



AFRICA INSTITUTE FOR ENERGY GOVERNANCE



ANNUAL REPORT 2023



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ABOUT AFIEGO

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

OUR VISION

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

OUR MISSION

To promote energy policies that benefit poor and vulnerable communities

OUR OBJECTIVES

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

OUR PROGRAMMES



The **Extractives Governance programme**: The objective of the programme is to influence extractives policies to improve the lives of citizens.

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

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

The programme is grounded in national, regional and global development agendas that are aimed at increasing clean and affordable energy access such as Uganda's National Development Plan (NDP) III, 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.

TABLE OF ACRONYMS

ACRONYM	MEANING
AFIEGO	Africa Institute for Energy Governance
ARUWE	Action for Rural Women's Empowerment
BEL	Bujagali Energy Ltd
CNOOC	China National Offshore Oil Corporation
CSBAG	Civil Society Budget Advocacy Group
CSOs	Civil Society Organisations
DIT	Directorate of Industrial Training
DRC	Democratic Republic of Congo
ECA	Export Credit Agency
EACJ	East African Court of Justice
EACOP	East African Crude Oil Pipeline
EACOP-N	East African Crude Oil Pipeline Affected People's Network
EAPCE	East African Petroleum Conference and Exhibition
EHRDs	Environmental and Human Rights Defenders
ESIA	Environmental and Social Impact Assessment
EU	European Union
GLA	Green Livelihoods Alliance
GoU	Government of Uganda
HSL	Hoima Sugar Ltd
IGEN-EA	Inclusive Green Economy Network- East Africa
IUCN-NL	International Union for Conservation of Nature-Netherlands
MEMD	Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development
MLHUD	Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
MPs	Members of Parliament
NCDC	National Curriculum Development Centre
NCEA	Netherlands Commission for Environmental Assessment
NEMA	National Environment Management Authority
NFA	National Forestry Authority
PAPs	Project-affected persons
PWDs	Persons with Disabilities
RAP	Resettlement Action Plan
SEA	Strategic Environment Assessment
SBFC	Save Bugoma Forest Campaign
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
UN	United Nations
UPR	Universal Periodic Review

KEY 2023 MILESTONES

No.	Photo	Key milestone
1.		<p>In 2023, AFIEGO supported the production and dissemination of over five research reports or briefs. The reports reached over 424, 842 stakeholders to promote climate action, human rights and environmental conservation.</p> <p>The research reports or briefs were also used by campaigners as evidence in efforts to stop harmful projects and promote sustainability among others.</p>
2.		<p>To ensure that policies, laws and plans are pro-people and promote sustainability, it is important that citizens participate in their formulation and implementation.</p> <p>In 2023 therefore, AFIEGO supported communities, women, youth, local government officials, civil society and private sector members among others to advocate for or make input into three key policies and laws including a Solar Energy Policy, a Consumer Protection Law and Uganda's Energy Transition Plan. The proposals made were aimed at promoting a just clean energy transition.</p>
3.		<p>Further, AFIEGO partnered with civil society, communities and other stakeholders to engage in over 68 advocacy actions in 2023. One of the key advocacy actions we undertook was engaging Uganda's parliament to enhance national budget allocations to green economic sectors.</p> <p>Consequently, government increased the 2023/2024 national budget allocations to the sustainable (clean) energy programme by 10%. The agro-industrialisation and tourism sector budgets were also enhanced.</p>

4.



Forest conservation remained on top of AFIEGO and our partners' agenda in 2023.

To promote conservation and restoration of Bugoma forest, AFIEGO advanced community aspirations during discussions on the **€152 million European Union-Government of Uganda forest partnership**. AFIEGO advocated for some of the funds under the partnership to be used for conservation of Bugoma forest.

AFIEGO also worked with our IGEN-EA partners to engage various stakeholders to **promote conservation and tourism in Bugoma forest**.

Some of the stakeholders we engaged committed to **promote tourism** in the forest.

5.



AFIEGO held **over 36** community sensitisation engagements during which we empowered oil-affected and forest host communities to work together, defend their rights and promote environmental conservation.

Our community sensitisation work saw the **formation of key community platforms or networks** that communities used to engage in impactful advocacy in 2023. Some of the platforms include the EACOP-affected people's network (EACOP-N) and Buliisa Patience Alliance.

6.



Youth are key champions for climate action and to support their efforts, AFIEGO strengthened their capacities in 2023. This was done through connecting them to their peers, trainings and solidarity building.

AFIEGO also supported online youth campaigns in 2023. The campaigns, which registered **over 17.8 million impressions**, raised public awareness and pressure to **stop harmful projects while promoting climate action**.

7.



In 2023, AFIEGO and our partners **prosecuted ten court cases** in Uganda, at the East African Court of Justice (EACJ) and the French courts of law. The cases are aimed at stopping the human rights violations perpetrated against oil-affected communities, address environmental rights abuses and promote climate action as well as a conducive civic space.

Importantly as well, we partnered with Pan-African partnerships such as Make Big Polluters Pay to provide **alternative dispute resolution mechanisms** for oil-affected communities in Uganda. Our litigation efforts contributed to raising public awareness of the risks of harmful projects.

8.



May 10, 2023

To: All Heads of State of East African Countries
Dear Your Excellencies,

*Received
Amintz
10.05.2023*

RE: OPEN LETTER REQUESTING EAST AFRICAN PRESIDENTS TO STOP FOSSIL FUEL INVESTMENTS IN EAST AFRICA

INTRODUCTION
We are East African civil society organisations (CSOs) working to promote renewable energy, environmental conservation, human rights observance and climate action. We are joined in solidarity by our brothers and sisters on the African continent.

We are writing to you today because this week, between May 9 and 11, 2023, the seven East African states and their partners are hosting the 10th East African Petroleum Conference and Exhibition (EAPCE) in Kampala. The EAPCE is being held under the theme, "East Africa as a hub for investment in exploration and exploitation of petroleum resources for sustainable energy and socio-economic development".

Among others, the EAPCE will showcase the oil and gas investment opportunities in East Africa with a view of attracting investments in East Africa's petroleum sector.

CONCERNS
Your Excellencies, while we appreciate your efforts to promote energy access and socio-economic development for East Africa, we are worried that your focus on exploiting the region's petroleum resource stands to undermine your goals. This is because of the following:

(6) **Energy transition and economic risks:** Your Excellencies, to tackle the huge threat of climate change, countries have made pledges to reduce their use of coal, oil and gas. Consequently, in its 2021 World Energy Outlook report, the International Energy Agency

¹ World Energy Outlook 2021: <https://www.iea.org/reports/world-energy-outlook-2021/effects-of-climate-change>

In 2023, AFIEGO worked with our partners from the DRC to organise exchange learnings, planning meetings and **cross-border** community capacity strengthening exercises during which communities were empowered to advocate for clean energy investments.

We also engaged in joint advocacy efforts, which built pressure aimed at stopping the expansion of the oil and gas industry in the African Great Lakes region. This work is critical as it ensures that Africa, which is the new frontier for oil and gas expansion, **does not get left behind in the transition away from fossil fuels.**

9.



To enhance community access to clean energy, AFIEGO and our IGEN-EA partners held sensitisation and training activities for communities in Uganda's Albertine Graben, and elsewhere.

We saw a **30% adoption** of clean energy technologies in one of the communities that we trained in Kikuube district in Western Uganda in 2023.

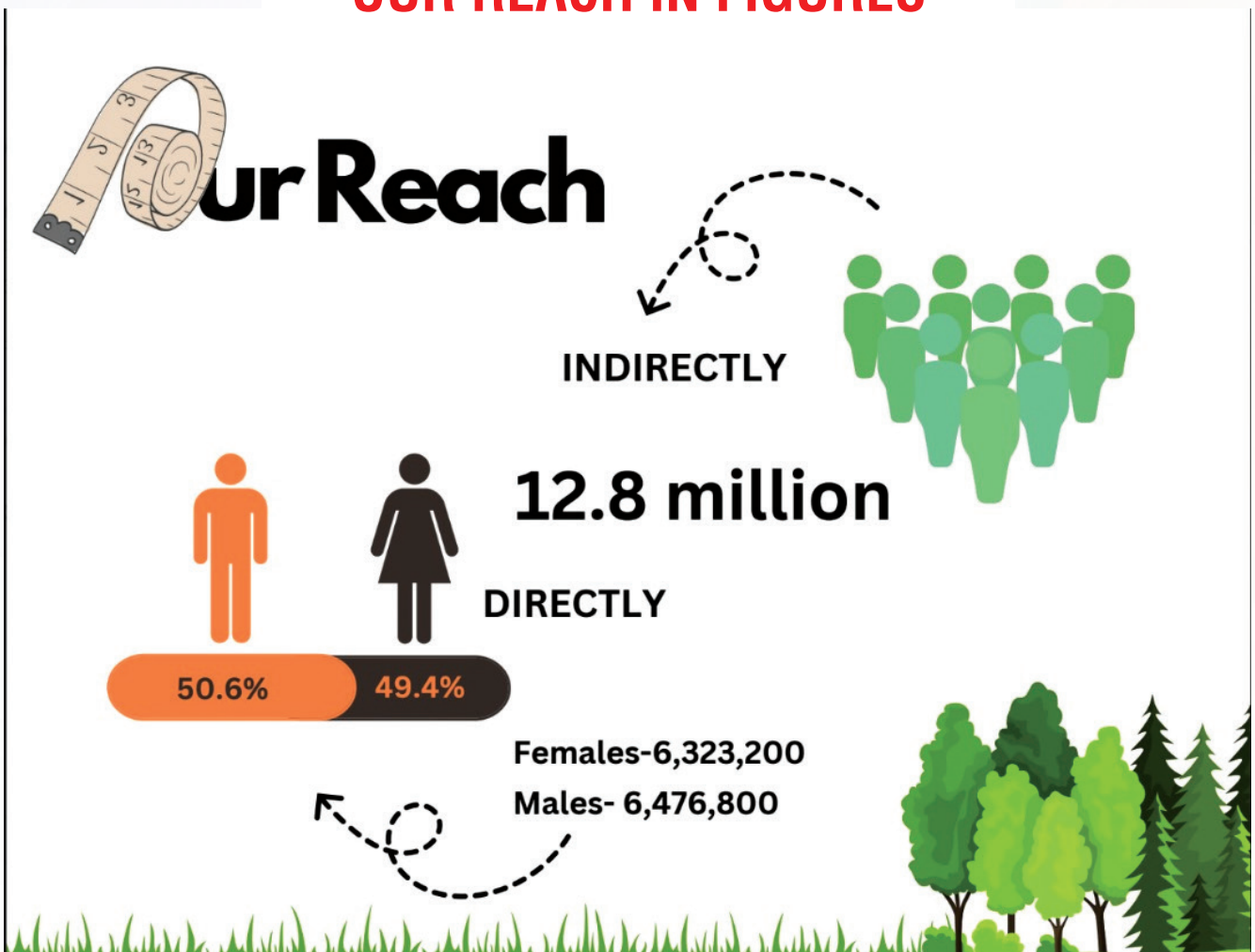
10.



In 2023, AFIEGO and our partners trained the communities that we work with to promote their **safety and gender mainstreaming**. AFIEGO also emphasized women and youth participation in our work.

As a result, women and youth were on the frontlines of promoting clean energy access in Uganda in 2023 so much so that the advocacy to promote clean energy that AFIEGO supported in 2023 was led on by **62.5% women and 37.5% men**.

OUR REACH IN FIGURES



SECTION 1

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CHAIRPERSON



Dear reader, welcome to AFIEGO's 2023 annual report. In this report, AFIEGO is pleased to share with you a summary of the organisation's efforts that were implemented under the extractives governance, electricity democracy as well as renewable energy efficiency and climate change programmes that AFIEGO runs.

On its part, the board is proud of the work that AFIEGO continues to do. The year 2023 was a particularly impactful one for AFIEGO and the board commends the secretariat for the work well done, despite challenges such as a restricted civic space in Uganda.

