOP Company was engaged in implementing the livelihood restoration programme for persons that were displaced for the EACOP project. The programme was aimed at restoring the affected people to the same or an even better position than they were in prior to their displacement for the EACOP. Through the Resettlement Action Plan (RAP) for the EACOP, the project developers committed to pay special attention to women and other

vulnerable groups to ensure that they were restored to their pre-displacement levels. To support women and other vulnerable groups to understand their livelihood restoration entitlements, AFIEGO organised seven trainings. The trainings took place in April 2024 in villages in Hoima, Kikuube, Lwengo, and Kyotera among other districts. Following their empowerment, the women and other vulnerable persons engaged in advocacy to support the restoration of their livelihoods.

Supporting women and youth to create platforms to drive advocacy: Further, in 2024, AFIEGO mobilised women and youth affected by the Tilenga oil project to discuss the challenges that they are faced with and how these could be overcome. We convened meetings with the women and youth in January and October 2024, and at the meeting in October 2024, the women and youth decided to create platforms through which they could undertake advocacy to defend their rights amidst the Tilenga oil project activities.

Supporting women-centered radio talkshows: In addition to the above, in April 2024, AFIEGO organised radio talkshows that were used to sensitise the public on challenges faced by oil-affected women and other vulnerable groups. The radio talkshows took place at stations such as Buddu FM in Greater Masaka in Southern Uganda, and Biiso FM in Buliisa district in Western Uganda. It was hoped that through public awareness raising, public pressure would be created to address the challenges faced by oil-affected women in Uganda.

Using social media to amplify women's voices: With the media space in Uganda becoming increasingly repressed for critical voices that speak out against oil sector impacts and risks, it became imperative to find alternative platforms through which the stories of EACOP- and other oil-affected women could be shared. In 2024 therefore, AFIEGO supported the

production of short videos featuring oil-affected women, the elderly and other vulnerable persons. Through the videos, the aforementioned groups of people discussed the challenges that they are facing, and made recommendations for addressing of the challenges. AFIEGO published the videos on social media in July and August 2024, thereby supporting the affected people to advocate for their land rights and restoration of their livelihoods. Over 7,344 people were reached through the dissemination of the videos.

Supporting advocacy for gender-sensitive budgeting: To ensure that Uganda's national budget prioritises the needs of oil-affected women, in April 2024, AFIEGO supported expert analysis of Uganda's 2024/2025 national budget proposals to determine the gender responsiveness of the proposals. The budget proposals by the Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development (MLHUD) were analysed, and they were found to have gender gaps. As a result, AFIEGO supported the dissemination of public awareness raising materials on gender gaps in the national budget proposals. These gaps were also submitted to the parliament of Uganda through joint CSO position papers. Through the papers, we advocated for engendering of the MLHUD's 2024/2025 national budget proposals.

Empowering youth on the EU's Critical Raw Materials Act (CRMA): With the just energy transition that is being promoted worldwide, and with the digitalisation as well as militarisation efforts that are ongoing, the demand for critical raw minerals such as cobalt, copper, rare earth, graphite and others is expected to dramatically increase. Indeed, available information indicates that global demand for critical raw minerals such as lithium, graphite, rare earth and others will rise by 500% by 2050. Africa, which is home to 30% of the global critical raw minerals reserves, is expected to be a source of some minerals. Indeed, mining for critical minerals is already ongoing in countries such as the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Zambia and others. Uganda is also home to critical raw minerals. The mining of these minerals presents political, social and environmental risks. To equip youth and CSOs with knowledge to demand for more value to be retained in Africa while avoiding the risks presented by mining for critical raw minerals, AFIEGO organised a webinar on the EU's CRMA and its implications for Uganda and the DRC. The over 64 participants who took part in the webinar agreed to create a platform through which they will engage in advocacy to promote fair and sustainable implementation of the CRMA.

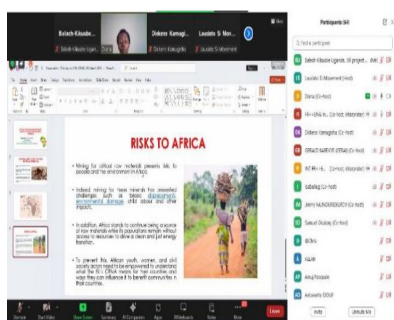


Photo highlights of some of AFIEGO's women and youth empowerment efforts in 2024

Achievements/milestones registered as a result of our women and youth empowerment efforts

AFIEGO and our partners' women and youth empowerment work resulted in the following achievements:

1. Oil-affected women and other vulnerable persons' advocacy skills were enhanced. Consequently, in May 2024, these joined over 1,500 people to petition Uganda's president to address the EACOP project challenges. The people also called for an alternative to the project;
2. Further, some oil-affected women that were not receiving their livelihood restoration entitlements received them following our trainings, and the advocacy that the women engaged in;
3. In addition, public awareness on the gender gaps in Uganda's 2024/2025 national budget proposals for the Ministry of Lands was enhanced. It is hoped that this will continue to create pressure for engendering of the national budget; and
4. A platform through which women, youth and cross-border CSOs from Uganda and the DRC could engage in advocacy on the EU's CRMA was formed.

Despite the achievements registered, challenges remained as will be discussed under section 3 of this report.

2.4. Forest conservation efforts

Forests play vital roles that range from climate stabilisation, biodiversity conservation, as well as water and food provisioning among others. Forests must therefore be conserved and some of the key stewards in promoting this conservation include indigenous peoples and local communities (IPLCs). In 2024 therefore, AFIEGO did the following to support IPLCs and other stakeholders to promote conservation of forest landscapes such as Bugoma, Budongo, Murchison Falls National Park (MFNP), and others.

Research on oil impacts to forest landscapes: Research is important in providing evidence that informs advocacy and policy actions. In 2024, oil activities were ongoing in MFNP and there was limited public awareness about the status of oil infrastructural developments in the

park, as well as the impacts of oil activities on wildlife in the park. To address the above challenges, AFIEGO and our partners conducted research that documented the status of oil infrastructural developments and the impacts of the Tilenga oil project activities on wildlife in MFNP. We produced a research report that was disseminated in July 2024 to over 132, 071 people. We also organised community meetings and radio talkshows to disseminate the research; through the radio talkshows and community meetings, we reached an estimated 1,479,164 people.

The research led to enhanced stakeholder awareness of the impacts of oil activities in MFNP. It also ignited action. For instance, following production and dissemination of the research report, we saw over 800 people petitioning president Museveni in July 2024. The people called for avoidance of oil activities in MFNP to promote biodiversity conservation and protect livelihoods.

