



Strengthening Partnership for CSOs Lobby & Advocacy to Protect International Public Goods (IPGs) in Uganda

SEEKING JOINT SOLUTIONS TO ACHIEVE SUSTAINABLE USE AND PROTECTION OF
LIVELIHOOD & SUPPORTING ECOSYSTEMS IN MURCHISON & QUEEN ELIZABETH
LANDSCAPES - **THE SRJS PROGRAM 2016 - 2020**

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The natural world and the resources it provides to us is under threat of destruction. The drive for economic growth is increasingly forcing nature to make way for large-scale monoculture, mining and infrastructure investments. This is causing an imbalance in ecosystems worldwide and has put a growing number of plant and animal species at risk of extinction. This has a negative impact not only on the natural world itself, but also on human beings who depend on the services nature provides (IPGs) -water, food and stable climate.



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Editorial

Government of Uganda has embraced foreign Direct Investment (FDI) as a model for promoting economic growth and development. Industrialization in the eyes of the government remains the primary driver of growth to boost social and economic transformation. Government has continued to prioritize large-scale investment even in fragile ecosystems at the expense of conservation. This notion has seen government and private sector investments being operated in critical ecosystems such as the Albertine Graben, which is a rich biodiverse hotspot in Africa in general, and Uganda in particular.

According to the IUCN Red Data Book listing, it is home to 79 threatened terrestrial invertebrates and ecologically it hosts 39% of the Africa's mammal species, 35% of Africa's insects species, 51% of African bird species, 19% of African amphibian species, 14% of Africa's plants and reptile species, 60% of Uganda's water bodies, and 70% of Uganda's protected areas with 7 out of 10 National parks, 8 out of 15 forests, 12 Wildlife reserves, 13 Wildlife sanctuaries, and 5 community wildlife areas.

The oil and gas sector development, and large-scale agribusiness in the Albertine is threatening the ability of the ecosystems to provide International Public Goods (IPGs) -water provisioning, food security, climate resilience, and overall, the sustainability of the communities that depend on these ecosystems for their survival. Laws and regulations that govern the management of natural resources is skewed to protect the interests of

the private sector and multinational companies at the expense of local communities and the environment. Such development model puts the private sector and multinational corporates at the center that undermines the ability of critical ecosystems to provide IPGs. To safeguard natural capital for the future, there is need to find a balance between economic, environmental and social values of biodiversity in the Albertine Rift. This calls for an integrated approach whereby the interests of the various stakeholders in specific landscapes within the Albertine Rift are aligned with, and in balance with, the capacity of the natural ecosystem.

The Share Resource, Joint Solutions Programm (SRJS) was launched in Uganda in 2016 to helping NGOs and civil society organizations to increase their influence in multi-stakeholder partnerships with governments and businesses to strengthen their leverage in successfully advocating for inclusive and green development. The SRJS program is implemented in two landscapes, -the Murchison Landscape in Western Uganda and the Queen Elizabeth Landscape in south western Uganda. These landscapes include 14 districts -Kibaale, Hoima, Masindi, Kiryandongo, Nwoya, Buliisa and Nebbi in the Murchison landscape, and Rubirizi, Kamwenge, Mitooma, Kasese, Kanungu, Rukungiri and Ibanda districts in the Queen Elizabeth landscape.

The SRSJ program in Uganda is implemented in partnership between the National Association of Professional Environmentalists (NAPE), African Institute for Energy Governance

(AFIEGO), Environmental Conservation Trust (ECOTRUST) and the IUCN – Uganda country Office.

The local communities and local conservationists represented in Community-Based Organizations, and civil society organizations in these landscapes are only loosely involved in building synergies and decision-making processes regarding their landscape and their natural environment. These groups have extensive knowledge of their landscapes and natural environment and are the first to experience the negative effects of any changes to these natural resources. The SRSJ is aimed at strengthening the capacity of the communities, CSOs and the private sector to promote and conserve biodiversity in these landscapes so that it can continue to provide the much-needed ecosystem services (IPGs).

One year into the implementation of the SRSJ program, remarkable achievements have been registered in making the private sector appreciate the importance of conservation of critical ecosystems for the provision of IPGs. Government agencies too are beginning to respect the roles of ecosystems in maintaining climate balance, and have gone ahead to reduce agitation of the private sector involvement in converting forested landscapes into mining and monoculture investments. Important laws such as the national local content, protecting the conservation of Bugoma forest, Ongo community forest, and a series of sustainable land use practices for promoting conservation and food security are so far the core results. In addition, constructive engagements



The Launching the SRJS Program in Uganda

Shared Resources, Joint Solutions (SRJS) in Uganda was officially launched in January 2017, and is implemented in two landscapes, -the Murchison Landscape in Western Uganda and the Queen Elizabeth Landscape in south western Uganda. These two landscapes lie within the larger Albertine rift section of Uganda which is an important biodiversity hot spot that is a home to 39% of Africa's Mammal species, 51% of Africa's bird species and 19% of Africa's amphibian species. The Rift also harbours around 70% of Uganda's major protected areas including 7 out of 10 National parks, 8 out of 15 forests, 12 wildlife reserves, 13 wildlife sanctuaries and 5 wildlife community areas.

The aim of the program is to strengthen the capacity of the project partners for lobby and advocacy to influence government and private sector policies and practices for the promotion, maintenance and restoration of ecosystems in the landscapes to ensure sustainability of International Public Goods (IPGs) -food security, water provisioning, climate

resilience and biodiversity. These landscapes host important aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems, Lake Albert, Lake Edward and George, Budongo and Bugoma forests.

These ecosystems are critical for the provision of IPGs, however, they are threatened by current development choices such as the emerging oil and gas sector, massive conversion of forested land into agribusiness projects such as sugar cane and tobacco cultivation, as well as other extractives such as limestone extraction. These landscapes include 14 districts -Kibaale, Hoima, Masindi, Kiryandongo, Nwoya, Buliisa and Nebbi in the Murchison landscape, and Rubirizi, Kamwenge, Mitooma, Kasese, Kanungu, Rukungiri and Ibanda districts in the Queen Elizabeth landscape.

The program supports the project partners with capacity to build partnerships with central government (NEMA, NFA, and MWE etc.), local government (in the landscape districts) and civil society to promote

[ABOVE] Implementing Partners: National Association of Professional Environmentalists (NAPE), African Institute for Energy Governance (AFIEGO), Environmental Conservation Trust of Uganda (ECOTRUST), IUCN-Uganda Office, IUCN Netherlands, WWF

community rights and conservation of key ecosystems in the landscape so as to protect International Public Goods (water provisioning, food security, climate resilience and biodiversity). The Program also provide an opportunity to build and strengthen the partnerships with the private sector so that they can participate and invest in the protection and conservation of the environment at the chosen landscapes to ensure a long-term win-win situation. The prospects of good community livelihoods and rich biodiversity will ensure conservation of crucial live-provisioning ecosystem services for future generations.



