Photographs on Cover Page

Left-to-Right: Awareness Raising and Consultation meeting in Kanungu on the upstream & mid-stream petroleum bills/laws; Pump Jack at Carlsbad, New Mexico, USA; awareness raising and Consultation meeting in Kanungu on the Public Finance Bill 2012; Oil & Gas Flaring at Waraga - Uganda; Land polluted and laid desolate by Oil spills in Niger Delta Nigeria; and Leaking Christmas Tree in the Niger Delta, Nigeria.
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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

WGI is very grateful to the communities, local government officials and opinion leaders in the visited districts of Arua, Nwoya-Amuru, Hoima, Buliisa, Kabarole-Ntoroko, Kanungu, Kampala and Mbale for their reception and responses given that made the project a success.

We are grateful to the local partners who helped organise the awareness raising and consultative engagement meetings that WGI undertook with the district local leadership, opinion leaders and communities on the petroleum bills. In particular, we appreciate the services of Kinkinzi Integrated Rural Development Programme (KIRDP); Rural Initiative for Community Empowerment-West Nile (RICE-WN); Buliisa Initiative for Rural Development Organisation (BIRUDO) Navigators of Development (NAVODA); Rev. Abednigo Wetanga District Community Development Officer – Mbale Local Government; Mr Godfrey Axuma District Community Officer Nwoya and Mr. Simone Amanyire Ntoroko District.

We appreciate our fellow members of the Civil Society Coalition on Oil & Gas (CSCO) that accorded WGI Expert support to analyse and educate citizens on the petroleum bills. In particular, we want to thank Civic Response for Environment and Development (CRED); Pro-Biodiversity Conservations in Uganda (PROBICOU), Uganda Road Sector Support Initiatives (URSSI); and Ms Lynn Turyatemba

We would like to thank Mr. Paul Kiggala and Ms. Isabella Crabtree for acting as the independent monitors of the field awareness raising and consultation meetings and for having given independent opinions on how the awareness and consultation exercises were being undertaken.

We appreciate the staff of WGI for having demonstrated commitment and support towards the project – without which the project would not have been successful.

We appreciate the Board of Directors of WGI for the support, insights and guidance they accorded the WGI Secretariat during the implementation of this project. The Directors where able to identify a few policy and implementation gaps that they recommended for improvement and strengthening.

Finally, WGI is forever grateful to the Democratic Governance Facility (DGF) for having had the confidence in WGI to deliver on the Project and having accepted to fund WGI and the project.

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1. Freelance Consultant
2. Uganda Industries’ Research Institute (UIRI)
3. Freelance Consultant
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Uganda has since 2004 continued to discover commercially viable oil reserves in the Albertine Graben in Western part of the country. Whether or not this trend will continue is a matter of time to prove. Upwards of 3.5 billion of crude oil reserves have been discovered in the Graben. This has the potential of lifting the country from a developing to a developed country and doubling the revenue windfalls in the national budget over 10 years of peak production.

The oil & gas industry is emerging in a backdrop of weak and inadequate policy, legal and institutional frameworks to take the industry from the exploration phase into the production phase. For these reasons, government embarked on a fast-track process crafting oil & gas policy and legislation and putting in place appropriate institutional framework and mechanisms. Currently, there is an Oil & Gas Policy (2008) and government is in the process of enacting petroleum legislation and establishing relevant institutions to govern the industry.

The petroleum bills that were tabled before Parliament in February 2012 for debate and enactment include the Petroleum Exploration, Development and Production bill 2012 (a.k.a. upstream bill); the Petroleum Refining, Gas Processing & Conversion, Transportation and Storage bill 2012 (a.k.a. mid-stream bill); and the Public Finance bill 2012 dealing with management of public finances including oil revenues. This, however, was done with little or no citizen involvement, debate and consultations. It is on this basis that Water Governance Institute (WGI) designed a project to create citizens awareness and to consult them on their perspectives on the petroleum industry in general and the petroleum bills/laws in particular with a view of helping integrate their perspectives in the emerging petroleum industry governance and bills in particular. The overall objective of the project was to support the enactment of adequate and effective petroleum laws and institutions that are appreciated and accepted by all citizens in Uganda.

