



# AFRICA INSTITUTE FOR ENERGY GOVERNANCE (AFIEGO)



## ANNUAL REPORT 2025

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## 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 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, plans and projects 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.

# PHOTO HIGHLIGHTS OF AFIGEO'S KEY 2025 WORK



# OUR REACH IN FIGURES

## OUR REACH



EACOP-affected people and AFIEGO staff following a community empowerment meeting in May 2025

## TABLE OF ACRONYMS

AFIEGO	Africa Institute for Energy Governance
ACS	Africa Climate Summit
AGMEPP	Association of Greater Masaka EACOP PAPs Petitioners
AGM	Annual General Meeting
BUNCCA	Buliisa Natural Climate Conservation Agency
BUPAG	Buliisa Patience Alliance Group
CFR	Central Forest Reserve
CNOOC	China National Offshore Oil Corporation
CSOs	Civil Society Organisations
CSBAG	Civil Society Budget Advocacy Group
DRC	Democratic Republic of Congo
EAC	East African Community
EACJ	East African Court of Justice
EACOP	East African Crude Oil Pipeline
ECAG	Environmental Conservation Agency Group
EHRDs	Environmental and Human Rights Defenders
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
ENR	Environment and Natural Resources
ESIA	Environmental and Social Impact Assessment
ETP	Energy Transition Plan
EU	European Union
EUDR	European Union Deforestation-Free Regulation
FY	Financial Year
GoU	Government of Uganda
HSL	Hoima Sugar Limited
IGEN-EA	Inclusive Green Economy Network-East Africa
IOCs	International Oil Companies
IUCN	International Union for Conservation Nature
JET	Just Energy Transition
KCB	Kenya Commercial Bank
LARRP	Land Acquisition, Resettlement and Rehabilitation Policy
LPG	Liquefied Petroleum Gas
MEMD	Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development
MFNP	Murchison Falls National Park
MoFPED	Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development
NBF	National Budget Framework
NDP IV	National Development Plan IV
NEMA	National Environment Management Authority
NFA	National Forestry Authority
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organisations
NGO Bureau	Bureau for Non-Governmental Organisations
OWA	OilWatch Africa
PAPs	Project-affected persons
PAU	Petroleum Authority of Uganda
QENP	Queen Elizabeth National Park
UWA	Uganda Wildlife Authority
UEDCL	Uganda Electricity Distribution Company Limited

# SECTION 1

## MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CHAIRPERSON



Dear reader, 2025 was a tenuous year marked by climate change catastrophes, continued climate denialism and conflicts that made efforts to promote a fossil fuel phase out more difficult. These events were largely seen at the global level.

In Uganda, 2025 was a year of mixed fortunes. While key amendments to Uganda's Anti-Money Laundering Act were made to remove some of the chokeholds that undermine the work of Ugandan civic actors, huge civic space challenges remained.

In fact, it could be said that the space became even more repressed in some respects. In addition to the threats that civil society organisations (CSOs) as well as (Women) Environmental and Human Rights Defenders (W)EHRDs faced in 2024, in 2025, they had to contend with prolonged detention in maximum

security prisons, judicial harassment and others. The (W)EHRDs affected by the above including AFIEGO's partners bore huge physical and emotional pain.

However, AFIEGO and its partners did not let the above and other hardships stop the organisation from delivering on its mandate. AFIEGO used strategies including stakeholder-empowering research, inclusive policy influencing, mutual community empowerment, community participation in forest conservation and litigation among others to address the above and other threats while contributing to a more a just world in which clean energy resources are used for the benefit of all.

In this message, I will put a spotlight on AFIEGO's litigation efforts in 2025 and the impact they had. The organisation prosecuted over 25 cases in the year. The cases were aimed at protecting communities' land rights amidst mega oil projects, supporting biodiversity conservation in the African Great Lakes region, fostering climate action by East African governments, building climate resilient communities and opening up of the civic space in Uganda among others.

The litigation efforts created impact. First, through its land rights litigation efforts, the organisation was able to stem the forceful eviction of some oil-affected households with hundreds of members from various districts. The households started off 2025 with the threat of eviction and demolition of their property over their heads. This followed government filing court cases against them in December 2023 and August 2024, asking that courts allow government to evict the people and demolish their property among others. These orders were granted by courts. AFIEGO supported the communities to appeal the court decisions and to undertake advocacy to protect themselves in 2025. By the end of 2025, only five of the 122 households that were under threat of eviction had been forcefully evicted. The eviction of the five households was unfortunate, and the organisation will implement various interventions to get them justice.

As is evident from the above and the work discussed in this annual report, AFIEGO centres the principle of nothing-for-us-without-us in its work. As such, in 2025, AFIEGO ensured that its litigation

work was empowering of communities. The organisation supported community members that are part of litigation efforts to form over ten advocacy groups covering various districts. The groups bring together men, women and youth. The groups are organised around issues such as land justice, climate change, biodiversity conservation and women empowerment. The groups work to address the aforementioned issues. Throughout 2025, these groups engaged in impactful advocacy. They also extended their efforts to building movements in their communities that are advancing women's rights, green economic activities, climate justice and biodiversity conservation among others. In effect, AFIEGO's litigation and community empowerment efforts helped to build strong and resilient communities in 2025.

Regional litigation efforts were also at the centre of AFIEGO's work in 2025. While the organisation and its partners lost the legal challenge that they filed against the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) project at the East African Court of Justice (EACJ) on technical grounds, AFIEGO's litigation efforts set an example for civil society actors in the African Great Lakes region. Some of these filed legal challenges including at the EACJ to protect community livelihoods, foster climate justice and biodiversity conservation. These efforts work have the potential to contribute to an energy-independent Africa that is fossil-free and is reliant on clean energy.

In addition, litigation was instrumental in contributing to efforts to redirect financial flows to clean energy as opposed to fossil fuels while reinforcing the importance of protecting civic space for CS-Os and (W)EHRDs.

The board thanks the community members, women, youth, civil society partners and donors among other stakeholders that stood with AFIEGO in 2025.

In 2026, the board will continue to provide oversight over AFIEGO to ensure it continues to do its important work.

Thank you,



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



Oil-affected communities, AFIEGO staff, lawyers and partners at the EACJ during hearing of a case against the EACOP



AFIEGO staff and oil-affected community members following a meeting that discussed ways to strengthen community efforts for land and climate justice

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY BY THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



Dear reader, I extend my sincere and heartfelt appreciation for your continued support and partnership. 2025 was a year of mixed fortunes for AFIEGO. On one hand, the organisation was able to undertake many efforts for fulfillment of the organisation's objectives for the common good.

However, AFIEGO and our partners also experienced challenges, some of which have made the work of CSOs in Uganda difficult. Nevertheless, we soldiered on and through this executive summary, I share some of the work that AFIEGO and our partners undertook in 2025. I also shed light on the progress we made as well as the challenges we faced in 2025.

Because we remain resolute in our efforts to promote good energy governance, I also share AFIEGO and our partners' priorities for 2026.

### KEY WORK

**Research efforts:** To influence government and private sector policies, programmes as well as plans, civil society actors must engage in evidence-based advocacy. This evidence can be generated through research among other tools. To aid the generation of this evidence, in 2025, AFIEGO produced and disseminated three research briefs. The briefs were produced alongside marginalised stakeholders. These included oil-affected communities, micro and small business owners operating green businesses, women, youth and our Inclusive Green Economy Network-East Africa (IGEN-EA) partners.

The briefs discussed the tourism potential of the Greater Masaka sub-region vis-à-vis EACOP project risks. The research also simplified Uganda's Energy Transition Plan (ETP) and discussed the plan's strengths as well as weaknesses that could undermine the promotion of a clean energy transition.

Further, the research briefs showcased tourism stakeholders' views of Uganda's oil and gas industry.

The briefs were disseminated to over 722,432 people within and outside Uganda. This led to

enhanced stakeholder awareness of key green economic opportunities in Uganda and ignited advocacy by youth to demand reforms to the ETP. More on the impact of AFIEGO's research efforts will be discussed in sections 2 and 3 of this report.

**Promoting inclusive policies:** In 2025, AFIEGO and our partners undertook advocacy to influence at least six policies and laws for the common good. Between February and September 2025, we mobilised communities, women, youth and CSOs to influence the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Bill, 2024, Consumer Protection and Management Bill, the Land Acquisition, Resettlement and Rehabilitation Policy (LARRP), and the European Union Deforestation Free Regulation (EUDR) among others. In February and September 2025 for instance, we supported our IGEN-EA partners to make input into the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Bill, 2024. Among others, our partners called for the ambiguities in the bill to be removed to enhance compliance once the bill, which is seeking to halt energy waste, stop reliance on outdated technologies and support the country's energy transition efforts, is

enacted.

In addition, we supported over 100 oil-affected women to petition the Minister of Lands. The women made proposals to strengthen and engender the LARRP to protect the rights of oil-affected women.

We also mobilised women, youth and tourism sector stakeholders to engage the European Union (EU) and ask that oil and gas are added to the EUDR to support efforts to address deforestation and forest degradation.

We did much more and registered several achievements, which are discussed in sections 2 and 3 of this annual report.

### **Strengthening oil-affected communities' voices in advocacy:**

Away from the above, AFIEGO believes that communities should be empowered to undertake their own advocacy. In 2025 therefore, AFIEGO strengthened the capacity of communities affected by oil projects to defend their rights and undertake community-led advocacy. AFIEGO supported ten community groups that bring together oil-affected people from the Greater Masaka and Bunyoro sub-regions to hold planning meetings. Through the meetings, the groups put in place advocacy plans for the year. AFIEGO supported the formation of these groups in 2023 and 2024. AFIEGO also supported the community groups to hold meetings with cultural leaders from Buganda Kingdom and undertake advocacy in 2025. The communities undertook more than 24 advocacy activities aimed at restoring their rights that were violated by entities operating in the oil and gas sector. The advocacy was also aimed at supporting biodiversity conservation amidst the ongoing oil and gas activities in Uganda. Major milestones, which are discussed in sections 2 and 3 of annual report, were realised from this work.

### **Progress on women and youth empowerment:**

Women and youth form the majority of

Uganda's population, but these are usually marginalised in decision-making spaces in public and private fora. In addition, women and youth's land rights are often weak. To address these challenges, in 2025, AFIEGO undertook efforts to strengthen women and youth's participation in energy governance. First, AFIEGO supported oil-affected women and youth in their efforts to form groups through which they could undertake advocacy to defend their rights while advancing demands for clean energy access. Four women and youth groups covering the Bunyoro and Greater Masaka sub-regions were formed to aid oil-affected women and youth-led advocacy in 2025. The women and youth groups thereafter participated in advocacy aimed at fostering human rights observance, biodiversity conservation and the creation of green jobs. Worth noting is that of the 24 advocacy actions undertaken by oil-affected communities in 2025, 45.8% were led on by women.

**Forest conservation efforts:** In 2025, AFIEGO made efforts to ensure that forest host communities and other relevant stakeholders are involved by government in the governance of forest landscapes. AFIEGO also equipped the communities with skills and knowledge to support their participation in forest governance. AFIEGO also supported the communities to hold mass sensitisation and mobilisation activities through which they rallied Ugandans to demand for conservation of Bugoma Central Forest Reserve (CFR). The forest has been under destruction since 2021 for sugarcane growing. The forest also faces oil exploitation and land grabbing challenges.

Through their mass mobilisation activities, the communities demanded that the forest destruction is stopped, and the boundary opening report for the forest is publicly released. The forest boundaries were opened

by the Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development (MLHUD) alongside the National Forestry Authority (NFA) in 2020 and 2021. By 2025, the boundary opening report was yet to be publicly disclosed, which put the forest at further risk of encroachment. The communities also demanded that the September 2021 order by the National Environment Management Authority (NEMA) is complied with by Hoima Sugar Ltd (HSL). In 2021, NEMA ordered HSL to restore 4,854.7 hectares/18.73 sq. miles of the forest.

Some gains were made from the community, AFIEGO and our CSO partners' efforts. In September 2025 for instance, Kikuube district leaders reported that HSL was restoring parts of the forest, though challenges remained. Bugoma forest host communities were also engaged in efforts to restore the forest. More on this and other milestones registered from AFIEGO's forest conservation work is discussed under sections 2 and 3 of this report.

