2019 ANNUAL REPORT

Making Public Policies Work for People

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ACRONYMS

ACODE	Advocates Coalition for Development and Environment
CSCO	Civil Society Coalition on Oil and Gas
CSOs	Civil Society Organisations
DGF	Democratic Governance Facility
EITI	Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative
ENR-CSOs	Environment and Natural Resources – Civil Society Organisations
FY	Fiscal Year
GAPP	Governance, Accountability and Performance Program
GMO	Genetically Modified Organisms
IDRC	International Development Research Center
IIED	International Institute for Environment and Development
MDAs	Ministries, Departments and Agencies
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
TTCSP	Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program
TTI	Think Tank Initiative
UKAID	United Kingdom Agency for International Development
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
WWF	World Wide Fund for Nature

OUR IDENTITY

The Advocates Coalition for Development and Environment (ACODE) is an independent public policy research and advocacy think tank based in Uganda, working for an inclusive, sustainable and prosperous societies in Africa.

Founded in 1999 as a Not-for-Profit Organisation, ACODE was inspired by the need to respond to policy analysis gaps and facilitate effective policy implementation through evidence based advocacy. Since its establishment, ACODE has become one of the leading think tanks on the African continent in cutting-edge public policy research and analysis. ACODE's work focuses on four programme areas: (i) Economic Governance; (ii) Environment and Natural Resources Governance; (iii) Democracy, Peace and Security; (iv) Science, Technology and Innovation.

Vision: Inclusive, sustainable and prosperous societies in Africa. Our vision speaks to the Africa we want as articulated in Agenda 2063, an embodiment of the aspirations of the African people. It is also informed by the Vision 2050 of the East African Community and reflects the aspiration of each of the six states of the East African Region.

Mission: To make public policy work for people

For the last eight consecutive years, ACODE has been ranked as the best think tank in Uganda and one of the top 100 think tanks in Sub-Saharan Africa and globally in the Global Think Tanks Index Report published by the University of Pennsylvania's Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program (TTCSP).

In 2019, ACODE's embarked on the implementation of its new strategic plan (2019 - 2028). In the new strategic plan, ACODE alignined its programming with other global and continental efforts aimed at improving human development in Africa and the world over. It is envisaged that by focusing on the four programme areas, ACODE's work will contribute to attainment of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Africa Vision 2063.

1. Economic Governance Programme

The programme aims at strengthening economic policies and institutions for achieving economic transformation of Uganda's economy and the region. Economic growth of the past decade has only delivered meagre improvements in livelihoods in many African countries. There is need to improve effectiveness and efficiency of public expenditure as well as providing economic opportunities for all. The strategic objective of this program is to strengthen public finance management and increase economic opportunities for women, men and the youth through:

- supporting reforms for greater transparency and accountability in Public Financial Management,
- building capacities of local governments to implement Local Economic Development policies,
- facilitating citizen participation in formulation and monitoring the implementation of trade (including regional) policies.

2. Democracy, Peace and Security

The Democracy, Peace and Security programme is premised on the recognition that violent conflicts and political instability have undermined Africa's economic development. The programme is underpinned by the nexus between peace and development on the one hand and democracy on the other. The strategic objective of this program is to strengthen democracy and security institutions in East and Southern Africa through:

- building capacity of national political and administrative institutions,
- supporting democratic, legal and policy reforms,
- supporting security sector reforms,
- supporting regional peacebuilding initiatives.

3. Environment and Natural Resources Governance

This programme is driven by the fact that most African countries are dependent on natural resources. In the last decade, there has been renewed efforts by multi-national companies and African governments to exploit natural resources especially petroleum and mineral resources to meet the growing international demands and national development needs. Consequently, there has been increasing massive land acquisitions that have left communities especially women and youth more vulnerable. At the same time, climate change and its consquences pause a serious threat to achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals. There has been increased occurrence of disasters such as extreme weather and hunger related to climate change. The strategic objective of the Natural Resources Governance program is to improve governance for sustainable utilisation of environment and natural resources through:

- strengthening governance frameworks and improved practices that support sustainable management and utilization of environment and natural resources,
- empowering communities to demand for transparency, accountability and equity in the management of environment and natural resources.