Supporting planning meetings for forest host communities: As earlier indicated, IPLCs are important in forest conservation efforts. This is because local communities, who often rely on forests to meet their needs, are vested stakeholders that want to see forests being conserved. In addition, because they neighbour forests, local communities act as monitors who report illegal activities, while also taking various actions to end these activities. Cognizant of the role that local communities play in conservation, AFIEGO has worked with Bugoma forest host communities from 21 villages to promote conservation of the forest from oil, land grabbing and sugarcane growing challenges since 2021. In 2024, to support community participation in the conservation of Bugoma forest, AFIEGO organised planning meetings in January 2024 with forest host communities from Kikuube district. During the meetings, we agreed on a plan that would guide AFIEGO and communities' advocacy activities during 2024.

Demanding for Bugoma forest boundary opening report: One of the key strategies that we agreed upon during the above-discussed planning meetings with communities was to continue demanding for the Bugoma forest boundary opening report from the MLHUD. To stop the land grabbing claims and threats that Bugoma forest faces, the Ugandan government, through the MLHUD as well as the National Forestry Authority (NFA), opened the Bugoma forest boundaries in 2021 and 2022. By the beginning of 2024 however, the boundary opening report was yet to be publicly shared. In March 2024 therefore, AFIEGO and our Save Bugoma Forest Campaign (SBFC) partners held a press conference in Kampala. During the press conference, we called on the Ministry of Lands to work with NFA to publicly release the Bugoma forest boundary opening report. The report was leaked to the public in 2024, but it legitimizes some land grabbers' claims on the forest, which is a challenge.

Supporting exchange learnings for Bugoma forest host communities: To enable Bugoma forest host communities to build solidarity with their peers from the Friends of Zoka movement, AFIEGO supported an exchange learning between the Bugoma forest host communities and Friends of Zoka movement in May 2024. During the exchange learning, the strategies that each forest host community uses to promote forest conservation were discussed. This aided learning and adoption of new strategies to promote conservation of Bugoma forest.

Engaging district local government leaders to participate in implementation of the EU-GoU Forest partnership: District local governments play vital roles in supporting forest conservation. They put in place bye-laws, monitor and play other roles that are critical to forest conservation. To support them to adequately play their roles, it is important to empower them with knowledge on conservation tools that are adopted at the central government level. Consequently, to support Kikuube district local government leaders where Bugoma forest is located to understand the relevance of the EU-GoU Forest Partnership in supporting restoration of Bugoma and other forests in the Albertine Graben, AFIEGO held a joint radio talkshow with the district leaders in August 2024. During the talkshow, the aforementioned partnership was discussed. The promotion of tourism in Bugoma forest to support its conservation was also discussed.

Disseminating ESIA briefs for the Tilenga and EACOP oil projects: The Tilenga, Kingfisher and EACOP oil project activities are affecting or are in the area of influence of forest landscapes including MFNP, the Murchison Falls-Albert Delta Ramsar wetland system, Budongo forest, Bugoma forest, Wambabya forest and others. To avoid, minimise or mitigate the potential impacts of the oil projects on the forest landscapes, the developers of the projects

conducted Environmental and Social Impact Assessments (ESIAs), which were approved by NEMA. The assessments contain proposals to promote forest and biodiversity conservation amidst oil activities. To support forest host communities and other stakeholders to effectively monitor

the implementation of and compliance to the ESIA reports, AFIEGO produced brief publications that highlighted key mitigation measures contained in the ESIA reports. These were distributed to over 4,487 people in Uganda in August 2024.



Photo highlights of some of AFIEGO's forest conservation efforts in 2024

Achievements/milestones registered as a result of our forest conservation efforts

AFIEGO and our partners' forest conservation work resulted in the following achievements:

1. We saw various stakeholders including local communities, small-scale farmers, fisherfolk, tour and travel operators and Ugandans in general take action following dissemination of our research on oil impacts to forest landscapes such as MFNP. For instance, over 800 people petitioned president Museveni in July 2024, calling for avoidance of oil activities in MFNP to promote biodiversity conservation.

2. In addition, following years of engaging local communities to enhance women and girls' participation in forest conservation and governance, we saw women and girls take up the conservation agenda. These mobilised and sensitised fellow women and girls to promote conservation of Bugoma forest.

3. Further, we continued to retain the need to protect Bugoma forest from oil, land grabbing and sugarcane growing threats on the national agenda to promote conservation of the forest.

Despite the achievements registered, challenges remained. These include the fact that the MLHUD wants to legitimise land grabbing claims on Bugoma forest through the boundary opening report that the ministry shared with government. Bugoma forest also continues to be destroyed, while oil activities continue to take place in forest landscapes, which presents forest conservation risks.

2.5. Litigation

Litigation is an important strategy in the struggle to keep fossil fuels underground to enable climate action, promote human rights observance and support environmental conservation. Litigation is also an important tool in supporting efforts to open up the operational space in which CSOs in Uganda operate.

To promote climate action, human rights observance, environmental conservation and an open civic space amidst mega oil projects in Uganda, AFIEGO litigated over 21 court cases in Uganda, East African and French courts of law in 2024.

Of the cases that AFIEGO litigated, 11 were aimed at protecting the land rights of persons displaced for the EACOP and Tilenga oil project activities in Uganda.

Further, five of the cases were aimed at opening up the civic space in Uganda, while two were aimed at fostering climate action as well as corporate accountability. In addition, two of the cases were aimed at supporting biodiversity conservation while another two were aimed at promoting good judicial conduct to support the rule of law in the extractives sector.

Below, we discuss some of the litigation activities that AFIEGO conducted in 2024.

Prosecuting the EACOP case at the EACJ: In November 2020, AFIEGO joined three other East African CSOs to file court cases at the East African Court of Justice (EACJ) seeking temporary and permanent injunctions against the EACOP project. The case was filed because the EACOP project violates key East African and international laws as well as treaties. Development of the

project also stands in the way of climate action while risking the environmental and other rights of over 500 million East Africans.

The case was filed at the First Instance Division of the EACJ, and was dismissed by judges at the division in November 2023. Consequently, AFIEGO and our CSO partners filed an appeal in December 2023 at the Appellate Division of the EACJ. The appeal is seeking to overturn the ruling by the First Instance Division.

In 2024, AFIEGO supported efforts to ensure prosecution of the appeal case. For instance, in February 2024, we supported our legal team and also participated in a hearing of the appeal at the EACJ in Arusha. Furthermore, in March 2024, we supported lawyers that are litigating the case to convene a meeting to discuss and draft submissions for the case. The submissions were filed with court in March 2024.

When the case came up for hearing in November 2024, we supported our legal team and also participated in the hearing that was held at the EACJ in Arusha. We also supported EACOP-affected people from various districts in Uganda to participate in the hearing.