In 2023, AFIEGO was at the forefront of ensuring that citizens, especially communities that live on the margins of life, were involved in the making of the country's policies, laws and plans. Among others, AFIEGO mobilised citizens including women, youth, local government leaders, private sector players and others to lobby for the enactment of policies and laws such as the Solar Energy Policy and a Consumer Protection law.

AFIEGO and its partners also provided opportunities to enable citizens to make input into Uganda's Energy Transition Plan, which was launched by the Ugandan government in December 2023. Through these efforts, AFIEGO ensured that citizens are involved in driving the clean energy transition processes in the country.

Further, the organisation enhanced community participation in energy and forest governance. The former was done by supporting oil project-affected communities to create platforms through which they engaged in advocacy to defend community rights and promote biodiversity conservation as well as climate action. The formation of the East African Crude Oil Pipeline Affected People's Network (EACOP-N) and Buliisa Patience Alliance for the Tilenga oil project-affected persons was a noteworthy milestone. These platforms provided vehicles through which the often-marginalised communities could engage in advocacy.

When it comes to supporting forest host communities to participate in forest governance, AFIEGO organised meetings between forest host communities and power holders including local governments. AFIEGO also advanced community aspirations during discussions on the €152 million European Union-Government of Uganda forest partnership. Further, AFIEGO supported communities to participate in advocacy to promote tourism in Bugoma Central Forest Reserve (CFR), as opposed to destruction of the forest. This work is critical to ensuring that forests, which are under immense pressure due to oil and gas as well as other activities, are conserved.

Youth are one of Uganda's critical resource. However, the youth are also vulnerable because today's actions that include investment in climate-wrecking projects stand to compromise their wellbeing. To ensure that young climate activists were engaging policy makers, oil companies, financiers and others, AFIEGO capacitated them through trainings, exchange learnings and international solidarity building efforts. AFIEGO also supported the youth to engage in online campaigns calling for investment in green and not brown industries. These

campaigns were powerful as they registered over 17.8 million impressions, creating public awareness and pressure to promote climate action.

Speaking of climate action, wetlands have been identified as one of the key carbon sinks that must be protected. Unfortunately, these wetlands are at risk because of Uganda and the Democratic Republic of Congo's (DRC) oil and gas exploitation activities or plans respectively. To promote the conservation of wetlands, in 2023, AFIEGO conducted research and supported joint advocacy by Ugandan and Congolese civil society organisations (CSOs). The advocacy acted as a clarion call to relevant power holders and the public to act and stop the destruction of Ramsar and other wetlands due to oil activities.

In 2023, AFIEGO also worked with its partners under the Inclusive Green Economy Network-East Africa (IGEN-EA) to conduct advocacy to increase national budget allocations to green economic sectors such as clean energy, agriculture and tourism. AFIEGO and its IGEN-EA partners also engaged government agencies such as the Directorate of Industrial Training (DIT) and the National Curriculum Development Centre (NCDC) to strengthen skilling of Ugandans to enable their participation in clean energy jobs. Further, AFIEGO and IGEN-EA sensitised communities on clean energy alternatives, leading to a 30% increase in the adoption of clean energy technologies amongst one of the communities that was trained in Kikuube district in Western Uganda.

The Board expresses deep appreciation to all of AFIEGO's partners for their unwavering support throughout 2023. Your commitment has been instrumental in AFIEGO's achievements. The board remains dedicated to providing strong leadership and guidance as AFIEGO strives to fulfill its mission. We thank you again for your continued partnership.

Thank you,



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

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY BY THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



Dear reader, allow me to share this famous quote with you. It is: “The greatest legacy anyone can leave behind is to positively impact the lives of others”.

The above quote resonates with me because I believe that if we are to create a world that works for all, we must seek to make a difference in the lives of others. This mantra is also reflected in the work that

AFIEGO does and guided us in 2023.

What did we do and what milestones did AFIEGO register in 2023? I share key highlights of our work, the milestones we registered and the challenges we faced in 2023 below. Because we must never let hope die, and because we believe that with you our dear reader’s support we can continue to make a difference, I also reflect on the key work AFIEGO will undertake in 2024. We hope that this work will address the challenges that we faced in 2023. First, I discuss the critical work that AFIEGO did in 2023.

Supporting communities to create platforms for effective community-led advocacy: AFIEGO works with communities whose environmental resources, livelihoods and human rights among others are affected by energy projects. The communities are often at the margins of life, and are often far away from power centres, which affects their advocacy capacity. Many of the communities also face challenges because of their gender (women), are elderly or are persons with disabilities (PWDs). Despite these challenges, the communities often have power to change their circumstances, and to create a positive impact amidst harmful energy projects.

To support these communities, especially those affected by oil projects in Uganda to strengthen their advocacy capacity, AFIEGO organised meetings, exchange learnings, radio talkshows and other engagements in 2023 through which we empowered the people to understand their rights. We also empowered the people to understand the importance of working together to ensure that their voices are heard.

Consequently, the people formed platforms through which they could engage in joint advocacy to defend their rights and demand investment in green and not brown projects among others. Some of the platforms that were created include the EACOP-affected people’s network (EACOP-N), which was formed in March 2023. Buliisa Patience Alliance was also formed by the Tilenga oil project-affected persons.

Through the above platforms, the oil project-affected persons undertook over 12 advocacy initiatives targeted at the Ugandan government, oil companies operating in Uganda, financial institutions, development partners and others. The communities’ advocacy led to the restoration of human rights of some oil-affected families including those headed by PWDs, contributed to repudiating greenwashing efforts by oil companies and raised public pressure to promote biodiversity conservation among others.

Harnessing youth power to address oil threats: Uganda is described as a young country because over 70% of the country’s population is composed of youth and children. The actions, or inactions, of today therefore not only affect the youth and children today, but also stand to affect them in the future. Youth therefore need to be empowered with information, resources and others to engage in advocacy so that action is taken to promote their wellbeing today

and in the future. To ensure that the Ugandan government takes climate action, protects human rights and champions biodiversity conservation, AFIEGO connected Ugandan youth with their peers from Kenya and Sweden, organised capacity building trainings in financial advocacy and equipped the youth with knowledge on how to use regional courts to ensure that the Ugandan government takes climate action, conserves biodiversity and promotes human rights among others in 2023. AFIEGO also supported the youth to engage in online campaigns targeting governments, conservation agencies, financiers including Chinese ones and other stakeholders to build pressure to ensure that climate action is taken by stopping investments in harmful projects such as the EACOP, while promoting green projects. The youth's online campaigns registered over 17.8 million impressions, building public awareness and pressure to stop harmful oil projects.

Powering forest communities' advocacy: Forests play vital roles. From providing life-giving products such as food, water and medicine to powering economies as well as affirming communities' cultural identities, forests do it all. However, forests, which also play important biodiversity conservation and climate stabilisation roles, are under immense pressure. In Uganda, central forest reserves such as Bugoma face oil, land grabbing and sugarcane challenges. In 2023 therefore, AFIEGO supported forest host communities working under the Save Bugoma Forest Campaign (SBFC) local taskforce to undertake stakeholder sensitisation, engage their district leaders and undertake advocacy to stop the ongoing destruction of Bugoma forest for sugarcane growing. The forest land was irregularly taken in 2020 following an oil-induced land grabbing spree in the ecosensitive Albertine Graben. The communities' advocacy, in addition to the efforts undertaken by AFIEGO and our national partners, ensured that the need to stop the destruction of Bugoma forest remained in the public domain in 2023. We hope that this will sustain pressure to ensure that destruction of the forest stops and that the forest is restored.

Joining forces to stop cross-border oil and gas project risks: The Albertine Graben where Uganda's oil and gas activities are concentrated are shared with the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). As a result, cross-border communities have concerns as regards Uganda's oil exploitation activities. The communities also want the Ugandan and Congolese governments to take climate action through investing in clean energy as opposed to oil and gas projects. In 2023 therefore, AFIEGO joined forces with cross-border communities and CSOs from Uganda and the DRC to engage in advocacy. In January 2023 for instance, AFIEGO mobilised 82 CSOs from Uganda and the DRC among other African countries who issued a communique calling on the Ugandan government and China National Offshore Oil Corporation (CNOOC) to act on climate science by stopping the Kingfisher oil project drilling activities, which were launched in January 2023.

Further, in May 2023, when the East African countries held the 10th East African Petroleum Conference and Exhibition (EAPCE '23) in Kampala to showcase the oil and gas investment opportunities in East Africa, AFIEGO mobilised 41 East African CSOs to write a letter to East African presidents, calling on them to promote green investments instead of oil and gas exploitation. AFIEGO also mobilised 42 Ugandan and Congolese CSOs to reject a Barclays Bank report that sought to greenwash the EACOP project, in addition to mobilising 61 African CSOs to write to the Ramsar Secretariat in September 2023. The CSOs used the occasion of the Africa Climate Week that was held in Kenya to highlight the urgent need for the Ramsar Secretariat to take various actions to stop oil exploitation activities in Ramsar wetlands in Uganda and East Africa.

Our cross-border activities built pressure aimed at stopping the expansion of the oil and

gas industry in the African Great Lakes region. This work is critical as it ensures that Africa, which is the new frontier for oil and gas expansion, does not get left behind in the transition away from fossil fuels.

Women and youth advocacy for a Solar Energy Policy: To ensure that policies, laws and plans put in place by governments are pro-people, it is imperative that citizens participate in their making. In 2023 therefore, AFIEGO supported youth and women clean energy champions to use the media and other powerful tools to call on the Ugandan government to put in place a Solar Energy Policy. It is hoped that the policy will guide off-grid solar electrification across the country for citizens' benefit.

Advocacy for a Consumer Protection law: Further, working with our Inclusive Green Economy Network-East Africa (IGEN-EA) partners, we engaged the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Cooperatives and called on the ministry to complete and table the Consumer Protection and Management Bill before parliament for debate and enactment. A Consumer Protection law is important for establishing adequate standards for solar energy equipment to increase uptake by consumers, some of whom note that their uptake of solar equipment is undermined by sub-standard products. AFIEGO also supported various stakeholders to make input into Uganda's Energy Transition Plan, which was launched by the Ugandan government in December 2023. This work was aimed at ensuring that Ugandans, especially communities, get access to affordable and reliable clean energy to promote a just energy transition.

Strengthening the promotion of green economic alternatives: In 2023, AFIEGO also worked with our IGEN-EA partners to promote green economic alternatives. To this end, AFIEGO popularised research on the economic opportunities of forests such as Bugoma while showcasing barriers to the uptake of apiculture and clean energy. This research was conducted by IGEN-EA in 2022. Local communities, local governments, central government officials, private sector members and the European Union (EU) were among those that were engaged. AFIEGO and our IGEN-EA partners also engaged the Directorate of Industrial Training (DIT) and the National Curriculum Development Centre (NCDC) to strengthen the clean energy curricula in Uganda to promote adequate skilling. Lack of adequate skills is one of the challenges that undermine uptake of clean energy technologies. The DIT and NCDC committed to strengthen the country's clean energy curricula if funds are availed.

In addition, we trained clean energy entrepreneurs, and sensitised communities to increase uptake of clean energy technologies. We are happy to report that there was a 30% increase in clean energy use in one of the communities that we and our IGEN-EA partners trained in Kikuube district in Western Uganda.

We also worked with our IGEN-EA partners to engage parliament to increase budget allocations to key green economic sectors, supported oil-affected fisherfolk to raise public awareness of the challenges that they face, litigated ten cases and strengthened the organisational as well as our community partners' safety and gender capacity.

We experienced challenges such as failure by mandated government agencies to put in place or enforce relevant policies and laws, contributing to the abuse of community rights and destruction of forest landscapes. Some communities' advocacy capacity also remains weak. Investments in harmful oil and gas projects also continue while investment in and access to clean energy remains low. The civic space in Uganda also remained restricted in 2023. AFIEGO will work towards addressing the above and other challenges in 2024.