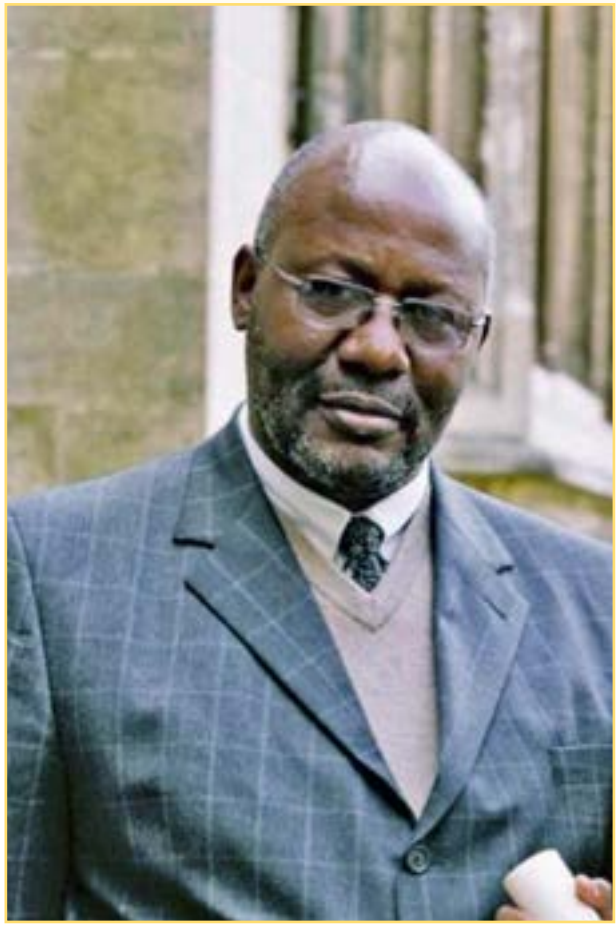
4. Science, Technology and Innovation

Globally, the role of Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) as an engine of economic development has been underscored. It is widely acknowledged that the application of STI increases efficiency of production systems and enhances industrial competitiveness. In fact, what gives a nation competitive edge is the speed with which it can identify, utilize and diffuse new knowledge. Therefore, Africa must harness STI for economic transformation. The strategic objective of this program is to promote the application of Science, Technology and Innovation for sustainable development in the region and Africa as whole through:

- increasing access to information on appropriate technologies in the agricultural sector,
- strengthening the legal and policy frameworks for STI in the agricultural sector.

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CHAIR

PROF. JOHN NTAMBIRWEKI



The year 2019 coming to an end marks 20 years of ACODE'S existence and unmatched excellency in policy research and advocacy.

As the board chair, I can only look back with gratitude upon the great milestones ACODE has achieved in the last two decades. From the time of its inception, ACODE has not looked back in pursuing its mission of making public policies work for people.

Throughout the year 2019, ACODE continued to build and strengthen its partnerships with government, media and other like-minded civil society organizations and various development partners through dialogues, national, regional and international strategic meetings, conferences and symposiums which all registered positive out comes in as far as influencing national policy is concerned.

In the same year, ACODE rolled out her new strategic plan for the period 2019-2028 highlighting our new adopted vision as "Inclusive, Sustainable and prosperous societies in Africa" This new commitment underlines ACODE' s resolve to leave no one behind in an effort to improve citizen's livelihoods and welfare. The strategic plan also points to a renewed focus on the formulation of global, regional and national pro-people policies to ensure that they are transparent and accountable both in formulation and in the implementation. It is a foundation from which we can energetically tackle and devise more sustainable future oriented research and analysis.

It is on that back ground that on behalf of my colleagues on the board and at the secretariat and on my own behalf, acknowledge our donors and development partners who have provided financial and moral support towards ACODE's work throughout the year. Some of these partners include the International Democratic Research Centre (IDRC), CARE International in Uganda, Hewlett Foundation, IIED, USAID, UKAID, WWF and OXFAM Novib, whose support has been a strong pillar in achieving the organization's objectives.

In addition, the relentless effort and commitment by the Executive Director and the entire senior management team at the secretariat and my colleagues of the board of trustees cannot be underrated for bringing ACODE this far.

Therefore as ACODE celebrate 20 years of outstanding service with the new strategic plan, we look forward to greater achievements and accomplishments in the coming years.

FOREWORD BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

DR ARTHUR BAINOMUGISHA

As we begin another decade, ACODE will be celebrating 20 years of excellent policy research and analysis as an independent public policy research and advocacy think tank based in Uganda and working in East and Southern Africa.

ACODE has a lot to celebrate in the last 19 years, including being ranked in the Global-Go-To-Think Tank Index as the best think tank in Uganda and one of the top think tanks in the world for seven consecutive years. This among many has been a great achievement for ACODE, pointing to the excellent expertise that ACODE has developed over the years.

2019 in particular was marked with great achievements and milestones in an effort to influence public policy for the benefit of the citizens. ACODE also undertook a number of activities that greatly informed different policy outcomes. This involved convening strategic high level meetings, workshops, and round table discussions to provide a platform for engagement among the different stake holders, policy makers, practitioners, the media, academia and citizens to discuss and analyze pertinent public policies.

As such, ACODE released 22 publications addressing analytical research findings in areas of strengthening democracy, public finance management and sustainable management of environment and natural resources. Furthermore, ACODE conducted 40 capacity building meetings, convened 45 strategic meetings and received over 400 media appearances.

Key among these was the launch of the national conference on decentralisation which brought together different stakeholders from government Ministries, Departments and Agencies to analyse the trends, achievements and the way-forward for local governments in Uganda. The other was high level policy dialogue on Uganda's development strategy whose discussion provided a platform to discuss the challenges; opportunities and a way forward for Uganda's economy the ever changing economic environments both on national and global level.

Towards the end of the year, ACODE was also privileged to share best practice with Sierra Leone on the processes and implementation of the Local Governance Scorecard. This widened the frontiers of ACODE's work and impact both at national level and at the regional level.

It was in that same year that ACODE published its new strategic plan 2019-2028 putting major focus on five strategic objectives which are; Strengthening public finance management and increased economic opportunities for women, men and youth; Strengthening democracy and security institutions; Improving governance and sustainable utilisation of environment and natural resources; Strengthen institutional capacity and enable policies for harnessing Science, technology and innovation for sustainable development and finally to foster internal institutional development.