**Championing tourism stakeholders' participation in conservation of Murchison Falls National Park (MFNP):** Tourism sector stakeholders have historically proven to be powerful advocates for conservation in Uganda. Conversely, their livelihoods are at risk due to oil exploitation activities in MFNP. In 2025, AFIEGO mobilised these stakeholders including tour and travel operators, tour guides, drivers, hotel owners, as well as beverage and food service providers to participate in advocacy to stop oil threats to MFNP. The stakeholders that AFIEGO worked with operate micro or small enterprises. AFIEGO held meetings with the stakeholders and their association leaders, seeking to understand why their participation in advocacy to end oil threats to MFNP was limited. AFIEGO mobilised the stakeholders to engage in advocacy. AFIEGO also

conducted research showing the stakeholders' views of Uganda's oil and gas industry. Some stakeholders observed that in order to protect their livelihoods, protected areas such as MFNP needed to be established as no-go zones for oil production. By the end of 2025, some of the tourism sector stakeholders were working with AFIEGO to address oil threats to their livelihoods.

**Strategic litigation:** Away from the above, in 2025, AFIEGO and our partners litigated 25 court cases in Ugandan, East African and French courts of law. The cases were aimed at compelling the Ugandan government and International Oil Companies (IOCs) operating in the country to uphold the human and environmental rights of citizens while taking climate action. The cases were also aimed at fostering biodiversity conservation, opening up of the civic space in Uganda and promoting corporate accountability, especially of IOCs.

The litigation efforts helped to mobilise oil-affected communities across seven oil-affected districts in Uganda to stand strong and exercise their right to say no to harmful oil projects. Without legal recourse, some communities may not have been able to exercise this right.

Further, the cases helped AFIEGO and our partners to raise mass public awareness about the human rights violations, biodiversity risks and climate change challenges presented by the EACOP and related oil projects in Uganda.

This contributed to efforts to galvanise a huge national and international movement campaigning against fossil fuel expansion.

Our litigation efforts led to other major milestones, which are discussed in sections 2 and 3 of this report.

**Promoting accessible, affordable, and reliable electricity services:** While the Ugandan government is keen on promoting universal access to modern energy services by 2030 and while the state is desirous of ensuring that electricity services are affordable and reliable, challenges are still seen in Uganda's electricity sector. For instance, grid electricity access stands at only over 20%. Further, Uganda is ranked as having some of the most expensive and unreliable electricity services in Africa. When it comes to cooking energy, the Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBOS) notes that only 2.8% of the population cooks with clean energy, namely electricity and biogas. Efforts are therefore needed to promote accessible, affordable and reliable electricity services in Uganda.

Since its establishment, AFIEGO and our partners have undertaken research, stakeholder mobilisation and advocacy efforts to promote accessible, affordable and reliable electricity services. This work continued in 2025. Among others, we supported youth to undertake advocacy throughout 2025 to demand for more accessible, affordable, and reliable electricity services as a precursor to promoting a just energy transition.

**Narrative building to promote a just energy transition:** Further, to promote a just transition to clean energy, AFIEGO worked towards deconstructing narratives that threaten to keep Uganda and other African countries reliant on fossil fuels. Through these narratives, proponents of the fossil fuel industry argue that Africa needs coal, oil and gas to develop. In 2025, AFIEGO commenced research to show that there is often a vast difference between promised oil jobs and those that are created. The created jobs are usually few, contrary to promises made. The research was yet to be published by the end of 2026 however. Further, AFIEGO told the stories of aggrieved

oil sector workers from Uganda to show that oil jobs oftentimes are not dream jobs, especially for communities. We also supported youth to participate in efforts to debunk the narrative that gas is clean. AFIEGO and its partners demanded that focus is placed on promoting clean energy as opposed to fossil fuels.

**Advocating for green economic alternatives:** AFIEGO and our partners agree that Africa must develop. However, we believe that this development should come through the promotion of green economic activities as opposed to dirty industries. In 2025 therefore, AFIEGO and our IGEN-EA partners invested in efforts aimed at fostering investment in and uptake of green economic alternatives. We engaged in advocacy aimed at ensuring that the Ugandan government allocates more financial resources to sectors such as clean energy, sustainable tourism, agro-industrialisation and natural resources management. We also undertook community campaigns aimed at promoting agro-ecology to wean small-scale farmers off agrochemicals. These efforts were undertaken to support the uprooting of the fossil fuel economy. Further, AFIEGO and our IGEN-EA partners established three more community clean energy hubs and demonstration centres.

Our efforts bore fruit as government increased the budget allocations to the sustainable energy development programme following ours and others' advocacy efforts. In addition, we registered enhanced stakeholder awareness and uptake of clean energy by communities. Of the hundreds of people that visited the hubs and demonstration centres in 2025, 14.5% bought clean energy products.

Challenges, which are discussed below, remained however.

## CHALLENGES

AFIEGO did so much more in 2025. However, we also faced challenges including the fact that many of the policies and laws that we and our partners advocated for in 2025 were yet to be put in place by the end of the year. This puts community land rights at risk of being violated in addition to curtailing efforts to promote biodiversity conservation and climate action in Uganda.

Further, while communities, women and youth had advocacy platforms through which they were undertaking advocacy in 2025, the communities need to continually work with civil society to engage in advocacy so that their voices can be heard.

When it comes to forest conservation, forests such as Bugoma CFR continued to be destroyed in 2025 while MFNP and other forest landscapes in the Albertine Graben continued to be at risk of degradation due to oil and gas exploitation activities.

In relation to litigation, court processes remained slow in 2025. While the cases filed by government were quickly heard and rulings delivered, those filed by communities were not. This continued to deny communities the ability to enjoy their land rights and avoid evictions for oil sector projects. It also meant that efforts to strengthen climate action and the civic space in the country while supporting biodiversity conservation delayed to bear fruit.

When it comes to the promotion of clean energy and other green economic alternatives, we experienced gaps such as continued under-investment in green economic activities while oil and gas is invested in. In addition, while communities are desirous of transitioning to energy-saving technologies, they lack the resources to. Further, stakeholder awareness and uptake of available green economic alternatives also need to be strengthened.

As has been over several years now, the civic space in Uganda continued to be repressed in 2025.

## PRIORITIES FOR 2026

AFIEGO will work towards addressing the above and other challenges in 2026. More information on AFIEGO's 2026 priorities can be seen in Section 3 of this report.



**Dickens Kamugisha**  
**Chief Executive Officer, AFIEGO**



Oil-affected community members during meetings with AFIEGO in 2025



# SECTION 2

## KEY ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

### 2.0. Introduction

This section of the annual report discusses the key activities that AFIEGO implemented under the organisation's three programmes namely, the Extractives Governance, Electricity Democracy, as well as the Renewable Energy, Energy Efficiency and Climate Change programme.

The section contains details of AFIEGO's research, policy advocacy and community empowerment efforts in 2025. This section also contains the work that AFIEGO did to support women and youth empowerment, promote community participation in forest conservation, and ensure that strategic litigation that addresses community needs as well as biodiversity and climate change concerns is undertaken in 2025.

Further, this section of the annual report discusses AFIEGO's efforts to promote a just energy transition, AFIEGO's work with cross-border actors including those from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), and the organisation's work to promote green economic alternatives alongside our IGEN-EA partners.

The work that AFIEGO undertook in 2025 was aimed at promoting the observance of human rights by the Ugandan government and multinationals operating in Uganda.

The work was also aimed at fostering biodiversity conservation and climate action by the aforementioned actors. AFIEGO placed onus on ensuring that communities and other marginalised groups are involved in the organisation's research, policy advocacy and other efforts.

More on the work that AFIEGO undertook in 2025 is discussed hereunder.

### 2.1. Stakeholder-empowering research

AFIEGO believes that research is critical for the production of knowledge that communities and civil society actors need to engage in evidence-based advocacy. This advocacy is aimed at influencing government policies, programmes and practices for the common good.

AFIEGO also strongly believes that communities, women, youth, and other marginalised groups should participate in research processes to not only enhance their capacity, but to also ensure inclusive knowledge production.

In 2025 therefore, AFIEGO placed onus on working with communities and our partners, most of whom are often marginalised, to engage in research. Some of the research that AFIEGO conducted alongside often underrepresented or disempowered groups such as oil-affected community members, women, youth and micro or small business owners in green economic sectors in 2025 includes the following:

#### Assessing the tourism potential of the Greater Masaka sub-region vis-à-vis EACOP project risks:

Between July 2024 and March 2025, AFIEGO supported our IGEN-EA partners to conduct research assessing the tourism potential of the Greater Masaka sub-region vis-à-vis EACOP project risks. The research was necessitated because while the Greater Masaka sub-region in Southern Uganda possesses tourism potential, tourism is under-developed in the region.

Conversely, the EACOP project, which presents risks to agricultural, fisheries, tourism, trade and other livelihoods in the sub-region is being developed. The research sought to appeal to policymakers to promote tourism over the EACOP in the region. The research, which was published in March 2025, identified at least 32 sites with tourism potential in the Greater Masaka sub-region. It further revealed that promotion of visits to only four of the 32 sites with tourism potential could earn Uganda USD 1,022,000 per year. The research noted that the EACOP project threatened some of the sites with tourism potential in the sub-region. The research brief was disseminated to some of the over 722,432 stakeholders that AFIEGO's research briefs were shared with in 2025.

### **Evaluating gaps in Uganda's Energy Transition**

**Plan:** In 2025, AFIEGO also conducted research to evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of Uganda's Energy Transition Plan (ETP). The ETP was launched by Uganda's Minister for Energy and Mineral Development, Hon. Ruth Nankabirwa, at COP28 in Dubai. This was in December 2023. The ETP was billed as a landmark instrument that would support the Ugandan government to promote universal access to clean energy by 2030 while supporting industrialisation and socio-economic development.

In 2025, AFIEGO assessed whether the plan would really support government's efforts to promote a clean energy transition in Uganda. AFIEGO published a research brief titled, "Uganda's Energy Transition Plan: Gem or stumbling block?" in April 2025.

The brief highlighted that although the ETP has notable strengths, its classification of coal, oil, and gas as transition fuels risks undermining Uganda's clean energy goals. It also emphasised the need to make the plan more gender-responsive.

The research was widely shared with key stakeholders, including young people, who used the evidence to petition the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development in May 2025. Their petition called for the removal of fossil fuels from the list of transition fuels and for the integration of stronger gender considerations in the plan.

### **Documenting tourism stakeholders' views of Uganda's oil industry:**

In addition to the above, between February and June 2025, AFIEGO conducted research to document the perceptions and attitudes that tourism sector stakeholders in Uganda have towards the country's oil and gas industry. Some oil and gas activities in Uganda are ongoing in national parks such as Murchison Falls. Queen Elizabeth National Park (QENP) also remains under threat of oil exploration licensing. Since 2016, the Ugandan government has sought to license an oil block covering the park for exploration. In the research, AFIEGO documented not only what the tourism sector stakeholders' views of the oil and gas industry are, but also the impact that the industry has had on micro and small enterprises in oil host districts. Prior to the research, it was argued by the Ugandan government and International Oil Companies (IOCs) operating in Uganda that oil exploitation could have a positive impact on tourism. However,

the findings revealed a different reality. In Buliisa, the oil and gas industry has negatively affected some micro and small tourism enterprises, challenging earlier assumptions about its potential benefits. The research brief from the study was disseminated in July 2025 to raise stakeholder awareness.

### **Research on real versus promised EACOP jobs:**

In 2025, AFIEGO also commenced research to assess the real versus promised jobs for the EACOP. The research, which is expected to be published in 2026, was aimed at assessing whether the hundreds of thousands of oil jobs projected by the government of Uganda and IOCs have materialised. At the same time, AFIEGO commenced a separate assessment of the compliance, or lack thereof, by the EACOP project developers and their sub-contractors to the EACOP livelihood restoration plan. The research report from the latter assessment is also expected to be published in 2026.



