A Renewable Energy Civil Society Organization (RECSO) Network
Memorandum/Position Paper on the Draft National Energy Policy (October 2019) with
suggested Gaps and Recommendations for consideration by the Ministry of Energy
and Mineral Development.



Compiled for submission to Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development by the Renewable Energy Civil Society Organizations Network Secretariat, hosted at Environmental Alert.

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### 1.0 Introduction

This is a memorandum/position paper is prepared by the Renewable Energy Civil Society Organization Network¹ on the Draft National Energy Policy version of October 2019². It presents salient gaps in the policy and suggests practical recommendations of how they could be addressed in the Draft National Energy Policy document. It's submitted to the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development (MEMD) for review and consideration of the recommendations into the final Energy Policy.

The memorandum was generated based on gap analyses and synthesis of comments and inputs on the draft energy policy from individual members of the network. Furthermore, the draft memorandum was validated during a workshop organized by Environmental Alert, as the host for the RECSO Network Secretariat. The validation workshop was held on 1st November, 2009 at Imperial Royal Hotel and it actively involved participation of 30 (18 Males and 12 Females) members of network<sup>3</sup>. Other key stakeholders who participated included the Assistant Commissioner as a representative of the MEMD and the representative of the Consultants facilitating the process for review of the National Energy Policy, (2002). This engagement is part of the Environmental Alert led outputs under the project titled, 'Increasing access to sustainable and renewable energy alternatives in the Albertine Graben,' with financial support from Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation through World Wide Fund-Uganda Country Office.

The memorandum/position paper presents both general and specific gaps and recommendations as detailed in sections 2 & 3 for consideration in the final National Energy Policy. The RECSO Network is available through the secretariat and steering committee to provide more information and clarifications on the memorandum/position paper.

## 2.0 General observations and comments on the draft policy

- a. We congratulate the MEMD and Partners for the timely interventions for the review of National Energy Policy, (2002). The inputs and progress made in this respect to date is highly appreciated with due consideration of the importance of the energy sector to other sectors and overall national development and transformation. Overall the draft Energy Policy (October, 2019) has good articulation of the analyses and synthesis of the issues, policy direction/focus, policy statements and strategies. However, there are some outstanding gaps that need to be considered and addressed to have a final energy policy that will effectively deal with the current sector issues.
- b. Need to strengthen the current baseline for the sector in respect to registered successes and achievements from implementation of the Energy policy (2002); the short coming and limitations during policy implementation – especially in cases were the policy targets were not achieved. These will provide the basis for measuring progress towards the targets in the new Energy policy.
- c. In some cases, the issues description in the problem statement should strengthened with facts in terms statics on status of the issue as appropriate. For instance:

The statistics used for National Forest cover is 9% in 2013, yet it's currently at 12% in 2019 (MWE, 2019);

https://www.energyandminerals.go.ug/site/assets/files/1081/draft\_revised\_energy\_policy\_-\_11\_10\_2019-1\_1.pdf

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Further information about the **Renewable Energy Civil Society Organization Network** is detailed in **Box 1**.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Draft National Energy Policy available at:

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Signed attendance is attached in the **annex 1**.

On vulnerability to climate change (page 12), it is important to note that energy contributes to climate change mitigation especially in cases were clean renewable energy alternatives are developed and utilized.