This project was undertaken in 8 district regions of Uganda, including 6 in the oil producing region and 2 in the non-oil producing regions. The project engaged local government leadership, opinion leaders, religious and cultural institution leaders, community members in their different gender i.e. men, women, youth, the elderly, disabled and child-headed households.

It was discovered that there is scanty information among local government leadership, opinion leaders and community members about the oil & gas industry in general and the petroleum bills/laws in particular. This is especially so in the non-oil producing districts. Even the Members of Parliament (MPs) had not internalised the draft petroleum bills that were before them prior to the commencement of this project. This project contributed significantly to increasing the levels of awareness about the petroleum industry and petroleum bills among the communities and MPs engaged. It contributed to generating alternative clauses in the petroleum bills that resulted in the revision of 99% of the upstream bill and 50% of the mid-stream bill to include popular citizens’ perspectives. The other 50% of the mid-stream bill was considered acceptable in its original form to the majority of the MPs and civil society organisations engaged in the project. The project achieved its objectives in respect to the upstream and mid-stream petroleum bills. By the time of writing this report, the Public Finance bill 2012 remained to be debated and passed into law in Parliament. It is in WGI’s interest to contribute to the debate in parliament on the Public Finance bill as it had earlier done with the other Petroleum bills.
1.0. BACKGROUND
Uganda has been in the process of fast tracking the enactment of the Petroleum Bills; namely; (a) the Petroleum Exploration, Development and Production Bill⁴; (b) the Petroleum Refining, Gas Processing and Conversion, Transportation and Storage Bill⁵ and (c) the Public Finance. All the 3 bills were tabled before parliament for debate and the process saw the upstream bill being enacted into law on 7th December 2012. The Mid-stream bill and Public Finance bill are still before parliament pending enactment.

Water Governance Institute (WGI) in June 2012 received funding from Democratic Governance Facility (DGF) a basket fund of 8 international development partners⁶ to implement a project entitled “Seeking and Integrating Citizens’ Views in Uganda’s Petroleum Bills/Laws 2012”. The overall objective of the project is to support the enactment of adequate and effective petroleum laws and institutions that are appreciated and accepted by all citizens in Uganda. This was anticipated to be achieved through

(1) Supporting the parliamentary process of enacting adequate and effective petroleum Laws and establishment of relevant institutions in Uganda;
(2) Creating community (citizen) awareness and understanding of the petroleum industry as a whole and the proposed petroleum bills/laws in particular and seeking citizens’ views on the industry in general and petroleum bills in particular and the implications of the industry and the bills/laws on society, the economy, the environment and politics at local and national levels;
(3) Enhancing community (citizen) participation in the debate on and integration of their views in the petroleum bills/laws.

The engagement also intended to educate citizens on the intricacies of the Oil and Gas sector in general and on the 2012 Petroleum Bills in particular.

Therefore, the specific objectives were:
    i) To support the parliamentary process of enacting adequate and effective petroleum Laws and establishment of relevant institutions in Uganda;
    ii) To create community (citizen) awareness and understanding of and seek their views on the petroleum bills and their implications on society, the economy, the environment and politics at local and national level;
    iii) To enhance community (citizen) participation in the debate, on integration of their views in the petroleum bills/laws.

It is against this background that WGI is submitting this end of project narrative report for the period June to December 2012 to DGF.

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⁴ Also known as the upstream petroleum bill
⁵ Also known as the midstream petroleum bill
⁶ Austria, Denmark, the European Union Delegation, Ireland, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden and the United Kingdom
2.0. PROJECT TARGET AREAS, Stakeholders and Approach

The project was conducted in 6 oil producing district areas of Arua, Nwoya-Amuru, Kabarole-Ntoroko, Hoima, Buliisa & Kanungu as well as in 2 non-oil producing districts namely, Kampala which is the political and administrative centre that provides leadership to the oil & gas sector; and the Greater Mbale\textsuperscript{7}. The project targeted the districts that are or (will be) directly or indirectly affected by the operations of the oil industry for purposes of comparing citizens’ perspectives in the different circumstances and regions. The community meetings were held at the sub-county level, with exception of Mbale where it was agreed with the local leadership that an awareness raising meeting first be conducted with the political, administrative, cultural and religious leaders, CSOs and youth representatives before taking the debate to the sub-county level. It was also agreed that participants for the meeting come from Greater Mbale.