Photo highlights of some of AFIEGO's research efforts, including research dissemination exercises, in 2025

## Achievements registered as a result of research efforts

AFIEGO and our partners' research efforts resulted in the following milestones:

**1. Raising of stakeholder awareness of the green economic opportunities that can be promoted in key regions as opposed to oil and gas:** In 2025, AFIEGO and our partners published research that identified the tourism opportunities of the Greater Masaka sub-region. In addition, research on the tourism opportunities of Bugoma forest was disseminated. Over 722,432 people were reached with AFIEGO's research in 2025.

**2. Further, in March and August 2025, key cultural institutions and district tourism officers from Greater Masaka appreciated the information arising from the research on the tourism opportunities of Greater Masaka.** It is hoped that these will promote the tourism activities that were identified in the research as opposed to ecosystem-destroying oil and gas activities.

**3. In addition, youth used the information on the simplified guide to Uganda's ETP to mobilise fellow youth and petition the Minister for Energy, requesting for reforms to the plan to promote clean energy and gender sensitivity of the plan.** The youth mobilised 211 others to petition the minister in May 2025.

While the above milestones were registered, significant challenges remained. Key among these is the fact that by the end of 2025, the ETP was yet to be reformed to remove fossil fuels which are listed as transition fuels in the plan. Further, development of key tourism products in Greater Masaka as opposed to the EACOP was yet to take place by the end of 2025.

### 2.2. Influencing policies and laws for the common good

AFIEGO believes that collaborating with diverse stakeholders including local communities, women, youth and micro as well as small business owners operating in the green economic sectors among others to influence public policies for common good is essential to promoting good energy governance. Accordingly, in 2025, AFIEGO mobilised the above and other stakeholders to actively engage in several policy influencing processes including the following:

**Making input into Energy Efficiency and Conservation Bill, 2024:** Uganda needs an Energy Efficiency and Conservation law to halt energy waste, stop reliance on outdated technologies and support the country's energy transition efforts. The law is also necessary for supporting some of AFIEGO key work, which is promoting a clean energy transition for all, including society's most vulnerable. In February 2025, following a public call by Parliament for proposals on the Energy efficiency and Conservation Bill, 2024, AFIEGO mobilised 27 members of IGEN-EA to convene in Kampala and review the bill. During this meeting, participants analysed the bill and developed recommendations to strengthen it. These were coalesced into a position paper and submitted to Parliament in March 2025. Thereafter, AFIEGO and our partners participated in a stakeholder meeting that was organised by parliament's Committee on Environment and Natural Resources (ENR) to gather views on the bill in September 2025. We submitted our proposals on the bill at the meeting which took place in Kampala.

The proposals that AFIEGO and our IGEN-EA partners submitted emphasised the need to remove ambiguities from the bill to enable compliance to the bill. We also called for strengthening of compliance measures contained in the bill among others. The bill was yet to be debated and enacted into a law by parliament by the end of 2025 however.

**Engaging parliament to enact Consumer Protection law:** A Consumer Protection law is required if efforts to promote a just transition to clean energy in Uganda are to be successful. The lack of sufficient consumer protections sees counterfeit solar and other products being sold on the Ugandan market. This undermines consumer uptake of the products. To address this challenge, AFIEGO has worked with our partners for several

years to engage the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Cooperatives to complete the Consumer Protection and Management Bill and table it before parliament for debate and enactment. While the Prime Minister indicated in July 2024 that the bill was among 66 bills that would be tabled before Parliament for debate and enactment that year, the above was yet to be done by the end of 2024. In March 2025 therefore, AFIEGO mobilised over 34 CSOs to write to parliament, demanding that parliament engages cabinet to table the Consumer Protection and Management Bill for debate and enactment. Unfortunately, while the Deputy Speaker of Parliament advocated for tabling of the bill in parliament in February 2025, the bill was yet to be tabled before parliament for debate and enactment by the end of 2025.

**Supporting women-led advocacy on land policies:** Compulsory land acquisition processes for Uganda's key oil sector projects including the Tilenga, oil refinery and EACOP have displaced 35,079 women since 2012. In addition, women often bear the brunt of poorly implemented compulsory land acquisition processes characterised by limited participation of women in the processes, payment of delayed, inadequate and unfair compensation to affected persons as well as failure to ensure that women are involved in determining how compensation monies are used at household level. The above and other failures see women losing access to land as a productive asset that they use to ensure food security. Women also rely on land access to income, and protect themselves from gender-based violence among other ills. To ensure that women's land rights are protected, AFIEGO mobilised 93 oil-affected women to petition the Minister of Lands in January 2025. The women requested that the minister ensures that her ministry puts in place an engendered Land Acquisition, Resettlement and Rehabilitation Policy (LARRP) to protect project-affected women's rights. While the advocacy efforts by women present an opportunity for the enactment of an engendered LARRP, the Ministry of Lands was, unfortunately, yet to complete and operationalise the LARRP by the end of 2025.

**Participating in review of the Uganda Wildlife Management Policy:** Oil host communities in

Buliisa district that neighbours Murchison Falls National Park assert that oil activities have increased human-wildlife conflicts. Elephants and buffaloes invade communities and not only kill people, but destroy croplands. Chimpanzee-human conflicts have also increased due to the destruction of forests, including Bugoma which faces oil risks as well as ongoing degradation due to land grabbing and sugarcane growing activities. To ensure that communities are protected and that wildlife is conserved amidst oil risks, there is need for strong policies and laws that bar oil activities in protected areas. In June 2025 when our partners convened the 6th national stakeholders' dialogue on the conservation of chimpanzees, AFIEGO participated in the dialogue. During the meeting, CSOs reviewed the Uganda Wildlife Management Policy and made proposals to strengthen the policy. AFIEGO called for stronger safeguards to prevent habitat fragmentation, enhanced protection of critical ecosystems, and clearer policy provisions to regulate extractive activities in and around wildlife conservation areas.

**Engaging the EU to strengthen the Deforestation Free Regulation:** In May 2023, the European Union (EU), a block of 27 countries, adopted the EU Deforestation Free Regulation (EUDR). The goal of the regulation is to support the EU to contribute to global efforts to reduce global greenhouse gas emissions and biodiversity loss. The EU envisions doing the above through curbing global deforestation and degradation. This is expected to be done by barring the entrance of goods that contribute to deforestation and forest degradation worldwide into the EU. In April 2025, AFIEGO engaged CSOs to raise awareness of the EUDR and its potential impacts, as well as to mobilise the CSOs to engage in advocacy to ensure that oil and gas are added to the EUDR.

In April 2025, AFIEGO mobilised 18 CSOs to write to the EU in Uganda asking that oil and gas are added to the EUDR. AFIEGO and our partners presented evidence of the risks posed not only by the oil activities in Uganda to forests, but the negative impacts of oil activities on forests worldwide.

Later, in August 2025, AFIEGO sensitised Ugandan tourism sector stakeholders, including oil host communities, on the need for oil and gas to

be added to the EUDR to support biodiversity conservation and therefore the tourism stakeholders' livelihoods. The stakeholders resolved to petition the EU in Uganda to request that oil and gas are added to the EUDR. Unfortunately, oil and gas had not been added to the regulation by December 2025.



## REFORM THE ENERGY TRANSITION PLAN, TURN AMBITION INTO ACTION!

Uganda's Energy Transition Plan (ETP) is vital, but it needs strong support and reform. Reforms are needed to remove coal, oil and gas as transition fuels. At COP30, government must advocate for grant-based finance to reform the ETP & scale up implementation to ensure clean energy access for all.



Photo highlights of some of AFIEGO's policy influencing efforts in 2025

## Achievements registered as a result of our policy influencing efforts

AFIEGO and our partners' policy influencing efforts resulted in the following milestones:

**1. Efforts were made to influence the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Bill in February and September 2025.** If our and our partners' proposals are integrated into the bill and final law, measures to enable compliance to the law to promote climate action will be strengthened.

**2. Further, in 2025, the Deputy Speaker of Parliament demonstrated an understanding of the need for a Consumer Protection law.** He spoke out demanding that cabinet completes and tables the Consumer Protection and Management Bill before parliament for debate and enactment.

**3. In addition, women and vulnerable groups gained greater visibility and voice in land governance** debates, strengthening demands for more inclusive land acquisition policies. The women made proposals for the LARRP and if their proposals are adopted, Uganda will have a gender-sensitive land acquisition policy.

**4. There were also more Ugandans advocating for oil and gas to be added to the EUDR to curb** forest degradation and promote climate action by the end of 2025, thanks to our efforts.

Challenges remained however. Key among these is the fact that the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Bill, Consumer Protection and Management Bill, as well as the LARRP were yet to be enacted by the end of 2025. Oil activities also continued in protected areas with no law being put in place to stop them.

### 2.3. Community empowerment

One of the central pillars of AFIEGO's work is empowering communities to promote good governance in Uganda's energy sector.

In 2025, AFIEGO continued with our community efforts, with onus being placed on strengthening community-based groups to engage in community-led advocacy to restore oil-affected communities' rights.

AFIEGO also resourced communities with knowledge to monitor the implementation of Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) commitments for oil sector projects. Further, AFIEGO supported communities to document as well as report human and environmental rights violations in Uganda's oil sector among others.

More on the above and other community empowering work that was done by AFIEGO in 2025 can be seen below.

**Supporting oil-affected community groups to put in place annual advocacy plans:** In 2024,

AFIEGO supported oil-affected communities from the Bunyoro and Greater Masaka sub-regions in Western and Southern Uganda respectively to form groups. The oil-affected communities undertake community-led advocacy to address the social and environmental impacts of oil activities through the groups. In 2025, AFIEGO supported efforts to ensure that the groups are strong enough to drive their own advocacy. To this end, AFIEGO supported meetings in February, March, June, July and September 2025 during which the leaders of the community groups discussed and agreed on the advocacy actions that their communities would take to address human rights challenges arising from the oil and gas industry in Uganda. AFIEGO supported the groups to hold meetings whenever oil and gas impacts needing collective action were identified in their communities.

The community groups undertook over 24 advocacy actions aimed at addressing misinformation that the oil industry is beneficial to oil-affected persons, mobilising cultural leaders to support oil-affected people's fight for justice and ensuring that biodiversity is conserved amidst oil

risks among others.

Some of the community groups that AFIEGO supported in 2025 include Environmental Conservation Agency Group (ECAG), Buliisa Patience Alliance Group (BUPAG), Buliisa Natural Climate Conservation Agency (BUNNCA), and Association for Greater Masaka EACOP PAPs' Petitioners (AGMEPP) among others.

### **Organising meetings between oil-affected communities and cultural leaders to address oil sector misinformation:**

In March 2025, EACOP-affected communities from the Greater Masaka sub-region approached AFIEGO following engagements between the EACOP Company and Buganda Kingdom, which is Uganda's biggest cultural institution. The EACOP-affected people, who were working under AGMEPP's leadership, felt that the EACOP Company misrepresented their story during engagements with the Prime Minister of Buganda Kingdom. The EACOP Company gave the impression that the EACOP project was moving smoothly with no grievances from the affected people. News from the aforementioned engagement was widely shared and the affected people felt that the misrepresentation of their story could not go unchallenged. The people therefore approached AFIEGO asking that the organisation supports them to organise a meeting with the Prime Minister of Buganda Kingdom.

In March 2025 therefore, AFIEGO supported the people to write to the Prime Minister requesting for a meeting. When the people's request was accepted, AFIEGO supported them to organise a planning meeting in March 2025. During the meeting, the affected people discussed the key grievances that they would share with Buganda Kingdom officials.

The meeting with a representative from the Prime Minister's office took place in March 2025. The people shared the grievances that they had against the EACOP project. AFIEGO thereafter supported the people to use the media and to organise a community meeting to share the outcomes from the meeting. The kingdom officials committed to organising a field visit to the EACOP-affected areas, after which they would engage with the relevant stakeholders to address the EACOP-affected people's plight. The field visit had not taken place by the end of 2025 however.

