ABSTRACT
The ESIA Report for the Tilenga Project has been prepared in accordance with the National Environment Act Cap 153 (Ref. 1), and Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations (EIA), 1998 (Ref. 2). The development of the ESIA Strategy for the Project was undertaken following discussions

By Sam Mucunguzi

2018
Acronyms
ACODE...................Action coalition for Development and Environment
AGODA..................Albertine Graben Oil and Gas Districts Association
BACA...................Bagungu community Association
CSCO...................Civil society coalition Oil and gas
CSO.....................Civil Society organization
CICOA...................Citizens’ Concern Africa
CNOOC..................China National offshore Oil corporation
CA......................Contract Area
DR.......................Doctor
ESIA...................Environmental social Impact Assessment
EIA.....................Environmental Impact Assessment
ESMP...................Environmental social Management Plan
EA......................Exploration Area
LC......................Local Council
MEMD...................Ministry Energy and Mineral Development
MP.......................Member of Parliament
NEMA...................National Environment Management Association
PAU.....................Petroleum Authority Uganda
HON.....................Honorable
JVPs...................Joint Venture Partners
TEPU...................Total Exploration Uganda
TUOP.................Tullow Uganda Operations Pty
UWA...................Uganda World life Authority
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Background to the project.
The Tilenga ("the Project") refers to the development of six oil fields within Contract Area CA-1, License Area LA-2 (North) and Exploration Area EA-1A in the Albertine Graben, Western Uganda by Total Exploration & Production Uganda B.V. (hereafter referred to as TEP Uganda), Tullow Uganda Operations Pty Ltd (hereafter referred to as ‘TUOP’) and the China National Offshore Oil Company Uganda Limited (CNOOC).
The ESIA Report for the Tilenga Project has been prepared in accordance with the National Environment Act Cap 153 (Ref. 1), and Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations (EIA), 1998 (Ref. 2). The development of the ESIA Strategy for the Project was undertaken following discussions between the Project Proponents and the key Ugandan Regulators including National Environment Management Authority (NEMA) and Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development (MEMD).

Public Hearing was held at Buliisa local government district headquarters on 12/11/2018 and Second public hearing at Got Apwoyo primary school in Nwoya district on 15/11/2018 both hearing began at 9.00 AM and ended at 5.00PM.

Rationale for the Pre Public Hearing Dialogues

The Environmental Impact Assessment Regulation, S.I. No. 13/1998\(^1\). Stipulates that the Public participation in making the study is mandatory and that;

(1) The developer shall take all measures necessary to seek the views of the people in the communities which may be affected by the project during the process of conducting the study under these regulations.

(2) In seeking the views of the people under sub-regulation (1), the developer shall -

(a) Publicize the intended project, its anticipated effects and benefits through the mass media in a language understood by the affected communities for a period of not less than fourteen days;

(b) After the expiration of the period of fourteen days, hold meetings with the affected communities to explain the project and its effects; and

\(^1\) The EIA 1998 ACT is the guiding document for laws and regulations on how ESIA should be conducted.
(c) Ensure that the venues and times of the meetings shall be convenient to the affected persons and shall be agreed with the leaders of local councils.

Invitation of general public comments.

The EIA act 1998 clearly states;

(1) The Executive Director shall within ten days of receiving the comments of the lead agency, and if he is satisfied that the environmental impact statement is complete, invite the general public to make written comments on the environmental impact statement.

2. The invitation of the general public to make written comments shall be made in a newspaper having national or local circulation and shall be exhibited in the newspaper for such period as the Executive Director considers necessary.

Invitation for comments from persons specifically affected by project.

(1) The Executive Director shall on receiving the comments of the lead agency under sub-regulation (2) of regulation 18 invite the comments of those persons who are most likely to be affected by the proposed project.

The public hearing.

(1) On the written request of the Executive Director, the lead agency shall hold a public hearing on the environmental impact statement if -

(a) As a result of the comments made under regulations 18, 19 and 20, the Executive Director is of the opinion that a public hearing will enable him to make a fair and just decision;

(b) The Executive Director considers it necessary for the protection of the environment and the promotion of good governance.