Providing legal support for EACOP-affected people sued by government:

In August 2024, the Ugandan government sued 80 people with interests in 41 parcels of land that were affected by the EACOP project in Southern Uganda. Government sought court's intervention to deposit the affected people's compensation in court, and to evict the people. The affected people included those that had rejected compensation on grounds that it was low. Others included those who lacked letters of administration due to government's own administrative failures. Other affected people were absentee persons. The people lacked legal support and after engagements with AFIEGO, it was agreed that AFIEGO

provides this support. In September 2024 therefore, AFIEGO provided legal support to the EACOP-affected people while they appeared in court. Unfortunately, the people lost the court case to government, and AFIEGO supported them to appeal in the Court of Appeal in Uganda in 2024. AFIEGO also supported the people to convene several meetings between August and December 2024. During those meetings, the people formed a platform, the Association of Greater Masaka EACOP PAPs' Petitioners (AGMEPP), through which they could engage in advocacy to defend their rights.

Supporting some of the 42 Tilenga oil project-affected households to access justice:

In December 2023, the Ugandan government sued 42 people whose land was being compulsorily acquired for the Tilenga oil project activities in Buliisa district in Western Uganda. The people that were sued included those that rejected low compensation, as well as absentee land owners among others. Government sought court's intervention to deposit the affected people's compensation in court, and to evict the people. The case was filed, heard and decided on within four days. Many affected people were not in court while the case was being heard.

After the people lost the case, AFIEGO supported nine of the 42 affected households to file an appeal in the Court of Appeal in Uganda in 2023. The people requested AFIEGO to file the appeal. In March 2024, AFIEGO supported her legal team and other lawyers to visit the affected households to collect evidence to enable prosecution of the appeal. The evidence and various applications to prevent the eviction of the affected people were filed in court by our lawyers in 2024. In addition, AFIEGO held meetings in January, March, July, August, and November 2024 to provide updates on the appeal to the affected people.

Furthermore, AFIEGO supported the affected people to participate in press conferences, radio talkshows and others to create public awareness of their plight.

Supporting actions to promote professional judicial conduct: The judge who decided the above-discussed case against the 42 Tilenga oil project-affected persons behaved in an unprofessional manner. He heard and ruled upon a case in such an expeditious manner that did not allow some of the affected people to participate in the hearing processes, as the people were unaware that they had been sued. Another judge also failed to hear applications to stay the eviction orders that court granted to government against the 42 households. To promote good judicial conduct, AFIEGO supported the affected community members to file two complaints against two judges in May and July 2024.

The complaints were filed at the Judicial Service Commission (JSC) and they sought remedies for the judges' unprofessional conduct. The lawyers that we work with also moved Uganda Law Society (ULS) to hold an extraordinary meeting to discuss judicial misconduct.

Providing support to the oil refinery-affected people to appear in court: In 2014, AFIEGO supported persons whose land was compulsorily acquired by government for the oil refinery project starting in 2012 to file a court case. The case was filed to seek court's intervention to compel government to pay the affected people prompt, fair and adequate compensation. By 2024, the case was still being heard, a grave miscarriage of justice. Be it as it may, AFIEGO continued to support the affected people to ensure litigation of the case. For instance, in January 2024, AFIEGO visited the affected people to share the case's updates with them. Further, when the case came up for hearing in July 2024, AFIEGO supported the oil refinery-affected people to participate in the hearing at Hoima high court.

AFIEGO also procured experts such as valuers to provide evidence of government's under-compensation of the affected persons. The valuers produced a report that is to be used in court.

Prosecuting the Tilenga ESIA case: AFIEGO and Ugandan youth groups filed a court challenge seeking cancellation of the Tilenga ESIA certificate of approval in 2019. The challenge was filed following NEMA, in consultation with the Petroleum Authority of Uganda (PAU), organising two public hearings on the Tilenga ESIA report in Nyowa and Buliisa districts in 2018.

In the process of organising the public hearings, the two government agencies violated key provisions in Uganda's Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) regulations and public hearing guidelines which hindered effective public participation in the ESIA processes. This curtailed NEMA's capacity to make an inclusive decision on the Tilenga ESIA that would support environmental conservation and human rights observance amidst the Tilenga oil project activities. Unfortunately, since the case was filed and heard, court has failed to deliver a ruling. In November 2024 therefore, AFIEGO wrote to the judiciary, requesting for a ruling to be delivered in the case.

Filing court cases against ten police officers: In 2022, 2023 and 2024, activists campaigning against the EACOP project were arrested during peaceful marches or protests at the Parliament of Uganda, the European Union's office in Kampala and the Chinese embassy in Kampala. The activists were brutalised by police officers and detained at police stations in Kampala. The activists' right to freedom from torture, cruel, inhumane and degrading treatment as enshrined under Articles 24 and 44 of the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda were violated. So was their right to freedom of thought and conscience as enshrined under Articles 28 and 29 of the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda. Further, the activists'

right to liberty as enshrined under Article 23 of the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda was violated. The activists sought AFIEGO's support to bring cases against the police officers that arrested and brutalised them. AFIEGO supported the activists to file three court cases at the high court in Uganda in June and July 2024. The activists are seeking various remedies from court. It is hoped that the cases will make police officers less prone to abusing citizens' liberty.

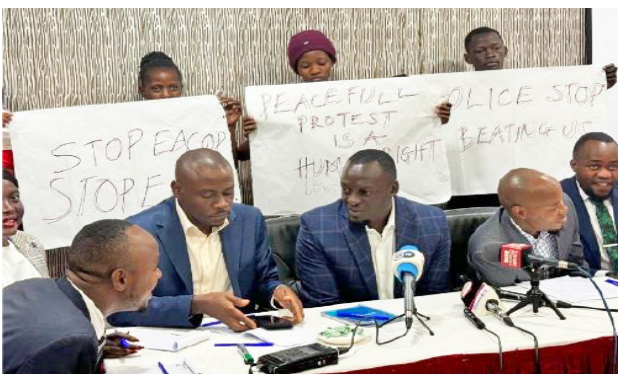




Photo highlights of some of AFIEGO's litigation efforts in 2024

Achievements/milestones registered as a result of our litigation efforts

AFIEGO and our partners' litigation work resulted in the following achievements:

1. In 2024, we continued to use litigation as a mobilisation and sensitisation tool that drew the public's attention to the negative impacts of the EACOP and related oil activities in Uganda.
2. Further, in 2024, we managed to stave off efforts by the Tanzanian government which wanted the EACOP case at the East African Court of Justice to be dismissed. We did this because we supported lawyers and affected persons to prepare for and participate in the case hearing.
3. In addition, of the 42 households that are supposed to be evicted for the Tilenga oil project activities in Buliisa district, only one family was evicted in 2024. This was unfortunate and happened because of abuse of court processes. The fact that we managed to protect the rest of the families from eviction in 2024 however was a positive outcome.
4. Furthermore, our litigation efforts ensured that communities that are resisting unfair compensation for the EACOP, Tilenga, and oil refinery projects have recourse, and that their right to say no is exercised.

Despite the above achievements, challenges such as a judiciary that is not pro-poor and is beholden to the executive remained. Judicial processes also remained slow in 2024, undermining access to justice.