At the centre (Kampala), the project targeted Members of Parliament, Councillors (Kawempe division), and Government Technocrats in the Ministries, Department and Agencies involved in the industry, civil society organization representatives and development partners.

Particular attention was accorded to the views and perspectives of women, youth, the disabled, the elderly and child-headed homes who are often discriminated in such decision-making processes. After the general awareness raising meetings, participants were divided into their gender groups of men, women and the youth to seek their individual and collective perspectives on the oil industry in general and the proposed petroleum bills in particular. The meetings also constituted a consultative process that was conducted at the sub-county level in the districts visited, with exception of the Greater Mbale districts. The other key meetings conducted were with local political and administrative leadership and the opinion, cultural and religious leaders for their buy-in and acceptance of the project.

The districts were visited twice. The first time, involved awareness raising and consultation meetings on the upstream and mid-stream petroleum bills and the second visit involved community awareness and consultation exercises on the Public Finance bill 2012. The second visit also involved providing feedback to the participants on the actions, achievements, failures and outcomes of the exercises conducted during the first visit in respect to integrating citizens’ views in the up- and mid-stream bills with MPs and the Executive arm of government.

The topics covered in the discussions included information about the petroleum industry in general and the proposed petroleum bills in particular. The discussions revealed the opportunities, gaps and implementation challenges and the implications of the industry and proposed bills on individual citizen’s wellbeing/livelihood, the society, the economy, the environment and politics at the local level.

During the consultations, citizen’s views were sought on what needed to be done to purge the gaps, implementation challenges and negative implications of the petroleum industry and proposed bills. After the consultations, a feedback meeting

\textsuperscript{7}. Greater Mbale is comprised of Sironko, Manafwa, Bududa, Budaka and new Mbale districts that were curved out of the former Mbale district.
was organized for Members of Parliament, government technocrats, and civil society organizations to share the citizens’ perspectives.

As part of easing the work and access to the different districts, WGI worked with selected strategic local partners in the districts that assisted in securing the political and administrative clearances and buy-in to the project in the districts visited. Most of these strategic partners are Community Based Organizations (CBOs) that WGI has been and continues to work with and/or are members of CSCO in the identified districts. This approach proved very successful, especially in districts that are renowned for being apprehensive to civil society interventions such as Kanungu district.

3.0. KEY ACTIVITIES CONDUCTED IN THE JUNE – DECEMBER 2012 PERIOD

The following activities were undertaken during the project period (June – December 2012). The activities were carried-out in two phases

3.1. Phase 1: Key Activities Conducted in the July – September Project Quarter 2012

WGI has conducted the following activities as part of the overall implementation of the project in the July to September project period.

i) WGI Commissioned a team of Field Experts and WGI staff to conduct the awareness raising and consultation exercises in the 8 districts. The experts were selected from among the members of the Civil Society Coalition on Oil & Gas (CSCO) that were considered to have the requisite technical knowledge and experience about the petroleum industry in general, and the proposed petroleum bills in particular. This was in accordance to the design of the project that aimed at working with members of CSCO-a civil society coalition that is well versed with the oil & gas industry.

ii) Community awareness raising and discussion on the up and down stream petroleum Bills.

iii) Awareness raising and consultation meetings with religious and opinion leaders on the up- stream Petroleum Bills.

iv) Awareness raising and consultation meetings with religious, cultural and opinion leaders on the public and finance bill.