Developing a theory of change to facilitate change in the landscapes

The RJS program aims to reduce the impact of international drivers/ threats of ecosystem change and degradation such as the emerging Oil and Gas sector, sugarcane and tobacco growing and other extractives within the two major landscapes i.e. Murchison Landscape in Western Uganda and the Queen Elizabeth Landscape in south western Uganda through lobby and advocacy, and building the capacity of program stakeholders to promote conservation of the ecosystems for continued provisioning of International Public Goods (PGs) -water, food security, and climate resilience.

The Main aim/goal or purpose of the SRJS program is to strengthen CSO capacity for lobby and advocacy to influence government and private sector players, policies and practices for the promotion, maintenance and restoration of ecosystems to ensure IPGs of food security, water provision, climate resilience and biodiversity are secured in targeted landscapes of Murchison falls and Queen Elizabeth.

To be able to realize the program goals, the programme implementing partners

developed a "Theory of Change": a roadmap that outlined the different pathways that could lead them to achieve the programme goals. They hypothesized the pathways to the change they envision in a graphical chat showing the several outcomes related to capacity building, partnership development, behavioral change of the different players, and changes in policies and practices by government, the private sector, civil society and communities in the landscapes.

This process was aimed at helping the program implementers to deepen their understanding about the issues that are threatening proper functioning of ecosystems in the landscapes so that they could draw proper plans and strategies they will use, and identify relevant activities to carry out in order to cause the change they envisioned. The process also helped the team to identified primary stakeholders within the landscape whom they would work with to ensure the ecosystems are sustainably conserved to continue providing the ecosystems services leading to sustainable water

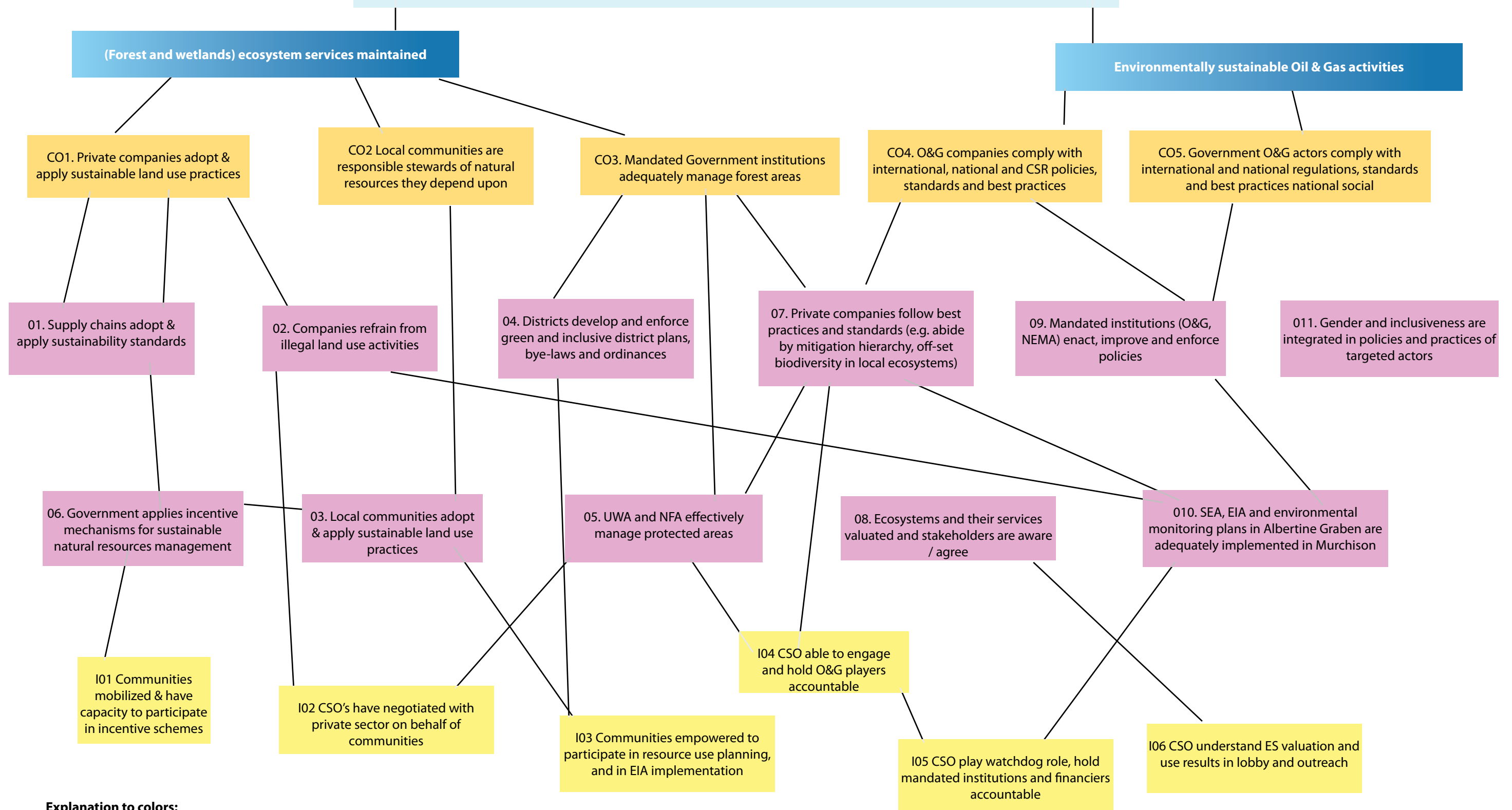
The SRJS team during resource mapping exercise in the Murchison landscape

provisioning, food security and climate resilience, and sustainable livelihoods of the people who depend on them.

The stakeholders that the programme implementers identified included: community-based organizations CBOs/ grassroot associations or groups working in the landscape, opinion leaders in the community, mandated local and district government institutions (i.e. Police, National forest Authority (NFA), private sector players such as Sugar companies, and Tour Operators and Oil Companies). These groups form part of the core programme capacities or building blocks that are working to enable the programme strategies to be actualized.

The program implementers hope that by the end of the program, the ecosystems in these landscapes will be responsibly managed by all the stakeholders to ensure there is sustainable and continuous provisioning of IPGs for the benefit of all.

