NAPE PAST CORE ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE AREA OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION, GOOD NATURAL RESOURCES GOVERNACE AND PROTECTION OF HUMAN AND ENVIRONMENTAL RIGHTS IN UGANDA

1. Successful Public Interest Litigation (PIL).

Over the past two decades PIL spearheaded by NAPE has been effective in pushing back entities and corporates that violate human and environmental rights. In some cases, there have been immediate results, while in others; it takes a while for PIL results to be noticed. From the past Litigation cases spearheaded by NAPE, the highly noticeable wins over the years are the following: Government adopting a mandatory practice of making Power purchase agreements public thus increasing citizen scrutiny and participation, instituted cases compelling private sector companies such as French Lafarge group of companies to adopt best practices such as filter technology to trap limestone dust and to devise means of minimizing ecological foot print in operational parks and communities, the cases against French oil giant in French courts triggering local , national ,regional and international scrutiny into the company's operations forcing 11 EU based financing banks,3 international insurance companies, the UK Export credit Agency among others to pull out from financing Oil and gas projects in Uganda including the EACOP hence further delaying its development plans, Total Energies executing Human Rights Impact Assessments and putting in place Community grievance handling mechanisms, courts suspending plans to degazate forest ecosystems such as Mabira, court rulings for establishments and conservation of off sets such as Kalagala and Itanda falls blocking the amendment of article 26 of the Uganda constitution that guarantees exclusive rights of communities over their land, conservation of Bugala Island wetland lands and buffer zones, interesting and triggering actions of the Compliance Advisor – the Ombudsman (CAO) to intervene in land grabbing and compensation issues of BIDCO oil palm plantation company against Kalangala and Buvuma island palm oil affected communities.

2. Saving Mabira forest:

NAPE advocacy efforts in the early 2000s were able to save Mabira Forest Reserve from total degradation and extinction by activities of Madvani group of companies and Bugoma forest also has been saved since 2016 from total destruction from activities of Hoima Sugar limited and up to present NAPE maintains a case against Hoima Sugar Limited in courts of Law. These struggles even went to a level of NAPE organizing physical meetings with the President of Uganda.

https://www.google.com/search?client=firefox-b-d&q=NAPE+spearheads+campaigns+on+mabira
https://nape.or.ug/court-of-appeal-starts-hearing-of-the-case-against-hoima-sugar-limited/
https://www.independent.co.ug/conservationists-vow-give-everything-save-mabira-forest/ Environmentalists under the umbrella of National Association of Professional Environmentalists (NAPE) yesterday celebrated their victory over the president's 2006 Mabira give away.
https://redpepper.co.ug/environmentalists-celebrate-victory-over-musevenis-mabira-give-away/48069/

3. Protection of Bugoma forest from illegal take over and destruction

https://www.google.com/search?client=firefox-b-d&q=NAPE+challangers+bugoma+forest+destruction

4. Conservation of Bugala island wetlands and Lake buffer zones in Kalangala district.

https://www.google.com/search?client=firefox-b-d&q=nape+conserves+buffer+zones+in+kalangalaervation of Bugala island wetlands and Lake buffer zones in Kalangala district.

5.Promoting Food sovereignty :

NAPE has been successful in initiating, mentoring and through her sub granting program able to form and nurture more than now 60 lobby and advocacy grass root groups especially in the oil region currently carrying out lobby and advocacy actions to protect community rights, promote environmental rights and food sovereignty

https://www.newvision.co.ug/category/business/communities-in-bunyoro-region-hail-nape-amids-NV_167288

6. Restoration of Katwe and Munyanyange salt Lakes and surrounding hill slopes:

NAPE has been able to restore more than 700 acres of degraded slopes around Lake Katwe salt With Europhobia trees and Cyprus grass long the lake shore line ensuring that the salt Lake continues to exist and service the needs of more than 10,000 salt miners get-ting their daily livelihoods from the lake rock salt mining.

https://www.monitor.co.ug/uganda/news/national/how-tree-planting-drive-restored-saltproduction-in-kasese-district-1707034

7. Campaigning against amendment of article 26 of the Uganda constitution:

NAPE was able to halt the Amendment of article 26 of the Uganda constitution through her advocacy which would have otherwise resulted into compulsory acquisition of community land being given green light in Uganda in 2019, 2020 and 2021. Parliament was engaged until the amendment was rejected and abandoned to date.

