



Citizens' Concern Africa



CICOA

Annual Report

2018

About CICOA

We are an ambitious initiative that started in 2012, working on enabling citizens to exercise agency, promoting governments to be more open and responsive, and improving basic social Accountability and Governance and advocating sustainable resource exploitation in Uganda. Citizens' Concern Africa is kin on environment and climate change issues. We continue to represent the democratic ideal, implicit in its name, that lasting change is driven by the actions of motivated citizens.

CICOA works with communities and leaders to ensure that energy resources are utilized in a way that promotes equitable development, environmental conservation and respect for human rights.

Vision

We believe in an open society, built on the human impulse to make a difference; where natural resources and environment are sustainably used, citizens engage, and authorities are accountable to the people.

Mission

We collect, curate, and transport evidence, ideas, and protect and conserve environment to inspire citizen action and stimulate responsiveness from authorities on service delivery and open government.

Values

Collaborative

We seek to work with and learn from others, to pursue common interests, knowing that most powerful things can only be achieved when we pull together our strengths.

Transparent

We seek to practice what we preach, foster a culture of deep transparency, disclose all by default (except a narrow aspect that is private and confidential), be honest about failure and success, and share widely.

Imaginative

We seek to think anew, reframe, wonder, imagine possibilities beyond traditional boundaries, and to spur unusual ideas, aspirations and action.

Strategic

We value big challenges; appreciate the need to think clearly through and make good judgments about scale, connection, implementation, impact and durability.

Rigorous

We seek quality – attention to detail, clarity and elegance – in everything that we do.

Curious

We are driven by a thirst for service delivery to ask, equity, quality, and create lasting memories.

OUR OBJECTIVES

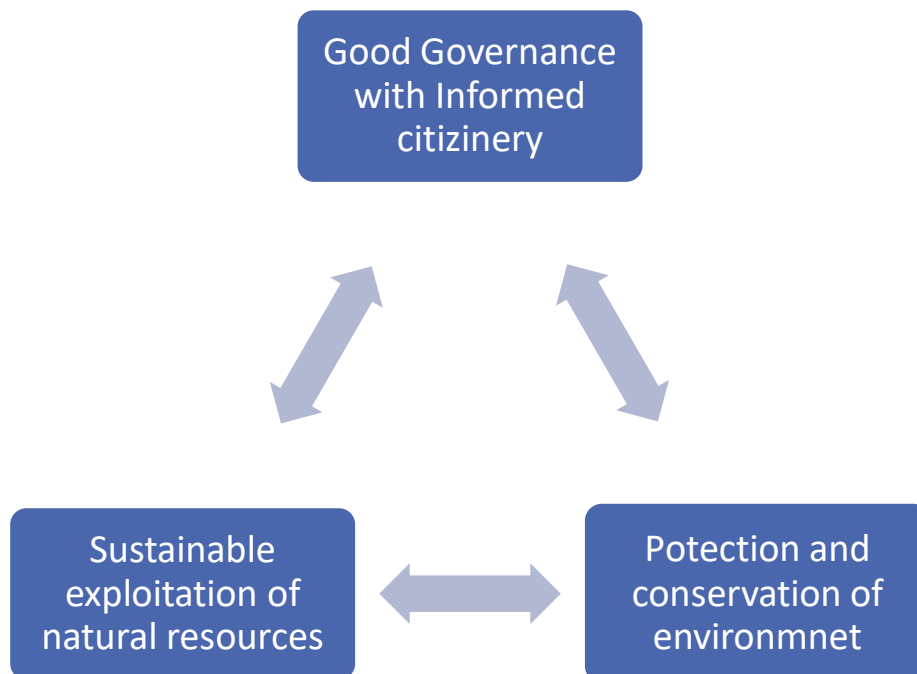
- To empower citizens to participate in the making of energy policies at all levels.
- To empower citizens to demand for transparency and accountability in the management and utilization of energy resources for environmental conservation.
- To contribute to the pool of knowledge on environment in Uganda through research and documentation.
- To promote gender equity in the utilization of Natural resources.

Theory of Change

By the end of 2018, we wanted to have made a *measurable* impact on the following five dimensions of community, national and regional life:

- First, communities in affected oil areas have the information and zeal to demand for compensation and ask for improvement in livelihoods and their cultures be restored and respected by the government and oil companies, policy makers focus on measuring and improving the lives of people using royalties and employment gained from local content from extractives investment.
- Communities and government be more conscious on protection of environment amidst natural resource developments (Oil and gas related infrastructure). Especially protection of wetlands and forests along EACOP districts of Greater Masaka; Lwengo, Kyotera and Rakai
- Thirdly, public authorities be responsive to public demand, by protecting and promoting citizens' right to high quality, relevant and meaningful information.
- Fourth, citizens and civil society are asking for, getting and using information to improve their situation and engage public officials to deepen accountability and improve the quality of public service delivery.
- Fifth, government coming clearly on issuance of title in wetlands and failure to monitor and supervise developers which has greatly affected the environment.

To achieve these outcomes we have influenced citizens' awareness, knowledge and understanding of the reality around them and the drivers of their well-being. We have catalyze informed public debate to influence perceptions of challenges, opportunities and the agency of citizens and public authorities. We have engaged with public policies, plans and budgets to shape incentives that influence behavior and action.



