



## KEY MESSAGES

Members and Partners to the International Network for Sustainable Energy (INFORSE) in Uganda that convened on September 28, 2022 at Grand Global Hotel in Kampala, identified the following issues and made proposals ahead of three key events namely: *The Global Green Growth Week (GGGWeek2022) due to take place from October 23 to 28, 2022; The Uganda Renewable Energy Conference 2022 (REC22) & EXPO due to take place from 3 – 5 November 2022 in Kampala; and the 27th United Nations Climate Change Conference (UNFCCC COP27), to be held from 6 to 18 November 2022 in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt* based on their various work experiences across the Country.

For the Global Green Growth Week 2022 and the REC22 and Expo, issues raised include: the rampant poverty levels, the heavy dependence on firewood and unsustainable charcoal production for cooking, lighting with no viable options to meet the insatiable demand, and the need for well sensitized on the concept of green growth in relation to the different sectors of the economy at the local level

Proposals to the Global Green Growth Week 2022 and REC22 and Expo include: a Call for capacity building (information, knowledge and skills) of communities, NGOs, other stakeholders (frontline of sustainability challenges) on the green growth concept in the different sectors for practical action and policy coherence; support for Research and Development on suitability of available sustainable energy technologies to support green growth in the different sectors; and the need to steer away from expensive and unsafe nuclear power options and false climate and sustainable energy solutions that are a liability to green growth

For the UNFCCC COP27 issues include: the inadequate climate financing for sustainable energy and energy efficiency interventions from households to commercial level; the unsatisfactorily adoption of sustainable energy and climate action solutions by the perceived beneficiaries due to limited awareness on options, and affordability of these solutions and the inadequate monitoring of disseminated sustainable energy and solutions for lessons learnt and impact in schools, health centers, etc.

Proposals to the UNFCCC COP27 include a Call to strengthen the consideration of local sustainable energy and climate actions, in the Updated NDC; the establishment of frameworks for exchange and monitoring of ALL actors' actions in implementation of the set mitigation and adaptation actions in the Updated Updated Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC); strengthening the exchange of good practices, the sharing of information on successes and difficulties in sustainable energy development; and creating enabling conditions for scaling up of sustainable energy technologies to offset the use of fossil fuels in transport and other sectors.

Members of the International Network for Sustainable Energy (INFORSE) in Uganda would like to present the following statement to participants and delegates to three key events that have a bearing on sustainable energy in Uganda and East Africa, namely: The Global Green Growth Week (GGGWeek2022) due to take place from October 23 to 28, 2022 in the margins of Global Green Growth Institute's (GGGI) Assembly and Council joint sessions; The Uganda Renewable Energy Conference 2022 (REC22) & EXPO due to take place from 3 – 5 November 2022 in Kampala organized by the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development (MEMD) through the National Renewable Energy Platform (NREP); and the 27th United Nations Climate Change conference, to be held from 6 to 18 November 2022 in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt.

INFORSE is a worldwide network consisting of 140 Non-Governmental Organizations working in about 60 countries to promote sustainable energy and social development. The Network was established in Rio de Janeiro in 1992 to secure follow-up on the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) political decisions. INFORSE has a Vision: *A world where energy services that are necessary for a just and human centered-development, are provided in a sustainable way using renewable energy.*

As part of INFORSE East Africa, members of INFORSE in Uganda have been involved in the *East African Civil Society for Sustainable Energy and Climate Action (EASE CA) Project* to strengthen CSOs' networking and advocacy for better climate targets, financing of local, sustainable, pro-poor, gender-responsive climate- and energy solutions in development strategies and in implementation among other objectives. More about EASE CA: <https://www.inforse.org/africa/EASE.htm>

