



EAST AFRICAN
CRUDE OIL PIPELINE
HOST COMMUNITIES

ANNUAL REPORT



2024

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ABOUT EACOP HC

We are a grass root movement of East African Crude Oil Pipeline host communities based in the Albertine region of Uganda, EACOP HC is dedicated to promoting sustainable environmental use, human rights, and land rights of vulnerable communities.

We bring together the EACOP project affected communities especially women, Youth, Elderly, religious, cultural, local council leaders to work together and ensure that the Oil project activities don't negatively impact community livelihoods and environment.



OUR VISION

A society where environmental protection and promotion of Human Rights of vulnerable communities affected by the oil projects is prioritized.



OUR MISSION

To promote environmental justice, human and land rights of vulnerable communities affected by oil projects in Uganda.

OUR OBJECTIVES

- To promote environmental conservation amidst oil exploration and development in the Uganda.
- To promote human and land rights of venerable communities amidst oil developments in Uganda
- To empower communities to demand for transparency and accountability in the management and utilization of oil resources and other Critical minerals
- To advocate for effective participation of project affected communities at all levels of oil developments through a meaningful consultation and engagement
- To advocate for green economy and a just clean energy transition in Uganda

OUR PROGRAMS



Land rights for women and vulnerable communities

Land rights for Youth, women and vulnerable communities
Strengthening Youth, women and vulnerable communities' land rights amidst massive community displacements, land acquisition and compensation processes by the government and oil companies.



Climate change mitigation and adaptation

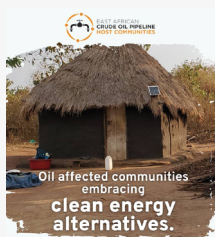
Aimed at creating platforms for Youth, Women and oil project-affected communities to engage with government, private sector, religious and cultural institutions on the need to stop drivers of climate change with its associated challenges on both environment and community livelihood.



Sustainable Developments

Focusing on strengthening local communities to demand for a just a green economy and energy transition as opposed to fossil fuel projects

OUR IMPACT IN FIGURES



540,000

people directly
impacted
through our
programs

08

Years dedicated
to engaging in
activities to
benefit the
poor and
vulnerable

**OUR
IMPACT**

500

Human rights
cases solved
across the
country

105

sustainable
developments
/projects
created for
communities

MESSAGE FROM THE TEAM LEADER

Dear reader, welcome to EACOP HC's 2024 annual report. We are proud to share our organization's achievements in Climate Justice, Sustainable Development, and Land Rights programs supporting Youth, women and vulnerable communities affected by oil and gas activities in the Albertine region of Uganda.

The year 2024 proved exceptionally impactful for EACOP HC, despite challenges like restricted civic space in the oil region. Our team demonstrated remarkable resilience and commitment to ensure that voices and concerns of oil project-affected communities remained at the forefront of ongoing oil and gas developments in Uganda and Great Lakes Region region.

A significant milestone was our contribution that led to the increased community resilience and resistance against the negative impacts of oil and gas activities in Uganda. We successfully mobilized the oil project affected communities mostly Youth and Women to organize and engage in non-violent actions demanding for climate justice, green economy as opposed to fossil fuels.

We also mobilized stakeholders – including oil project affected communities, cultural and religious leaders, and local government officials - to advocate and demand for the protection of community livelihoods, human rights, environmental conservation and climate justice. Through these efforts, we enabled oil project-affected communities to actively participate in defining the country's clean energy agenda, particularly in the Albertine region.

Our community engagement initiatives led to the formation of community platforms for instance the formation of a fossil- free community led social movement, and Youth community based journalists. These platforms today are the ones on the forefront of advocating and demanding for the protection and promotion of human rights, fostering a spirit of resilience

and determination for climate justice and a greener future.

Appreciating the potential of young women and youth as Uganda's vital resource, we invested in building capacities of young climate activists through trainings, exchange learning, and international solidarity efforts. Our online campaigns demanding for climate justice and a just green economy, significantly changed the narrative of green washing the public about the benefits of fossil fuels.