- d. The key actors in the energy sector and associated sub-sectors need requisite knowledge and skills to effectively implement the identified policy strategies based on their mandates, roles and responsibilities. Training & academic institutions have to send of graduate technicians that have the knowledge and practical skills responding to the market's needs. This can be achieved through structured capacity building based on the regular needs assessments. Therefore, the policy should consider capacity building (both technical and institutional) as a cross cutting strategy that will be applied to bridge the responsive capacity gaps for each actor. Furthermore, there should be collaboration with training and academic institution for review of training and education curricula to respond in addressing emerging training needs and skills gaps. Technical staff & technicians in the respective key actors in the sector should receive regular courses for retooling to acquire the required skills and knowledge gaps. Conducting Training of Training and establishing regional renewable energy centers of excellence for scaling of adoption of technologies and providing training, awareness, operation & maintenance.
- e. *Unemployment is key challenge for Uganda like any other developing country.* Furthermore, a large proportion of the population constitutes young people, thus 77% of Uganda's population is dominated by the youth under 30 years of age (UBOS, 2017). Most of the young people about 83% are unemployment thereby posing serious social, economic, political and leadership challenges. Therefore, the policy should tap into this demographic dividend with clear principles, policy statements and strategies to contribute to youth engagement by creating gainful employment opportunities along the energy value chains across the various sub-sectors.
- f. There are various technical terms used throughout the policy document. These can have different interpretation by the different stakeholders at the different levels (international, national, regional, local) of implementation of the policy. It's better to introduce an annex with a glossary detailing the definitions and interpretations of the various key technical terms as applied in the policy.
- g. The following sub sections should be introduced at the beginning of the policy document i.e. the Foreword and Executive summary. These are useful sub-sections with summarized content to prepare the users of the policy.
- h. *Innovation, Technology Development and Transfer is a key pillar that contributes towards achievement of the sector aspirations* as stipulated in the Vision 2040; Sustainable Energy for All targets 2030; Nationally Determined Contributions; Sustainable Development Goals targets by 2030; and the National Development Plan II & III. It's an issue of negotiation at the global levels especially in cases where there is need for technology transfer. Besides, there is also need to promote, develop and protect local innovations and technology in the Energy sector. Some communities and individuals that have already developed innovations and technology in the energy sector. It's a cross cutting issue, thus each sub-sector in the energy sector has unique needs/requirements in respect to innovation, technology development and transfer. It has shared has mandates with the Ministry of Science and Technology and Uganda national Council of Science and Technology in respect to policy formulation and legislation. In this context therefore, the Draft National Energy Policy in its principles, policy statements and strategies should provide guidance on how innovation, technology development and transfer should be harnessed.

# 3.0 Specific comments

In **Table 1**, the identified issues and related suggested recommendations for consideration in the final draft of the Energy Policy are detailed.

**Table 1:** Specific comments, identified gaps in the draft National Energy Policy (October, 2019) and proposed recommendations.

No	Specific	Identified gaps in the key	Section in	Implications if the	Recommendations to address the
	section in the	section in the revised draft	the policy	identified draft is not	gaps
	Revised	energy policy	draft where	addressed in the policy	
	Energy Policy		the gaps should be		
	(zero draft), October 2019		addressed		
1.	Justification	The draft policy in Section 1.11	Section 1.11:	Energy demands	The identified emerging issues in Section
	and rationale	describes the drivers for policy	Page 16	increase with increasing	1.11 as drivers for policy review should be
	for policy	review. However, the identified	, ago , o	population growth and	strengthened with appropriate statistics.
	review	emerging issues should be		associated increasing	9
		strengthened with appropriate		sub-sector energy	
		statistics. For instance: the		demands to deliver the	
		increasing & projected population		populations needs and	
		growth and the associated energy		services.	
		demands across sectors to meet			
		the associated requirements for		Overall understanding	
		the population. Thus, the reported		these energy needs to	
		high Population growth of an		inform short, medium	
		annual rate of 3.2%. This is		and long term energy	
		projected to reach 55 million in the next 10 years. This will exert		planning. Thus, today we have adequate energy,	
		more pressure on the		but will be inadequate as	
		environment and natural		the population grows	
		resources. Over 90% still		and population grows	
		depends on biomass WWF-UCO,			
		(2015).			
		Furthermore, the description of			Include Nationally Determined
		new national and international			<b>Contributions</b> in the description of new
		guiding frameworks – as an			national and international guiding

2	Vision, Mission, objectives of the draft policy	identified driver for policy review leaves out the Nationally Determined Contributions.  Energy policy direction (including Vision, mission, and overall objective) lacks emphasis on the aspect of efficiency	Section 2 Pages 12-13	For consistence in the policy because aspects of energy efficiency are addressed in subsequent sections.	frameworks – as an identified driver for policy review leaves out the Nationally Determined Contributions.  Vision  To develop, strategically manage and safeguard the rational and sustainable exploitation and efficient utilization of energy resources for social and economic development.			
					Mission To ensure reliable, adequate and sustainable exploitation, management, efficient and equitable utilization of energy resources.			
3	Guiding Principles of the draft policy	3.1 The draft policy has a good articulation of the principles for guiding implementation of the policy commitments. However, some key guiding principles are been omitted.	Section 2.5 Page 13	It's important that the key/relevant principles are integrated to guide effective policy implementation.	The following key guiding principles should be added:  *Upholding human rights;  *Transparency and accountability;  *Effective communication amongst the stakeholders;  *Targeted institutional capacity building;  *Employment creation;  *Innovation, technology development and transfer			
4.1	Renewable Energy	The strategies for implementation of the policy statement are not exhaustive.	Section 4.1 Page 18-19	Including additional policy strategies will enable effective implementation of the policy statement and addressing all the	Include additional strategies for implementation of the policy statement:  i) Promoting Land use planning for largescale wind energy plants.			