2.6. Cross-border advocacy to stop the expansion of fossil fuel projects

The GoU in collaboration with TotalEnergies and CNOOC plan to extract between 1.4 to 1.7 billion barrels of oil from oil fields in and around Lake Albert, Murchison Falls National Park as well as other areas in the Albertine region. Development of infrastructure such as an oil refinery, the EACOP, well pads, flowlines, Central Processing Facilities (CPFs) and water abstraction stations among others is ongoing in the Albertine Graben.

Unfortunately, the above infrastructure threatens ecosensitive and critical areas shared between Uganda and DRC including Lake Albert and others. These ecosystems support the livelihoods and food systems of millions of people on both sides of the border. In addition, development of the EACOP increases the viability of oil exploitation in the DRC, which could lead to immense deforestation or forest degradation, not to mention worsening of the climate crisis.

To address the above threats, AFIEGO together with our partners from the DRC and did the following:

Supporting cross-border community mobilisation and training: In April and May 2024, AFIEGO supported our partners from the DRC to hold community and other stakeholder meetings as well as radio talkshows. The meetings took place in Tchomia district in the Ituri province. The purpose of the activities was to enhance stakeholder awareness on the dangers of oil and gas oil exploitation on Lake Albert. The meetings brought together over 114 people including cultural leaders or chiefs, religious leaders, women, fisherfolk, and others.

During the meetings, the stakeholders discussed the dangers presented by fossil fuels and called for environmental

conservation. We also supported five radio talkshows that lasted two hours each. The talkshows had great impact with over 47 call-ins, WhatsApp and other messages being sent to the radio to appreciate the programme.

Organising Uganda-DRC CSO exchange learning: In June 2024, AFIEGO organised an exchange learning for over 50 Ugandan and Congolese CSOs. Through the exchange learning that took place in Hoima, Uganda, the CSOs shared strategies on how they can deploy community mobilisation, strategic litigation, communications and the promotion of green economic alternatives to address oil risks. The exchange learning strengthened collaboration between Ugandan and Congolese CSOs, and provided knowledge as well as tools for Congolese CSOs to campaign against fossil fuel expansion.

Strengthening cross-border CSO capacity to operate within repressed civic space: In April 2024, AFIEGO also supported our partners in the DRC to organise a training for 11 CSO representatives in the Ituri province. During the training, the environmental rights defenders were equipped with knowledge on national, regional and international instruments for the protection of defenders. The defenders were also provided with brochures containing information on legal instruments for the protection of environmental rights defenders.

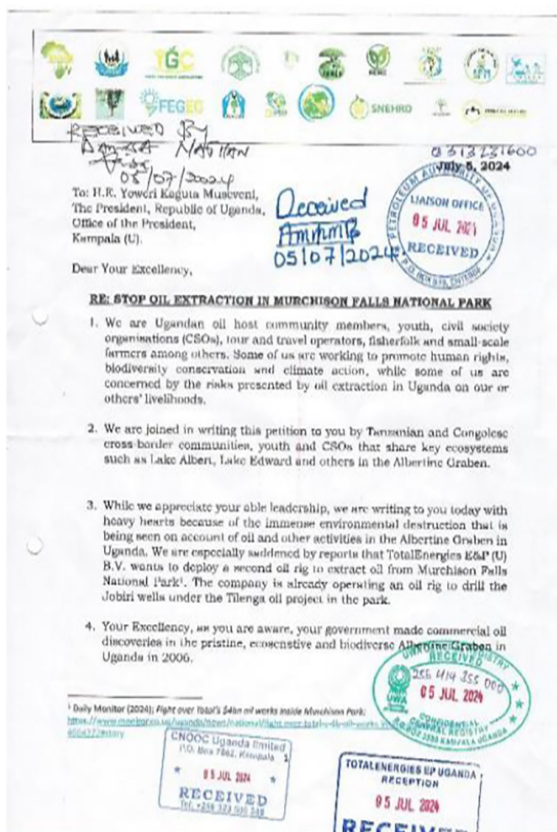
Engaging the President of Uganda to stop oil activities in MFNP: In July 2024, 828 CSOs, oil host communities, fisherfolk, small-scale farmers as well as tour and travel operators and other individuals from Uganda and the DRC petitioned Uganda's President, His Excellency (H.E) Yoweri Kaguta Museveni. Through the petition, the above people called for an immediate halt to oil activities in MFNP, including the rejection of TotalEnergies' proposal to deploy a second oil rig in the park. The

petition raised alarm over biodiversity loss, human-wildlife conflicts especially involving elephants and threats to tourism as well as fishing livelihoods in the region. It also highlighted how oil-related infrastructure was altering the natural appearance of the park. This cross-border action emphasised the urgent need to prioritise conservation, community livelihoods, and regional ecological integrity over fossil fuel expansion.

Supporting the Global Coalition of Peoples Facing Extractivism (GCPE) to strengthen its governance: The year 2024 commenced when the GCPE was fairly new, having been formed at the end of 2022. The GCPE is a coalition that brings together frontline activists in the Global South,

members of grassroots movements and Non-governmental organisations (NGOs) specialised in finance in the Global North.

Being fairly new, the coalition lacked key governance structures and guidelines need to strengthen it, and enable smooth operations. In May 2024 therefore, AFIEGO alongside others supported the GCPE to convene a meeting in Columbia. During the meeting which brought together over 30 participants from 16 different countries, the GPCE was able to put in place structures and guidelines to strengthen governance of the coalition. The GCPE was also able to recruit more members to strengthen its struggle to address the challenges of extractivism.



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Photo highlights of some of the cross-border engagements undertaken by AFIEGO in 2024

Achievements registered as a result of our cross-border advocacy efforts:

1. The religious and cultural leaders as well as communities that our partners engaged called for environmental conservation as opposed to fossil fuel expansion. This aided movement building to address oil threats.
2. Further, in 2024, Congolese civil society launched a campaign dubbed My Land, No Oil. Some of the campaign's strategies were informed by knowledge exchanges between Ugandan and Congolese civil society.
3. In addition, in 2024, Ugandan and Congolese civil society continued to engage in joint lobby and advocacy to create pressure to stop the expansion of the fossil fuel industry.

2.7. Promoting green economic activities

Green economic activities such as agriculture and fisheries, clean energy, sustainable tourism and natural resources management have the potential to power Uganda's growth. Indeed, Uganda's National Development Plan (NDP) IV identifies some of these sectors including agriculture and tourism as high impact sectors that can contribute to growing Uganda's economy tenfold by 2040.

To spur sustainable and inclusive green growth that addresses human rights and climate change concerns, AFIEGO joined

our IGEN-EA partners and implemented activities including:

Conducting research on green economic alternatives: In 2024, AFIEGO supported IGEN-EA to conduct research to promote green economic alternatives. To this end, AFIEGO supported IGEN-EA to engage small-scale farmers in the Busoga sub-region in Eastern Uganda to document small-scale farmers' experiences with agrochemicals. IGEN-EA produced a research brief that also discussed the impact of agrochemicals on climate change, and the brief was disseminated to over 2,000 people. The findings highlighted the impacts

of agrochemicals to the environment and human health. The brief made recommendations to promote sustainable agro-ecological practices among others. Additionally, AFIEGO supported IGEN-EA to commence research on the tourism potential of the Greater Masaka sub-region in Southern Uganda vis-a-vis the EACOP project risks. The research process was still ongoing by the end of 2024. The findings will be disseminated in 2025 to support advocacy for the promotion of the tourism sector over oil and gas projects.