Also working with like-minded organization partners under the repower Africa, STOP EACOP and Inclusive Green Economy Network-East Africa (IGEN-EA), we advocated for a just energy transition, a just green economy and demanded for climate justice as opposed to fossil fuels projects in Uganda and Africa at large. Our collaboration with government agencies strengthened skills development for food security and agriculture resilience in Kikuube district Albertine region

On behalf of EACOP HC, I extend our deepest gratitude to all partners for their unwavering support throughout 2024. Your commitment has been instrumental in our achievements, and our team remains dedicated to providing strong leadership as we continue pursuing our mission. Thank you for your continued partnership and support in building a more sustainable and equitable future.

Thank you



Mr. Bakundane Balach
Team leader, EACOP HC



KEY ACHIEVEMENTS, CHALLENGES AND PRIORITIES

This section highlights our key achievements in 2024, challenges faced and key priorities for 2025.

Highlights of key achievements

Some of our key achievements in 2024 include:

1. The Permalab Project: Women Leading Environmental Renaissance

Like a flourishing garden tended by dedicated hands, our women-led environmental and livelihood sustainability demonstration farm has blossomed into a beacon of hope. This innovative project serves a dual purpose: protecting our precious environment while providing sustainable income sources for oil-affected women. Here, traditional farming wisdom meets modern conservation techniques, creating a sanctuary where both nature and communities thrive. Our women participants, once displaced by oil activities, now stand as proud stewards of the earth, nurturing both their families and the environment.



2. Advocating for the adaptation of Clean Energy alternatives as opposed fossil fuels:

In 2024, in the critical journey towards sustainable development, transitioning from fossil fuel dependency to clean energy sources

represents a transformative pathway for environmental preservation, community resilience and climate justice.

EACOP HC empowered women and youth to embrace Green energy technologies like solar energy, use of biogas offer profound advantages like providing clean and reliable source of energy for both cooking and lighting, provide long-term economic stability, create local employment opportunities, and protect ecological systems from destructive extraction practices. Through community engagements, youth and women empowerment meetings and participating in global stakeholder engagements, we have managed to preach the gospel of green energy so as to change the narrative from fossil- fuels. Unlike the EACOP oil project, which threatens biodiversity, community livelihoods and climate justice. Renewable energy sources represent a regenerative approach that harmonizes human progress with environmental integrity. In 2025 we are continuing to widen our scope to influence and demand for investment in clean energy infrastructure in terms of policies, financing and technology transfer. We believe communities can break free from volatile fossil fuel markets, reduce carbon footprints, and establish resilient, self-sustaining economic models that respect both human rights and ecological balance.



3. Strengthening community based Youth platforms to promote evidenced based advocacy:

In 2024 EACOP HC empowered and formed youth groups to promote critical reporting on negative impacts of oil and gas activities on community livelihoods and environment. Our youth-led community Journalists program launched and has emerged as a powerful force for

truth and accountability. These passionate young documentarians serve as the eyes and ears of their communities, meticulously recording the multifaceted impacts of oil activities. Through their lenses and pens, they capture the social, cultural, environmental, and economic transformations reshaping our landscape. Their first hand data and work has become an invaluable testament to our struggles and triumphs, ensuring that our stories reach beyond our borders.



4. Building strong community Resilience against the EACOP oil project and expansion of fossil fuels in the region

In 2024, our community engagements have woven a tapestry of resistance and hope across the region. From our launch of a community-led fossil-free social movement, we sparked off an engine of resistance and resilience among the oil affected communities. This fueled and marked our first step to several successful community led non-violent actions.



Community led non-violent action against the Hoima high court eviction order and ruling against the 42 Tilenga oil project affected households.

The April 15th, 2024 Action set a pace for community resilience as grass root project affected persons gathered and held the first ever community and oil project affected led non-violent demonstration at Hoima high court challenging the unfair eviction of the Tilenga community from their land as well as addressing the violations of their human and land rights.