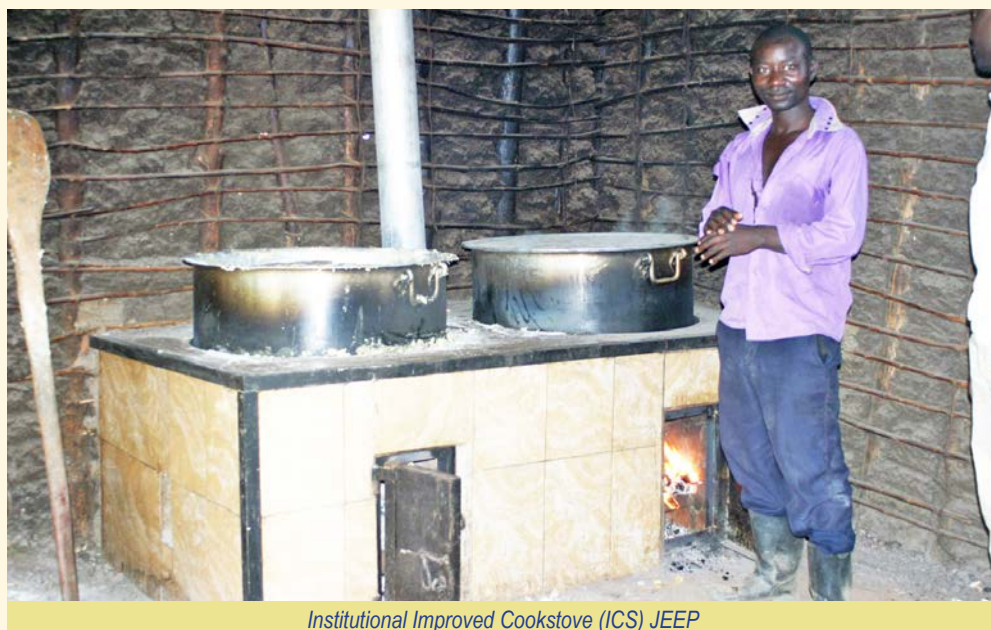
Uganda's Vision 2040 aspires to pursue economic development and socioeconomic transformation premised on the principles of a green economy such as equity, environment sustainability, resource efficiency, climate change adaptation and mitigation and inclusiveness (NPA, 2022). The Vision's guiding principles such as resource efficiency, equity and social inclusiveness, low emissions and sustainable economic growth, present an innovative growth path that should simultaneously generate inclusive economic development and environmental sustainability.



Efficient Electric Pressure Cooker (TaTEDO)



Improved Charcoal Baking Oven (ICBO)



*Institutional Improved Cookstove (ICS) JEEP*

The Uganda Green Growth Development Strategy (UGGDS) was developed to operationalize these green growth principles and accelerate the implementation of global development goals (SDGs), Uganda Vision 2040 and the second National Development Plan (GoU, 2020). UGGDS focuses on five core catalytic investment areas of agriculture, natural capital management, green cities (urban development), transport and energy.

The envisaged outcomes of the UGGDS implementation are: income and livelihoods enhancement; decent green jobs; climate change adaptation and mitigation; sustainable environment and natural resources management; food and nutrition security; resource use efficiency; and social inclusiveness and economic transformation at the sub-national and national levels (NPA, 2020).

Investment in green growth development under the UGGDS is envisaged to generate several outcomes namely: green jobs; a low emissions growth trajectory with focus on climate change mitigation and adaptation; increased incomes and economic gains and opportunities for all; sustainable biodiversity and ecosystem management; food and nutritional security; resource use efficiency; and social inclusiveness.

Though sustainable energy (reliable, affordable and clean) is a key aspect of UGGDS, there are limiting factors for increased access: (i) over reliance on biomass sources in the energy mix; (ii) constrained electricity transmission and distribution infrastructure; (iii) limited access to off-grid solutions; (iv) limited productive use of energy; (v) long lead time of energy projects; (vi) low levels of energy efficiency; and (vii) uncoordinated intra and inter sectoral planning (NPA, 2020).

In addition, Uganda's economy is striving to emerge from the devastating impact of the COVID-19 (coronavirus) pandemic, but prospects for growth have been undermined by increasing pressure on its natural resources. Hence, the Government seeks to work with development partners to catalyze green financing to address the climate-related challenges faced by the country (GGGI Uganda, 2022).

But as the green growth policies are gradually rolled out, Uganda's challenge is to meet its ambitious targets with strong implementation of the UGGDS. Citizens and civil society groups have a crucial role in ensuring the Government strengthens its institutions, tackles corruption and delivers on its commitments - making sure that well-intentioned green policies achieve their fullest social and environmental impact (Green Economy Tracker, 2022).

