



EAST AFRICAN
CRUDE OIL PIPELINE
HOST COMMUNITIES

NEWSLETTER

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THE SECOND AFRICA CLIMATE SUMMIT (ACS)
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AFRICA CLIMATE SUMMIT:
UNCLEAR PATH ON FOSSIL FUELS

Dear Reader,

Welcome to the September 2025 edition of the EACOP HC Newsletter. This month, the Second Africa Climate Summit concluded in Addis Ababa with leaders signing declarations and making commitments that underscore Africa's ambition to champion renewable energy development.

However, the outcomes have raised significant concerns among Africa's oil host communities. While the summit reaffirmed commitments to expand clean energy, its language on fossil fuels remains ambiguous—leaving communities worried about the contradictions in policy and the uncertainty of Africa's energy transition path.

The Africa Climate Summit highlighted critical contradictions for oil host communities as Africa confronts the escalating climate crisis alongside the human rights challenges linked to the fossil fuel industry

1. Ambiguity on Fossil Fuels:

Welcome to the September 2025 edition of the EACOP HC Newsletter. This month, the Second Africa Climate Summit concluded in Addis Ababa with leaders signing declarations and making commitments that underscore Africa's ambition to champion renewable energy development.

2. Commitment to a Just Transition:

The declarations stress that the energy transition must protect livelihoods, create decent employment, and ensure the inclusion of marginalized groups such as women, youth, and people with disabilities. Communities dependent on oil and gas should be supported with new opportunities and measures to build resilience. Nonetheless, gaps persist, as the declarations do not adequately address the specific negative impacts of fossil fuel activities on oil host communities.

Across Africa, oil-affected communities endure devastating realities: in the Niger Delta, mothers boil contaminated water for their children; on Lake Albert, fishermen return with empty nets from polluted waters; and in Hoima, children face disrupted access to food, education, and healthcare due to forced displacement. We breathe the waste, drink unsafe water, and bury our children too soon. While the Summit acknowledged our existence, it failed to meaningfully engage with us. This newsletter is our voice against silence and complicity, raising one urgent question: **When the thunder speaks, who listens?**



As extreme weather intensifies, rising floods, prolonged droughts, and violent storms, nature is sending urgent warnings. Yet, are the right voices being heard? Are communities living on the frontlines of climate change, like ours, truly being listened to?

In this inaugural newsletter, we go beyond commentary on ACS2; we are starting a critical conversation. We invite you to question, reflect, and add your voice, because decisions made in conference halls have real-life consequences for our communities. The Summit promised accelerated climate solutions and financing for Africa's green and resilient development—but did it hear the cries from the Albertine region and the Niger Delta, feel the tremors beneath our ancestral lands, or acknowledge the pollution that threatens our nights? The thunder is speaking. It is time to ensure the world listens.

Our reality: What they don't see from the conference halls.

While delegates debated in air-conditioned rooms, our communities continue to face:

1 Human Rights Violations

Displacement and Evictions

Families are being displaced and evicted without adequate compensation or adherence to international best practices. Homes are demolished without proper relocation processes, destroying livelihoods, destabilizing communities, and threatening long-term security.

Intimidation and Harassment

Across impacted communities in Africa, many people have faced intimidation, harassment, judicial threats, and retaliation aimed at forcing acceptance of unfair or inadequate compensation for land and property. The absence of proper legal and community consultations has left families vulnerable, with limited options for redress, deepening their socioeconomic precocity.

Arrests of Environmental and Human Rights Defenders

Grassroots activists advocating for justice and accountability continue to face arbitrary arrests and threats. These violations undermine the rights to peaceful protest and freedom of expression, leaving communities silenced and unable to pursue justice for the harm endured.

Gender-Based Violence and Health Risks

The influx of fossil fuel workers has fueled rising cases of gender-based violence worsening existing social vulnerabilities.

2 Threats to Africa's Local Economies

Disruption of Local Economies

Fossil fuel projects are eroding Africa's agricultural, tourism, and fishing economies. Land dispossession and relocation to infertile areas have left many unable to sustain farming or provide for their families, undermining local economic autonomy.

Inadequate Livelihood Restoration

Company-led livelihood restoration initiatives are poorly designed, irrelevant to local contexts, and often harmful. The introduction of non-native seeds and inorganic fertilizers has degraded farmland, worsened food insecurity, and reduced income.

Widening Inequality

Fossil fuel projects enrich a small elite while ordinary Africans bear the costs of environmental degradation and economic displacement. This extractive and exploitative development model is unsustainable and unjust.

3 Environmental and Biodiversity Impacts

Destruction of Ecosystems

Fossil fuel projects threaten Africa's most critical ecosystems including national parks, rivers, lakes, forests, and oceans, placing biodiversity and wildlife at risk and undermining green economy initiatives.

Contribution to Climate Change

For example, the EACOP project in East Africa is projected to emit 375 million metric tons of carbon over its 25-year lifespan. This will significantly worsen global climate change, contradicting sustainable development goals and international climate commitments, while exposing African communities to harsher climate conditions.

4 Cultural and Social Impacts

Desecration of Cultural Sites

Fossil fuel projects have destroyed sacred and cultural heritage sites without consultation or respect for traditions. Relocations have forced families into culturally inappropriate housing and lands, fracturing social and family structures.

Social Disruption

The influx of oil company workers has led to increased early pregnancies, school dropouts, and erosion of traditional community systems. Displacement and livelihood loss have intensified social breakdown and despair.



Our Demands: Clear as mountain water.

1 Immediate Suspension of Fossil Fuel Activities

Halt all fossil fuel activities in Africa, including EACOP, until transparent, inclusive consultations with affected communities are conducted and grievances are fully addressed.

2 Protection of Human Rights

End all forms of harassment, intimidation, and coercion against project-affected persons (PAPs).

Immediately cease illegal arrests and harassment of environmental and human rights defenders.

3 Environmental and Economic Justice

Protect national parks, protected areas, and biodiversity from fossil fuel exploitation.

Implement community-driven livelihood restoration programs that are sustainable, culturally relevant, and environmentally sound (e.g., native seeds, appropriate livestock).

4 Accountability and Reparations

Fossil fuel companies and partner governments must provide full reparations for environmental destruction, cultural loss, and socioeconomic harm, including compensation for land, homes, and livelihoods.

5 Sustainable Development Alternatives

Redirect investments toward decentralized, community-led renewable energy systems that ensure equitable energy access and foster inclusive economic growth in Africa.



Highlights of Our work: From tribunal to action.





Conclusion

The continued expansion of fossil fuel projects in Africa poses grave threats to our people, economies, environments, and cultural heritage. The harms outlined here are not isolated incidents but part of a broader pattern of systemic exploitation in the Global South. We stand united in demanding justice, accountability, and just transition toward sustainable, people-centered development pathway that protect Africa's future.



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