The awareness raising and consultation exercises mentioned in (b), (c) and (d) above were distinctly conducted. The awareness raising process involved providing information about the petroleum industry in general and the petroleum bills in particular related to the opportunities, gaps and implementation challenges and implications of the industry and the petroleum bills on individuals, the society in general, the economy, the environment and politics both at local and national level. This session desisted from making any suggestive or biased statements that could wrongly influence the opinion of the participants and allow them to develop their own unbiased views. The consultative process involved separate meetings of men, women and youth with a view of enhancing their participation and seeking views on things they would like to see the industry and the petroleum bills achieve.
v) Feedback meeting on Citizen’s perspectives on the Petroleum bills with MPs: This meeting brought together representatives from the communities consulted in the selected districts, MPs representing the visited districts and those from the Natural Resource Committee (NRC) of parliament that was reviewing the draft bills, including CSO representatives. This meeting was intended to give feedback to members of parliament about the citizens’ views on the petroleum bills and to seek the MP’s indulgence not to enact the bills in their current flawed state and demand that the gaps and implementation challenges inherent in the bills is purged before the bills are presented to parliament for enactment.

vi) A monitoring team comprising of the WGI staff and selected independent individuals was commissioned to monitor the field activities conducted by the Field Experts teams. This was aimed at assessing the performance of the field expert teams, the progress of work in the field, immediate effects/impacts that the meetings were causing at community and local government level and to check whether or not the project was achieving its intended objectives and relevance. The independent monitors were intended to give us unbiased report and beef-up the WGI monitoring team.

vii) Interactive radio talk-shows/ spot messages: As part of the awareness raising on the petroleum industry and proposed petroleum bills, interactive radio talk shows were conducted by the field expert teams while they were in the districts. Subsequent talk-shows were conducted by the WGI partners in the districts visited. The talk-shows were hosted on Mega FM Radio in Northern Uganda, Kings FM in Buliisa, Better FM in Kabarole, CBS FM in Kampala, Radio One FM in Kampala, KBS FM in Kanungu, Pacis FM in Arua, Hoima FM, and OPG FM in Mbale on the basis of their listenership and coverage. A standardized spot message in English and Luganda was prepared and aired on these FM stations prior to and after the interactive talk-shows. In areas where English and Luganda are not well understood, the spot message was translated to local language. This approach has proved to be a very powerful tool to the extent that long after the expert teams have left the field, there is evidence of citizen feedback on the radio stations in respect to the oil & gas industry, the proposed bills and the work that WGI has done in the district. In addition, we have received feedback from the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development (MEMD) Communication Officers that the message is good, save for a Luganda
translation that could suggest that government is already receiving money from commercial production of oil. If resources allow, this is an approach that we are desirous to continue to use to reach-out to greater population.

viii) Bulletins/ Press Statement: As part of simplifying the information contained in the proposed petroleum bills and oil industry in general, it was agreed at WGI that the information be disseminated in bits and pieces presented bulletins to ease readership of the citizens we were engaging. The bulletins briefly explain the content of the draft petroleum bills, their gaps, implementation challenges and the implications on the society, economy, environment and politics at both local and national level to enable citizens easily internalize the issues and effectively contribute to the on-going public and parliamentary debate on the petroleum bills. The Bulletins also explain the processes undertaken by the project to seek citizens’ perspectives on the petroleum industry and bills. It was also agreed that a Press statement be produced to make the public aware of the citizen awareness raising and consultation exercise that was on-going in the selected districts. Although not previously budgeted for, the press statement was very instrumental in alerting the selected districts and the central government about the upcoming work that WGI was undertaking. It also eased WGI access to the selected districts and the subsequent engagements that we had with government and oil company officials.

ix) Production of a documentary: As part of the awareness raising and consultation exercises, WGI commissioned a video crew team that travelled with the field expert teams to cover the proceedings of the meetings with a view of capturing citizens views and voices in a short (15-20minute) documentary that would be disseminated to the MPs, government technocrats, development partners, CSOs and the wider public as part of the advocacy strategy. This was premised on the fact that the video documentary that we had earlier-on used depicting the resource curse syndrome and how it could be avoided featuring Nigeria and Botswana proved to be a powerful tool in enhancing citizens’ understanding of the oil, gas and mining sector and its intricacies.

x) WGI Staff Capacity building: Staff capacity building activities have been and continue to be undertaken internally. The Finance Department underwent a capacity building exercise that was facilitated by a professional from Makerere University Business School (MUBS). In addition, in-house training and experience learning on project planning, implementation and management have been undertaken focusing on research, communication and writing/reporting skills. This is proving to be an effective approach of transforming a staff that was initially less adept to the oil & gas industry, the petroleum bills, water related issues, research, policy analysis, communication and writing to one that is increasingly becoming expert.