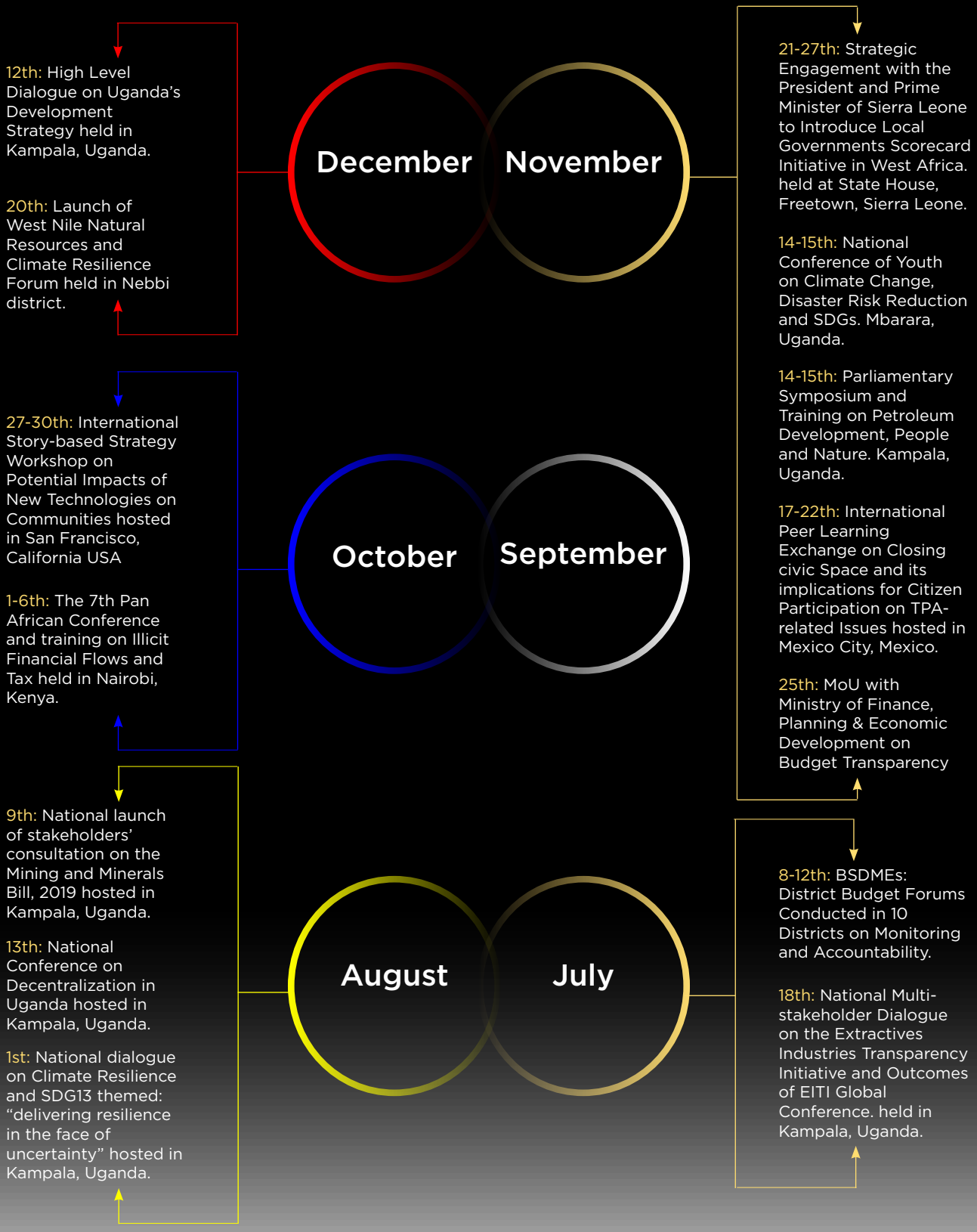
For such a fruitful year, ACODE is forever grateful to its donors, development partners, board of trustees, different arms of government, Civil Society Organisations, the media, academia and all stakeholders without whom much of that would be impossible.