### **Supporting community engagements with UWA to address oil-induced elephant-human conflicts:**

Oil host communities living around Murchison Falls National Park have since 2023 complained about an

escalation in elephant-human conflicts in Buliisa district. The communities argue that an increase in oil activities in the park are responsible for the increased elephant-human conflicts that have resulted in deaths of people, crop losses and other impacts. AFIEGO has been supporting communities since 2023 to engage in advocacy targeted at the Ugandan government and TotalEnergies, which is the operator of the Tilenga oil project in Murchison Falls National Park, to end the elephant-human conflicts. Some of the key advocacy demands by communities have included providing compensation for the affected people and ending the elephant-human conflicts. AFIEGO continued to provide this support in 2025. In March 2025 for instance, AFIEGO's legal team held a meeting with the Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA) to discuss solutions to the oil-induced elephant invasions in Buliisa district. The meeting was held after communities indicated that they wanted to take legal action due to failure by UWA to address the oil-induced elephant-human conflicts. At the meeting, it was agreed that UWA organises a meeting with the communities affected by the elephant-human conflicts to discuss solutions to the conflicts. In April 2025, AFIEGO in partnership with ECAG organised a meeting between UWA and the affected people. The meeting took place in Buliisa district. The meeting agreed on various actions to address the elephant-human conflicts while providing compensation to the affected people. By the end of 2025, some affected people had received their compensation.

In addition, construction of an electric fence aimed at reducing the elephant-human conflicts had resumed. However, oil activities which communities contend are responsible for the elephant-human conflicts were still ongoing in the park by the end of 2025.

### **Empowering communities on oil sector ESIA compliance requirements:**

Before the Tilenga, Kingfisher and EACOP oil projects commenced in Uganda, the developers of the aforementioned projects conducted ESIA studies and published reports. Through the reports, they showed the measures that they would undertake to avoid, minimise or mitigate the impact of their activities on people and nature. In addition, the ESIA reports for the above oil projects were subjected to public reviews and approved by the National Environment Management Authority (NEMA). NEMA set conditions that must be complied with to protect people and nature amidst the Tilenga, Kingfisher and EACOP oil project activities. The commitments made in the ESIA

reports must also be complied with. To ensure that communities participate in promoting compliance to the Tilenga and EACOP ESIA commitments, AFIEGO organised community meetings between April and May 2025. Through the meetings which took place in seven oil-affected districts in Uganda, we shared information on the Tilenga and EACOP ESIA compliance requirements during the construction phase. We also distributed a booklet with the EACOP ESIA compliance requirements, and published a newsletter, in October 2025. Communities used the knowledge that they gained to document and share instances of non-compliance. This informed national and other advocacy to stop the instances of non-compliance to protect the human rights of oil-affected communities while supporting biodiversity conservation.

### **Strengthening oil-affected people's**

**documentation capacities:** To further strengthen the documentation capacity of oil-affected communities, AFIEGO organised a photography and videography training for 66 EACOP-affected leaders. The training took place in July 2025 in Masaka. The participants were equipped with hands-on skills to capture high quality photos and videos that document the social, environmental, and livelihood impacts of the EACOP project. The affected people used the skills gained to document and report on the rights violations in their communities. This aided national and international advocacy to address oil risks.

### **Strengthening communities' advocacy capacity:**

AFIEGO believes that it is important for communities to undertake community-led advocacy. As such, throughout the year, AFIEGO supported oil-affected communities to organise radio talkshows to discuss the impacts of oil activities on communities. The radio talkshows took place at stations such as Biiso and Spice FM in January, July, November and other months in 2025. Further, AFIEGO organised film screenings for oil-affected communities in September and October 2025. Among others, the films that were screened showcased the advocacy strategies that oil-affected communities from other countries use to defend their rights. The films, which were screened in Buliisa, Hoima, Lwengo, Kyotera and other oil-affected districts, strengthened oil-affected people's advocacy capacity.

### **Supporting solidarity building amongst**

**oil-affected communities:** It is important that oil-affected communities in Uganda build solidarity with each other and with their peers outside the country. The affected people are scattered across various districts in Uganda and these may feel isolated in their struggles for justice and the respect of their human rights. In July 2025 therefore, AFIEGO organised an exchange learning between the oil refinery- and EACOP-affected communities in Uganda. The exchange learning took place in Masaka district. The people shared the struggles that they are faced with as oil-affected people, and discussed strategies to address those struggles. Further, in September 2025, AFIEGO supported some oil-affected people to participate in the OilWatch Africa (OWA) Annual General Meeting (AGM) during which they built solidarity with participants from oil-producing countries such as Nigeria, Ghana, the DRC and others. In November 2025, AFIEGO supported EACOP-affected communities from Uganda to engage with their counterparts from Tanzania in a cross-border meeting held in Arusha. During this engagement, participants shared their experiences and the challenges they continue to face as a result of the project. The meeting also provided a platform for the affected communities to explore ways of working together, strengthening solidarity, and identifying joint strategies to address their shared concerns.

### **Supporting oil-affected fishers to build alliances with their African peers:**

In 2025, AFIEGO continued to support oil-affected fishers from Buliisa, Kikuube and other districts to defend their livelihoods amidst oil activities that are taking place on Lake Albert in Uganda. To this end, AFIEGO engaged the fishers every month to discuss the livelihood and other impacts that they were facing due to the Tilenga and Kingfisher oil project activities on the lake. AFIEGO supported advocacy to end these impacts. For instance, when the fishers reported that the activities by China National Offshore Oil Corporation (CNOOC) had caused turbid waters in Lake Albert, AFIEGO supported the communities to widely share this information, and to call for an end to the activities negatively impacting Lake Albert. AFIEGO also supported the fishers to participate in the General Assembly for the FishNet Alliance in September 2025. The FishNet Alliance brings together oil-affected fishers from across Africa to defend their rights. During the assembly, Ugandan fishers discussed the challenges

that oil-affected fisherfolk are facing and solutions to address the challenges. Realising that working in solidarity with other fishers under the FishNet Alliance could be supportive of their agenda to protect their livelihoods amidst oil risks, some Ugandan fishers signed up to become members of the FishNet Alliance.

**Supporting CSO solidarity visits to communities impacted by oil-induced evictions:** In 2023 and 2024, the Ugandan government filed legal cases against 122 households affected by the Tilenga and EACOP projects. Through these cases, the government sought court approval to deposit disputed compensation in court and proceed with evictions, including the demolition of homes. Some households had declined the compensation offered, citing its inadequacy. The courts granted the government's requests, leaving the affected families under continuous threat of eviction from 2023 onwards. In February and July 2025, AFIEGO conducted field visits to engage with the affected households and explore strategies to prevent evictions. Despite these efforts, three (3) households were forcibly evicted and their homes demolished in September 2025. AFIEGO later carried out solidarity visits in October 2025 to provide support, strengthen the affected families, and stand with them during their difficult time.



Photo highlights of some of AFIEGO's community empowerment efforts in 2025

## Achievements registered as a result of our community empowerment efforts

AFIEGO and our partners' community empowerment efforts resulted in the following milestones:

- **AFIEGO supported at least ten community groups to continue to mobilise fellow oil-affected community members and engage in community-led advocacy in 2025.** This ensured that the principle of nothing-for-us-without-us was applied in advocacy on oil sector matters in Uganda. With AFIEGO's support, the communities disseminated over 24 advocacy materials in 2025.

- **Further, oil-affected people for the first time held a meeting with cultural leaders from Buganda Kingdom, which is one of Uganda's most powerful cultural institutions.** The people raised kingdom officials' awareness of the impacts of oil activities on Buganda Kingdom subjects. Commitments were made by the kingdom's officials to conduct field visits to enable them collect evidence to use in addressing the people's grievances.

Challenges remained however as will be discussed in section 3 of this report.

### 2.4. Empowering women and youth

Despite constituting the vast majority of Uganda's population, women and youth in the country remain at the margins of society. Their access to land and respect of their land rights is limited. In addition, their decision-making powers both at household and national levels are limited. To ensure that the above challenges are addressed so that women and youth enjoy their rights and fully participate in public and private life, AFIEGO did the following in 2025:

#### Supporting women and youth's efforts to form advocacy groups:

Collective advocacy is necessary if women and youth, who form the vast majority of oil-affected people, are to enjoy their rights amidst oil activities in Uganda. The activities directly affect women and youth by causing displacement, undermining women and youth's access to safe water, risking the destruction of ecosystems on which women and youth depend and contributing to a further restricted civic space in the country. Since 2024, oil-affected women and youth have been engaged in efforts to form platforms or groups through which they would work together to defend their rights. In 2025, AFIEGO supported the women and youth to convene meetings in January, February, May and July 2025 during which oil-affected women from various districts including Buliisa, Hoima, Lwengo, Kyotera, Sembabule and Rakai agreed to work together to address the challenges that they face. The women selected leaders to lead them in joint advocacy efforts. Through the groups that they formed, the women and youth undertook advocacy efforts in 2025. Of the 24 advocacy actions undertaken by oil-affected communities in 2025, 45.8% were led on by women.

#### Information sharing to aid evidence-based advocacy:

To further strengthen them and aid

evidence-based advocacy by women and youth, AFIEGO shared information related to Uganda's oil and gas sector throughout 2025. AFIEGO published and distributed handbooks with key information on Uganda's oil sector, while also sharing monthly updates on key events in the sector with the youth and women. As a result, and as earlier noted, of the 24 advocacy actions undertaken by oil-affected community groups in 2025, 45.8% were led on by women.

#### Convening women and youth meetings to discuss livelihood restoration challenges:

Livelihood restoration activities for EACOP-affected communities were ongoing in 2025. Women as well as men were the recipients of the activities but many were unaware of the full livelihood restoration entitlements due to them. This led to the violation of the people's rights, with some affected people being denied transitional food and other assistance that was due to them. To address this challenge, between April and May 2025, AFIEGO held community meetings covering Buliisa, Hoima, Kikuube, Lwengo, and Kyotera districts among others. During the meetings for women and youth, AFIEGO explained the livelihood restoration entitlements that were due to oil-affected women and youth. This led to the women and youth demanding for their rights to be respected.

#### Ensuring women and youth participate in litigation:

In 2025, AFIEGO litigated over 25 court cases. The majority of the cases were filed by oil-affected communities with support from AFIEGO. The community members include women and youth. To ensure that women and youth were updated about their court cases, AFIEGO held meetings with the women as well as youth and updated them on their cases in February, March, July, November and

other months in 2025. The women and youth that are part of court cases are from Buliisa, Hoima, Kiryandongo, Lwengo, Kyotera and Rakai districts.

In addition, when three EACOP-affected women from Lwengo district were evicted from their land and their crops destroyed in September 2025, AFIEGO paid them a solidarity visit in October 2025.

**Solidarity building with youth:** In 2024, AFIEGO supported youth who had previously been arrested while protesting against the EACOP project to file court cases against ten police officers. Through these cases, the youth challenged violations of their rights, including freedom of association and assembly. The youth continued their advocacy in 2025. In May, some were arrested while attempting to engage Kenya Commercial Bank (KCB) Uganda regarding its financial support for the EACOP project. They were subsequently detained in a maximum-security prison for nearly 90 days. AFIEGO stood in solidarity with the youth by visiting them and engaging their families in July 2025, offering support and reinforcing their efforts to seek justice and accountability.

**Supporting women and youth to engage in green economic activities:** To address climate concerns, AFIEGO believes that it is important to empower women and youth to participate in green economic sectors instead of dirty sectors such as the oil and gas industry, charcoal burning, and agricultural activities in protected areas among others. To ensure that women and youth are aware of and participate in green economic activities, AFIEGO and our IGEN-EA partners trained oil-affected women and organised exchange learnings for them to showcase available green economic alternatives that they can engage in. This was in February and May 2025. The women that were targeted were from Buliisa, Hoima, Kikuube and Lwengo districts. The women were trained in briquette making to provide an alternative to cooking with firewood, an energy source that contributes to the destruction of forests while harming women's health. The women were also supported in their efforts to set up nurseries for tree seedlings to enhance their livelihoods. As a result, by the end of 2025, the women were engaged in green economic businesses. Others had plans of transitioning from using firewood to briquettes that they themselves planned to make. In addition, AFIEGO and our IGEN-EA partners organised a green jobs fair for youth at Makerere University in April 2025. We discussed the green jobs opportunities that are available for youth. As a result, youth at Makerere University proposed the setting up of green jobs clubs at the university to aid continuous awareness raising for youth to take up green jobs.