[\(read more\)](#)



Community led non-violent action challenging the violations of human and environmental rights associated with EACOP oil project

The August 26th, 2024 Action, which continues to stand as a testament to our collective voice, where over 360 directly oil project affected communities called for the halt of the EACOP project because of the violations of human, environmental rights and threats to climate change associated with the EACOP project activities. On the morning of August 26, 2024, the communities affected by the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) project together with its associated projects like Tilenga, Kingfisher and oil refinery embarked on a momentous demonstration, known as the **August non-violent Action**. This large-scale protest was a resounding cry for justice, driven by deep-seated grievances over insufficient compensation, environmental devastation, and disruptive displacement, this positively resulted into various media engagements from various media houses and platforms in regard to the issues raised by the oil affected communities. ([read more here](#))



5. Engaging financial institutions to defund fossil-fuel projects in Uganda and Africa at large.

(a) EACOP Project affected communities calling on China financial institutions not to fund the EACOP project

Also through our efforts of sowing in community mobilizations and empowerment meetings, we held our first ever community-led press conference in the oil affected communities. Our press conference was challenging Chinese financial institutions to defund the EACOP project and rule out any hopes of financing this multibillion environmental destruction in form of fossil-fuel investment thus demonstrating our growing local, national, regional and international efforts to end the fossil fuels era and demand for a just clean renewable energy transition. It is such efforts that have discouraged a number of investors and banks from financing the EACOP project which motivates us to continue pushing for the defunding of this project from any future aspiring investors. ([Read more here](#)) and the [protest letter](#) to standard bank



Also in December 2024, Through our community mobilization and organization, we concurrently organized a non-violent action led by the EACOP project affected youth groups demanding Chinese financial institutions not to finance the EACOP project because the project activities continues to threaten our community livelihoods, environment and climate change



6. Triumphs in Biodiversity protection.

In 2024, EACOP HC continued to stand as guardians of the Albertine precious heritage. Our environmental campaigns in collaboration with the project affected youth echoed like drums of resistance across the Albertine region and the EACOP corridor, rallying communities to protect these irreplaceable ecosystems. Through our persistent advocacy, community sensitization, mobilization meetings and community engagements, we conducted the Save Murchison campaign as well as the Save Bugoma forest campaign. Through these two campaigns, we exposed how each pipeline, each access road, and each oil processing facility chips away at the delicate web of life that makes our Albertine region a global biodiversity hotspot. We refuse to let corporate greed transform our natural cathedrals into industrial sacrifice zones, fighting each day to preserve these sacred spaces for generations yet unborn.



7. Exchange learning initiative: Bridging Continents, Connecting Causes

Our journey of environmental solidarity goes beyond borders. From 21st–25th of October 2024, marked another significant milestone in our journey as we ventured to the Niger Delta. This profound exchange and experience sharing with communities who have weathered over six decades of oil production offered invaluable insights and lessons. Their experiences serve as both a warning and a guide, strengthening our resolve to lead a different path for the Albertine region. It's these same lessons and similar impacts as oil affected communities from the West and East of Africa that we carried with us to the COP19 last year in Baku, Azerbaijan and influenced the discussions and policies held and drafted. From this exchange learning experiences, we are able to witness the negative impacts of oil and gas activities on the host communities and environmental conservation efforts, it was from this end that most of us as young people we got convicted on the need to demand climate justice and the need to end the era of fossil fuels not only in Africa but globally. [\(read more\)](#)



8. Our publication and media engagements in 2024

EACOP HC, in 2024 used different communication channels to reach our targeted Audiences; we produced over ten (10) monthly newsletter, sixty (60) opinion articles in the Uganda's leading media houses, run a number of social media campaigns, issued out a number of petitions, press statements, communiques among others.

<https://eacophc.org/download/eacophc-newsletter-january-2025/?wpdmdl=3079&refresh=67bd95e667e391740477926>

<https://eacophc.org/download/eacop-hc-newsletter-november-2024/?wpdmdl=3074&refresh=67bd9f8834fc81740480392>

<https://eacophc.org/download/eacop-hcs-october-2024-newsletter/?wpdmdl=3070&refresh=67bd95e678d1d1740477926>

<https://eacophc.org/download/eacop-hc-september-2024-newsletter/?wpdmdl=3067&refresh=67bd9b75808761740479349>

<https://eacophc.org/download/eacop-hc-august-2024-newsletter/?wpdmdl=3049&refresh=67bd9b758186e1740479349>

<https://eacophc.org/download/eacop-hc-half-year-2024-newsletter/?wpdmdl=3019&refresh=67bd9b75925fd1740479349>



WORLD WETLANDS DAY



When wetlands weep, wildlife disappears. Oil exploration in the Albertine region isn't just about pipelines - it's about the silent destruction of our water cradles. This *World Wetlands Day*, let's amplify the voices of these threatened ecosystems.