Dickens Kamugisha
Chief Executive Officer, AFIEGO

SECTION 2

ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

2.0. Introduction

In 2023, AFIEGO implemented projects under the organisation's three programmes, namely: **Extractives Governance**, **Electricity Democracy** as well as **Renewable energy efficiency and climate change**.

Through these programmes, AFIEGO championed community, youth and stakeholder empowerment, forest and environmental conservation, and a just transition to clean energy powered by advocacy by youth and women.

Further, AFIEGO engaged in legal aid support and litigation, promoting cross-border advocacy and regional partnerships, supporting the promotion of green economic alternatives and protecting the civic space for Environmental and Human Rights Defenders (EHRDs) among others.

AFIEGO's dedication and tireless efforts led to significant achievements. This section of the annual report highlights AFIEGO's key activities and achievements in 2023.

2.1. Influencing policies for the common good

In 2023, AFIEGO worked with our partners to influence energy related policies in Uganda. In total, AFIEGO engaged in processes to influence over three policies and laws for the common good. Our policy lobbying and advocacy work included the following:

Mobilising stakeholders to make input into Uganda's Energy Transition Plan: To address the climate crisis and promote social justice, it is imperative that a just transition that addresses the energy needs of all is promoted. It is also important that communities, women, youth and other stakeholders participate in policy making processes by governments to ensure that energy transition policies, laws and plans meet the needs of all. In October 2023 therefore, AFIEGO, in collaboration with the Netherlands Commission for Environmental Assessment (NCEA) organised an Energy Transition workshop in Uganda. The workshop brought together over 47 stakeholders including community representatives, local government leaders, civil society actors, private sector members, and government officials among others. During the workshop, an official from the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development (MEMD) presented Uganda's draft Energy Transition Plan, and participants provided valuable input. Discussions focused on promoting renewable energy sources, improving energy efficiency, and ensuring a just transition for Uganda. The Government of Uganda (GoU) launched Uganda's Energy Transition Plan in December 2023. Key concerns relating to clean energy access for all, affordability of energy and energy efficiency that were raised by stakeholders during the workshop are addressed in the plan. However, challenges remain.

Advocacy for a Solar Energy Policy: Access to clean energy in Uganda remains woefully low with available statistics showing that less than 20% of Uganda's population has access to grid power. Despite low investment and other challenges, Ugandans, especially rural poor communities have shown a marked appetite for off-grid options especially solar, with available information indicating that 38% of the Ugandan population has access to off-grid solar. Guided by citizen preference, Uganda's Ministry of Energy set a target of reaching 45% grid connections by 2030 in Uganda's Energy Transition Plan. Other sections of the population –the majority- are expected to meet their energy needs through off-grid options.

Despite this goal, Uganda continued to operate without a Solar Energy Policy to guide off-grid solar electrification efforts in the country in 2023. AFIEGO built on the advocacy that we undertook in 2022 by supporting women and youth to use the media to advocate for enactment of a Solar Energy Policy. The women and youth published over nine media articles through which they reminded policy makers of the benefits of solar energy, and the need to enact a Solar Energy Policy.

Lobbying for enactment of a Consumer Protection and Management law: One of the key barriers to the uptake of off-grid solar energy products in Uganda is sub-standard products. Various research conducted by policy makers, private sector associations, development partners and other bodies consistently identifies this challenge. One of the key recommendations made by the aforementioned stakeholders is the need for the Ugandan government to enact a Consumer Protection Law to address the challenge of sub-standard products.

In May 2023 therefore, AFIEGO and our partners under the Inclusive Green Economy Network-East Africa (IGEN-EA) organised meetings during which we discussed ways in which we could engage Uganda's Ministry of Trade, Industry and Cooperatives to put in place a Consumer Protection Law.

Through the meetings, it was agreed that AFIEGO and our IGEN-EA partners should engage the Minister of Trade by submitting memoranda reminding the minister to fast-track development and completion of a Consumer Protection and Management Bill, which needed to be tabled before parliament for debate and enactment. The memorandum, which was submitted to the Ministry of Trade, Industries and Cooperatives in June 2023, also made proposals to address challenges that undermine uptake of off-grid solar energy.

Working with our IGEN-EA partners, we also submitted a memorandum of proposals to the same ministry in September 2023. We called on the ministry to ensure that the Consumer Protection and Management Bill addresses the challenges faced by farmers and consumers of agricultural products.

Unfortunately, the Consumer Protection and Management Bill was yet to be completed and tabled before parliament for debate and enactment by the end of 2023.



L: Various stakeholders after a workshop in October 2023 during which they made comments on Uganda's Energy Transition Plan.

Enact consumer protection law to control surge of counterfeit solar products

EDITOR: As Uganda sets to enhance energy transition, there is a need to emphasise the enactment of consumer protection law, to guard against substandard products and high prices that sabotage the flourishing of renewables in the energy sector to meet SDG 7.

Whereas government has tried to put in place laws and institutions to help protect the consumer, for instance the Uganda

Consumer Protection Association, Uganda National Bureau Act Cap 206, among others, there has been no tangible impact.

Last November, Parliament discussed a motion by the Bukoto West MP, Muhamad Ssentayi, on putting in place a Consumer Protection and Management Bill.

During the debate, the Deputy Attorney, Gen. Jackson Kafuuzi, said government was in the process of preparing a similar

Bill. Ssentayi was tasked by the Speaker Anita Among, with drafting a Consumer Protection and Management Bill and presenting it to Parliament for debate within two weeks. However, it was never presented.

I believe the Bill will protect Ugandans from false advertisement, predatory pricing, and sub-standard products, among others.

Babra Kembabazi

Advocacy undertaken by youth and with our partners to promote enactment of policies and laws to promote clean energy access.

Achievements registered as a result of our policy influencing efforts

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

- 1. Supporting stakeholders' especially community, civil society, local government and private sector views to be captured in Uganda's Energy Transition Plan;**
- 2. Sustaining public awareness on the need for a Solar Energy Policy to guide off-grid electrification efforts in Uganda; and**
- 3. Drawing public attention to the need for a Consumer Protection and Management Bill to address counterfeit/sub-standard renewable energy technologies on the market in Uganda.**

Despite the achievements, challenges such as Uganda's Energy Transition Plan centering oil and gas as part of the energy transition fuels for Uganda still existed by the end of 2023.

2.2. Empowering communities

AFIEGO believes that empowered communities are key to fostering good energy governance that enables clean energy access, promotes environmental conservation and addresses human rights as well as climate change concerns. Empowering communities therefore remains a big component of AFIEGO's work. In 2023, AFIEGO undertook the following community empowerment initiatives.

Land and legal rights trainings: Between February and October 2023, AFIEGO conducted over 9 legal aid clinics, land rights trainings and exchange learnings for communities affected by oil and gas projects in over eight districts in Uganda. The communities that were trained were from the Bunyoro and Greater Masaka sub-regions. AFIEGO also organised radio talkshows that were aired by stations such as Radio Buddu and Spice FM. These stations reach millions of people in over 26 districts, including those affected by oil projects in the aforementioned sub-regions.

Through the above engagements, AFIEGO listened to communities to understand their

advocacy needs. AFIEGO also equipped the oil project-affected persons with legal knowledge to defend their land rights during compulsory land acquisitions for oil projects.

Further, forest host communities that have successfully worked together also shared about the importance of joint advocacy during exchange learnings with oil-affected communities. This led to platforms such as the East African Crude Oil Pipeline Affected People's Network (EACOP-N) being formed. The platforms proved crucial in providing vehicles through which EACOP- and other oil project-affected persons engaged in impactful advocacy.

Strengthening existing community structures to promote community-led advocacy:

Oil projects in Uganda are being implemented under four projects including the EACOP, Tilenga, Kingfisher and oil refinery projects. The above-discussed engagements largely benefitted EACOP-affected households in Uganda. To support the oil refinery and Tilenga oil project-affected households whose advocacy skills are fairly strong, AFIEGO held continuous engagements with them in 2023 through which we engaged in joint planning relating to strengthening existing community-based organisations (CBOs) established by the people, fasttracking court cases and others. These engagements ensured that platforms such as project-affected persons-led CBOs remained strong and engaged in advocacy to defend community rights. A new alliance, Buliisa Patience Alliance, was also formed, to support community advocacy. Moreover, the oil refinery-affected people remained strong and continued to push for fasttracking of hearing of their court case against low, unfair and inadequate compensation by government. AFIEGO supported the people to file the court case in March 2014. Hearing of the case continued in 2023.

Working with Lake Albert fisherfolk: Many of the households that have been affected by the Kingfisher oil project in Uganda are fishing households. Their displacement for the Kingfisher oil project has had immense impacts, though Ugandans largely remained unaware of this impact by 2023. Yet public awareness is needed to create public pressure to address the impacts faced by the communities. In 2023, AFIEGO undertook scoping research to understand the challenges faced by Kingfisher oil project-affected communities. The research was shared with key civil society partners, who committed to undertake further research on the issues that we identified to promote public awareness. In November 2023, AFIEGO also conducted Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) with fisherfolk operating on Lake Albert in the Kingfisher and Tilenga oil project areas. The research led to production of a report that raised public awareness of and made recommendations to address the fisherfolk's plight.

Empowering community environmental stewards: Frontline communities experience first-hand the impacts of environmental degradation caused by oil and gas exploitation. The communities can also act as environmental stewards by monitoring oil companies' compliance to environmental standards and reporting non-compliance. In October 2023, AFIEGO, with technical support from NCEA and financial support from the International Union for Conservation of Nature, Netherlands National Committee (IUCN-NL), organised a stakeholders' workshop on the effective implementation of Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) as well as Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) commitments in Uganda's oil and gas sector. Frontline community members from the Tilenga, Kingfisher and EACOP project areas participated in the workshop which strengthened participants' capacity to monitor and promote enforcement as well as compliance with oil sector ESIA certificates of approval to promote environmental conservation and human rights observance.

Gender training and women empowerment: Promoting gender justice and women empowerment are central to AFIEGO's work. To ensure that the communities AFIEGO works with are gender-sensitive in their work, AFIEGO worked with our partner, Action for Rural Women's Empowerment (ARUWE), and conducted a gender training for communities that we work with in the Bunyoro sub-region. This was in September 2023. The training supported communities to be gender-sensitive in their work. AFIEGO also worked with our IGEN-EA partners to train women and youth to become clean energy entrepreneurs and in better beekeeping practices. The trainings took place in June and July 2023 respectively.

Safety and security: Safety and security, especially for communities working amidst the repressed civic space in Uganda, is important. To promote communities' safety while going about their work, AFIEGO organised trainings in March, June and July 2023 for the communities that we work with. Through the trainings, the communities were empowered with knowledge to enable them to comply with relevant laws among others.

Research: AFIEGO also conducted research to document the socio-economic impacts of projects such as the EACOP on the affected people. A research report, which we widely distributed to policymakers and other stakeholders, was produced in November 2023. The report made recommendations to address the effects of the EACOP resettlement activities on Project-Affected Persons (PAPs) in Uganda.



Community members during media engagements, a gender training and after formation of the EACOP-affected people's network (EACOP-N) in 2023.