xi) Conducted a feedback meeting with development partners to share insights about the citizens’ perspectives on the up- and mid-stream petroleum bills 2012. This was intended to encourage development partners to use their political clout to persuade government to integrate citizens’ perspectives in the petroleum bills. This meeting was attended by different donor representatives and members of civil society and the media. This meeting was held at Sheraton Hotel on the 23rd October 2012.
3.2. Phase 2: Key Activities Conducted in the October – December Project Period

Like in Phase 1 above, a team of Field Experts and WGI staff were commissioned to:

xii) Conduct the awareness raising and consultation exercises in the 8 district areas cited above. The experts were selected from among the members of the Civil Society Coalition on Oil & Gas (CSCO) that were considered to have the requisite technical knowledge and experience about the petroleum industry, in general, and the proposed petroleum bills, in particular. This was in accordance to the design of the project that aimed at working with members of CSCO-a civil society coalition that is well versed with the oil & gas industry.

xiii) Conduct feedback on the actions taken on the views collected from the citizens during Phase 1 on the upstream and midstream petroleum bills; the successes and failures in integrating citizens’ perspectives in the petroleum bills in parliament; and the challenges experienced from the executive arm of government.


xv) Conducted feedback on the up- and mid-stream petroleum bills and awareness and consultation discussions on the Public Finance bill 2012 with citizens in the 8 district regions cited above. The meetings on the Public Finance bill were conducted with local government leaders, religious and opinion leaders and community members. The meetings with community members comprised of a meeting where all participants were together and
others where the participants were separated into different gender i.e. men, women and youth. The issue of the disabled was considered as a crosscutting issue. The meetings involved sharing information about the opportunities, gaps and implementation challenges and implications the bill presents to individuals, the existing legal and institutional framework, and the society in general, the economy and politics both at local and national level. The sessions desisted from making any suggestive or biased statements that could wrongly influence the opinion of the participants and allowed them to develop their own unbiased views on the bill. As part of enhancing participation, the consultative process on the Public Finance bill involved separate meetings of men, women and youth to seek their perspectives on the bill. These meetings were conducted during the period of 3rd November and 20th December 2012. The views gathered formed part of the discussions held with MPs during meetings organized under the auspices of CSCO.

![Photo 3: Citizens’ awareness and consultative meeting on the Public Finance bill 2012 Kanungu 18th – 19th December 2012.](image)

xvi) Interactive radio talk-shows and spot messages were conducted on selected stations in the district regions visited to give feedback on the up- and mid-stream petroleum bills and discussion on the Public Finance bill. Talk-shows were conducted on Liberty FM-Hoima, KBS FM8, Parcis FM in Arua, CBS-FM9 Kampala, Radio One FM Kampala, Step Radio FM Mbale FM. A spot message earlier produced in English was presented as a translation in local languages on these FM stations prior to and after the interactive talk-shows. This approach continues to be effective in delivering the desired message to the wider public. If resources allow, it is an approach that will continue to be used in subsequent engagements.

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8. Kanungu Broadcasting Station
9. Central Broadcasting Service
xvii) WGI Staff Capacity building: Staff capacity building activities have been and continue to be undertaken internally. For example;

xiv) The Finance Department underwent a capacity building exercise that was facilitated by a professional from Makerere University Business School (MUBS).

xv) Some of the other staff undertook training in Project Planning and Management; and Monitoring and Evaluation at Makerere University Main Campus

In addition, in-house training and experience learning on project planning, implementation and management have been undertaken focusing on research, communication and writing/reporting skills. This is proving to be an effective approach of transforming a staff that was initially less adept to the oil & gas industry, the petroleum bills, water related issues, research, policy analysis, communication and writing to one that is increasingly becoming expert.

xviii) Holding task force monthly meetings at WGI: The Task force which comprised of Field Experts, WGI partners from the regions and WGI staff held monthly meetings during this period. The meetings were intended to harmonize implementation plans and agree on execution methods and processes.