Influencing national budgeting processes:

To ensure that Uganda's fiscal priorities align with environmental sustainability and inclusive green growth, AFIEGO supported its IGEN-EA partners to engage in the 2024 national budgeting process. In March 2024, AFIEGO supported IGEN-EA representatives to participate in a two-day retreat that brought together civil society actors to review the 2024/2025 national budget proposals. During the retreat, IGEN-EA partners reviewed the proposed budget allocations for green economic sectors such as clean energy, sustainable agriculture, and natural resource management.

The process culminated in the development and submission of a joint CSO position paper to Parliament, urging increased funding for green sectors to accelerate Uganda's transition to a green economy. Following our and others' advocacy, government increased the budget allocations for the environment, natural resources and climate change programme by Shs. 265.6 billion; the budget was increased from Shs. 417 billion in 2023/2024 to Shs. 682.6 billion in 2024/2025. However, allocations to other key sectors such as agriculture declined.

Promoting the adoption of clean energy technologies through establishment of a clean energy hub: Limited awareness of existing clean energy alternatives continues to undermine uptake of clean energy technologies. Indeed, a community

energy visioning exercise that AFIEGO and our IGEN-EA partners conducted in April 2024 showed that community awareness of existing clean energy alternatives is limited. This and other factors contribute to access to clean cooking standing at a dismal 15% in Uganda. To address the above challenge, AFIEGO and our IGEN-EA partners established a clean energy hub in Fort Portal city in the Albertine Graben. The hub functions as a clean energy educational and demonstration centre at the community level. Over 540 visits by community members to the hub were registered in 2024, with some community members adopting the use of clean energy technologies thereafter to promote environmental conservation, climate action, gender justice and others.

In 2024, AFIEGO also supported IGEN-EA to participate in the 2024 Renewable Energy Conference and Expo in Kampala in November to showcase the existing clean energy technologies to the general public.

Supporting local livelihoods through green skills training:

In addition, in May 2024, AFIEGO supported IGEN-EA's natural resources working group to train oil-affected women, the elderly and youth in Hoima district to support grassroots initiatives aimed at promoting green economic sectors. The training included practical lessons on beekeeping including construction of beehives, hanging of beehives, and value addition processes. By June 2024, the above groups were already engaged in beehive making to support green livelihoods.

Organising exchange learning visits to forest host communities:

In 2024, AFIEGO and our partners under the Green Livelihoods Alliance (GLA) 2.0 programme supported IGEN-EA members from the tourism working group to engage with stakeholders that are managing forest such as Ithoya in the Albertine Graben. During the engagements, the tourism working



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In this International Women's Day 2024, the Inclusive Green Economy Network-East Africa (GEN-EA) calls upon East African governments to invest in green economic sectors that drive women's participation in the economy.

IGEN-EA is a coalition of civil society organisations and private sector entities which 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. The network undertakes research, policy advocacy and stakeholder awareness raising to promote green economic activities in sectors such as clean energy, natural resources management, organic agriculture and fisheries, and tourism. IGEN-EA, which has members from Uganda, Kenya and Tanzania, is currently hosted by Africa Institute for Energy Governance (AFIEGO).

Today, IGEN-EA urges East African governments to increase investments in green economic sectors such as agriculture, fisheries, clean energy, tourism and others that employ the majority of women. The network members are also calling on the East African governments to address barriers to women's participation in green economic sectors.

Is. Janepher Baitwamasa of Navigators for Development Association (NAVODA)-Uganda, member organisation of IGEN-EA says, "Women in East Africa are still faced with a challenge of

ity and established and others are being planned. Community and other stakeholder awareness of available clean energy in Uganda. It is hoped that enhanced stakeholder awareness will result in increased uptake of clean energy after noting economic development, gender equity, environmental and climate action among others.

Following technologies can be found in the clean energy hub



Efficient chicken warmers (for breeders)
climbing solutions.

Visit us
Visit the clean energy hub in Fort Portal City,
at the Town Council, along Fort Portal - Kampala Road.
Email atlego@atlego.org and tiseduganda@gmail.com
For further information.

36

Achievements registered as a result of promoting green economic alternatives:

- 1. Increased national budget allocations to one green economic sector:**
The Ugandan government increased the budget for the environment, natural resources and climate change programme by UGX 265.6 billion following our and others' advocacy.
- 2. Increased community uptake of clean energy technologies:** In 2024, AFIEGO and our IGEN-EA partners popularised the different clean energy alternatives and as a result, it was reported that there was an increased number of people using solar products. Moreover, over 504 people visited IGEN-EA's clean energy hub in 2024, resulting in some purchasing clean energy products.
- 3. Oil-affected communities' skilled in beekeeping:** IGEN-EA enhanced the capacity of women, the elderly and youth from Hoima district in beehive making and value addition. By June 2024, the groups were already engaged in beehive making.
- 4. In addition, following research, advocacy and stakeholder awareness raising by IGEN-EA aimed at promoting tourism in Bugoma forest, government launched chimpanzee trekking in Bugoma forest in August 2024. This enhances conservation efforts while promoting community livelihoods.**

2.8. Promoting clean energy access

As earlier indicated in this report, clean energy access in Uganda remains low, with access to the grid standing at only over 20% while access to clean cooking stands at 15%. Consequently, Ugandans rely on harmful fuels such as firewood, charcoal, paraffin, petrol and diesel to cook, light their homes and engage in productive activities. To address the climate crisis, gender challenges, poor health and others, it is imperative that Ugandans' access to clean energy is increased. To enhance access to clean energy therefore, AFIEGO did the following in 2024:

Capturing community voices to influence local and global policies on a Just Energy Transition (JET): In April 2024, AFIEGO organised a community energy visioning

exercise in the Bunyoro and Greater Masaka sub-regions with the aim of understanding the energy options that local communities aspire to use, and what they think a Just Energy Transition (JET) should entail. The community members shared their aspirations and these were shared with over 17,000 stakeholders during their 29th Conference of Parties (COP29) in November 2024, shaping conversations and policy directions toward a more inclusive and equitable energy future.

Supporting youth advocacy for action on Africa Climate Summit commitments: In 2023, African leaders convened the Africa Climate Summit in Nairobi, Kenya. The summit resulted in production of the 2023 Nairobi declaration with commitments to promote clean energy access and others to address the climate crisis. To promote

implementation of the commitments, in April 2024, AFIEGO supported youth to publish articles in newspapers that have a reach of over 35,000. The youth discussed some of the commitments made by leaders at the 2023 Africa Climate Summit, and demanded that these commitments are fulfilled.