Objectives

- To discuss and assess the ESIA from JVPs and come up with recommendations to present to NEMA.
• To strategize for CSOs advocacy (identify gaps, challenges, best practices and recommendations)
• To share experience from project affected persons

It’s from this background that, **Action Aid Uganda**, therefore, in fulfilling its mandate of strengthening struggles for social justice, in preparing communities of Buliisa, Nwoya and Pakwach to analyze and guide on the processes but also help communities generate comments for submission before appearing to NEMA and other JVPs on public hearing dates.

**Action Aid Uganda**, realizing that the Tilenga ESIA report is voluminous and technical document which needed technical eye for internalization and analysis, conducted pre public hearings to help our communities in Buliisa, Nwoya and Pakwack districts to understand the Environmental and social impacts of the Tilenga project report, so that they generate comments for submission to NEMA on Public hearing dates.

**Methodology**

**Mobilization of communities**

Our partners in the districts of Buliisa, Nwoya and Pakwach, mobilized the communities by inviting the affected persons, local leadership, cultural leaders, opinion leaders and religious leaders of the area.

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**Attendance of three districts according to gender.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Males</th>
<th>%</th>
<th>Females</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Buliisa</td>
<td>292</td>
<td>240</td>
<td>82.2</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>17.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nwoya</td>
<td>270</td>
<td>148</td>
<td>54.8</td>
<td>122</td>
<td>45.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pakwach</td>
<td>311</td>
<td>211</td>
<td>67.8</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>32.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Source: Attendance lists signed*
According to the above table, 292 people attended the pre public meeting, of those, 82.2 % were males, whereas females were only 17.8 %.

In Nwoya, 270 people attended the pre public meeting and of those, 45.2 % were females and 54.8 % males. And lastly, in Pakwach, 311 people attended, and of those, 67.8 % were males whereas females were 32.2 %

**Pre- Public Hearings**

Three pre-public hearings were conducted in three districts of Buliisa on 10/11/2018, Nwoya 13/11/2018 and 14/11/2018 in Pakwack respectively. These were highly attended meetings with each having more than 300 people. They were conducted in English with local area language translators and covered the ESIA processes, expectations and next steps for Public hearings.

**Participants composition**

Both men and women were mobilized and more especially women, since ESIA report addresses the Gender issues more so of women on land right, livelihoods, domestic violence and employment. Three hundred (300) people were mobilized per district for the pre public hearings, though in all three districts the numbers exceeded the expected which shows the urgency and need of these dialogues.
Figure 2: Nwoya participants attending pre-public meeting at the District Headquarters.

Figure 3: Pakwach district participants going through ESIA report and preparing for the Public hearing on 15/11/2018.
Participatory dialogue on pre-public hearing covered the following:

_What we need to know about ESIA?_

- Why undertake ESIA, purpose and benefits;
- The different stages involved in completing an ESIA;
- The ‘lessons learned’ based on Various Actors’ experiences; and
- Ways the ESIA process can be used to improve Management of Environmental and Social impacts of the project.

_Objectives of the Tilenga ESIA_

- “To identify and evaluate environmental and social risks and impacts of the project;
- To adopt a mitigation hierarchy to anticipate and avoid, or minimize, and, where residual impacts remain, compensate / offset for risks …
- To promote improved environmental and social performance … effective use of management systems;
- To ensure that grievances from affected communities and … are responded to and managed appropriately; and
- To promote and provide means for adequate engagement with affected communities throughout the project cycle on issues that could potentially affect them and to ensure that relevant environmental and social information is disclosed and disseminated.

_Stakeholder Engagement and Participation_

- Emphasis on why they are supposed to informed, consulted, involved, collaborate and empowered in all this ESIA process.

_Opportunities of the ESIA_

- Good relationships with regulators (NEMA/PAU) if conducted well. (Is Tilenga good enough to promote good relations with MDA involved?)
- Reduces potential for expensive corrective actions to be taken (land remediation, dealing with compensation claims, etc.) (Does this ESIA propose to reduce expensive corrective actions?)
• Promotes positive local community relationships - local expectations, livelihoods, land access and reduces social conflict (do we see the Tilenga ESIA performing that?)
• Maintain JVP reputation, make it easier/cheaper to access capital markets for future investment funding (is the ESIA tilted to fulfil this rather than meet E&S obligations)
• Support JVP to obtain a ‘legal and social licence’ to operate

5.0 What issues does the ESIA report talk about that should concern participants.

5.1 General comments

• Too many projects of different nature proposed to be implemented in different areas with unique sensitivities all merged in one ESIA hence, Likely to compromise the review & decision making; either as a result of lack of time to properly review all the components, or as a result of some project components being inadequate compared to others
• Tilenga ESIA report looks like work in progress e.g; aspects of Biodiversity & Ecosystems services; resettlement action plans, G&G, WMP & ESMP among others as clearly indicated in the different parts of the report. This Makes decision making hard for the Authority, especially on aspects where work is still on-going. If approved before certain studies are completed and implementation commences, the environment and people are likely to be at stake more.
• Little time given for review and submit comments to NEMA, the voluminous document does not allow one to critically read and internalize and make comments.