Achievements registered as a result of our community empowerment efforts

Our community empowerment work resulted in key achievements including the following:

- 1. Creation or strengthening of community platforms through which oil project-affected and forest host communities undertook critical advocacy to defend community rights and stop harmful projects in 2023.**
- 2. Further, putting previously largely ignored oil-affected communities such as the fisherfolk operating in the Kingfisher oil project area on the national and international research agenda. We hope that this will create pressure to protect the fisherfolk from oil impacts.**
- 3. In addition, creating gender-sensitive community environmental stewards that are documenting, reporting and taking action to promote compliance to SEA and ESIA certificates of approval.**

2.3. Strengthening youth advocacy

Youth are an important part of Uganda's population because not only are they one of the country's biggest demographics, youth are also often at the frontlines and face the social, environmental and climate impacts arising from poor energy governance and the world's continued reliance on fossil fuels. Despite the above, youth are often left out of decision-making and advocacy processes. To address the above challenges, AFIEGO did the following to strengthen youth advocacy in 2023:

Connecting Ugandan and Swedish youth for action on the EU parliament resolution on EACOP: The year 2023 commenced after the European Union (EU) parliament in September 2022 called on TotalEnergies to reconsider the EACOP route and to pause the project for a year while undertaking the reconsideration exercise. The EU Parliament resolution came after investigations by some EU parliamentarians showed that the EACOP had caused grievous human rights violations, had led to further restrictions of civic space in Uganda and was a threat to biodiversity. To promote action on the EU Parliament resolution, in February 2023, AFIEGO facilitated an online meeting between Ugandan and Swedish youth. The youth discussed the strategies they could use to ensure that the Swedish government, which had taken over the EU presidency in January 2023, supported implementation of the aforementioned EU Parliament resolution. At the meeting, the youth agreed to implement joint advocacy activities including writing to the Swedish government, publishing joint media articles and holding a themed strike. These activities were implemented and resulted in achievements that will be discussed later on in this section of the report.

Empowering youth to lead on advocacy targeting financial institutions: A number of destructive fossil fuel and sugarcane growing projects were being implemented in Uganda in 2023. The projects have disrupted youth's lives through negatively affecting their education and undermining the social fabrics of the youth's communities, thereby affecting youth's socio-economic welfare. The projects have also disrupted land ownership and access, thereby affecting the ability of the youth's parents to meet their needs. Further, they have destroyed ecosensitive resources such as forests that youth rely on to make a living through farming

and others. Such projects need to be stopped to protect youth's wellbeing and in August 2023, AFIEGO organised a training through which youth activists were equipped with skills to engage financial institutions and other stakeholders to stop harmful projects.

Litigation and the youth: Further, to equip youth with knowledge on the litigation avenues that are available to promote human rights protection, biodiversity conservation and climate action, AFIEGO and our partners organised a webinar on the 'Role of the East African Court of Justice (EACJ) in human rights protection, biodiversity conservation and climate action'. During the webinar which took place in August 2023, youth and other stakeholders were empowered with information on how they could use regional courts such as the EACJ to protect their rights, and those of their communities.

Learning from Save Lamu: In June 2019, history was made when following advocacy by local communities and other stakeholders, the Kenyan government halted plans to develop a coal power plant in Lamu, Kenya. To support youth to learn from the Save Lamu experience, AFIEGO organised an exchange learning meeting between Ugandan youth and Save Lamu activists in Kampala in October 2023. During the exchange learning, the youth gained knowledge and tactics that can be used to stop harmful projects.

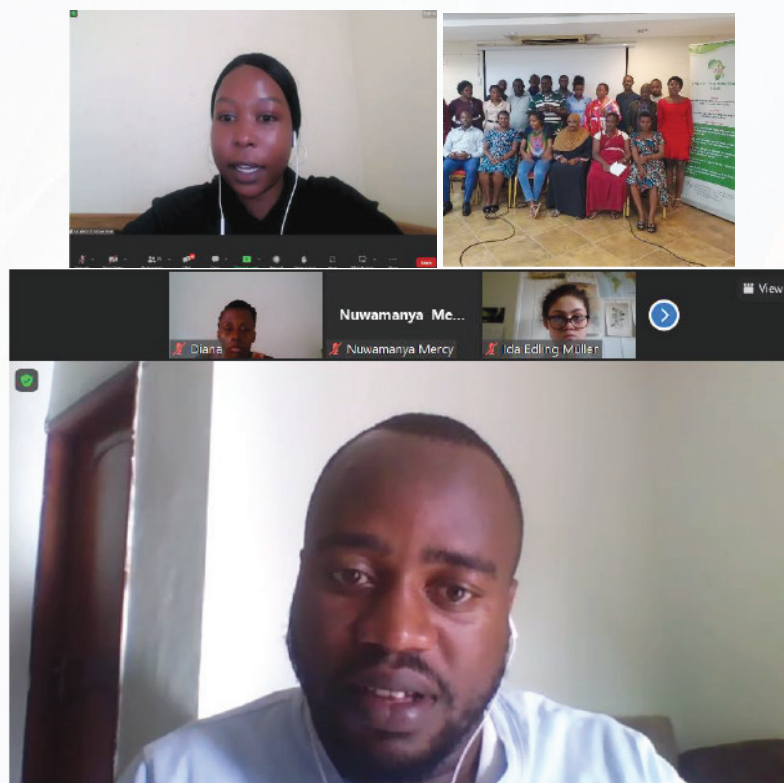


Photo highlights of key engagements with youth

Achievements registered as a result of our youth strengthening efforts

Our youth strengthening work resulted in key achievements including the following:

1. **Strengthening of youth's advocacy skills so much so that by the end of 2023, they were at the frontlines of campaigns aimed at stopping harmful projects and restoring forest landscapes;**
2. **AFIEGO also supported youth to implement over four online campaigns to highlight the harms caused by oil activities to biodiversity and to call on financiers to desist from supporting harmful projects. The campaigns registered over 17.8 million impressions; and**
4. **The Uganda-Swedish youth engagements resulted in mobilisation of key climate activists such as Greta Thunberg to call for stopping of harmful projects such as EACOP. Greta made such a call for the first time in March 2023.**

In 2024, AFIEGO needs to continue working with youth to implement key campaigns and to sensitise them on emerging issues.

2.4. Advocacy for forest conservation

In 2023, AFIEGO worked with the Bugoma forest host communities under the SBFC local taskforce and our IGEN-EA partners to continue with advocacy efforts aimed at promoting conservation of Bugoma Central Forest Reserve. The forest, which is being destroyed for sugarcane growing by Hoima Sugar Ltd (HSL) and faces oil, land grabbing and other challenges, started experiencing immense pressure in 2020.

AFIEGO unwaveringly continued to demand for conservation of the forest, which plays climate stabilisation, biodiversity conservation, water provisioning, cultural and other roles, in 2023. AFIEGO also engaged in efforts to promote conservation of forest landscapes that have been affected by oil and gas activities in Uganda. The organisation did the following in 2023:

Engaging on the EU-Uganda forest partnership: Stakeholder engagement remains critical to enable conservation of Bugoma forest. AFIEGO therefore worked with our SBFC partners to engage stakeholders such as the European Union (EU) to promote conservation of the forest. In February 2023 for instance, AFIEGO participated in a meeting between the EU and Uganda's Ministry of Water and Environment. The meeting discussed a forest partnership between Uganda and the EU. AFIEGO and our SBFC partners made input into the partnership's Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to influence the partnership that is aimed at promoting forest conservation in Uganda. One of the partnership's core objectives is ensuring restoration of degraded forests. Following making input in the partnership's MoU, AFIEGO and our partners published advocacy materials such as newsletters through which we called on the GoU to use funds provided under the partnership to ensure that Bugoma forest is conserved and restored.


Supporting community sensitisation and advocacy radio talkshows: Radio is one of the most powerful mass media in Uganda. It is used to mobilise, sensitise, strengthen movements and campaign. In 2023, AFIEGO supported the Bugoma forest host communities under the SBFC local taskforce to use radio to among others call on NEMA to ensure that HSL implements the restoration order for Bugoma forest that the authority issued in September 2022. In the aforementioned month and year, NEMA ordered HSL to restore over 18.73 sq. miles of the forest. The forest communities used radio to mobilise public pressure for restoration of the forest.

Supporting media field visits to Bugoma forest communities: Further, in March 2023, AFIEGO supported journalists from national and local media houses to participate in a field visit to the Bugoma forest host communities. During the visit, the communities shared the challenges that they are facing due to government's failure to protect Bugoma forest from HSL's and other degrading activities. The communities, including women, called for conservation and restoration of the forest. Worth noting is that the media published over six stories calling for protection of the forest due to the community and other media engagements.

Promoting green economic alternatives to protect Bugoma forest: To promote environmental conservation, it is important to demonstrate the green economic alternatives that communities, local governments and other stakeholders can engage in or promote, instead of destructive activities. To ensure that stakeholders were aware of the sustainable economic opportunities in 2023, AFIEGO worked with our IGEN-EA partners to disseminate research findings from a study that IGEN-EA conducted in 2022 to document the tourism opportunities and potential of Bugoma forest. The research findings were disseminated to government, civil society and private sector stakeholders at a workshop in February 2023. They were also shared with the Kikuube District Local Government (DLG) where Bugoma forest is located at a meeting in Kikuube district in June 2023. The findings were also shared with the Uganda Tourism Board (UTB), which is charged with development of tourism development in Uganda, and the EU. We remain hopeful that these engagements will promote conservation of Bugoma forest, and the biodiversity therein.

Supporting community afforestation efforts: In 2023, AFIEGO supported forest host communities from Hoima and Kikuube districts that were interested in engaging in afforestation to do so. In 2023 and in prior years, AFIEGO sensitised the communities on the importance of forests in promoting communities' socio-economic wellbeing. The communities expressed interest in tree planting and they requested AFIEGO and our IGEN-EA partners' support to procure trees. Consequently, in March 2023, AFIEGO and our IGEN-EA partners wrote to NFA as well as the Kikuube and Hoima district local governments requesting for indigenous tree seedlings for oil host communities. The seedlings were supplied in October 2023 and communities planted over 17,800 indigenous tree seedlings.

Research for conservation of forest landscapes: Evidence-based advocacy is critical for promoting conservation of forest landscapes, especially those that are under threat due to oil, land grabbing and sugarcane growing challenges. To support the creation of this evidence, AFIEGO undertook research to document the wetlands that are affected by the EACOP project in Uganda. Before this research, sections of local communities, civil society, the media, local governments, some central government officials and the general public were unaware of the extent to which the EACOP is set to affect wetlands in Uganda. The research we published and disseminated in July 2023 raised stakeholder awareness, which we hope will result in increased public vigilance to enable conservation of the wetlands amidst the EACOP project.


**EACOP-AFFECTED WETLANDS
FOCUS: UGANDA
KEY FACTS**

- 1 The EACOP is set to affect 158 wetland sections in Uganda. The pipeline will cross wetlands in all the ten districts that it will pass in in the country.
- 2 It will affect over 17 wetlands draining into Lake Victoria, 8 wetlands draining into the Victoria Nile and 4 wetlands draining into the Lake Albert basin.
- 3 Of concern is the fact that the EACOP is set to affect the Kibale/Bukoora wetland system, which begins in Western Uganda and connects to Kyotera as well as Rakal districts in south-central Uganda.




Local community members, AFIEGO and our partners during engagements aimed at protecting forest landscapes in 2023

Achievements registered as a result of our forest advocacy efforts

Our forest advocacy work resulted in the following achievements:

- 1. Forest host communities that we sensitised or supported planted over 17,800 indigenous tree seedlings, contributing to increasing the tree cover in Uganda's ecosensitive Albertine Graben in 2023.**
- 2. In addition, we retained the need to restore and conserve Bugoma forest on the public agenda. This means that pressure remains to stop the destruction of the forest.**
- 3. Further, we showcased the green economic alternatives that can be promoted in Bugoma forest to stakeholders such as the Kikuube district local government, central government officials, tourism private sector players and the European Union. We remain hopeful that the above and other stakeholders will promote tourism and other green economic alternatives to conserve the forest.**
- 4. In addition, we raised stakeholder awareness on the threats posed by the EACOP to wetlands in Uganda. We hope that this will promote public vigilance to enable conservation of the wetlands.**

Despite the above achievements, Bugoma forest continued to be destroyed in 2023. The forest was also yet to be restored, despite NEMA's restoration order to HSL in 2022. Further, key resources such as wetlands remained at risk of degradation by the EACOP in 2023.