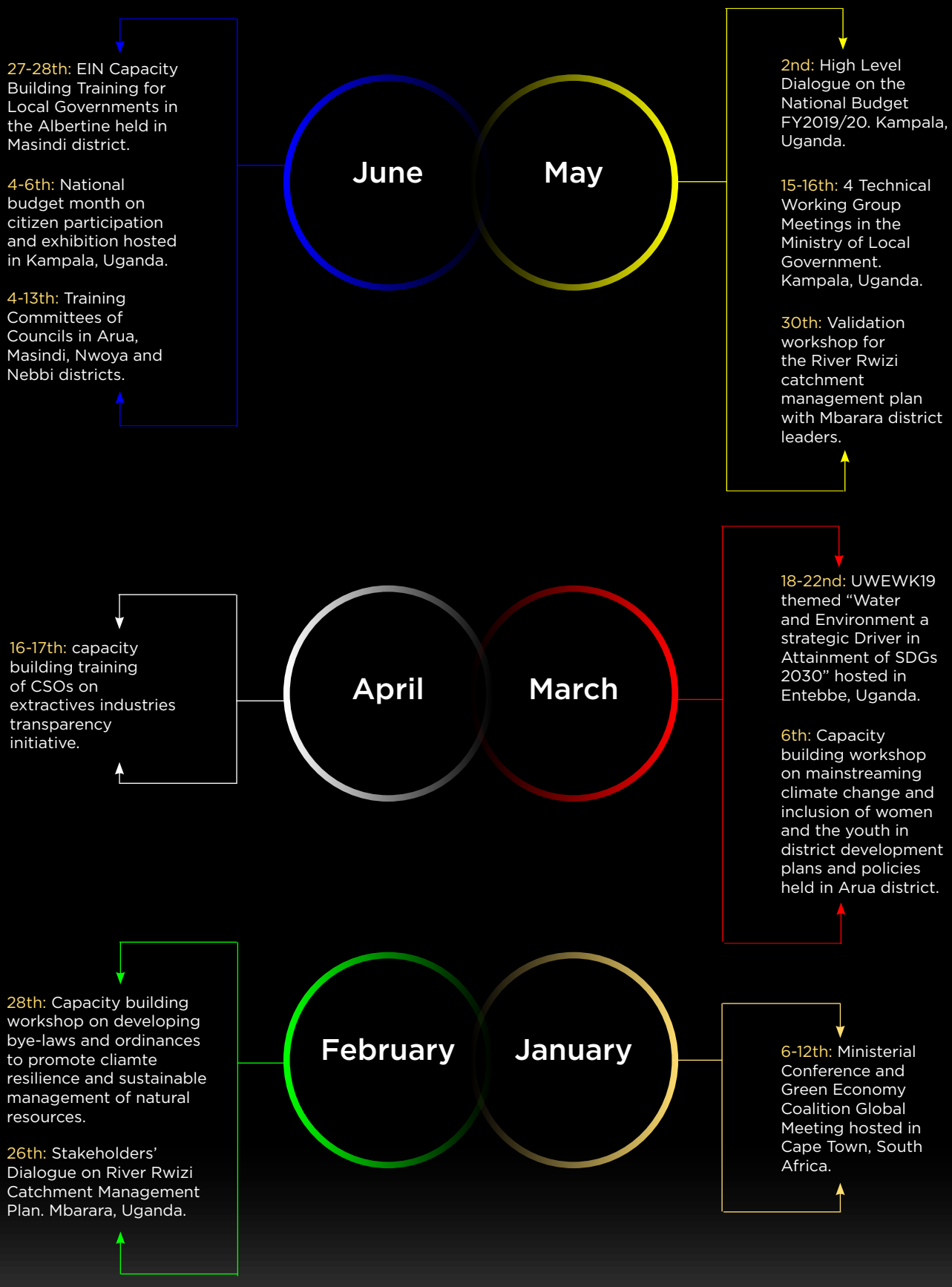
Finally I invite you to go through the annual report 2019 showcasing the various ways in which ACODE worked to turn national and regional development goals into a reality.

OUR YEAR IN NUMBERS

Publications	23
Media Appearances	400
Civic Engagement Meetings	850
Capacity Building Trainings	40
Strategic Meetings	45
Twitter analytics	1,303,659
Facebook Engagement	37,960
Website Visits	5,885
Website - Downloads	584,946
94 Top Think Tank Ranking in Sub saharan Africa	19
94 Top Think Tanks with Best Advocacy Campaign	8

NETWORKING, EXPERIENCE-SHARING AND PARTNERSHIPS




27-28th: EIN Capacity Building Training for Local Governments in the Albertine held in Masindi district.
4-6th: National budget month on citizen participation and exhibition hosted in Kampala, Uganda.
4-13th: Training Committees of Councils in Arua, Masindi, Nwoya and Nebbi districts.
June
May
2nd: High Level Dialogue on the National Budget FY2019/20. Kampala, Uganda.
15-16th: 4 Technical Working Group Meetings in the Ministry of Local Government. Kampala, Uganda.
30th: Validation workshop for the River Rwizi catchment management plan with Mbarara district leaders.
16-17th: capacity building training of CSOs on extractives industries transparency initiative.
April
March
18-22nd: UWEWK19 themed "Water and Environment a strategic Driver in Attainment of SDGs 2030" hosted in Entebbe, Uganda.
6th: Capacity building workshop on mainstreaming climate change and inclusion of women and the youth in district development plans and policies held in Arua district.
28th: Capacity building workshop on developing bye-laws and ordinances to promote cliamte resilience and sustainable management of natural resources.
26th: Stakeholders' Dialogue on River Rwizi Catchment Management Plan. Mbarara, Uganda.
February
January
6-12th: Ministerial Conference and Green Economy Coalition Global Meeting hosted in Cape Town, South Africa.

HOSTING AND CONVENING NETWORKS FOR JOINT ADVOCACY

1. Green Economy Coalition

The Green Economy Coalition (GEC) is the world's largest alliance inspiring a transition to green and fair economies through connecting people, influencing decisions and communicating change. GEC is a diverse set of 50+ organisations from around the world representing a range of sectors, NGOs, businesses, research institutes, UN agencies and trade unions. In Uganda, ACODE hosts and convens GEC activities aimed at creating enabling policy conditions for the transformation towards an inclusive green economy. During the year 2019, a number of advocacy and capacity building activities were carried out on key green economy themes including valuing nature, tackling inequality, greening economic sectors, reforming financial systems and measuring and governing. GEC is implemented in partnership with the UK-based International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED) supported by the European Union.

Hon. Beatrice Anywar, the Minister of Water and Environment and Dr. Arthur Bainomugisha - Executive Director ACODE preparing to plant a tree at Lake View Hotel after a symposium on Uganda's transition to a green economy and restoration of river rwizi catchment for sustainable livelihoods.

2. Civil Society Coalition on Oil in Uganda

During the year, ACODE once again was selected to host the Civil Society Coalition on Oil and Gas in Uganda for the next three years. The Civil Society Coalition on Oil and Gas (CSCO) is a loose network of over 60-member organizations working towards sustainable governance of Uganda's oil and gas resources so as to maximize the benefits to the people of Uganda. The Coalition was founded in 2008 to nurture and harness a shared civil society platform for promoting and strengthening civil society coordination, networking and advocacy in the Oil and Gas sub-sector.

