



**WOMEN-LED ACTION ORIENTED RESEARCH ON THE
NEGATIVE IMPACTS OF OIL ON WOMEN`S RIGHTS, LAND
AND FOOD SOVEREIGNTY IN UGANDA`S OIL REGION
2015/2016**



Produced with Financial Support from American
Jewish World Service (AJWS)



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Acronyms.....	i
Acknowledgments.....	iii
Members of the Research Team.....	iii
Executive Summary.....	iv
1.0 Introduction	1
2.0 The process of conducting the Action Oriented Research.....	1
Key Findings of the Action Oriented Research.....	3
Impacts of Oil on food.....	3
Impacts of Oil on Land.....	5
3.2 Impacts of oil on Women's Rights.....	8
4.0 Advocacy messages.....	11
5.0 Recommendations.....	11
Importance of the Action Research.....	11
6.0 Conclusions.....	11
Oil impacts at Glance –Picturefrom the Field.....	14

ACRONYMS

AJWS	American Jewish World Service
NAPE	National Association of Professional Environmentalists
PAR	Participatory Action-oriented Research
CNOOC	Chinese National Offshore Oil Company
NAVODA	Navigators of Development Association
KOC	Kakindo Orphans Care
NEMA	National Environmental management Authority
GMOs	Genetically Modified Organisms
EIAs	Environmental Impact Assessments
CSOs	Civil Society Organisation

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Action Research team comprised of Leaders of selected small groups operating in the oil region appreciate American Jewish World Service (AJWS) for the financial support provided to conduct this action oriented research and National Association of Professional Environmentalists (NAPE) for coordinating the Research Exercise.

The Research team comprised of representatives of oil affected communities from Sebagoro, Kaiso, Kyehoro, and Kabaale-Buseruka, Butimba, Kigaaga Wansenko Kigyayo, and kakindo under the leadership of Community Groups supported by AJWS based in the oil region including Kakindo Orphans Care (KOC), Navigators of Development Association (NAVODA), and Kwataniza women Farmers Group. Other groups that were key to the findings of this research are Kaiso Women's group, Butimba Sustainability Conservation Association and The Oil refinery affected people Youths Association.

The Community Research Team would like to acknowledge the efforts added by the Lead Research team at NAPE comprising of the NAPE Gender and Food Security Officer Ms. Shillar Kyomugisha Osinde, Madam Sostine, and Coordinator of Projects, Mr. Rajabu Bwengye Yusuf for the work well done in training and providing guidance to the research team.

Towards the end, we would like to extend the community Research team in their Individual capacity for the commitment shown to generate information on oil impacts needed by this research. Without your rich knowledge on oil issues on ground, it wouldn't have been easy for this research to come to an end.

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Lastly, we would like to appreciate the NAPE Editorial Board headed by Mr. Frank Muramuzi-The NAPE Executive Director for the great work done towards editing and providing key insights that enabled this research come to a successful end.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Commercial Mining in Uganda and generally in the world is accelerating. In most countries with extractive resources, mining is both done on large scale and artisanal and Uganda is no exception. Studies carried out have shown significant negative impacts of both large scale and artisanal forms of mining on the environment, health, food and human rights more especially on women, elderly, children and the youth.

The Mining industry in Uganda is rapidly growing especially with the discovery of vast oil and gas deposits in the Albertine Graben and increasing artisanal mining particularly in gold mining areas of Mubende in Western Uganda and Karamoja region, salt mining on Katwe salt Lake among others.

Oil and gas were first documented in Uganda in 1925 by Wayland and the first oil well “Waki B” drilled in 1938 in the Butiaba area.

The first commercial oil well was discovered in 2006 by Hardman and Tullow Oil Companies and since then, a number of oil wells have been drilled in the Albertine Graben by UK based Tullow, French Company Total and Chinese National Offshore Oil Company (CNOOC). Each of these oil companies signed a memorandum of understanding with the Ugandan government to develop the hydrocarbon resource in the region.

As the discovery of oil in Uganda was celebrated by government, oil companies and other stakeholders, it was the same for the communities in the oil region especially the women, children and youth. As time passed by a number negative impacts have been registered among the communities and more especially on women. It has also been noted that oil development activities have significantly led to a shift in roles and responsibilities of people in mining regions, and mostly affected have been women.

It is against this background that this Action-Oriented Research was conducted. The research was intended to cover three thematic areas of Land, Women’s rights and Food sovereignty, discussing the impacts oil discovery has had on each of them. The research came up with advocacy messages and recommendations for government, oil companies, Bunyoro Kingdom, CSOs and the oil affected groups.

Through this Action research, key impacts of oil on Women included accelerating land grabbing, food insecurity through community displacements, animal human conflicts, increased population that has in turn increased pressure and carrying capacity of key ecosystems, increased prostitution, increased degradation of life supporting ecosystems, accelerated rights abuse, abuse of community access rights to ecosystem resources, introduction of inappropriate food technology to meet the increasing food needs, reduced opportunities for barter trade, water pollution among many others. (see details in the report).