8. Halting the Early production scheme of a mini oil refinery in Kabwoya wildlife reserve in 2001:

NAPE was also able to spearhead mobilization, advocacy and execution of an EIA addendum of the Early production scheme for Uganda's Oil extraction in Uganda that resulted into the abandonment of establishing a mini oil and gas refinery in Kabwoya Wildlife reserve in early 2000s where the government working with oil company Tullow had planned to establish the oil refinery in the middle of the park.

https://nape.or.ug/our-projects/extractive-industries/
https://www.newvision.co.ug/news/1252730/oil-firm-won-eur-build-refinery-reserve

9. Winner of the best environmental organization in Uganda award:



NAPE in 2019 became the sole winner of the Responsible investor award as the best environmental advocacy organization in Uganda championing struggles against environmental degradation and climate change.

https://www.nape.or.ug/news-events/latest-news/211-nape-wins-2019-uganda-responsibleinvestment-uri-award-as-the-best-environmental-protection-organisation-of-the-year

10. NAPE community Green radio wins Prestigious award as the best among 60 radios in Africa for amplifying voices of grass root women:



NAPE is the only environmental advocacy NGO in Uganda that runs a Community Green Radio mainly for amplifying voices of the poor, less privileged and vulnerable communities on issues of environmental conservation, climate change, food sovereignty, Gender, human rights and preservation of cultural heritage. This Community Green Radio is a key mouth piece of communities because business/ commercial radios are majorly profit oriented and their interests are not issues of poor people. The NAPE Green Radio in February 2020 emerged as the sole winner of the prestigious Litz Hughes International Award given to her by Farm Radio International Canada as the best among 60 competing radios in Africa for amplifying voices of grass root women won under the Nyinabwengye "Mother of knowledge" program.

-https://www.greenradio.ug/community-green-radio-receives-the-2020-liz-hughes-award-for-her-farm-radio/
-https://www.greenradio.ug/communitygreen-radio-receives-the-2020-liz-hughesaward-for-her-farm-radio/ NAPE has won human rights awards for protecting rights of communities and groups
-https://www.bothends.org/en/Whats-new/ News/Ugandan-NGO-gets-prestigious-Human-Rights-Award/

11.NAPE community Green Radio gets broadcasting award from Buganda Kingdom 2024:



The NAPE community Green radio station was given an award by the Buganda cultural institution transforming the lives of the kingdom subjects whose people in the central region and mid western are largely affected by EACOP being credited for excelling for good coverage of community issues.

12. NAPE in 2013 was awarded a prestigious Human Rights Award by the Uganda Human Rights Commission (UHRC), endorsed by the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) for her long outstanding work on the sustainable management of Natural resources.

https://www.google.com/search?client=firefox-b-d&q=NAPE+wins+Human+rights+award
https://ipen.org/news/nape-awarded-prestigious-human-rights-award
ttps://www.bothends.org/en/Whats-new/News/Ugandan-NGO-gets-prestigious-Human-Rights-Award/

13. Establishment of an independent forest monitoring strategy for civil society to check illegal timber logging:

NAPE in 2021 spearheaded the establishment of a National Independent forest monitoring strategy for civil society to check illegal timber logging and this has been popularized among District Forest Sector services, line ministries and regulatory institutions such as NFA, NEMA, UWA, MWE among others.

https://www.newvision.co.ug/category/ blogs/why-collaboration-is-vital-in-fighting-illega-NV_103787
https://www.greenradio.ug/nape-and-partners-to-monitor-ugandas-forests-against illegal-logging/

14. Spearheading advocacy efforts for recognition of Nature rights and introduction of chapter 4 in the National Environmental Act of 2019:

NAPE in 2019 spearheaded advocacy efforts for recognition of nature rights and her 3 year lobby efforts collaborating with other 3 groups resulted into the introduction of Chapter 4 in the National Environmental Act of 2019 of Uganda clearing stipulating that;

1. Nature has a right to exist, persist, maintain and regenerate its vital cycles, structures, functions and its processes in evolution.
b) A person has a right to bring an action before a competent court for any infringement of rights of nature.
c) Government shall apply precaution and restriction measures in all activities that can lead to the extinction of species, the destruction of ecosystem or permanent alteration of natural cycles.

