



EAST AFRICAN  
**CRUDE OIL PIPELINE**  
HOST COMMUNITIES

# ANNUAL REPORT



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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 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

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# 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

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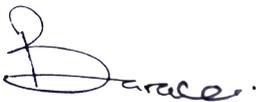
and determination for climate justice and a greener future.

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



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# 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.



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

The April 15<sup>th</sup>, 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 26<sup>th</sup>, 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



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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 21<sup>st</sup>–25<sup>th</sup> 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 newsletters, 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>



**REPORT FROM THE PEACEFUL DEMONSTRATION OF OIL-AFFECTED COMMUNITIES CHALLENGING OIL AND GAS PROJECTS IN UGANDA**

**15TH APRIL 2024**



Email: info@eaocph.org  
Web: www.eaocph.org



**Statement by EAOCOP host communities about news that China would fund the pipeline**

We, the representatives of the EAOCOP, host communities and activists opposed to the construction of the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EAOCOP), have gathered here to express our disappointment at the news that China was keen to provide funding for this controversial pipeline that will displace thousands of people, bring them in abject poverty and destroying the environment and causing the climate crisis.

It's hard to believe China has not seen the problems this destructive project has caused on communities yet the pipeline hasn't been built yet, our understanding of this recent information if accurate is that China does not care for the people of Uganda as long as they can benefit from the profits. TotalEnergies will make money from exporting oil in Uganda to meet the energy needs of the Global North countries. This is a very disturbing idea because China is considered a developing country - although was ahead of most countries in that bracket - so it's inconceivable that it would fund a project that undermines locals in a developing country to put more money in the pockets of TotalEnergies shareholders, majority of whom are from rich countries.

While we are in rich countries, over 40 banks globally, including 28 European banks, have ruled out financing the controversial Uganda/Tanzania pipeline. The extent of the rejection of TotalEnergies's \$5 billion EAOCOP project by the banking sector is unprecedented in the oil and gas industry. It's therefore a wonder that China would be the one to bail out this project.

Our communities have continued to suffer the consequences of oil drilling activities in Tilenga and Kingfisher operated by TotalEnergies and China National Offshore Oil Company (CNOOC). The ongoing floods for instance have been exacerbated by these activities as a lot of the vegetation cleared for the pipeline more vulnerable to the seasonal floods. Other impacts communities continue to face include:

- 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 Mankia high court ruling against the 89 EAOCOP project affected persons from greater Mankia



For Release: Tuesday, 16th April 2024  
Noma, Uganda

**Communities in Uganda Protest Evictions and Rights Violations from EAOCOP and Related Projects**

Noma, Uganda—Communities in Uganda's Albertine region held a public demonstration on Monday, 15th April 2024, to contest oil-related evictions and the lack of fair compensation process in the Third Energy Project operated by French energy giant TotalEnergies.

The demonstration comes after 42 families were evicted from their land to make way for the project despite numerous consultations and unresolved issues, among other reasons. The evicted households in a published list had to be returned to their original homes by the High Court during the protest.

This is the first time a protest of this magnitude, organized by the evicted affected people and local media, has occurred with many project-affected persons from directly impacted communities in Albertine.

Protesters are reacting in response to the land acquisition process, which has been marred by numerous human rights violations, including denying women and girls a voice in the compensation process. In one case, a woman was evicted from her land to make way for the project despite her husband's consent, which effectively equates to a denial of justice. The protesters also demand the reinstatement and compensation of lost water and human rights and environmental damages that have been subjected to various forms of violence for voicing their concerns and opposition to the EAOCOP.

Reacting on the matter to authorities outside the Third High Court on Monday, communities expressed that they are urging the court to uphold the principles of justice with full transparency, procedural and respect for the rule of law. They also demand that the government and EAOCOP operators to give a voice and avoid public force by government institutions and the rule of law.

In this, communities are demanding that the ongoing evictions of the 42 families required by the Third Energy project and others there, be immediately halted, that the fundamental human rights of local communities be protected, and that further activities by the government and corporate interests be prevented among other things. The 42 statement can be read [here](#).

**Quotes:**

**Zak Mzee, ThirdEAOCOP Campaign Coordinator** said, "We stand in full support of the many evicted persons who have opted not to accept accountability and justice, thereby demanding an immediate halt to the EAOCOP project. We are currently mobilizing EAOCOP as a project of resistance in Uganda, addressing a public which is actively erasing the methods and impact of oil and gas projects and the environment. This development will further be exacerbated with the acquisition of communities who are increasingly impoverished and unable to meet immediate energy needs."