The study also generated a series of advocacy messages and recommendations to key stake holders as summarized below;

Recommendations to Government

- Government should fully resettle and compensate displaced communities using current compensation rates.
- Respect communities' indigenous food varieties and should support communities to protect their food and food rights.
- Promote and implement prior informed consent so that communities are agreeable to the value of their properties including the timings.
- Bring oil affected women on board in decision-making fora so that they contribute to development processes, understand their implication and challenges and jointly lay strategies of addressing the challenges.
- Gender balance in compensation ensuring that both men and women equally benefit from compensation and this should be documented in policy and implemented as well.
- Conduct comprehensive EIAs on development projects and organize timely Public hearings so that communities give their positions on such projects
- Compel Private Sector companies to commit their corporate social responsibility on those things that benefit the communities they operate in.
- Compel private sector Developers to address the ecological and social foot prints of their investment operations in Uganda.
- Name and publish what companies pay and what you receive from companies.
- Deny operational license to those companies that do not adhere to provisions of the environmental laws of Uganda
- Compel the National Environmental management Authority (NEMA) not to approve stage managed EIAs

Recommendations to Oil Companies

- Support improving girls and women and youth's welfare programmes in Corporate Social Responsibility in consultation with the affected communities especially women leaders.
- Carry out EIAs and organize public hearings
- Respect human and environmental rights.
- Recommendations to Bunyoro Kingdom
- Monitor non compliance of mining activities with environmental and human rights standards and requirements in the kingdom.

Recommendations to Bunyoro Kingdom

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- Advocate for stronger transparency, corporate accountability on land, food and women's rights.
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Recommendations to CSOs

- Sensitize communities on rights of women – women empowerment so that there is an appreciation of women's role and be clearly understood as very important partners in development.
- Support Media activities to expose oil impacts on vulnerable groups (women) so that they are amplified and known to a wide range of stakeholders.
- Promote more initiatives on enhancing women's rights, for example community trainings and exposures, livelihood alternatives, talk shows on women's role in development, among others.
- Reach out to communities for awareness on land rights, and food sovereignty so that they become aware and protect these rights. This can be in form of trainings, food festivals, fares among others
- Promote indigenous food varieties; CSOs should support campaigns on promoting indigenous varieties and community food production systems and should support farmer communities to influence/challenge unfavorable policies on food. CSOs should support community to establish living seed banks and indigenous seed exchange exercises.
- De-campaign promotion of GMOs in Bunyoro sub region
- Amplify voices of marginalized communities.
- Name and shame violators of environmental and community rights.

Recommendations to Communities /women

- Women should speak out and report to relevant authorities any form of violation of their rights
- Should reject Genetically Modified Organisms and champion campaigns on promoting and protecting their indigenous varieties of seed, plants and animals
- Champion for women's rights over food and land in a more practical manner.
- Use the community Green radio platform to voice out your concerns.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

NAPE with financial support from American Jewish Service (AJWS) in October 2015 supported 20 representatives of oil affected women including some men to conduct a women-led Participatory/Action-oriented Research (PAR). The purpose of the research was to establish the extent to which Oil and gas extraction activities in Uganda have impacted on women's rights, land and food sovereignty in Buliisa and Hoima districts.

The research also provided an opportunity for the oil affected communities especially women to come up with recommendations and advocacy messages for government, oil companies Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and various stakeholders in the oil sector, to address impacts caused by oil on women's rights, food sovereignty and land.

The research focused on 3 key themes; Women's rights, Food Sovereignty and Land.

Participants in the research included representatives of oil affected communities from Sebagoro, Kyehoro, Kabaale-Buseruka (area earmarked for oil refinery), Kaiso-Tonya, Buliisa, Kigyayo (sugar cane affected community) in Kiziranjumbi Sub county all of who happen to be members of community groups supported by AJWS and elders from Bunyoro Kingdom.

2.0 THE PROCESS OF CONDUCTING THE PARTICIPATORY ACTION ORIENTED RESEARCH

2.1 Field visits

NAPE together with some of the AJWS funded community partners based in Uganda's oil region conducted various field visits to the oil affected communities to introduce the aspect of the PAR and discussing with them their role in the research process. During the visit, members also selected a team of 20 people to lead on conducting the research.

2.2 Training of the research team

NAPE organized an intense training of the 20 members of the research team. The training provided an

opportunity to the team to have a harmonized understanding of the oil/gas sector in Uganda, current oil developments, oil challenges and impacts on women's rights, food and land in Hoima and Buliisa. The team also acquired skills on basic action oriented research techniques and methodologies of obtaining data including developing recommendations and advocacy messages.



Women-led Participatory Action Oriented Research team during the training-October 2015.

2.3 Data collection

After the training, the team was dispatched to the field to obtain data. Members of the research team were provided with pens, papers, flip charts, markers, cameras and other stationery to facilitate effective data collection by the NAPE Lead Research coordinating team.

2.4 Compiling Research findings

NAPE organized another meeting together with the research team to compile data collected from the field. The exercise involved researchers presenting their own findings including challenges encountered and how they addressed them.

The team also had an in-depth reflection on the findings, recommendations and advocacy messages including discussing the format of the research publication. Their field research report drafts were filed in one consolidated file to act as future reference during the validation of the compiled research report.



Research team compiling data obtained from the field

2.5. Validating the compiled research findings

The compiled research was further subjected to validation by community members affected by oil impacts comprising of the Action research team and other known community members affected by oil and who are residents of NAPE established sustainability villages. Also invited were members of the NAPE community Green radio listeners clubs spread in different sustainability villages.