Environmentally sustainable development activities that secure IPGs



Explanation to colors:

Blue: objective (sphere of interest)

Stone red: first level of outcomes (sphere of influence)

Orange: second level of outcomes or preconditions (sphere of influence)

Yellow: intermediate outcomes (sphere of control)

Explanation to letters

CO-Change Objective

O-Outcomes

IO-Intermediate outcomes

Building Partnership to Reduce Threats to Ecosystems in the Murchison and Queen Elizabeth Landscapes

Strengthening the SRJS partner's capacities and fostering partnerships between programme implementers and different stakeholders is a strategic development objective, and part of the policy framework for the funders of SRJS programme -IUCN Netherlands in partnership with WWF Netherlands under the Dialogue and Dissent program of the Dutch foreign ministry.

Through lobbying and advocacy, national and local NGOs and civil society groups and their networks within and outside the landscapes can motivate businesses such as mining, food, infrastructure and financial companies to apply environmentally sustainable practices in their businesses. They can

also hold governments accountable for sound policies and law enforcement and voice societal needs.

Following the launch of the SRSJ programme in January 2017, the program partners embarked on engaging the different stakeholders within the landscapes to develop a mechanism for collaborative management of natural resources in the landscapes so that it continues to provided International Public Goods (IPGs) -water provisioning, food security and climate resilience.

The stakeholders included government agencies -National Forest Authority (NFA), National Environment Management Authority (NEMA), the Uganda Police Units in the districts and private entities such as Sugar Companies in Hoima and Masindi districts, and Oil companies who are key ingredients to

create successful conservation outcomes within the landscape.

To enable the different stakeholders to buy-in the SRJS programme, the SRJS partners during their engagement with different stakeholders drew links between nature conservation, development and sustainable livelihoods, and the need to attack the impacts of developments at the source as can clearly be seen in the case of the two biodiverse landscapes.

Engagement with central and government agencies within the landscapes

In some instances, it has been government's vaguely defined policies and legal frameworks, and not community economic necessity that has driven unsustainable exploitation of natural resources and destruction

of natural forest resources in these ecosystems, especially in the Murchison landscape. The direct economic and fiscal costs of unsustainable resources exploitation, in addition to the threats of species extinction is huge. The result has been alteration of rich biological diversity and reduction in ecosystems services with climate change phenomenon leading to food insecurity being visibly evident in localities like Buliisa among others.

The programme partners in their workplan want government and government agencies to ensure that there are clear and responsive policies that promote natural resources conservation and sustainable provision of IPGs, and livelihoods of the landscape communities. They also want mandated government agencies to monitor activities of the different actors, and work closely with the programme partners and host communities to ensure that the ecosystems are conserved so that it continues to provide the needed ecosystem services. There should be policies that do not restrict the activities of CSOs.

These partnerships will help to keep the balance between positive conservation outcome and the economic vitality of a community. This collaboration will also help to address complex environmental and policy problems; and emphasize stakeholder participation and communication about key issues in the landscape ecosystems management.

Engagement with Business

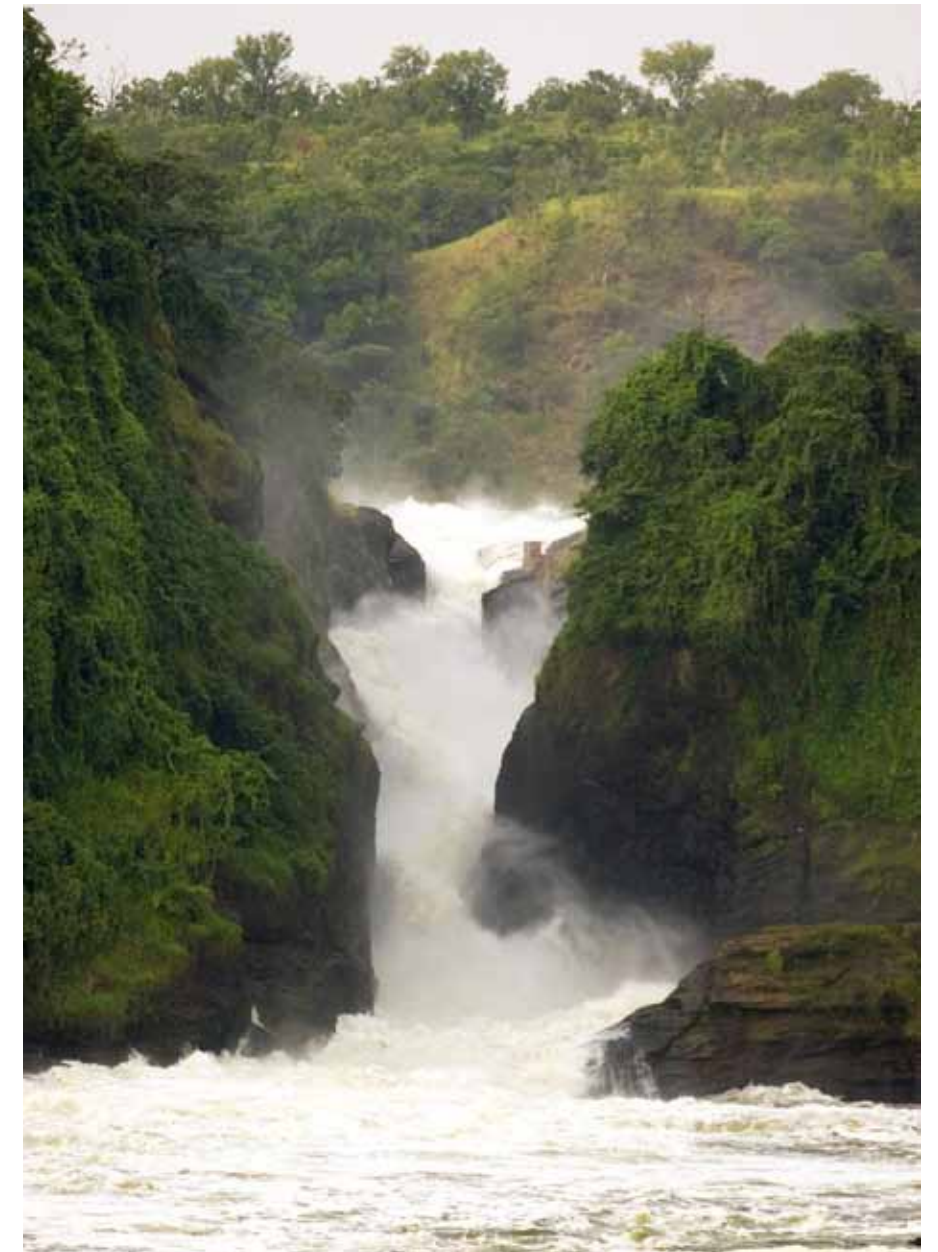
Engagement with business was done with the understanding that businesses relies on natural resources to operate, which can create impacts and risks as well as opportunities and benefits. Businesses rely on natural resources for their production processes and depend on healthy ecosystems to remove waste,

and maintain soil, water and air quality. At the same time, businesses can have major negative impacts on biodiversity. In that sense, business must be part of the solutions to address the impacts they cause. This can best be done through incorporating natural capital into the business planning.