**James Okoth from Environmental Governance Institute** said, "We have attempted to engage with the Ugandan government, the industry, and TotalEnergies stakeholders to address these issues, but our efforts have been met with highgroundness. The court ruling was not a cause of concern



**Our Journey in Demanding Climate Justice: Africa's Oil Curse Unveiled**

In this month's newsletter, we tackle the multinational greed and Africa's environmental resistance amidst the struggle of fighting climate change impacts at a global, regional and global level. We bring to you a clear mirror reflection and view of Nigeria's Niger delta experiences and Uganda's Albertine region in terms of the destruction caused by the fossil fuel industry to their livelihoods and biodiversity. The East meets the West, as we delve into the parallels between Nigeria and Uganda's oil affected host communities.

**HIGHLIGHTS**

- Oil projects affected Communities body
- From Nigeria's Niger Delta to Uganda's Albertine
- Resilience and our demands
- A Call to Action

**Albertine Region Evictions: Petition to authorities**

To: The President of Uganda, The Chief Justice of Uganda, The Minister of Energy and Mineral Development

From: EAOCOP/FAPS and Concerned Citizens of Uganda living in Bitoma region

Subject: Urgent Appeal for Fair Compensation and Timely Process in Tilenga Oil Project Evictions

We, the undersigned, are deeply concerned about the recent court ruling ordering the eviction of 42 families in the Albertine region of Uganda to make way for the EAOCOP project.

Our concerns are as follows:

- Inadequate Compensation: Landowners were offered significantly lower compensation than the true value of their land.
- Unethical Land Disputes: Several families have ongoing land ownership disputes that should have been resolved before the evictions.
- Denial of Justice: The court cost ruling, delivered within five days and after one hearing, raises serious concerns about procedural fairness that requires effective judicial remedy. The court is not to act and expedite the proceedings does not justify disregarding such a fundamental principle as the right to a fair trial.
- Limited Access to Justice: Many families in a distant court disadvantaged them due to short notice, lack of transportation and money to fund it, and unavailability of the lawyer.
- Potential Collusion: The communication that the government is prioritizing the interests of oil corporations over the rights of its citizens.

We demand the following:

- Immediately halt the eviction and compensation process until an independent expert conducts a thorough, inclusive, and transparent review.
- Demand for adequate compensation for the affected landowners based on independent valuation and in consultation with the community.
- Address the outstanding land disputes and unclear land ownership issues before proceeding with the project.
- Guarantee the affected communities' right to fair process and access to justice by allowing them a reasonable opportunity to present their case in a reasonable time and by properly examining the submissions, arguments, and evidence advanced by the parties.
- Protect the fundamental human rights of the local communities and prevent further abuses by the government and corporate interests.
- Set up an impartial investigation into the allegations of collusion between the government and oil corporations.
- Ensure speedy and expeditious adjudication of all related community cases.

We urge you to apply the principles of justice with a equitable procedure and respect for the people of Uganda. Failure to do so will prevent a just process and create public trust in the government and the rule of law.

Sincerely,  
(Petition Signatories)



Phone: +256 394 857997  
Email: info@eaocph.org  
Web: www.eaocph.org

**Gender-Based Violence and HIV**

The influx of workers from the oil companies has led to an increase in gender-based violence and a rise in HIV cases within our communities, exacerbating existing social issues. In the Kingfisher region, the deployment of military personnel to protect the Chinese National Offshore Oil Corporation's (CNOOC) and TotalEnergies' drilling activities has also resulted in numerous abuses of instances of sexual abuse and violence against women.



**Destruction of Biodiversity**

EAOCOP and its associated Tilenga and Kingfisher projects pose major threats to some of Uganda's most critical ecosystems, including in the Murchison Falls National Park. The destruction of these ecosystems threatens wildlife and biodiversity, with long-term consequences for our environment and green economy initiatives.



**DISPLACEMENT AND EVICTIONS:**

We have witnessed and experienced the ongoing displacement and evictions of families without adequate compensation or adherence to international best practices. This includes the ongoing demolition and destruction of homes without following proper processes for the relocation of impacted communities. These displacements have destroyed our livelihoods and have destabilized our communities while threatening our futures and socio-economic security.





## 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 #WorldWetlandsDay, let's amplify the voices of these threatened ecosystems. #WetlandsMatter.



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



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## 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

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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

- 
- 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.