Specific issues In the Tilenga ESIA Report
The rationalization of the proposed new roads in the National Park
For instance: The construction of road C-2 which is a 10km road, a bridge to carry materials, another road C-3 near the ferry crossing point to "transport staff from their operations".
There are existing road networks that could be improved to serve the project. The new roads C-2 and C-3 increase the environmental footprint and habitant uptake of the project

Lack of GPS coordinates for the locations
The ESIA report lacks GPS coordinates which are useful for verification of data and future monitoring (Volume. 2 Table 7-10)

Noise and vibration
The ESIA report does not provide analysis of negative impacts of noise and vibration on ecological receptors in the project area.
The report notes that there are no national or international guidance relating to noise and vibration impacts on ecological receptors. Absence of guidelines does not justify failure to analyze existing data and information to provide mitigation measures (Volume 2, Chapter 7, and Section 7.3.1)

Potential impact on wildlife is misreported/ underestimated
The study misrepresents the project area as if it is wholly located outside the Protected Areas. For instance, report mentions that. “The potential impacts on species are concentrated in Landscape Contexts A (the MFNP), B (Savanna Corridor), C (Lake Albert and associated wetlands) and F (Mixed Landscapes). This is mainly due to the presence of protected habitats and forest species of conservation concern scattered within these areas. Impacts on such species are not likely to be major or widespread because the proportion of these areas that will be directly affected by the Project is relatively small compared to their overall capacity

Conflicting Grievance handling Mechanisms
The grievance handling mechanism in the ESIA report does not show how it will relate with the existing grievance mechanisms. They also conflict with the
existing mechanisms e.g. district leaders being part of the committees responsible for dispute resolution at the district
Volume 1; page 5-12

Inadequate adaptation mechanism for nationals
The ESIA report addresses impacts associated with influx of people but does not address the culture and orientation of people when resettled.
Whereas the ESIA focuses on cultural integration of non-Ugandan citizens, it does not provide for cultural integration for nationals from other regions or the PAPs who opt for relocation (Volume 4; 16-75. Also look at Volume 1; 5-20)

Relegation of customary tenure to inferior status
The ESIA report does not recognize customary land tenure system as equal to other land tenure systems. For example, when it comes to compensation, customary owners are paid less compared to owners under the other land tenure systems

The mandatory ESMP is incomplete.
This is not a small, short term, low impact project but rather a very large, long term, high impact project. Consideration should be made to take care of mitigation measures for residual impacts (influx management strategy, offset management strategy, biodiversity and ecosystem services strategy). (Volume 5. Chapter 23, page 23 -2)

Non recognition of indigenous groups.
There are communities in the project area including the Bagungu, Bakobya, the Batiaba and the Bakibiro who fit in the description of the indigenous communities. However ESIA report does not cover them, hence no measures are provided to protect their rights and freedoms. (Volume 1; page 2-39)

Terrestrial wildlife
- Community concern for wildlife outside protected areas. ESIA puts focus on wildlife in PA yet there is going to be substantive habitat destruction for the said wildlife. Social and economic, Ecosystem services
- Does not address the issue of potential increase in cost of living, for instance; In Kasinyi, Ngwedo sub-county the cost of heifer increased
from 0.5m to 1m after the rest of the community members learning that the CPF PAPs had been compensated with cash by Total and MEMD

- The impact of change in traditional land tenure system to individualization of land was provided with no management option, need to provide a solution to the potential change in land tenure system

Questions to think about?
- What are the issues of concern at community level
- How will the Tilenga Development affect/impact on the issue
- What should be put in place before project implementation
- What should be the role of the community in monitoring the ESMP

