

July 2025; Issue 7

BUGOMA FOREST HOST COMMUNITIES SPEAK: AFIEGO HAS CREATED IMPACT



Bugoma forest host communities and AFIEGO staff during a meeting in July 2025; during the meeting, we discussed the impact that AFIEGO's forest conservation efforts have had on communities.

Photo credit: Andrew Katende

In this newsletter:

- Voices of hope and action: How AFIEGO grew a movement for conservation of Bugoma forest
- Pictorial of our activities
- Lobbying
- In the media
- Upcoming events

Dear reader, welcome to AFIEGO's July 2025 newsletter. This month (July 2025), AFIEGO organised a meeting with Bugoma forest host communities in Nyairongo village in Kikuube district in Western Uganda.

Women, youth, local and religious leaders that live in villages surrounding Bugoma forest participated in the meeting. AFIEGO staff and our partners also participated in the meeting.

The purpose of the meeting was to document the successes and challenges that communities which live around Bugoma Central Forest Reserve (BCFR) have registered and faced respectively in efforts aimed at promoting conservation of the forest.

The communities are supported in their efforts by AFIEGO and our civil society partners under the Save Bugoma Forest Campaign (SBFC) among others.

Bugoma forest, which is one of Uganda's last remaining tropical rainforests and used to measure 41,144 hectares, is under destruction, with oil, land grabbing and sugarcane growing being among the key risks or drivers of the destruction.

The forest, which used to host about **570** chimpanzees (11.4% of the population in Uganda), 225 bird species and the Ugandan

mangabey, an endemic species, started experiencing troubles when Bunyoro Kitara Kingdom (BKK), a cultural institution, laid claim to 8,000 hectares of the forest.

Uganda's Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development (MLHUD) issued a freehold land title covering the above land to BKK in 2016. Thereafter, BKK leased the land to Hoima Sugar Ltd (HSL) and the MLHUD issued a leasehold land title to HSL in **2016**. The land titles were issued within a few days of each other.

Thereafter, HSL irregularly conducted an Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) and submitted it to the National Environment Management Authority (NEMA), seeking permission to grow sugarcane and undertake other activities under the Kyangwali Mixed Land Use project in Bugoma forest. The ESIA was under review by NEMA in 2020.

Seeing that the forest was faced with destruction, AFIEGO and other civil society groups formed the SBFC 2020 to engage in research, stakeholder mobilisation, advocacy and other actions to stop destruction of the forest. AFIEGO was appointed the chair of the campaign.

Following the formation of the SBFC 2020, AFIEGO and our partners undertook a number of

initiatives including engaging citizens, undertaking litigation, engaging parliament, and mobilising development partners among others to stop destruction of the forest.

Consequently, in September 2021, parliament put a **motion** to aid debate on Bugoma forest on the order paper.

Eight ambassadors from the European Union (EU) also **visited** Bugoma forest in November 2020 and discussed measures for protecting the forest with Hon. Beatrice Anywar, the State Minister for Environment. SBFC members including AFIEGO also participated in the meeting.

There was also great public debate around saving Bugoma forest, leading to #SaveBugomaForest **trending** at number 1 on Twitter, currently known as X, in Uganda in August 2020.

President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni also repeatedly called for conservation of the forest.

Despite the above, the forest continued to be destroyed. AFIEGO did not lose heart, and between 2021 to date, AFIEGO engaged Bugoma forest host communities from 32 villages

to sustain efforts aimed at stopping destruction of the forest.

In our **Word from CEO** in this newsletter, we bring you the fruits of our community empowerment efforts by sharing stories of communities that continue the fight to stop destruction of Bugoma forest.

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

We also bring you the **lobbying** section through which we share some of the lobby and advocacy products that we produced and disseminated in July 2025.

Finally, in **in the media** section, we bring you some of the newspaper articles written by our staff and partners that were published in the leading newspapers in July 2025. We also bring you media stories that were published from the press engagements that we had in July 2025. We hope that you will enjoy the newsletter.