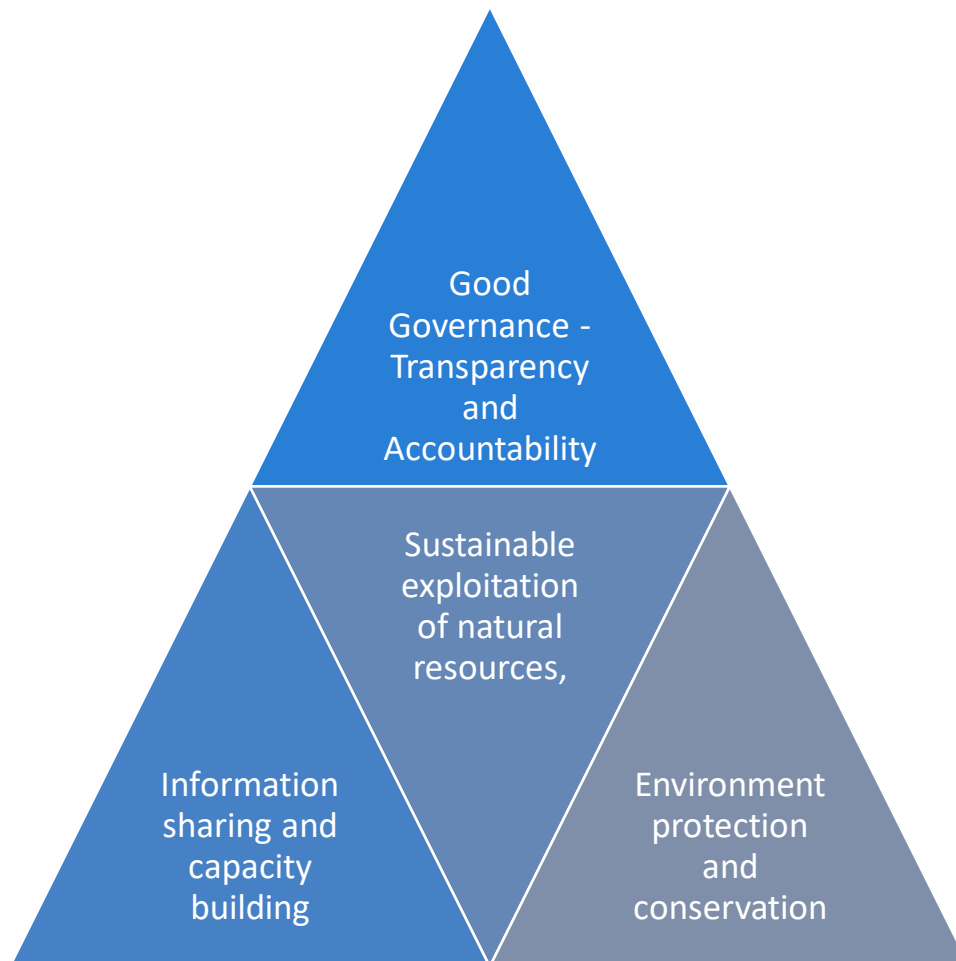
OUR PROGRAMMES

1. Good Governance – Transparency and Accountability

The core action is the dissemination of information *in coordination with* measures that actively enable collective action, influence service provider incentives and/or share power over resource allocation.

Context; the right of citizens to access information from government is a cornerstone of open and good governance, and in Uganda there is constitutional recognition for this right. However the mechanisms to exercise this are lacking. Uganda has a Freedom of Information Act, but it remains largely unused

The core function of the Good governance (accountability and Transparency is to give wings to the evidence, ideas and stories from the core program units described above. In this, we are building on current evidence on evaluations of social accountability interventions, which suggests that effective approaches are strategic (not tactical), that is, initiatives in which responsive capacity from authorities are coordinated with mechanisms for citizen “voice.”



1. Summary of our major programmes

KEY 2018 ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS IN PHOTOS

1. Climate justice meeting held in Maputo Mozambique district



3. Water abstraction point inspection on L.Albert- Buliisa



4. Lwera swamp Field fact finding Karungu district Hoima



5. Enviro Serve waste mgt plant inspection -



6. Community engagement meetings on wetlands and forest protection in Lwengo and Kyotera districts

Social Media & Mobile Money Taxes Hurting the Vulnerable

Social media boosts the way information is transmitted from one part of the world to another in a matter of seconds and the immense impact this has, is unequalled. For a developing country like Uganda, social media is a critical platform that connects us to the globe for political, economic, environmental and social information.

The 2018/2019 Ugandan budget imposed Over the Top (OTT) and Mobile Money Tax on all Ugandans regardless of background, position or stature, ignoring that there is a large percentage of vulnerable groups especially youth and women who will be more hurt by this tax than the others. So many youth are running small start-ups using social media as their main source of market. It is quite common to purchase household items and clothing materials from youth who advertise on social media. These youth don't run shops because they lack money for rent, trading license etc. But they buy these items from wholesalers, keep them in their homes and deliver them to a customer at a profit.

Mobile money business is largely dominated by women trying to earn a living.

Uganda's majority population is largely made up of youth and women and so the most critical agenda should be harnessing the collective power of these groups to realize their potential using the means available instead of stifling it through unfair taxes.

Youth unemployment stands at a staggering 32%, according to the UBOS employment rate of 2012 while according to the Uganda National Household Survey (UNHS) 2016/17 the number of poor people in Uganda rose to 10 million from 6.6 million.

To change the above trends, innovation through solution-based applications and empowerment through information sharing and

networking via social media networks has been one of them till this 2018/2019 budget.

Beyond economic empowerment, social media has played a vital role in giving the youth and women a voice to rally around causes that are sometimes ignored by the policy makers. The internet and specifically social media offers a platform to many to have a say on political, social and economic and environment issues that affect us.

Through such collective activism like the current social media uproar, President Museveni was quick to react and alter his earlier position about mobile money tax and have it halved.


We support the government efforts in seeking to widen its tax base. But taxing already disempowered and vulnerable groups is only a knee jerk solution that will have far reaching macro-economic implications such as surging unemployment. Government should explore lasting solutions to fixing the economy that will not cripple the vulnerable like start-ups for the youth and retail businesses for the women.

We are seeking new solutions for a new generation and taxing one of the gateways for these solutions is not the answer. Corruption, public administration expenditure and perennial unjustified tax holidays to unscrupulous investors and members of parliament are some of the immediate problems that should be addressed before we can widen the tax base.

We demand that our leaders; most of them out of touch, step up to the task and do the right thing by scraping both social media and Mobile Money taxes.

Signed by,

Sam Mucunguzi



Programme Coordinator – Citizens' Concern Africa (CICOA)

<http://citizensconcernafrica.org/social-media-mobile-money-taxes-hurting-the-vulnerable/>

Activities on Wetland and forests protection in Greater Masaka can be accessed here;

<http://citizensconcernafrica.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/Report-on-wetlands-and-forests-campaign.pdf>

<http://citizensconcernafrica.org/the-role-of-local-leaders-other-actors-in-protecting-wetlands-and-forest-resources-in-uganda/>

<https://www.ntv.co.ug/news/national/Masaka-residents-worried-over-continued-Lwera-swamp/4522324-5133412-12heioi/index>

<https://www.monitor.co.ug/News/National/Activists-ask-Museveni-stop-Lwera-destruction/688334-5134290-vs30z/index.html>

Other Environment - climate change related advocacy done;

We have sue the government challenging it on issuance of Land Titles in wetlands details in below link;

<http://citizensconcernafrica.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/Litigation-documents-for-challenging-issuance-of-titles-in-wetlands-1.pdf>

<http://citizensconcernafrica.org/support-government-to-implement-the-kaveera-ban/>



*7. Conducting pre-public hearing for Tilenga project in Nwoya district.
the community meeting*

8. ED engaging with our consultant in one of



8. Snail shell mining from L. Albert at proposed water abstraction point in Buliisa district



9. Tilenga Public hearing in Buliisa and Nwoya districts



10. Pre-Public hearing engagement meetings in Buliisa, Nwoya and Pakwach districts.

The below link has the full report on Tilenga public hearing.

