

**April 2026; Issue 4**

## **BUDGET 2026/2027: GOVERNMENT MUST PRIORITIZE GREEN ECONOMIC SECTORS**



A group photo of AFIEGO staff and IGEN-EA members after a strategic meeting held in Kampala-Uganda

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Dear reader, welcome to AFIEGO's April 2026 newsletter.

On April 24, 2026, Parliament passed the FY 2026/2027 national budget amounting to UGX 84.39 trillion, an increase from the proposals contained in the National Budget Framework Paper.

The budget is aimed at achieving full monetization of Uganda's economy through investments in commercial agriculture, industrialization, service expansion, digital transformation, and market access.

While presenting the budget to parliament, the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, Hon. Matia Kasajja, outlined key priority areas for FY 2026/2027. These include maintaining peace and security, infrastructural development, science and technology, commercial agriculture, tourism development, and mineral-based industrialization, among others.

Following the release of the budget, AFIEGO and our partners under the Inclusive Green Economy Network-East Africa (IGEN-EA) undertook an analysis of the allocations to assess whether they are sufficient to promote green economic growth and support Uganda's commitments under the Fourth National Development Plan (NDP IV).

Our analysis shows that the FY 2026/2027 budget reflects uneven alignment with NDP IV indicative planning figures across green economic sectors. While some sectors are receiving allocations that are close to their targets, others remain significantly underfunded.

For instance, the tourism sector has been allocated UGX 571.52 billion compared to the NDP IV target of UGX 620 billion, while the Environment, Natural Resources, Climate

Change, Land and Water Management (ENR) Programme received UGX 514 billion against a target of UGX 523 billion, indicating near alignment.

However, larger gaps are evident in agro-industrialisation and sustainable energy, which have been allocated UGX 2.2 trillion and UGX 1.226 trillion respectively, compared to NDP IV targets of UGX 2.688 trillion and UGX 1.506 trillion respectively.

This mixed performance raises concerns about the effectiveness of budget prioritization, particularly given the critical role that green economic sectors play in driving employment, enhancing resilience to climate change, and supporting Uganda's long-term development goals.

In our **Word from CEO and IGEN-EA**, we provide a deeper analysis of these budget allocations and make recommendations on how government can better align public spending with national development priorities.

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

Furthermore, we bring you our **lobbying** section through which we share some of the lobby and advocacy products that we produced and disseminated in April 2026.

Finally, in **in the media** section, we bring you some of the newspaper articles written by our staff and partners that were published in the leading newspapers in April 2026.

We hope that you will find this newsletter informative and insightful.

## Editorial team:

**Doreen Asasira**

**Paul Kato**

**Mercy Nuwamanya**

## ALIGNING UGANDA'S 2026/2027 BUDGET WITH GREEN GROWTH PRIORITIES

Across the globe, countries are accelerating efforts to transition towards low-carbon, climate-resilient economies. Uganda is part of this global shift, but the pace and consistency of investment in critical green sectors remain key challenges.

As the country seeks to address climate change impacts, unemployment, and environmental degradation, the national budget remains one of the most important tools for driving sustainable development.

The FY 2026/2027 national budget presents both progress and gaps. Unlike previous financial years where green sectors experienced clear budget reductions, the current allocations reflect a mixed performance when compared to the Fourth National Development Plan (NDP IV).

While some sectors are receiving funding close to their indicative planning targets, others remain significantly below what is required to drive inclusive economic transformation.

Below is an analysis of the FY 2026/2027 national budget that was passed by parliament this month (April 2026).

### ANALYSIS OF FY 2026/2027 NATIONAL BUDGET PROPOSALS

**Agro-industrialisation program:** Agriculture remains the backbone of Uganda's economy, employing nearly 70% of Uganda's laborforce

and contributing approximately 25.6% of Uganda's GDP. Under the NDP IV, agro-industrialisation is prioritized as a key driver of tenfold economic growth by 2040 due to its strong potential for job creation, value addition, food security, and industrial development.