Over the years, CSCO has contributed greatly to developments in the Oil and Gas sub-sector in Uganda. The Coalition has significantly contributed to government's effort in creating conducive policy, legal and institutional framework necessary for good governance of Uganda's Oil and Gas resources. CSCO also works with other stakeholders including international Oil and Gas companies operating in Uganda under their umbrella Joint Venture Partners (JVPs) to improve governance of the sector. Through monitoring compliance of operations, CSCO partnership with Oil companies continues to ensure that exploration and development of Oil and Gas resources are undertaken in A sustainable and environment-friendly manner. CSCO has also advocates for transparency and accountability in generation and utilization of oil revenues It also works with communities, government and the private sector to mitigate socio-economic issues arising from Oil and Gas exploration and development.

Members of the new Steering Committee elected at the 2019 CSCO Annual General Meeting.

RESEARCH, OUTREACH AND CAPACITY BUILDING

ACODE Contributed to evidence-based public policy making processes through generation of new knowledge. We made significant input on policy and legislative reforms in the extractives sector, water and environment sector, land sector, public finance management, climate change and local governance. In 2019, we produced 10 Research Papers; 3 Briefing Papers; and 1 dialogue report among other products. We also contributed 2 journal articles that we published in international journals and 1 book chapter, 5 edited book volumes. A total of 23 publications were produced covering the following topics:

- Local Governance 9
- Climate Change 10
- Environmental Governance 11
- Green Economy 12
- Extractives Governance 13
- Public Expenditure Governance 14
- Science and Technology 15

Local Governance

ACODE contributed to deepening social accountability and local democracy through annual performance scorecards for local leaders in their respective district councils. We have continued to promote the demand-side of democracy through civic engagement that empowered communities to demand for better delivery of public goods and services at local levels, empowered district councils to perform their roles as envisaged in the law under the decentralization policy through a number of activities.

Dialogues

ACODE organised dialogues, civic engagement meetings and capacity building initiatives on local governance:

- Training of Committees of Council in 35 districts benefiting a total of 112 local leaders.
- National conference on decentralization focusing on trends, gains, challenges and the future of local governments in Uganda hosted in Kampala on August 13, 2019. A total of 271 participants attended the conference.
- Strategic advocacy engagements with Parliament and Ministry of Finance on local government financing held in June 2019.
- Strategic advocacy engagements with the Executive Committee of the Uganda Local Governments Association.
- Civic Engagement Action Plan meetings with local communities in Arua, Masindi, Apac and Nwoya districts that empowers citizens to demand better services and accountability from local leader
- Strategic engagement meeting with the President and Prime Minister of Sierra Leone to promote local governments scorecard in West Africa held at State House in Freetown, Sierra Leone from November 21-27th, 2019.
- Participated in technical working groups in the Ministry of Local government and other MDAs contributing to shaping policy direction of the decentralisation.

Publications

Key research papers were published on local governance and democracy:

- LOCAL GOVERNMENTS IN UGANDA: Democracy, Accountability and Civic Engagement.
- Decentralisation; Trends, Achievements and the Way-forward for Local Governments in Uganda: Conference Report - Summary.
- Decentralisation in Uganda: Trends, Achievements, Challenges and Proposals for Consolidation.
- Financing Local Governments in Uganda: An analysis of Proposed National Budget FY 2019/20 and Proposals for Re-allocation.

Policy processes

ACODE contributed to the following processes:

- Review of the Local Governments Act Cap 243 through a memorandum of issues submitted to the Ministry of Local Government on December 6, 2019.

Climate Change

ACODE implemented a project themed: **"enhancing climate resilience and inclusion of women and youth in the governance of Uganda's natural assets."** We conducted research, advocacy and capacity building. We engaged local governments in West Nile and South Western Uganda including Arua, Kyenjojo, Kyegegwa and communities on building resilience to climate change. Our advocacy work in partnership with Parliamentary Forum on Climate Change and Climate Change Department under the Ministry of Water and Environment contributed to the establishment of a Parliamntary Standing Committee on Climate Change in May 2019.

Dialogues

ACODE conducted dialogues on Climate resilience that sought to make a case for mainstreaming climate change and inclusion of women and youth in natural resource governance:

- Capacity building workshops on mainstreaming climate change and inclusion of women and youth in natural resource governance held in the districts of Arua, Kyenjojo and Kyegegwa on March 6, 2019.
- ACODE also facilitated the establishment and launch of West Nile Natural Resources and Climate Resilience Forum in Arua district
- National conference of the youth on climate change, disaster risk reduction and SDGs hosted at Mbarara University of Science and Technology on November 15, 2019 attended by over 400 participants.
- National dialogue on climate resilience and the SDG 13 hosted in Kampala on August 1, 2019.

Publications

Key research papers were published looking at various issues relating to climate change adaptation:

- Strengthening Climate Resilience through Integration of Climate Change, Women and Youth Issues in Uganda's Agriculture Sector: Analysis of Agriculture Related Policies and Programmes.
- STRENGTHENING RESILIENCE AND PROMOTING INCLUSIVE GOVERNANCE PROGRAM (STRENPO): Experiences of advocacy and action for climate change resilience.

Policy processes

ACODE contributed to the following processes:

- National Climate Change Bill, 2019 before Parliament for consideration.
- Establishment of a Parliamentary Standing Committee on Climate Change.
- National Planning Authority Compliance Assessment of the Budget Framework Papers with regard to Integration of Climate Change Interventions.