The purpose of these validation meetings was to enable communities own up their research. It was hoped that by doing this, then it would be much easier for the communities to spear head the advocacy work needed to have some of the key research findings addressed by different stake holders.

2.6. Printing and publishing the Research

The research was in February 2016 finalized, published and disseminated both in hard and soft copies to a large Audience. Communities used the Action research to engage different stake holders on the National Women's Day celebrations of March 8th 2015.

2.7. Importance of the Action oriented Research

Respondents especially women expressed gratitude to be part of the research team and to NAPE for the great effort to help oil affected communities identify oil related issues and helping them come up with messages targeting different stakeholders and suggesting recommendations.

They stressed that;

- The research raised awareness and made recommendations on the rights of women which when implemented, will enable women exercise their rights to access, control and own land. Additionally, respondents expressed their views that the research will in some way compel government to improve compensation process by ensuring that:
- Both men and women benefit from compensation proceeds from land and other resources,
- Improve women's representation in decision-making processes,
- Implement prior informed consent among oil affected communities.
- Enable oil affected communities access oil information
- Improve compensation rates and increase men's appreciation of women as partners in development.
- Inform the violators that as women, they are aware and know who is who is stepping on their rights and entitlements.
- The research also enabled oil affected communities (respondents) to further understand the oil sector in Uganda, its impacts on vulnerable groups especially women and livelihoods, stakeholders/players and their roles. The key players identified during the research included government, oil companies, Bunyoro kingdom, indigenous communities in the oil region, civil society organizations.

3.0 KEY FINDINGS OF THE RESEARCH

3.1 Introduction to the Oil and gas Industry in Uganda's Albertine rift.

Oil existence in the Biodiversity rich Albertine rift dates back in 1925 when the first oil was discovered by the names WAKI in the Butiaba Oil rift. More shallow wells were drilled later on and large scale oil extraction was stalled by the pre- and post Independence instabilities from 1930s to the late 1980s.

Active Oil drilling was re-activated in 2006 by the NRM government. The current Oil extraction activities in Uganda are concentrated in the western Albertine rift a great biodiversity hot spot known for its massive biodiversity. The Albertine rift is infact termed as the richest in terms of biodiversity in Africa and the world at large .

It has the highest rate of endemism in Africa and is known as the convergence zone for western and eastern species.

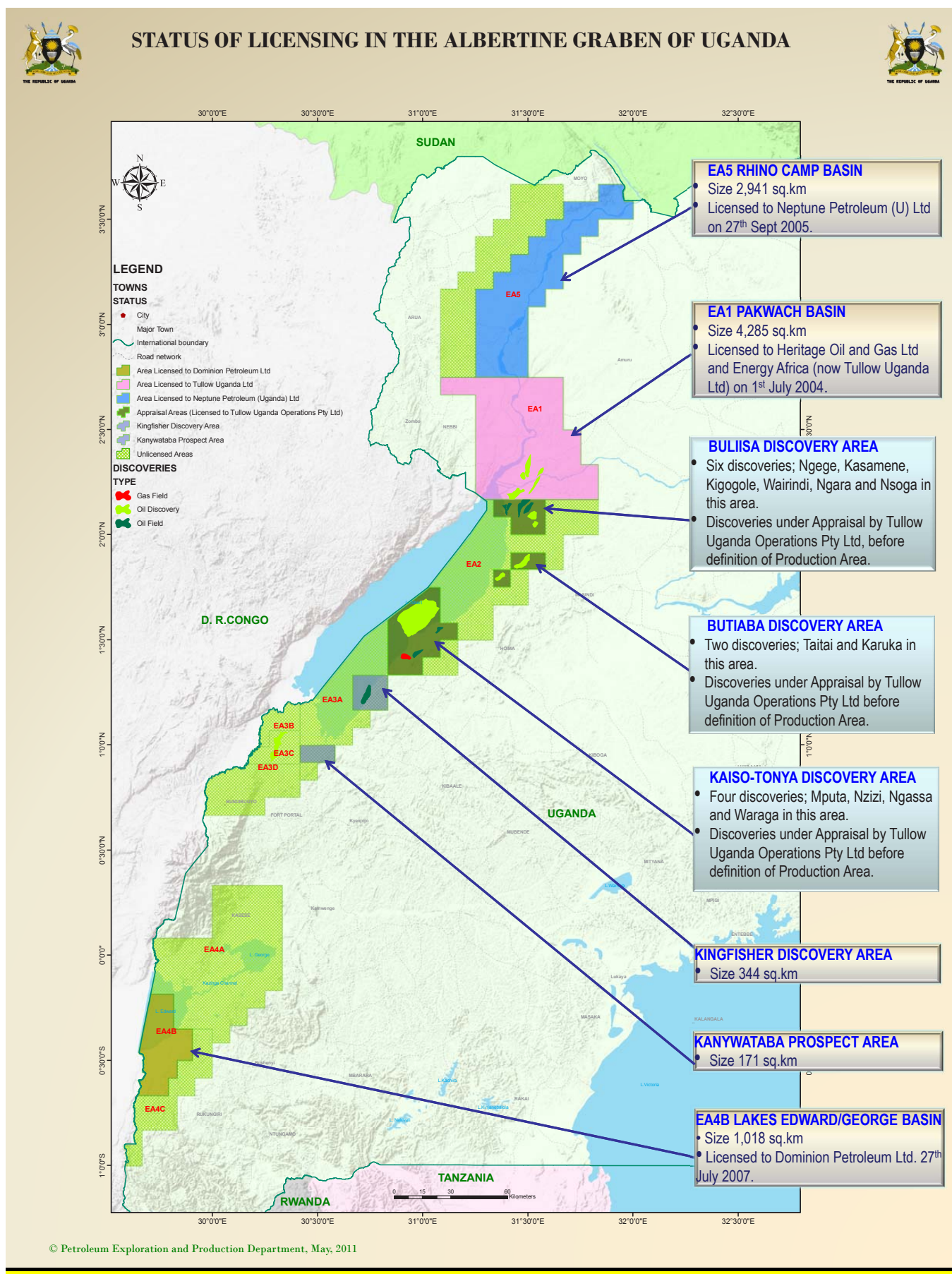
It boasts of;