<http://citizensconcernafrica.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/The-ESIA-report-for-the-Tilenga-project-field-report.pdf>

OUR REACH IN FIGURES (people)

1. We have reached more than 12 million Ugandan and others through publications, Radios, media both print and online (who watch NBS and NTV Televisions and read New vision and Daily Monitor newspapers which we have used to spur our coverage.
2. Total reached through physical meetings or engagements. 75,000 (Through pre public hearings, community meetings (village and district levels) and Public hearings.
3. Total reach by social media (Facebook) more 550,000.
4. Gender is of focus in these engagements and 43% Of our engagements were with females.
5. Youths 60%

Table of contents

Contents

About CICOA.....	2
Theory of Change	3
OUR PROGRAMMES.....	4
KEY 2018 ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS IN PHOTOS.....	5
Other Environment - climate change related advocacy done;	7
Table of contents	10
Word from Chairman Board	12
Message from Executive Director (ED)	Error! Bookmark not defined.
Our Activities in 2018.....	16
Promoting a just energy transition to clean renewable energy	20
This section highlights our key achievements in 2018, challenges faced and key priorities for 2019.	21
Challenges in 2018	23
Appendix	25
ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE.....	25
APPENDIX II: CICOA BOARD MEMBERS' PROFILES.....	26

TABLE OF ACRONYMS

AG	Auditor General
CICOA	Citizens' Concern Africa
CNOOC	China National Offshore Oil Corporation
CSOs	Civil Society Organizations
CBOs	Community Based Organizations
DLBs	District Land Boards
EACOP	East African Crude Oil Pipeline
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
ERA	Electricity Regulatory Authority
ESIA	Environmental and Social Impact Assessment
LARR	Land Acquisition, Resettlement and Rehabilitation Policy
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MPs	Members of Parliament
NCEA	Netherlands Commission for Environmental Assessment
NE Bill	National Environment Bill
NEMA	National Environment Management Authority
NGO	Non-governmental organization
OTT	Over the Top Tax
PAU	Petroleum Authority of Uganda
RDC	Resident District Commissioner
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SEA	Strategic Environment Assessment
TV	Television
TZ	Tanzania

SECTION 1

Message from Board

Dear Friends and partners,

We are honored to present the CICOA Annual Report for 2018.

When I think about the past CICOA year, the word that comes to mind is golden. In 2018, we had an impressive range of achievements. We delivered high-impact cost-effective community engagement programs in the areas of environment, Information sharing, education and communication, oil and gas, policy advocacy campaigns, transparency and accountability, empowerment and economic well-being of communities. We also stood up for land rights and sustainable use of natural resources especially in EACOP areas in Albertine region and Greater Masaka.

We can comfortably note that throughout the year, we ignited positive change in communities! You will find a number of these interventions and advocacy links to our publications in main stream media and on-line on pages 6-7 for highlights from our golden year.

While our staff members, community mobiliser, fundraisers and volunteers grew larger and more passionate than before, the team also rose to meet unprecedented challenges. Namely, political interference, logistical challenges, natural disasters, climate change among others whose threat to the future of our communities, engagements and mobilization cannot be ignored.

Yet in the same year 2018, we need only to glance at the headlines to be reminded of how incomplete our work remains. We witnessed a historic rise in encroachment and destruction of some of our most cherished wetlands and waters, forests and other natural resources for human settlement, investors and agriculture. Meanwhile, protection for some of our most cherished lands and waters are being chipped away, meanwhile, seasonal shifts in precipitation as well as increased incidence of droughts and floods aggravated by climate change swept across East Africa and is likely to cause real food crisis.

Looking to the future, As CICOA, we will continue to be inspired by the needs and aspirations of communities, remain positive and count on our Donors, staff and implementing partners and all stake holders in our areas of focus for your continued support as we champion and strengthen sustainable exploitation and use of natural resources, protection of mother nature and enabling citizens to exercise agency and make governments be more open and responsive to social accountability and good governance.

On behalf of our Board, staff, community mobilizers and well-wishers of CICOA, we wish to express our appreciation and gratitude for your guidance, love and support. We also dutifully ask for your extraordinary support in what promises to be another golden year ahead.

Sincerely,



Mr. Andrew Mafundo

Secretary to Board



Mr. **George Musisi**

Chairman of the Board.

ANNUAL REPORT OF CITIZENS CONCERN AFRICA (CICOA) FOR YEAR 2018

The report is presented in three sections. **In Section 1**, we bring you highlights of our key activities and achievements in 2018. This is through the photo highlights, the Message from the Board Chairperson and this message from the Executive Director.

In Section 2, we provide more information on the key activities we implemented in 2018. We also provide more information on our key achievements. **In Section 3**, we share challenges we faced in 2018 in addition to key priorities for 2019.

What CICOA achieved in 2018?

Successful advocacy resulting in institution of policies:

In 2018, in partnership with Africa institute for Energy governance (AFIEGO) and civil society coalition on oil and gas (CSCO) we joined efforts on ensuring that government put in place laws and policies that will support access to clean energy and promote environmental conservation and protection amidst oil and other dangers and risks. We further successfully undertook advocacy campaigns and lobbied government and parliament which operationalized and passed a total of four policies and laws;

First, in November 2018, parliament enacted the 2017 National Environment Bill into law. The new law repealed the 1995 National Environment Act and is central to promoting environmental conservation and community livelihoods amidst oil threats.

Second, following the Ministry of Energy completing the National Content Policy, cabinet approved the policy in June 2018. **CICOA** and our partners including; AFIEGO had advocated for completion and operationalization of this

policy from 2016 to 2018. The policy will enable Ugandans to gain skills to promote environmental conservation amidst oil threats.

Third, in August 2018, government launched the 'Free' Electricity Connections Policy (ECP). Through this policy, government is seeking to increase offgrid energy connections by providing over 1.95 million households with offgrid energy.

Further, in February 2018, following the introduction of OTT, **CICOA** and other CSOs and citizens put pressure on government to scrap the tax to let people exercise their freedom to information and economic empowerment as OTT killed many businesses. Indeed our pressure worked and government reduced the percentage to 0.5 from 1% which was a plus, however, according to URA report 2018, OTT is the worst tax ever introduced and has not performed well, therefore, our desire to scrap OTT off are backed by evidence.

Promotion of land rights:

CICOA promoted the land and livelihood rights of communities affected by oil projects. In November 2018, CICOA trained over 1950 community members with their local leaders in Buliisa, Nwoya and Pakwach districts in our pre Public hearings community engagement meetings to enable them understand the Tilenga environment social impact assessment (ESIA) report, where land rights were major issue raised by community members amidst the Tilenga oil project; the project is located in Buliisa and Nwoya districts. The stakeholders that were trained included district land board members, cultural leaders, religious leaders, community leaders, communities members.

The above stakeholders were reached through sensitization meetings. We reached over 2.5 million in eight districts in the oil region through Radio talk shows, spot messages and others. Due to our land and livelihoods sensitization activities, we saw communities in Buliisa push government to increase compensation for their land being acquired for the Industrial area under the Tilenga project from 1 million UGX to 3.5 million UGX for an acre. We also saw government and oil companies accepting to seriously engage with the communities.

CICOA also made input into the draft Land Acquisition, Resettlement and Rehabilitation Policy (LARRP) of 2018. The policy is being developed by the Ministry of Lands as part of efforts to address grievances of oil and other project-affected people (PAPs). Which when completed, the above policy will improve land administration and governance to promote livelihoods and environmental conservation in Uganda.

Sensitization on SEA and ESIA

In 2018, CICOA also promoted Strategic Environment Assessment (SEA) and ESIA as part of the conservation tools to be used in Uganda. In September 2018, with our partners and with the expert technical assistance of the Netherlands Commission for Environmental Assessment (NCEA), we trained over 40 stakeholders including CSOs, district environment officers, district natural resources officers, cultural leaders and community members to understand and promote the implementation of SEA and ESIA for environmental conservation amidst oil threats. This was through a community meetings organized in three districts of the project that is Buliisa, Nwoya and Pakwach.