				issues.	
4.2	Electric power	The strategies for implementation of the policy statement are not exhaustive.	Section 4.3 Page 25-27	Including additional policy strategies will enable effective implementation of the policy statement and addressing all the issues.	Include additional strategies for implementation of the policy statement:  i) Conducting regular training curricula review and work-based learning (practical and field attachments) in existing training institutions to address the challenge  ii) Establish an adequate planning framework for sequencing power generation in line with transmission, distribution infrastructure and demand forecasts
4.3	Biomass	Solid biomass: The draft policy recognizes the unsustainable production and utilization of solid biomass fuels.  The issues description leaves out inadequate investment in structured production of biomass within forest landscapes among the key issues enlisted in the draft policy  Furthermore, there are some additional strategies that should be considered to address the issue.  Some of the additional strategies for consideration include:	Section 4.1.1 Page 20	Biomass energy is still an important source energy that requires structured investments in sustainable production and utilization along the value chain.	i) The biomass sub-sector issues description should consider inclusion of inadequate investment in structured production of biomass within forest landscapes  ii) Identification of dedicated land for commercial sustainable biomass production within forest landscapes should be added as additional strategy.  iii) Provide incentives for promoting sustainable biomass energy production.

		i) Identification of land dedicated to commercial sustainable biomass production within forest landscapes			
4.4	Solar energy	The problem analysis leaves out some of the root causes such as limited awareness for instance on aspects of solar standards; creation of serial codes on the solar panels used.  Furthermore, there are some additional strategies that should be considered to address the issues. Some of these for consideration include:  i) Promoting Land use planning for large-scale solar plants.	Page 21	Including additional policy strategies will enable effective implementation of the policy statement and addressing all the issues.	i) The problem analyses should be strengthened by inclusion of limited awareness for instance on aspects of solar standards; creation of serial codes on the solar panels used among the root causes.  ii) Additional strategies for should be considered to adequately address the issues. For instance: Promoting Land use planning for large-scale solar plants.
4.5	Clean Cooking	Further clarification is required in the problem analysis – that the cause of pollution is not necessary the fuel energy source, but it's the technology used – especially if it's an inefficient technology.  The policy statement in its description leaves out aspects of affordability, efficiency and effectiveness.	Section 4.2 Page 23	Including additional policy strategies will enable effective implementation of the policy statement and addressing all the issues.	i) It should be clarified in the problem analyses that the cause of pollution is the inefficiency in the technology used for generation of the fuel energy  ii) The policy statement should consider aspects of affordability, efficiency and effectiveness – for the clean cooking technologies being promoted. Thus, the policy statement should be revised as follows:  'The Government shall promote the uptake and sustained use of clean, modern cooking technologies that are

4.6	Coatharmal	Furthermore, there are some additional strategies that should be considered and or clarification of the suggested ones to address the issues adequately.	Continue 4.4.2	Ctalcabaldan manning	a) Establishment of regional renewable energy centers of excellence to provide training, awareness, operation & maintenance for clean cooking technologies;  b) The fiscal incentives described in objective 3 should be directed to motivate local manufacturing;  c) Youth involvement and issues of energy access. Thus strategy 4 should be re-written as follows, 'Support the growth of women and youth as promoters, suppliers, leaders and manufactures of clean cooking equipment and resources.'  d) Promoting Innovation development and technology transfer of clean cooking technologies;  e) Establishment of an innovation fund for access and utilization by the local private sector developing innovation and technology in clean cooking.
4.6	Geothermal	The identified strategies do not clearly stipulate how the local Governments, religious & cultural Institutions as key stakeholders will be involved during	Section 4.1.3 Page 22	Stakeholder mapping and active involvement and participation enables smooth implementation of the policy.	The identified strategies should clearly stipulate how the key stakeholders (such as: Local Governments, cultural and religious institutions) will be involved in the implementation of the respective