However, the FY 2026/2027 budget allocation falls short of expectations. The sector has been allocated UGX 2.2 trillion, compared to the NDP IV indicative figure of UGX 2.688 trillion, resulting in a funding gap of approximately UGX 488 billion.

Although this represents an increase from previous financial years, the allocation remains insufficient to support critical investments in irrigation, agro-processing infrastructure, research, and extension services.

This gap may slow progress in value addition and limit the sector's capacity to generate large-scale employment, particularly for youth.

In addition, underinvestment in agriculture could weaken linkages with manufacturing and trade, ultimately affecting Uganda's broader economic transformation agenda.

**Tourism development program:** Tourism continues to be one of Uganda's leading economic sectors, contributing approximately 7.7% to GDP and employing over 870,000 people. In 2025, the sector generated an estimated UGX 6.1 trillion (USD 1.7 billion) in foreign

exchange earnings, reflecting strong recovery and sustained growth momentum.

To sustain this progress, the NDP IV prioritizes investments in infrastructure development, skills enhancement, product diversification, and destination marketing, positioning tourism as a high-return sector for economic transformation and export growth.

The FY 2026/2027 budget allocates UGX 571.52 billion to the tourism sector against an NDP IV target of UGX 620 billion, resulting in a funding gap of UGX 48.48 billion.

This funding gap is significant and may constrain the sector's ability to fully implement its planned priorities. In particular, it could limit investments in tourism infrastructure development, global destination promotion, product diversification, and service quality improvement.

Given the increasingly competitive global tourism market, closing this gap and ensuring efficient utilization of allocated resources will be critical for Uganda to sustain growth and maximize the sector's contribution to economic development.

**Sustainable energy development program:** Sustainable energy is a cornerstone of Uganda's economic transformation, supporting industrialization, expanding access to electricity, and enabling climate resilience. It also drives productivity

across key sectors such as agriculture, tourism, and manufacturing.

Despite its importance, the sector remains underfunded. The FY 2026/2027 allocation stands at UGX 1.226 trillion, compared to the NDP IV indicative figure of UGX 1.506 trillion, leaving a funding gap of approximately UGX 280 billion.

This shortfall may hinder Uganda's progress towards achieving universal electricity access and clean cooking targets by 2030, as well as limit investments in renewable energy and energy efficiency initiatives. Furthermore, inadequate funding in the energy sector could have ripple effects across the economy by constraining productivity in other sectors that depend on reliable and affordable power.

**Environment, Natural Resources, Climate Change, Land and Water Management (ENR) program:** Uganda's natural resources underpin livelihoods, biodiversity, and economic resilience. Effective management of these resources is critical for climate change adaptation, environmental protection, and sustainable development.

The FY 2026/2027 budget allocates UGX 514 billion to the ENR sector compared to an NDP IV target of UGX 523 billion. This funding gap remains important and may affect the sector's ability to fully deliver on its mandate.

This suggests that the sector is closely aligned with national planning targets, reflecting improved prioritization

compared to previous years. However, the effectiveness of this funding will depend on implementation. Persistent challenges such as weak enforcement, limited institutional capacity, deforestation, wetland degradation, and climate-related shocks could undermine progress if not adequately addressed. Strengthening accountability and institutional effectiveness will therefore be critical.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

In light of the above analysis, AFIEGO and IGEN-EA propose the following recommendations to address the identified gaps and strengthen alignment between the FY 2026/2027 budget and the NDP IV priorities:

**a) Parliament should prioritize closing the financing gap in the agro-industrialisation program** by increasing allocations from the current UGX 2.2 trillion to at least the NDP IV indicative figure of UGX 2.688 trillion. Given the sector's role in employment creation, food security, and industrialization, enhanced funding is critical to support irrigation, agro-processing, mechanization, and extension services.

