



**SUPPORTING COMMUNITY OBSERVERS IN ALBERTINE AND GREATER
MASAKA REGION IN UGANDA**

**SEPTEMBER REPORT
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Introduction

Throughout the month of September in Greater Masaka and Albertine regions, Community Observers, field coordinator and Project manager took all times during continuance field activities, devoted adequate time to work to monitor and report all human and environmental rights violations by Oil projects in Uganda. The Team faithfully and diligently used their skills, knowledge and ability to coordinate both regions affected by EACOP, TILENGA and KINGFISHER OIL PROJECTS in Uganda

Background

The post oil deposit discovery period in the ALBERTINE region is characterized by blatant environmental and human rights violations arising from how the processes to acquire land, activities to realize the products of oil deposits are carried in TILENGA and The EACOP corridor. These violations manifest in form of delayed compensation, intimidations, unfair compensations, deforestations, pipeline traversing important wetlands among others. These violations pre-empted human and environmental actors to mentor/empower observers to always whistle to the concerned stakeholders whenever these violations occur and this is done under the **project supporting the community observers in Albertine and greater Masaka regions to continue reporting human and environmental rights** with objectives, to mobilize, build strong and healthy network of observers by ensuring their timely facilitation and report writing trainings, to strengthen the investigative work for campaign by observers with help of coordinators, to mobilize and build a strong movement of observers working in the areas and periodically develop new plans and strategies.

The progress

No	Activity conducted	Reason	Place	Who	Date
1	Project introduction meeting	To officially introduce project to coordinators and observer	Kamapala	Maxwell CEO TASHA	15 Aug. 2023
2	Coordinators orientation training	To empower and build capacity of coordinators.	Kamapala	Maxwell	20 sept. 2023
3	Observers 'capacity building training	To train observers on reporting, photo taking and video taking	Hoima	John an Environmental journalist	25 sept 2023
4	Field visit to some officers	To build solidarity among observers to remain strong amidst challenges.	Hoima	Richard Abdul Barbra Maxwell	27-30 sept 2023
5	Observers field work collection	To report Human rights violations, environmental and climate injustices caused by EACOP, TILENGA and KINGFISHER.	Albertine and Greater Masaka	Maxwell	20 th Aug. - 20 sept,2023

Observers Field work in the month of September

NAJJAGWE MARIAM observer from KYOTERA. Delayed/no feedback from duty bearers on reported issues. She got a complaint from PAPs that they always report issues but they don't get feedback in time. They held a community meeting and PAPs raised their concerns., sat as a community/PAPs together with the chairman LC1 decided to write a letter complaining and sent the letter to the district. Following up on the program of EACOP giving PAPs crops to grow is what I am working on. Najjagwe is expecting to be having full right information from EACOP about what they promised to give them (crops for growing and food, **she** had not got full information on how to report by capacity training was conducted suggested that TASHA should organize a community meeting such that PAPs can know the work done by organisation around EACOP.



BIRIMIYE ROBERT Observer from BETHLEHEM Kyotera. Complaining about failing to pay for the house yet the red peg is immediately behind the house. NAMBASA SARA is a PAP and a resident of KITUNTU LC1 Village NABIGASA subcounty in KYOTERA district and married to a husband MANDE SSENYONDO YASAM and they have a family and they were affected by EACOP but the land is for the lady. NAMBASA SARAH says she was paid but she was not fully contented because she used to ask **New plan** and Total as to why her house

was not valued but she only received answers that she may lose her whole money so you take that because you can't fail the government program.

NAMBASA SARAH as a PAP has been asked whether she wrote or signed any grievance complaint about the issue and she has said that they didn't give her time and even she didn't know about it and fearing also was a problem because of low education. The ongoing task is writing grievance forms complaining about how the house will be stay after the peg being behind house. Keeping in communication with NAMBASA and advising her to write petition and even writing or calling in TASHA to come and help the PAPs with such issues. One of the tasks is calling upon PAPs in KYOTETRA district to be all in one i.e., together so that they should join TASHA in order to conserve climate. Language in reading is a challenge to the PAPs and not having enough time as regards the training. TASHA should come in and put in more efforts to reach success.