We also used radio talk shows, newspaper articles, our monthly newsletters and our online media platforms to sensitize an estimated over 77,600 citizens to understand the relevance of SEA and ESIA in environmental conservation amidst oil developments.

The stakeholders used the knowledge gained to review the Tilenga ESIA report and submit outstanding comments to NEMA at public hearings. CICOA will build on the above efforts through further sensitizing stakeholders to enable them to influence the Kingfisher and East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) ESIA processes in 2019.

Campaign for transparency and accountability

Litigation

CICOA petitioned the constitutional court challenging the legality of the provisions entitling the government to issue land titles in wetlands/gazetted places to private individuals and cancel land titles as and when pleased, without a court order. The organization contends that section 91, under which the land commissioner notifies the person likely to be affected to show cause before the cancellation contravenes article 28 of constitution in as far as the section denies the victims a fair hearing before an independent and impartial tribunal. The government in that case, through the commissioner is a judge in its own case, which contravenes rules of natural justice.

This is more apparent in cases where the cancellation sees the respective land revert to government. The said law also contravenes article 26 in as far as the same provides for cancellation of titles without prior compensation. According to the petition filed on 22/2/2019, the CICOA contends that the commissioner should seek a court order before cancellation where the effected are first given a fair hearing before the final decision.

Also, unsuspecting people are cheated when the same office that issues the land title later cancels it and awards no compensation for example, land titles on wetlands. As regards access to justice our petition is constitution petition NO.03 of 2019.

Protection and conservation of wetlands and forests.

CICOA lead a campaign on save Lwera swamp in Kalungu district, Lukaya town council. CICOA started an online petition and more than 4000 people signed it. CICOA was able to engage local government environment officers to explain how this swamp destruction was allowed and what they are doing, we also tasked ministry of water and environment to explain why Chinese investors were allowed to reclaim this important swamp and provide to us terms of issuance of permit. This advocacy was well documented on Televisions like NBS and NTV which are leading Televisions in Uganda, we also used print media like new papers to push further our advocacy, and also Facebook and Twitter were and are still being used for this agenda. The major achievement is that, the president while visiting the neighboring district, noted that he has heard this Lwera swamp destruction to Chinese investors and ordered that the relevant ministries should stop this irresponsible management of environment and that these investors should not expand beyond this and after the season they should vacant.

Clean energy efforts

CICOA also promoted clean energy over oil and gas especially in sensitive ecosystems through sensitization activities such as Radio talk show screenings, meetings, publications and others for stakeholders from Lwengo, Kyotera and Rakai districts among others. We empowered an estimated over 1,300 people to push for clean renewable energy such as solar as opposed to oil and gas.

Other challenges include none-compliance with policies and laws which has resulted into impunity and corruption facilitated by government. Yet other challenges include knowledge on SEA and ESIA remains low and the refinery-affected people's rights are yet to be fully restored.

While challenges remain, I want to add my voice to that of our Board Chairperson to appreciate the support by our donors. We greatly thank you and we continue to count on your support in the years to come. CICOA remains committed to intensifying our efforts until we solve the challenges faced by citizens and communities.

We cannot wait to see what 2019 holds for us.

.....

Our Activities in 2018

Introduction

In 2018, Uganda's oil sector was characterized by activities such as negotiations between the Ugandan and Tanzanian government to develop infrastructure such as the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP), signing agreements with international financial advisors for the EACOP project and searching for and consequently signing an agreement with oil refinery investors. The Ugandan government is planning on developing an oil refinery in Hoima.

The sector was also characterised by undertaking ESIA studies for the Tilenga, Kingfisher and EACOP oil projects. The ESIA's were undertaken to enable oil companies get environmental and social certificates of approval for their projects.

In addition, land acquisitions in districts affected by oil projects were implemented.

The above activities were being undertaken in the absence of relevant environment, land and other laws. Undertaking the above oil activities in the absence of up-to-date laws had the potential to worsen oil impacts on both the environment and social wellbeing of communities.

In addition to the above, 2018 was characterised by low clean energy access with only 20.4% of the population having access to electricity and over 90% continuing to rely on biomass to meet their energy needs.

This stood to fail Uganda from achieving her Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) on climate change, commitments under the Paris Climate Change Agreement, Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 7 on attaining universal modern energy access by 2030 and others.

CICOA and our partners implemented many activities aimed at addressing the above challenges to prevent the negative impacts of oil and lack of access to clean energy on the environment and people.

Through this section, we highlight key activities implemented in 2018 under CICOA's three programmes.

Promoting community livelihoods and environmental protection through legal reforms

(i) Pressuring parliament to enact National Environmental (NE) Bill into law:

In 2018, oil activities such as the conduct of ESIA's for oil projects, land acquisitions, development of oil roads and others were ongoing. Bills such as the National Environment (NE) Bill, Uganda Wildlife Bill, Climate Change Bill, Water Bill and the draft SEA regulations in addition to the draft ESIA regulations were yet to be enacted and operationalised. The bills needed to be enacted into law to provide mechanisms through which the environment would be conserved amidst oil threats.

NEMA and Ministry of Water and Environment had been in the process of putting in place new environment laws including the NE Bill, SEA and ESIA regulations and others since 2014. The NE Bill was tabled before parliament for debate and enactment at the end of 2017. However, the process of debating and enacting the law was slow.

While none compliance with existing laws remains one of the biggest challenges facing Uganda, CICOA and partners feared that commencing oil exploitation in absence of up-to-date laws would greatly defeat environmental conservation efforts. We believed that it was better to have a good law and then push for compliance.

In August and September 2018 therefore, CICOA mobilised communities, CSOs, youth leaders and public to lobby parliament to debate and enact the National Environmental (NE) Bill of 2017 into law. CICOA and our partners engaged

with the Natural Resources Committee, pressured Members of Parliament (MPs) in their respective constituencies, submitted petitions and letters and disseminated newspaper articles calling for enactment of the NE Bill into law.

The above created massive pressure on parliament to urgently enact the NE Bill of 2017 into law. CICOA and our partners also submitted proposals to parliament through memoranda to fill gaps in the NE Bill. Consequently, in November 2018, the Bill was passed into law by parliament with provisions on SEA, penalization of environmental offenders and others that CICOA and our partners had been lobbying and advocating for. This was a big achievement for the country and us.

In 2019, we will work with our partners to push for the enactment of more relevant bills into law. Bills such the Uganda Wildlife Bill, Climate Change Bill, Water Bill and the SEA in addition to ESIA regulations among others need to be completed and implemented as a matter of urgency. Most importantly, we will use 2019 to mobilize and empower citizens to engage other stakeholders including government for compliance to enacted laws such as the National Environment Act.

Advocating for protection of wetlands and forests in Uganda.

In 2019, January, CICOA started a campaign on protection of wetlands and forests in Uganda, we kicked off our campaign with Lwengo, Rakai and Kyotera by holding community meetings with local leaders sharing information and training them on the benefits of wetlands and forests and how they can guard them amidst the infrastructure developments like oil and gas.

