

**November 2025; Issue 11**

## **EACOP-AFFECTED PERSONS FACE SETBACK AS EACJ APPEAL COURT DISMISSES THEIR CASE**



EACOP affected persons, lawyers, AFIEGO and partners at the East African Court of Justice (EACJ)'s Appellate Division after the ruling.

### **In this newsletter:**

- Voices of disappointment: CSOs, lawyers and affected communities respond to EACOP appeal ruling
- Pictorial of our activities
- Lobbying
- In the media
- Upcoming events

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

During this month, representatives from communities affected by the East African Crude Oil Project (EACOP), lawyers, AFIEGO and partners, travelled to Arusha, Tanzania to receive a ruling in a case challenging the development of the EACOP from the East African Court of Justice (EACJ)'s Appellate Division.

For communities who have for many years endured land acquisition challenges, delayed and unfair compensation, and frustration with the decline of livelihoods, the trip to Arusha was not a long journey, it was a testament to their resilience.

The appeal was filed in December 2023 by four East African Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) including Africa Institute for Energy Governance (AFIEGO), Center for Food and Adequate Living Rights (CEFROHT), Natural Justice (NJ), and the Centre for Strategic Litigation (CSL) on behalf of communities in Uganda and Tanzania affected by the EACOP.

The ruling marks the end of the journey of a case that was first filed in November 2020 by the four organisations. Through that case, the organisations asked the EACJ

to declare that the pipeline and the agreements surrounding it violate national and international laws.

They also argued that constructing the project in protected areas goes against the East African Community (EAC) Treaty.

However, in November 2023, the First Instance Division of the Court dismissed the case, stating it had been filed outside the time limit set under East African Community (EAC) laws.

The organisations appealed this decision in December 2023. They argued that the First Instance Division made errors in both law and procedure when it ruled that the case was filed out of time.

The appeal hearing took place in Arusha and Kigali in November 2024 and February 2025 respectively. These hearings brought hope that the Court would examine the real issues at hand.

Instead, the Appellate Division also focused on the strict sixty-day time limit and dismissed the case without addressing the communities' concerns. This decision has left many disappointed, as it closed the door on an opportunity to consider human rights and environmental protection within regional development.

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On the other hand, the ruling has renewed conversations about the gap between the lived experiences of affected people and the legal frameworks that are meant to safeguard their rights. It highlighted how economic considerations often overshadow people's needs and the protection of the environment.

Yet the story of this month is not defined by disappointment alone. It is also a story of strength.

It is about the men and women who travelled many kilometres to stand up for their rights. It reflects the strong partnership among CSOs working across different countries.

Above all, it reminds us that the demand for people centered and environmentally responsible development will continue, despite the setbacks faced in the courtroom.

In our **Word from CEO**, we present the testimonies of some affected individuals who travelled to Arusha. Their sentiments express

a mix of frustration, hope, and unshakable will. They will not be silenced by any judgement from the court

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

Furthermore, we bring you our **lobbying** section through which we share some of the lobby and advocacy products that we produced and disseminated this month.

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 November 2025.

We hope you enjoy the newsletter.  
Editorial team

### **Editorial team:**

**Diana Nabiruma**  
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**Doreen Asasira**

### VOICES OF DISAPPOINTMENT: CSOS, LAWYERS AND AFFECTED COMMUNITIES RESPOND TO EACOP APPEAL RULING

The East African Court of Justice (EACJ)'s decisions of November 26, 2025 on the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) appeal case has been particularly troubling for many.

AFIEGO recognises the importance of regional courts, but it is unfortunate that such an important case was settled on procedural grounds rather than the substance of the issues raised by the affected persons. For years, we have shared the concerns of communities on loss of land and substandard compensation, the threats to their livelihoods and the environment, and the enduring impacts of the pipeline.

We expected that the Appellate Division would have the opportunity to consider these issues and provide the much-needed protection and clarity to the affected persons that the project has caused.

AFIEGO, Center for Food and Adequate Living Rights (CEFROHT), Natural Justice (NJ), and the Centre for Strategic Litigation (CSL) also expressed great disappointment in the ruling as they feel the Court had another opportunity to expand the East African Treaty to include the protection of human rights, the environment, and the participation of people in decision making regarding the development of such projects.

Furthermore, the lawyers maintain that justice should not be denied simply because communities had limited access to legal support at the time to file a case within the sixty-day window set by the Treaty. Their message is clear, regional courts must evolve to meet the realities faced by ordinary people.

Also, below are the voices of communities.



Yiga Cosmas is my name. I am one of the EACOP affected persons from Kyotera district. This appeal was not just a legal case for us; it was a lifeline. All we have gained so far is more suffering.