SSEGUJJA IVAN OBSERVER of MBBITIZI. Delayed compensation was main complaint he meets in field especially from Mr. BWANIKA GEORGE WILLIAM of KIRAKOMAGA has not been compensated since the process begun. during the evaluation process he didn't have the identification card but later he processed it. as an observer I have tried to reach out to Total with guy. nothing has been put into consideration. BWANIKA GEORGE WILLIAM of KITAKOMAGA, LWENGO subcounty, LWENGO district. Delayed compensation; but when the oil company (total) reached, they just promised to pay. people are still pushing for fair hearing /

not in court but person talking. BWANIKA is in fear that the oil company may use his KIBANJA without receiving compensation. No responsibility from total and We recommend for civil society engagement.

NTUMWA ROGERS observer from KYOTRA. Collecting required documents from PAPs who are in the French case, went to different PAPs from KYOTERA collecting and scanning required documents (from A and from B) and also updating them on the case status. During intervention while going through these PAPs, most were asking him when the case was going to be heard. They were also asking him to tell them how far it would take for the court to rule this case. They discussed about the expectations in the French case. We discussed that we shall be meeting at least once every month and get updates about the case. Setting new office premises. going through PAPs collecting issues related to EACOP, besides the French case. In the next month, he is expecting /planning to make a community meeting and talk about TASHA and its roles. Among Challenges going through each of these PAPs was difficult as they are scattered and yet have no means of transport. Since there has been many NGOs going through these PAPs and getting their issues but don't solve them, some PAPs refuse to say out their problems thinking that it is going to be the same thing as other NGOs do. Members request some community meetings organised by TASHA and as community observers, should be given some identifications which really show what we are doing.

MAGRET SSUNA STATEMENT. I, MAGRET SSUNA, born on 25th /09/1988, residing at LYABUGUMA Village, NABIGASA subcounty KYOTERA district hereby certify on honour that TOTAL and its subcontractors (NEWPLAN) never gave me the forms evaluating my land, my crops and other assets. I don't know the reason why I wasn't given these forms. LYABUGUMA VILLAGE, 10TH /06/ 2023

MARGRET SSUNA.

Margret SSUNA.

Nyamahunge Milius Abwooli of Kitegwa A LC1 Kabaale parish /s/c Hoima attended the meeting on 08/09/2023 CNOOC and DOCG (Daquine Oilfield Construction Group) held a meeting at kitegwa explaining on the Dangers and risks which might happen during the construction of the pipeline and job opportunities available where by some members raised their concern of Destruction of environment and crops by blocking moving water bodies from moving some swamps. One PAP stood up and said that his sugercane plantation has been spoiled by stagnant water due to this company blocking the pass way for water she collected this data when from a meeting. The contractor has put some pipes for water to pass through across their pipeline, when community told the contractor to open enough way for water because what he did not solve the problem in two weeks' time as earlier on promised. Contractor was not responding in time.

AKANGONZA K IRENE, Observer from KIGANDA-Hoima. While in the field I met PAPS who discussed with me the challenges and dangers the oil extraction program has brought to them

where by they were neglected to point out their views. The PAPS hence told me that people's crops, Animals, businesses, houses, lands, tress and schools have been destroyed. The testimony was collected in the field where by I met the PAP at his home wanting to discuss with him the challenges and problems faced. We discussed about the number of crops destroyed, we discussed about the rate to be compensated and We discussed weather he /she is interested in relocation or compensation where by their houses, crops and animals were destroyed.

The discussion ended successfully where by the PAPS decided to take the matters to another level for example reporting to court looking for help and guidance. The talk I would anticipate is seeing the PAPs being fully compensated equally and bye given justice and treated normally with the period of no time as a person I faced a problem of hostile tribes and language barrier. I also had a problem of poor gadgets.