The SRJS partners have developed an action plan to engage businesses operating in their landscapes to safeguard ecosystem-based international public goods for water provisioning, food security

and climate resilience. The actions among other will include involving business in stakeholder meetings and dialogues to share information about their operations. Business should be transparent and accountable for their actions.

This partnership is already working towards promoting conservation of the ecosystems in the landscape. Government has already halted or cancelled permits of companies that were degrading parts of natural forests in some parts of the landscape.





The Gender Training for SRJS Implementing partners in Uganda, March 2017

Mainstreaming Gender in SRSJ Program

In designing strategies and actions leading to actualization of the envisioned goals and objectives, the SRSJ programme seeks to incorporate gender inclusiveness in the entire program implementation process. In line with this, the IUCN Uganda office supported SRJS partners to organize a two-day gender sensitization workshop that aimed at build gender-responsive capacity for the programme partners to enable them enhance gender and social inclusiveness outcomes of SRJS programme.

The SRSJ program aims at reducing the impacts of international drivers of ecosystems change in the two landscapes. The current development trends -exploitation of resources including oil and gas are exacerbating gender inequality within the landscapes. Land use activities in these landscapes are already causing changes in the ecosystems, and giving rise to social effects such as changes in income inequality, dispossession and exclusion of primary stakeholders (land resource owners) due to inefficient and or oppressive policies.

Vulnerable groups such as women, children and the elderly are highly dependent on the landscape ecosystems for their basic needs of water food and energy, which are immensely affected by decisions made in the use and management of these ecosystems. Men and women often have unequal access to resources such as knowledge and capacity development. This can be due to social or cultural reasons, such as women's traditional responsibility for care work or men's breadwinner role and related time constraints. Unequal access to resources also depends on other dimensions of inequality, such as age, ethnicity, class or religion.

Although Uganda has the necessary laws, policies and legal frameworks to guide the use and management of these ecosystems, by omission or commission these frameworks have not addressed gender issues in shared use and management of these resources but instead promote negotiations as a decision-making approach yet the vulnerable groups do not have power to negotiate.

The lack of gender sensitivity in the development of core indicators and targets in environment and natural resources management are clear and entrenched barriers to sector performance. In addition, there are limited or non-existent linkages between gender and the various key policy documents on environment and natural resources management. The SRJS program is working to bridge the gender gap through policy influence and implementation, and promotion of gender responsive policies, strategies and actions that seek to address women's and men's needs, equips and empowers them to participate in decision-making regarding natural resources management at all levels.

To mainstream gender in SRSJ program in Uganda, The SRJS implementing partners were trained in identifying gender issues across the environmental arena in relation to SRJS programming; identifying SRJS objectives, strategies, actions and outputs that can be enhanced with a gender approach, as well as through gender indicators in M&E; developing action plan to promote gender-responsive actions and results in 2017; and in identify additional capacity needs and potential for next-step actions in 2018 and beyond.

SRJS Support Community Initiatives to Conserve Bugoma & Ongo Community Forests in Hoima & Masindi Districts

In October 2017, the programme partners visited the Community Forest in Masindi district and Bugoma Central Forest Reserve in Hoima district respectively to see, learn and appreciate the initiatives taken by communities and different stakeholders in promoting food security, water provision and climate resilience amidst oil exploration and forest degradation challenges through sustainable land use and forest conservation. The partners also visited the Ongo Community river line forest in Budongo forest corridors in Masindi that covers 197 hectares of land and managed by Ongo Forest Community Land Association with support from ECOTRUST.

Ongo Community Forest in Masindi

district has been under threat by a proposed Sugarcane project. After intensive awareness raising and advocacy activities by the project partners, the communities from Unini, Abangi, Ogada and Kibale villages in Budongo Sub County rejected the planned sugarcane project, and have now embarked on planting trees and rehabilitating Ongo Community Forest as they grow food crops. The communities have realized that land-use change of Ongo community forest would be big threat to community food security.

The Association Chairperson, Ms. Oleru Helen while addressing the project partners said community came up with the initiative of conservation after realizing that the forest which is their

source of water, rain and firewood was being cleared with the aim of changing land-use.

One of the community members, Aleru: said "People would come and log trees and use our boys to ferry them, eventually firewood started becoming a problem and people especially women would cross to Budongo forest where they would be beaten. That's when we came up with the idea of getting the solution to this and many other challenges."

In Bugoma Forest Reserve where NAPE has been collaborating with National Forestry Authority (NFA) in carrying community and stakeholder engagement meetings aimed at crafting sustainable management





solutions to the forest reserve conservation and resource harnessing, it was observed that communities adjacent to the forest are also planting trees alongside growing food crops.

The NFA manager for Budongo ecosystems, Mr. Situart Maniraguha said the communities now realize the need to protect the forest reserve and hailed NAPE for supporting them in conserving Bugoma forest ecosystem which has had parts of the forest cleared for sugarcane growers and other illegal activities. He also hailed NAPE for establishing Community Green Radio, which has become a mouthpiece for environmental conservation in Bunyoro sub region.

Speaking to Community Green Radio staff, Henk Simons from IUCN-Netherlands said there is need to strongly support and strengthen communities that are engaged in sustainable land-use and forest conservation, and implementing the laws that protect forests.

The Coordinator of SRJS Programs at NAPE, Rajab Bwengye, hailed the

The community are planting tree at the edge of the forest to increase the acreage of the forest

initiative of communities for actively getting involved in tree planting near the forest reserves which he said is good to for food security and increasing the acreages of forests. He said NAPE will continue supporting NFA in fighting illegal titling of land in the contested areas of the forest reserve and also building the capacity of the community association -Collaborative Forest Management groups to ensure that there is continuous sensitization.

"I am happy that communities adjacent to the forests are planting trees that grow along with food crops not sugarcane. As SRJS, this is what we advocate for because the trees in the community land will act as a buffer to the encroachers," Rabaj said.

The Programs Officer for Water and Biodiversity at IUCN-Uganda office, Evelyn Busingye called upon the government to stand up and

strengthen such community-led initiatives that are protecting the forests, and help to replicate such efforts in areas where there is high rate of forest degradation.