Environmental Governance

ACODE projects on governing the environment and natural resources seek to promote sustainable utilisation of natural resources while conserving protected areas. Our research and advocacy has contributed to civic awareness and built capacity of stakeholders at local and national levels.

Dialogues

ACODE conducted a number of dialogues and capacity building activities with regards to environment and natural resources sector:

- Capacity building training of district Natural Resource Officer in the Albertine graben on the use and dissemination of environmental information products held in Masindi district on June 27-28, 2019.
- Training workshop on developing environmental bye-laws and ordinances to promote resilience and sustainable management of environment and natural resources hosted in Kyegegwa district on February 28, 2019.
- As a result of ACODE's engagements, it was nominated to chair the governance sub-group of the national forestry consultative forum in the Ministry of Water and Environment.
- Nominated to chair ENR-CSO good governance thematic group

Publications

Key research papers and books were published looking at various issues in the environment and natural resource governance.

- Natural Resource Governance and Sustainable Livelihoods in Uganda.
- Chinese investment in Uganda: new impetus for sustainable development?
- "Safeguarding Livelihoods in Uganda: Analysis of a Country Framework for Land Acquisition, Resettlement and Rehabilitation," in COUNTRY FRAMEWORKS FOR DEVELOPMENT, DISPLACEMENT AND RESETTLEMENT: REDUCING RISK, BUILDING RESILIENCE, (Routledge Studies in Development, Mobilities and Migration) 1st Edition.

Policy processes

ACODE in collaboration with the Civil Society Coalition on Oil and Gas (CSCO) and the Environment & Natural Resources CSO Network contributed to the following processes:

- Review of the Bill for enactment of the National Environment Act, 2019 to address emerging environmental issues: climate change, the management of hazardous chemicals, the environmental concerns arising out of petroleum activities and the management of plastics.
- Petroleum Waste Management Regulations and the Oil Spill Contingency Plan & Guidelines

Green Economy

In support of Uganda's efforts to transition towards greening its economy, our work focussed on creating an enabling policy conditions for this transformation. ACODE has conducted research, advocacy and capacity building activities on key green economy themes: valuing nature, tackling inequality, greening economic sectors, reforming financial systems and measuring and governing. We have contributed to widening awareness and awakened public consciousness through:

Dialogues

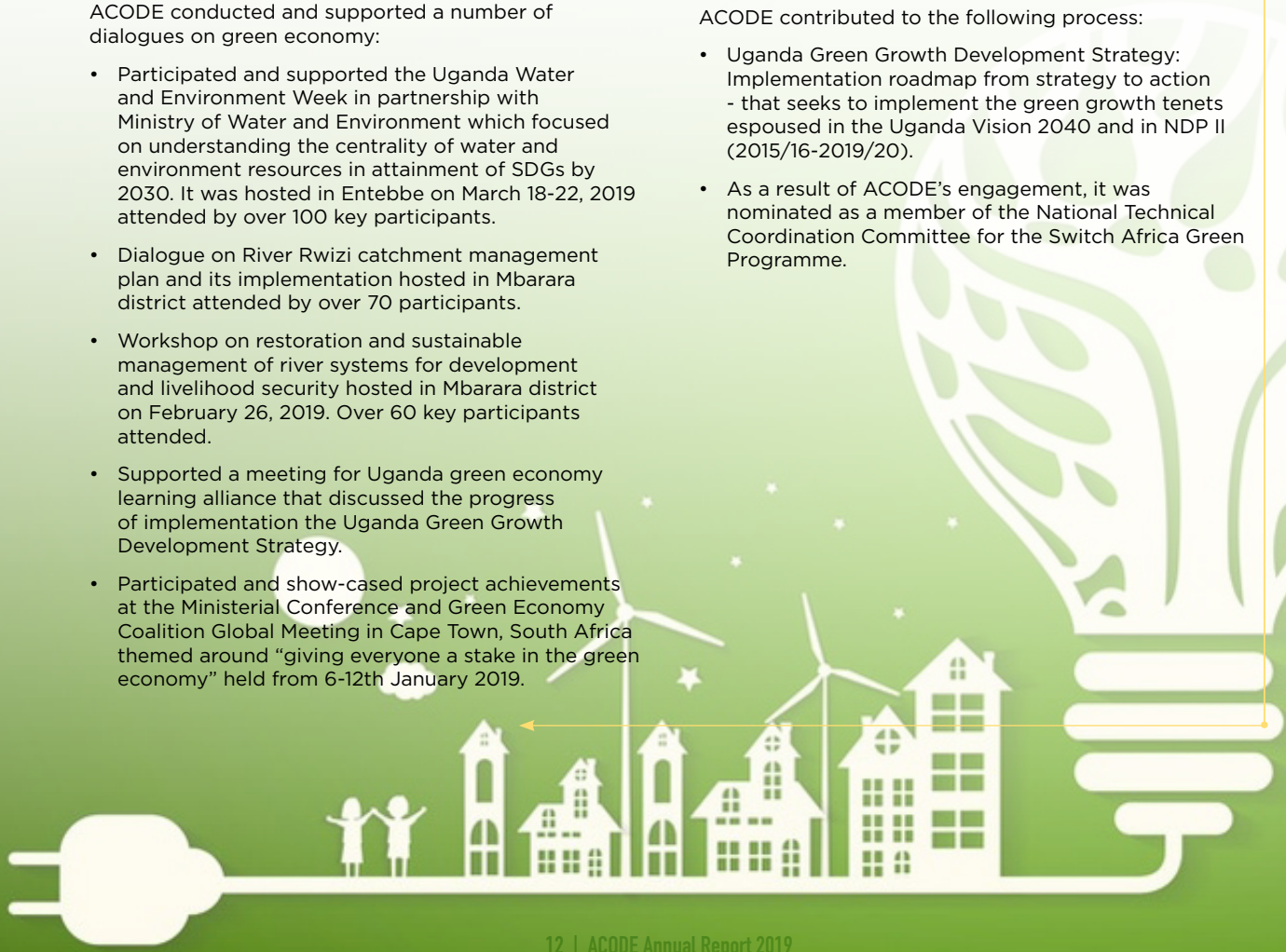
ACODE conducted and supported a number of dialogues on green economy:

- Participated and supported the Uganda Water and Environment Week in partnership with Ministry of Water and Environment which focused on understanding the centrality of water and environment resources in attainment of SDGs by 2030. It was hosted in Entebbe on March 18-22, 2019 attended by over 100 key participants.
- Dialogue on River Rwizi catchment management plan and its implementation hosted in Mbarara district attended by over 70 participants.
- Workshop on restoration and sustainable management of river systems for development and livelihood security hosted in Mbarara district on February 26, 2019. Over 60 key participants attended.
- Supported a meeting for Uganda green economy learning alliance that discussed the progress of implementation the Uganda Green Growth Development Strategy.
- Participated and show-cased project achievements at the Ministerial Conference and Green Economy Coalition Global Meeting in Cape Town, South Africa themed around "giving everyone a stake in the green economy" held from 6-12th January 2019.

Policy Processes

ACODE contributed to the following process:

- Uganda Green Growth Development Strategy: Implementation roadmap from strategy to action - that seeks to implement the green growth tenets espoused in the Uganda Vision 2040 and in NDP II (2015/16-2019/20).
- As a result of ACODE's engagement, it was nominated as a member of the National Technical Coordination Committee for the Switch Africa Green Programme.



Extractives Governance

ACODE implemented projects on **"transparency and accountability in Uganda's extractives industry"** and **"oil governance and environmental sustainability"** through research and building. Our work in the extractives sector has raised civic awareness and contributed to the quality of Parliamentary debates on the sector resulting in passing of pro-people policies and laws that enhances transparency and equity. ACODE has advocated for Uganda's subscription to EITI – a global standard for good governance of oil, gas and mineral resources – which government publicly announced to join. This public announcement was made in January 2019.

Dialogues

ACODE in partnership with the Civil Society Coalition on Oil and Gas (CSCO) conducted a number of policy dialogues on governance of the extractive industries sector that sought to generate proposals for transparency, accountability and equity:

- Multi-stakeholder dialogue on the Extractives Industries Transparency initiative (EITI) hosted in Kampala on July 18, 2019 attended by over 100 key participants.
- Parliamentary symposium and training on petroleum development, people and nature hosted in Kampala on November 14-15, 2019 attended by over 108 policy-makers and key participants.
- ACODE was requested by the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development' Geological Surveys and Mines directorate for support to organise a national stakeholder consultations on the Mining and Minerals Bill, 2019. This event was hosted in Kampala and attended by over 100 key participant.

Publications

Key research papers were published looking at various issues in the extractives sector.

- Contract Transparency in Uganda's Petroleum and mining Sectors.
- Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) and the Role of Stakeholders.
- Oil and Gas Infrastructure Development in Uganda: An Assessment of Compliance with Petroleum Industry Best Practices, Environmental and Social Standards

Policy processes

ACODE contributed to the following processes:

- Review of the Mining Act, 2003 and the draft Mining and Minerals Bill, 2019.
- Constitution of the Multi-stakeholder Group, a key requirement for Uganda's admission to EITI.

Public Expenditure Governance

Through our Center for Budget and Economic Governance, ACODE contributed to transparency and accountability in public finance management and budget processes in Uganda. This was done through a series of high level meetings with different actors and presented a case for reforming the budget architecture and channel more resources for infrastructure development especially roads and electricity as key drivers of economic development. We signed an MoU with the Ministry of Finance and other partners to open up national budget information to the public in a simplified manner.

Dialogues

ACODE conducted dialogues and civic engagement initiatives on public expenditure governance in various sectors:

- Dialogue on building capacities for gender responsive budgeting held in Dar, Senegal in May 2019.
- High level policy dialogue on the national budget under the theme "improving efficiency and effectiveness of the national budget on economic growth and improved service delivery," which sought to examine budget priorities and measure to address fiduciary risk for FY2019/20 held in Kampala on May 2, 2019. A total of 166 key participants attended the dialogue.
- Civic engagement action plan meeting that facilitated citizens in local communities to write petitions to their local governments on the budget in the FY2019/20.
- Electronic dissemination of budget and economic related information through the 3 online economic briefers.
- International peer learning and exchange on closing civic space and its implications for citizen engagement on TPA-related issues hosted in Mexico City, Mexico from February 23 to March 13, 2019.
- Training on illicit financial flows and taxation held in Nairobi, Kenya
- Dialogue on financing Uganda's healthcare system in line with Vision 2040 and launch of the report on primary healthcare held in Kampala on February 1, 2019.