- 39% of Africa's mammals species
- 51% of African Bird species
- 19% of its amphibian species
- 14% of Africa's Plants and reptile species
- 60% of Uganda's water bodies (lakes and rivers)
- 70% of Uganda's protected areas with 7 out of the 10 National Parks in Uganda, 8 out of 15 forests, 12 Wildlife Reserves, 13 Wild Life Sanctuaries, and 5 Community Wild Life Areas.
- 79 threatened terrestrial vertebrates according to IUCN red data book listings

Because of its biodiversity importance, the region is regarded also as the gate way of the Nile into Sudan and Egypt.

The belt is also a home of approximately 4 million people or more which is approximately 20% of the total Ugandan population and these are predominantly ecosystem dependent communities doing massive fishing, cattle keeping, hunting plus some crop cultivation in and around the key ecosystems such lakes, rivers, national park and wildlife reserves forests and rift valley range lands

The belt has got rich oil deposits right from the extreme North into the Southern Sudan borders down to the extreme south as shown by the Oil discovery map below; Unfortunately, most of the discovered oil wells are either located in or adjacent fragile ecosystems such as lake Albert, Murchison Falls National park, Kabwoya and Bugungu Wildlife Reserves, lake Edward, George,etc thus making the entire Albertine belt vulnerable to disturbance.



3.2. THE IMPACTS

3.2.1 IMPACTS OF OIL ON FOOD

The research established significant negative impacts of oil and its related activities on food. Because of the oil discovery, there has been an influx of people in the oil region seeking employment with the oil companies. This has increased food demand more than what the ecosystem can support. The region has seen a large influx of many land grabbers and most of these have come disguising themselves as cattle keepers who are on constant move when actually, their plan is to permanently occupy and claim ownership of some community and range lands .



Cattle along the lake shores of Albert in Wansenko.

The research found that fish had dwindled in Lake Albert mainly because of the too many people on the lake and laxity of government authorities regulating fishing activities and methods on the lake. The government's attention has been focused on oil and less on fishing on the lake. This has given people a leeway to use fishing nets which are not of the recommended size thus catching immature fish resulting in significant reduction of fish in Lake Albert.



Poor Fishing Gear at the fish landing site of Wansenko-Buliisa. More than 40 fish landing sites on Lake Albert are facing the challenge of poor Nets that capture young fish-thus depleting the fish population in the Lake. Kaiso Tonya fish landing site is not an exception.

“As fish dwindles in Lake Albert; what next!”

Says an oil affected community member at the Kaiso Fish landing site on Lake Albert.

Plans by government to construct an oil refinery on a 29km² piece of land in Kabaale-Buse-ruka sub-county has contributed to reduction in food production and supplies. The research found out that the land earmarked for the construction of an oil refinery was originally farming land for around 7200 inhabitants of the area and with this new development, communities were displaced with inadequate compensation and those who remained awaiting relocation were stopped from growing crops. The team found out that the ban has currently been lifted temporarily, allowing communities to grow strictly cereal food crops. This is not sufficient for the food demands of the entire population in the area and actually violates their food rights. Around 92 families are facing this challenge.

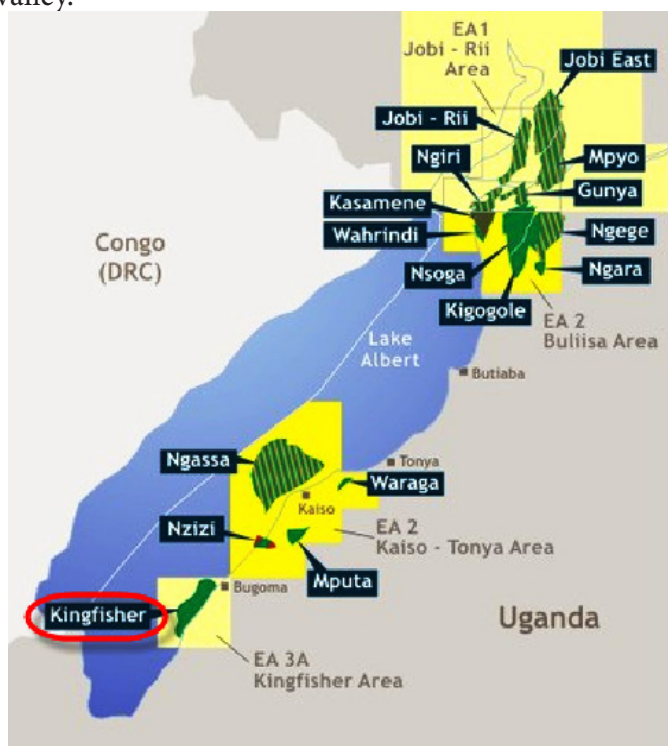
The communities are also worried by the accelerated development of the Kingfisher Oil field operated by CNOOC. As of August 2015, The kingfisher Oil project was ready to take off. It's estimated to host an average of 635 million barrels of crude of which 196 million barrels are estimated to be recoverable oil. The development of the Kingfisher oil production area led by Chinese National offshore Oil Corporation (CNOOC) that holds the only valid production license will involve putting in