Editorial team:

Diana Nabiruma

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VOICES OF HOPE AND ACTION: HOW AFIEGO GREW A MOVEMENT FOR CONSERVATION OF BUGOMA FOREST

At the heart of every forest stands not just trees, but people including mothers, fathers, youth, elders, and children whose lives are tied to the land. Bugoma Central Forest Reserve is one such forest. It is not just a patch of green on the map but it is a sanctuary for biodiversity, a source of livelihoods, a climate shield, and a cultural as well as natural heritage.

Unfortunately, in August 2020, a devastating decision that threatened all these values was made. The National Environment Management Authority (NEMA) issued an Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) certificate of approval to Hoima Sugar Limited (HSL) for HSL's Kyangwali Mixed Land Use project.

The project includes sugarcane growing, setting up an urban centre, developing an ecotourism site, maintaining a natural forested area and others in the forest.

While NEMA perhaps sought to appease the public by maintaining that parts of the 8,000 hectares of Bugoma forest claimed by HSL should be used for ecotourism and natural forest purposes, HSL violated the ESIA conditions set by NEMA. This was evident by January 2021 as civil society organisations (CSOs), led by AFIEGO, **showed**.

NEMA **confirmed** the above in September 2022, indicating that HSL had degraded the site meant for ecotourism and natural forest purposes. NEMA ordered HSL to restore parts of the degraded forest.

NEMA's action that allowed HSL to grow sugarcane in Bugoma forest not only opened up the forest to destruction by the company, but also by opportunistic encroachers engaged in timber logging,

charcoal burning, and more.

AFIEGO could not and did not remain silent. Beginning in 2021, AFIEGO mobilised and empowered Bugoma forest host communities to take charge of efforts such as community mobilisation, advocacy, multi-stakeholder engagement and others aimed at stopping destruction of the forest.

AFIEGO and our partners under the Save Bugoma Forest Campaign (SBFC) supported the communities to create a platform, the SBFC local taskforce, through which they undertook the above efforts.

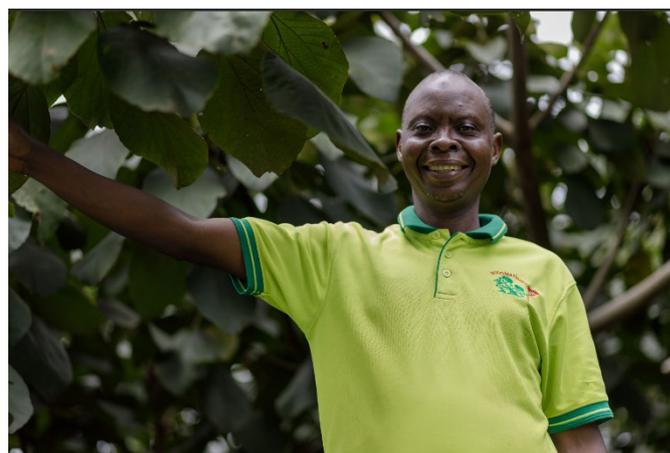
Like a tree, the SBFC local taskforce grew, going from covering 21 villages to 32. The tree further grew, expanding from only encompassing adults to the young as well.

Below, we bring you the voices of communities who call Bugoma forest home.

The community members share the achievements they have registered and challenges they have faced while trying to promote conservation of Bugoma forest.

COMMUNITY STORIES

Hassan Mugenyi, Chairperson, SBFC local taskforce



I am the chairperson and one of the founding members of the SBFC local taskforce. AFIEGO and other CSOs came to our village, sensitised us and we decided to form the SBFC local taskforce in 2021.

Since the start, we engaged in efforts to stop the destruction of Bugoma forest.

One of the first things that we did was to form Bugoma forest conservation groups in the 32 villages around the forest. We formed groups of five in each village to conduct sensitisation activities.

We also engaged in advocacy such as asking Ministry of Lands to open the Bugoma forest boundaries to stop land grabbing claims on the forest, and the boundaries were opened in 2021 as well as 2022.