(iii) CICOA held Radio talk show to reach out more people in the county on the protection of wetlands and forests in Uganda to contribute to our campaign of protecting and preserving wetland and forests.

iii) CICOA held two television shows on wetlands and forests protection in Uganda on NTV, this was aimed at spreading the campaign to all of Uganda, we also wrote articles in monitor and New vision to spread further our campaign, we got good feedback on this



Campaign for enactment of solar energy policy and amendment of Electricity Act.

Despite allocating a big percentage of the national budget to the energy sector over the past years and despite incurring huge debts to increase power generation and access, access to electricity in Uganda stands at a dismal 20.4%. Because hydropower is expensive and because of other factors, over 79.6% of the population has remained without access to electricity. The demand for cheaper offgrid solar is increasing however.

In 2018, CICOA built on efforts from 2016 and 2017 and we campaigned for the enactment of a Solar Energy Policy to increase solar energy access that will meet communities' demand for cheaper offgrid solar.

In August 2018, government launched the 'Free' Energy Connections Policy (ECP) in Kasese district. While the policy is not the Solar Energy one that we advocated for, government is seeking to increase the number of households accessing offgrid solar and other offgrid energy options by over 1.95 million by 2027 through the policy. This was a major win.

[CICOA Lobbied government to drop proposed amendments to Article 26 of the Uganda Constitution on land](#)

CICOA built on efforts of 2016 and 2017 and built pressure on government to drop the proposed amendments to Article 26 on land. In 2017, government introduced a bill in parliament through which it sought to give itself powers to compulsorily acquire citizens' private property prior to prompt payment of fair and adequate compensation. AFIEGO led our partners to campaign against the bill in 2017, which led to parliament rejecting it in 2017. Due to the pressure that we sustained in 2018, cabinet dropped the bill in September 2018 thereby promoting environmental conservation and providing communities with protection against delayed, unfair and inadequate

Land rights campaigns

(i) Sensitizing Buliisa community members to protect land rights amidst Tilenga project:

In addition, in 2018, CICOA sensitized over 900 community members, cultural leaders and other stakeholders in Buliisa, Nwoya and Pakwach districts on their land rights and their roles in ESIA processes to protect their livelihoods amidst oil threats. This was conducted under the projects of capacity building on ESIA through pre public hearings where we held one in each district mentioned. The stakeholders were sensitized through community meetings and radio talk shows. Consequently, communities in these districts continued to reject the low compensation being given by Total E&P (U) under the Tilenga project. CICOA also sensitized communities on their environment rights under the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) regulations of 1998 and the 1999 EIA Public Hearing Guidelines and potential impacts of the Tilenga oil project. Communities and other stakeholders participated in the Tilenga ESIA public hearings in November 2018 in Buliisa and Nwoya districts in big numbers. They rejected the Tilenga ESIA because it did not promote environmental conservation, their cultural heritage and livelihoods amidst oil threats. They also warned NEMA and PAU when the two government bodies violated provisions in the EIA regulations during the Tilenga ESIA procedures.

[Strengthening Greater Masaka community to protect land rights amidst oil threats](#)

In February 2019, CICOA conducted community engagements in Greater Makasa media houses and organized a community meetings in two districts where more than 800 members with their local leaders, district chairpersons in the Lwengo and Kyotera were empowered to protect their land rights amidst oil infrastructure developments under Total E&P (U)'s of East Africa Crude pipe line EACOP project that is traversing ten districts of Uganda covering 294km up to the border with Tanzania.

The stakeholders used lessons from the training and radio talk shows to make input into the EACOP ESIA which is under way but more so to demand fair compensation from JVPs. The comment generated will be submitted to NEMA and participate in the public hearing on the ESIA in places that will be announced by NEMA and PAU.

[Promoting SEA and ESIA for environmental conservation](#)

Advocating for a stronger SEA and ESIA legal regime

CICOA mobilised communities, youth, women, CSOs and others from Kampala and districts in the oil region such as Hoima, Nwoya, Buliisa, Masindi, Lwengo, Kakumiro, and Mbarara among others and engaged parliament in September 2018 to ensure that the country's SEA and ESIA legal regime was strengthened. We petitioned parliament to ensure that the 2017 National Environment Bill provides for mechanisms for funding for SEA and ESIA activities in addition to providing for stiff

penalties for failure to conduct SEA and ESIA activities. We are happy to report that the 2019 National Environment Act made it an offence for a developer to fail to conduct an ESIA study. The act set penalties including payment of fines and imprisonment for up to 15 years in case a company or individual fails to conduct an ESIA. Petroleum activities are among those for which the conduct of ESIA is mandatory under the new act.

(ii) Empowering stakeholders to promote SEA and ESIA in oil sector for environmental conservation.

Further, while tools such as SEA and ESIA are important in conservation, stakeholder knowledge on the tools and how they can promote environmental conservation amidst oil threats in Uganda remains low. In September 2018 therefore, CICOA and our partners AFIEGO with support from the Shared Resources, Joint Solutions (SRJS) programme participated in a training on SEA and ESIA principles. The training, which was facilitated by experts from the Netherlands Commission for Environmental Assessment (NCEA), enabled the CICOA team to reach more people at community level through community-based organizations (CBOs), cultural leaders and district environment officers that participated to acquire information and skills to promote environmental conservation through the application of SEA and ESIA principles in the oil and other sectors.

Promoting citizen participation in Tilenga ESIA processes for environmental conservation and community livelihoods:

CICOA also in 2018, Total E&P (U) submitted an ESIA report for its Tilenga project that is located in Buliisa and Nwoya. The ESIA report was submitted to NEMA. Based on the 1998 EIA Regulations, NEMA was mandated to hold public hearings to enable the public to make comments on the ESIA to promote environmental conservation. CICOA spearheaded the CSO campaign to remind NEMA to hold public hearings on the ESIA. In consultation with the Petroleum Authority of Uganda (PAU), NEMA organized the public hearings in Buliisa and Nwoya districts in November 2018. CICOA ensured that citizens made input into the ESIA by holding sensitization meetings in Buliisa, Nwoya and Pakwach organizing radio talk shows, disseminating radio spot messages, publishing articles in newspapers with national circulation and implementing a social media campaign through which communities and national stakeholders were mobilised and sensitised to make comments on the Tilenga ESIA. The comments were made through public hearings on November 12 and 15, 2018 respectively. Where stakeholders rejected the ESIA because it would not result in environmental protection.



Public hearing on Tilenga ESIA project in Buliisa district

(iii) In partnership with civil society coalition on oil and gas (CSCO), we participated in oil infrastructure monitoring to monitor compliance and commitment and general observance of environmental protection and conservation.

Specifically we visited waste management in Kyakaboga resettlement houses, airport construction all in Hoima district. We were also interested in water abstraction areas from Lake Albert both in Buliisa and Kikube, all these facilities were assessed on the parameter we developed as coalition on assessing environment and social effects of the project. So with support from respective district leadership were able to visit these sites and developed a report which we shared with Oil companies and ministry of energy and mineral development

2.5. In May 2019 CICOA also participated in pre - budget advocacy for water and sanitation in partnership CSBAG and generated our finance advocacy for budget appropriation and allocation to parliament and relevant ministry department for consideration

Campaign against mobile money and Over the Top Tax (OTT).