Photo highlights of some of AFIEGO's women and youth engagement efforts in 2025

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

AFIEGO and our partners' women as well as youth empowerment efforts resulted in the following milestones:

**1. In 2025, women and youth remained informed and strong and continued to campaign for climate action** and a cessation of the violation of oil-affected women's rights despite the repressed civic space in Uganda. Of the 24 advocacy actions undertaken by oil-affected communities in 2025, 45.8% were led on by women.

**2. Further, some of the women that AFIEGO and our IGEN-EA partners empowered on alternative green energy such as briquettes had started collecting materials to enable them to start producing briquettes for domestic use by the end of 2025.** When the women begin production, their energy independence will be assured while they contribute to addressing the climate crisis.

**3. In addition, Makerere University youth suggested the setting up of green jobs clubs in 2025** to enable continuous awareness raising of available green jobs to ensure that youth are not left behind in the just energy transition.

Despite the above, challenges remained however. Key among these is the fact that the green jobs clubs had not been set up by the end of 2025. Further, oil-affected women's rights were still being abused by the end of 2025. In addition, the women engaged by AFIEGO and our partners were yet to start briquette production by the end of 2025.

### 2.5. Forest conservation efforts

Forests play vital roles including climate regulation, biodiversity conservation and provision of water as well as food among others. Forest landscapes also play socio-cultural roles and it is imperative that they are conserved. Unfortunately, in 2025, forest landscapes such as Bugoma Central Forest Reserve, Wambabya forest, Murchison Falls National Park and others remained under threat of destruction due to oil, land grabbing, illegal logging, and sugarcane growing challenges among others.

AFIEGO therefore did the following in 2025 to stop the destruction or degradation of the forest landscapes.

#### Supporting communities to mobilise public pressure for conservation of Bugoma forest:

To ensure that forest landscapes are conserved, the public must be mobilised to understand the threats faced by the landscapes. The public must also be shown the advocacy opportunities that they can harness to exert pressure on duty bearers to enable conservation of forest landscapes. In 2025 therefore, AFIEGO supported forest host communities to use the media to raise public awareness about the extent of destruction of

Bugoma forest, and the actions that needed to be taken to stop the ongoing destruction. To this end, in January 2025, AFIEGO organised radio talkshows at Spice FM and Kazi Njema in Hoima district during which community members called on the public to engage the Ministry of Lands to publicly release the Bugoma forest boundary opening report to stop grabbing of forest land by corporations and community members. AFIEGO also supported the communities to use newsletters, newspaper articles and social media among others to demand for the forest's boundary opening report and an end to the destruction of the forest. The report was yet to be publicly released by the end of 2025 however. Further, the forest continued to be destroyed by Hoima Sugar Ltd (HSL) for sugarcane growing and other encroachers in 2025.

#### Supporting community-led advocacy for restoration of Bugoma forest:

The Bugoma forest host communities did not only undertake advocacy aimed at ensuring that the Bugoma forest boundary opening report is released in 2025. With AFIEGO's support, they also undertook advocacy demanding for restoration of the forest. It will be recalled that in

September 2021, NEMA issued a directive asking HSL to restore 4,854.7 hectares/18.73 sq. miles of the forest. Since 2021 and in 2025, AFIEGO supported the Bugoma forest host communities to engage in advocacy targeted at government and HSL. The communities demanded that Bugoma forest is restored. In September 2025, AFIEGO engaged Kikuube district leaders who indicated that HSL was restoring parts of the forest. In addition, by September 2025, Bugoma forest host communities in collaboration with NFA, were restoring parts of forest destroyed by encroachers other than HSL. Despite these milestones, huge challenges as regards conservation of Bugoma forest remained in 2025.

**Supporting peer-to-peer learnings for Bugoma forest host communities:** To support Bugoma forest host communities to acquire new knowledge on how other forest communities participate in forest conservation, AFIEGO supported exchange learnings for Bugoma forest host communities. In May 2025 for instance, AFIEGO supported the Bugoma forest host communities to meet with the Wambabya forest host communities. At the exchange learning which took place in Kikuube district, the Wambabya forest host communities discussed how communities can engage in forest patrols and the tactics community role models can use to change community encroachers and turn them into forest conservation agents. It is hoped that the new tactics that the communities learnt will be used to support community actions to stop encroachment on the forest land.

**Showcasing green economic alternatives to Bugoma forest host communities:** In 2025, AFIEGO worked with our IGEN-EA partners to showcase green economic alternatives to Bugoma forest host communities. To this end, we supported the communities to visit Kibaale Forest National Park and the IGEN-EA clean energy hub in Fort Portal in May 2025. During the visits, the Bugoma forest host community members learnt about briquettes as an alternative to charcoal and firewood. The community members were trained in making of the briquettes to encourage them to transition from the use of firewood and reduce pressure on Bugoma forest.

**Mobilising tourism sector stakeholders to campaign for conservation of Murchison Falls National Park (MFNP):** Away from our work on Bugoma forest, AFIEGO undertook efforts to support conservation of MFNP amidst oil and gas exploitation activities that are ongoing in the park. To this end, between April and July 2025, AFIEGO mobilised tourism sector stakeholders including small-holder farmers, fishers, food and beverage service providers, tour and travel agents as well as hotel owners among others. We discussed how we could work together to protect MFNP from oil and gas risks. We also conducted research and asked the tourism sector stakeholders to share key messages to the Ugandan government as regards oil extraction in the park. Several of the stakeholders called for protected areas such as MFNP being declared as no-go zones for oil and gas exploitation activities. These messages were shared with key stakeholders in the Ugandan government to build pressure to stop oil activities in the park.

**Organising engagements with government on oil risks to MFNP:** Stakeholder awareness of the risks that oil and gas exploitation activities present to MFNP is key to generating the public pressure needed to protect the park from oil impacts. To raise this stakeholder awareness, AFIEGO organised various stakeholder engagements including those targeting youth in tourism, women in tourism, district tourism officers, central government officials and others. The engagements were undertaken between April and August 2025. During the engagements, AFIEGO discussed the negative impacts that oil and gas activities had had on micro and small businesses in the tourism sector. AFIEGO also encouraged discussions on the livelihood risks presented by oil and gas activities on tourism not only in MFNP, but in Queen Elizabeth National Park and other forest landscapes. This enabled AFIEGO to mobilise tourism sector stakeholders to speak out on oil risks to tourism.

**Supporting advocacy efforts by tourism sector stakeholders to protect MFNP from oil risks:** Some of the tourism sector stakeholders that AFIEGO engaged expressed interest in

undertaking advocacy to stop the oil risks to MFNP. Consequently, AFIEGO supported the stakeholders to engage in advocacy to address oil risks to the park. In May and July 2025 for instance, the stakeholders issued advocacy letters to the government of Uganda, Petroleum Authority of Uganda (PAU), TotalEnergies, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) and others, asking that they prioritise biodiversity conservation over oil extraction from MFNP.

**Mobilising international stakeholders over oil extraction in Murchison Falls National Park:** In addition to local efforts, AFIEGO engaged international stakeholders to mobilise public pressure to protect MFNP from oil extraction. In October 2025 for instance, AFIEGO participated in the World Conservation Congress (WCC) for the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) members. The congress took place in Abu Dhabi. During the congress, AFIEGO highlighted the ecological risks posed by oil exploitation activities in MFNP, Lake Albert, and other transboundary ecosystems linked to the Congo Basin forests. AFIEGO called on the international stakeholders to engage the Ugandan government and TotalEnergies to end oil exploitation activities in MFNP. Further, AFIEGO joined our partners to mobilise IUCN members to vote for adoption of a motion on avoiding irreversible ecological damage and tipping points in the Congo Basin. The motion was voted into a resolution by IUCN members at the congress, presenting an opportunity to strengthen protection for MFNP and other forest landscapes in the Albertine Graben.



**Photo highlights of some of AFIEGO's forest conservation efforts in 2025**

## Achievements registered as a result of our forest conservation efforts

AFIEGO and our partners' forest conservation efforts resulted in the following milestones:

**1. In February 2025, the National Forestry Authority engaged Bugoma forest communities and others to begin restoring some degraded areas of Bugoma forest.** The communities were allocated 200 hectares of forest land for restoration. By September 2025, the communities had restored over 160 hectares of forest land. The restoration came after advocacy efforts by AFIEGO, communities and other stakeholders.

**2. Further, Kikuube district leaders reported in September 2025 that Hoima Sugar Ltd (HSL) had started restoring some degraded areas of Bugoma forest.** The restoration followed a directive issued by NEMA in September 2021. AFIEGO and Bugoma forest host communities had been engaged in advocacy since 2021 to ensure that HSL acts on NEMA's directive to restore 4,854.7 hectares/18.73 sq. miles of Bugoma forest land.

**3. In addition, in 2025, the risks posed by oil and gas exploitation to tourism and biodiversity in Murchison Falls National Park were spotlighted** and put on the public agenda to mobilise public pressure for conservation of the park and to protect livelihoods.

Despite the above, challenges remained however. Key among these is the fact that some encroachers uprooted some of the trees planted by the Bugoma forest host communities. The forest also continued to be destroyed by Hoima Sugar Ltd and other encroachers in 2025. Further, oil activities in MFNP continued.

### 2.6. Strategic litigation

Litigation is an important tool in efforts aimed at promoting human rights observance, biodiversity conservation and climate action in Uganda and elsewhere. In 2025, AFIEGO harnessed this tool and prosecuted 25 cases in Ugandan courts of law, the East African Court of Justice (EACJ) and in France. Below are some of the litigation activities that AFIEGO conducted in 2025.

**Prosecuting the EACOP case at the EACJ:** In 2025, AFIEGO continued to litigate the appeal that we and our partners filed in relation to the EACOP project. It will be recalled that in November 2020, AFIEGO joined three other East African CSOs and filed a case at the First Instance Division of the EACJ. Through the case, AFIEGO and our partners sought court's intervention to stop the development of the EACOP project due to the project's violation of national and international laws related to human rights protection, biodiversity conservation and climate change. We also argued that the project contravenes the East African Community (EAC) Treaty. The First Instance Division of the EACJ dismissed the case in November 2023, leading to AFIEGO and our partners filing an appeal at the Appellate Division of the EACJ in December 2023. We sought the appellate court's intervention to overturn the ruling of the First Instance Division. In 2025, the appeal was heard in February in Kigali,

Rwanda. AFIEGO supported our lawyers, as well as oil-affected people from at least six oil-affected districts in Uganda, to participate in the hearing. During the hearing, the lawyers made submissions showing why the ruling of the First Instance Division should be put aside to allow the case against the EACOP to be heard on its merits.

**Supporting lawyers, communities and the media to participate in EACOP case ruling:** Only two hearings on the above-mentioned appeal were held by the appellate division of the EACJ. The last hearing was held in February 2025. Following conclusion of hearing of the case, the Appellate Division of the EACJ issued a ruling on the case in November 2025. Before the ruling was issued however, AFIEGO and our partners wrote to the EACJ in March and June 2025, asking that the ruling is issued. AFIEGO also supported lawyers, EACOP-affected communities from Uganda and members of the media to participate in the court session during which the ruling was issued. The ruling was issued at the EACJ in Arusha. Unfortunately, the case was dismissed on technical grounds.

**Using communications to inform the public about the EACOP case at the EACJ:** To ensure that communities, the media, and the general public were informed about the litigation efforts by AFIEGO and our civil society partners at the EACJ, AFIEGO issued periodic information about the case. In February 2025 for instance, AFIEGO issued IEC materials and press statements before and after the appeal was heard. AFIEGO also supported radio talkshows in Uganda to enable sharing of information about the appeal and why it is important for East Africans. In addition, before and after a ruling on the appeal was issued by the EACJ in November 2025, AFIEGO issued IEC materials and press statements to inform the public for the common good and to avoid the dominance of misinformation shared by parties that are supportive of development of the EACOP. The information that AFIEGO and our partners shared helped to shape public narratives on the case, which is integral to ensuring that the public understands the social, biodiversity and climate change risks of the EACOP.

