

TotalEnergies
Postbus 294
2501 BC Den Haag
Nederland

Headquarters TotalEnergies
Tour Coupole - 2 place Jean Millier
92078 Paris la Défense cedex
France

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Dear TotalEnergies,

On behalf of Justice Movement Uganda, Christian Climate Action and Extinction Rebellion, we urge you to immediately withdraw from the East African Crude Oil Pipeline project.

The East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP)

The East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) is a fossil fuel project that is harmful to unique ecosystems and local communities in Uganda and Tanzania aiming to extract oil to make enormous corporate profits. The construction of EACOP causes displacement of communities and affect local peoples' livelihoods in Uganda and Tanzania as their lands and water resources will be affected. In addition to the above, EACOP project's oil drilling and potential spills run a high risk of polluting fresh water sources and wetlands destroying biodiversity and unique ecosystems beyond repair, such as Murchison Falls National Park in Uganda. Finally, it also produces huge amounts of additional carbon emissions, undermining the liveability on the entire planet, while the planet is already at risk of not reaching the 1.5C as mentioned in the Paris Agreement.

As a result of all this, and as human rights are being violated by the we have three demands to be met.

DEMANDS

- 1) Stop the construction of the EACOP
- 2) Restore the damage that has been done already
- 3) Respect the human rights of all people involved or affected and help guarantee the safety of climate justice activists in Uganda and Tanzania

1) Stop the construction of the EACOP

People

EACOP leads to massive land acquisition and resettlement. The 1,445 kilometre pipeline, the longest heated oil pipeline in the world, leads to loss of land for an estimated 13.000 families in Uganda and Tanzania, of which more than 500 families face forced resettlement. A total of 86,000 individuals in Ugandan and Tanzania will be affected.¹ It further critically threatens vital water sources that millions of people rely upon for drinking and food production. Besides

¹ <https://www.amisdelaterre.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/20210407-numbers-of-individual-persons-affected-by-eacop.pdf>

rivers and wetlands also lake Victoria, which directly supports more than 40 million people in the region, is threatened as one third of the pipeline is located in the Victoria watershed, an active seismic area.

The valuation and compensation for land acquisition is characterized by lack of information, lack of free, prior informed consent, harassment and irregularities. Affected people have for example been forced to sign forms without explanation, in pencil, and sometimes empty forms. In Tanzania, between 50.000 and 60.000 people are already waiting for more than three years to have compensation paid and are unsure if it will ever be paid.²

Investment in fossil fuels like EACOP contributes to global climate change and leads to more climate refugees. With the current political trend, soon there will be no more (climate) refugees welcome anywhere. Hence the investment in EACOP contributes to the increase in many climate refugee victims.

This injustice and uncertainty has negatively impacted their livelihoods. Beyond that, it also potentially threatens the livelihoods of the many people working in the tourism sector.

Nature

Oil extraction will directly impact Murchison National Park, seriously threatening ecosystems, biodiversity and endangered species. It further endangers polluting tributaries of the Nile river and Lake Victoria, potentially having impact up to Egypt and potentially increasing cross-border conflicts.³ The EACOP project also critically threatens Bugoma Forest Reserve, home of large groups of chimpanzees, as well as the Taala Forest Reserve in Uganda. In Tanzania, the Biharamulo Game Reserve the Wembere Steppe Key Biodiversity Area will be seriously impacted, as will the marine protected areas of Pemba-Shimoni-Kisite and Tanga Coelacanth. It will further also affect a number of important Ramsar Wetlands of international importance. And these are only the protected areas. The dangers for rivers and Lake Victoria are already mentioned above.

Climate

The East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) is forecasted to produce a substantial 34 million tons of carbon emissions annually, totalling 379 million tons CO₂ over the project's 25-year duration.⁴ This poses a significant challenge to climate mitigation efforts, exacerbating global warming and environmental concerns.

In addition, it also has resulted in notable environmental and social consequences. Drilling activities along the pipeline route have disrupted ecosystems, leading to reduced land productivity and valuation. Moreover, communities affected by the project have experienced social disruptions, including displacement, loss of livelihoods, and insufficient compensation. Children have been particularly affected, facing barriers to education due to land restrictions imposed by the project, further widening social disparities.

² <https://oxfamlibrary.openrepository.com/bitstream/handle/10546/621045/rr-empty-promises-down-line-101020-en.pdf>

³ <https://oxfamlibrary.openrepository.com/bitstream/handle/10546/621045/rr-empty-promises-down-line-101020-en.pdf>

⁴ <https://climateaccountability.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/CAI-EACOP-Rptlores-Oct22.pdf>

2) Restore the damage that has been done already

Addressing the adverse effects of EACOP requires comprehensive restoration and remediation measures. This involves not only mitigating environmental degradation through reforestation and soil remediation but also addressing the social and economic impacts on affected communities. Initiatives such as alternative livelihood programs and community engagement are essential to restoring affected areas and improving the well-being of impacted populations. Additionally, transparent governance structures and effective stakeholder involvement are crucial for accountability and preventing similar challenges in future projects.

3) Respect the human rights of all people involved or affected and help guarantee the safety of climate justice activists in Uganda and Tanzania

Climate activists in Uganda like students from Justice Movement Uganda challenging projects like the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) are facing increasing threats to their safety. Activists have reported intimidations, harassment, and even physical violence from authorities and security forces. Some have been arrested or detained without proper cause. This hostile environment creates a chilling effect, silencing dissent and hindering meaningful engagement in environmental issues.

Besides that, many local people and communities have been affected or intimidated as result of the EACOP project. Also human right defenders and journalists who have been critical about the EACOP project, have been intimidated, harassed and arrested as well.

TotalEnergies should respect their human rights and help guaranteeing their safety by:

- Publicly denouncing the violence and intimidation that is taking place against non-violent climate activists and communities in Uganda. If the Ugandan government is still continuing with the violence and intimidation, Total Energies Total must provide all legal and political assistance to ensure that arrested activists return home safely as soon as possible.
- Engage with affected communities, families and individuals based on respect for their human rights and free, prior and informed consent
- Invest in community engagement and sustainable development in order to build trust, foster cooperation and mitigate conflict

BE THE CHANGE

TotalEnergies, you are in a powerful position where you can actually make a change. Be part of the transition that we need as humans, as planet. We ask you to take your responsibility, to do the unexpected. To meet the three demands abovementioned within one month.

If not, we see no other option than rise up, organize actions and create public awareness about the EACOP project that is purely self-interest at the expense of people, nature and the climate.

Sincerely,

Justice Movement Uganda
Christian Climate Action
Extinction Rebellion NL