Bugoma Forest Reserve has of recent been threatened by increasing rates of encroachment for agricultural purposes, logging of timber and politically driven projects. Political interference by government officials is part of the reason for forest degradation in Hoima. Early this year, the former Hoima Municipality Mayor, Francis Atugonza was claiming 239 hectares of Bugoma forest reserve belonged to the Ababyasi clan, which he belongs to. Bunyoro Kingdom is also battling a court case with NFA claiming ownership of 5777 hectares of land under Block 2 of the forest reserve in Kyangwali Sub County in Hoima district.



NGOs state 26 reasons for rejecting amendment of Article 26 on land acquisition of the 1995 Constitution of the Republic of Uganda

Different circles across the country continue discussing the amendment of article 26 of Uganda's constitution to give room for government's compulsory land acquisition. Many have rejected the move as an avenue headed to withdraw the citizen's right to fair compensation before handing over land to government projects. Government on the other hand maintains that it will help counter the delay of its projects. Amidst that, Dickens Kamugisha, the Chief Executive Officer, African Institute of Energy Governance (AFIEGO) working in close collaboration with National Association of Professional Environmentalists (NAPE), ECO-TRUST Uganda and the IUCN Uganda Country Office under the Shared Resources,

Joint Solutions (SRJS) Program in Uganda state 26 reasons to reject the proposed amendment:

AFIEGO's 26 Reasons to Reject the Amendment of Article 26 of Uganda's Constitution:

1. The proposed amendment violates citizens' right against property deprivation until payment of fair and adequate compensation as is enshrined in Article 26 (1) of the 1995 Uganda Constitution.
2. The proposed amendment is irrelevant because the same Article 26 already empowers government and/or a local government to compulsorily acquire any private property/

land as long as that property is required for "public use, or in the interest of defense, public safety, public order, public morality or public health." It only requires government to pay prompt, fair and adequate compensation. Once the prompt payment of fair and adequate compensation is made, no one can stop government from exercising compulsory powers of acquisition.

3. The proposed amendment is therefore in bad faith and is intended to shield government from her own obligation of paying citizens prompt, fair and adequate compensation in compulsory land acquisitions.
4. Moreover, if successful, the amendment will force citizens

- to accept unfair compensation or force them to undertake unaffordable litigation. In effect, if effected, the Bill will legalise injustices against vulnerable citizens.
5. Further, if the amendment is effected, it will disempower property/land owners from challenging government's decisions on compulsory acquisitions because of high court costs among other factors even when such decisions are unjust and unfair. The amendment will introduce dictatorship in compensation processes against citizens.
 6. More so, the proposed amendment should be rejected because its effect is to stop affected land owners from challenging government's decisions on acquisition and/or possession even where acquisition is not for public use. To this extent, it contravenes Article 50 of the 1995 Uganda Constitution which empowers any aggrieved person to have access to courts for redress against any infringements or threats against human rights.
 7. The proposed amendment also contravenes Article 24 of the Constitution because it seeks to deprive citizens of their survival and this should be construed as torture, cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment which Article 24 provides against. How does government expect a person or household whose land has been taken before payment of compensation to survive? Remember, over 80 percent of Ugandans survive/subsist on land.
 8. The amendment is also against Article 128 of the Constitution as it seeks to empower the executive to involve courts in matters that are not before it yet. Where the land owner opts to go to court, the same courts will be required to adjudicate the matter. Remember, decisions of possession and acquisition by government are not decisions before court until someone files a case and, as such, government should not be allowed to involve courts in such matters that will create mistrust and suspicion in the public.
 9. Further, since 1965, government has failed to put in place regulations for the assessment and payment of compensation as required by Section 20 of the Land Acquisition Act of 1965. If these regulations were in place, they would provide guidance on what is prompt, fair, adequate and prior compensation. To this extent, justifications being raised by government that disputes over compensation by land owners and others delay government projects would not surface. It is therefore unfortunate that a government that has failed to do first things first is the one trying to amend the Constitution to shield itself from its incompetence.
 10. The proposed amendment, if effected, will render the Bamugemereire-led Land Commission of Inquiry irrelevant despite the fact that billions of tax payers' money is being spent on the Commission. The Commission was instituted by the President to analyse the challenges of land governance in the country and is expected to make recommendations advising government on how to provide long-lasting solutions to land problems in the country. Why doesn't government want to wait for the commission's report and thereafter make appropriate decisions based on evidence including whether or not to amend the Constitution, if necessary? Government should not be allowed to waste our taxes on parallel and uncoordinated processes.
 11. The Bill is also pre-mature because for years, government has been promising the country

- a Constitutional Review process where experts would collect views from citizens across the country and based on those views, advise government on the required constitutional reforms for peace, harmony and development. Let government constitute the Constitutional Review Commission rather than amending the Constitution in piecemeal. Parliament should not allow and accept fictitious emergencies which will not address the problem but increase injustice against the citizens.
12. The Bill wants to force property/land owners to accept every decision of the Chief Government Valuer (CGV) or use the CGV's decisions on compensation as basis to deprive citizens of their property. Yet in the recent case of the Kampala-Entebbe Expressway, Uganda National Roads Authority (UNRA) rejected the CGV's value for a stone quarry. If a government department can reject as unfair a decision of another government office, why should Parliament amend the Constitution to allow government dictate compensation against project-affected people?
 13. While the Bill allows government to take over private property even when there is a dispute over compensation, it does not allow the property/land owner the luxury to stop the acquisition until payment of compensation. Instead, the affected person's only option is going to court where he or she has no control on when the case will be determined.
 14. In effect, the Bill will render all those disputing compensation landless as they pursue the legal process. Yet government knows that land cases in Uganda can take many years to be decided by court. Article 26 should be protected because it protects citizens' property rights while at the same time empowering

- government to go to court for determination of compensation in cases of disputes. Once court makes a decision, the land owner has no option but to accept the compensation awarded. It is at this point that government can deposit the compensation awarded in court and rightly evict the owner. This is the best law and therefore, no one should amend it.
15. If the Bill is effected in its current form, it will make government reluctant to perform her duties of ensuring that institutions and officers of government such as District Land Boards (DLBs), Records at sub counties, Area Land Committees and others are financially empowered and skilled to deliver effective services to citizens. To date, these institutions exist as formalities at the expense of citizens' rights.
 16. More so, the Bill among others calls upon Parliament to make laws prescribing the timeframe within which courts should determine compensation disputes. Yet, under Section 20 of the 1965 Land Acquisition Act, Parliament already empowered government to make regulations for the assessment and payment of compensation. What is therefore required is for government to make the regulations as mandated under Section 20 in which regulations it should prescribe the required timeframes.
 17. If effected, the Bill will enable government to continue defaulting on her obligation to implement and enforce the Land Act which provides for Land Tribunals at districts. Unlike traditional courts which remain outside the reach of the majority of citizens due to geographical, financial and procedural challenges, tribunals would be relatively easier for the poor including women to defend their land rights in cases of disputes.