6.0. Issues and questions raised by participants of Buliisa at pre Public meeting

- The issue on Bagungu not being an indigenous group bothered all members and yet the laws protect them. That unless the respect they deserve is accorded as tribe the report should be rejected, the chairperson Bagungu community association (BACA) Mr. Bigirwa Enoc emphasized.
- Water abstraction from Lake Albert, why this lake, why not another lake these activities will affect our environment and fishing activities on the lake?
- Deo asked about the spills on river Nile should they happen, how the project is going to handle this without causing wars between countries that share the river like Ethiopia, Sudan, Egypt.
- Chairman Boma asked about the pollution that will be caused by the project developments in the area, he also asked about the compensation rates (15m an acre) being unfair and also delay.
- One participant asked why the project doesn’t give them irrigation schemes since they are going to affect the water tables and climate likely to disturbed.
• One participant said, “Why don’t they give us a university or other vocational institutions to train our children since they are taking our resources and land mostly?”
• The question of compensation and buying our land for good is not proper, they should have leased the land since the oil industry I not that long lasting investment, what will happen after the exhaustion of oil. (Mzee asked).
• Former LC V Buliisa, Fred, raised concerns on, Bagungu being recognized by the constitution and other laws, why does this report want to exclude us now, let us guard our culture jealously.
• He mentioned the adverse impacts on environment arising from Air and noise pollution, there is no scientific analysis of these effects on people, animals and plants.
• Fred further asks on livelihood breakdown since 80% depend on land and knowing that Uganda has the youngest population in the world, what specific projects are in place to address this issue in the communities. This is what he compared to a term used I Netherland of ‘Repo effect’
7.0. Pre public hearings in Nwoya and Pakwack districts.
The pre hearings in all areas followed the same methodology as in Buliisa district. Participants’ expectations and views were solicited after sharing with them back ground to ESIA and the following were raised;

- Both meeting participants expect employment from this Tilenga project since it’s their area.
- They expect skills transfer in form of schools, technical and scholarships, Mrs. Kibota Beaty VC LV Nwoya and also councilor Anaka sub-county emphasized this as it will help the district in having educated people who will end up taking oil jobs.
- They strongly expect health facilities un form hospitals for the their especially pregnant mothers
- Construction of roads is another cross cutting issues raised to easy on their transport and access to markets for their agricultural produce.
• The chairman LC V said human rights should be respected, and therefore, this ESIA should help people express themselves easily on Public hearing day.

• Nwoya having 14 viable wells out 16 drilled, I would expect much of the oil infrastructure to be in this district, the refinery was taken to Hoima, and for us were are to deal with negative effects.

• The Nwoya chairman LC V further said he expect knowledge sharing like Action Aid Uganda is doing from these oil companies so that his people are aware of what is taking place. He thanked Action aid Uganda for this initiative to create discussion and share with them and asked more engagement since the project has just began and the Government is constrained with resources to mobilize and conduct these kind of dialogues.

• The chairperson of Pakwach District was happy and delighted that Action Aid had remembered them on this dialogue since they had been deliberately excluded from the Tilenga ESA report business.

• He further said can Action Aid bring the JVPs and Government to answer peoples’ questions on why they have been excluded.

• One participant in Pakwack asked about poor restoration on some sites that were explored by these companies and was wondering whether these won’t affect them.

• Both meetings in two districts were concerned why come now, we have been neglected for long now they want us to submit what?

• We have minimal benefits compared to Hoima and Buliisa, the two meetings informed and want to see their districts gain equally like others

• Pakwack and Nwoya want electricity from this project, these were submitted by both LC V chairmen.
7.1. Comments from public hearings.
The legal background to ESIA was given by NEMA legal officer. Many of stakeholders were present from state minister for energy and mineral development, JVPs, NEMA, PAU UWA, MPs of the area, CSOs, the general public.

The morning session was used for presentation of the public hearing background and updates in the oil industry. The presiding officer opened up to receiving comments from the public.