xix) Monitoring and Project Review: Monitoring team comprising of the Executive Director, one WGI staff and an independent consultant\(^\text{10}\) were commissioned to monitor the performance of the field Expert teams and assess effects of the exercise on local government and community perspectives on role of civil society in the oil & gas sector and whether or not the project was achieving its intended objectives and relevance.

xx) Developing 5-year Strategic Plan for WGI: As part of the project, the DGF supported an initiative to develop a 5-year strategic plan for WGI for the period 2013-2017. A consultant was hired in collaboration with DGF to develop this strategic plan. By the time of reporting, the strategic planning process was still going on. The consultant met with WGI’s staff to discuss the elements and ideas of the plan. The draft plan was intended to be presented to the WGI board for comments. A joint staff and board discussion on the strategic plan was envisioned later in January 2013. Also envisioned is a workshop where the strategic plan will be presented to other key stakeholders for comment and later finalization of the plan.

4.0. CHALLENGES

The challenges experienced by WGI both internally and externally in respect to the project included the following:

i) The time in which the different project activities needed to be conducted was limited and too close with each other, because it was construed that the bills would be passed in parliament quickly before we got an opportunity to consult the citizens.

\(^{10}\) Paul Kigala of Uganda Industry Research Institute (UIRI)
ii) A number of very important activities that needed to be conducted were not earlier envisaged in the preparation of the project such as a pre-field (reconnaissance) visit for planning purposes and purchasing project computers. This required making adjustments of some costs to integrate the required activities.

iii) A relative uninformed society about the petroleum sector. This made it rather difficult to completely discuss and disseminate complex concepts and terminologies associated with the petroleum industry in general and the petroleum bills in particular. This caused the field expert teams to spend more time explaining general information about the petroleum sector, instead of focusing more on the petroleum bills. This required the field teams to spend two extra days in the field than originally planned. This, notwithstanding, was in itself a good development and opportunity to create better citizen understanding of the petroleum industry in Uganda.

iv) At the time of undertaking this project, the WGI were not well adept to the issues of oil & gas, water, research, writing/reporting and advocacy skills. However, as the project progressed, they were able to quickly internalize the purpose of the project and sharpen their advocacy skills.

v) Political sensitivity on the petroleum Industry: The apparent government intolerance to alternative views and perspectives about the petroleum industry instills fear and stifles freedoms of expression among the general population. This had an effect on the way communities and other stakeholders initially reacted to WGI and its work. This, however, changed and varied from place-to-place.

vi) Differences in opinions between the Executive Arm of government and Parliament. Parliament was pervers to alternative views about the petroleum bill, while the executive wanted the bills in their original forms. This made the integration of key popular citizens’ views difficult and has pitted the executive against parliament. This notwithstanding, over 90% of the citizens’ views were captured in the bills.

5.0. ACHIEVEMENTS/EFFECTS OR IMPACTS OF THE PROJECT

i) The project has helped increase knowledge levels on the petroleum industry in general; the petroleum bills; the intricacies involved in the industry; its effects/impacts on peoples’ livelihoods, the society, the economy, the environment and politics at community, district and national levels among the communities engaged in the 8 district areas visited and among the members of parliament. The project succeeded in changing uninformed or less informed individuals about the petroleum industry to persons that are better informed.

ii) Taking the discussions on the petroleum sector to other non-oil producing districts has succeeded in grounding the fact that oil is a national resource whose benefits transcend across all districts, thus triggering interest in oil matters in non-oil producing districts i.e. making oil a national concern.
WGI, in collaboration with partner civil society organizations under the auspices of CSCO (chaired by WGI) organized meetings with members of parliament to share perspectives on the petroleum bills in respect to the opportunities, gaps and implementation challenges presented by the bills. As part of the discussions, civil society actors shared alternative clauses to the petroleum bills with members of parliament. This triggered heated debate in parliament that saw 97 out of 98 clauses in the upstream and 50% of the midstream petroleum bills successfully revised to include popular citizens’ views. This was an unprecedented occurrence in parliament where over 70% of the MPs actively participated in the debate over an issue presented before parliament. This has proved the necessity for civil society to support the work of parliament from time to time. The kind of debate that ensued over the upstream bills is expected when the mid-stream and Public Finance bills are debated in parliament.