Furthermore, there has been limited integration of the principles of resource use efficiency, sustainability, and resilience into the design of Government programs and projects. In particular, green urbanization poses a challenge to the green transition in Uganda, where the urban population will increase from 6 million in 2013 to over 20 million in 2040. In addition, 62% of the youth in Uganda, who make up a large proportion of the country's demographic profile, are jobless. Moreover, unemployment in Uganda remains predominantly an urban problem at more than three times that of rural areas (GGGI Uganda, 2022).

The Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use (AFOLU) sector is the greatest contributor to Uganda's GHG emissions, especially due to deforestation, for various reasons including energy use, agriculture and logging. Uganda has put up ambitious targets on sustainable energy as part of the priority climate change mitigation actions. These include promotion of improved charcoal kilns linked to bioenergy woodlots (for sustainable production of wood fuel) to increase the uptake of efficient charcoal production technologies whilst contributing to balancing supply and demand for biomass energy. Implementing more efficient technologies could boost wood conversion efficiency from 12% in 2020 to 75% by 2030 (GoU, 2020).

Among the adaptation actions, Uganda seeks to increase the proportion of the population with access to electricity (from sustainable sources) from 24% in 2020 to 75% by 2030; and increase the share of clean energy for cooking from 15% to 65% in 2030 (GoU, 2022).

The Renewable Energy Conference 2022 (REC22) intends to create a unifying platform for innovators, scientists, investors, partners, and consumers to tap into renewable energy investment in Uganda, share experience and lessons learned with others in their quest for better energy solutions, engage and network with prospective partners and key decision makers as well as Government representatives. Findings from the recently released Uganda National Service Delivery Survey (NSDS 2021) by Uganda Bureau of Statistics, has revealed that forests followed by wetlands, were the most degraded components of the environment in Uganda due to unsustainable use of wood fuel among other factors.

The Service Delivery Survey further notes that population pressure was the main cause of environmental degradation in Uganda followed by weak enforcement of laws. While focusing on the theme: 'Renewable Energy for Sustainable Industrialization, Inclusive Growth and Economic Recovery', REC22 and Expo should reflect on these citizen views in order to guide in a holistic promotion of renewable energy in current projects and programmes.

The UNFCCC COP27 due to take place in Sharm el Sheikh (Egypt) from 6 – 18 November 2022, has been pitched as the "implementation" COP, where the goals of the Paris Agreement, helped by the rulebook adopted in Glasgow, begin to be delivered. But there are questions of how this implementation will look like, in addition to the focus on specific issues from Glasgow (UNFCCC COP26) including

revision of NDCs; addressing climate finance gap and making progress on a new collective quantified goal on climate finance (supposed to be agreed on in 2024); assessing early progress in implementing Article 6; Addressing Loss and Damage Finance; the Global Goal on Adaptation; and amplify regional voices related to the specific needs from Africa including climate finance needs; and loss and damage. Uganda has recently submitted its NDC to the UNFCCC.

Members of INFORSE in Uganda that convened on September 28, 2022 at Grand Global Hotel in Kampala therefore identified the following issues and made proposals ahead of the above 3 key events based on their various work experiences across the Country:

### Issues for the Global Green Growth Week 2022 and the REC22 and Expo

- Poverty in Uganda is rampant and has greatly affected the growth of green enterprises as people are preoccupied with short – term survival rather than long term investment options. This has been worsened by the socio-economic effects of the COVID 19 pandemic.
- The heavy dependence on firewood and unsustainable commercial charcoal production for cooking, lighting with no viable options to meet the insatiable demand, continue to sustain the current rate of deforestation, forest loss and environmental degradation.
- Lack of a long-term sustainable financing to support scaling up of pro-poor sustainable energy technologies through public awareness, education and training; as well as Research and Development to support innovations in sustainable energy in different sectors.
- People are not well sensitized on the concept of green growth in relation to the different sectors of the economy at the local level. Furthermore, specific steps are needed to popularize the National Renewable Energy Platform amongst CSOs, youths, women, private sectors, politicians, actors at the lower Government levels and other stakeholders. For example, due to the perceived high initial cost associated with renewable options, many people are still reluctant to embrace them and do not yet appreciate such actions to green growth.
- Inadequate capacity (finances, skills, operation and maintenance) for renewable energy investments despite the ambitious national targets under Uganda's Third National Development Plan (NDPIII, 2020/21- 2021/25) and the Updated NDC
- The special needs for women, children, People With Disabilities, the elderly and sick in current and future renewable energy projects and other interventions are not adequately considered.
- Sustainable energy promotion through Electric Vehicle transport- Bus rapid Transport (Tondeka Bus Electric Vehicle service), E bikes; and in Health Centers, Schools and homes is a welcome step. However there are concerns on the aftermath of the solar batteries, PV panels and other waste once they have ceased to work