**Providing legal support to oil-affected communities to stop evictions and demolitions:** Away from litigating the EACJ case seeking to stop the harms associated with the EACOP project, AFIEGO also supported oil-affected communities in Uganda to defend their land rights in 2025. It will be recalled that in December 2023 and August 2024, the government of Uganda sued 42 Tilenga oil project- and 80 EACOP-affected people respectively. The people that were sued were from Buliisa and the Greater Masaka sub-regions. Through the court cases, government sought court's permission to deposit compensation that some of the affected people had rejected in court. The people were being forcefully dispossessed of their land and other property for the Tilenga and EACOP oil projects. Government also sought eviction and demolition orders against the people from court. In December 2023 and October 2024, courts granted the above orders. AFIEGO was approached by the affected people, who asked that they be supported to appeal the rulings. AFIEGO supported the people to file appeals in the Court of Appeal in December 2023 and May 2025 respectively. Through the appeals, the people are seeking to overturn the rulings allowing government to deposit their compensation in court, contrary to Article 26 of Uganda's 1995 Constitution. AFIEGO also supported the people to file court cases in high court seeking to stay their eviction and demolition of their

property. In 2025, AFIEGO supported lawyers to prosecute the above cases. The lawyers undertook at least 14 engagements with the Court of Appeal and lower courts to ensure the prosecution of the cases. Through the engagements, the lawyers sought key documents that needed to be filed to support the appeals, sought dates through which the litigants (government and the oil-affected people) could meet and agree on the issues to be decided by court and sought hearing dates for the appeals. While key milestones were attained due to these efforts, key challenges that will be discussed in this report remained.

**Supporting litigation by oil refinery-affected communities:** In addition to the above, in 2025, AFIEGO supported some of the over 7,000 people that were displaced by government of Uganda for the oil refinery project beginning in 2012 to continue their litigation against government. With AFIEGO's support, the people filed a case against government in March 2014. The people sought to stop the violation of their land rights as government was set to pay them delayed, inadequate and unfair compensation, contrary to Article 26 of the 1995 Uganda Constitution. Since 2014, AFIEGO has provided the affected people with lawyers to litigate their case, which is important for not only the protection of the affected people's land rights, but the rights of all Ugandans. The case is also important for biodiversity conservation and climate action. In 2025, AFIEGO continued to provide support to the people. In May 2025 for instance, AFIEGO supported the people to participate in the hearing of their case. AFIEGO also worked with the people to issue communication materials including press statements among others to inform the public about the case and its importance. A major win, which will be discussed in this report, was attained because of the people's case in 2025. Unfortunately, despite the above, court failed to conclude hearing of the long-running case in 2025.

**Supporting strategic litigation to stop arbitrary arrests and expand civic space:** In addition to the community land rights and climate action lawsuits, in 2025, AFIEGO litigated four cases filed by several youth seeking to expand the civic space in Uganda. For instance, AFIEGO continued to provide support to a youth organisation that challenged a decision by Uganda's Bureau for Non-governmental Organisations (NGO Bureau) suspending or halting the work of 54 organisations. The decision was

made in August 2021 and affected AFIEGO as well as our partners. In addition, AFIEGO supported anti-EACOP youth who filed court cases against ten police officers in 2024 to participate in the hearing of their cases in 2025. Through the cases, the youth are seeking to compel Ugandan security forces to respect Ugandans' rights of freedom of assembly, freedom of association and others. Respect of such freedoms will ease campaigns by (W)EHRDs. Hearing of the youth's cases was concluded by Ugandan high court judges in 2025. This was a major milestone. However, rulings in the cases, which were expected in 2025,

delayed. By the end of the year, the rulings were yet to be issued.

**AFIEGO also litigated cases aimed at striking down the environmental permissions** given by Uganda's NEMA allowing the Tilenga oil project to proceed in Uganda, a court case against the Tilenga and EACOP projects in France and other cases.



**AFRICA INSTITUTE FOR ENERGY GOVERNANCE**

August 28, 2025

**NEW PERSPECTIVE RELEASE**  
KAMPALA, UGANDA

**EACOP AFFECTED PEOPLE FILE COMPLAINT AGAINST JUDGE AS MUKAMA HELD LIABLE FOR EACOP PROJECTS**

Musaka High Court judge Justice Veronica Nalukya, yesterday (August 27, 2025), issued a ruling through which she permitted government to evict 11 households from Lwempeta, Rakai and Kasesa districts that are affected by the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) project.

The judge also permitted government to demolish the property of the affected households, several of which are headed by vulnerable people including women, the sick and elderly.

As the judge was issuing the above ruling, the affected people were fighting back, demanding fairness.

On August 27, 2025, they filed a complaint against Justice Nalukya, arguing that she had acted with gross malice and premeditated procedural irregularities in regards to the case filed by government against the affected families.

The people filed the complaint with the Chief Justice and Inspector of Courts.

**REVENUES**

Through the complaint, the affected people called on the Chief Justice and Inspector of Courts to do the following:

- Conduct an independent investigation into the disappearance and sudden resignation of their case file;
- Conduct a review of the conduct and impartiality of Justice Nalukya; and
- Initiate disciplinary action against any judicial officer or court staff found to have acted in a way that undermines the justice and fairness for the affected people.

**GENESIS**

The following events preceded the complaint. In August 2024, 80 people with interest in 67 parcels of EACOP affected land in Lwempeta, Rakai and Kasesa districts were used by government at Musaka High Court.

Government sought court's permission to deposit the affected people's compensation in court as well as evict and demolish orders against the people. Some of the people that were used had received compensation on grounds that it was extremely low.



**Photo highlights of some of AFIEGO's litigation efforts in 2025**

## Achievements registered as a result of our litigation efforts

AFIEGO and our partners' litigation efforts resulted in the following milestones:

- 1. AFIEGO's 2025 litigation efforts and the attendant communication on the cases that the organisation was litigating ensured that the public kept informed about the human rights violations** as well as biodiversity conservation and climate change risks presented by Uganda's oil projects. This supported efforts to debunk the narrative that oil exploitation fosters development.
- 2. In addition, AFIEGO was able to delay the eviction of some oil-affected people from their land**, thanks to the organisation's litigation efforts. By the end of 2025, only five out of 122 eviction orders had been issued by court against Tilenga- and EACOP-affected people. The eviction orders that were issued were unfortunate however, and caused harm to the affected people.
- 3. Further, in May 2025, the High Court in Hoima ordered the government of Uganda and the private valuer** procured by the oil refinery-affected people with AFIEGO's support to hold negotiations and agree on the compensation due to the people. This was a major milestone in ensuring justice for a poor and vulnerable community. Government played delay tactics however and did not meet with the private valuer in 2025.
- 4. In addition, the litigation efforts ensured that communities that are resisting unfair compensation** for the EACOP, Tilenga, and oil refinery projects have remedy, and that their right to say no is exercised.

Despite the above, challenges remained however. Key among these is the fact that four oil-affected households were evicted in 2025, and their property destroyed. In addition, the judiciary delayed to issue rulings in cases seeking to stop the environmental harms of the Tilenga oil project and expand the civic space in Uganda in 2025.

Further, hearing of cases filed by oil-affected communities by the judiciary was slow in 2025, while those filed by government were fasttracked.

### 2.7. Cross-border advocacy to address expansion of the fossil fuel industry

In recent years, Africa has been dubbed as the new frontier for oil and gas expansion. This is because in the last decade, vast oil and gas discoveries have been made on the continent, with Sub-Saharan Africa holding 40% of the global new oil and gas discoveries.

While the proponents of the oil and gas industry argue that Africa's oil and gas reserves present economic opportunities, AFIEGO and our partners aver that these reserves present immense risks to Africa's economies as they encourage countries to get indebted in expectation of oil cash. The reserves also threaten to worsen the climate change and environmental degradation crises, thereby threatening the livelihoods of millions of Africans that depend on intact ecosystems to make a living.

The oil and gas industry also often harms communities in Africa by displacing hundreds of thousands while destroying their livelihoods, cultures and the environmental resources on which they depend.

To address the huge risks presented by the oil and gas industry, AFIEGO worked with our cross-border partners from Africa on the following:

#### Establishing a Uganda-DRC nature conservation network:

AFIEGO has for over a decade worked with civil society partners from the DRC to engage in advocacy aimed at stopping the risks presented by oil and gas exploitation to ecosystems that are shared between Uganda and the DRC.

Our engagements were of an informal nature, but in March 2025, we came together to establish the DRC-Uganda Civil Society Network for Transboundary Nature Conservation (TNCN) in March 2025. The purpose of the network is to aid formal collaboration among cross-border community groups, environmental defenders, and CSOs to promote conservation of cross-border resources on which Ugandan and Congolese communities depend to make a living.

**Bringing together OilWatch Africa partners to address oil threats:** In August 2025, AFIEGO worked with our OilWatch Africa partners to convene a meeting for civil society actors and communities working to address the risks presented by the oil and gas industry to Africans. The meeting took place in Kampala and it brought together participants from over 16 African countries including Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, DRC, Nigeria, Ghana and others. During the meeting, the partners discussed how they could best strengthen efforts aimed at addressing the expansion of the fossil fuel industry in Africa. The meeting also aided solidarity building which is critical for sustained efforts aimed at addressing fossil fuel risks.

**Joining advocacy platforms to support financial flows for climate action:** In September 2025, AFIEGO joined over 50 civil society partners from Africa to participate in a convening that was aimed at supporting African CSOs to build a public finance agenda to drive a just energy and climate resilient future for Africa. The convening took place ahead of the Africa Climate Summit (ACS) 2.0 in Addis Ababa. During the meeting, AFIEGO joined our partners to discuss how we could influence African and global processes or projects such as COP30, Mission 300 and others to ensure financial flows to Africa to support a just energy transition for Africa. At the meeting, AFIEGO joined the Africa Finance Watch Coalition, a CSO platform that monitors, critiques, and influences public climate financial flows for the benefit of Africa's people and planet.

**Partnering with East African environmental defenders to address shrinking civic space challenges:** In September 2025, AFIEGO joined EHRDs from Uganda, Kenya and Tanzania for a meeting to discuss how EHRDs in East Africa that are working under repressed civic spaces could be supported to continue doing the work that they do. The meeting discussed how EHRDs could collectively address the criminalisation of their work while continuing to support communities faced with land rights, environmental degradation and other challenges. The meeting aided solidarity building, and learning to support the continuation of AFIEGO and others' important work.



**Photo highlights of some of AFIEGO's cross-border efforts in 2025**

## Achievements registered as a result of our cross-border efforts

AFIEGO and our partners' cross-border efforts resulted in the following milestones:

**1. In March 2025, AFIEGO and our partners from the DRC established the Transboundary Nature Conservation (TNCN) to aid collaboration efforts aimed at addressing nature conservation risks in Uganda and the DRC.**

**2. Further, in August 2025, AFIEGO joined the Africa Public Finance Watch platform to aid participation in civil society efforts aimed at promoting financial flows to Africa to support communities to transition to the use of clean energy.**

### 2.8. Promoting a just energy transition

Uganda is rich in clean energy resources with the country's renewable energy potential being estimated at 5,300MW. Unfortunately, Uganda also suffers from energy poverty with only just over 20% of the population having access to grid power. Further, 92.7% of Uganda's population cooks with biomass (firewood and charcoal) while 1.9% cooks with fossil fuels including kerosene and liquefied petroleum gas (LPG). Uganda's transport system not to mention manufacturing sector is also heavily reliant on fossil fuels.

Citizens' reliance on biomass and fossil fuels to meet their energy needs has negative impacts on forest conservation efforts, not to mention their health. The reliance on the aforementioned fuels also impedes climate action. As such, efforts are required to ensure that Ugandans transit to the use of community-owned or community-centred clean energy systems. In 2025, AFIEGO did the following to foster the attainment of the above goals:

**Advocating for financial flows to clean energy:** In December 2024, government, through the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development (MoFPED) tabled the FY 2024/2025 national budget proposals before parliament for discussion. The proposals were contained in the FY 2024/2025 National Budget Framework (NBF) Paper. Through the NBF Paper, government indicated that it intended to allocate Shs. 1.301 trillion to the Sustainable Energy Development programme. The programme covers Uganda's electrification and clean energy cooking efforts. Uganda needs to invest at least UGX 1.53 trillion in electricity sector infrastructure per year to promote universal access by 2040. Further, the country needs \$100 million (over Shs. 374.7 billion) per year to promote universal access to clean cooking

by 2050. To ensure that sufficient resources needed to drive a clean energy transition were allocated to the Sustainable Energy Development programme in FY 2024/2025, AFIEGO supported youth to engage in advocacy between March and May 2025. The youth wrote newspaper articles and used the media to call for enhanced national budget allocations to clean energy interventions.

