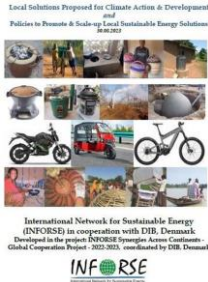


A *Monthly* from the East African Sustainability Watch Network and INFORSE East Africa

## Publication Launched on Local Solutions & Policies to Promote and Scale Up Climate Action & Local Sustainable Energy Solutions



As a result of over a year's work by Partners of the International Network for Sustainable Energy (INFORSE) in Africa, Europe, South Asia to identify the most important local sustainable solutions for energy access and climate action, a publication was launched on August 30, 2023.

This new Publication is a result of a series of webinars to develop training material on Local, Sustainable Energy Solutions that are important for a transition to sustainable energy as well as for the development and poverty reduction.

The webinars focused on local sustainable energy solutions in each region; global exchange about the solutions; benefits of local sustainable energy, promotion policies for them; advocacy for inclusion of local, sustainable energy solutions in national plans; development of national advocacy plans, presentation and discussion of national advocacy proposals

This Publication contains established examples of successful tried-and-tested local solutions that can help to address challenges related to energy for lighting, cooking and productive use of energy, water, and other essential human needs in climate-friendly and (as much as possible) affordable ways. It is useful for people, who need cleaner and better energy and other needs for their life and for local development, as well as community leaders, change agents, media, development workers and planners.

The main solutions are: improved cookstoves for firewood and charcoal; high-efficiency improved cookstoves for firewood; high-efficiency electric pressure cookers; efficient charcoal making; briquettes from biomass/agri waste and charcoal dust; biogas, household scale; solar home systems; Mini-grids; efficient light and electricity use; electric two-wheelers (bicycles, scooters); electric three-wheelers/local transport and solar dryers.

One of these solutions is the Improved Basic Earth Mound Kiln (IBEK) that has efficiency up to 25% and carbonization takes only four days, cooling takes 24 hours, and the quality of charcoal produced is relatively high. This can be compared with the the Basic Earth Mound Kiln (BEK) - one of the oldest and most commonly used kilns in East Africa. IBEK has average efficiency of 8-15%, so only 8-15% of the energy in the used wood is retained in the produced charcoal and wastage is 85%. Carbonization time is eight days, during which the kiln requires continuous attention, and cooling time is 24-48 hours on average, while the quality of charcoal produced is rather low.

As part of the *INFORSE Synergies Across Continents* Project, Nature Palace Foundation and other INFORSE Uganda members have has participated in some capacity building webinars aimed at promoting local sustainable energy solutions. The Project has been coordinated by DIB, Denmark and is supported by CISU, Denmark.

Read the Publication from: <https://inforse.org/synergies.php>

## INFORSE Uganda members speak out ahead of the Africa Climate Week 2023



On July 25, 2023, members and partners to the International Network for Sustainable Energy (INFORSE) in Uganda that convened at JEEP Folkecenter – Kyanja Kampala, identified issues and made proposals ahead of the Africa Climate Summit & Week that takes place 4 – 6 September 2023 in Nairobi, Kenya. They reflected on the themes of the Summit namely: *Climate Action Financing, Green Growth Agenda for Africa, Climate Action and Economic Development and Global Capital optimization*. With regard to climate action financing, INFORSE Uganda members noted that, ‘To build resilience against climate change, African countries have outlined tangible ambitions for green growth, including plans to increase climate investment. But there are challenges to securing this investment to satisfactory levels’.

With regard to climate action financing, INFORSE Uganda members noted that, ‘To build resilience against climate change, African countries have outlined tangible ambitions for green growth, including plans to increase climate investment. But there are challenges to securing this investment to satisfactory levels’.

With Uganda as an example, the CSOs noted that while the total cost of implementing adaptation, mitigation, coordination, monitoring, and reporting of its updated Nationally Determined Contributions is estimated at USD 28.1 billion, the Country commits to mobilize domestic resources to cover the unconditional actions to the tune of only USD 4.1 billion equivalent (15% of this total cost). The rest will require international support to cover the conditional measures and actions.