The clause that was lost in the debate\(^{11}\) was clause 9 of the upstream bill that influences both the upstream and midstream sections of the petroleum value-chain and revenues accruing from oil. Clause 9 vests a lot of powers for managing the petroleum industry in the Minister in charge of the sector, including the power to: grant and revoke licenses; negotiate, enter into, and administer Petroleum agreements; and approve plans for oil field development. In short, Clause 9 gives the Minister sole authority to set the terms of all contracts with foreign oil companies. This was viewed by many stakeholders as being problematic in the sense that there are no sufficient checks and balances enshrined in the law. The implication of clause 9 in its current form is that:

- It creates a situation in which corruption can flourish i.e. If a dishonest person becomes Minister, there is nothing in the law to stop him or her from causing a huge financial loss to the country when negotiating with oil companies
- With the powers enshrined in clause 9 and other clauses, the draft petroleum bill/law gives the Minister broad discretion to bypass the competitive process altogether. In addition, the Minister may keep secret the agreements he/she has negotiated with oil companies. Thus the public and Parliament will not be able to verify that Uganda is receiving fair value or whether the Minister has negotiated a bad deal in exchange for personal favors or payments.

iii) As part of our civil society engagement with members of parliament through CSCO, the MPs understood the gaps and implementation challenges enshrined in the proposed petroleum bills and subsequently suspended the passing of the bills into law to allow for sufficient debate and integration of citizens’ views in the bills. This fulfilled one of the key project objectives.

iv) The project has helped enhance the profile of WGI in Uganda and beyond. It has also built the capacity of WGI in terms of human, financial and

\(^{11}\) The President passionately and politically influenced the retention of clause 9 in its original form, because he wants to have leverage to personally determine the affairs of the oil industry.
technological resources and confidence. As a result, the role of WGI in the petroleum sector has steadily been appreciated by stakeholders.

v) The project enabled WGI establish and strengthen partnership with community based organizations and individuals in the 8 district regions visited. Thus expanding WGI’s operational area and network.

vi) The project has opened-up new areas of work that WGI and others civil society organizations could undertake to complete the task of integrating citizens’ views in the petroleum industry such as the quest for amendment of the laws, monitoring compliance of the petroleum industry to national laws and regulations, further sensitization and community awareness raising at village levels, the need for community-based monitoring, addressing human rights and justice, offering paralegal services to communities affected by the petroleum industry, among others.

vii) The engagement has triggered citizens’ demand for more information and support from the government, industry, private sector and civil society. This is evidenced in the video documentary and audio-recordings produced by WGI.

viii) The project succeeded in sharing information with development partners who also convinced government to allow for more time for citizen's consultations and input into the petroleum bills debate in parliament.

6.0. OUTSTANDING ACTIVITIES

i) Second Feedback and dialogue meeting with development partners

ii) End-of-Project Evaluation

The above pending activities could be accomplished during an extended project period or as part of a subsequent programme.

7.0. LESSONS LEARNT

i) Allow for more time to conceptualize and develop proposals so that all key activities are captured and integrated in the final proposal submitted for funding to avoid changes after the grant is signed.

ii) The information gap about the petroleum sector among the citizens is too large. A lot more citizen awareness on the petroleum industry and associated laws and regulations is necessary. This will require greater effort and commitment of resources to cause appreciable impact. WGI alone is insufficient to create this impact. There is need for more civil society actors to augment the activities that WGI has initiated.

iii) The communities that WGI has so far engaged and consulted are not necessarily ignorant not to understand the petroleum concepts, intricacies and dealings when explained to. It would therefore be wrong for anybody to assume that all Ugandans do not comprehend oil & gas issues.
iv) Radio Spot messages were a powerful tool of disseminating key information on the petroleum industry to a wider audience in a very short period of time and at comparatively low cost.

v) Interactive Radio talk shows are an effective tool of disseminating information widely within short span of time. These need to be encouraged.

vi) Feedback is important as a responsible, transparent and accountability action to stakeholders, particularly project beneficiaries.

vii) Although expensive, newspaper articles/pullouts and simplified bulletins are effective tools of disseminating information to different stakeholders. These need to be encouraged and supported.