Furthermore, we encouraged community members to form savings groups so that members could access capital to engage in productive activities, instead of destroying the forest. Today, women are engaged in efforts such as basket weaving.

Hoima Sugar is still destroying the forest however, which is unfortunate. There are also community people who are still involved in forest destruction.

We are trying to convert them, including charcoal burners, into conservationists. We need to do more.

We believe that we can stop the destruction of our forest by Hoima Sugar Ltd and others.

Charles Twongyeirwe, Founding member, SBFC local taskforce



Bugoma forest was an important resource for us communities. It was a source of herbs, water and food, but we can no longer access it due to the ongoing destruction.

Because of this destruction, which we want to stop, we decided to come together under the SBFC local taskforce in 2021.

Some of the work that we did as a taskforce included community sensitisation, forest monitoring, and information sharing.

Some of the information we shared with CSOs included that of Hoima Sugar destroying even parts of the forest that they were not allowed to. We were happy when the CSOs applied pressure on NEMA, which told Hoima Sugar to restore degraded parts of Bugoma in [September] 2022.

Some community members were also involved in destroying the forest, but many have been taken out of the forest by NFA [National Forestry Authority]. Restoration of some parts of the forest is ongoing.

I was given a task to lead 150 community members to restore 200 acres of the forest. By July 2025, we had restored 104 acres. We hope to restore all the 200 acres and continue to support communities who want Hoima Sugar Ltd to get out of our

forest.

[The sections of the forest that are being restored by community members are not those that were claimed and destroyed by HSL].

Lamula Asasira, Founding member and leader of women's wing, SBFC local taskforce



It pains me to see Bugoma forest being destroyed. As women, the forest was important to us because it was a source of herbs. There are diseases that are hard to heal but if one went to the forest, one would get herbs to treat the disease. We also used to have good weather because of the forest.

When AFIEGO and other CSOs came to discuss how communities could participate in efforts to protect the forest from destruction, we were happy. We joined the efforts and I was elected as the leader of the women under the SBFC local taskforce.

We have undertaken many activities

including sensitisation of fellow women to promote conservation of Bugoma forest, and support tree planting by communities.

Women today are better off. Because we are organised, other organisations have skilled women and they are engaged in agriculture, basket weaving and others. These stop women from yearning to destroy forests, or from joining Hoima Sugar Ltd as workers.

On a personal level, the SBFC local taskforce gave me a platform that made others notice my leadership qualities. I was supported to start a small school through which I am providing education, including environmental education, to children from my village.

Bashir Mugabe, Youth Leader, SBFC local



Bugoma is a good forest and it had a good impact on us. The forest used to provide us with rainfall and our parents would practice agriculture all-year round. The forest was also a source of many rivers and we would go there to swim as well as fish. We also enjoyed other recreation activities in the forest.

When Hoima Sugar Ltd started cutting

down the forest, some of the rivers dried up while others became polluted. When our parents joined the SBFC, they would come home and tell us that we needed to participate in forest conservation efforts.

As youth, we decided to form the SBFC local taskforce, Youth Branch. I am the leader of the youth group.

In our group, we used to talk about how we could restore our forest. We wanted every home to get and plant at least 30 trees on their land.

Some people embraced our message, but others did not. The challenge we face is that it is difficult for youth to access and distribute tree seedlings. We also want Hoima Sugar Ltd to stop destroying Bugoma.

Sharon Nyakato, Youth Member, SBFC local taskforce



I joined the SBFC because my parents are conservationists, and they used to tell us stories to inspire us to conserve Bugoma forest. Sometimes, they would tell us that they are old, and they will die

one day. They would tell us that they would leave the job of conserving Bugoma with us. When fellow youth formed a group under the SBFC, I joined it.

When Bugoma forest started getting destroyed, our parents started planting trees in their land to replace the lost tree cover. At home, they would tell us to also plant trees. They said that everyone should plant at least two trees.

Some people did not plant trees, but I planted mine.