See link: https://gaiafoundation.org/rights-of-nature-gain-ground-in-ugandas-legal- system/

15. NAPE approved as an Amicus Curiae /Friend of Court on Protection of forests and other ecosystems

In a land Mark ruling by the Ugandan High Court, National Association of Professional Environmentalists (NAPE) has been approved as a Friend of court to provide expert information and evidence on cases of environmental rights abuse (deforestation and climate change). The Amicus included an expert opinion on deforestation in Uganda and made arguments regarding the Paris Agreement and the public trust doctrine. Here, NAPE relied on the public trust doctrine to argue that the Ugandan government holds the forest on trust for the benefit of Ugandan citizens. The Amicus also addressed the Ugandan constitutional right to a healthy environment and international jurisprudence on the right to life in relation to environmental protection. We think this is a key process victory that will in the near future enable NAPE to provide expert evidence in courts against degradation impacts triggered by the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) and other large land based investments.

https://www.landmarkchambers.co.uk/news-and-cases/ugandan-high-court-grants-application-to-intervene-in-deforestation-and-climate-change-case

16: Halting the destruction of the Murchison falls by Government of Uganda and Bonang Energy Limited South Africa:

NAPE also in 2020 and 2021 challenged moves by both government of Uganda and Bonang Energy Limited of South Africa to construct a 360 Hydro power dam on the renowned World heritage site of the Murchison falls.

Uganda Government scraps the 360 watt dam construction proposal at Murchison Falls Link

https://rafikisafarisuganda.com/murchison-falls-dam/

17. NAPE since 2018 has been Spearheading Grass Root Movement Building in Uganda's Oil region to strengthen grass root community collective resistance and solidarity actions against the dangers of the extractive sector and SGBV vice against women in Uganda



https://www.greenradio.ug/nape-stands-in-solidarity-with-grassroot-womens-movement-in-demanding-for-protection-of-rights-as-a-pathway-to-economic-justice/
https://www.greenradio.ug/nape-strengthens-grassroot-womens-movement-as-it-expands-to-central-region/
https://kazi-njemanews.com/nape-works-to-expand-grassroots-women-empowerment-movement-in-uganda/

18. Establishment of more than 26 safe and strategy spaces for HR victims in the face of human and land rights abuse in the oil region in the pre-and post covid 19 period.

The safe spaces enable victims of gender-based violence, human rights abuses facing stigma get psychosocial support, counseling, referrals and legal information by community caretakers who were identified and trained by NAPE in conflict resolution, counseling, gender equality and peace building.

https://nape.or.ug/nape-launches-community-based-safe-spaces-to-handle-cases-of-gender-based-violence-and-human-rights-violations/
https://www.google.com/search?client=firefox-b-d&q=NAPE+establishes+safe+spaces+
https://www.greenradio.ug/european-union-applauds-nape-for-combating-gender-based-violence-improving-livelihoods-and-boosting-food-security-in-bunyoro-region/

19. Nurturing a culture of peace and tolerance in Uganda refugee communities of both Northern and South Western Uganda specifically in the refugee camps of Kyangwali – Kikuube District, Nakivale refugee camp in Isingiro district, Kyaka 1 and 2 refugee camps in Kyegegwa district, Bidibidi refugee camps in Yumbe district, Rhino and Madi-Okollo camps –Adjumani districts –North west Nile sub region - Uganda.



https://www.greenradio.ug/napes-local-peace-committee-curbing-conflicts-in-kyangwali-refugee-camp/
https://www.greenradio.ug/nape-launches-a-peaceful-co-existance-project-in-refugee-and-idp-camps-in-kukuube-district/

NAPE LAUNCHES A PEACEFUL CO-EXISTANCE PROJECT IN REFUGEE AND IDP CAMPS IN KIKUUBE DISTRICT

20. Fighting Hazardous Mercury usage in artisanal mines in the districts of Buhweju, Kassanda, Mubende, Namayingo, Busia and Karamoja and promoting mercury free gold processing alternatives using Borax.

NAPE has been promoting the Mercury free gold processing method i.e. the borax method, a technique of artisanal gold mining, which uses borax as a flux to purify gold hence saving artisanal miners from the dangers of using mercury which include memory loss, skin cancers, respiratory complications, reproductive health complications among others. The borax method was invented from Philippines and replicated in Uganda among artisanal gold miners.



https://www.greenradio.ug/napes-local-peace-committee-curbing-conflicts-in-kyangwali-refugee-camp/

https://www.greenradio.ug/nape-launches-a-peaceful-co-existance-project-in-refugee-and-idp-camps-in-kukuube-district/

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