We once had crops like bananas, coffee, mangoes and others that provided income to support our families. But the way our crops were valued shows that the government has no mercy for us.

I expected fairness in the ruling, yet the Appellate Division's decision left us feeling abandoned. We had hoped the regional court would acknowledge our suffering, but instead, it focused only on whether the case was filed on time



I am Kiiza Nambatya from Lwengo district. As a family, we lost our banana plantations, coffee gardens and many of our food crops. We no longer have enough food like we used to, and getting school fees for our children has become very difficult.

In my community, husbands received the compensation money, some abandoned their wives and children and married new wives.

As women, we were left with no one to turn to. I travelled to Arusha with the hope that the Court would rule in our favour, especially for women like me who continue to suffer the consequences of oil activities in our once peaceful communities.

But all that hope was in vain. I do not know who will listen to us or who will help. All I can do now is trust in God. But I am very unhappy with the ruling.



As an EACOP-affected person, I, John Nsamba from Kyotera district, have felt terribly sad by the ruling.

Many of us along the EACOP corridor had hoped that the regional court would finally listen to the real struggles we are living through. We have lost land that our families cherished for generations and our gardens which fed our families and sustained our livelihoods, have been taken away.

Yet, the EACOP Company awards us with nothing more than peanuts for properties that meant everything to us. How inconsiderate, how unjust.

The ruling of the EACJ decision we received showed us that the court is only concerned with the rules of procedure, and it is not concerned with our pain, our losses and our suffering. This decision has left me and many others feeling sorry for ourselves, feeling forgotten, feeling left out and feeling disappointed.



My name is Samuel Adedilembe, and I live in Hoima and I am one of the people affected by the EACOP project. I am very disappointed in the regional court.

I truly expected the court to understand our suffering, and to rule in our favor, however, I feel robbed.

The court shut the door on our suffering without even hearing the testimonies of the suffering caused by the loss of our land, our homes, and our livelihoods.



My name is Immaculate Najjemba. When I heard that the appeal had been dismissed, my heart sank. This case meant so much to us.

I had believed that the regional court would finally protect people like me, the vulnerable. Instead, it focused on procedure and ignored our realities.

I keep wondering what I will one day tell my children and grandchildren about the land and the property we lost. Our farmland, the medicinal plants we relied on, everything that kept our family going is gone. We have nothing to fall back on.

I feel deeply disappointed. It hurts to see that the very justice system meant to protect us has failed us. It feels like our pain does not matter to those in power.



My name is Rachael Tugume and I am from Kijumba village in Hoima district. I am a single mother of two and I am among the several people impacted by the EACOP project.

I had a small piece of farmland that was given to me by my father, and I had depended on it for the last eight years. There, we managed to plant and harvest cassava, beans, bananas, and other crops that sustained me and my children.

The EACOP Company took all my farmland and the compensation I was given was far too little for me to rebuild my life. What we lost was more than just a garden, but the only source of food and our sustainable livelihood.

And on hearing that the case was dismissed on a mere procedural issue was the most painful. It felt like we were unheard, overlooked by the judicial system, and the justice we deserved was taken from us.

# Pictorial of our activities

## AFIEGO SUPPORTS EACOP PAPS TO ATTEND AND RECEIVE EACOP CASE APPEAL RULING



On November 26, AFIEGO, representatives from communities affected by the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) and partners travelled to Arusha, Tanzania, to receive the ruling in an appeal challenging the development of the EACOP at the East African Court of Justice (EACJ).

This appeal follows a case that was filed in 2020 by four (4) CSOs at the First Instance Division of the EACJ on behalf of the EACOP-affected communities in Uganda and Tanzania. Through the case filed, the communities were seeking to defend their rights and interests that have been undermined by the ongoing oil project.

During the ruling, judges at the Appellate Division of the EACJ observed that the First Instance Division did not err in ruling that the case by the CSOs was filed out of time.

## AFIEGO ORGANISES A MEETING WITH LAWYERS



On November 25, 2025, AFIEGO organised a meeting with lawyers and the representatives from Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) who are applicants in the court case at the EACJ.

The objective of the meeting was to plan and prepare for the outcomes of the ruling in the appeal case that was filed at the East African Court of Justice (EACJ) on December 2023.

## AFIEGO AND PARTNERS HOLD A PRESS CONFERENCE IN ARUSHA, TANZANIA



On November 26, 2025, held a press conference at Palace hotel in Arusha, Tanzania.

During the press conference, representatives from communities affected by the EACOP and Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) from Uganda and Tanzania and their lawyers expressed disappointment in the appeal ruling.