Today, I have five trees including avocado, mango and jackfruit. Children enjoy the mangoes from my trees before they go to school, so that they don't study on empty stomachs.

I sell the avocado and I make some money. Sometimes, I buy myself sugar and soap, and I don't have to tell my parents to buy me these items.

CHALLENGES

While communities are involved in efforts to conserve Bugoma forest, and to increase the tree cover in their area, challenges remain. They identify these challenges as being:

(a) Bugoma forest continues to be destroyed by HSL and community members who are engaged in charcoal burning among other illegal activities in the forest.

The destruction has led to biodiversity loss, increased human-wildlife conflicts, destruction of community crops and losses in income among others.

(b) The above destruction is aided by the fact that the Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development (MLHUD) has failed to publicly release the Bugoma forest boundary opening report to stop land grabbing claims on the forest. Moreover, the report that was leaked in 2024 showed that the MLHUD wants to legitimise HSL's claims on Bugoma forest.

(c) Furthermore, while NEMA issued a restoration order for Bugoma forest and community reports indicate that this restoration is ongoing, the efforts are slow, and are not supervised by local authorities, who are the eyes and ears of government in communities.

(d) Some community members consider NFA an ally in conservation. However, others say that the authority is weak, and it is not doing enough to protect Bugoma forest from encroachers.

(e) Further, while SBFC local taskforce members are keen on removing community encroachers from the forest, limited sustainable economic opportunities for communities undermine these efforts.

(f) In addition, Bugoma forest youth lack support to connect to their peers that are engaged in conservation efforts elsewhere, sensitise them and encourage them to engage in tree planting.

RECOMMENDATIONS

In light of the above, the following should be done:

i. The MLHUD should officially release the Bugoma forest boundary opening report to save the forest from more encroachers. The ministry should avoid legitimising land grabbing claims on Bugoma forest.

ii. Government should also cancel all land titles issued in Bugoma forest to stop further encroachment and protect the forest's integrity.

iii. Furthermore, government is currently implementing the European Union-Government of Uganda (EU-GoU) Forest Partnership part of whose aims is to restore forests. The GoU should allocate part of the funds under the partnership to efforts aimed at restoring Bugoma forest.

iv. In addition, NEMA should publicly share the approved restoration plan submitted by Hoima Sugar Ltd to the authority and ensure that the company halts all destructive activities and restores the degraded areas at its own cost.

NEMA should ensure that local communities and authorities such as district leaders are involved in the restoration efforts.

v. Finally, Bugoma forest host communities should be supported to engage in sustainable livelihood alternatives such as beekeeping, fruit tree planting, eco-tourism, and clean energy among others. Women and youth groups should also be involved in these efforts.

By CEO

***Photo credit: Photos in this story & some in the pictorial below are by Andrew Katende.**

Pictorial of our activities

AFIEGO HOLDS EVALUATION MEETINGS WITH BUGOMA FOREST AND OIL HOST COMMUNITIES



On July 8 and 9, 2025, AFIEGO organised five meetings with Bugoma forest host communities and the oil refinery project-affected persons.

The meetings with Bugoma forest host communities were participated in by local council leaders, religious leaders, members of the Save Bugoma Forest Campaign (SBFC) local taskforce, women, and youth.

The meetings with the oil refinery-affected people were participated in by the people's leaders, women and youth. The meetings evaluated the impact of AFIEGO's efforts aimed at supporting community participation in conservation of Bugoma forest and other forest landscapes.

The meetings also assessed the impact of AFIEGO's litigation efforts.

AFIEGO SUPPORTS TILENGA OIL PROJECT-AFFECTED PERSONS TO ATTEND COURT



On July 14, 2025, AFIEGO supported its legal team and some Tilenga oil Project Affected Persons (PAPs) to participate in a court session at Hoima High court.

On that day, court heard an application filed by the PAPs seeking to stop the execution of eviction orders against the PAPs.

The eviction order arose from a case filed by government against 42 Tilenga PAPs in December 2023. Government sought court's intervention to deposit low compensation for the Tilenga PAPs with court. Government also sought eviction orders against the PAPs. Court granted the above orders in December 2023.