#Wetlands Matter.



East African Crude Oil Pipeline Host Communities demand COP29 to put an end to the era of fossil fuels; and increase investments in green economic alternatives
#StopEACOP



**Stop evictions!
No more homes destroyed.**



Community voices matter.



**Fair compensation,
not threats.
Stop intimidations!**



**Engaging the youth of
Ngwendo sub-county in the
Bullisa District to build a fossil
free green movement for
#Sustainability**



**Engaging the youth of
Kyakaboga to build a fossil
free green movement for
#Sustainability**



**The communities fear that the
government is prioritizing the
interests of oil corporations over
the rights of its citizens.**



**Join us in our mission to
protect and sustain the
incredible natural
heritage of East Africa.
Together, we can
achieve a harmonious
balance between
development and
conservation,
securing a
prosperous future
for both people
and nature.
#protecting our
heritage,
empowering
our future.**



2024 Pictorial of our activities



Challenges in 2024

Despite the milestones that we registered; we faced several challenges in 2024 including the following:

- i. **Irregular and forceful land acquisitions** - more recently the use of courts to intimidate land owners as was the case with the 42 families from the Albertine region and the Masaka high court ruling against the 80 EACOP project affected persons from greater Masaka.
- ii. **Loss of fertile agricultural land leading to food shortage problems** as those who accept compensation are unable to find similar and equivalent land elsewhere.
- iii. **Harassment and intimidation of oil project affected households** especially those who refuse to accept unfair and inadequate compensation rates,
- iv. **Imprisonment and criminalisation of anyone who publicly voices opposition to the controversial project;** particularly community organisers and activists in Kampala who voice solidarity with PAPs in Bunyoro and Greater Masaka regions. As we speak, over seven (7) community organisers and 12 students are still on court bail.
- v. **Significant biodiversity loss in pristine environments like the Murchison Falls.** This has also caused a lot of unnecessary human-animal conflict as the animals including Elephants raid peoples farms and destroy crops and in other instances get killed while crossing highways as they move away from their home that is now buzzing with oil activities
- vi. **Loss of cultural dignity,** as the oil project activities continues to disrespect our community cultural values Through the support of Civil Society and Environmental organizations, we've documented numerous problems that can be backed by

independent research confirming all these challenges

- vii. **Weakness and failures within Uganda courts of laws** to determine and give timely justice to the oil project affected communities who opt to use courts of laws as their last remedy.
- viii. **Gaps and unfavorable laws that undermine civic space** for the grassroots environmental and human rights defenders, Community based organizations and civil society organisations.
- ix. **Ugandan government interest to continue with oil exploitation plans** that undermine community livelihoods and environment conservation efforts.

Key priorities for 2025

- In view of the challenges highlighted above, EACOP HC's key priorities for 2025 include:
- Strengthen the capacities of oil host communities to monitor, document and report on the violations of human and environmental rights caused by oil and gas activities
- Create preforms for the oil project-affected communities to defend their land and environmental rights amidst oil and gas activities;
- Continue with advocacy aimed at stopping all unsustainable developments taking place within our communities;
- Support youth and women groups to promote a just greener economy in the Albertine region;
- Support our cultural and religious leader to demand for climate justice as opposed to fossil fuels.
- Support cross boarder exchange experience-sharing between oil project affected communities in Africa

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- Strengthen the capacities of the media and the already established network of community-based journalists in documentation and critical reporting on violations of human and environmental rights in the Albertine region of Uganda.
 - Finally, work with our partners to create an enabling civic space for grassroots EHRDs in Uganda.

Conclusion.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our community volunteers, our link-minded partner organizations locally and international supporters worldwide. As we set the ball rolling for 2025, we invite you to join us in building on this momentum. Whether through volunteering, donations, or spreading awareness, every action contributes to our shared vision of an environmentally sustainable fossil free region.