### Proposals to the Global Green Growth Week 2022 and REC22 and Expo

- Government should strengthen capacity building (information, knowledge and skills) of communities, NGOs, other stakeholders (frontline of sustainability challenges) on the green growth concept in the different sectors for practical and policy coherence



Direct Solar Water heater (Lean Energy Solutions, Kenya)



Fireless Basket Cooker (JEEP)

- Government through the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development should support Research and Development on suitability of available sustainable energy technologies to support green growth in the different sectors. For example, safer biomass energy saving stove designs for vulnerable people, refugees and displaced people, elderly and children
- Government and Development agencies should extend funding opportunities for promotion of sustainable energy options through viable models that can reach local communities, Small and Medium Enterprises
- Government of Uganda should not opt for expensive and unsafe nuclear power options and false solutions, i.e. technologies and practices that pose real and present dangers for communities around the world. The Paris Agreement opens the door to negative emissions technologies (NETs) which sequester carbon but threatens the transition to clean energy, can cause harm for the environment and local population, and can legitimize continued fossil fuel expansion. Bioenergy based NETs also tend to lead to a rush of global land grabbing that will dwarf current environmental and social impacts of biofuels. They are therefore a liability to green growth

### Issues for the UNFCCC COP27

- Due to the rampant energy poverty and climate change impacts, climate financing for sustainable energy and energy efficiency interventions from households to commercial level are urgently needed, which also have spin off effects in green jobs for the youths and other social groups.
- Development agencies have promoted many sustainable energy and climate solutions and more are still coming, yet the already available ones are not satisfactorily adopted as part of climate action by the perceived beneficiaries due to limited awareness on options, and affordability of these solutions
- Concern over inadequate monitoring of disseminated sustainable energy and solutions for lessons learnt and impact in schools, health centers, etc. In addition, maintenance & Operation of solutions like PV installations need wider engagement beyond the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development so that they can serve for a long time.
- More public information and awareness on carbon trade, biofuels as an energy option and community expectations in implementation of Article 6 of the Paris Agreement.



Improved Basic Earth Mound Kiln (IBEK) - (TaTEDO)

- Inadequate financing for pro-poor sustainable energy and climate solutions in climate change 'front line' areas for example informal settlements, highly densely areas, flood- and drought prone areas.

### Proposals to the UNFCCC COP27

- Government should strengthen the consideration of local sustainable energy and climate actions, in the Updated Updated Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC). Therefore, we advocate for the establishment of frameworks for exchange and monitoring of non-state actors and other actors' actions in implementation of mitigation and adaptation actions of the Updated NDC.

- Government and NGOs should strengthen the exchange of good practices, the sharing of information on successes and difficulties in sustainable energy development. This calls for strengthening of training and information dedicated to sustainable energy and climate action at all local and national levels.
- Government should create enabling conditions for scaling up of sustainable energy technologies to offset the use of fossil fuels in transport (for example solar powered *Tondeka bus* by Kiira motors and commercial E bikes / *bodabodas*), solar powered irrigation and agro-processing industry.)
- Government should without delay put in place a contingency plan for interventions to address the anticipated waste from sustainable energy development interventions especially solar power (for example the batteries after their lifespan)

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This Civil Society Statement was prepared by a team of NGOs who are members of INFORSE in Uganda under the "East African Civil Society for Sustainable Energy and Climate Action (EASE & CA) Project coordinated by Uganda Coalition for Sustainable Development with support from CISU (Denmark). The organizations are: **Bio Vision Africa (BiVA); Green Ambassadors Club (GAC); Joint Energy and Environment Projects; Kikandwa Environmental Association (KEA); National Association of Professional Environmentalists (NAPE); Nature Palace Foundation; Rural Development Media Communications (RUDMEC); Uganda Coalition for Sustainable Development (UCSD); Youth Leading Environmental Change Uganda (YLEC).** Partner NGOs that contributed to this Statement are **Environmental Alert and the East African SusWatch Network.**

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