OKUMU RICHARD observer from BUSERUKA. Monitoring of the affected persons in the community and visited Akumu Agnes at chongambe village. Buseruka county on 16th -09-2023 on compensation matter due to land issue by asking her the benefit got after being displaced. This data was collected using phone call at home. The concern company should provide timey servicer delivery to the affected members of the community. The PAP will be monitored again in the coming month on compensation, plan on is to carry out community monitoring and hold visit in the next month Low qualities of the imputes being supplied and improvement needed

AGANYIRA DOREEN observer from HOIMA. She meet PAPs and asked them on how oil and gas have affected their lives, some have lost their land due to extraction of oil and gas project, some lost jobs i.e., private schools, Bone again churches and others hence some became homeless. she collected data when am in the field. With PAPs sat and discussed, it was agreed that people should be compensated equally according to the value of their resources for example land, plants and houses. The PAPs have thanked but they need to be helped and educated due to harsh condition may pass through for example corrupt local leaders with a lot of power e.g L.C.1,2,3 and as observer faced challenges in field like language burial, character of local people, simple infection for example flue cough and many others

BALIKYA NICHOLAS observer from KISUKUMA Kigoroby -Hoima Compensation issue at kyakasato fight which is on fair informant got from one P.A.P Atuhura in format of kyakasato L.C.1 in the month of June the company is CICO. This year in April P.A.Ps signed on agreement of two and half but getting money of one and half year. And these agreements were not given to them. And these corruption issues were led by P.R.O. Asuman. The P.A.Ps reached at decision of reporting this issue to the R.D.C. and chairman L.C.V. however there was nothing big. The P.A.Ps are pestering for these agreements, by end of October this year. We shall have received our agreements, People wants a meeting disvaluing chairman L.C.V, Problem of transport to get information and Intimidation by leaders collaborating with CICO

BAMUTRAKI WILLIAM Observer from Buliisa. Holding of consultative meeting with PAs and community members. Community engagement in kiyere village in August 2023 to equip them with knowledge on dangers of environmental degradation and how to put back what had been put wrong. Community's complaint about Total Energies not being transparent in their activities whenever they engaged them, others try to dodge questions, Issues discussed and decision reached, Untimely supply of cassava cuttings, seedlings and environmental degradation Change their mode of working. Continuous consultations, Total has started meetings with communities as an observer I intend to continue engaging them to try to put back what was destroyed. Challenges in field includes Lack of recording materials i.e., phones and camera.

MUGISHA JELOUSY from Kasinyi Village Buliisa engaged in meeting with Balikenda Fred about his illegal fencing and helped him to forward his concerns to Tasha who helped him to sue Total to France court of law. Conducted home visit twice in August. Illegal fencing by Total of Fred's Balikenda home stand. Engaged with Tasha to help him in seeking legal proceedings Meeting PAs and community adjacent to the drilling rigs, Community mobilization by October Challenges and recommendations Lack of camera and recording materials and Provision of the above

ADUBANGO DANIEL observer from Kikuube district. Intimidation of people on the community land at Rwengabi village, this has been for over 3 years that people has been stopped by R.D.C Mr. Amlan Tumusiime that they should stay there but not to dig their crops has been spoiled by cattle and goats. This conflict is between community and Mr. Mugabe William who said to have land title. The issue is now taken to court, People were stopped to build, People can't afford to take their children to school Court gave order to people to now cultivate but not building. The cattle are still disturbing them they were given court order. As we are waiting for the day of going back to the courts, other evidence will be collected later. Collection of this information was not easy since the land is being guarded by gun men deployed by Mr. William

CWINYA AI JOYCE OBSERVER FROM KIMBABURA -NGWEDO-BULIISA DISTRICT. They had come to relocate their grave. These company of new plan organised with one of our family members behind our back and paid him, they came and started to remove our grave without informing anyone. After when we chased these people the next day the team came back to explain and agreed terms of payment and that they can relocate the graves. They are providing cassava stems and maize seeds conducted home visits to PAs faced Community unwillingness to deliver information freely there is need for Intervention from TASHA to solve the issue.

OCHOWUN MARSEL OBSERVER FROM KIKUUBE DISTRICT. Delayed payment for the workers by ROHI Company who operates under CNOOC Company in Kikube ROHI Company has been keeping long time without paying their workers that creates

misunderstanding between the employee and employers. Discussion was between CNOOC and its sub-contractor ROHI Company that workers shall be paid by every first week of the month. Agreement between ROHI and its workers by unknown time workers agreed to start working as they wait for their payment as agreed for CNOOC Company and ROHI the sub-contractor has an agreement that if there will be any other failure in payment the company will be chased away.