2.5. Strategic litigation

In 2023, AFIEGO took legal action in Uganda, the East African Court of Justice (EACJ), and French courts of law. The organisation prosecuted ten cases to address human rights violations against oil-affected communities, environmental abuses, and to promote climate action as well as a conducive civic space. Below are highlights of the court cases that AFIEGO prosecuted in 2023.

Prosecuting the EACOP case at the EACJ: In November 2020, AFIEGO joined three other East African CSOs to file a court case against the EACOP project at the EACJ. The case, which argues that the EACOP case violates various East African and international laws as well as treaties, is seeking a permanent injunction against the EACOP project. In 2023, prosecution of the case continued and AFIEGO continued to support the case by supporting lawyers to argue the case, participating in meetings to prepare for hearing of the case and raising public awareness about the case among others.

In April 2023 for instance, AFIEGO and our partners participated in a case hearing in Arusha, Tanzania. During the hearing and through our legal team, we argued against court dismissing our case over preliminary objections that were raised by the Solicitor General of Tanzania in 2022. Prior to hearing of the case, AFIEGO and our partners held pre-hearing preparatory

meetings that enabled the legal team to prepare their arguments for the case. Further, in November 2023, AFIEGO and our partners as well as lawyers participated in hearing of the case. During the hearing, the judges at the EACJ dismissed the case on technical grounds, arguing that it was filed out of time. AFIEGO and our partners appealed against the ruling. Worth noting is that AFIEGO and our partners held several preparatory meetings to aid in case preparation and test the strength of our case. Some of these meetings took place in August 2023.

Raising public awareness about the EACOP case at the EACJ: To ensure that there was public awareness about the EACOP case at the EACJ, AFIEGO and our partners disseminated public communications about the case. To this end, AFIEGO published over 17 press statements, newsletters and IEC materials among others that were distributed to over 41,977 people. AFIEGO also used social media to popularise the case. In addition, in August 2023, AFIEGO organised a webinar on the role of the EACJ in promoting human rights observance, environmental conservation and climate action. The webinar, which was participated in by over 80 people, discussed the EACOP case at the EACJ. The public communications about the case raised stakeholder awareness about the risks posed by the EACOP project.

Supporting the oil refinery affected people's court case hearings: AFIEGO utilises litigation to protect communities' land rights and advocate for improved laws. To protect oil-affected people's land rights, AFIEGO supported families that were displaced for an oil refinery project by the Ugandan government to file a case against government in March 2014. This case seeks justice for the violation of the affected persons' constitutional rights to prompt, fair, and adequate compensation. By 2023, the High Court in Uganda was yet to conclude hearing of the case. AFIEGO therefore continued to support the affected people during their case hearings in 2023. In June 2023 for instance, AFIEGO supported the affected persons to appear at the Hoima High Court for their case hearing. AFIEGO also shared public communications about the case, in addition to engaging the judiciary through protest letters written in February 2023 to ensure that hearing of the case is fasttracked.

Engaging the judiciary to hear the Tilenga RAP 1 project-affected people's appeal: In 2017, TotalEnergies started on processes to displace 622 asset holders from their land in Buliisa district when the company acquired land for the Tilenga oil project's Industrial Area. The land was acquired under Resettlement Action Plan (RAP) 1. The affected persons complained that the compensation of Shs. 3.5 million (approximately USD 951.4) per acre of land was too little. As a result, some families rejected the compensation that was being paid by TotalEnergies, which acquired the aforementioned land on behalf of the Ugandan government. The families were sued by the government in 2020, resulting in the Masindi High Court ruling that the compensation that was being paid was adequate.

The ruling, which was made in 2021, also saw court order government to deposit the affected people's compensation in court. Through the ruling, the court gave an order that indirectly amends Article 26 of the 1995 Uganda Constitution.

To prevent this irregular indirect amendment and to protect the Tilenga oil project-affected households' rights, AFIEGO supported the affected people to file an appeal in Uganda's Court of Appeal in 2021. By 2023, the Court of Appeal was yet to fix the case for hearing. We therefore supported the affected people to write to the Minister of Justice and Constitutional Affairs, the Deputy Chief Justice and Registrar of the Court of Appeal in February 2023 and June 2023. The people demanded that their case is fixed and heard. We

also supported the people to hold a press conference in March 2023 in Kampala to demand that their case is fixed for hearing. AFIEGO also supported lawyers to engage the judiciary through various meetings.

Following the advocacy by the affected people, in June 2023, court fixed a scheduling conference date to enable the litigants to agree on issues for resolution and set timelines for filing of submissions among others.

Supporting 42 Tilenga oil project-affected families that were sued by Ugandan government: In December 2023, the Ugandan government sued 42 families whose land was being compulsorily acquired under various RAPs by TotalEnergies to set up infrastructure including wellpads, pipelines, flowlines and others for the Tilenga oil project. The case was filed on December 4, 2023 and without adequate notice to the affected households, the case was heard by the high court in Hoima on December 8, 2023. The communities lacked a lawyer to argue their case due to the rushed hearing of the case. AFIEGO supported the people by providing a lawyer to argue their case in court. Further, AFIEGO mobilised public pressure to stop the injustice of denying poor communities their right to a fair hearing by issuing public communications, including on social media, about the case. Unfortunately, on December 8, 2023, the Hoima High Court ruled against the affected people, demanding that they take compensation that they had rejected on grounds that it was unfair. AFIEGO supported the affected people to appeal against the ruling.

Organising a tribunal to support oil-affected communities to get justice: In May 2023, AFIEGO, in collaboration with our partners under the Make Big Polluters Pay Africa Coalition, supported the convening of a tribunal for Tilenga oil project-affected communities in Buliisa district. The tribunal provided a platform for the communities to share their testimonies that illustrated the profound impacts of the project on their lives and environment.

The tribunal resulted in the attainment of several outcomes including contributing to raising public awareness about the real-life consequences of the Tilenga oil project on affected communities. Secondly, the tribunal provided evidence that AFIEGO and its partners used to engage with relevant stakeholders, including government agencies and the project developers to address the grievances faced by the affected communities.

The tribunal also returned a guilty verdict against TotalEnergies, the developer of the Tilenga oil project. Through this, the tribunal, which operated like a court, further legitimized affected communities' assertions that the Tilenga oil project has had negative impacts on them.

Prosecuting other court cases: In 2023, AFIEGO also prosecuted cases aimed at protecting Bugoma forest. We also prosecuted a case filed in 2020 for cancellation of the Tilenga ESIA certificate of approval. Further, AFIEGO supported the prosecution of court cases aimed at enabling the review of a 2021 directive by the NGO Bureau to organisations such as AFIEGO to halt their operations.



Photo highlights of some of AFIEGO's strategic litigation engagements in 2023

Achievements registered as a result of our strategic litigation efforts

Despite hurdles such as court case outcomes not always being in our favor, our strategic litigation efforts resulted in the following achievements:

- 1. Successfully engaging the judiciary to set a hearing date for the appeal filed by RAP 1 Tilenga oil project-affected people. Following advocacy by the displaced families and following engagements of the judiciary by AFIEGO, in June 2023, the court of appeal set a date for a scheduling conference to enable the lawyers of the affected people and government discuss what the case is about, agree on issues for resolution and set timelines for filing of submissions among others. We hope that in 2024, the case will be heard and concluded while ensuring that justice is served.**
- 2. Raising public awareness of the risks posed by projects such as the EACOP. Because we communicated about cases such as the EACOP one at the EACJ, we raised awareness on the climate change, biodiversity conservation and human rights risks presented by the project. Our communication products reached over 41,977 people.**

2.6. Cross-border advocacy to stop oil threats

To address the climate crisis, scientists have said that no new oil and gas fields should be opened up. They have also said that some existing fields need to be closed. The scientists have warned that should states and other actors fail to take climate action, global temperature rises will exceed the 1.5 degrees Celsius limit that was agreed to under the Paris Climate Change Agreement, resulting in catastrophic impacts. Indeed, Uganda and other countries are already experiencing the grave impacts of climate change. These range from extreme weather events such as floods and prolonged dry weather conditions to destruction of poor communities' property and multi-million public infrastructure. Deaths and economic impacts have also been registered.

Amidst the above, the Ugandan government is seeking to exploit the country's oil and gas reserves under the Tilenga, Kingfisher and EACOP oil projects. Experts have indicated that the full value chain emissions of the EACOP project over 20 years would be 379 million metric tonnes. Ugandans have called on the Ugandan government to invest in green projects to avoid worsening of the climate crisis.

To stop investment in harmful oil projects, AFIEGO and our partners, especially those from the DRC and Tanzania with whom we share environmental resources that are being negatively impacted by Uganda's oil exploitation activities, did the following:

Demanding for cessation of Kingfisher oil project drilling activities: In January 2023, China National Offshore Oil Corporation (CNOOC) launched drilling under the Kingfisher oil project that is located on Lake Albert. The lake is shared between Uganda and the DRC. The launch ceremony was attended by Uganda's president, among others. On the day that the drilling activities were launched, AFIEGO mobilised 82 CSOs from Uganda and the DRC among other African countries. These issued a communique through which they called on the Ugandan government and CNOOC to act on climate science by stopping the drilling activities.

Engaging East African presidents to stop fossil fuel investments: Uganda is not the only East African country that is investing in fossil fuel projects. The DRC and Tanzania are as well. In May 2023, the East African countries held the 10th East African Petroleum Conference and Exhibition (EAPCE) in Kampala. The EAPCE was aimed to, among others, showcase the oil and gas investment opportunities in East Africa with a view of attracting investments in East Africa's petroleum sector. AFIEGO mobilised 41 East African CSOs to write a letter to East African presidents, calling on them to promote green investments instead of oil and gas exploitation.

Financial advocacy to stop fossil fuel investments: Further, to ensure that financial institutions play their role in promoting climate action, AFIEGO mobilised 42 CSOs and the EACOP-affected people's network to write to Barclays Bank in April 2023 to protest the bank's attempts to greenwash the EACOP project. Following a visit organised by TotalEnergies to Uganda, the bank issued a report that downplayed the human rights impacts of the EACOP. AFIEGO mobilised the aforementioned parties to react to the report and stop the greenwashing attempts. Relatedly, AFIEGO documented and disseminated the human rights violations experienced by oil project-affected people in Uganda to various stakeholders including financial institutions in 2023. It was hoped that such evidence would be used by financial institutions to stop investments in harmful projects.

Advocacy efforts targeted at the Ramsar Secretariat: AFIEGO and our partners from Uganda, the DRC, Tanzania and elsewhere also engaged UN agencies to promote conservation of ecosensitive resources from oil threats. To this end, in February 2023, AFIEGO mobilised Ugandan CSOs and wrote to the Chairperson of the Ramsar Secretariat in Uganda. Through the letter, the CSOs called on the chairperson to engage the Ugandan government to stop oil activities that are affecting the Murchison Falls-Albert Delta Ramsar wetland system in Murchison Falls National Park. Further, in July 2023, AFIEGO wrote to the Secretary General (SG) of the Ramsar Secretariat and called on her to engage the Ugandan government to stop all oil activities affecting Ramsar sites in Murchison Falls National Park and along the EACOP route.

When AFIEGO received a lukewarm response from the Ramsar Secretariat in August 2023, we worked with our civil society partners from Uganda, Tanzania and the DRC to mobilise 61 African CSOs to write to the Ramsar Secretariat in September 2023. The CSOs used the occasion of the Africa Climate Week to highlight the urgent need for the Ramsar Secretariat to take various actions to stop oil exploitation activities in Ramsar wetlands in Uganda and East Africa.

Engaging German Members of Parliament on the need to promote clean energy: In April 2023, AFIEGO conducted both online and physical meetings with German Members of Parliament (MPs), civil society, and other stakeholders. During these meetings, AFIEGO urged the German MPs to collaborate with their government to increase investments in clean energy in Uganda, while refraining from supporting fossil fuel projects in Africa. The physical meeting was held in Berlin with MPs from the German Parliamentary Right Livelihood Group, while the online meeting was organised by EU and German MPs. AFIEGO staff also engaged with German climate envoys and other government stakeholders to advocate for financial support for renewable energy over oil exploitation in Uganda and Africa.

