



BAPENECO PROFILE (2021)

BUNYORO ALBERTINE PETROLEUM NETWORK ON ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

HOSTED BY: KITARA CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS' NETWORK (KCSO)

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Background

Bunyoro Albertine Petroleum Network on Environmental Conservation (BAPENECO) is a regional loose network that was formed in 2010 with a mission of; providing a sharing platform for civil society organizations (CSOs) and other institutions across Bunyoro sub region to identify and respond to issues of petroleum and environmental conservation in the mid Albertine region while advocating for effective governance and management of the industry.

BAPENECO's total membership is currently 20 local CSOs, covering Districts of Masindi, Hoima, Kikuube, Buliisa, Kibaale, Kagadi, Kakumiro, Kiryandongo and of recent Hoima City. These likeminded CSOs serve either in the core component of conservation or petroleum advocacy. As such, efforts to enhance people's participation in the resource rich region has been enhanced through civil society, Local Government and community empowerment and engagement sessions.

The activities of the network are coordinated by a competent secretariat that is hosted by a fiscal agent Kitara Civil Society Organization (KCSO) with physical location in Hoima city (Plot 11 along Tayali Drive opposite Electoral Commission offices) under the leadership of the Coordinator with strategic guidance from a vibrant BAPENECO Executive Committee/Board of governors. In every Local Government, the network implements activities through the member organizations that have memorandum of understanding with the respective districts thus enhancing community participation at all levels.

BAPENECO's success has been contributed to by past and the current partners such as; AJWS, WWF-UCO, as well as through its membership.

Vision

A well-managed petroleum resource for enhanced environmental conservation and socio-economic development.

Mission

Empowered CSOs and communities for improved livelihoods in the petroleum region in Bunyoro through environmental conservation and socio-economic empowerment.

Objectives

- To strengthen the capacity of CSOs to promote environmental conservation during petroleum development.
- To undertake research on petroleum related issues.



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- ❑ To provide a platform for information sharing and dissemination on petroleum and environmental conservation.

- ❑ To enable CSOs and communities to undertake collective advocacy for petroleum and environmental conservation.

About KCSO (Host of BAPENECO)

Kitara Civil Society Organizations' Network (KCSO) is a registered NGO network operating in Western Uganda. In conformity with the NGO Act 2016, KCSO is incorporated with Uganda Registration Services Bureau, and registered with National Bureau for NGOs no. **INDR4597229NB**. The organization's mission is "to give a collective voice to Civil Society through advocacy, capacity building, and empowerment of vulnerable groups to effectively participate in the Sustainable development process". KCSO's governance work coordination extends to Natural Resources; fostering conservation and efficient use of natural resources, and is the host to Bunyoro Albertine Petroleum Network on Environmental Conservation (BAPENECO).

Over the last 10 years, KCSO has reached over 250,000 beneficiaries with various services and has impacted on their wellbeing especially in areas of health, Education, livelihoods, natural resources and empowerment to demand and monitor services. A community and stakeholder -oriented approach has been central to all KCSO interventions. Research and knowledge generation has been part and partial as well as informing KCSO Programs.

KCSO has over time developed strong financial and program systems and is ever strengthening the internal controls. Use of accounting software, none cash-based payment systems, grounded in strong internal policies and governance structure are some of the aspects that have made KCSO a strong, reliable, and trustworthy CSO able to meet high level financial and programmatic donor and general stakeholder accountability and reporting demands. KCSO has a traceable track record of managing resources to achieve results. Some of the partners to KCSO have included; WWF-UCO, USAID, GIZ, DANIDA, Irish Aid, among others.

BAPENECO's Key Achievements

BAPENECO has registered increased environmental monitoring as a result of the jointly developed specific environmental monitoring checklists for districts such as Hoima, Kikuube, Kakumiro, Buliisa and Masindi in 2019. This has further increased environmental compliance on key oil and gas infrastructure such as Kingfisher and critical oil roads due to the fact the respective district environment and natural resources officials have continued to use the district specific checklists in their day-to-day district activities.

Member organizations' capacity to engage different stakeholders such as local governments and international oil companies has been enhanced through capacity building sessions especially on policy advocacy and external relations building. For example, member organizations have continued to engage NEMA and UNRA on key environmental issues such as along Masindi-Biiso road, human rights violations on rock quarries (Haibale in Kigorobya-Hoima and Kihooko in Buhimba-Kikuube) and oil spill at Kibiro in Kigorobya-Hoima district.



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Community understanding and participation into the review of the oil and gas projects' environmental and social impact assessment (ESIA) reports has increased in the mid-Albertine Region especially for TILenga, KINGFISHER and EACOP projects. This has been as a result of quarterly sensitization sessions in the region that involve information sharing on key oil and gas activities and ESIA reports.

There is an increase in demand for accountability by community members and local governments in form of transparency and information sharing regarding the petroleum sector. This has been as a result of training local governments in Bunyoro Sub region in Extractives Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI). Also, to note, recommendations into the implementation of EITI are on occasions shared with the UGEITI multi stakeholder Group.

For further information, contact:

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