Oil for Development (OFD) Programme in Uganda 2016-2019

Thematic scope: Limiting negative impacts of oil and gas activities in Uganda on nature, people and climate

Project description

The Oil for Development programme phase III has been ongoing since 2016 with a goal; “As petroleum resources are exploited in Uganda, the affected ecosystems maintain their integrity, and products and services provided by these ecosystems, particularly to the vulnerable and the poor, maintain their value, while petroleum revenues support a transition to sustainable renewable energy”

The OFD programme was funded by Norwegian International Development Cooperation Agency (Norad) through WWF Norway to deliver on three outcomes;
1. The Government of Uganda has improved governance of the oil & gas sector;
2. Petroleum companies in Uganda have improved their environmental performance according to international best practise
3. Government of Uganda commits to use petroleum revenues to support a transition to sustainable renewable energy future as part of climate change commitments.

Implementation approach

WWF UCO as a lead convener worked directly with three CSO partners such as Civil Society Coalition on Oil & Gas (CSCO) hosted by ACODE in Kampala, Bunyoro Albertine Petroleum Network on Environmental Conservation (BAPENECO) hosted by MIRAC and Northern Albertine Network on Environment and Petroleum (NANEP) hosted by RICEWN to achieve results for the programme.

Other project partners included;

- Central government (Parliament, NEMA, UWA, NFA)
- District Local governments hosting petroleum developments
- Oil companies (CNOOC, Total E&P, Tullow oil pty, UNOC)
- 10 EACOP communities
Main achievements

Outcome 1: The Government of Uganda has improved governance of the oil & gas sector

- WWF and CSO partners influenced government decisions on policy processes such as National Environment Act 2019, petroleum waste management regulations 2019, National Environment (Environmental and Social Assessment) regulations and oil spill regulations.
- Capacity of 96 CSOs in three partner networks to advocate for good governance of the extractives sector strengthened. CSO partners are at level 4 of the WWF level of engagement tool.
- One video documentary on delivering good governance for petroleum development in the Albertine Graben was produced.
- 17 position papers were developed and submitted to government Ministries, Departments and Agencies and other stakeholders to advocate for improved governance of the extractives sector.
- Operationalized the oil and environment information resource centre in Bunyoro Sub region to improve information sharing and dissemination.
- Over 55 media pieces featured on oil and gas issues with a mention of WWF and CSO partners from 2016-2019.
- Two CSO statements with recommendations on socio-economic and environmental concerns at EAPCE’17 and EAPCE’19 were produced and submitted to relevant stakeholders.
- Members of parliament (MPs) influenced to commit to sustainable petroleum development in two parliamentary symposia held in 2018 and 2019 respectively.
- One discussion paper on safeguarding people and nature in the East Africa crude oil pipeline project was published and disseminated to Government, private sector, media and CSO fraternity.

Outcome 2: Petroleum companies in Uganda have improved their environmental performance according to international best practise

- Developed and promoted two CSO monitoring tools such as CSO environmental monitoring tool and the CSO grievance handling mechanism to increase compliance to national and international standards.
- Developed three annual assessment reports for oil companies’ environmental performance and industry best practices.
- Improved monitoring, reporting and resolution of petroleum related grievances against oil companies.

Outcome 3: Government of Uganda commits to use petroleum revenues to support a transition to sustainable renewable energy future as part of climate change commitments.

Two (2) policy papers on financing renewable energy interventions to stimulate government interest in the use of petroleum revenues for renewable energy were produced.
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A look ahead

- The OFD programme in the new phase IV intends to intensify engagements with Parliamentarians on legislations and policy capacity strengthening.
- Strengthen capacity of CSOs’, citizens and media to hold government to account for limiting negative impacts of oil and gas activities
- Undertake compliance monitoring of oil and gas companies’ performance to influence government decisions in petroleum development
- Support and work with government to update the Albertine Graben Environmental Monitoring Plan for monitoring valuable ecosystem components.
- Engage district local government officials in compliance monitoring and policy processes

Implementing Partners’ logos

Important links

1. https://youtu.be/H3dRfOgud-g
8. https://www.independent.co.ug/civil-society-concerned-over-oil-pipeline/
9. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sRJI3VMt_KI
10. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OHMDrhSFwf8