**b) Government should increase investment in the sustainable energy sector** to at least UGX 1.506 trillion, in line with the NDP IV indicative planning figure. This will support the achievement of universal electricity access and clean cooking targets by 2030, as well as accelerate implementation of Uganda's

Energy Transition Plan and broader climate commitments.

**c) While the tourism program is relatively well aligned with NDP IV targets**, parliament should ensure that the remaining funding gap of approximately UGX 48.48 billion is addressed and that allocated resources are efficiently utilized.

Emphasis should be placed on strategic investments in tourism infrastructure, product diversification, skills development, and global marketing to enhance competitiveness and maximize returns.

**d) Government should ensure that the Environment, Natural Resources, Climate Change, Land and Water Management (ENR) program** is fully funded to meet and sustain the NDP IV target of UGX 523 billion, while also strengthening institutional capacity, enforcement, and accountability mechanisms to improve the effectiveness of spending.

**e) To enhance sustainability, government should reduce over-reliance on external financing** for green economic sectors by developing and implementing a domestic resource mobilization and financing transition strategy. This will improve resilience to external shocks and ensure predictable funding for priority sectors.

**By AFIEGO AND IGEN-EA**

# Pictorial of our activities

## AFIEGO TRAINS OIL PROJECT-AFFECTED PEOPLE IN COMMUNITY ORGANISING



On March 27, 2026, AFIEGO supported EACOP project-affected persons (PAPs) from Kyotera district to participate in a community organizing training.

The training aimed at strengthening community capacity to organize, advocate for their rights, and safely engage in efforts to address the impacts of oil projects.



## AFIEGO SUPPORTS COMMUNITY MEMBERS TO ATTEND COURT SESSION IN HOIMA



On April 2, 2026, AFIEGO supported Tilenga oil project-affected community members to participate in the hearing of their court case. The hearing took place at the High Court in Hoima district.

The case is aimed at supporting oil-affected community members to defend their land rights.

Oil activities in the Albertine Graben have increased land grabbing in the region. AFIEGO supports oil-affected community members to defend their land rights to protect their livelihoods and enhance their climate resilience.

## AFIEGO HOLDS LEGAL GUIDANCE MEETING WITH AGGRIEVED OIL SECTOR WORKER



On April 23, 2026, AFIEGO organized a client consultation and case review meeting with Mr. Rogers Byaruhanga regarding challenges affecting his workplace injury compensation case.

During the meeting, AFIEGO's legal team reviewed the court file, discussed legal and evidentiary challenges affecting the case, and advised the client on the most practical way forward while awaiting the final medical reassessment results from the Medical Arbitration Board.

## AFIEGO PARTICIPATES IN A MEETING WITH EACOP-AFFECTED PERSONS IN KYOTERA DISTRICT



On April 15, 2026, AFIEGO participated in a meeting between EACOP-affected people, Kyotera district leaders and the EACOP Company.

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss and find a way forward for compensation-related grievances faced by communities.

AFIEGO provided counsel to the community members to ensure that their grievances are addressed.

Protecting oil-affected communities' land rights is important for protecting their livelihoods while supporting biodiversity conservation.

## Lobbying

Between March and April 2026, AFIEGO conducted interviews with women living in communities affected by EACOP activities in Uganda. These women including the elderly and single mothers shared experiences on how land acquisition and project activities have affected their livelihoods. Their stories were compiled into a publication to support advocacy for justice and accountability.

Additionally, AFIEGO and partners supported environmental and human rights advocates to write to the Chief Justice of Uganda requesting administrative intervention in delayed rulings on public interest litigation cases.

Further, AFIEGO and civil society partners submitted a memorandum to Parliament presenting views on the Protection of Sovereignty Bill, 2026, highlighting its potential negative implications on green economic activities and community rights. These and other advocacy materials are presented below.

**Earth Day 2026**

On this **Earth Day**, IGEN-EA calls upon the **Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries and East African governments** to champion agroecology as a sustainable pathway to protect biodiversity, combat food insecurity, and strengthen livelihoods while driving inclusive green economic growth.

