



EAST AFRICAN **CRUDE OIL PIPELINE** HOST COMMUNITIES



DEMANDS FROM THE RONTLINES – THE ROAD TO COP30

Welcome to the inaugural edition of our newsletter a platform that bridges grassroots climate resistance with the global struggle for climate justice.

In this first issue, we elevate the testimonies, lived experiences, and urgent demands emerging from the frontlines as we move toward COP30 in Brazil. From local communities to international negotiations, we affirm that the voices of those most affected by climate injustice must not only be heard but must shape the global climate agenda.

Across our region, entrenched extractivism continues to fuel environmental degradation, erode civic space, and suppress grassroots climate advocacy. Environmental and human rights defenders face escalating threats, criminalization, and harassment for protecting land, water, and life. Yet, in the face of repression, our determination only grows stronger. Through the creation of community chapters, we are advancing people-centered agendas building resilience, solidarity, and inclusive platforms that enable communities to define and lead their own climate solutions.

But as defenders are persecuted, youth are silenced, and corporate interests weaponize violence in the pursuit of profit, we must confront urgent questions: **Who gains from our silence? Who profits from our suffering? How long will the world stand by as frontline communities pay with their freedom, safety, and lives for daring to resist fossil fuel expansion?**

The time for silence is over. The fight for climate justice is, at its core, the fight for life itself and **WE WILL NOT BE SILENCED.**

This month, our grassroots communities across oil-affected regions came together — not in celebration, but in resilience and resistance. What unites us is a shared truth: the deepening environmental injustices, human rights violations, and growing repression faced by climate justice defenders in oil-host communities.

We gathered to confront what the world continues to ignore — that Environmental Human Rights Defenders (EHRDs) are being systematically targeted, harassed, and silenced for challenging the relentless wave of extractivism sweeping across Africa, epitomized by the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) and the fossil fuel empire it serves.

These are not distant injustices. They are immediate, personal, and deeply human. Our youth — the stewards of our collective future — are being surveilled, intimidated, and silenced by those who profit from the exploitation of our people and our lands.

Our homes are being demolished, our gardens destroyed, our cultural heritage eroded, and our dignity stripped away — all because we refuse to surrender our right to clean air, safe water, fertile soil, and a life of dignity and self-determination.

We will not retreat. We will not be silenced. Our resistance is anchored in truth, fortified by solidarity, and driven by the unwavering conviction that people and the planet must come before profit.



OUR MESSAGE TO COP30: WE REFUSE TO BE SACRIFICED

As the world marches toward COP30 in Brazil, we remind global leaders: **our lives are not negotiating chips.**

For decades, the Global North has built its wealth on the exploitation of our lands, our labor, and our futures burning the planet for profit while disguising destruction as “development.” Today, the same forces that caused the crisis continue to expand fossil fuel projects, greenwash their crimes, and silence the very communities paying the highest price.

The truth is undeniable: **the climate crisis is not only an environmental emergency it is a crisis of justice, of colonial greed, and of corporate power.** While you gather in air-conditioned halls to debate carbon markets and net-zero pledges, our people are losing their homes, their food, their water, and their lives.

We demand not charity, but accountability. Not promises, but action. Not pledges written in the language of profit, but justice rooted in the realities of the people on the frontlines.

To the Global North, we ask: **How long will you allow our voices to be buried beneath your pipelines? How long will you let oil profits outweigh human life? How long will you keep pretending that delay is diplomacy?**

We are not victims, we are defenders. We are not asking for permission, we are demanding transformation.

The age of exploitation must end. Climate justice will not be negotiated it will be won.

OUR DEMANDS TO COP30

As world leaders prepare for COP30, we—the grass root communities bearing the costs of climate destruction—demand immediate action. Our demands are not negotiable. They are rooted in survival, justice, and the right to a livable future. Immediately cease illegal arrests and harassment of environmental and human rights defenders.

1. Phase out fossil fuels now, end the era of extraction.

The current Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) are a betrayal of frontline communities and future generations. Governments continue to greenlight oil, gas, and coal projects while pretending to care about climate targets. They sign international agreements with one hand while approving pipelines and drilling licenses with the other. This hypocrisy must end.

We demand:

-  An immediate standstill on all new fossil fuel projects, including the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) and all expansion of oil, gas, and coal infrastructure.
-  Binding, enforceable commitments to phase out existing fossil fuel production aligned with the 1.5°C limit—not the interests of oil executives.
-  NDCs that reflect climate science, not corporate lobbying with transparent processes free from fossil fuel industry interference.
-  Legal accountability mechanisms for governments and corporations that approve or finance fossil fuel expansion, including sanctions and reparations for affected communities.
-  Protection for Environmental Human Rights Defenders who resist fossil fuel projects and face criminalization, harassment, and violence.