**Supporting youth to debunk the narrative that gas is clean energy:** No doubt, Ugandans need access to clean cooking energy as according to the Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBOS), only 2.8% of the population cooks with clean energy, namely electricity and biogas. The Ugandan government's efforts to promote clean cooking are therefore laudable. However, the Ugandan government classifies gas as a clean cooking fuel through plans such as the Energy Transition Plan of 2023. As such, the Ugandan government is seeking to increase the number of Ugandan households that cook with gas. This is problematic and could derail efforts aimed at curtailing the climate crisis. This is because available information indicates that gas is not clean as it releases nitrogen oxide and carbonmonoxide when it burns, which are harmful to human health. In addition, gas stoves are known for leaking methane among other challenges. In 2025 therefore, AFIEGO supported youth-led advocacy that was aimed at raising public awareness of the fact that gas is not clean. The youth advocated for the promotion of real and community-centered clean energy options such as clean energy cookstoves, briquettes, biogas, and others.

### **Advocacy to ensure that people and nature are not sacrificed in the scramble for critical minerals:**

Minerals such as copper, cobalt, graphite, lithium and rare earth elements among others have been described as being 'critical' for the clean energy transition to address the climate crisis. As such, various countries or regions have put in place laws or established partnerships to enhance their access to 'critical' minerals. Corporations that are interested in mining these minerals are also advocating for weaker regulations, arguing that they need to move fast to access the minerals to support the clean energy transition, digitalization and militarization agendas. AFIEGO and our partners believe that though a limited amount of mining is required to support the just energy transition agenda, this must not come at the expense of communities' human rights and biodiversity conservation. In 2025 therefore, we supported youth to undertake advocacy aimed at raising awareness of the negative impacts that could arise if the scramble for 'critical' minerals was not regulated by strong human rights and environmental laws. The youth called for limited mining that respects communities' rights to say no to harmful projects while ensuring environmental conservation.

### **Mobilising citizens to promote transparency and accountability in Uganda's electricity sector:**

One of the biggest challenges that undermines Ugandans' access to accessible, affordable and reliable electricity services is the lack of transparency and accountability in the electricity sector. The above enables corruption, which sees Ugandan government officials signing agreements with 'investors' that are not subjected to public scrutiny. This sometimes results in signing of agreements that favor corporations over citizens. Among others, these agreements guarantee high returns on investments for corporations while doing little to protect Ugandans from exploitation. One such agreement that provided huge benefits for corporations over Ugandans' interests was the 2005 contract that was signed between UMEME and the government of Uganda. UMEME was Uganda's largest electricity distributor until March 2025. In 2025, this contract came to an end and was not renewed. The exit of UMEME from Uganda's electricity sector drew celebration in some quarters, with some citizens arguing that it could bring down power tariffs. AFIEGO published a newsletter and other materials in March 2025 through which the organisation argued that the exit of UMEME alone would not guarantee lower power prices for citizens. AFIEGO called on citizens to demand for transparency and accountability in the

electricity sector to address corruption that drives up power prices, locking citizens out from efforts to transit to the use of clean energy.

### **Putting oil workers' plight on the national agenda:**

One of the key arguments made by various stakeholders for supporting oil exploitation in Uganda is the fact that Ugandans need jobs, and the oil sector provides these jobs. In 2025, AFIEGO interrogated the claims that Uganda's oil industry is important for the promotion of jobs in the country. In July 2025 for instance, AFIEGO started on processes of producing a brief that discusses the real vis-à-vis promised jobs realised from the EACOP project. In the same month, AFIEGO also produced a story book with stories of aggrieved oil sector workers. These efforts, which were preceded by meetings with aggrieved oil sector workers in the Bunyoro sub-region between May and July 2025, are aimed at showcasing that the oil industry's promised jobs are often overstated. The number of jobs created is often less than those that are promised. Moreover, the jobs are not the dream jobs that they are touted to be. AFIEGO therefore supported youth to advocate for green over oil jobs in 2025 to support a just energy transition.

### **Using global platforms to advocate for reforms to Uganda's Energy Transition Plan:**

In addition to the above, AFIEGO supported youth to participate in COP30 in Belem, Brazil in December 2025. During the COP, the youth discussed the pros and cons of Uganda's Energy Transition Plan. The youth noted that though the plan possesses various strengths ranging from seeking to promote clean cooking to containing proposals for promoting culturally-appropriate clean energy technologies, the plan also contains gaps. These gaps include the fact that the plan lists coal, oil and gas as transition fuels. The youth called on fellow youth to join advocacy efforts aimed at ensuring that Uganda's energy transition plan is funded after it is reformed to remove the aforementioned fossil fuels as transition fuels.



Photo highlights of some of AFIEGO's efforts to promote a just energy transition in 2025

- Achievements registered as a result of our efforts to promote a just energy transition**
- AFIEGO and our partners' efforts to promote a just energy transition resulted in the following milestones:
- 1. In 2025, AFIEGO added to national, regional and global efforts aimed at deconstructing the narrative that oil jobs are key to supporting Africa's economic development.** We showed that oil jobs are often fewer than promised, are short-lived and can cause harm. It is best to promote inclusive, sustainable green jobs.
  - 2. Further, in 2025, AFIEGO contributed to efforts to ensure that Uganda's electricity sector responds to citizens' needs by delivering affordable, reliable and accessible electricity.**
  - 3. In addition, in 2025, AFIEGO contributed to national, regional and global efforts aimed at deconstructing the narrative that gas is clean to promote a just energy transition that is based on clean energy and not fossil fuels.**

## 2.9. Promoting green economic activities

Uganda needs to develop while ensuring that the country protects citizens' human rights, ensures biodiversity conservation and takes climate action. Green economic activities such as organic agriculture and fisheries, clean energy, sustainable tourism as well as forestry and natural resources management offer Uganda a pathway to sustainable development. In 2025 therefore, AFIEGO joined our IGEN-EA partners to promote green economic alternatives by doing the following:

### Supporting advocacy to ensure financial flows to green economic sectors:

Between March and August 2025, AFIEGO facilitated and coordinated efforts by our IGEN-EA partners to ensure that green economic sectors are funded to promote green jobs and green growth. In March 2025, AFIEGO supported our partners to participate in a CSO workshop that reviewed the FY 2025/2026 national budget proposals. Our IGEN-EA partners contributed to position papers that were submitted to parliament. Through the papers, we advocated for enhanced budget allocations to sectors such as clean energy, sustainable tourism, agro-industrialisation and natural resources management.

Further, in April 2025, AFIEGO and our IGEN-EA partners published and disseminated a newsletter to over 16,000 people. The newsletter highlighted how the proposed FY 2025/2026 national budget allocations for key green sectors were inadequate, thereby undermining Uganda's capacity to promote green growth and jobs.

The impact of these coordinated efforts was measurable as the government increased allocations to the sustainable energy development programme by 5.5%. The programme saw a budget increase from UGX 982.56 billion in FY 2024/25 to UGX 1.04 trillion in FY 2025/26.

### Building partnerships to aid financial flows to green economic sectors:

To ensure that financial flows to the green economic sectors that are promoted by IGEN-EA are enhanced, it is important for the network to build partnerships with CSOs engaged in financial advocacy among other stakeholders. In 2025 therefore, AFIEGO supported IGEN-EA to build these partnerships. For instance, in August 2025, AFIEGO supported IGEN-EA members to hold a meeting with the Civil Society Budget Advocacy Group (CSBAG). CSBAG is a coalition that brings together CSOs to influence government's resource mobilisation and utilisation efforts in Uganda. The meeting between IGEN-EA and CSBAG agreed on how best the two entities

could collaborate to undertake collective efforts to enhance financial flows to green economic sectors.

### Disseminating research on green economic alternatives:

As previously discussed in this annual report, AFIEGO and our IGEN-EA partners produced research identifying the tourism potential of the Greater Masaka sub-region vis-à-vis EACOP project risks. The research was produced in March 2025. AFIEGO and our IGEN-EA partners engaged the media and organised a webinar in March 2025 to ensure that key findings from the research brief were widely disseminated through the media. Further, AFIEGO convened a stakeholders' meeting that included district leaders from the Greater Masaka and Bunyoro sub-regions, tour and travel leaders, women, youth and CSOs in August 2025. During the meeting, we disseminated the research brief on the tourism potential of the Greater Masaka sub-region vis-à-vis EACOP project risks. AFIEGO and our partners also discussed the risks presented by sugarcane growing and oil activities in ecosenstive areas. These efforts raised stakeholder awareness, with the district leaders that were engaged committing to promote some of the tourist activities that were identified in their regions. Further, some of the tourism sector stakeholders resolved to advocate for prioritisation of tourism development over oil and sugarcane expansion in sensitive ecosystems such as Bugoma forest and Murchison Falls National Park.

### Supporting community sensitisation campaigns on the benefits of agro-ecology:

To address the climate crisis while supporting biodiversity conservation, it is important to wean farmers off of their reliance on agrochemicals. The chemicals are not only harmful to people and nature, but they also entrench the fossil fuel industry, further exacerbating the climate crisis. In July 2025 therefore, AFIEGO supported our IGEN-EA partners to hold a radio talkshow at Baba FM in Jinja City. Our partners disseminated research findings from an IGEN-EA brief on the impacts of agrochemicals on small-scale farmers in the Busoga sub-region. The brief was produced in 2024. During the radio talkshow, IGEN-EA members encouraged farmers to embrace agro-ecological farming methods to enhance soil health, reduce environmental pollution and improve long-term agricultural productivity.

### **Establishing clean energy hubs and demonstration centers:**

In 2024, AFIEGO supported our IGEN-EA partners to set up a clean energy hub in Fort Portal City in the Albertine Graben in Western Uganda. The hub proved to be a useful tool in enhancing community awareness and uptake of clean energy. In 2025 therefore, AFIEGO supported efforts aimed at enabling the establishment of more community clean energy hubs and demonstration centres to serve more communities. Before setting up the hubs or demonstration centres however, AFIEGO in collaboration with IGEN-EA supported women from the oil-affected districts of Buliisa, Hoima, Kikuube and Lwengo to visit the IGEN-EA clean energy hub in Fort Portal. This was in May 2025. The women identified the clean energy technologies that would be most appropriate for their communities. The women also received trainings on how to make briquettes, which are an energy-saving alternative to firewood and charcoal.

Thereafter, in July 2025, AFIEGO and our IGEN-EA partners supported the women to set up clean energy demonstration centres in Buliisa and Kikuube districts. The centres proved instrumental in enhancing community awareness of clean energy alternatives. They also ignited community interest in clean energy entrepreneurship.

In September 2025, AFIEGO and our IGEN-EA partners also launched a clean energy hub along Hoima-Kampala road. The hub proved instrumental in not only raising community awareness of clean energy alternatives, but also enabled IGEN-EA partners to forge relationships with clean energy providers in the private sector. By the end of 2025, the clean energy service providers were training 23 community members to become solar technicians or had recruited them to become solar distributors. Of those that were trained or recruited, 78.3% were women.

### **Popularising clean energy hubs to drive clean energy awareness and uptake:**

To popularise the clean energy hubs operated by IGEN-EA, AFIEGO supported the network to organise radio talkshows in May, September and November 2025. During the radio talkshows, AFIEGO and our IGEN-EA partners invited community members to learn about energy-saving technologies that would reduce the costs they expend on purchasing cooking and other forms of energy for their households. The radio talkshows took place at Spice FM in Hoima and Voice of Tooro as well as HITS FM in Fort Portal. In 2025, hundreds of people visited the two IGEN-EA clean energy hubs, thanks to the mobilisation efforts undertaken by the network. Further, popularisation of

the hubs led to partnerships being established with district leaders in Kabarole district where Fort Portal city is located. The leaders called on the hosts of the IGEN-EA clean energy hub in Fort Portal to participate in district campaigns aimed at raising stakeholder awareness of the benefits of clean energy.