In addition, the lawyers shared the available options to counter the dismissal of the EACOP case including the consultation of communities to guide the next steps forward.

## AFIEGO SUPPORTS LAWYERS TO HOLD A MEETING WITH EACOP AFFECTED PERSONS



On November 26, 2025, AFIEGO organised a meeting between lawyers and persons affected by the EACOP to reflect on the outcomes of the Appellate Division of the East African Court of Justice (EACJ) court ruling.

## AFIEGO AND PARTNERS MEET TO PLAN FOR COMMUNICATIONS AHEAD OF EACOP APPEAL RULING



On November 25, 2025, AFIEGO and partners organised a meeting to plan for the communications support needed before and after the ruling on the EACOP appeal case filed at the East African Court of Justice (EACJ).

The meeting aimed to ensure that accurate information, coordinated messaging and timely updates would be shared with communities, the media and the public once the Court delivered its decision.

## AFIEGO SUPPORTS RESEARCH ON IMPACTS OF OIL ON CHILDREN



Between November 28 and December 3, 2025, AFIEGO supported a student researcher to travel to Hoima and Buliisa districts to conduct interviews for a study examining how oil activities are affecting children.

The interviews aimed to gather data on the education and general wellbeing of children impacted by oil developments in the Bunyoro sub-region.

## AFIEGO AND PARTNERS PARTICIPATE IN AN EXCHANGE LEARNING



On November 7, 2025, AFIEGO took part in an exchange learning meeting with Green Livelihood Alliance (GLA) partners from Uganda and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

The meeting aimed to share experiences and explore the different strategies and activities implemented by partners in both countries.

This exchange was designed to strengthen collaboration and improve the effectiveness of ongoing projects by enabling partners to learn

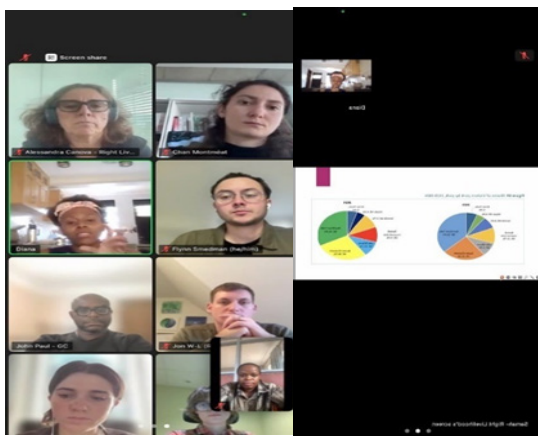
## AFIEGO SUPPORTS TILENGA OIL PROJECT AFFECTED PERSONS TO HOLD A RADIO TALK SHOW



On November 12, 2025, AFIEGO supported Tilenga Project Affected Persons (PAPs) from Buliisa district to participate in a radio talk show at Biiso FM.

During the radio talk show, the PAPs discussed the economic and environmental impacts of oil activities on communities including flash floods, delayed justice and human-wildlife conflicts with in the region.

## AFIEGO PARTICIPATES IN WEBINAR TO SHARE RESEARCH FINDINGS OF TOURISM STAKEHOLDERS' VIEWS OF UGANDA'S OIL SECTOR



On November 13, 2025, AFIEGO participated in an online webinar to share findings of the research on tourism industry stakeholders' views on Uganda's oil sector.

During the meeting, AFIEGO shared the key threats and impacts of the oil and gas sector on micro and small tourism businesses in oil host districts.

The webinar was hosted by Right Livelihood.