		implementation. implementation of the strategies			strategies. For instance, in the development and implementation of the geothermal communication strategy because it's only addressing the communities (strategy 3).
4.7	Waste to energy	The policy statement in its description leaves out the aspect of effectiveness.  Furthermore, there are some additional strategies that should be considered to address the issues. Some of these for consideration include:	Section 4.1.4 Page 23	Including additional policy strategies will enable effective implementation of the policy statement and addressing all the issues.	i) The aspect of effectiveness should be integrated in the policy statement. Thus, it should be re-written as follows: "the government shall promote effective collection and processing of municipal waste streams as alternative sources of energy."  ii) Additional strategies for should be
		i) Promote public, private sector investment in waste to energy generation with Cities and urban centers.			considered to adequately address the issues. For instance: Promote public, private sector investment in waste to energy generation with Cities and urban centers.
4.8	Electricity Access and Rural electrification	Electricity access and rural electrificationstand-alone off grid system  Some of the identified strategies as described in the draft policy compromise the role and mandate of the MEMD. For instance:  a) Support organizations mandated to enforce standards and link the burden of responsibility with other enforcement organizations (e.g.	Section4.4 Page 30-31	Including additional policy strategies will enable effective implementation of the policy statement and addressing all the issues.	i) Strategies should not compromise the mandate of the MEMD and any other stakeholder. Thus, strategy be written as follows: 'enforce standards and regulatory frameworks at the national and local levels.'  ii) Additional strategies for should be considered to adequately address the issues. For instance: Provide public information and education on the standards, and the self-regulatory system; as well as periodic catalogue of counterfeits on the market.

5 Cros	ss cutting issues	the police and judiciary).  Furthermore, there are some additional strategies that should be considered to address the issues. Some of these for consideration include:  i) Provide public information and education on the standards, and the self-regulatory system; as well as periodic catalogue of counterfeits on the market.			
		a) The policy is silent on the	Continu E	The present for	i) Develop and implement a
5.1	Gender and equity mainstreaming	<ul> <li>a) The policy is silent on the linkages between gender, poverty and energy.</li> <li>b) Furthermore, the issues description should clearly articulate that there is a lack of the energy sector gender strategy and action plan</li> </ul>	Section 5. Page 36	The process for development of the comprehensive gender strategy and action plan will address the linkages between gender, poverty and energy nexus. Thus, helping in better understanding the needs/concerns of various gender categories in society and identification of appropriate responsive strategies/actions to address them towards sustainable energy for all.	i) Develop and implement a comprehensive integrated renewable energy, gender sensitive, poverty alleviation strategy and action plan;
5.2	Climate	Climate change mainstreaming in	Section 5;	The energy sector like all	Some of the strategies for achieving this
	change	respect to advancing adaptation	Pages 37-41	other sector is vulnerable	are:

	mainstreaming in the energy sector	and mitigation by the energy sector is missing in the draft policy.  The policy should highlight the potential for clean renewable energy in advancing adaptation and mitigation of climate change impacts.  Besides, the National Climate Change policy (2015) requires all sectors (including Energy) to mainstream climate change to advance sector adaptation to climate change impacts		to the project impacts of climate change and variability.  The country has committed to implementation of the Nationally Determined contribution, which the energy sector has a contribution if they are to be achieved.	
6.0 Sta	Local Governments & Municipalities	Were as the draft policy in section 5.4 recognizes Local Governments & Municipalities as key stakeholders and observes that effective implementation of the energy policy will require capacity building and empowerment of the Local Government structures.  It omits Cities.  Furthermore it does not stipulate clear strategies on how the Local Governments, Cities and	Section 5.4; Page 85	Stakeholder mapping and active involvement and participation enables smooth implementation of the policy.  Including additional policy strategies will enable effective implementation of the policy statement and addressing all the issues.	as key stakeholders.  b) The policy should stipulate clear strategies for capacity building and empowerment of the Local Governments, Cities and Municipalities. The following are some of the strategies in this respect: i) Designate Energy officers at sub-

