



EAST AFRICAN
CRUDE OIL PIPELINE
HOST COMMUNITIES

NEWSLETTER

VOICES OF THE EACOP PROJECT-AFFECTED COMMUNITIES IN RESPONSE TO THE FINANCING OF THE EACOP PROJECT.

Special Edition - March 2025



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OUR LAND, OUR FUTURE: A call from those on the frontlines to financial institutions to stop funding destruction

We, as oil project-affected communities hosting the East African Crude Oil Pipeline project (EACOP), write to you in our inaugural monthly newsletter from our communities in Uganda specifically the Albertine region where most of these oil and gas activities are taking place. While corporate boardrooms and financial institutions make decisions about our land and livelihoods, it is our voices that often go unheard. Today, we speak directly to you.

The Reality We Face

The announcement of partial financing for EACOP by Afreximbank, Standard Bank, Stanbic Bank Uganda, KCB Bank Uganda, and the Islamic Corporation for Development has sent shockwaves through our communities. For many of us, this pipeline is not an abstract concept it represents.

It's very unfortunate, that this is happening at a time when the EACOP project acted communities are experiencing untold sufferings resulting from the EACOP project and the entire world is also experiencing the ever-escalating impacts of climate change. this decision to fund a massive fossil fuel infrastructure project is not just irresponsible- it is an active assault on our planet and our people. EACOP promises only to deepen the crisis of climate collapse, exacerbating droughts, floods, and extreme weather events that disproportionately affect African communities, who have contributed least to the climate crisis but suffer its worst impacts.

EACOP project affected communities' concerns

- Displacement without dignity: Thousands of families have already been uprooted from ancestral lands, with inadequate compensation that fails to restore our previous standards of living.
- Broken promises: Jobs and economic benefits promised to our communities have largely failed to materialize but instead yielded more sufferings, such as income loss, food stress, family break-downs, abuse of communities' cultural right, increase of accidents at the construction sites among others have escalated since the commencement of these oil and gas activities within our communities.
- Environmental degradation: We have witness firsthand destruction of forests and national parks in the Albertine Graben due resulting in to loss of habitats for chimpanzees, increased human-wildlife conflicts,

destruction of communities' gardens, disruption of water sources and others happening before oil even starts flowing.

- Climate injustice: While we contribute minimally to global emissions, our region faces increasing droughts, floods, and food insecurity due to climate change

As one community member from Kikuube District in Uganda stated: "They told us the pipeline would bring development, but all we've seen is destruction. Our farmland is gone, our water sources threatened, and the compensation given cannot rebuild our lives."



The Financial World Awakening.

Oil affected communities are heartened that major global financial institutions are refusing to fund this project. When 43 banks and 29 insurers—including some of the world's largest—reject a project, it sends a powerful message about its viability and ethics. Even investors in TotalEnergies, like Nordea Bank, are distancing themselves from EACOP.

This tells us what we already know: such oil projects serves foreign profit interests, not our development needs as communities. We will not stand back and watch multinational corporate greed robbing us of our homes, cultures, livelihoods, environment and bio-diversity.

Our Appeal to Financial Institutions

To those banks and insurers who have not yet declared their position:

1. Listen to our voices, not just company executives and government officials. This is our lament and response to those paving way to those causing us so much grief and destruction.
2. Visit our communities to see firsthand the impacts of community's displacement and environmental damage and other emerging

negative impacts caused by EACOP activities with its associated projects.

3. Recognize that true development is not a commodity for profit but a fundamental right, enabling communities to realize substantive freedoms- including quality healthcare, education, adequate nutrition, dignified employment, secure housing, and a safe and sustainable environment
4. Join the growing coalition of financial institutions that have committed to not funding EACOP. Let's stand in solidarity for a better and greener future as we begin fighting as early as now.



Alternative Paths Forward

Our communities are not opposed to development—we desperately need it. But we envision development that:

- Do not undermine our land, human and cultural rights
- Promote just green sustainable developments
- Do not displace communities from their traditional homes
- Do not undermine climate justice
- Facilitate energy democracy infrastructures that are socially owned by communities not neocolonial extraction projects

A CLOSE-IN ON OUR ONGOING ACTIVITIES.

• EACOP HC linking EACOP project affected Youth with other oil project affected communities in Africa. In these experience sharing sessions, we engaged EACOP project affected communities in indigenous fruit tree planting as a meaning of restoring their livelihoods while mitigating the impacts of climate change as a token of resilience from our West African partners.



• Strengthening women’s resilience against the impacts of climate change. We engaged with our local partners in a women stake holder meeting to derive clear pathways on how project affected women can cope up and strengthen their involvement in climate change issues especially as the first hand victims of climate change impacts due to the EACOP project.



- Youth empowerment in adaption of clean energy as opposed to fossil fuels.

Between 2024-March 2025 EACOP HC has engaged youth from the oil project affected communities on the need to demand technology transfer, favorable policies and financial allocation for clean renewable alternatives as opposed to fossil fuels as a result of our youth engagements.



- Women community empowerment meeting on the negative impacts of climate change especially on girl child as the mothers of tomorrow.



Our Commitment

Despite the challenges we face, we remain steadfast and committed in our resistance and resilience through the following in the next months:

- Demanding environmental and climate justice
- Promoting energy democracy that is socially owned by the communities
- Demanding for a just, clean and green economy
- Demanding for accountability and transparency for the ongoing human rights violations and environmental impacts
- Building solidarity between affected communities across Uganda, Tanzania and Africa at large
- Restoring hope within the affected communities through telling our stories
- Demanding justice for the affected communities

Join Us

Financial institutions across the world have the power to determine whether EACOP proceeds. We ask you to stand with communities, not corporations. Your decisions affect not just balance sheets, but human lives and our shared climate. Let's take action, let's demand for climate justice now;

- For financial institutions: Contact our grassroots representatives to arrange for meaningfully community consultations before considering any involvement with EACOP.
- For our partners: stand with us in solidarity and share this newsletter, Stop financial institutions in your country to publicly reject EACOP financing
- For affected community members: Join our monthly coordination meetings in regional centers to share, document the ongoing negative impacts and build our collective voice.

As oil project affected communities in the Albertine region of Uganda, we do not ask for climate Justice we demand climate justice with our collective voices.