REGINA DANIEL OBSERVER FROM KIKUUBE DISTRICT. On 8th/09/2023 at bulimia village Kikuube district Atacama consultancy came for disclosures of land user, some of the paps found their assessed crops missing on the disclosures paper. The paps refused to sign and discussed with team from Atacama to go and check in their computer details for their missing crops. fighting is to make sure people`s crops are compensated for as deserved. By the end of October paps will have been disclosed as per crops destroyed. Lack of electronic gadgets for computering the videography of clear evidence.

ABINENO GEOFRY OBSERVER FROM AVOGERA BULIISA DISTRICT. On opening of oil camp at avogera village- Ngwedo sub-county, Buliisa district which caused floods and waters flows into people`s garden neighboring the camp and people`s crops being washed away and a lot of floods collected water increasing the breeding of mosquitoes. Meeting held with the neighboring people whose crops were being washed and they accepted to compensate people`s property that if it was not due to the camp opening food would be enough to people their top soils being washed away People`s property washed need to be compensated for. Compensation rate needs to be revised not the out-dated ones because of increase in price to compensate people`s crops, we made sure that people are compensated in time at least in one month (through the office of LC1) among challenges we have No electronic gadget like smart phone for evidence-based reports

MUGISA JOS KAHERU OBSERVER FROM BULIISA DISTRICT. Delayed compensation remains one of most issue between Total Energies and P and a pap in Buliisa. The assessment of the pap`s house was not equitable to pap`s wish, therefore wrote grievance against, the assessment and no positive response by Total.Pap referred to court by total, Meetings and engagements, Low compensation by unknown time, Harassments by Total contractor to PAPs, Pride by Total personal and Intervention should be made outside force

NYANGI MOSES OBSERVER FROM KABOLWA-BULIISA DISTRICT. Wetland and biodiversity survey The wetland I surveyed is river waiga in buliisa district it flows into lake albert it`s one of the rivers in Uganda that are affected by east Africa crude oil pipeline (EACOP) project. The area where the pipe line is going to cross from on river waiga in buliisa district is a natural habitat for birds, amphibians, reptiles like crocodiles, mammals like hippos and fish like tilapia and mud fish. The river and its surrounding is wetland is full of papyrus. Issues discussed are how EACOPE project is going to affect the biodiversity of the river and its surrounding wetlands. The decision reached is to first do research on the river so as to be able to determine

the impacts of EACOP the ongoing tasks are doing research on all the types of mammals, reptiles, amphibians, birds and fish and plants along the pipeline corridor. Then again survey areas away from the pipeline areas this will help us to determine the levels of impacts on the biodiversity for the wetlands after EACOP project is completed. The task I anticipate having ready is naming the fish, reptiles and mammals' species in the wetland are along the pipeline and beyond. This should be done by the end of October. Lack of materials to do this work properly for examples gumboots and caps, more financials support is needed.

Project Team's roles and responsibilities to be achieved;

Observers' responsibilities & functions in this project include,

- To Conduct Community trainings and meetings
- To Contributes to online campaigns
- To Supports journalist in field
- To Contribute to media campaigns
- To organize and participate in public demonstration
- To collect signatures for petitions.
- To attract more members/PAPs to join struggle
- To contribute in strategic planning
- To provide presence of Campaign
- To collect ground evidence.
- To contribute in generating the local narrative and stories.
- To strengthen collaboration with community members.
- To ensure campaign activities
- To build solidarity of Community Frontliners and help maintain a strong, regular link with the PAPs who have taken Total to Court.

And Observer Coordinator roles and duties includes,

- Periodic reporting to project Manager.
- Guide observers to Conduct Community trainings and meetings
- Work with Observers to Contributes to online campaigns
- To conduct monthly observers meeting and paying stipend.
- Work with Observers to Supports journalist in field
- To Contribute to media campaigns
- To champion public action
- To draft community petitions.
- Do strategic planning
- To build Campaign
- To collect ground evidence.
- To contribute in generating the local narrative and stories.
- To strengthen collaboration with community members.
- To build solidarity of Observers.

- Collect reports from observers etc.

Project Manager roles and responsibilities include,

- Receive and organise reports from Observers and coordinators
- Do check in with partner
- Conduct trainings to observers and coordinators
- Report to partner
- General project control and management
- Collect field data
- Collect evidence and etc

Gallery





Submitted by Maxwell Atuhura

03/10/2023

Hoima