		Municipalities will deliver on their energy needs			iii) Conduct regular capacity needs assessment for the Cities, local Governments and municipalities;  iv) Design and implement responsive capacity building plans for re-tolling of the technical staff within the Local Governments, Cities and Municipalities.
7.0	National and Sector Coordination	National and Sector Coordination does not mention some key actors with mandates to deliver on the policy aspirations across sectors.	Section 7.1.2 pg.45	These stakeholders and other have a complementary role to play in addressing issues/ challenges in the energy sector. Thus it's important to take stock of linkages with other sector policies relevant to the implementation of actions and strategies.	i) Strengthen collaboration with other Ministries, Departments and Authorities with equally important roles, responsibilities and mandates for effective implementation of the policy. They include the following:  a) the Forest Sector Support Department and the National Forestry Authority to support sustainable production of biomass energy;  b) The Ministry of Gender, Labor and Socio Development to support and advance mainstreaming of gender in Renewable Energy sector policies planning and implementation at all levels;  c) Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industries and Fisheries (MAAIF) on aspects of promoting biomass energy production on farm.  d) Ministry of Lands, Housing and

					<b>Mineral Development</b> on aspects of promoting Land use planning for largescale solar plants and wind turbines; and efficient and effective utilization of energy in the housing sector.
					e) Ministry of Water and Environment on aspects of implementation of Environment and Social Impact Assessment; Health and safety for energy development projects and investments.
					f) Ministry of Science and Technology; and the Uganda National Council of Science and Technology on aspects of innovation, technology development, promotion and regulation.
					g) Office of the Prime Minster and the Ministry of Disaster Preparedness and Refugees on aspects of service delivery in respect to energy needs and demands by refugees and host communities.
					h) The <b>Ministry of Works and Transport</b> on aspects of promoting effective and efficiency in technology for energy utilization in the transport sector.
8	Information, education, communication and	The draft policy in Section 6.2 acknowledges the importance of communication, information exchange and dissemination for	Section 6.2; Page 92	There are various stakeholders in the energy sector with different information and	Consider adding another strategy on development of a communication and knowledge management strategy for implementation of the policy.

	dissemination	facilitating effective implementation of the policy. It also provides strategies to achieve this.		knowledge needs to effectively participate in the policy implementation.	
		However, it is strategic to consider adding another strategy on development of a communication and knowledge management strategy for implementation of the policy.		Besides, awareness creation and communication is a cross cutting issue across all the subsectors.	
				Therefore, the process for development of the communication and knowledge management strategy will help in further articulation of the information and knowledge needs.	
9	Financing of the policy	The draft policy in section 6.5 presents some of the strategies for financing implementation of the policy. However, it leaves some strategies including:  i) International climate funds;  ii) Carbon credits/financing;	Section 6.5 Page 94	It's important to leverage on other existing funding sources to be able to bridge the funding gap in the sector.	The following strategies should be considered for mobilizing funds for implementation of the policy: i) International climate funds; ii) Carbon credits/financing;

### 4.0 Conclusion

The process for review of the National Energy Policy (2002) is timely. The MEMD is applauded for the opportunity extended to the Civil Society Organizations engaging in the energy sector through the Renewable Energy Civil Society Organizations Network to participate in this process to make a contribution towards adding value to the initiative. We are optimistic that the gaps identified and the suggested recommendations will add value to the process and content in the final National Energy Policy for Uganda. We are available to provide further information and clarifications on this initiative if needed.

Overall this engagement added value to the Civil Society Organizations in terms of knowledge and better understanding of the issues in the Energy sector. Thus, the members of the Renewable Energy Civil Society Organizations Network who participated in this engagement received more information about the National Energy Policy (2002) review process and the related content in the Draft National Energy Policy. Besides, it also provided opportunity for networking among the members of the Renewable Energy Civil Society Organizations Network and pursuance of the strong relationship between MEMD and the Civil Society Organizations & Private Sector engaging in the Energy sector.

**Annex 1:** Renewable Energy Civil Society Organizations Network who participated in the Validation Workshop for the draft memorandum/position paper on the Draft National Energy Policy for Uganda.