Our question to COP30 delegates: If you claim to represent us, why do you sign deals that destroy our homes? How can you speak of climate leadership while licensing our destruction? When will you choose people over profits?

2. Debt justice and real climate finance: break the chains of climate colonialism.

The Global South is drowning in debt it did not create forced to choose between feeding its people and financing its survival. This false choice is the result of a global financial system built on extraction, exploitation, and colonial greed.

While the Global North responsible for most historical emissions continues to profit through debt repayments and fossil fuel expansion, communities on the frontlines pay with their futures. This is not aid; it is climate colonialism disguised as policy.

We demand:

-  Immediate debt cancellation for climate-vulnerable nations and redirection of repayments toward renewable energy, adaptation, and loss-and-damage justice.
-  An end to fossil fuel subsidies and a shift of these trillions toward people-centered climate solutions.
-  Grant-based, transparent climate finance that empowers communities, not corporations.
-  Reparations from the Global North for centuries of extraction, enslavement, and emissions.

To the financial powers of the world: How much profit is worth our extinction? How long will you keep extracting from wounds you created?

3. Green energy for the people, not profit.

Fossil fuels still attract more investment than renewables—a deliberate choice to prioritize profit over life. Every dollar poured into oil and gas deepens the crisis and delays justice.

A real transition must be people-powered, not corporate-led. Communities—not polluters—must shape the future of energy.

We demand:

- ✓ Full divestment from fossil fuels by governments, banks, and public institutions.
- ✓ Reinvestment into community-owned, decentralized renewable energy systems.
- ✓ Transparent energy financing no more greenwashing or hidden fossil fuel deals.
- ✓ Just Transition programs designed by workers and frontline communities for fair, dignified livelihoods.
- ✓ Technology transfer and capacity building for the Global South, free from corporate control.

Our message to world leaders and investors: When our lands are uninhabitable and our people displaced, what will your wealth be worth?

The choice is yours but the consequences are ours. These are not radical demands; they are the bare minimum for humanity's survival.



KEY HIGHLIGHTS: OUR COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT AND RESISTANCE INITIATIVES

Empowering Community Organizers in Rwego, Greater Masaka to Champion Accountability amidst Oil and Gas Exploitation.

In Rwego District, Greater Masaka, community organizers are undergoing intensive capacity-building trainings to strengthen their ability to monitor, document, and demand transparency and accountability in the face of ongoing oil and gas activities.



Empowering EACOP Host Communities to Advance People-Centered Natural Resource Governance in Kyotera, Greater Masaka

In Kyotera, Greater Masaka, host communities of the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) are taking decisive steps to strengthen their capacity to lead and shape governance of natural resources. This initiative is rooted in the belief that communities must be at the forefront of decisions affecting their land, water, and livelihoods, rather than being sidelined by corporate and political interests.



Youth Mobilization for Climate Justice, Human Rights, and Cultural Preservation in Uganda's Albertine Region

In the Albertine region of Uganda, youth from oil-affected communities convened in a powerful assembly to demand climate justice, environmental protection, human rights, and the preservation of culture for present and future generations. This gathering was not just a discussion it was a declaration of resistance against the destructive impacts of ongoing oil and gas activities that threaten land, livelihoods, and life itself.



Women and Youth Leading the Charge for Community-Owned Renewable Futures in Hoima, Albertine Region

In the Albertine region of Hoima, women and youth are taking a stand for climate justice, community empowerment, and energy sovereignty. This mobilization is not symbolic it is a declaration that our communities will no longer be passive victims of fossil fuel exploitation.

The meeting highlighted the urgent need for community-led renewable energy solutions and a green, sustainable economy that prioritizes local livelihoods, ecological protection, and social equity over corporate profit. Women and youth were affirmed as central architects of the region's energy future, ensuring that policies and projects reflect the needs and rights of those most affected.



CONCLUSION

This newsletter links violations against Environmental Human Rights Defenders to international advocacy, showing that every threatened defender, every community chapter, and every documented story demands accountability at COP30.

Despite harassment and repression, we persist. Communities under attack, youth activists defending land, and every voice of resistance are building a movement that cannot be silenced.

The road to COP30 runs through our communities. We do not ask for permission—we demand action. COP30 will either mark a turning point or another betrayal. The question is no longer whether climate justice is possible, but whether those in power have the courage to fight for it.



EAST AFRICAN
CRUDE OIL PIPELINE
HOST COMMUNITIES

CONTACT

-  www.eacophc.org
-  info@eacophc.org
-  +256 394857997
-  Kiziranfumbi, Kikuube District
Albertine Region of Uganda