In July 2018, government instituted taxes on mobile money transactions in addition to making citizens pay OTT to access social media networks. This was dangerous as taxing citizens before they could access social media meant that citizens would be blocked from receiving information on the oil and gas sector. CICOA therefore, advocated for campaign against the mobile money tax and OTT to promote access to information and information sharing in the oil sector. Consequently, the mobile money tax was reduced by government from 1% to 0.5%. However, the OTT remains, which undermines information sharing.

<http://citizensconcernafrica.org/social-media-mobile-money-taxes-hurting-the-vulnerable/>

2.6. Campaigning for access to justice

CICOA petitioned the constitutional court challenging the legality of the provisions entitling the government to issue and cancel land titles as and when pleased, without a court order. The organization contends that section 91, under which the land commissioner notifies the person likely to be affected to show cause before the cancellation contravenes article 28 of constitution in as far as the section denies the victims a fair hearing before an independent and impartial tribunal. The government in that case, through the commissioner is a judge in its own case, which contravenes rules of natural justice.

This is more apparent in cases where the cancellation sees the respective land revert to government. The said law also contravenes article 26 in as far as the same provides for cancellation of titles without prior compensation. According to the petition filed on 22/2/2019, the CICOA contends that the commissioner should seek a court order before cancellation where the effected are first given a fair hearing before the final decision.

<http://citizensconcernafrica.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/Litigation-documents-for-challenging-issuance-of-titles-in-wetlands-1.pdf>

Promoting a just energy transition to clean renewable energy

(i) Empowering stakeholders to understand oil impacts through film screenings and radio talk shows.

In 2018, community awareness of oil impacts on the environment and livelihoods remained low. This was especially needed for communities that were outside the oil region or districts affected by oil projects. In the absence of information on the positive and negative impacts of oil, communities were fed on mostly the positive impacts by government and companies so that they could support oil exploitation. Throughout 2018 therefore, CICOA sought to close the knowledge gap on oil impacts through community film screenings. The film that was screened was shot in Nigeria and it showed the negative impacts of oil exploitation. The film was screened for communities in Lwengo, Rakai, Hoima, Kyotera and mbarara districts this was amplified with radio talk show. The participants in the film screenings included representatives from

fishing and farming communities, members of women and youth clean energy clubs, civil society, cultural and religious leaders in addition to the media and security agencies.

The community film screenings enabled CICOA to raise awareness on the negative impacts of oil as a means of helping communities to choose clean energy.

(ii) Sensitising stakeholders on Uganda's clean energy obligations in light with Paris Climate Change Agreement.

In addition to empowering the above stakeholders, CICOA also trained over 100 community members from the Greater Masaka to lobby for increased investment in offgrid solar energy to increase community access to clean and affordable energy. This was during a community sensitisation meeting that was organised by CICOA. The community meeting was held in April 2018. During the meeting, the 155 community participants were empowered with information on Uganda's clean energy aspirations under the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) on climate change. The NDCs stem from the Paris Climate Change Agreement. The community members were also equipped with lobby and advocacy skills to enable them campaign for clean over dirty energy.

(iii) Campaign for lower electricity tariffs

In line with goals articulated in Uganda's Vision 2040, SDG 7 and the SE4ALL initiative, CICOA campaigned for lower electricity tariffs and safe electricity services in 2018. Because of high power tariffs, citizens including youth and women are constrained from accessing electricity to engage in productive economic activities. CICOA therefore engaged with the president, Ministry of Energy, the Electricity Regulatory Authority (ERA), electricity companies such as UMEME through meetings, open letters, petitions, joint radio talk shows and others to realize lower power tariffs and safer electricity services as a means of promoting a just energy system that enables the poor to access electricity at affordable prices.

(iv) Campaigning for budgetary support to off grid solar energy:

CICOA campaigned for increased national budget allocations to the off grid sector to support poor communities that cannot afford to pay monthly electricity bills to access grid power. Using publications such as policy briefing papers, newsletters, newspaper articles and others, we campaigned for government and private sector to increase budget support for investments in solar, wind and other off grid energy projects. While government is still hesitant to provide budgets for off-grid energy and prefers to distribute generated solar through the grid, we are happy to report that the private sector is progressively investing in off-grid solar projects. We believe that clean renewable energy is the only hope for the majority of Ugandans in rural communities especially women, children and youth to access clean energy at an affordable cost.

SECTION 3

[This section highlights our key achievements in 2018, challenges faced and key priorities for 2019.](#)

3.1. Highlights of key achievements

Some of our key achievements in 2018 included:

(a) National Environment Bill passed into law: Parliament passed the National Environment Bill into law in November 2018 with provisions on SEA, ESIA and others that we campaigned for. This was a great milestone as CICOA and our partners had campaigned for completion and enactment of the bill for four years.

(b) 'Free' Electricity Connections Policy launched: In August 2018 in Kasese, government launched the 'Free' Electricity Connections Policy which seeks to connect over 1.95 million households to offgrid energy solutions. This will contribute to our campaign to enable a just energy system in Uganda that serves the needs of the poor who cannot afford expensive grid electricity.

(c) Amendments to Article 26 on land dropped by government: In September 2018, government dropped the proposed amendments to Article 26 of the 1995 Uganda Constitution following citizen and CSO pressure. From 2016 to 2018, CICOA was among the CSOs that led the campaign against the proposed amendments that would undermine citizens' land rights and environmental conservation.

(d) CICOA petitioned the constitutional court challenging the legality of the provisions entitling the government to issue and cancel land titles as and when pleased, without a court order.

The organization contends that section 91, under which the land commissioner notifies the person likely to be affected to show cause before the cancellation contravenes article 28 of constitution in as far as the section denies the victims a fair hearing before an independent and impartial tribunal. The government in that case, through the commissioner is a judge in its own case, which contravenes rules of natural justice. Our case is before courts of laws waiting hearing.

(e) Communities protect land rights and environmental conservation amidst Tilenga project

Further, during the public hearings that were held in Buliisa and Nwoya on the Tilenga ESIA report in November 2018, the majority of the over 2,000 stakeholders who participated in the public hearings rejected the ESIA and told NEMA not to approve it because the ESIA would not promote environmental conservation and community livelihoods. CICOA had sensitized communities in the Acholi and Bunyoro sub-regions where the project is located to protect their land rights. AFIEGO also mobilised communities and other stakeholders to participate in the public hearings to promote environmental conservation and community livelihoods.

(f) Human rights to food, education, land and others of refinery-affected people promoted

In addition, CICOA worked with the refinery-affected people to ensure that their rights to education, food, water and land were respected. Nyahaira P/S was opened in June 2018 nearly four years after it collapsed in the refinery area. The education of over 100 children who were out of school was restored as a result. So, in May 2018, Ministry of Energy, through its contractor Strategic Friends International (SFI), showed the refinery-affected people their land, enabling those whom government refused to construct for houses to build their own shelter after being shown their land. Efforts were also made to provide the people with water.

(g) Promoting accountability

CICOA also championed the promotion of accountability by government when we sensitized the refinery-affected people and supported them to engage parliament to hold Ministry of Energy accountable over corruption and abuse of the refinery-affected people's rights. Though no stiff penalties were given to Ministry of Energy, communities learnt that they too can promote accountability.