Additionally, in August 2023, AFIEGO mobilised 16 Ugandan and Tanzanian CSOs, including eight led by women and youth, to submit proposals aimed at aligning Germany's Export Credit Agency (ECA) policy with the Glasgow commitments. AFIEGO was pleased that the German government adopted an ECA policy that was operationalised in November 2023.

Organising exchange learnings and cross-border community strengthening: In 2023, AFIEGO also worked with our partners from the DRC to organise exchange learnings and cross-border community strengthening exercises during which communities were empowered to advocate for clean energy investments. The above efforts saw cross-border communities participate in digital and other efforts that were organised to promote clean energy access over fossil fuels.

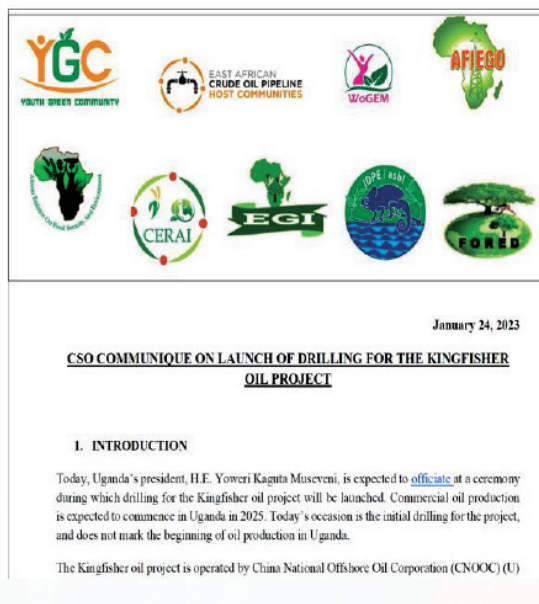
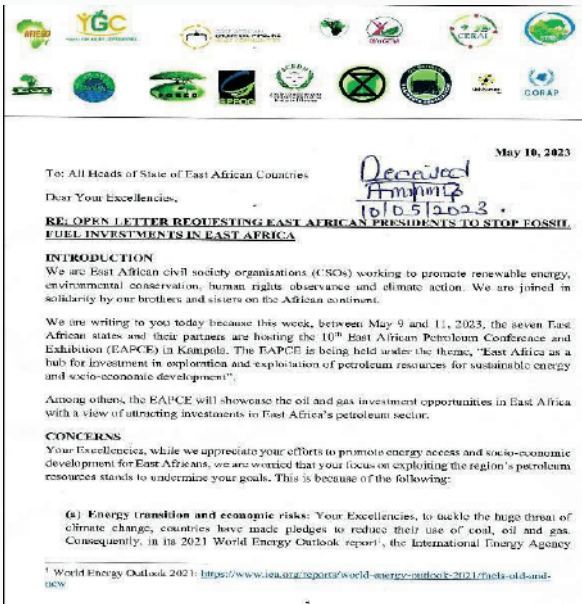


Photo highlights of some of the cross-border engagements undertaken by AFIEGO and our partners in 2023

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

Our cross-border advocacy efforts resulted in the following achievements:

- 1. Debunking greenwashing information shared by banks such as Barclays helped to set the record straight to prevent financial institutions from investing in harmful projects.**
- 2. Drawing attention to the risks posed by Uganda's oil projects to wetlands of international importance. Our advocacy to stop oil exploitation efforts covering Ramsar wetlands in Uganda and the DRC raised public awareness of the risks posed by the oil exploitation efforts. We hope that this will create public pressure to stop the risks.**
- 3. By the end of 2023, 27 banks and 23 insurers had confirmed that they would not support the EACOP project. This milestone was registered due to the advocacy undertaken by national and global groups that are campaigning against the EACOP. Several of the groups used the evidence provided by AFIEGO and our partners in their campaigning.**

2.7. Promoting green economic activities

The Ugandan government has economic aspirations that it hopes to attain through engaging in various economic activities. Some of these activities, such as oil and gas exploitation, pose human rights, environmental conservation and climate change risks. The Ugandan government needs to be supported to meet citizens' economic aspirations while ensuring that human rights are observed, the environment is conserved and climate action is taken. The above can be promoted by supporting investments in inclusive and sustainable green economic activities. AFIEGO and our IGEN-EA partners promoted investment in inclusive and sustainable green economic activities in 2023 by doing the following:

Popularising research on green economic alternatives: In 2022, IGEN-EA conducted research to determine the policy barriers that are undermining clean energy access especially for the poor, the tourism potential of Bugoma forest and challenges undermining apiculture, especially among women. In February 2023, AFIEGO and our IGEN-EA partners held a meeting that was participated in by local community members, civil society actors, local government representatives, central government officials and other stakeholders. During the meeting, findings from the aforementioned research was shared with the above-mentioned stakeholders for their action.

Advocacy to address barriers affecting women's participation in green economic activities: Women face various policy, structural and socio-cultural barriers that undermine their participation in green economic activities. This affects women empowerment, gender equity and other aspirations. In March 2023 therefore, AFIEGO worked with our IGEN-EA partners to issue a statement through which we called on governments, financial institutions and other stakeholders to address the barriers that undermine women's participation in green economic activities. The statement, which was issued on International Women's Day, was also shared through traditional and social media platforms to raise stakeholder awareness on the need to address barriers undermining women's participation in green economic activities.

Influencing national budgeting processes: To ensure that green economic activities meet citizens' economic aspirations, it is important for public and private investments to be made in the green economic sectors. To ensure that public finances were invested in the sectors, AFIEGO worked with our IGEN-EA partners as well as the Civil Society Budget Advocacy Group (CSBAG) to review Uganda's 2023/2024 national budget proposals, and submit position papers to parliament. Through the papers, we called for enhanced budget allocations to the sustainable energy, agro-industrialisation, tourism, natural resources and climate change programmes. We also participated in a meeting in April 2023 with the Natural Resources Committee of Parliament. During the meeting, we advocated for enhanced budget allocations to the above sectors. We are happy to report that the sustainable energy budget for the 2023/2024 financial year was enhanced by 10%. The tourism and agro-industrialisation sector budgets were also increased.

Public awareness raising on clean energy alternatives: In 2023, AFIEGO and our IGEN-EA partners also engaged in public awareness raising to enable Ugandans to understand the clean energy alternatives that are available in the country. Following a presidential ban on charcoal that was issued in May 2023, AFIEGO organised radio talkshows and disseminated brochures in June 2023 and November 2023 to raise public awareness on clean energy alternatives. Through radio talkshows, we sensitised communities in over six districts.

Engaging relevant government institutions to promote stronger clean energy curricula: To ensure that Ugandans participate in clean energy jobs, it is imperative that they receive the right skills. In October 2023 therefore, AFIEGO worked with our IGEN-EA partners as well as youth clean energy champions to organise meetings with the Directorate of Industrial Training (DIT) and National Curriculum Development Centre (NCDC). During the meetings, we discussed gaps in the clean energy curricula and ways in which the NCDC and DIT can address the gaps. The NCDC and DIT were open to addressing the gaps but they lack funding.



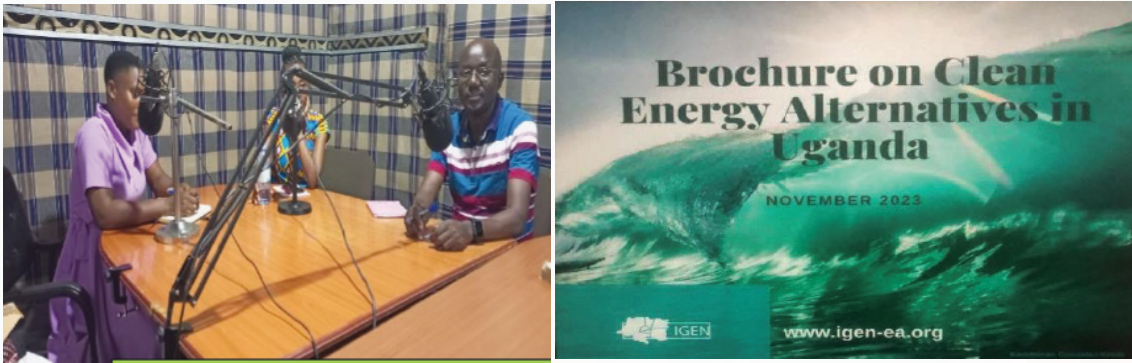


Photo highlights of some of the activities undertaken by AFIEGO and our IGEN-EA partners in 2023

Achievements registered as a result of promoting green economic alternatives

- 1. Increased national budget allocations to green economic sectors:** The Ugandan government increased the country's 2023/2024 sustainable energy budget from UGX 1.2 trillion to UGX 1.3 trillion in June 2023 following our and others' advocacy. This was a 10% increase. The allocations to agriculture and tourism also increased to UGX 1.81 trillion and from UGX 89 billion to UGX 248.7 billion (279.4% increase) respectively after our and others' advocacy.
- 2. Increased community access to clean energy technologies:** In 2023, AFIEGO and our IGEN-EA partners trained women and youth in clean energy technologies to promote their uptake in Kikuube district in Western Uganda. There was a 30% increase in the use of clean energy technologies after the training.
- 3. Government commitments to strengthen training in clean energy made:** The NCDC as well as DIT committed to review the clean energy curricula in Uganda, introduce certificates and diploma courses in Renewable energy and strengthen awareness of existing standards for renewable energy trainers following our engagements. This is provided they get funding.

2.8. Promoting clean energy access

AFIEGO is dedicated to promoting clean energy access in Uganda. Through research, advocacy, community engagement, and partnership building, we strive to increase access to clean and sustainable energy, especially for poor and vulnerable communities. Our clean energy efforts aim to improve livelihoods, protect the environment, and contribute to Uganda's attainment of the sustainable development goals among others. In 2023, AFIEGO did the following to promote clean energy access:

Engaging the Auditor General to conduct an audit on Bujagali dam: In August 2023, AFIEGO mobilised 13 Ugandan CSOs and petitioned Uganda's Auditor General. Through the petition, AFIEGO and our partners called on the Auditor General to conduct an independent forensic audit on the implementation of the Bujagali dam project. The petition noted that since its

commissioning, Bujagali Energy Ltd (BEL) had enjoyed huge and endless tax exemptions but had failed to provide electricity at US 5 cents per unit as promised. The petition asked that the audit of Bujagali dam covers the negotiation of the dam's Power Purchase Agreement and its terms, the operations of BEL, the effectiveness of tax exemptions, the role of the Electricity Regulatory Authority (ERA) as the regulator, the role of Uganda Electricity Generation Company Ltd as the supervisor and other relevant matters with a view to find out the impact of the dam on access to clean, affordable and reliable electricity services in Uganda. By the end of 2023, the audit was yet to be conducted. However, we remain hopeful that once it is, efforts will be made to address challenges that are barring Ugandans from enjoying affordable grid power.

Advocacy for implementation of Electricity Act: In May 2022, Uganda's president assented to the Electricity (Amendment) Bill, turning the bill into law. The bill was introduced to parliament by the Ministry of Energy on the premise that the provisions therein would be used to curb vices such as power theft to lead to lower power tariffs. The bill also made proposals to introduce differentiated power prices for manufacturers as well as small and medium enterprises. AFIEGO advocated for enactment of the bill for several years with hopes that its implementation would result in lower power tariffs. However, in 2023, Ugandans continued to suffer from a challenge of high power tariffs. To address this challenge, AFIEGO mobilised women and youth clean energy champions who advocated for implementation of the Electricity Act.