viii) Working through local partners is an effective means of overcoming local bureaucracies, political impediments and eases WGI entry into local government environments. It is also an effective means of influencing citizens’ attitudes, since the local partner is usually better known. In addition, partnerships at national level help in profiling WGI, advancing similar causes and offering skills and expertise that may be lacking in WGI. Such partnerships need to be strengthened.

ix) Working as team is a better way of lesson learning, experience sharing and skills development.

x) The local government leaderships need the oil & gas information as much as the other citizens of the country. Therefore, while designing initiatives to educate the community members, it is important that the local government leadership and opinion leaders are included in such plans. This is particularly true for districts outside the oil producing regions.

xi) Significant amount of information on the oil & gas industry has been exchanged among oil producing districts, but little or none in the non-oil producing districts, yet oil is a national resource that is likely to affect all citizens - whether or not they reside or originate from the oil producing areas. It is therefore important to take the petroleum debate to the non-oil producing districts of the country.

xii) If civil society actors are going to cause impact, they will need to strategically work with local and central government leadership. This will augment local and central government buy-in in civil society initiatives; help undo the prevalent perception among government officials that civil society actors are detractors, anti-government or anti-development; and will ease the work of civil society.

xiii) There is need to extend policy advocacy to the village level. There are a number of retired civil servants in the communities that can be utilized as a resource to continuously engage and disseminate information to the other community members on different issues and help take the advocacy down to the household level.
xiv) To enhance democratic governance, citizens need to be well informed to make informed decisions. It will require influencing the vote and the voter through providing correct, unbiased/ balanced and timely information. If civil society is going to facilitate change and improvement of peoples’ livelihoods and governance, then, it must influence the vote and the voter. It will be important to link the petroleum industry and the proposed petroleum bills/ laws with peoples’ livelihoods, the society, the economy, the environment and politics both at community and national levels for them to fully appreciate and participate in the decision-making processes in the industry.

8.0. NEXT STEPS/ WAY FORWARD

i) Since there is still a huge information gap about the petroleum industry in general and the petroleum bills in particular among the general population, continuous awareness raising and civic education is necessary. In addition, there are two bills pending passing into law i.e. mid-stream bill and Public Finance bill 2012 that will require parliamentary debate and enactment. This will require rigorous analysis and dialogue meetings with members of parliament and the executive like the ones conducted on the up-stream petroleum bill. For this reason, a follow-up project will be necessary to continue creating citizen awareness, appreciation and participation in the debate and decision-making processes concerning the oil & gas industry. While continuing work in the oil producing districts, particular attention will be made to non-oil producing districts which have for a long time been denied information about the oil & gas industry.

ii) Now that the upstream bill has been passed into law by parliament with the unpopular clause 9, it will require continuous debate and dialogue for:
   - Ensuring that there is rigorous monitoring and reporting on how the affairs of the oil & gas industry are being handled by the Minister and the President or
   - Seeking an amendment of the upstream petroleum law going forward.

For these reasons, engagement meetings with members of parliament and the general public will be undertaken.

iii) There is generally little or no interest in the general public in oil & gas issues, because of scanty information and the failure to link the industry to individuals’ daily livelihoods and well-being. For this reason, a programme to link petroleum with peoples’ individual livelihoods and local economy will be undertaken with a view of enhancing citizens’ interest in the sector and spur appropriate citizen inquest, responses and actions.

iv) Promote the establishment of Citizen’s Assemblies (a.k.a. Alternative Parliaments)\(^\text{12}\) where citizens can regularly or routinely meet to discuss matter that concern them individually or collectively related to delivery of social goods and services, employment/ business opportunities linked to exploitation of natural resources and overall development. Information

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\(^{12}\) These are not intended to replace the role of the national parliament, but to augment its work by generating citizens’ collective consensus on an issue that parliament should address.
generated from these assemblies will then be conveyed to Parliament for consideration and action.

v) Continue to enhance citizens’ voices and promote their rights to land/natural resources, compensation and resettlement, justice, healthy environment, access to information associated to oil & gas and whole extractive sector.

vi) Continue holding interactive radio talk-shows on oil & gas issues and its link or impacts to peoples’ livelihoods, the society, the economy, the environment and politics at community, district and national levels