(h) Successful advocacy for gender-sensitive policies:

CICOA and the refinery-affected people also successfully advocated for gender sensitive policies in the energy sector. In 2018 for instance, engagements with coalition of civil society organization on oil and gas (CSCO) in monitoring oil infrastructure in Buliisa and Hoima, we were able to advocate for more employment of females in sensitive and important jobs other than the flagging of vehicles at construction sites. Through a report shared with Ministry of Energy and mineral development the JVP reported in the quarterly meetings with CSOs where they share updates promised to work on this issue as the local content provisions are for the sector.

(i) Growing the movement of citizens promoting clean energy

Through sensitization meetings, community film screenings, radio talk shows, policy briefing papers, newsletters, newspaper articles and others, we were able to reach over 360,483 people with the message on the need to promote clean energy over dirty energy. Stakeholders that we reached such as the media started to drive the debate on just energy transition efforts elsewhere and what they mean for Uganda.

(j) Save Lwera swamp campaign;

With CICOA campaign on save Lwera swamp in Kalungu district Greater Masaka, the relevant authorities like NEMA and the ministry of Agriculture and the president on his visit in Masaka, promised to deal with wetland degraders and ordered the environment ministry and NEMA to stop further degradation of the wetlands. But also community members and

general public were sensitized on the importance of wetlands and dangers of degradation, and were trained on being custodians for the environment protection in their areas.

(k) Strengthening staff capacities for sustainability of the organisation: lastly, staff capacities in proposal writing, SEA, TEEB, M&E and others were strengthened. This contributed to the organisation's sustainability and ensuring that staff have skills to implement activities to meet the organisation's objectives.

Challenges in 2018

Despite the above achievements, we faced a number of challenges in 2018 and learned several lessons including:

i. While the National Environment Bill was passed by parliament into law, compliance will remain a challenge as government has a bad track record of implantation and enforcement of laws.

ii. Lack of enabling regulations: Further, other relevant regulations such as the SEA and ESIA regulations are yet to be enacted and operationalized to strengthen the implementation of the National Environment Act of 2019. Oil development decisions that pose environmental threats are being made in absence of the above regulations.

iii. NEMA and PAU that are meant to be the custodians of laws that conserve the environment amidst oil threats have already shown that they too can violate environmental laws to allow oil activities. This means that even when the new laws are enacted, there is no guarantee that they will be enforced if CSOs do not empower more Ugandans to say no to violations. The same violations could also be seen in the public hearings for the Kingfisher and EACOP projects.

iv. In addition, the judiciary and in particular courts continue to delay hearing and completing environmental and human rights cases making it costly to fight injustice. Yet violations in the Tilenga ESIA processes and upcoming oil projects where violations happen must be challenged using all legal options.

v. In addition, recommendations made in the 2017 Auditor General's report regarding violations against the refinery-affected people by government are yet to be implemented. Government did not take punitive action against Ministry of Energy for committing injustices against the refinery-affected people.

vi. Further, government continues to violate citizens' rights to own land by failing to pay fair, adequate and prompt compensation. Also, many district land boards across the country are still failing to put in place updated compensation rates in time and using of neighboring districts' rates which in most cases does not reflect the clear picture of particular districts.

vii. The proposed amendment to the 1965 Land Acquisition Act may also be used by government to achieve what they failed to attain under the failed amendment of Article 26 of the Constitution. This requires CSOs like CICOA to continue to be on the look out to ensure that the above amendments deliver for the citizens rather than being used to contradict the Constitution.

viii. More so, the refinery-affected people's land rights are yet to be respected as Ministry of Energy is yet to issue them with their land titles. The people also do not have access to adequate clean and safe water –one borehole is serving over 76 families- and do not have access to clean energy.

x. In addition, Uganda continues to invest in fossil fuels at the expense of clean renewable energy.

xi. Further, CSOs in Uganda are still playing catch up in sufficiently influencing critical social and environmental processes for the EACOP, oil refinery, finished petroleum products pipeline, the Kingfisher and Tilenga oil projects. We still have to rely on external experts to analyse technical reports. Unfortunately, the external experts are very expensive and hard to get.

xii. The challenges of insufficient financial and human resources remain a big obstacle to lobby and advocacy efforts.

xiii. The operational risks for CSOs continue to worsen and yet CSOs must commit to defend the environment and rights of communities even huge projects such as the Tilenga, Kingfisher, EACOP and others that are valued in billions of dollars with huge interests at stake.

3.3. Key priorities for 2019

In 2019, CICOA will work to expand on our achievements and most importantly to address the above and other challenges. Key priorities for 2019 will include:

Empower stakeholders for compliance to National Environment Act: CICOA will raise stakeholder awareness on the National Environment Act to promote citizen pressure on government for compliance. Further, CICOA will lobby for debate and enactment of the Climate Change Bill, the Uganda Wildlife Bill and the Water Bill. We will also campaign for the operationalisation of the SEA and ESIA regulations and guidelines to protect the environment from oil threats. CICOA will also empower stakeholders on SEA and ESIA for compliance to the same.

CICOA, will engage in pre public hearings for EACOP ESIA review with communities in the 10 affected districts to help them break down the bigger report for them to be able to raise issues and comments for submission to NEMA at upcoming public hearing. But also submit written comments to NEMA for consideration before the project is approved.

Pressure NEMA and PAU to respect stakeholder views in Tilenga, Kingfisher and EACOP ESIA processes: Further, CICOA will engage NEMA and use court processes to ensure that NEMA and PAU respect stakeholder views in the Tilenga, Kingfisher and EACOP ESIA processes. In 2018, stakeholders rejected the Tilenga ESIA and told NEMA to do the same. However, the partiality that was seen and violations of the law that marred the Tilenga ESIA process mean that NEMA could fail to make a decision to support environmental conservation. CICOA will engage NEMA to ensure that NEMA makes a decision that supports conservation.