place a water station, a central processing facility, a tanks farm, truck loading and power generation facilities among others.

The first phase will involve setting up a central processing facility with a capacity of 20,000 barrels of oil per day that will be expanded to a 40,000 barrels a day in the second Phase and in future to a 60,000 and or more in respect with the domestic & foreign market demand.

It is also reported that, the plan under way is to export oil through an 85 Km oil pipeline to the green field refinery to be located in Kabaale-Buseruka Sub county Hoima District. Also planned in an oil pipeline from Buliisa to the Green field refinery in Hoima.

The only pass way out of the Buliisa or kingfisher oil pipelines heading to the green field refinery is through the biodiversity rich Kabwoya and Bugungu Wildlife reserve that are located at the base of the rift valley.



These main pipelines will have a series of smaller feeder pipelines connecting from the different oil wells distributed in Murchison, Kabwoya, Bugungu wild life areas. From the Green field refinery in Hoima, planned is a 250 Km to Jinja from where a long pipeline to the east African coast is planned through either Kenya or Tanzania to Lamu or Mombasa.

The communities are much worried that , the pipeline off sets will risk the rift valley wildlife and Lake Albert waters through future oil spills and wild fires in cases

of any rupture arising from the hot crude in the pipes or sabotage and in case of such occurrences, there will be acceleration of animal human conflicts once the wildlife is threatened from their natural habitats. The pipelines through wildlife areas will definitely create stress to the animals and affect animal migration routes, breeding places and grazing patterns. The pipelines will also at one point pass through community land and accelerate land wrangles and tribal conflicts especially if the compensation and resettlement issues are not handled with care. The communities think accelerated issues of problem animals, land grabbing, and conflicts will worsen the food insecurity in their localities.

Additionally, the research found that originally there was some kind of barter exchange between the fishing and agricultural communities in the oil refinery area. However this trend has since stopped with community displacements and ban on growing non cereal food crops, and the dwindling of fish in Lake Albert. The research found out that women are suffering the blunt more than their male counterparts because of their traditional role of putting food on table and taking care of their families.

The research also found out that the opening of the Albertine Oil graben for Oil extraction has attracte4dc other private sector developers in the area whose activities has also accelerated the food insecurity problem in the area. Prominent players are Road construction companies such as COLIN Construction Company –that constructed the Hoima-Kaiso Tonya disrupted the crop growing schedules of communities along the road way as some communities found them losing out their crops to the company.

There is also accelerated community displacement and food insecurity caused by mushrooming Sugar plantation corporations in Kigyayo-Kiziranfumbi Sub-county; Hoima district. A key firm in Question is Hoima Sugar Limited. The company acquired land from the late Kimera and started evicting people slowly and this was in 2013. The company (Hoima Sugar limited) is reported to be related to Kinyara Sugar Works now an Independent Company owned by Indians in in Masindi and whose plantations throughout grower individuals is currently threatening some patches of Budongo forest.

In February 2015, over 4633 adults and 3357 children were evicted from 1,860 hectares of land in Kiziranfumbi after it was leased to an investor in the names of Hoima Sugar Ltd for Sugar cane plantation and currently communities are living in dire need in 2 camps (A and B) (see photo below)



With no food to eat, no sanitation and clean water services in place, poor shelter with little chances for development.

The above development has seen communities former agricultural land grabbed forcefully and by coercion. This has left majority communities landless and with no food. The report established that over 6,000 people are now living in a camp with no food to eat and other basic needs.

“We were displaced from our land by the sugar cane plantation establishment, we can no longer produce food on our own, we can longer take our children to school, our young girls are eloping and others defiled. Some of my fellow women are engaged in sexual relationships with sugar cane workers in order to get food for their families”; Says Namara Harriet - one of the affected women.

The research established increased food theft and conflicts in areas neighbouring Kabaale-Buseruka especially in Butiimba and Kigaga villages. The findings stressed the increased number of visitors from the heavily oil affected areas of Kabaale which no longer have access to food due to the restriction to grow non cereal crops. As a result they have resorted to frequenting communities where they can get food. The research noted that majority of these are mainly women and children.

Basiima Joram from Kigaga, one of the areas neighboring Kabaale had this to say: “You can never miss to get visitors from the refinery area every week, and when they come, they want to take over a week at your home to have meals!”

The research further established significant rise in food prices which has made most families stay without a meal.



Jennifer Ninsiima- leader of Sebagoro women's group narrating her ordeal says: “Fish has been our major food and source of income to sustain our families, but now we cannot afford it. The price of fish has more than doubled; we local women can no longer afford it. We have left trade in fish for big business people from Kampala city who can afford paying a lot of money”!