Empowering women to champion a clean energy agenda: Uganda is characterised by energy poverty, with low clean energy access being experienced. Further, the per capita energy consumption is low with available information showing that it stands at only over 80 units. Women in Uganda experience more energy poverty than men. To address this challenge, in September 2024, AFIEGO and IGEN-EA organised a women's clean energy conference. The objective of the conference was to create partnerships with women so that they can act as change makers to revolutionise clean energy promotion. The conference was participated in by over 50 delegates from Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, and the DRC.

Conversations at the conference focused on clean cooking alternatives, the absence of women's empowerment strategies in clean energy entrepreneurship and the impacts of fossil fuel projects on women. Following the conference, the more than 50 women came together to release a communiqué urging the government to remove obstacles hindering access to clean energy.

Creating public awareness on the Critical Raw Materials Act (CRMA): In March 2024, AFIEGO hosted an online session that brought together over 66 civil society representatives, community, women, and youth actors from Uganda and the DRC. The session equipped participants with knowledge about the European Union(EU)'s CRMA and its implications for citizens in both countries. Later in August 2024, AFIEGO distributed simplified Information, Education and Communication (IEC) materials about the EU's CRMA to 1,543

stakeholders across Uganda. This enhanced public understanding, increased advocacy for clean energy access, and reinforced the demand for respect for human rights amid Africa's growing critical raw materials extraction.

Engaging development partners on off-grid clean energy efforts: Further, in October 2024, AFIEGO and her partners took part in a meeting with representatives from the Dutch Embassy in Kampala to strategise on unlocking further access to off-grid clean energy in Uganda. The conversation also underlined the human rights abuses of environmental and human rights defenders, particularly those who resist fossil fuel projects. The Dutch Embassy committed to work with CSOs to foster clean energy interventions and to do some advocacy work with government stakeholders to protect Environmental and Human Rights Defenders (EHRDs).

Engaging government to reduce high electricity tariffs: High electricity tariffs undermine use of power for productive and other purposes. In 2024, AFIEGO supported youth champions to engage in advocacy to solve the problem of high electricity tariffs so as to make energy accessible to low-income households. Unfortunately, to date, Ugandans continue to suffer the cost of high electricity prices.

Publications: In 2024, AFIEGO staff, together with our clean energy advocates, produced and disseminated communication materials such as monthly newsletters, media articles and social media updates to hold government and other electricity players accountable.



Photo highlights of some of the advocacy and communication material written by AFIEGO staff and clean energy champions demanding for clean energy access

Achievements registered as a result of promotion of clean energy access:

1. AFIEGO successfully amplified local community voices on the clean energy transition to influence inclusive energy policy discussions.
2. There was also an increased number of women and youth clean energy champions promoting clean energy access and demanding for fair electricity pricing in 2024.

2.9. Institutional and partner strengthening

In 2024, AFIEGO undertook institutional and partner strengthening activities including the following:

Empowering community observers on evidence-based reporting: In April, 2024, AFIEGO conducted a training of community Based Monitors (CBMs) from Greater Masaka and Bunyoro sub-regions on evidenced based documentation. The training equipped the CBMs with knowledge and skills to report environmental and human rights abuses amidst oil activities plus collect evidence to support cases in court.

Conducting a safety training for Women (W)EHRDs: To protect and create an enabling working environment for (W)EHRDs to continue doing their important human rights, forest conservation and climate action work, in May 2024, AFIEGO held a safety training that equipped the (W)EHRDs with knowledge and skills to improve their safety and security.

Strengthening environmental reporting: In May, 2024, AFIEGO also organised an online exchange learning between Nigerian and Ugandan journalists. During the exchange learning, Nigerian journalists shared lessons on reporting on the oil and gas sector with their Ugandan peers.

The Ugandan journalists were also empowered with information on the environmental risks posed by the Tilenga and EACOP oil projects by scientists from Environmental Law Alliance (ELAW)-USA. In 2024, AFIEGO also supported journalists from various media houses to participate in media field visits to oil-affected

communities where they documented the first-hand challenges faced by oil-affected communities.

Furthermore, AFIEGO in partnership with BBEG media trained journalists on climate reporting in 2024.

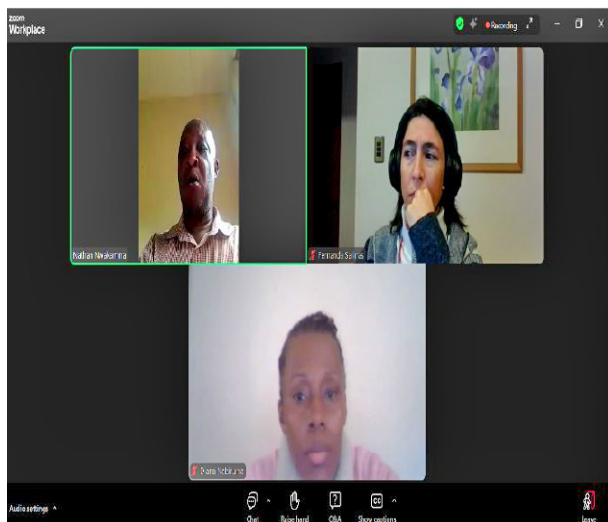


Photo highlights of some of AFIEGO's institutional and partner strengthening efforts in 2024

SECTION 3

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS, CHALLENGES AND PRIORITIES

This section highlights our key achievements and challenges faced in 2024, as well as key priorities for 2025.

3.1. Highlights of key achievements

Some of our key achievements in 2024 include:

Progress in influencing policies: In July 2024, the Prime Minister of Uganda indicated that the Consumer Protection and Management Bill was one of the 66 bills that would be tabled before parliament for debate and enactment. AFIEGO and our IGEN-EA partners engaged in advocacy throughout 2023, calling on the Ministry of Trade to complete and table the bill before parliament to address sub-standard products that undermine consumer uptake of off-grid solar products. Further, by the end of 2024, the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development was preparing a National Gender and Climate Action Plan (NG-CAP) to facilitate engendering of national climate action. We hope that the plan will be finalised in 2025.

Formation of five platforms to enable community-led advocacy: In 2024, AFIEGO supported oil-impacted communities who were seeking to work together to address the challenges that they are faced with to form five platforms. Through the platforms that include AGMEPP, BUNCCA, Buliisa oil-affected women and Buliisa oil-affected youth among others, the communities undertook advocacy to compel duty bearers to address the challenges that they are faced with.

Advocacy capacity of oil-affected women and youth strengthened: In 2024, AFIEGO strengthened the advocacy skills of oil-affected and other women from over eight

districts in Uganda. The women thereafter engaged in processes to influence compulsory land acquisition laws, filing of court cases, participating in peaceful protests and others to protect their and other community members' rights amidst mega oil projects with grave human rights and environmental risks.