**Chairperson LC V Mr. Kinene Simon presented on behalf of AGODA**
- Lack of stakeholder engagement as this ESIA report was being done, but also other oil and gas activities on the district, they have not been fully engaged and consulted.
- The chair also mention, neglect of local people being left out employment component, yet the project says they will employ locals.
- On land issues, Mr. Kinene said, there is lack of timely, fair and adequate compensation some people have not yet been compensated up to now.
- Local content in terms of skills development in term of employment seems not to be gaining the people of Buliisa district.
- The report further talks about buffer zone, but does not define clearly what it is, how much distance, will people vacate the buffer zone

**Woman MP Buliisa, Hon. Norah Bigirwa**
- Illegality and non-compliance. She mentioned that the 21 days that are required by the law were followed. The announcements stated on 30th October 2018 and the first hearing is on 12/11/2018
- Violation number two, it only requires 30 days for never to make a decision after receiving these comments, she warned that, this is a big and important project that needs thorough discussion if it’s to benefit the country and 30 days are not enough to make meaningful discussions.
- Woman MP further pointed out that, the ESIA report took three years, and asked “how many hours are we being given to us?” as a host
community and Ugandans we deserve better. Thunderous clap from the gathering.

• She mentioned also that the report does not show how local content will be realized, what has been done to prepare people, what is the level of inclusiveness especially women.

• MP and I have never been consulted, I am the chairperson roads committee and have never been consulted, whom did you consult? gathering claps viciously

• This ESIA report does not have clear contingency plan for oil spills, no description on specific measures and program in case it happens.

• There is no specific plan for influx of people and wild life will be affected by this project, can we have measure that are clear and specific before we approve this report.

• Trans-boundary issues Mr. presiding officer is another concern that this report does not address, we share this like with DRC, we share the Nile River with several counties but there is no clear plan on how these issues will be handled and we say this report should not approved before it shows a plan addressing this.

• And lastly Mr. presiding officer, this report does show and tell, what will happen if the developer fails to put in place solutions suggested?

• I conclude by saying that, let the repoit not be approved until all these issues are addressed, I thank you.

The area MP, Hon Mukitale

• The replacement of our names with others without consulting us is unaccepted, let the project name be Bugungu Tilenga, not Tilenga, same for Kingfisher and other areas were names have been changed. The gathering clap endlessly.

• Can the Tilenga ESIA report address the issues in Agriculture, tourism, we don’t want our people to be lost in oil, let other sectors be given the focus, so that after oil and gas, we can still live, Mr. presiding officer.
• Mr. presiding officer, can we tell the president that let the money be invested and our people get services, after all this is recovery cost money we shall pay it.
• Mr. presiding officer, let the temporary infrastructure be permanent, Teachers, nurses have no shelter and the police and army have nowhere to sleep, and here we want to demolish structures. I propose that these be made permanent for our people.
• MP further said, the ESIA does not critically look at ecological biodiversity, has no tree planting, water management plan, let the report go back and revise these issues.
• Mr. presiding officer the polluter pays policy should be applied here, there is going to a lot of pollution and there is not mitigation measure that are specific. Can we say, let the polluter pay the costs.
• The issue of corporate social responsibility is still lacking with Total, When Tullow was here we got Hospital health center IV but with this Total there is no benefit in terms of CSR can we have health and infrastructure,
• Can we have water transportation revamped, it’s the cheapest means of transport and this is the time to have these things, to connect DRC, Sudan and we boast trade.
• Mr. presiding officer, I want this report to use words that committal, there is none commitment with mitigation measures and the language used, they use words like “we may, not routine flaring, if possible”
• This ESTA report should use multi sectoral approach for long lasting benefits of our region

Dr. Enoc Bigirwa Chairman Bagungu community association (BACA)
• Mr. presiding officer, the word Tilenga is not accepted in this report, as you see I am the chairman of the Bagungu community Association, let us maintain our name, a name gives respect, dignity esteem, here Tilenga is engabi. So correct that name.
• Can you imagine this, this report says, when they came here, they didn’t not find any indigenous community, and yet they say they consulted people, which people did you consult when I was not consulted, my former chairman of the Bagungu community was never either, our MPs have said they were never consulted too. I am older than, Uganda and I am a mugungu, will remain a mugungu. So, go back and put IFC PS no. 7 which talks about the indigenous people so that our rights and respect is accorded. (Gathering applaud with laughter and clapping of hands)

• Dr. Enoc Bigirwa, represented the pre public hearing comments solicited from the participants being their chairman. This was well achieved.
• Dr. Enoc further submitted that, the issue of land should have been lease not buying for good. Oil project will be done in 30 years, and then what will happen to the land. We don’t want to hear that certain minister is now owning formerly my land that was with oil companies.

• On the issue of resettlement, people are getting food before being resettled which should be other way round, but now you here they are giving people rice and cookies, “who told you Bagungu eat that?” People burst into laughter. We say, let the compensation be timely, adequate and enough then people will find their food.