MY LAND MY LIFE

...campaign...

My Food

My Shelter

My Future

My Income

My Identity

My Security

*** Stop Eviction | * Stop Land Grabbing**

Oppose & Fight the proposal to amend article 26 of the constitution

TAKE MY LAND TAKE MY LIFE

Oppose & Fight Land Grabbing

The amendment of article 26 of the Uganda constitution will guarantee compulsory acquisition of private or protected land by government thus compromising any attempts to, implement the 2010 Environmental Monitoring Plan for the Albertine Graben, the 2016 Management Plan for Murchison Falls National Park, the 2003 Sensitivity Atlas for the oil rich Albertine Graben, the National Forest and Tree planting Act 2003 thus further compromising Water, maintaining, food security, climate resilience and biodiversity in Uganda.

Part of Bugebwa Forest (around 3000 acres) (approximately 20% of the forest area) threatened by Sugar plantation Expansion plans by Bwina Sugar Limited.

Under the SRJS Program in Uganda

Any constitutional land reform that does not seek to enable citizens to access affordable and reliable justice but rather force them to submit to institutions that are out of their reach should be rejected.

18. It is also unfortunate that the Bill is being brought at a time when thousands of communities across the country including the over 7,000 people in the Kabaale-Hoima refinery area have been forced out of their land before compensation or forced to accept unfair and inadequate compensation contrary to Article 26 of the Constitution. For over five years now, over 100 refinery-affected families who have never opposed the refinery project are still waiting to be compensated/relocated. Amidst this level of injustice, government wants Parliament to give her more powers to dictate the amount of compensation or force those who dispute the compensation to go to court well knowing that majority of citizens cannot afford court processes.
19. The amendment is also being brought at a time when major infrastructural projects for the oil sector including the East African Crude Export Pipeline (EACOP), the finished petroleum products' pipeline, pipelines from oil wells to the oil refinery, an oil refinery, well pads, central processing facilities and airports among others are going to be developed. The amendments could therefore constitute a trick by government to acquire land for this infrastructure without compensating the affected people. When this happens, the oil curse will commence in our country.
20. Government should leave the Constitution and instead fight corruption where government institutions illegally issue land titles in forest reserves, parks and

game reserves, wetlands and sell off government land because of corruption. It is corruption that makes government officials including valuers connive with the rich to initiate compensation values while the poor get displaced and are made to suffer silently. The Bill does not address corruption and injustice against the poor and the vulnerable including women who cannot afford court but only seeks to help rich and government perpetuate injustice.

21. Further, the Bill does not address the remedies for those who opt for relocation but disagree with the terms of relocation. In effect, the Bill reduces compensation to only cash.
22. If affected, project-affected people will continue to suffer grave injustice of delayed compensation, unfair and inadequate compensation which in turn cause other injustices such as family breakdowns, collapsing of health and education services, food insecurity, water crises and others.
23. In addition, if effected, the Bill will indirectly and illegally affect many other provisions of the same Constitution including Article 237 of the 1995 Uganda Constitution (as amended) which clearly states that land in Uganda belongs to the citizens. This should not be allowed by Parliament. Further, through tampering with Article 237, the doctrine of public trust will be abolished. This will have grave impacts on biodiversity and therefore tourism.
24. What should be done? Instead of amending Article 26 as proposed by government, Parliament should investigate the number of cases which are in violation of Article 26 of the Constitution, government has deprived communities of their property and either failed to pay or forced people to take unfair and inadequate compensation

or delayed for years to make compensation. Any proposal for constitutional reforms should be to strengthen the protection of citizens' property/land rights but not to take away the safeguards that are being violated by government.

25. Parliament should also use her oversight powers to compel the Minister of Lands to put in place regulations for the assessment and payment of compensation as she is mandated to under Section 20 of the 1965 Land Acquisition Act. These regulations should define what prompt, fair and adequate compensation is. They should also define the timeframe within which fair and adequate compensation should be paid to project-affected persons to prevent disputes arising from low or delayed compensation.
26. We also call upon every Ugandan and all friends of Uganda to defend Ugandans' right to prompt, fair and adequate compensation prior to acquisition and/or possession as provided for under Article 26 of the Constitution of Uganda (as amended).

SRJS program implementers above also advise the peoples' representatives in Parliament to reject the bill as a way of working for the people and not to work against them by passing it.



SRJS Program Support CSOs influence the CoP23 of UNFCCC negotiations in Bonn

One of the Programm's objective is to strengthen Civil Society Organizations to influence government's policies to ensure the country's resilience to climate change. As Uganda prepared to participate in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Summit in Bonn, the SRJS program supported CSOs to deliberate on key national issues government delegation to the UNFCCC should consider to raise during the debates. at CoP23 in Bonn.

The Civil Society under the umbrella organizations (Climate Action Network Uganda and the Environment and Natural Resources CSO Network) with support from the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) –SRJS Program gathered at Silver Springs Hotel, Bugolobi Kampala in mid October, to deliberate and reflect on the status of UNFCCC negotiations and emerging issues within our national circumstances. Over 50 CSO

representatives participated and gave their views in regard to key actions to take forward under the various themes during the UNFCCC negotiations.

The CSOs resolved that:
Government of Uganda should:

1. Ensure that the Climate Change Bill addresses the needs and concerns of vulnerable communities, indigenous peoples
2. Fast track the Technology Needs Assessment for Uganda to enhance opportunity for the

and specifies the roles of civil society and the private sector in scaling-up efforts and support actions to reduce emissions and build resilience to the adverse effects of climate change that curtails water provisioning, food security, climate resilience and sustainable livelihoods (IPGs).