With AFIEGO's support, the people filed an application seeking to stay/stop the execution of the eviction orders against them.

During the hearing on July 14, 2025, court ordered the PAPs and government to file submissions. Court will rule on the application seeking to stop eviction of the affected people on October 31, 2025.

AFIEGO AND IGEN-EA LAUNCH COMMUNITY CLEAN ENERGY DEMONSTRATION CENTRES



On July 8 and 9, 2025, AFIEGO joined our partners under the Inclusive Green Economy Network-East Africa (IGEN-EA) to launch community clean energy demonstration centres in Kikuube and Buliisa districts.

The demonstration centres were launched to promote community awareness on clean cooking alternatives, clean energy uptake, forest conservation and climate action.

AFIEGO ORGANISES WORKSHOP FOR EACOP-AFFECTED WOMEN AND YOUTH IN GREATER MASAKA



On July 16, 2025, AFIEGO organised a workshop for EACOP-affected women and youth from the Greater Masaka sub-region.

The workshop attracted 66 women and youth from Lwengo, Kyotera, Rakai and Sembabule districts.

During the workshop, the participants discussed the environmental, social and economic impacts of oil and other related activities on women and youth as well as the role they can play to stop these impacts.

The women and youth resolved to work together to address oil impacts.

AFIEGO UPDATES EACOP-AFFECTED PEOPLE ON THEIR CASE



On July 15, 2025, AFIEGO met with some of the 80 EACOP-affected people who were sued by the Government of Uganda (GoU) in August 2024.

Government sued the people at the Masaka High Court, and sought orders to deposit compensation that they had rejected with court. The GoU also sought eviction orders against the people.

Court granted the above orders in October 2024. AFIEGO supported the people to appeal the ruling, and to file an application seeking to stay the execution of the eviction orders against the people.

During the meeting that was participated in by 28 people, AFIEGO shared updates on the above and other cases with the people.

AFIEGO SKILLS EACOP-AFFECTED PEOPLE IN VIDEOGRAPHY AND PHOTOGRAPHY



On July 16, 2025, AFIEGO trained 66 EACOP-affected persons from Greater Masaka in videography and photography.

The purpose of the training was to equip the EACOP-affected people with photography and videography skills to document the impacts of the EACOP on affected people.

AFIEGO AND IGEN-EA ORGANISE RADIO TALKSHOW ON IMPACT OF AGROCHEMICALS



On July 10, 2025, AFIEGO in partnership with IGEN-EA held a radio talkshow at Baba FM in Jinja city. The objective of the radio talkshow was to disseminate research findings on the impacts of agrochemicals on communities.

During the radio talkshow, IGEN-EA members called on communities to embrace agro-ecology to boost agricultural production, support environmental conservation, and promote climate action.

AFIEGO SUPPORTS TILENGA OIL PROJECT-AFFECTED PERSONS TO DISCUSS OIL IMPACTS IN A RADIO TALKSHOW



On July 2, 2025, AFIEGO supported Tilenga PAPs from Bulliisa district to participate in a radio talkshow at Biiso FM.

The purpose of the radio talkshow was to discuss the impacts of oil activities on communities including flash floods and human-wildlife conflicts.

Communities also shared other impacts including early marriages, increased school dropouts and others. They called on Total, the company that is implementing the Tilenga oil project, to address the impacts.

AFIEGO MEETS FAMILIES OF DETAINED EACOP ACTIVISTS



On July 11, 2025, AFIEGO met with the families of the 11 EACOP activists that were detained in April 2025 while delivering a petition to Kenya Commercial Bank (KCB). The petition urged the bank to stop funding the EACOP.

The purpose of the meeting was to understand the evolving needs of the families, whose breadwinners had been incarcerated, and to re-affirm AFIEGO's commitment to standing in solidarity with both the detained activists and their families.