Advocating for increased women participation in clean energy jobs: Ugandan women's participation in clean energy jobs remains low with available information indicating that of the nearly 30,000 workers in the distributed renewables energy sector, only 28% are women. Challenges such as low skills, being burdened with household chores and poor societal attitudes that see women being viewed as having less technical skills undermine women's participation in the renewable energy sector. To address this challenge, AFIEGO supported women and youth to engage in advocacy aimed at increasing women's participation in the renewable energy sector. The women and youth used the media to call on policy makers to address the barriers undermining women's participation in renewable energy jobs.

Sensitising public on the need for off-grid electrification: In June 2023, AFIEGO organised radio talkshows to sensitise the public, particularly communities in the Albertine Graben in Western Uganda on the benefits of off-grid electrification. AFIEGO and our partners sensitised the communities on the available clean energy alternatives. AFIEGO also mobilised communities, urging them to ask their MPs to pressure the Ministry of Energy to put in place a Solar Energy Policy. Through the radio talkshow, AFIEGO reached communities in over six districts with millions of people. Consequently, in 2023, we saw more women and youth champions advocating for off-grid electrification.

Publications: In 2023, AFIEGO staff and the clean energy champions we work with published monthly newsletters, newspaper articles, petitions, letters, and others through which we campaigned for the promotion of off-grid energy.



Some of the advocacy that AFIEGO as well as women and youth clean energy champions engaged in in 2023 to promote clean energy access

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

- 1. AFIEGO has built a critical mass of women and youth clean energy champions that ensure that Ugandans' need to enjoy accessible, reliable and affordable power remains on the public agenda.**

2.9. Institutional and partner strengthening

In 2023, AFIEGO undertook institutional and partner strengthening activities including the following:

Empowering community observers on gender mainstreaming: In September 2023, AFIEGO and our Green Livelihoods Alliance (GLA) partners conducted a capacity building workshop on project monitoring and gender mainstreaming for the community observers that AFIEGO works with in the Albertine Graben. The observers were equipped with knowledge to enable gender mainstreaming in their activities.

Safety trainings for community members: In March, June and July 2023, AFIEGO and our partners organised safety training workshops for selected community-based leaders that we work with. Through the trainings, the community leaders acquired knowledge and skills to continue doing their work amidst the shrinking civic space in the country.

Strengthening organisational safety procedures and protocols: To strengthen AFIEGO staff to operate within the country's repressed civic space, AFIEGO organised a staff training on civil and criminal law procedures in September 2023. Furthermore, AFIEGO strengthened the organisation's safety procedures and protocols to promote the safety of staff in 2023.

Celebrating the Right Livelihood Award (RLA) with communities: Throughout 2023, AFIEGO celebrated winning the RLA that was awarded to AFIEGO in November 2022 for its courageous work of defending communities' human and environmental rights amidst fossil fuel projects. AFIEGO engaged the communities that we work with to share the award with them, and to highlight what the award means.

Partnership with JSTOR: In addition, in 2023, AFIEGO entered a partnership with JSTOR, a publishing company, which is republishing AFIEGO's publications such as research on their website. We hope that this partnership will widen AFIEGO's reach.



Some of AFIEGO's organisational strengthening engagements in 2023

SECTION 3

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS, CHALLENGES AND PRIORITIES

This section highlights our key achievements in 2023, challenges faced and key priorities for 2024.

3.1. Highlights of key achievements

Some of our key achievements in 2023 include:

Creation of community platforms to promote community-led advocacy: To engage in impactful advocacy, oil-affected communities need to be united and have platforms through which they communicate their positions. At the beginning of 2023, such platforms did not exist for EACOP-affected communities, while those that existed for the Tilenga oil project-affected communities needed strengthening. Consequently, in 2023, AFIEGO organised meetings, exchange learnings and other activities to support EACOP-affected communities from six districts that had expressed interest in working together to discuss how they could put in place and operationalise the EACOP-affected people's network. The network was put in place in March 2023 and the network members used it to engage the EACOP project developers, Ugandan government, financial institutions and other stakeholders to address the challenges faced by the affected people. AFIEGO also organised capacity strengthening exercises for existing platforms for Tilenga oil project-affected persons in 2023. This ensured that the people remained strong and united in their mission to pursue legal and other actions to address the challenges that the people are facing due to the Tilenga oil project.

Putting oil-affected fisherfolk's issues on public agenda: The ongoing oil activities in Uganda are concentrated in the Lake Albert basin. Lake Albert, which is shared with the DRC, is one of Uganda's biggest sources of fish. Tens of thousands of fisherfolk including men, youth and women rely on the lake to meet their needs. Oil exploitation activities under the Kingfisher and Tilenga oil projects threaten the livelihoods of fisherfolk. To document these threats and impacts, AFIEGO engaged the Lake Albert fisherfolk in 2023 and documented the impact of the Kingfisher and Tilenga oil project activities on their livelihoods. AFIEGO shared preliminary findings from these engagements with civil society members and researchers. Consequently, we saw more researchers conducting studies, which will be published in 2024, to expand on our research highlighting the impact of oil activities on Lake Albert fisherfolk.

Drawing attention to the risks posed by Uganda's oil projects to Ramsar wetlands of international importance: In 2023, AFIEGO placed emphasis on raising stakeholder awareness of the risks posed by Uganda's oil exploitation activities on forest landscapes, wetlands, lakes, rivers and other ecosensitive resources. To this end, AFIEGO procured expert services to conduct research to identify the wetlands that are set to be affected by the EACOP project in Uganda. The research was produced and disseminated in July 2023. The research report was the first of its kind as it provided information regarding the total number of wetland sections affected by the EACOP in Uganda, and the socio-economic roles played by the wetlands. This information was not previously publicly available. In addition, we partnered with CSOs from Uganda and the DRC to engage the UN Ramsar Secretariat and to draw public attention to the risks posed by Uganda's oil activities to Ramsar wetlands. Through the research and aforementioned advocacy, we drew public attention to the need to stop oil exploitation efforts covering Ramsar wetlands in Uganda and the DRC. We hope that these 2023 engagements will be built on in 2024 to build public pressure to protect Ramsar wetlands from oil risks.

Strengthening youth's advocacy capacity who implemented anti-fossil fuel campaigns that reached millions: To protect ecosensitive resources from oil risks and to promote human rights observance as well as climate action, AFIEGO has for several years now mobilised and empowered communities, youth and other stakeholders to promote clean energy over damaging fossil fuel projects. In 2023, AFIEGO partnered with experts to train youth in financial advocacy, organise exchange learnings and conduct other capacity building exercises so much so that by the end of 2023, youth were at the frontlines of campaigns aimed at stopping harmful projects. AFIEGO supported youth to implement over four online campaigns to highlight the harms caused by oil activities to biodiversity and to call on financiers to desist from supporting harmful projects. The campaigns registered over 17.8 million impressions.

Community litigation efforts register major success: In 2021, AFIEGO supported nine families that were displaced under the Tilenga Resettlement Action Plan (RAP) 1 to appeal a high court ruling which sought to compel them to take low compensation that they had rejected. The compensation was offered by TotalEnergies after the company started compulsorily acquiring the people's land in 2017. The people sought AFIEGO's support to appeal the ruling. Since the appeal was filed in 2021 however, the court had failed to set a date to hear the case. Consequently, AFIEGO supported advocacy, media engagements and others by the affected people in 2023. AFIEGO also engaged the court to ensure that a date for hearing of the appeal was fixed. Following these engagements, in June 2023, the court of appeal set a date for a scheduling conference to enable the lawyers of the affected people and government to discuss what the case is about, agree on issues for resolution and set timelines for filing of submissions among others. We hope that in 2024, the case will be heard and concluded while ensuring that justice is served.

Strategic litigation contributes to raising public awareness on EACOP project risks: In 2023, AFIEGO and our partners continued to prosecute the case that we filed at the East African Court of Justice (EACJ) to stop development of the EACOP project over human rights, biodiversity conservation and climate change concerns. We supported lawyers to hold preparatory meetings and to represent us during the case hearings. We also communicated about the case, sharing over 17 press statements, newsletters and IEC materials among others to the public. Because we communicated about the case and others, we raised awareness on the climate change, biodiversity conservation and human rights risks presented by the project. Our communication products reached over 41,977 people to strengthen movement building for climate action.

Supporting community afforestation efforts: Since 2021, AFIEGO has worked with the Bugoma forest host communities to promote conservation of Bugoma forest amidst oil, land grabbing and sugarcane growing challenges. AFIEGO has also sensitised communities on the economic opportunities of forest-based enterprises including nursery tree enterprises and afforestation. In 2023, we saw the communities take up afforestation ventures through which they planted indigenous trees. AFIEGO and our IGEN-EA partners also supported the oil refinery-affected communities to engage NFA, the Hoima district local government and Kikuube district local government to provide tree seedlings to the community. These were provided in October 2023. The oil refinery and Bugoma forest host communities planted over 17,800 indigenous tree seedlings, contributing to increasing the tree cover in Uganda's ecosensitive Albertine Graben in 2023. Working with the communities, AFIEGO also retained the need to restore and conserve Bugoma forest on the public agenda. This means that pressure remains to stop the destruction of the forest.

Supporting stakeholders' views to be captured in Uganda's Energy Transition Plan: To address the climate crisis, countries have set clean energy transition targets that are guided by various policies and plans. In 2023, the Ugandan government embarked on processes to put in place an Energy Transition Plan. Before the plan was developed, the International Energy Agency (IEA) organised stakeholder consultations on Uganda's energy sector in March 2023. AFIEGO participated in these consultations and provided comments. When a draft Energy Transition Plan was ready, AFIEGO and our partners organised a workshop in October 2023 during which stakeholders including local communities, civil society, local government representatives, the private sector, women and youth provided comments on the draft plan. The comments, which are aimed at promoting a transition to clean energy that is accessible, reliable and affordable, were captured in the plan that was launched by the Ugandan government in December 2023. This is commendable, though challenges remain.

Promoting clean energy investments: AFIEGO has built a critical mass of women and youth clean energy champions that ensure that Ugandans' need to enjoy accessible, reliable and affordable power remains on the public agenda. This is achieved through the women and youth champions consistently using the media to engage and advocate. In a country where access to clean energy remains low, the work done by the champions remains critical. In 2023, AFIEGO also worked with our IGEN-EA partners to advocate for increased national budget allocations to the clean energy and other green economic sectors in Uganda's 2023/2024 national budget. Under the leadership of CSBAG, we participated in budget review retreats and developed position papers that were submitted to parliament. In April 2023, we also participated in a meeting with the Natural Resources Committee of parliament and advocated for increased budget allocations to the clean energy and other green economic sectors. We are happy to report that the Ugandan government increased the country's 2023/2024 sustainable energy budget from UGX 1.2 trillion to UGX 1.3 trillion in June 2023 following our and others' advocacy. This was a 10% increase. The allocations to agriculture and tourism also increased to UGX 1.81 trillion and from UGX 89 billion to UGX 248.7 billion respectively after our and others' advocacy.

Increasing community access to clean energy technologies: Citizen access to clean energy remains low in Uganda, more so amongst rural communities. In 2023, AFIEGO and our IGEN-EA partners sought to remedy this challenge by training communities to take up clean energy technologies, and to become clean energy entrepreneurs. We held radio talkshows, distributed brochures and organised community trainings. We targeted women and youth in our trainings. We are happy to report that there was a 30% increase in the use of clean energy technologies after one community training in Kikuube district.

In 2023, government agencies including the NDCD as well as DIT committed to review the clean energy curricula in Uganda, introduce certificates and diploma courses in Renewable energy and strengthen awareness of existing standards for renewable energy trainers. This is provided they get funding. The above commitments were reached after AFIEGO and our IGEN-EA partners engaged the NDCD and DIT to strengthen skilling of Ugandans to take up clean energy jobs.