Uganda is one of the countries vulnerable to climate change, and is already grappling to cope



- country to access additional financing. This must be followed with an elaborate communication effort to all the key stakeholders.
3. Clearly define her adaptation goal with clear indicators and targets beyond the NDC targets whereas urging the global community to elaborate the adaptation goal established under Paragraph 1 Article 7 of the Paris Agreement
4. Develop a national working definition for climate finance and further elaborate in her budget framework papers whilst fostering prioritization of key climate actions by various sectors.
5. Consider inclusion of a youth thematic negotiating group in the national negotiating team so as to ensure full inclusiveness in the UNFCCC/COP/CMA/CMP negotiations, whilst fast-tracking this youth actions Additionally, explore the possibility of forming a sub-thematic group of oil and gas under the mitigation negotiating group.
6. Expedite the accreditation of viable government entities to the financial entities of the UNFCCC i.e. Green Climate Fund and Global Environment Facility (GCF and GEF) instead of going through third party access which is costing Uganda over 15% of the total inflows.
7. Establish a framework to foster civil society role in the context of offering independent and complementary insights and expertise into Uganda's progress in implementing and enhancing the ambitions of the Paris Agreement.
8. Carry out a Comprehensive Capacity Needs Assessment for Climate Change to establish

- the capacity gaps in all the intervention areas: Adaptation, Mitigation, Finance, Technology transfer, Gender and Capacity Building.
9. Continuously build the capacity of the negotiators so as to address new and emerging issues beneficial to the country and the African block as well.
10. We urge the government of Uganda to work with partners to ensure that Non-Party stakeholders are directly involved in the process of the global stock-taking alongside Party stakeholders.To the

To the COP23/CMP13/CMA1-2

1. Fast track the process of completing the Paris Rule book to enable easy implementation of the Paris Agreement.
2. We urge parties to the APA to identify the sources of input for the global stock take and to develop its modalities on the possibility of having a common reporting time frame amidst the different national circumstances.
3. Call on parties to clarify on the features of the NDCs; provide information to facilitate clarity, transparency and understanding of the NDCs. The CMA should agree to have a minimum standard in the NDC with a new way of accounting for NDCs.
4. Urge parties to expedite the development of modalities,

- procedures and guidelines for the market mechanisms and non-market approaches under the Paris Agreement.
5. Urge developed country Parties to accelerate the mobilization and provision of USD 100 billion in climate finance per annum to address the needs and priorities of developing country Parties. Additionally, the 50:50 ratio between adaptation and mitigation finance should be strived.
6. All Parties Pledges must realize efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5 °C above pre-industrial levels
7. Urge Parties to urgently develop modalities to recognize the adaptation efforts of developing country Parties, as referred to in Article 7, paragraph 3, of the Agreement
8. Urge Parties to formalize the Adaptation Fund as a financial entity serving the Paris Agreement
9. Encourage developed country Parties to enhance the provision of support for implementation of Technology Action Plans (TAPs) and Technology Needs Assessment
10. Urge Parties to consider establishing the Adaptation Benefit Mechanism as a component of the Framework for Non-Market Approaches (NMA) so as to pursue voluntary cooperation in the implementation of NDCs



Oil and Gas Industry in Uganda: What it means for Climate Resilience, presented by SRJS Partners at CoP23

From the 12th to 17th of November 2017, the SRJS Uganda programme participated in the Conference of Parties (COP 23) negotiations which took place in Bonn Germany. The CoP23 was a perfect space for the SRJS programme to popularize the work they are doing to promote International Public Goods (IPGs) of food securing, water provisioning, climate resilience and biodiversity conservation amidst oil and forest degradation challenges at the international level. The also provided opportunity to share the experiences of Ugandan context in regards to oil exploitation and climate resilience, and to learn at international level the negotiations and progress countries are making in the fight against climate change.

The SRJS programme partner held a side

event in which panelists discussed the impact of the expanding oil and gas sector in Uganda on climate resilience. Pauline Nantongo Kalunda, Executive Director, ECOTRUST, moderated the session. She introduced exploration in the Albertine Rift in Uganda, which includes protected areas, Ramsar sites and endemic biodiverse areas. She noted three oil and gas companies operating in the area, and explained that the pipeline to be established from Lake Albert to the coast of Tanzania passes over critical environmental sites and will displace people.

Geoffrey Kamese, NAPE, Uganda, highlighted the important natural resources contained within the Albertine Rift, including, among others, 39% of African mammal species, 60% of Uganda's water bodies and 70% of

Uganda's protected areas. He explained that in his country, 6.5 billion barrels of oil have already been discovered, which accounts for only 40% of the total explorable area. In outlining key impacts to humans and the environment from oil and gas exploration in Uganda, he highlighted: environmental degradation; land grabs; human rights abuses; polluted water bodies; increased displacement of people; and conflict over resources.

Nimmo Bassey, Director, Health of Mother Earth Foundation, spoke about the experience of oil exploration in his country of Nigeria, noting that oil was first discovered there in 1956. He said that it would take 30 years to clean up water and land lost in his country to oil and gas, adding that there is an oil spill occurring somewhere on earth at every



second. He reiterated Geoffrey Kamese's statement, adding that petroleum and pipelines decrease livelihood opportunities, cause deforestation, and increase poaching, armed conflict and other illegal activities. Regarding efforts to increase solidarity amongst communities affected by oil and gas exploration, he highlighted: the FishNet Alliance, designed to protect fisheries in Cameroon, South Africa and Nigeria, with hopes to expand to Lake Albert; and the Sustainability Academy, a knowledge-sharing platform.

During the ensuing discussion, participants addressed, among others: how policies in Uganda include environmental impact assessment; good cases of resource extraction in Africa; what is being done to address climate-induced migration; why a harmful industry should be prioritized; and what panelists hope to achieve in the oil and gas sector.

[CLOCKWISE]

- Pauline Nantongo Kalunda, Executive Director, ECOTRUST, said that in Uganda, actions to protect the environment are done "to tick boxes."

- Geoffrey Kamesa of NAPE, making a presentation on what oil exploitation means to climate change

- TNnimo Bassey, Health of Mother Earth Foundation, underscored that "oil and gas represent the opposite of resilience"

- Oil rigs sunk in wildlife reserve impact on the animals



SRJS Program Program Partners at CoP23: How Uganda's Oil is Detrimental to Efforts on Climate Change



The SRJS Program partners in Uganda participated in the Conference of Parties (COP 23) for the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in Bonn, Germany, November 2017. One of the objectives of CoP23 was "advancing the aims and ambitions of the Paris Agreement".

The Paris Agreement, has been ratified by 169 countries including Uganda, and it aims at mitigating climate change through keeping global temperature rises below 2 degrees Celsius, and through enabling countries to adapt to climate change.

Between November 12 and 17, 2017, three of the four civil society organizations implementing the SRJS Programme in Uganda - Africa Institute for Energy Governance (AFIEGO), National Association of Professional Environmentalists (NAPE), and the Environmental Conservation Trust of Uganda (ECOTRUST) participated in the COP 23 and held a side event. The key message at the event was

centered on what Uganda's oil and gas resource exploitation means for climate change resilience.