Publications

Key research papers were published on local governance and democracy:

- Public Expenditure Governance in Uganda: Inputs, Processes and Outputs.
- Review of the Gender Compliance Assessment of Uganda's National Budget: A Focus on the Agricultural Sector.
- Gender Analysis and Monitoring of District Budgets: Training Manual.
- Review of Gender Budgeting at Sub-national Level in Uganda: Insights from Mbarara, Mukono and Soroti Districts.
- Assessing Public Expenditure Governance of the Primary Health Care Programme in Uganda.
- Supporting Business Opportunities for Rural Women in East and Southern Africa: A Case Study of Uganda.

Policy processes

ACODE contributed to the following processes:

- Review of the Public Finance Management Act, 2015 aimed at reforming public finance management.

Science and Technology

ACODE has made significant contribution to the legal and policy making processes relating to science, technology and innovation in the East African Community relating to the emerging technologies in the agriculture sector. We have informed current debate on biotechnology or GMO as its popularly known among different actors through a series of high-profile engagements making a case for legal and policy framework based on the precautionary principle as formulated in the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to the Convention on Biological Diversity.

Dialogues

ACODE took part in dialogues and other strategic policy engagements with stakeholders on emerging technologies in the agricultural sector:

- International story-based strategy workshop on potential impacts of new technologies on communities hosted in San Francisco, California from October 27-30, 2019.
- Strategic engagement with the President of Uganda on the Genetic Engineering Regulatory Bill, 2018.

Publications

A book on biotechnology and the law was published:

- Unlocking Africa's Future: Biotechnology and Law.

Policy processes

ACODE contributed to the following processes:

- Review of the Genetic Engineering Regulatory Bill, 2018.

Communications and Knowledge Management

ACODE's knowledge management practices has been focused on production and dissemination of useful and useable information to inform public policy processes. We had a fruitful year engaging with our audiences through our website, print and electronic media as well as social media.

Publications

• Books	5
• Book chapters	2
• Research papers	10
• Policy briefs	3
• Dialogue reports	1
• Journal articles	2

Media Presence

400

- Articles/Opinions
- Interviews
- Radio/ TV talkshows
- Media mentions

Online Media

	Engagement
• Facebook	37,960
• Twitter	1,303,659
• Website visits	5,885
• File downloads	584,946

Events

935

- Policy dialogues
- Capacity building trainings
- Strategic meetings

Awards and Recognition

ACODE's contribution to policy and legislative reforms in Uganda has been recognised by different stakeholders.

"GAPP and its partners have provided research for fiscal policy reform and built organisational capacity of both civil society and private sector partners. They have strengthened the role of public accounts committees in Parliament and at the district. I want to single out the Advocates Coalition for Development and Environment, or ACODE, which through its advocacy and policy work has made a major impact on the legal and policy environment." ***Amb Deborah Malac, US Ambassador to Uganda.***

"We thank ACODE for helping us with evidence that can be used to improve local government financing. Luckily, the discussion on the budget is yet to happen and so members can use some of these facts to ensure that more money is sent to local governments"... ***Chairperson – Committee on Public Service & Local Governments, Parliament of Uganda.***

"We, MPs have been aware of these things but the study has given us more details. The budget is not water tight and some of the recommendations of the study can still be addressed in the current budget process"... ***Member, Budget Committee, Parliament of Uganda***.

"Overall, the ministry agrees with your overall objectives, findings and recommendations from the study. Do send us the official report so I can see how to make use of the findings. In the meantime, I advise you to engage with the relevant committees of parliament in time". ***Director, Budget – Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development.***

Board News

ACODE is endowed with a highly experienced, multidisciplinary international board of trustees that continued to offer support to the organisation throughout the year. The board of trustees held two meetings in Kampala to monitor and evaluate ACODE activities. During the year, our board member, Prof. David Francis was appointed Prime Minister by the President of Sierra Leone. We take pride in the achievements of the board of trustees because with their exposure and expertise, we gain more knowledge and guidance in our work.

From the left to right: Prof. David Francis (Prime Minister of Sierra Leone), Prof. Winstons Muhwezi (Research Director - ACODE), H.E. Julius Maada Bio (President of Sierra Leone) and Dr. Arthur Bainomugisha (Executive Director – ACODE) at State House in Freetown, Sierra Leone.

Financial Statement

AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2019

	Notes	2019	2018
Assets		**UGX**	**UGX**
Non-Current Assets			
Property (Land)	10	1,600,000,000	1,600,000,000
Current Assets			
Accounts Receivable	11	179,718,401	214,126,952
Debtor projects	12		268,038,115
Cash & bank	13	2,892,332,659	2,787,474,027
Total current assets		3,072,051,060	3,269,639,094
Total Assets		**4,672,051,060**	**4,869,639,094**
Represented by			
Revenue reserves	14	(143,605,864)	974,424,257
Capital reserves	15	1,600,000,000	1,600,000,000
		1,456,394,136	2,574,424,257
Current Liabilities			
Accounts Payable	16	299,276,323	409,971,392
Creditor projects	17	2,916,377,601	1,885,495,445
Total current liabilities		3,215,656,924	2,295,214,837
Total Reserves & Liabilities		**4,672,051,060**	**4,869,639,094**

Our Development Partners

AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2019

1.	Democratic Governance Facility (DGF)
2.	CARE International in Uganda
3.	Hewlett Foundation
4.	World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) Uganda Country Office
5.	USAID/UKAID through Governance, Accountability, and Performance Program (GAPP)
6.	International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED)
7.	Think Tank Initiative (TTI)
8.	International Development Research Center (IDRC)
9.	OXFAM Novib (USA)

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