### **Supporting youth advocacy for clean energy entrepreneurship:**

AFIEGO and our IGEN-EA partners believe that communities must be co-creators and participants in the just energy transition. Communities and youth should not only be consumers of clean energy products; they should be empowered to sustainably assemble these products as well. Throughout 2025 therefore, AFIEGO supported our IGEN-EA partners, especially women and youth, to advocate for an enabling regulatory, financial and other environments to be created by government to enable women and youth to turn into clean energy entrepreneurs. The youth largely used the media to undertake this advocacy.





**Photo highlights of some of IGEN-EA's efforts to promote green economic alternatives in 2025**

**Achievements registered as a result of promoting green economic alternatives**

- 1. The establishment of community clean energy hubs and demonstration centers in Kikuube and Buliisa districts enhanced clean energy awareness and uptake.** Of the community members that visited the hubs, 14.5% bought clean energy technologies, thereby supporting efforts to promote climate action and address gender disparities brought about by community reliance on dirty forms of energy.
- 2. In addition, popularisation of the hubs led to forging of partnerships between IGENE-EA partners and government as well as the private sector.** These partnerships saw IGENE-EA being included in government efforts to raise stakeholder awareness on clean energy alternatives in Fort Portal City. It also saw 28 community members from Kikuube district benefitting from training in solar installation among others.
- 3. Furthermore, owing to the advocacy undertaken by IGEN-EA and others, the government increased allocations to the sustainable energy sector by 5.5%,** from UGX 982.56 billion in FY 2024/25 to UGX 1.04 trillion in FY 2025/26. Funds are necessary to support citizens' efforts to access clean energy.
- 4. In addition, some tourism sector stakeholders resolved to more actively promote tourism over sugarcane growing as well as oil and gas exploitation ecosensitive areas** in Uganda following being engaged by IGEN-EA in August 2025.

## SECTION 3

### KEY ACHIEVEMENTS, CHALLENGES AND PRIORITIES

This section highlights our key achievements in 2025, challenges faced and key priorities for 2026.

#### 3.1. Highlights of key achievements

Some of our key achievements in 2025 include:

**1. Because of AFIEGO's research efforts, the organisation and our partners were able to raise stakeholder awareness** of the green economic opportunities that can be promoted in key regions as opposed to oil and gas. In particular, the organisation and our partners raised stakeholder awareness of the tourism opportunities of Bugoma forest and the Greater Masaka sub-region vis-à-vis EACOP project risks.

**2. As a result of the above, in 2025, we saw key cultural institutions and district tourism officers** from Greater Masaka either appreciating the information shared or committing to promote the tourism opportunities in their regions as opposed to ecosystem-destroying activities.

**3. When it comes to milestones registered from our policy influencing efforts, AFIEGO ensured** that key stakeholders including community groups and operators of micro or small clean energy businesses among others submit views on Uganda's Energy Efficiency and Conservation Bill in 2025. If our and our partners' proposals are integrated into the bill and final law, measures to enable compliance to the law to promote climate action will be strengthened.

**4. Further, AFIEGO ensured that women, who experience weaker land rights and are marginalised** in policy making spaces, participated in efforts to influence Uganda's policies for the common good in 2025. The women made proposals for the LARRP and if their proposals are adopted, Uganda will have a gender-sensitive land acquisition policy that protects project-affected people's, including women's, rights.

**5. In relation to community empowerment efforts, in 2025, AFIEGO supported at least ten** community groups to continue to mobilise fellow oil-affected community members and engage in community-led advocacy. This ensured that the principle of nothing-for-us-without-us was applied in advocacy on oil

sector matters in Uganda. With AFIEGO's support, the communities disseminated over 24 advocacy materials in 2025.

**6. Further, in 2025, oil-affected people for the first time held a meeting with cultural leaders** from Buganda Kingdom, which is one of Uganda's most powerful cultural institutions. The people raised kingdom officials' awareness of the impacts of oil activities on Buganda Kingdom subjects.

Commitments were made by the kingdom's officials to conduct field visits to enable them collect evidence to use in addressing the people's grievances.

**7. In addition, some households in Buliisa district that lost property to elephant-human** conflicts were compensated by UWA in 2025. This followed years of advocacy, as well as the meeting between UWA and the affected communities that AFIEGO and ECAG organised in April 2025. In addition, construction of an electric fence around Murchison Falls National Park to address the conflicts resumed in 2025.

**8. Further, more Ugandan fisherfolk joined the FishNet Alliance so that they can harness the** power of collectives to promote more effective advocacy to address the plight of oil-affected fishers. AFIEGO supported the fisherfolk to meet with FishNet Alliance members from over 16 countries in 2025, culminating in this milestone.

**9. When it comes to forest conservation, a major milestone was registered when the National Forestry Authority engaged Bugoma forest host communities and others to begin restoring some degraded areas of Bugoma forest.** The communities were allocated 200 hectares of forest land for restoration. By September 2025, the communities had restored over 160 hectares of forest land. AFIEGO and our partners have since 2020 been engaged in efforts to increase community participation in forest governance. We have also been advocating for conservation of the forest.

**10. Further, since 2021 when NEMA issued a directive to Hoima Sugar Ltd (HSL) to restore 4,854.7 hectares/18.73 sq.** AFIEGO, our partners

and Bugoma forest host communities have been engaged in advocacy since 2021 to ensure that HSL acts on the directive. In 2025, Kikuube district leaders reported that HSL was complying with the order, and had started on the restoration efforts.

**11. AFIEGO also registered several milestones from the organisation and our partners' litigation efforts. The litigation,** and the attendant communication on the cases that the organisation prosecuted ensured that the public kept informed about the human rights violations as well as biodiversity conservation and climate change risks presented by Uganda's oil projects. This supported efforts to debunk the narrative that oil exploitation fosters development. It also aided movement building to address fossil fuel risks.

**12. In addition, AFIEGO was able to delay the eviction of some oil-affected people from their land,** thanks to the organisation's litigation efforts. By the end of 2025, only five out of 122 eviction orders had been issued by court against Tilenga- and EACOP-affected people. The eviction orders, which were sought by the Ugandan government against its own citizens, that were issued were unfortunate however, and caused harm to the affected people.

**13. Furthermore, the litigation efforts ensured that communities that are resisting unfair compensation for the EACOP, Tilenga, and oil refinery projects have remedy, and that their right to say no is exercised.**

**14. As regards AFIEGO and our partners' cross-border efforts, we registered milestones such as** establishing the Transboundary Nature Conservation (TNCN) to aid collaboration efforts aimed at addressing nature conservation risks in Uganda and the DRC.

**15. Further, in 2025, AFIEGO joined the Africa Public Finance Watch platform to aid participation** in civil society efforts aimed at promoting financial flows to Africa to support communities to transition to the use of clean energy.

**16. When it comes to promoting a just energy transition, AFIEGO added to national, regional and global efforts aimed at deconstructing the narrative that oil jobs are key to supporting Africa's economic**

development. We showed that oil jobs are often fewer than promised, are short-lived and can cause harm. It is best to promote inclusive, sustainable green jobs. AFIEGO also contributed to national, regional and global efforts aimed at deconstructing the narrative that gas is clean

**17. Makerere University youth suggested the setting up of green jobs clubs in 2025 to enable continuous awareness raising of available green jobs to ensure that youth are not left behind in the just energy transition.** This followed the convening of a green jobs fair at the university by AFIEGO and our IGEN-EA partners. During the fair, we discussed the green jobs that are available to youth.

**18. Further, in 2025, AFIEGO contributed to efforts to ensure that Uganda's electricity sector responds to citizens' needs by delivering affordable, reliable and accessible electricity.**

**19. Finally, the establishment of community clean energy hubs and demonstration centers** in Kikuube and Buliisa districts enhanced clean energy awareness and uptake. Of the community members that visited the hubs, 14.5% bought clean energy technologies, thereby supporting efforts to promote climate action and address gender disparities brought about community reliance on dirty forms of energy.

**20. The popularisation of the hubs also led to forging of partnerships between IGENE-EA partners and government as well as the private sector.** These partnerships saw IGEN-EA being included in government efforts to raise stakeholder awareness on clean energy alternatives in Fort Portal City. It also saw 28 community members from Kikuube district benefitting from training in solar installation among others.

### 3.2. Challenges in 2025

Despite the above-mentioned achievements, AFIEGO experiences challenges. Below are the challenges we faced in 2025.

**(i) By the end of 2025, essential policies were yet to be enacted.** Policies such as the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Bill, the Consumer Protection and Management Bill and the Land Acquisition, Resettlement, and Rehabilitation Policy (LARRP) were yet to be completed or enacted.

**(ii) Further, oil-affected communities especially women continued to face** violations of their rights including limited participation in decision-making and inadequate access to compensation in 2025.

**(iii) In addition, oil activities and sugarcane growing in ecologically sensitive areas** such as Murchison Falls National Park and Bugoma Central Forest Reserve that pose significant threats to biodiversity conservation and livelihoods also continued in 2025.

**(iv) Human-wildlife conflicts as a result of oil activities in protected areas such as** Murchison Falls National Park (MFNP) also continued in 2025. Furthermore, some communities who lost properties and loved ones as a result of human-elephant conflicts were yet to be compensated by the end of 2025.

**(v) In 2025, we also experienced delayed hearing of court cases filed by** communities while cases filed by government entities were fast-tracked. Four (4) oil-affected households were also evicted in 2025, and their property destroyed due to a weak and partial judiciary that prioritises the needs of IOCs over community rights.

**(vi) In addition, in 2025, the East African Court of Justice (EACJ) dismissed** the case that we and our partners filed to stop the immense human rights, biodiversity conservation and climate change concerns associated with the EACOP project. The case was dismissed on technical grounds and was not heard on its merits.

**(vii) When it comes to the promotion of green economic alternatives, we** experienced limited uptake of clean energy alternatives. Communities indicated that they lacked the resources to buy the technologies.

**(viii) Furthermore, while youth were desirous of setting up green jobs clubs at** universities such as Makerere to promote green jobs over oil jobs, the clubs were yet to be set up by the end of the year.

**(ix) In addition, government and other actors continued to invest inadequate funds** in the green economic sectors, thereby undermining their capacity to promote green growth.

**(x) By the end of 2025 as well, electricity services remained largely inaccessible,** unreliable and unaffordable. The civic space in the country also continued to be repressed.

### 3.3. Key priorities in 2026

In light of the above, the following are AFIEGO's key priorities for 2026:

- Continue to publish research to support policy and other forms of advocacy to promote human rights observance, biodiversity conservation and climate action;
- Support women, youth and our partners to engage government and other stakeholders to enact essential policies that safeguard citizens' rights and are gender responsive;
- Continue to support oil-affected communities in Uganda to organise, mobilise and advocate to stop fossil fuel impacts and risks;
- Support communities and other stakeholders to advocate for conservation of Bugoma forest and the establishment of protected areas as no-go zones for oil and other extractive activities;
- Continue to prosecute cases in Ugandan, East African and French courts of law to end corporate impunity against communities and address environmental as well as climate change concerns related to extractive projects;
- Strengthen engagements with cross-border partners from the DRC and elsewhere to address the risks presented by fossil fuels to cross-border natural resources and livelihoods;
- Continue to support advocacy by women and youth for electricity services that are accessible, affordable and reliable; and
- Continue to support IGEN-EA to promote green economic alternatives in Uganda and East Africa at large while promoting a conducive civic space.

## 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 was 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-Makere-re. 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 where she leads strategic litigation on extractive governance, climate justice, land rights, and protection of civic space in Uganda's energy sector. She is an Advocate of the High Court of Uganda and a member of both the Uganda Law Society and the East African Law Society. She holds a Bachelor of Laws degree from Uganda Christian University (UCU), Mukono and a postgraduate diploma from the Law Development Centre (LDC). Ms. Talemwa is an alumna of the African Climate Legal Fellowship Programme and is committed to advancing community-centred climate justice.

**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.

## APPENDIX II: AFIEGO'S RESEARCH AND STUDENT ASSOCIATES

**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. 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.

**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 2025. She holds a Bachelor of Laws degree from Uganda Christian University, Mukono. She is passionate about climate justice, sustainable environment initiatives and environmental law.

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