



**Youth Concern on Environment
and Development**

"Toiling and conserving for the future"

YCED'S 2024 RECAP

Youth Concern on Environment and Development (YCED), is a

community based Organization in Ntungamo district south western Uganda, YCED is a member organization of the Environmental human right defenders (EHRDS) under the environment and climate thematic working group of the national coalition of human right defenders (NCHRD) but also a member of civil society coalition on oil and gas (CSCO), these organizations have enabled us build our capacity in area of advocacy and policy influencing especially to us the grass root Organization.

We do advocacy work on Environmental and climate justice and upholding human rights awareness among the grassroots citizens, but also making sure that the project affected persons (PAPS) for both East African Crude Oil Pipeline, Tilenga and Kingfisher projects get justices and that the natural resources (oil & gas) are sustainably utilized i.e. to benefit the current and the future generations but also have respect for environment and

human rights, We also do work in tin mining in Ntungamo district where basic rights are neglected.

We support communities whose human rights have been violated by extractives industry, and most recently, those activities in Bunyoro, tin mining in Ntungamo district and gold mining in Buhweju district with a target to navigate the available access to remedy avenues and company-based grievance redress mechanisms.

We also do work around natural resource governance and optimistic of the promises that the exploitation of natural resources brings to the country and most especially to the host communities and looks towards more sustainable ways of extracting these resources.

The development of large oil and gas infrastructure projects in Uganda is underway following the 2006 discovery of about 6.5 billion barrels in Lake Albert Basin, and about 1.4 billion barrels recoverable, at a peak production rate of about 230,000 barrels per day. This has necessitated huge chunks of land intake, and thus the involuntary resettlement of affected persons and the compulsory acquisition of land has been ongoing. Whereas compensation is inevitable for any Project Affected Person (PAP).

An indispensable aspect of resettlement, it is important to account for the full compensation for losses as a right and an entitlement.

Compensation is therefore not merely a transactional relationship between the project developer and the PAP, it should encompass a developmental component to avoid impoverishment. In cases where displacement cannot be avoided by the project, the international best practices require that displaced persons and communities be compensated for the loss of developments at replacement cost and other assistance be provided to help them improve or restore their original standards of living and livelihoods.

But also *Article 26 of The Constitution of the Republic of Uganda (1995), provides for Prompt payment of fair and adequate compensation, prior to taking possession or acquisition of the property in the event of compulsory land acquisition, which is envisaged specifically for instances where the land is required for public use or interest.*

With Such background, YCED undertook a research study compensation rates related to compulsory land acquisition in Total Energies' Tilenga & EACOP Projects in Uganda.



Continued media engagements, on the role of global initiative that promotes the open and accountable management of oil, gas, and mineral resources. The EITI Standard requires the disclosure of information along the extractive industry value chain. Once information is routinely disclosed, it will promote public and investor confidence in the government's management of the sector. Furthermore, the public will be able to hold duty bearers to account on how expenditure is apportioned, and to outline what they consider to be their development priorities for oil expenditure.

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What Does European Union Deforestation Regulations Mean For Ugandan Coffee?

🕒 Sep 05, 2024

The legal production requirement mandates that, in addition to being deforestation free, relevant products placed on or exported by the EU must have been grown, harvested or obtained in accordance with the relevant legislation of the country of production.



Imam Mugisha

As Uganda faces rapid deforestation, with forest coverage dropping from 54% in 1900 to just 12.5% in 2020, the European Union's Deforestation Regulation (EUDR) poses new challenges and opportunities for the nation's vital coffee sector. This regulation, requiring proof that exports like coffee do not originate from deforested land, presses Ugandan coffee traders to enhance traceability systems amid complex supply chains. <https://t.co/ag7BrjzONs>. Uganda has faced deforestation issues for many years. According to Uganda's national forestry plan, in 1900, 54% of Uganda's surface was covered by forests. In 2020, this was estimated at 12.5%. Each year, Uganda loses 120,000 hectares of forest cover.

That is about the size of the Dutch province of Utrecht. Firewood and charcoal production account for about 60% of forest cover loss, with the remainder primarily resulting from agriculture and logging. To counter this development, the Ugandan Government aims at reforestation and has committed itself to stopping forest loss and land degradation. Their goal is to increase forest cover to 15% by 2025, and 21% by 2030.

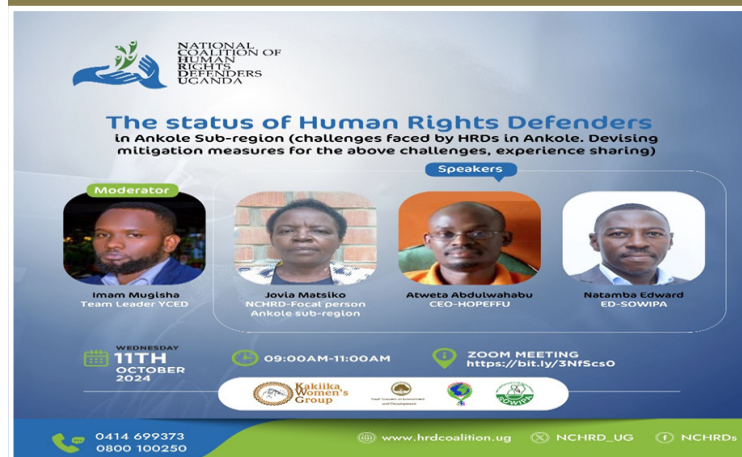
Most Ugandan coffee is exported to the European market

Agriculture is Uganda's biggest sector. It employs approximately 72% of the workforce and contributes to 24% of the Gross Domestic Product. The traditional way of farming in Uganda is small-scale. Farmers grow a variety of crops for their community or personal use, as well as for export, such as so-called cash crops like coffee.