Putting Lake Albert fisherfolk's challenges on CSO agenda: In 2024, AFIEGO conducted a number of activities including dissemination of research, exchange learnings and radio talkshows that demonstrated how oil activities in and around Lake Albert are affecting fisherfolk. Consequently, we saw East African and other CSOs take up the issues faced by oil-affected Lake Albert fisherfolk and adding them to their advocacy agenda. We hope this will lead to addressing of the fisherfolk's challenges by the relevant duty bearers. In addition, for the first time ever, Uganda got a representative on the Fishnet Alliance, a continental network advocating for African fisherfolk's rights. This followed AFIEGO making connections between fisherfolk in Uganda and the Fish-Net Alliance.

Bugoma forest opened up for chimpanzee trekking: Since 2021, AFIEGO and our IGEN-EA as well as SBFC partners have been engaged in efforts to promote tourism in Bugoma forest to support conservation and community livelihoods. We have conducted research, engaged government and development partners, mobilised communities and undertaken other initiatives to promote tourism in the forest. We are therefore happy to report that in August 2024, the government of Uganda launched chimpanzee trekking in the forest. We hope that this will support community livelihoods and enhance conservation of the forest which is under pressure of destruction due to oil,

land grabbing and sugarcane growing challenges.

More girls and youth join the fight to protect Bugoma forest: Since 2021, AFIEGO and our partners have been working with communities that live in over 21 villages near Bugoma forest to increase women and girls' participation in efforts to conserve Bugoma forest. We held community meetings, gender trainings, exchange learning sessions, and radio talkshows to encourage their involvement in conservation. We are happy to report that in 2024, we saw more women and girls participating in efforts such as community organising, tree planting and others to support forest conservation efforts.

Popularising key research, partnerships and ESIA reports to promote conservation of forest landscapes: In 2024, AFIEGO conducted and disseminated research aimed at promoting conservation of Murchison Falls National Park and the wildlife therein amidst oil activities. Through use of community meetings, radio, and TV, we were able to disseminate the research to over 1,477,484 people. Some of the people that we engaged were challenged to act, with over 800 of them writing to the president of Uganda in July 2024 asking that oil activities in the park are stopped.

Stopping dismissal of EACOP appeal case at the EACJ: In 2024, AFIEGO's legal team successfully countered an attempt by Tanzania's Deputy Solicitor General to have the EACOP appeal case at the East African Court of Justice (EACJ) dismissed. The appeal is aimed at ensuring that the legal challenge which AFIEGO and three other East African organisations filed at the EACJ's First Instance Division in November 2020 is heard on its merits to promote climate action while protecting the human and environmental rights of millions of East Africans.

Delaying the eviction of Tilenga oil project-affected persons: In December 2023, the government of Uganda filed a lawsuit

against 42 families whose land was being compulsorily acquired for the Tilenga oil project. The government requested court to allow it to deposit compensation of the affected people in court, and to be granted leave to evict the people from their ancestral lands. Some of the people had rejected the compensation on grounds that it was low. Others were absentee land owners. Court granted the above-sought orders in December 2023, paving way for eviction of the people. AFIEGO supported nine of the affected households to appeal the ruling, and filed various applications in 2023 and 2024. We also supported the people to use the media to mobilise against their unjust eviction. Consequently, by the end of 2024, only one of the affected 42 families had been evicted. This is unfortunate, but of great importance is that we delayed the eviction of the other families. We hope to stop the evictions in 2025 and beyond.

Raising public awareness on oil risks through litigation: It is also worth noting that AFIEGO and our partners' advocacy and public communication regarding the court cases filed sparked public interest and awareness, supporting us to enhance awareness on the dangers of oil exploitation in Uganda. Furthermore, we got more lawyers to become interested in litigating cases related to the oil and gas sector in Uganda. The lawyers filed legal challenges at the EACJ, and moved Uganda Law Society (ULS) to attempt to convene a meeting to address judicial misconduct. The ULS meeting was however stopped by government.

Promoting Just Energy Transition efforts through increasing regional awareness on the EU's Critical Raw Materials Act: AFIEGO convened a webinar in March 2024 to build the capacity of over 66 stakeholders including youth from Uganda and the DRC on the EU's Critical Raw Materials Act (CRMA). The training helped them understand how the CRMA might impact the environment and human rights in both countries. Further,

in August 2024, IEC materials summarising the CRMA were disseminated to 1,543 stakeholders and a platform through which women, youth and cross-border CSOs from Uganda and DRC was formed to engage in advocacy regarding the EU's CRMA.

Promoting financial flows to green economic sectors: AFIEGO in collaboration with IGEN-EA continued efforts to push for green economic alternatives. To this end, AFIEGO supported IGEN-EA to participate in co-authoring and submitting a CSOs position paper to Parliament calling for increased funding for green economic sectors. As a result, the 2024/2025 national budget for the environment, natural resources, and climate change programme was enhanced by UGX 265.6 billion.

Skilling women, youth and the elderly to promote green livelihoods: In addition, AFIEGO sensitised women, youth and the elderly in the Hoima district on forest-based enterprises including beekeeping and honey production. The groups gained skills on advanced beekeeping techniques, including the construction and installation of beehives and value addition techniques. By June 2024, the groups were already engaged in beehive making to promote sustainable livelihoods.

Increasing communities' access to clean energy technologies: Further, in 2024, AFIEGO supported IGEN-EA to establish a clean energy hub in Fort Portal city where the public could learn more about clean energy technologies. By the end of 2024, over 540 people had visited the hub, with some buying clean energy cooking technologies to reduce the pressure that cooking with biomass has on the environment.

Popularising solar energy to increase uptake: In addition to the above, in 2024 and before then, we engaged in mass sensitisation efforts covering districts in the Albertine Graben and elsewhere to increase awareness and uptake of clean energy

products. We organised radio talkshows, community meetings and participated in renewable energy exhibitions. Our and others' efforts were rewarded as towards the end of 2024, it was reported that the use of solar energy in Hoima and surrounding districts grew, and people's reliance on paraffin, which is detrimental to the environment and human health, decreased.

3.2. Challenges in 2024

With success comes challenges. Below are the challenges we faced in 2024.

(i) **The human rights of oil affected communities** continue to be abused despite their engagement of the Ugandan government and oil companies seeking a stop to the injustices and asking for redress as well as alternatives.

(ii) **In addition, key policies that AFIEGO and our partners** have advocated for such as a Solar Energy Policy and Consumer Protection law were not in place by the end of 2024. The Land Acquisition, Resettlement and Rehabilitation Policy was also not in place by the end of 2024.

(iii) **Further, the ETP, which the Ugandan government launched** in December 2023 to support clean energy access efforts by 2040, lists coal, oil and gas as transition fuels. Failure to reform the plan could see Uganda further contribute to the climate crisis.

(iv) **Relatedly, oil activities continued in ecologically sensitive areas** like Murchison Falls National Park, forests, rivers, wetlands and others, posing significant threats to biodiversity conservation. The ongoing oil activities in MFNP have increased human-wildlife conflicts, particularly in communities living near oil development sites, leading to loss of lives and livelihoods.