3.2. Challenges in 2023

Despite the milestones that we registered; we faced several challenges in 2023 including the following:

- i. **While Uganda has a number of policies and laws to promote human rights** observance, clean energy access and environmental conservation, and while some new ones were put in place in 2023, these laws are abused especially when it comes to the oil sector. This fosters a culture of abuse of community rights. It also means that forests such Bugoma continue to be destroyed and climate action is undermined. The energy transition laws also have gaps. Moreover, key plans such as Uganda's 2023 Energy Transition Plan remained unknown to the public in 2023.
- ii. **Further, Uganda's human rights and environmental conservation institutions are** largely weak. This also includes the judiciary. This means that the institutions are used to abuse community rights as was seen when the Hoima High Court ruled in favour of government, allowing it to deposit the compensation of 42 Tilenga project-affected persons (PAPs) with the court in December 2021. The case was filed, heard and ruled on in four days, a rarity in Uganda! Such injustices need to be stopped. In addition, NEMA has failed to stop the destruction of Bugoma forest and the Ministry of Lands has failed to release the forest's boundary opening report due to these weaknesses among other factors.
- iii. **Furthermore, the Ugandan citizenry especially oil-affected communities remain** largely unempowered with many feeling that they have no power to stop the abuse of their rights and bad projects. This sees community rights being abused while investments that harm communities go on. State and corporate capture of some media entities also enable the above. The cross-border networks through which we engage in advocacy also possess some weaknesses, necessitating their strengthening.
- iv. **In addition, a number of policy gaps, institutional weaknesses, high capital** requirements and other factors are barring investment in and consumer uptake of clean energy alternatives. Lack of a solar energy policy, lack of dedicated energy offices at some districts, failure to enforce laws, corruption, high power prices and high capital requirements among others are hampering clean energy access.
- v. **Various countries and financial institutions also continue to support investments** in brown sectors instead of green ones. This undermines climate action, sustainable development and inclusivity.
- vi. **In addition, the civic space in Uganda continued to be repressed in 2023** with human and environmental activists continuing to be arrested. This undermined advocacy aimed at protecting community rights as well as promoting environmental conservation and climate action.

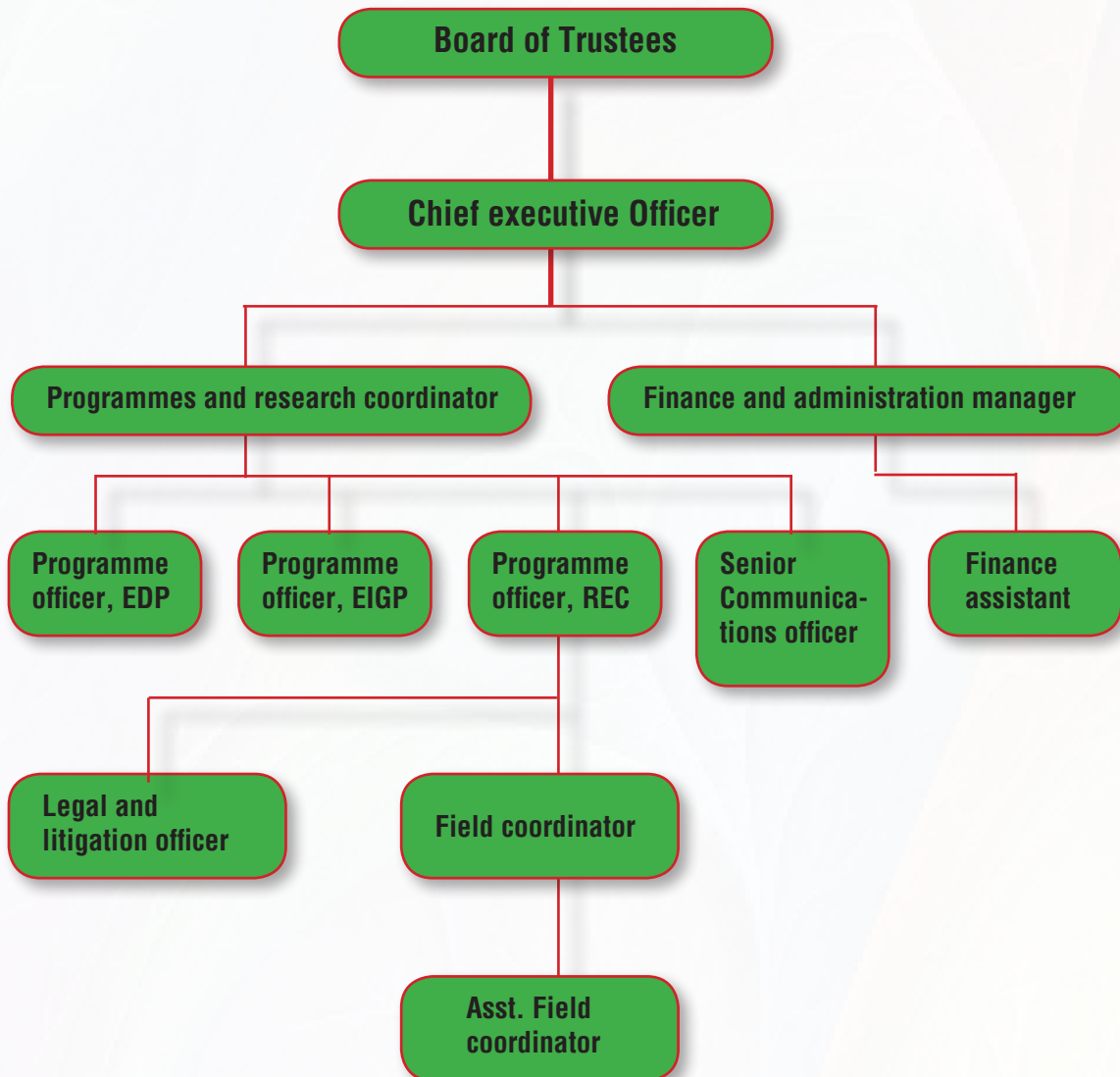
3.3. Key priorities in 2024

In view of the challenges highlighted above, some of AFIEGO's key priorities for 2024 include:

- ❑ Work with women, youth and our civil society partners to advocate for the enactment or review or enforcement of policies and laws needed to promote good energy governance in Uganda;
- ❑ Undertake advocacy to influence effective implementation of NEMA's restoration order to HSL to stop the ongoing destruction of Bugoma forest in Uganda's Albertine Graben;
- ❑ Empower oil project-affected communities including fisherfolk to defend their land, environmental and other rights amidst oil and gas activities;
- ❑ Strengthen the capacities of forest and oil host communities and other stakeholders to promote forest and other biodiversity conservation;
- ❑ Support youth and women groups to promote a just clean energy transition as opposed to fossil fuels;
- ❑ Continue supporting community and other stakeholders' litigation efforts while engaging courts and other stakeholders to enable fast, fair and effective access to justice for oil project-affected communities and forest host communities to enhance human rights observance and environmental conservation efforts among others;
- ❑ Support cross-border movements, women and youth to pressure governments, oil companies, financial institutions and others to stop the expansion of fossil fuels in Africa while increasing investments in clean energy;
- ❑ Support IGEN-EA work to promote a green economy in East Africa; and
- ❑ Finally, work with our partners to promote an enabling civic space in Uganda.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX I: ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE



APPENDIX II: AFIEGO STAFF PROFILES

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

Ms. Margret Kwijuka: Ms. Kwijuka is the Finance and Administration Manager at AFIEGO. She holds a Bachelor of Business Administration degree from Kampala International University (KIU). She also holds certificates in computerised accounting using tally and QuickBooks from Africa Population Consult-Makerere. Ms. Kwijuka is also a registered CPA student at the Institute of Certified Public Accountants of Uganda (ICPAU).

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 strategic communication as well as programme development and implementation. 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.

Ms. Doreen Namara: Ms. Namara is the Legal Assistant at AFIEGO. She holds a Bachelor of Laws degree from Uganda Christian University (UCU), Mukono and a postgraduate diploma from the Law Development Centre (LDC). She is a passionate lawyer with keen interest in energy and humanitarian law.

Ms. Catherine Twongyeirwe: Ms. Twongyeirwe is the Finance Assistant at AFIEGO.

She holds a Bachelor of Business Administration degree. Before joining AFIEGO, Ms. Twongyeirwe volunteered as a Finance Assistant at Build Africa, Masindi branch.

Mr. Balach Bakundane: He is an IT and project assistant at AFIEGO. He holds a Diploma in Information Technology Science (ITS) from Uganda Institute of Information and Communications Technology. He also obtained a Cisco Certified Network Associate (CCNA) certificate from Makerere University in addition to a certificate in IT 11: Network Operating system and Hardware from the same university.

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

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

APPENDIX III: AFIEGO'S RESEARCH ASSOCIATES

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

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

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

Ms. Terry Namirembe: Ms. Terry Namirembe conducted her internship at AFIEGO from June to August 2023. She is a student at Makerere University, pursuing a degree in social work. She is passionate about climate change activism.

Ms. Phionah Ndyamuhaki: Ms. Ndyamuhaki interned with AFIEGO in 2023. She is currently a fourth year student at Uganda Christian University, Mukono pursuing a Bachelor of Laws degree. She is passionate about climate justice, sustainable environment initiatives and environmental law.



APPENDIX IV: AFIEGO'S FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

AFIEGO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER 2023

Statement of income and expenditure

	Notes	2023 Ushs	2022 Ushs
Grant income			
Income	3	2,897,097,564	1,400,342,868
Total income		<u>2,897,097,564</u>	<u>1,400,342,868</u>
Expenditure			
Administrative expenses	4	(782,066,898)	(825,054,368)
Operating expenses	4	(1,975,586,346)	-1,203,839,194
Total expenditure		<u>(2,757,653,244)</u>	<u>(2,028,893,562)</u>
Deficit for the year		<u>139,444,320</u>	<u>(628,550,694)</u>

Statement of financial position

	Notes	2023 Ushs	2022 Ushs
Reserves			
Accumulated funds		656,364,511	516,920,191
Total equity		<u>656,364,511</u>	<u>516,920,191</u>
Represented by			
Non-current assets			
Property and equipment	7	61,442,841	75,543,534
		<u>61,442,841</u>	<u>75,543,534</u>
Current assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	6	634,491,921	-
		<u>634,491,921</u>	<u>-</u>
Current liabilities			
Payables	8	39,570,251	26,570,250
		<u>39,570,251</u>	<u>26,570,250</u>
Net current assets		594,921,670	(26,570,250)
		<u>656,364,511</u>	<u>48,973,284</u>

Statement of accumulated funds

	Accumulated funds Ushs	Total Ushs
At 1 January 2023	516,920,191	516,920,191
Deficit for the year	139,444,320	139,444,320
At end of the year	<u>656,364,511</u>	<u>656,364,511</u>
	Accumulated funds Ushs	Total Ushs
At 1 January 2022	1,145,470,885	1,145,470,885
Deficit for the year	(628,550,694)	(628,550,694)
At end of the year	<u>516,920,191</u>	<u>516,920,191</u>

Statement of cash flows

	Notes	2023 Ushs	2022 Ushs
Net surplus /(deficit) for the year		139,444,320	(628,550,694)
Add:			
Depreciation	7	<u>14,100,694</u>	<u>14,100,694</u>
Cash flows from operating activities		<u>153,545,014</u>	<u>(614,450,000)</u>
Increase in trade and other receivables		-	-
Increase in trade and other payables		<u>13,000,001</u>	<u>14,106,250</u>
		<u>13,000,001</u>	<u>14,106,250</u>
Net cash flow from operating activities:		166,545,015	(600,343,750)
Investing activities			
Cash paid for purchase of property and equipment		-	<u>(85,159,918)</u>
Net cash used in investing activities		-	<u>(85,159,918)</u>
Increase in cash and cash equivalents		<u>166,545,014</u>	<u>(685,503,668)</u>
Movement in cash and cash equivalents			
Cash and cash equivalents at start of year		<u>467,946,907</u>	<u>1,153,450,575</u>
Increase in cash and cash equivalents		166,545,014	(685,503,668)
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year	0	<u>634,491,921</u>	<u>467,946,907</u>



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