Lobbying

In July 2025, AFIEGO produced and disseminated a research brief that documents tourism sector stakeholders' views and perceptions of Uganda's oil industry. The research brief also documents the impact of the oil industry on micro and small businesses in oil host districts.

In addition, AFIEGO wrote a letter to the IGG requesting for her report on defects with the 183mw Isimba hydropower dam and the defects' impacts on Ugandans' access to affordable clean energy. Furthermore, AFIEGO disseminated English and local language posters on clean cooking alternatives to communities to enhance community awareness. These and other advocacy materials are captured below.



AFIEGO

X STORM

Join us to end injustices against aggrieved oil sector workers in Uganda!

July 11, 2025 11am East African Time (EAT)

Injustices you will be pushing to end:

- Workplace accidents
- Refusal to provide medical care to those that have suffered workplace accidents
- Violation of labor laws and workers' rights
- Discrimination
- Gender-based violence
- Overwork
- Underpayment and others

Be a hero! Join the X storm and invite others to participate too!

Clean Energy Alternatives

There are several alternatives to traditional energy sources. Below are some options to consider.

- Improved cook stove**
An improved cook stove is designed to use less charcoal while producing more heat, making cooking faster and cleaner. It reduces smoke emissions, protecting your health and the environment.
Sigi ni maani timo ku Makala manok, man ka e wodho iyesho ma dwong makasho cam cak pia man malang, e wodho yiro manok mukonyo gwoko yet kum pari man ku civic muryo-kwaw malang.
- Dual cook stove**
A dual cook stove uses both firewood and charcoal, offering flexibility and efficiency. It helps harvest both fuel types, reduces smoke, and cooks food evenly.
Kendo maani timo ku yan ku Makala cakw rom man ka timo kudw yet makw. E konyo sacw ma nang wodho sene ma dwong pivilo moe tara pi tede. E tye ku yiro manok man ka etede cam pi, pi maani maani atawa rewar makw.
- Pico /small solar system**
A pico solar system includes a small solar panel, LED bulbs, and sometimes a phone charger. It provides clean, affordable electricity for lighting and basic needs, replacing harmful kerosene lamps and improving safety and productivity in off-grid homes.
Jam kum sola eni u tye ku sola manok, gwoko ma shindo man ku jam royo mac ilimo. Cil miyo kum ma miao igwilo man kasho wad no yet pi konyo sacw. Ce konyo ka ludo tara me man rewar ka gi konyo yet kum pa dhawa ce.
- Briquettes**
Briquettes are compressed blocks made from biomass materials like agricultural residues, saw dust and organic waste. They serve as an efficient renewable source of energy for cooking and heating. They burn longer and cleaner than traditional wood or charcoal, reducing deforestation and indoor smoke.
Piyi maani jipwiti gi ni piya maang rang, maawo: rang hawo, erati kupa, shita, man rang cam. Shimo cakw yet ni tede, mapwoko kuy man padwok patwoko kuy hawo kasho. Ce lya yet man ginyocho nge yanw cakw Makala gi man gi konyo nyesho yan mapo piwado man yiro mgi de epede.