We urge increased investment in agricultural extension services, including expanding extension worker coverage at Parish and Sub-County levels, to equip farmers with training and financing that boosts sustainable agricultural productivity.

Governments must also prioritize community-based trainings that empower local populations with practical skills to conserve forests, manage water resources, and adopt clean energy solutions, while ensuring adequate and sustained financing for the Environment and Natural Resources sectors.

The Clerk,  
Parliament of Uganda,  
Plot 16-18, Parliament Avenue,  
Kampala, Uganda

OFFICE OF THE MINISTER OF TOURISM, WILDLIFE & HERITAGE  
24 APR 2026  
R. E. C. L. V. D. D.  
MINISTRY OF TOURISM WILDLIFE AND HERITAGE, KAMPALA, UGANDA

MINISTRY OF ENERGY AND MINERAL DEVELOPMENT  
P. O. BOX 102, ENTEBBE  
24 APR 2026

April 24, 2026  
0755419959  
RECEIVED  
24 APR 2026  
IN PRMS

**MEMORANDUM CONTAINING VIEWS ON THE PROTECTION OF SOVEREIGNTY BILL 2026**

**1. Introduction**

The above refers!

On April 15, 2026, the State Minister for Internal Affairs tabled the Protection of Sovereignty Bill, 2026 before parliament for debate and enactment.

The bill seeks to designate the department of peace and security as being responsible for the registration and regulation of agents of foreigners, provide for the registration of agents of foreigners, and regulate funding for agents of foreigners among others.

Following tabling of the bill, the Clerk to parliament invited members of the public to submit their views on the bill. This was through a notice that was published in the *New Vision* and *Daily Monitor* newspapers of April 17, 2026.

This memorandum, which is being submitted by the undersigned civil society and private sector partners working to promote green economic alternatives and climate action, is in response to the above invitation. Also, communities from Bunyoro and Greater Masaka sub-regions are signatories to the memorandum.

The green economic activities that the undersigned promote include organic agriculture, sustainable fisheries, sustainable tourism, clean energy as well as natural resources management.

**2. General comments**

While government is desirous of guarding Uganda's sovereignty, the undersigned are of the view that the Protection of Sovereignty Bill, 2026 will have far-reaching negative implications on Uganda's national development aspirations, which are hindering some of the above-mentioned green economic sectors.

OFFICE OF THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, ANIMAL INDUSTRY AND FISHERIES  
24 APR 2026  
RECEIVED  
P. O. Box 102, Entebbe

OFFICE OF THE MINISTER OF WATER & ENVIRONMENT  
24 APR 2026  
P. O. BOX 20028, KAMPALA  
MINISTRY OF WATER & ENVIRONMENT

**Unburying their dead, destroying their gardens**

**The EACOP and Uganda's Women**

AFIEGO

# In the media

In April 2026, AFIEGO staff and research associates authored opinion articles that were published in leading newspapers.

In addition, various advocacy messages were disseminated through social media platforms to raise awareness on environmental justice, energy governance, and community rights.

**Justice can't wait: End the silence on pending rulings**

Eight (8) youth environmental and human rights activists that filed three (3) court cases to support the enforcement of Ugandans' right to freedom of assembly, freedom of association and other rights wrote to the Chief Justice on April 8, 2026. Why?

The youth filed the aforementioned cases in 2024. They were heard. The judges that presided over the cases made commitments to issue rulings on the cases in June, October and November 2025. Several months later, and despite written requests by the youth to the judiciary, the rulings in the cases are yet to be issued.

**The youth are saying enough is enough!**

They want the Chief Justice to engage the judges to issue the rulings for the benefit of all Ugandans.

**Issue the rulings now!**

Justice delayed is justice denied! Ugandans need justice now—not later.