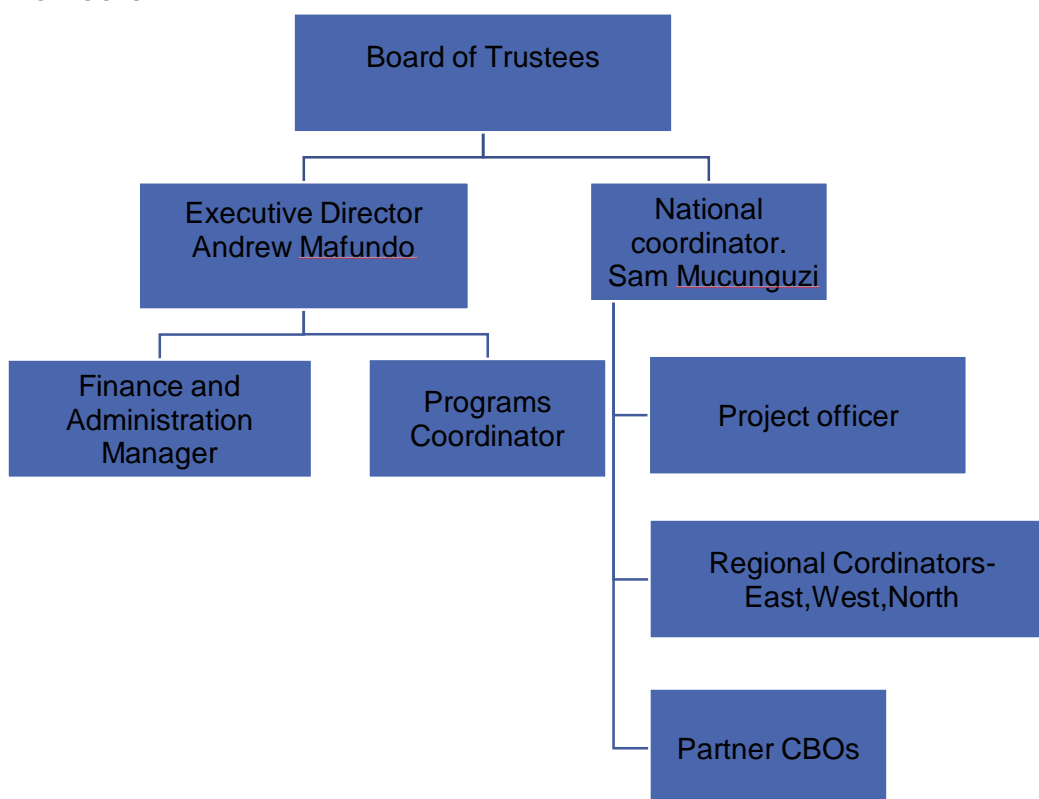
Promote refinery and other oil project-affected people's rights: In 2019, CICOA will work with the oil refinery-affected people and other affected communities in all the districts with oil activities to ensure that fair and adequate compensation is paid to them. We will also advocate for implementation of commitments made to the refinery-affected people in the 2012 RAP.

Lobby for increased investment in clean and affordable energy over other sources of energy: Uganda's renewable energy resources in the form of solar, wind, geothermal and others remain largely untapped. Emphasis has been put on fossil fuels such as oil yet these have several challenges to the environment and contribute to climate change. CICOA will foster partnerships with communities and CSOs in and outside of the Great Lakes region to scale up our lobby for increased investment in clean and affordable energy over other sources of energy.

CICOA will continue with the struggle of protection of wetlands and forests in Uganda, and ensure that NEMA addresses these irregularities in issuance of titles in wetlands, this will be through our litigation processes.

Appendix

ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE



APPENDIX II: CICOA BOARD MEMBERS' PROFILES

Chairman Board



Mr. GEORGE MUSISI

George Musisi is an advocate in private legal practice, a partner in the law firm PACE Advocates, a firm he co-founded in January 2018. He holds a Bachelor's Degree in Law from Uganda Christian University; a Master's Degree in Law from Makerere University and a Diploma in Legal Practice from the Law Development Centre. He is a member of the Uganda Law Society; East Africa Law Society; Uganda Christian Lawyers' Fraternity. He previously served on the board of the Legal Aid Service Providers' Network and he is among the founding members of the Network of Public Interest Lawyers, on whose Advisory Committee he still sits.

He has over eight years' experience working on the field of legal aid service provision, especially in the criminal defense aspect, as manager legal services of the Foundation for Human Rights Initiative (FHRI). He is a staunch advocate of good governance and social justice. He is a practicing Christian, proud Rotarian and father.

Vice chairperson Board



OLIVIA KYARIMPA MATOVU

Advocate

Olivia is an Advocate in Uganda with experience majorly in commercial Advisory and litigation, Alternative Dispute Resolution and tax.

Olivia heads the Dispute Resolution Department of Ligomarc Advocates, a law firm in Kampala.

She is a Member of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators United Kingdom (MCIArb), The Young International Arbitrators Group of the London Court of International Arbitration (YIAG), the Uganda Law Society and East African Law Society.

Olivia is the Chairperson of the Uganda Law Society (ULS) Arbitration Cluster and the Head of the Training and Accreditation Arm of the International Centre of Arbitration and Mediation in Kampala (ICAMEK).

She is also a lecturer of Corporate & Commercial, Civil Litigation and Advanced Alternative Dispute Resolution at the Law Development Center, Kampala

Secretary to the Board



Mr Andrew Mafundo

Andrew holds an MA in Social Sector planning and management and BA in Communication from Makerere University. Andrew is a founder member and Executive Director of Citizen's Concern Africa (CICOA) to enable citizens' exercise their constitutional right of holding governments accountable on environmental and social issues in their community.

He is also a passionate professional with experience of working in the sustainable development and environmental services industry especially in policy analysis, strategic planning, training and awareness creation and change management, as well as developing and leading high performing multidisciplinary teams of technical experts to achieve creative solutions across disciplines and to take advantage of emerging opportunities.

He is among the most experienced integrated marketing and communications professionals in East Africa having been involved with media and advertising since 2002.

He has proven record of creating and executing high profile, complex programs and projects in changing, fast-paced and diverse environments, while effectively engaging with diverse stakeholders. Highly motivated with outstanding interpersonal, communication and time management skills.

His expertise extends beyond Uganda to the surrounding markets of Tanzania, Kenya and Rwanda in East Africa and several markets in Sub-Sahara Africa.

Member



Mr. Duncan Abigaba

Duncan has over four years of experience in public administration at managerial level. He is Deputy Head at Government Citizen Interaction Centre, Government of Uganda. The centre serves as the primary contact point for citizens in Government.

He was the acting Head of the Centre between April, 2017 and September, 2018, where he relentlessly drove open government initiatives in Government and also pushed for increased citizen participation in government planning.

He previously served in the Office of the President, as Presidential Assistant in-charge of Research and Information, where he closely monitored the performance of Government agencies, and regularly prepared briefs for the President on the same.

He holds a Bachelor of Commerce (Hons) of Makerere University, a Post Graduate Diploma in Project Planning and Management of Uganda Management Institute. He is currently pursuing a Master's Degree in Management from Uganda Management Institute. He also holds several post graduate certificates in management from both Makerere University and Uganda Management Institute.

In March, 2019, he was selected for Mandela Washington Fellowship by the US State Department. Which he completed, and plans on lobbying the Government of Uganda to adopt an open government policy among other public accountability initiatives and to continue advocacy for the conservation of our environment

Member



Sam Mucunguzi boasts of extensive experience in civil society advocacy and research from 2007 to date. He is the National Coordinator Citizens' Concern Africa (CICOA).

He has diploma in secondary education from Institute of teachers Kyambogo, holds a bachelor's degree in social sciences from Makerere University, Certificate on Evidence and lessons from Latin America (ELLA) on oil and gas local content 2016, certificate from School of public policy – Central European University Budapest. –Reversing the resource curse: Theory and practice - Natural resource governance institute – 2017 – Hungary and other advanced research certificates in environment and natural sources.

Member



Mrs. Irene Ssekyana

Is the current executive director Green Watch, she is the outgoing Chairperson for Civil society coalition on Oil and gas In Uganda (CSCO), She holds a masters in Natural Resources and Management from Makerere University. Ssekyana comes with a lot of civil society knowledge and expertise in environment and oil extractives industry.