Environmer al Alert: Activity Regis ation Form								
	Particulars	of activity:	17.	Every policy	hoork position			
F	Donor:	WWF		DATE: 1/11/2019 VENUE INFORMAL PROYAL	Hotel.			
	NAME	GENDER	ORGANISATION	(Phone/E-mail)	SIGNATURE			
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19	DANIEL MUNTAGUZI	M.	LIZBAT CONSULTS	07036#929 Lizbot consulta@gmanl.com	. 100-			
120	MAGUNBA JESSE	M	Eco- plas consults	0472 918662	Ø.			
21	Geofrey Bauxabulia	n	Consultant	0392548260	Bomes			

	Environ	mercal Alert: Activity Regiscration Form			
	Particulars	of activity:	Validation Meeting to the RECSO Network		
F	Donor:	WWF		VENUE Imperial Royal	Hotel
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121	ANDREW JUNGO	M	YEG Grander of the Rossowa Mgt	0775542491 Jimgon Arew 25	wil an T
u	Sarah Kisolo	F	RUDMEC	0772588192 rudmec@mail.ca	1
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30	PRISCILLA NABUYEMBA	F	ECOTRUST	0787031149	postaciflata.

Environmer, al Alert: Activity Regis ration Form								
Particulars of activity: Validation Meeting for the RECEO Hotwork paper on the Energy poring.								
Donor:	Donor: LAWF			VENUE Imperial Royal Hotel				
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## Box 1. About the National Renewable Energy Civil Society Organizations (RECSO) Network.

### A) Introduction

This is a **loose semi-formal Network** that brings together civil society organizations, academic institutions, individuals and Networks engaged in the promotion and development of activities and practices in the Renewable energy sub sector at all levels (i.e. national, local, sub-regional and community). These CSOs and Networks are currently being mobilized and coordinated by Environmental Alert for structured engagements with Government through the relevant Ministries, Authorities and Departments. This process started September 2017 with the identification, mapping and profiling of the CSOs and Networks in renewable energy for purposes of potential partnerships and effective coordination. However, in September, 2018, the Network was formalized where members agreed to have it as a **loose semi-formal Network. Further information on this is available at:** http://envalert.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/popular-version-of-the-reprot-on-strengtheneing-coordination-for-RECSOs.pdf. **The Network has a steering committee responsible for its governance issues.** The Secretariat for the Network is **currently hosted by Environmental Alert.** 

**Mission is,** 'To promote increased access to and sustainable utilization of renewable energy alternatives for efficient, clean cooking and lighting in Uganda through collaboration, education, training, and advocacy.'

**The vision** of Renewable energy CSO Network is "Well developed and managed Renewable energy resources for the benefit of all Ugandans."

## B) Objectives of the network

- i) To advocate for promotion, compliance and accountability of government with respect to its policy commitments and private sector activities in respect to renewable energy;
- ii) To ensure that individuals, institutions, CSOs and Networks engaged in Renewable energy progressively develop capacity in policy analysis, advocacy and independent monitoring;
- iii) To engage in policy lobbying for conducive policy environment for renewable energy access and sustainable utilization.

### Core values

The core values of the Network include:

- a) Respect:
- b) Equality of all members;
- c) Ethics and integrity;
- d) Objectivity and professionalism in all Network actions:
- e) Gender sensitivity:
- f) Transparency and accountability of the members.

### C) Scale of Network outreach

Currently, the Network has over 130 members including (40 profiled CSOs and Networks at national level and over 90 members from the 3 sub-regional hubs engaging at the sub-regional level across 20 districts in the Albertine Rift. The coordination and engagement at the sub-region and district level is through regional hubs hosted by members of the network detailed as follows:

- a) **The Southern Albertine Sustainable Energy Network (SASEN)**; Kasese, Bushenyi, Rubirizi, Mitooma, Rukingiri, Kabarole, Kisoro and Bundibugyo -Coordinated by **Kiima Foods**.
- b) Mid Albertine Sustainable Energy Network (MASEN); Masindi, Hoima, Buliisa, Kagadi, Kyenjojo and Ntorokocoordinated by Kibaale District Civil Society Organizations Network (KCSON).
- c) The Northern Albertine Sustainable Energy Network (NASEN); Arua, Nebbi, Koboko, Moyo, Adjumani and Maracha- Coordinated by Rural Initiative for Community Empowerment (RICE-WN)