• Chairman BACA, also submitted that, the issue of stake holder engagement was never respected. I am the chairman Bagungu, I am a Doctor, I was never consulted, you have heard our area MPS none was consulted, may be you consulted the Tilenga since you say there were no indigenous people.

• Mr. Presiding officer, this ESIA report is too huge and joined several projects, 13 projects in one report. They say when you want to hide something from an African, put it in writing, but this time, I took time and read and things were not hidden this time, but the thing is big and you cannot make serious comments. Let the report be separated and we have independent ESAI reports.

• Mr. presiding officer lastly, let’s improve peoples’ lives with this project, teach people good ways of living, eating, and this issue of emphasizing health centers is not good, health is made at home and not in hospitals. I conclude by saying that, I associate with the last submissions from my MPs I didn’t want to repeat same issues and we say, let this ESIA report be not approved until, the issues raised are rectified.

Mr. Onesmus Mugyenyi who submitted on behalf of ACODE/CSCO and ENR CSO and had issues on;

• Time given not being enough
• Lack of specific details on mitigation measures suggested.
• Trans boundary issues on shared resources
• Implications of water abstraction from lake Albert
• No specific areas marked for animal crossing
• GPS location for easy monitoring
• The issues of indigenous community as earlier mentioned
• ESMP is not complete and is a mandatory requirement for an ESAIA report.

1. Mr. Dickens Kamugisha, also associated with the above submissions

All the comments raised, their details are in specific issues noted earlier in this report.

Second Public Hearing at Got Apwoyo primary school in Got Apwoyo sub-county in Nwoya district took place on 15/11/2018

The presiding officer followed the same procedure as in fits public hearing at Buliisa and invited people for submission.

The chairman LCV Nwoya submitted to the NEMA and had the following comments.

• Mr. presiding officer, we have 14 wells in this project of Tilenga out of 16 that were explored, but surprising all processing is done in Hoima and for us we left with dealing with effects on environment.

• As a district we need schools for our children to learn and be trained to acquire skills to work in the oil projects, health facilities for our pregnant women to give birth safely, roads from this project

• The issue of environment Mr. presiding officer, must be handled with care and we demand clear mitigation measures in place, we depend on agriculture and once we pollute with oil activities our people will suffer the most.

Area MP Submission

• The MP wants the project name changed from Tilenga to Acholi Tilenga project, because as a community we feel our identity is messed up, therefore Mr. presiding officer let the go back and change this name
• Who owns this oil, the MP asked, we feel we don’t own this oil, this oil is in our land and should be biggest beneficiary just like USA when oil is found in your area it’s yours, and such laws should be applied here.
• On issue of stake holder engagement, Mr. presiding officer, we were not consulted and involved in these engagements
• I also ask Total to improve the welfare of the community as part of their corporate social responsibility, just like Buliisa has benefited from the companies.
• Nwoya district, we need schools and scholarships for our children
• We also demand that this business of binging Kenyans to come and supply goods and services when our local people have the same be stopped, this is how we shall create employment in this country.
• And lastly Mr. presiding officer, we the community have been here before UWA, we stay with our National park and therefore UWA should respect us, you are tenants and we are landlords, therefore don’t make noisy for the land owner.

Figure 6 Area MP, Community members submitting at second public hearing
Pakwack LC V chairman submission

- Mr. presiding officer, oil activities have excluded us from this project yet activities done here affect the Pakwack people directly, we are not involved in this Tilenga project yet we are on the map.
- Pakwack depends river Nile which oil companies want to use, and more so pass pipeline under, any spill it’s us who will be affected and our source of livelihoods which is fishing
- Mr. presiding office people of Pakwack are treated like orphans yet we not when it comes to this Tilenga project.
- We need schools, hospitals from this project
- Local supplies for our people, let us been given an opportunity to supply what these people want in terms of foods, labor where we can, we appreciate Total, it took 13 welders from our district but we say it’s not enough and demand more.