(v) **In addition, forests such as Bugoma continued to be destroyed** in 2024 due to sugarcane growing activities. The forest is also under pressure of destruction due to

the ongoing oil exploitation efforts in the Albertine Graben.

(vi) **Relatedly, in 2024, we learnt that the Ministry of Lands Housing and Urban Development** wants to legitimise land grabbing claims on Bugoma forest through the boundary opening report that was shared with cabinet.

(vii) **In addition, our litigation efforts were undermined by a weak** judiciary whose independence is clipped by the executive in Uganda. While government cases against oil-affected communities were fast-tracked and concluded within days or months, cases filed by the communities remain unresolved for years.

(viii) **The Ugandan government also continued to use courts** against oil-affected people with cases being filed against them for their eviction in instances where they rejected low compensation. For instance, a case was filed against 80 people with interests in land affected by the EACOP in August 2024. Government won the case against the people in October 2024. The appeal filed by the people was yet to be heard by the end of 2024.

(ix) **In addition, communities continue to face limited access** to clean energy. This is exacerbated by limited awareness of the existence of clean energy alternatives. This has hindered efforts to transition away from biomass and fossil fuels.

(x) **The shrinking civic space in Uganda was still repressed in 2024**, limiting the operation of environmental and human rights defenders especially youth against oil projects. Between May and September 2024, over 92 youth and community activists were arrested.

3.3. Key priorities in 2025

In light of the above challenges, AFIEGO will prioritise the following in 2025:

- Continue to empower oil-affected

communities to defend their human and environmental rights amidst ongoing oil and gas developments;

- Support advocacy for the enactment of policies and laws that promote good energy governance and clean energy access;

- Engage in efforts to promote reforms to Uganda's Energy Transition Plan;

- Mobilise various stakeholders to campaign against oil activities in forest landscapes and in the African Great Lakes region;

- Continue to work with forest host communities to stop destruction of Bugoma forest;

- Continue to provide support to oil-affected households that are defending their compensation rights amidst the oil refinery, Tilenga and EACOP oil projects;

- In addition, continue to support regional cases at the East African Court of Justice and international ones in France as well as court cases against police officers that are aimed at improving the civic space in Uganda;

- Continue working with our cross-border partners to stop fossil fuel expansion in eco-sensitive areas;

- Expand and support the work of IG-EN-EA to promote green economic alternatives;

- Continue to use various tools to enhance clean energy awareness and uptake; and

- Work with partners to improve the operational civic space in Uganda.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX I: AFIEGO STAFF PROFILES

Mr. Dickens Kamugisha: Mr. Kamugisha is the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of AFIEGO and head of the secretariat. He is also an advocate of the High Court of Uganda and a member of both the Uganda and East African Law Societies. He holds a Master of Laws Degree majoring in Energy Governance from Makerere University, Kampala.

Ms. Margret Kwijuka: Ms. Kwijuka is the Finance and Administration Manager at AFIEGO. She holds a Bachelor of Business Administration degree from Kampala International University (KIU). She also holds certificates in computerised accounting using tally and QuickBooks from Africa Population Consult-Makerere. Ms. Kwijuka is also a registered CPA student at the Institute of Certified Public Accountants of Uganda (ICPAU). Prior to joining AFIEGO, Ms. Kwijuka worked with Dynapharm International in Congo-Brazzaville as the Finance and Administration Manager. She also worked with Vision Fund Uganda and Micro Enterprise Development Network.

Ms. Diana Nabiruma: Ms. Nabiruma is the Senior Communications Officer of AFIEGO. She holds a Master of Arts degree in Journalism and Communication and Bachelor of Arts degree in Mass Communication from Makerere University. Ms. Nabiruma has over ten years' experience in development communication and journalism. She is also a respected public speaker and a widely published author. Ms. Nabiruma's work won her recognition in 2018 when she was selected by IUCN NL as a Face of Conservation from Africa. Before joining AFIEGO, Ms. Nabiruma worked with *The Observer* newspaper and the British Council in Uganda as a journalist and digital communications officer respectively.

Ms. Margaret Kemigisa Talemwa: Ms. Talemwa is the Legal officer at AFIEGO. She

holds a Bachelor of Laws degree from Uganda Christian University (UCU) Mukono and a postgraduate diploma from the Law Development Centre (LDC). She is a passionate lawyer with a particular interest in climate and environment law.

Ms. Catherine Twongyeirwe: Ms. Twongyeirwe is the Finance Assistant at AFIEGO. She holds a Bachelor of Business Administration degree from Uganda Christian University (UCU). Before joining AFIEGO, Ms. Twongyeirwe volunteered as a Finance Assistant at Build Africa, Masindi branch.

Mr. Patrick Edema: Mr. Edema is a project assistant at AFIEGO. He holds a Bachelor's degree in Environmental Engineering and Management from Kyambogo University.

Ms. Rachael Amongin: Ms. Amongin is AFIEGO's communications assistant. She holds a Post Graduate Diploma in Monitoring and Evaluation from Uganda Management Institute and obtained a Bachelor's degree in journalism, media and communications studies from Uganda Christian University, Mukono. She worked with BankTrack, an international Non-Government Organisation (NGO) as an intern under the human rights campaign team. Before joining AFIEGO, Ms. Amongin worked as an intern at the National Agricultural Resources Research Institute (NaCRRI)-Namulonge as an Assistant Development Communications Officer (DCO).

Ms. Amina Acola: Ms. Acola is a practicing lawyer at AFIEGO.

Ms. Comfort Aganyira: Ms. Aganyira is a Field Assistant who holds a Bachelor of Business Administration Degree from Ugandan Christian University. Before joining AFIEGO, she worked as a research administration officer at Pan African Center for Aspiring Entrepreneurs and Researchers (PACER Researchers Limited), Masindi. Ms. Aganyira is

passionate about defending communities' land and environmental rights.

APPENDIX II: AFIEGO'S RESEARCH AND STUDENT ASSOCIATES

Mr. Paul Kato: Mr. Kato is a Research Associate with AFIEGO and holds a Bachelor's degree in Social Work and Social Administration from Kyambogo University.

Ms. Olive Atuhaire is a Research Associate at AFIEGO. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Social work and Social Administration from Ndejje University. She is a passionate social worker with keen interest in energy issues including energy equity and environmental justice.

Ms. Jane Apio: Ms. Apio is a Research Associate at AFIEGO. She holds a Bachelor of Journalism and Mass Communication degree from Uganda Martyrs University-Nkozi. She is committed to promoting environmental justice and sustainable development.

Ms. Phionah Ndyamuhaki: Ms. Ndyamuhaki interned with AFIEGO in 2024. She is currently a fourth year student at Uganda Christian University, Mukono pursuing a Bachelor of Laws degree. She is passionate about climate justice, sustainable environment initiatives and environmental law.



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