The study further established an increase in non indigenous varieties of seeds and animals in the pretext of meeting the ever increasing food demands of the population in the oil region. The research findings from majority women indicated that the seeds are introduced by government through the National Agricultural Advisory Services (NAADS). Majority of the respondents indicated that these non-indigenous variety seeds commonly referred to as “NAADS products” are terminator in nature and can-

not be replanted or even stored for a long time. They also require extensive application of chemicals which makes the cost of production very expensive. This is affecting women because traditionally they are the food producers.

The farmer communities in Kigyayo, refinery area and the neighbouring communities of Butiimba and Kigaga indicated that oil workers and contractors provide their own food than buying from the communities. This has further impoverished the communities because the practice was that women would sell surplus of their produce to get money to sustain their families. Because the oil companies supply food to their own workers than providing market to locally available goods, the trend has affected the livelihoods of the communities thus undermining the corporate social responsibility aspect.

3.2.2 IMPACTS OF OIL ON LAND

In Bunyoro, land is both privately and communally owned. During the study, it was found out that most of the land owners do not have land certificates or titles and those who had, the documents were in the names of the men. Women stressed this as a major challenge because it does not grant them grounds for claiming ownership, access and control rights over land. It was related

The research established massive land grabbing and speculation. Research noted some scenarios where family heads sold land to oil companies and private individuals without consent of their wives. This is highly pronounced in the Oil refinery affected area of Kyapaloni. The reason for this was that traditionally in Bunyoro, women do not own land neither do they inherit land from parents. Also communities neighbouring Kabaale-Buseruka especially Butimba and Kigaga expressed worry of the possibility of their land being grabbed in future when there would be need to expand the oil refinery. There are confirmed reports that the 29 sqkm land acquired for the oil refinery will not be enough as more oil infrastructure related to the oil refinery is put in place.

The study also noted however that there is massive community mobilization and resilience building in relation to the accelerated land grabbing in the area

of Kyapaloni. Most community members who belong to the NAPE sustainability village and youths clubs in this area had raised road side posts that depict that “land Grabbing has taken toll in the area” and communities are doing everything possible to defend their land rights. Communities noted that in addition to defending their land, they through the help of groups like NAPE and AFIEGO also taken the parties behind land grabbing to court.



A sign posted by the oil affected communities of Kabaale -Kyapaloni village to defend and claim their right to land.

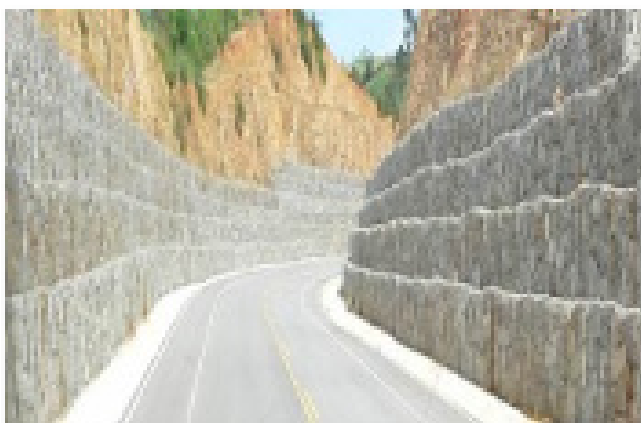
Additionally, the study established increasing violence in families over land compensation money, affecting mainly women. Majority of men feel women are not supposed to ask or share benefits from land. This was mainly from Kabaale-Buseruka, some areas in Buliisa such as Nguedo and in Kigyayo (Sugar cane affected area). More than a half of the respondents mentioned that most women in the research area do not own land. They said that land was now rated high as a major source of fights and quarrels among the oil affected communities.

The research also indicated lack of enforcement of the laws and policies which support women and men's equal access to, control and ownership of land and a women's position in decision-making at household level.

The research further established an absence of an inclusive compensation policy on land. Reports especially from Kabaale - Buseruka indicated that the compensation process was made in such a way that only men received land compensation in situations where it would be a couple. This puts the women at

a disadvantage because some men ran away after receiving the money leaving their wives and children landless and without food and other necessities. Others would resort to prosecution thus accelerating the HIV/Aids challenges in the Community

The study also showed that not all the men were compensated. Some men who were affected by the Hoima – Kaiso-Tonya Road diversion (see photo below) did not receive the compensation even after they already lost their land. Although the road has created easy access to the oil wells in Kaiso-Tonya, it has left some families landless, impacting greatly on women and children, leaving them without land, food and homes.



The newly oil constructed Hoima – Kaiso-Tonya road that has left many stranded.

3.2.3 IMPACTS OF OIL ON WOMEN'S RIGHTS

Violation of women's rights in the oil region has more than doubled. The research established that men, workers of oil companies and related developments were the major perpetrators of violence against women. The violence recorded was in the form of sexual harassment, assault, beating, bullying, and verbal abuses among others. Cases of violence against women were cited in Kigyayo where women are beaten by sugarcane plantation workers when they use paths near the plantation on their way to look for food and water to sustain families. Cases of rape and defilement in this area were also cited. In the fishing villages of Kaiso-Tonya, Kye-horo, Sebagoro and Wansenko located along the shores of Lake Albert, issues of sharing of sexual Partners especially on the side of men was mentioned.