The EUDR focuses on commodities such as cocoa, coffee, palm oil, and rubber. Of these commodities, coffee and cocoa are most relevant for Uganda, since they are big export crops. In particular, the coffee sector needs to prepare for the EUDR as the regulation will go into effect by the end of 2024. It employs about 1.8 million smallholder farmers who mainly export their coffee.

The sector is responsible for 22% of Uganda's total exports. At least 60% of the exported coffee is consumed on the European market.

YCED in partnership with National Coalition of Human Right Defenders Organized a Capacity enhancement program for grassroot CSOs and individual Human Right Defenders, These grassroot Human Right Defenders play a vital role in the development process, conscientising citizens to participate in and shape local and national policy formulation.



YCED has also contributed to the efforts towards achieving an Afrocentric energy transition, A Just energy transition can be defined as transitioning to green sources of energy in a way that is as fair and inclusive as possible to everyone concerned, creating decent work opportunities and leaving no one behind. It can also be viewed as a shift from coal, fossil fuels and unclean

energy sources in a way that addresses the social consequences of the transition, including training and alternative job creation for affected workers and new economic opportunities for affected communities.

This is recognized by global climate change policies and as well as labour law organizations. For instance, the Paris Agreement lays emphasis on just transition by acknowledging the need to take into account the imperatives of transitional justice of the workforce and the creation of decent work, in accordance with nationally defined development priorities

Energy transition refers to the global energy sector's shift from fossil-based systems of energy production and consumption including oil, natural gas, and coal to renewable energy sources like wind and solar, as well as lithium-ion batteries among others. The increasing penetration of renewable energy into the energy supply mix, the onset of electrification and improvements in energy storage are all key drivers of the energy transition. Transitioning to a low carbon economy is key in tackling climate change challenges as stipulated in the United Nations Development Goal 3 and the 2015 Paris Agreement.

It is important to note that fossil fuels are the main contributor to climate change as it produces around 60% of greenhouse gases. Renewable energies are key players regarding world energy supply security and the reduction of fossil fuel dependency and harmful emissions to the environment, Understanding that Uganda launched its Energy Transition Plan that sets a target to reach net Zero emissions in the energy sector by 2065, understanding that this will be backed up by the country's potential with many domestic energy and mineral resources that can help us realize energy transition. And provides a vision for Uganda's universal energy access by 2030.

But as this transition takes place, its key to note that it shouldn't disrupt business, Ensuring the transition is just socially, economically, and environmentally equitable to everyone while limiting risks and maximizing opportunities becomes paramount³, acknowledging the reality that the energy transition may disproportionately affect individuals across various geographies as well as diverse age groups and gender.

What does a just transition look like?

- Fairness to workers and communities: As we move away from industries that depend on fossil fuels, there is need to think about the people and communities who will be affected. A just transition actively looks out for these communities, providing support and new opportunities like job training and alternative employment options.
- Participation of local communities: Recognizing the vital role of local communities, a just transition makes sure they are part of the decision-making process for energy projects. This way, their unique needs and concerns are considered.
- Leaving no one behind: making: Clean energy benefits should not be exclusive. A just transition means creating policies that make clean energy affordable and available to everyone, preventing negative impacts on vulnerable or marginalized groups.
- Including everyone in the change: At its core, a just transition is all about including everyone. It creates an energy shift that benefits everyone, addressing past inequalities and making sure the advantages of clean energy are shared fairly

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09 AUG
9:00PM - 12:00AM

WHERE: ZOOM

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#Road2COP29

SPEAKERS:

- IMAM MUGISHA
MODERATOR
- MR. SILAJ MAGARA
EXTRACTIVES COORDINATOR
OXFAM Uganda
- MR. TURVAKIRA J. ROBERT
DEPT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:
ENVIRONMENT SHIELD
- CRISPIN NGAKANI
POWERSHIFT-AFRICA DRC
- MS PENINAH MBABAZI
SEATIN

TOPIC:
**SHAPING A JUST, EQUITABLE
AND AFRO - CENTRIC
ENERGY TRANSITION**

Youth Concern on Environment and Development
GLOBAL GREEN GRANTS FUND
Resource Rights Africa

Participated in Media Engagement on illicit Gold trade in Uganda

Gold mining in Uganda is predominantly informal. An estimated 190 000 Ugandans employed by the artisanal and small-scale mining sector in Uganda produce about 90% of all minerals, including gold. Before a large-scale eviction in 2017, it was estimated that about 40 000 people were mining for gold in Mubende (in the south-west of the country) alone. But Uganda's domestic production is dwarfed by the amount of gold smuggled into the country from its neighbors, primarily the DRC and South Sudan. As one gold dealer explained, 'Most of the gold we get here [in Uganda] is in transit', and almost 95% of it is illicit.

Once the smuggled gold arrives in Uganda, dealers claim it is of Ugandan origin, supported by fraudulent documentation which the authorities find difficult to disprove.

Uganda provides an attractive market environment for illicit gold due to the ease with which gold can be moved and traded, and because of the presence of many well-resourced buyers purchasing gold at competitive prices. Low export royalties also contribute to a larger profit margin. Insecurity in both eastern DRC and in South Sudan also

makes Uganda an attractive destination for smuggled gold from those countries.



Regional CSO Dialogue on Governance and Accountability, This aimed to creating a platform to enable different CSO to share practical experience but also build trust among organizations to jointly overcome challenges & strengthen methodologies to remain relevant.



CONTACT US

+256 773 660 294 / +256 770 923 597
P.O. BOX 211, Ntungamo.
info@yced-ug.org
www.yced-ug.org

f X in @YCED_UGANDA