SCAN ME

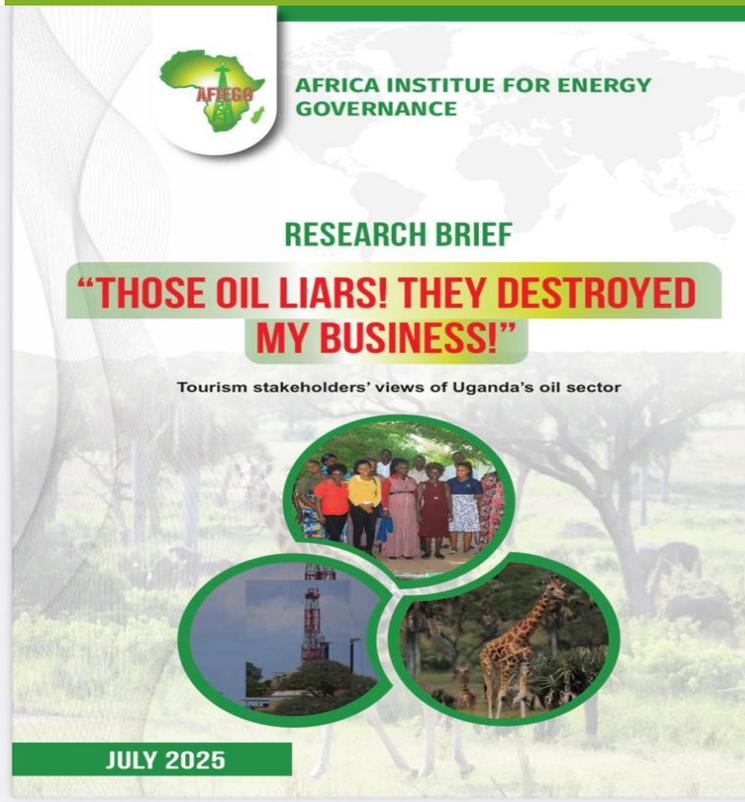
AFIEGO

AFRICA INSTITUTE FOR ENERGY GOVERNANCE

RESEARCH BRIEF

"THOSE OIL LIARS! THEY DESTROYED MY BUSINESS!"

Tourism stakeholders' views of Uganda's oil sector



JULY 2025

AFRICA INSTITUTE FOR ENERGY GOVERNANCE

July 16, 2025

Hon. Beti Kamya Turweire,
The Inspector General of Government (IGG),
P.O Box 1682 Kampala, Uganda.

Dear Madam,

RE: REQUEST FOR INFORMATION ON 183MW ISIMBA HYDROPOWER DAM DEFECTS AND THEIR IMPACTS ON UGANDANS' RIGHT TO AFFORDABLE AND RELIABLE ELECTRICITY

On behalf of the Africa Institute for Energy Governance (AFIEGO) and the thirteen (13) undersigned Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), we commend your office for its continued dedication to promoting transparency and accountability across Uganda's public sector, particularly within the critical electricity and energy sectors.

AFIEGO is a Ugandan company limited by guarantee for non-profit whose main objective is to promote good energy governance for the benefit all in Uganda and beyond.

We have taken note of your office's past commendable interventions in the electricity sector, including:

- The investigation into alleged massive corruption at the Rural Electrification Agency (REA) during the construction of the Kitgum-Padiibe-Lukong and Kitgum-Palabek power lines; and
- The probe into irregularities surrounding the tender awarded to Hydratrom International (Pty) Limited for the supply of interlocking stabilised block-making machines by the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development (MEMD).

Inspired by these actions, we note that on April 25, 2025, your office visited the 183MW Isimba hydropower dam following petitions and complaints from Ugandans regarding works by the contractor, China International Water and Electric Company (CIWE), and the Uganda Electricity Generation Company Limited (UEGCL).

Following the visit, Ugandans were informed of some defects including concrete erosion within the bottom slab and the quality and standard of the dam's spillway that can only discharge less than 40% of what the dam should evacuate in case of flooding and others.

Honorable, you further promised Ugandans that your team would evaluate the findings and issue a preliminary position within three (3) weeks. Unfortunately, it is now nearly two (2) months since that announcement, and the report is yet to be released.

1

In July 2025, AFIEGO staff and research associates wrote newspaper articles that were published in the leading newspapers. AFIEGO also undertook media engagements that resulted in the production of media stories. Some of the published media stories are captured below.



2026 Elections Human rights Karamoja Mining/Minerals West Nile Politics Business and finance Oil & Gas National Perspective Files URN Fact Checker Archive + Search

Breaking >> alisa Road Crash 05 Aug · 06:36 · Rhoda Nsibirwa Kalema: The Politician Who Didn't Stand Lies, Greed and Theft 05 Aug · 04:53 · Seeta High Under Scrutiny After Student Drowns in School Pool, Attendant Arrested 05 Aug

Players In Tourism Express Mixed Feelings About Oil Developments In Bunyoro

Top story Press release Oil & Gas Environment Tourism

It is worth noting that while only 13.5% of tourism stakeholders identified oil and gas as a threat to their livelihoods, oil and gas exploitation in Uganda as well as the burning of fossil fuels can lead to or leads to biodiversity destruction, climate change and development of roads in protected areas.