On the green growth agenda for Africa, the INFORSE Uganda statement noted a need for this to be understood and explained better in simpler terms to stakeholders. As a starting point, it should be anchored in an African perspective, building on existing local solutions that have already been tried and tested. For example, the gastronomic decisions (food preparation, cooking, and presentation of food in form of meals) based on Uganda’s diverse cultures and lighting need to be taken into account to inform green growth policies and strategies.

The CSOs also called upon Government of Uganda to review, address the loopholes and scale up the distribution of *the 1 million Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) Starter Kits* launched by the Minister of Energy and Mineral Development more than a year ago (July 2022) as it is reportedly messed up. For example there are reported delays in delivery of LPG cylinders, some people getting only one part of the system for example a cylinder without a banner, or a banner without a cylinder, there has been no user training on Dos and Don’ts in LPG use and not reaching the intended ‘deserving households not using LPG’

INFORSE is a worldwide network consisting of 140 Non-Governmental Organizations working in about 60 countries to promote sustainable energy and social development.

Read the full statement here: <https://www.scribd.com/document/664380285/INFORSE-Uganda-Members-Joint-Statement-to-the-Africa-Climate-Summit-Week-due-4-6-September-2023-in-Nairobi-Kenya>

## Opinion: 'For Climate Justice, Accelerate Energy Transition From Fossil Fuels'



*The Tondeka Solar-powered Bus*

Science has made it clear that human activities such as burning of fossil fuels like coal, oil and gas are highly responsible for 80 percent of carbon emissions responsible for climate change, which crisis now poses danger to nature. From the global perspective, climate impacts such as floods, droughts, and hurricanes continue to impound untold consequences, which pose risks to livelihoods. Without a paradigm shift from fossil fuel to clean energy so as to achieve climate neutrality, protecting the most vulnerable will remain a nightmare.

Uganda has hitherto had a tropical climate characterized by stable rainfall patterns. However, the effects of climate change have turned the country's seasons around making them unpredictable, with shorter or longer rains and harsher droughts especially in the eastern and north-eastern districts of Uganda. In addition, the country experiences extreme weather events which have increased over the last 30 years and has led to mudslides/landslides and flooding, particularly for the country's hilly and mountainous districts such as Rubanda, Rukiga, Kisoro, Kasese, Bududa and Mbale.

In this regard, over the past two decades, an average of 200,000 Ugandans is affected each year by disasters and the most recent was during the onset of May 2023, when mudslides killed 16 people in Kisoro, Rubanda and Rukiga districts.

In 2022, floods of water in the rivers of Nabuyonga, Namatala and Nambaale in Mbale region, burst their banks and claimed more than 23 lives and it is also envisaged that the Nyamwamba floods resulted into victims being settled in Muhokya Internally Displaced People's (IDPs) camp in Kasese district. The above mentioned incidences therefore, have resulted into loss of lives, property with no just and realistic response to the affected frontline communities.

Furthermore, the increasing occurrence of excess heat conditions in the country is also exacerbating drought conditions, resulting in loss of lives and livestock especially in the Uganda's cattle Corridor areas.

However, since 2015, under the Paris Agreement, almost all countries in the world including Uganda committed to keep the rise in global average temperatures to 'well below' 2DegC, and ideally 1.5DegC above pre – industrial levels and also align finance flows with 'a pathway towards low greenhouse gas emissions among other commitments. The mitigation perspective under this Treaty requires countries to commit their emissions reduction targets in their 'Nationally Determined Contributions' (NDCs) which cover actions up to 2030. To this effect, Uganda updated its NDC with an emissions reduction target of 24.7 percent below the Business As Usual (BAU) trajectory in 2030.

Under the transport mitigation by subsector for example, it emphasizes on the alternative fuel switch and this measure intends to improve fuel standards and efficiency in the country whereby cleaner fuels will be promoted. To this effect, Uganda Government has started manufacturing/assembling buses through Kiira Motors Corporation which uses solar batteries instead of petrol or diesel and a test drive of buses (*Tondeka Bus Service*) is already underway on some routes of Greater Kampala Metropolitan Area.

It is important for the International Community to support Uganda in accelerating deployment of more clean, sustainable, efficient and 100 percent renewable energy solutions in more sectors so as to reduce our emissions through climate action.