## AFIEGO AND IGEN-EA ORGANISE A RADIO TALK SHOW



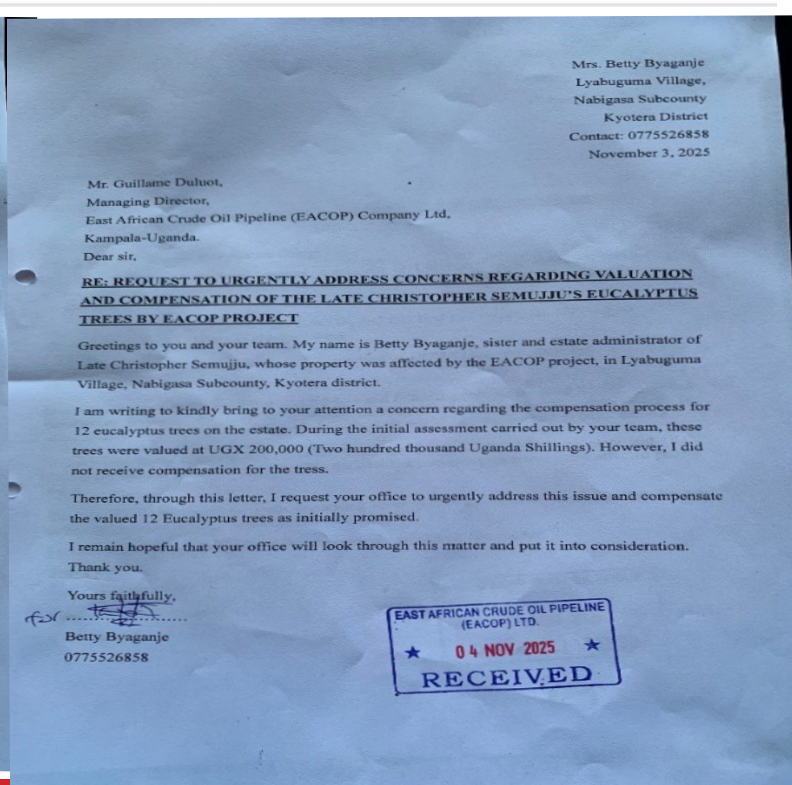
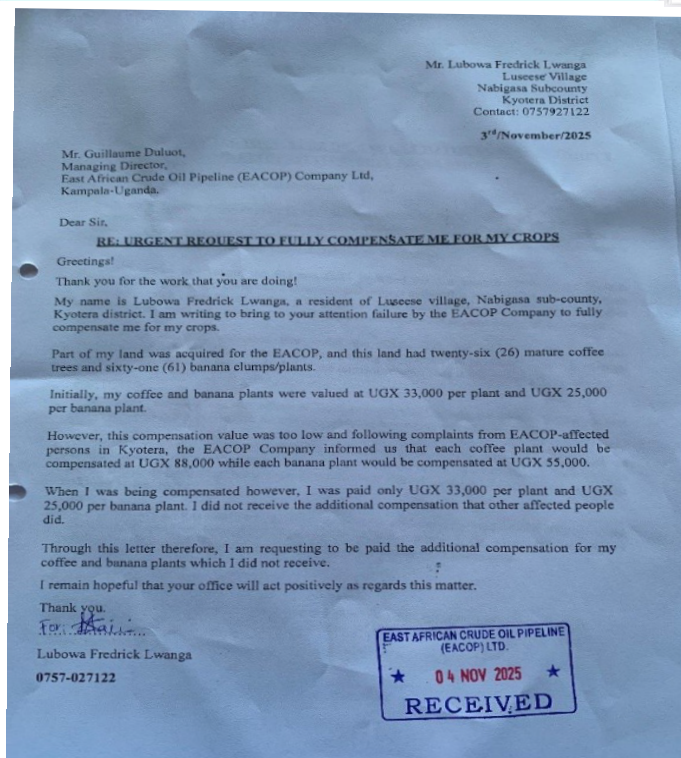
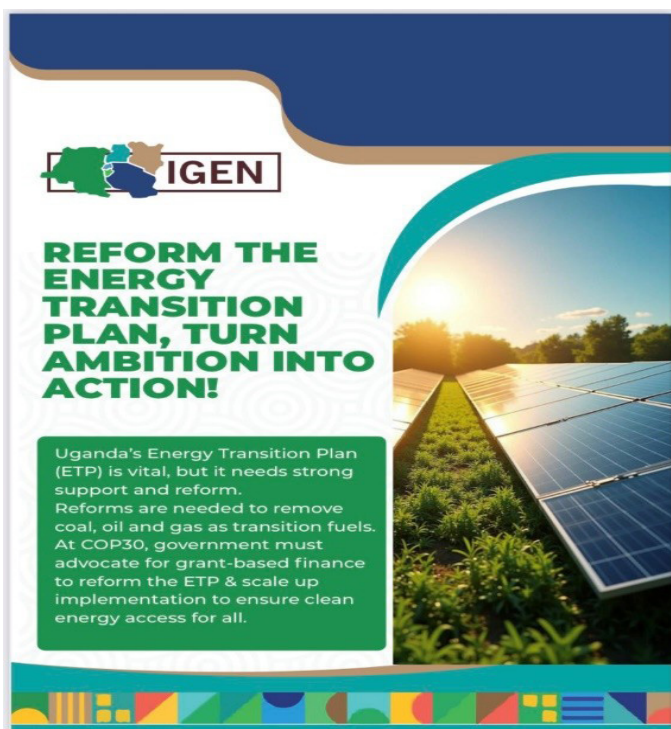
On November 14, 2025, AFIEGO in partnership with Inclusive Green Economy Network-East Africa (IGEN-EA) held a radio talk show at spice FM in Hoima district.