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22 Jul 2025 19:20

DAILY SOUTHERN & EAST AFRICAN TOURISM UPDATE

News Features Columns Useful Info ▾ Destinations ▾ Intere



Oil threat at key Ugandan national park

Yesterday



LETTER OF THE DAY

Must justice always come after years of waiting?

I have worked closely with a few lawyers for a short time now, but long enough to notice a pattern while they give updates on the different court cases. It is always, the hearing was postponed, a hearing date is yet to be set, the judgment will be delivered at a later date and a lot of legal lingo that myself and many others struggle to comprehend. And this is for cases that have taken years in court, some even more than 30 years. This has left a question on my mind. Does it ever end? Is justice in Uganda a myth? It also leaves me wondering, what could be going through the minds of the actual owners of the cases? Disappointment, dissatisfaction, confusion or something that I may not be able to describe. I have had the urge to ask for answers from these lawyers, but then, I recognise that the decision doesn't rest with them, but with those that sit across from them in the courtroom. Why must it take long even when the evidence is clear? Even in instances where the legal provisions are clear. For a one Mugisha from a deep village in Bulisa who waits in hope for redress, that maybe, he will be rightfully compensated for his family land. Land inherited from his forefathers. But the trips to and from court every once in a while, only keep taking from him, his hope and savings. The few shillings he could have used to add a brick to his house or to his child's education. For Nampija, deep down in Rakai, the land that has supported her livelihood through her children's and now her grandchild's education doesn't belong to her anymore. It could be taken away anytime from now because, it is, unfortunately in the right of way for the country's oil development projects. She waits for her appeal to be heard so that she can be fairly resettled. It has become a legal battle. Not because they carry swords, spears or a sling and stone to the battlefield to fight. It is an emotional and psychological turmoil. They live in uncertainty, worry and confusion. They wonder if they will die and leave their children in this state. The case is not different even for the educated and the elites of this nation. A one Ninsiima, a former employee of an honourable private institution has spent years in court trying to get justice for an unjust termination from her job. A woman who should be enjoying her retirement, the fruits of the years she put in serving this nation. Yet the few shillings she saved, she has spent in legal fees. When does it end? When does she get settled? I thought, just like many other citizens that the Judiciary is there to serve us. To administer justice and protect human rights. But why must it take years. Why does it have to first wear off the soles of our shoes or empty our pockets or give us sleepless nights. As the saying goes, justice delayed is justice denied. Should we just give up. Should we take the delay as a sign that our efforts are in vain. The questions are many human rights are at stake. Expedite the hearing of people's cases. Let timely justice be served.

Vivian Anemababazi, Concerned citizen

Upcoming events

August 08, 2025; Online: Organise a Twitter storm to disseminate research findings on attitudes and perceptions of tourism sector stakeholders to Uganda's oil and gas sector

August 13, 2025; Kampala: Organise a partners' meeting to discuss and document the Just Energy Transition project success stories

August 19, 2025; Hoima: Support Tilenga oil project-affected persons to participate in the hearing of their compensation case

August 20, 2025; Masaka: Organise a meeting with Greater Masaka EACOP-affected communities to launch women and youth associations

August 22, 2025; Kampala: Organise a workshop to disseminate research findings on attitudes and perceptions of tourism sector stakeholders to Uganda's oil and gas industry

August 27, 2025; Hoima: Support oil refinery- and Tilenga oil project-affected persons to participate in the hearing of their cases at Hoima High Court

August 29, 2025; Online: Disseminate a brief on real jobs vis-à-vis promised jobs of the EACOP

About AFIEGO

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

Our Vision

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

Our Mission

To promote energy policies that benefit poor and vulnerable communities