The pre-dominant economic activity in Uganda is rain-fed agriculture, making prolonged droughts, floods and changing weather patterns that are synonymous with climate change, a big challenge for the country and its citizens.

In addition, because Uganda is a developing country, she is vulnerable to the impacts of climate change as the country cannot easily put together resources to address the effects. Amidst this situation, Uganda is planning on exploiting fossil fuel, oil, which directly contributes to global warming. With this, one would say that Uganda is digging its own grave. Furthermore, oil development efforts are a major driver for climate change.

Destruction of biodiversity including forests and wetlands during development of infrastructure for the oil sector, exploiting of oil in sensitive ecosystems such as national parks, lakes,

rivers and, in addition to the planned compulsory acquisitions of land by government or its agents; are going to have a direct and serious impact on global warming.

Another project that should make all of us worry is the East African Crude Oil Pipeline. The pipeline is going to be 1,445km long and 30 metres wide and in Uganda, it will traverse through eight districts and 24 sub-counties. In Tanzania, it will go through 24 districts. This means that hundreds of households across the eight districts in Uganda will be displaced through compulsory land acquisition. Because of the inefficiencies in compulsory land acquisitions in Uganda, including inadequate and delayed compensation, as has been seen before in other related oil development projects, the oil pipeline project-affected persons will be forced to resettle in sensitive ecosystems including river banks.

Furthermore, oil development activities result in population influxes, with speculators driving the population

increases. A big population size puts pressure on sensitive ecosystems in many ways. Population increase comes along with increased demand for basic needs, as well as presenting economic opportunities such as increased demand for energy in form of charcoal and firewood, which in turn leads to the destruction of forest resources and other sensitive ecosystems.

This is evident in Hoima district. After the development of Hoima Kaiso-Tonya road leading to the oil wells along Lake Albert, charcoal trade has sprung-up along the road, and virtually all the trees close to River Wambabya and others streams have been cut down to feed the charcoal business.

Other vital ecosystems such as forests, wetlands, lakes, and rivers are

being destroyed to pave way for the development of oil sector infrastructure.

It is remarkable that a lot of infrastructure, including the crude oil export pipeline, the finished petroleum products pipeline, feeder pipelines from various oil wells, central processing facilities (green field), well pads, workers' camps and others, are planned for the sector before 2020. Development of all the above infrastructure poses a major threat to Uganda's and indeed global efforts to mitigate and adapt to climate change.

Our message at this COP 23 therefore, was to appeal to government of Uganda to invest more in renewable energy option such as solar, to drive socio-economic development, especially since Uganda lies along the equator and

received enough sunshine up-to eight hours a day throughout the year. With economic activity borne of increased access to solar power, government will not need to chase money from dangerous fuels such as oil.

We also call on government to invest more in promoting indigenous trees as opposed to commercial ones such as pine. Pine and trees of its ilk have small leaves that do little to absorb carbon dioxide. This translates into too little being done to mitigate global warming and climate change.

Compiled by Samuel Okulony
Research and Programmes
Coordinator at AFIEGO, Bonn 2017



The Oil Pipeline that will evacuate oil from Hoima in Uganda to Tanga, Tanzania for export was launched recently by the two heads of state: H.E. Yoweri Kaguta Museveni of Uganda & H.e. John Ponpe Mangufuri of Tanzania



The SRJS partners and other gender activists demand climate justice at CoP23, Bonn 2017

Gender Position Advanced by SRJS Landscape Communities at the CoP23

The impacts of climate change range from health threats, resources constraints, loss of livelihoods, displacement, forced migration and conflicts, energy poverty, income inequality and food insecurity to reduced access to essential services (IPGs).

These climate impacts touch women's lives in direct and profound ways. These impacts are felt so strongly because of the gender roles – women are responsible for gathering water, food and fuel for the household. Lack of access to relevant and useful information for sustainable management of natural resources, and participation in decision-making

exacerbates women's vulnerability in the face of climate change.

In the just concluded UNFCCC negotiations in Bonn, Germany, SRJS partners joined Women and Gender Constituency, and frontline defenders of nature around the world to demand climate justice, and raise their voices on issues of women's rights, gender equality in a set of demand bellow:

1. Adopt a robust gender action plan
2. Deliver on finance
3. Plan for real ambition via the 2018 Facilitative Dialogue
4. Effectively address loss and damage
5. Implement rights-based national policies
6. Create a rights-based platform for indigenous peoples and local communities
7. Develop rules for community consultation and consent
8. Break free from fossil fuels

9. Move the mon
10. Place communities over markets
11. Listen to people, not profit
12. Ensure climate 'solutions' are gender-just
13. Promote energy democracy
14. Protect ecological food systems
15. Be led by ecosystem-based approaches
16. Preserve the ocean
17. Make fisheries and aquaculture sustainable
18. Know that water is life
19. Promote health, including sexual and reproductive health and rights

If Climate change solutions are to be gender-responsive, women will need to be included at decision-making tables internationally, nationally, and locally when strategies and action plans are being developed.

Some SRJS Program work in pictures



[LEFT] The district National Forest Authority official, Mr. Stuart showing SRJS partners the real boundaries of Bugoma forest

[RIGHT] The SRJS partners jointly examining the map of Murchison landscape the location of Budongo forest.



[BELOW] The SRJS partners look at the Nursery Bed for Indigenous tree seedlings established for distribution to ONGO forest community members to increase on the acreage of the Forest



The members of the community in Hoima looking at indigenous seeking in Butimba Sustainability School Seedlings Nursery Bed during a training on tree planting for sustainable livelihoods

The SJS Partner (AFIEGO) conducting a sensitization meeting on the likely impacts of the oil pipeline project on communities in May 2017.

After the sensitization meetings, the community put pressure on Hoima District Land Board to put in place compensation rates for the district.

Over 98% of the refinery people have also been compensated. Houses for those to be relocated were also completed.



A section of stakeholders including government officials, Members of Parliament (MPs) and members of the Parliamentary Forum on Oil and Gas (PFOG).

Others included oil company officials, development partners, local communities from the landscapes, youth groups, civil society organizations and the media at the launch of the SRJS Uganda programme in Uganda

Some Key Achievements of SRJS Program



[LEFT] The SRJS influence caused government to cancel permits of the Sugar Companies in Bugoma Forest



[BELOW] The shores of Lake Katwe degraded by unsustainable exploitation of the lake resources, before 2015



The look of the Salt Lake after restoration



The restored green vegetation around Katwe Salt Lake supported by IUCN NL to control flooding and silting of the lake. Courtesy of the EA & SRJS Programme

Some SRJS Program Work in the Media





A Publication of the shared Resources, Joint Solutions Programme in Uganda