Nwoya community representative also submitted

- There is no compensation and people are leaving camps
- Since these expense will be recovery costs, let us have schools and hospitals built since we shall pay
- When these people started these activities in the national park, animals started coming to our communities and destroying our gardens, there are no watering points created for animals and the report does not even have it.
- No clear mitigation measures in place for oil spills in the report
- Environmental degradation will take place and these companies have not planted any tress
- There is no financial literacy training to our local people and when given money they just blow it up and next day are poor
- The issues of influx Mr. presiding officer is not addressed well in then repot and this is likely to bring serious problems
• The plan for decommissioning after oil has ended say after 25 years needs to be clear now how it will be done. We don’t want to left with problems

Acholi Technical committee on oil and gas also submitted
• We did our research and also found that, oil will come from Nwoya and go to Buliisa why did you put the refinery in Bullisa yet oil is here.
• For Acholi were shall deal with residuals and impacts of oil, you were permanent secretary in ministry of energy and mineral development, why come here as presiding officer now to talk about solutions yet you never consulted us when you were creating those problems
• Again if the pipeline passed through Acholi to Sudan and connect to the already pipeline it will be shorter by 300km and cheaper, but because the permanent secretary then was from Hoima and knew Acholi would benefit from compensation took the longer route
• The change of names of these wells in this project is not accepted, for example, Jobri
• Social impact or what we call the Dutch disease, people and energy will be spent only oil and other sectors die, what strategy is place to handle this

Mrs. Irene Ssekyana submitted on behalf of CSCO
• Time for review was little
• Lack of adequate specific action plans for solving negative impacts resulting from the project.
• Inadequacy of the legal framework, Mr. presiding officer, some laws are still being worked on, others are lacking, therefore the document has no mandate
• Inadequate analysis on trans boundary boarders issues especially on negative effects likely to happen on shared resources
• Abstraction of water for only oil related oil activities, we say, communities must use this opportunity to access water too
• The is lack quotation of source of data you use in this report for purposes of referencing
• Mr. presiding officer, there is no evidence that this ESIA report is bench marked on nation development plan 2040
• The rationale for new roads in the national park when there are exiting roads.
• Noise and vibrations will affect animals and people and there is no clear plan in place to solve this
• Waste management

![Figure 7 Communities listening at the Nwoya public hearing](image)

**Outcome of pre pre-public hearings**

All three Pre-public hearings conducted in three districts achieved 110% of their objectives.

• Communities were able at the end of the day to tell what an ESIA is and for what, whom and its benefits to the project.
• Communities were readily prepared for public hearings and at the two hearings, they submitted their generated comments from pre public hearing meetings which was an excellent achievement.
• They also got the urge to attend the public hearings and hear and see proceedings, in that, information and exposure to proceedings of the project that is likely to affect them.
• Communities were able to identify entry points for monitoring purposes of the project, especially on compliance with what is being promised if at all the project is approved.
• Lastly, on what opportunities are there in the project to them, say employment, provision of services like health, schools, roads and more importantly, mitigation measures on the negative effects likely to affect the environment.

Recommendations
• In all three districts, we found a huge gap in regard to awareness campaign towards oil and gas industry especially on this Tilenga project. Communities were excited to see Action Aid Uganda remember them to get on board and participate in pertinent issues affecting them directly, like taking their land, causing negative effects on environment and yet Government is silent on them. They want a continued engagement on information sharing since the project is starting.
• The ESIA report, provided an avenue for establishing were communities can fully participate in monitoring, but to do this, they need more engagement on how, where, when and what mechanisms to use to effectively engage these multi-Nationals to see that their efforts are useful.
• There is urgent need to help and identify the opportunities from this project where they can immediately and cumulatively benefit from, say in employment, skills transfer and information sharing to enable them as primary stakeholders monitor and sustain the project.
• The Tilenga project is one of many projects that are in the Albertine Graben, so having seen the challenges and benefits of late engagement, can we begin engagements with communities at early stages of the
project, so that when the final decisions are being made, communities have been consulted, involved and are not caught off guard.

- Lastly, how best can we amplify the community strengths in terms of following government/companies programs in oil and gas industry so that, they can get best out of it but also act as custodians to these projects in terms of monitoring agents

Conclusion

Public hearings are new to many Ugandans and more so, ones on ESIA and in the new industry of oil and gas. The thought of pre-public hearings in these three districts was a well thought idea and worthy conducting as the real issues were raised at these dialogues. The processes and methodology, the preparations for way forward, opportunities identification for each district to tap in. And finally, coming out with what to submit to NEMA on public hearing in an organized manner, but more so, with real comments generated from the ESIA report.

It was a successful engagement as all objectives were met, importantly to emphasize, communities understood ESIA report and submitted to NEMA for consideration on their issues.