The objective of the talk show was to discuss the importance of clean energy alternatives, and the progress of the newly established clean energy hub in the region.

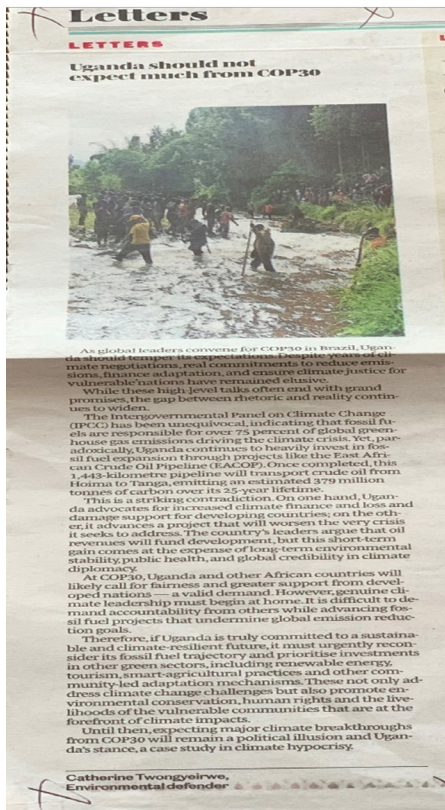
In November 2025, AFIEGO supported oil-affected persons from the Greater Masaka sub-region to write follow up letters to the EACOP Company regarding their unresolved compensation claims for their land and crops affected by the construction of the pipeline.

AFIEGO also supported stakeholders in the tourism sector to write a letter to the European Union Ambassador to Uganda, urging the inclusion of oil and gas activities under the European Union Deforestation Free Regulation (EUDFR).

In addition, AFIEGO supported IGEN-EA to submit proposals to the Government of Uganda outlining their positions and expectations ahead of negotiations at the 30th Conference of Parties (COP30). These and other advocacy materials are presented below.

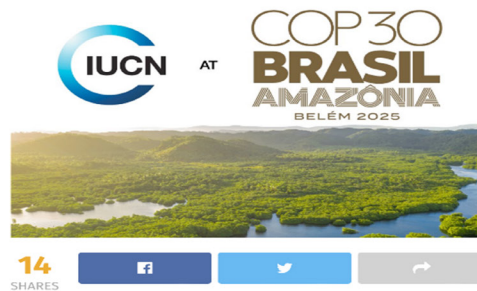


In November 2025, AFIEGO staff and research associates wrote newspaper articles that were published in leading newspapers. Some of the published articles are captured below.



## Balancing oil ambitions and climate commitments ahead of COP30

BY COLUMNIST — November 8, 2025



### OPINION

As global leaders prepare to gather in Belém, Brazil, from 10th to 21st November 2025 for the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP30), where nations are expected to submit their next round of enhanced NDCs, often referred to as “NDC 3.0,” to guide global climate action up to 2035, attention is turning to how countries are updating and implementing their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) which is the backbone of the Paris Agreement. It is noted that every five years, countries are required to submit updated and more ambitious NDCs, reflecting

## The road to COP30, Uganda's Climate Contradiction as EACOP threatens NDC Goals

BY COLUMNIST — November 12, 2025



### OPINION

As global leaders prepare to convene for COP30, a glaring contradiction in Uganda's climate strategy demands urgent attention. On one hand, Uganda has committed through its Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC 2.0) to cut national emissions nearly 24.7% by 2030 a commendable goal that signals a recognition of the global climate crisis. On the other hand, the nation is actively pursuing the development of massive oil fields and the East

## African youths seek climate justice at COP30

BY COLUMNIST — November 20, 2025



19 SHARES

### OPINION

**Editor,** every year, a different country hosts and presides over the COP. The Conference of the Parties (COP) is the annual United Nations climate change summit where world leaders, policy experts, scientists and advocates gather to address climate change.

## Upcoming events

December 01 - 02, 2025; Bunyoro and Greater Masaka: Collect community reports on human rights violations under oil projects

December 12, 2025; Kampala: Organise staff end-of-year meeting to discuss the year's work, successes and challenges

December 13, 2025; Kampala: Support IGEN-EA to hold end-of-year meeting to discuss the year's work, successes and challenges

December 01-19, 2025; Kampala: Supervise consultant to complete writing of research report assessing compliance of the EACOP project to the project's livelihood restoration plan and IFC performance standards

December 20-31, 2025; Kampala: Closed for Christmas and New Year break

## 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