The Chairperson,  
Uganda Human Rights Commission  
Jlos Towers, Plot 98-102 Katalima Road, Naguru, Kampala  
Kampala, Uganda.

10th April, 2026.

**RE: A CALL FOR ACTION ON CONTINUING HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN OIL-IMPACTED COMMUNITIES**

We write to you as Project Affected Persons (PAPs) from Uganda's oil regions. We are farmers, families, and entire communities whose lives have been upended by oil projects in Bulisa, Hoima, and Greater Masaka. Many have lost land, homes, and livelihoods. Many are still entangled in court cases. Many are still waiting for justice.

We are aware that one of us, Mr. Agaba Crispus Andrew Katusabe, wrote to your Commission complaining about the violation of his rights leading up to his eviction from his land. We are also aware that your office responded that it had no jurisdiction because the matter was in court. A copy of those letters is attached to this letter for ease of reference.

A year has passed since that exchange. In that time, not only has the situation failed to improve, it has grown worse.

**Where We Are Coming From**

When Mr. Agaba wrote to you, he was not seeking an appeal of a court decision. He was asking you to understand what happened to him, and to many of us, and to act within your mandate to protect human rights. His background information aimed to show the full picture: how land was taken, compensation disputed, evictions carried out, and people left without real protection.

The requests were clear:

- That our right to property under Article 26 be protected, especially where compensation is neither fair nor adequate;
- That our right to a fair hearing under Article 28 be respected, particularly when decisions affecting our lives are made without giving us a real chance to be heard.

These are not complicated legal arguments. They are basic constitutional protections.

**What Has Happened Since**

## Our power, our planet: Time to act for the earth

BY COLUMNIST — April 21, 2026

13 SHARES

**By Olivia Atuhaire,**  
Editor, Earth Day is celebrated every year on April 22, to raise awareness about environmental protection. The 2026 theme "Our power, our planet" highlights the urgency of climate action, transition to renewable energy and the need to reduce pollution. Today Earth Day is observed in more than 190 countries, with over one billion

Home > News

## Uganda must expand renewable energy access for a sustainable future

BY COLUMNIST — April 22, 2026

8 SHARES

**By Vivian Ainembabazi,**  
**OPINION**

## A Nation at Risk of Silencing Itself: Why Uganda's Sovereignty Bill Could Cost Us More Than It Protects

BY COLUMNIST — April 16, 2026

16 SHARES

**By Doreen Asasira,**  
**OPINION**

**READ ALSO**

EARTH DAY 2026: Our Power, Our Planet

## Upcoming events

May 05-06, 2026; Kampala: Organize meetings with relevant authorities and university students to set up green jobs' clubs

May 07, 2026; Kampala: Support the production of a community publication on the human cost of the EACOP construction activities

May 10, 2026; Kampala: Engage the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development on existing electricity sector challenges

May 11, 2026; Greater Masaka: Support field visits by journalists to capture stories of EACOP project-affected persons

May 12–15, 2026; Bunyoro and Greater Masaka: Support field visits by the legal team for case preparation and evidence gathering

May 21, 2026; Hoima: Support oil refinery-affected persons to participate in the hearing of their case at Hoima High Court

May 27, 2026; Kampala: Support youth activists to obtain a ruling in their case at the Kampala High Court, Civil Division

May 28–29, 2026; Kampala: Support IGEN-EA to convene a strategic meeting for reflection and planning purposes

May 31, 2026; Online: Produce an awareness raising brief on Uganda's critical minerals and their environmental as well as social risks

## About AFIEGO

Africa Institute for Energy Governance (AFIEGO) is a non-profit company limited by guarantee that was incorporated under Uganda's Companies Act. AFIEGO undertakes public policy research and advocacy to influence energy policies to benefit the poor and vulnerable. Based in Kampala-Uganda, the non-profit company was born out of the need to contribute to efforts to turn Africa's clean energy potential into reality and to ensure that the common man and woman benefits from this energy transition. 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