Findings indicated an influx of prostitutes into these villages and as a result, men have abandoned their wives and going for prostitutes.

In this respect, majority of women who participated in the research complained of husbands denying them their conjugal rights. The practice has led to increase of sexually transmitted diseases such as HIV/AIDS in the area. It was noted that prostitution was never heard of in these oil rich villages but when oil operations started, prostitutes from DRC-Congo across Lake Albert flocked into the areas occupying most of the fish landing sites like Kaiso, Sebagoro, and Kye-horo, Buhuka that have rich oil reserves.



A shift in responsibilities: Kaiso-Tonya women taking care of the families and children not in school.

Additionally, the rift between husbands and wives over use, control and ownership of land and other resources has greatly widened. This was attributed to the appreciating value of land in the region which is forcing the men to be even more stricter on women's use of land. Respondents indicated that men are doing this to ensure that women have no ground of claiming part of the compensation.

The study also established an increase in sexual promiscuity with its associated ills like contracting sexually transmitted diseases such as HIV/AIDS, violence and consequent deaths. Community reports indicated that a reasonable number of women especially in the oil refinery area, Buliisa, and Kigyayo had been abandoned by men after displacement and compensation and their land grabbed; a scenario that has forced some women into sex workers in order to meet needs of their

families. These cases were cited among sugar cane plantation affected communities and the refinery area.



Alice Kazimura, Coordinator Kakindo Orphans Care stressing impact of oil on women's rights

Findings indicated rampant sexual harassment of rural women in oil workers' camps, road construction projects and other oil related infrastructures. Findings indicated that over 20 young girls and women complained of men touching their private parts and trying to lure them into sexual relationships during the study.

The study indicated that closure of schools, markets and churches to pave way for oil infrastructure establishment in some way affected the communities' social development. Reports indicated some of the schools such as Nyahaira primary school in the oil refinery area had been turned into a police barracks. As a result, parents had to take their children to very far away school. Some parent opted to keep their daughters- at home in fear of rape, defilement and other evils as the children walk long distances to school.

Furthermore, the study established a significant level of lack of understanding and appreciation of women's rights most especially among the sugarcane affected communities which has significantly hindered majority of women from exercising their rights over land and other resources and benefits.



Some of the sugarcane affected women and children in Kigyayo currently living in an Internally Displaced Camp

Lastly, it was also noted that there is a gross abuse of access rights as regards to access to park resources. Since the commencement of active oil drilling in protected areas such as Kabwoya and Bugungu Wildlife reserves, it has been noted that the government stationed military personnel (Uganda Peoples Defence Forces) in the areas where most of the oil wells are located. As a result, there is a fear of rape, or beatings by soldiers stationed in these areas.

The most affected sections of the community are the Women and children who normally enter the park to get firewood for cooking or hand craft materials for making mats or grass for thatching their houses.

4.0 ADVOCACY MESSAGES

Advocacy messages were generated based on the selected themes, of; Food sovereignty, Women's Rights and Land and the targeted stakeholders; government, civil society organizations, oil companies and oil affected communities.

4.1 Advocacy messages for Government

- Stop community land grabbing.
- Prior informed consent is key for oil affected communities.
- Inclusion of women in decision-making on oil is key to service delivery.
- Do comprehensive EIAs for your Oil operations and organize genuine not stage managed Public hearings.
- We have a right to access park resources thus its illegal for the security personnel to chase us from the park.
- No access to our land without adequate compensation or resettlement package.
- Fossil fuels/oil extraction accelerates climate change and once this happen, Women and children suffer most.

4.2 Advocacy messages for oil companies

- Employ the rural community members.
- Buy food from the communities.
- Respect women's bodies.
- Don't connive with land speculators to grab our land
- Tailor your corporate social responsibility to our needs
- Our Ecosystems, our life, our future. You should not operate your oil activities at the expense of our environment.
- Fossil fuels accelerate climate change disasters. What are you doing in response to this?

4.3 Advocacy messages for oil affected communities

- Men support women to realize their rights.
- Women respect your bodies.
- Women, know your rights.
- My right, my responsibility.
- Communities don't give away land for monetary gains.
- Do not leave your land until your compensated or resettled

4.4 Advocacy messages for Bunyoro Kingdom

- Kingdom, "protect your subjects from land grabbers and speculators
- Support your subjects to protect their customary land rights
- Support your subjects to get customary land certificates
- Joint the campaign against land grabbing in the kingdom

4.5 Advocacy messages for CSOs

- Mining would risk irreversible loss of natural resources that support life, including food sovereignty and land. Let us jointly support the advocacy to conserve natural resources for the next generations
- Don't risk food sovereignty with GMOs.
- Mining has negative impacts on women, who play a vital role in maintaining seed and food sovereignty.
- Mining threatens food sovereignty and food production by grabbing land and destroying ecosystems.
- Build the capacity of communities to understand their rights and support the campaign against rights abuse.
- Name and shame companies and other parties violating human and environmental rights in the Oil region
- Empower to build more resilient communities

5.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- The research provided recommendations for government, civil society organizations, oil companies and oil affected communities.

5.1 Recommendations to Government

- Government should fully resettle and compensate displaced communities using current compensation rates.
- Respect communities' indigenous food varieties and should support communities to protect their food and food rights.
- Promote and implement prior informed consent so that communities are agreeable to the value of their properties including the timings.
- Bring oil affected women on board in decision-making fora so that they contribute to development processes, understand their implication and challenges and jointly lay strategies of

addressing the challenges.

- Gender balance in compensation ensuring that both men and women equally benefit from compensation and this should be documented in policy and implemented as well.
- Conduct comprehensive EIAs on development projects and organize timely Public hearings so that communities give their positions on such projects
- Compel Private Sector companies to commit their corporate social responsibility on those things that benefit the communities they operate in.
- Compel private sector Developers to address the ecological and social foot prints of their investment operations in Uganda.
- Name and publish what companies pay and what you receive from companies.
- Deny operational license to those companies that do not adhere to provisions of the environmental laws of Uganda
- Compel the National Environmental management Authority (NEMA) not to approve stage managed EIAs .

5.2 Recommendations to Oil Companies

- Support improving girls and women and youth's welfare programmes in Corporate Social Responsibility in consultation with the affected communities especially women leaders.
- Carry out EIAs and organize public hearings
- Respect human and environmental rights.

5.3 Recommendations to Bunyoro Kingdom

- Monitor non compliance of mining activities with environmental and human rights standards and requirements in the kingdom.
- Advocate for stronger transparency, corporate accountability on land, food and women's rights.

5.4 Recommendations to CSOs

- Sensitize communities on rights of women – women empowerment so that there is an appreciation of women's role and be clearly understood as very important partners in development.
- Support Media activities to expose oil impacts on vulnerable groups (women) so that they are amplified and known to a wide range of stakeholders.

holders.

- Promote more initiatives on enhancing women's rights, for example community trainings and exposures, livelihood alternatives, talk shows on women's role in development, among others.
- region.
- Amplify voices of marginalized communities.
- Name and shame violators of human and environmental rights. Reach out to communities for awareness on land rights, and food sovereignty so that they become aware and protect these rights. This can be in form of trainings, food festivals, fares among others
- Promote indigenous food varieties; CSOs should support campaigns on promoting indigenous varieties and community food production systems and should support farmer communities to influence/challenge unfavorable policies on food. CSOs should support community to establish living seed banks and indigenous seed exchange exercises.
- De-campaign promotion of GMOs in Bunyoro sub

5.5 Recommendations to Communities / women

- Women should speak out and report to relevant authorities any form of violation of their rights
- Should reject Genetically Modified Organisms and champion campaigns on promoting and protecting their indigenous varieties of seed, plants and animals
- Champion for women's rights over food and land in a more practical manner.
- Use the community Green radio platform to voice out your concerns

6.0 CONCLUSIONS

- The Research findings show that impacts of oil are grave and can cause irreversible effects on a community. The key players in oil mining have a role to play to minimize the negative impacts of oil on communities and especially on women, children and the youth. Government and the Kingdom have a role to protect its citizens so that all stakeholders can enjoy the oil proceeds.

Appendix 1

The contact details of the Research team in Hoima and Buliisa Districts

<u>Name</u>	<u>Sex</u>	<u>Organization/Village</u>	<u>Contact</u>
1. Beatrice Rukanyanga	(F)	Kwataniza Women Farmer's Group	0783 339 871
2. Sylvia Kemigisha	(F)	Kaiso-Tonya	0777 274 131
3. Innocent Tumwebaze	(M)	Kyapaloni	0780 726 114
4. Alfred Kyamanywa	(F)	Kaiso-Tonya	0783 330 740
5. Alice Kazimura	(F)	Kakindo Orphans Care – Buliisa	0782 306 875
6. Yolamu Nsamba	(M)	Bunyoro Kingdom	0752 580 946
7. Joram Basiima	(M)	Kigaga	0771 643 051
8. Rev. Fred Musimenta	(M)	Butiimba	0772 945 954
9. Juliet Arinda	(F)	Buliisa	0775 644 591
10. Ruth Namara	(F)	Kigyayo	----
11. Janet Asiimwe	(F)	Kigyayo	0774 094 368
12. Ben Nganda	(M)	Sebagoro	0782 761 316
13. Benon Tusingwire	(M)	NAVODA	0775 704 014
14. Jennifer Ninsiima	(F)	Sebagoro Women Drama group	----
15. Alice Musiimenta	(F)	Butiimba	0781 509 326
16. Lucy Mbuubi	(F)	Butiimba	0777 734 400
17. Esther Abigaba	(F)	Kyapaloni	0780 726 114
18. Margaret Kagole	(F)	Buliisa	0782 257 885
19. Jessica Buteraba	(F)	Butiimba	0756 353 996
20. Immaculate Busingye	(F)	Kaiso-Tonya	0782 588 220
21. Harriet Namono	(F)	Sebagoro	0775 028 700



Community Action Research Team -2015 Field Photo.

Location of the oil refinery in Hoima

Refinery to be developed in a public-private partnership.

First phase completion planned for 2018

Government stake is

40%

The construction of the oil refinery will affect these villages on 2,900 hectares; Kyapaloni, Nyamasoga, Bukona A, Bukona B, Kayvera, Nyahaira, Kitegega, Kigaga B, Katoke, Kitemba, Kabale A, Kabale B, Nyakatinini

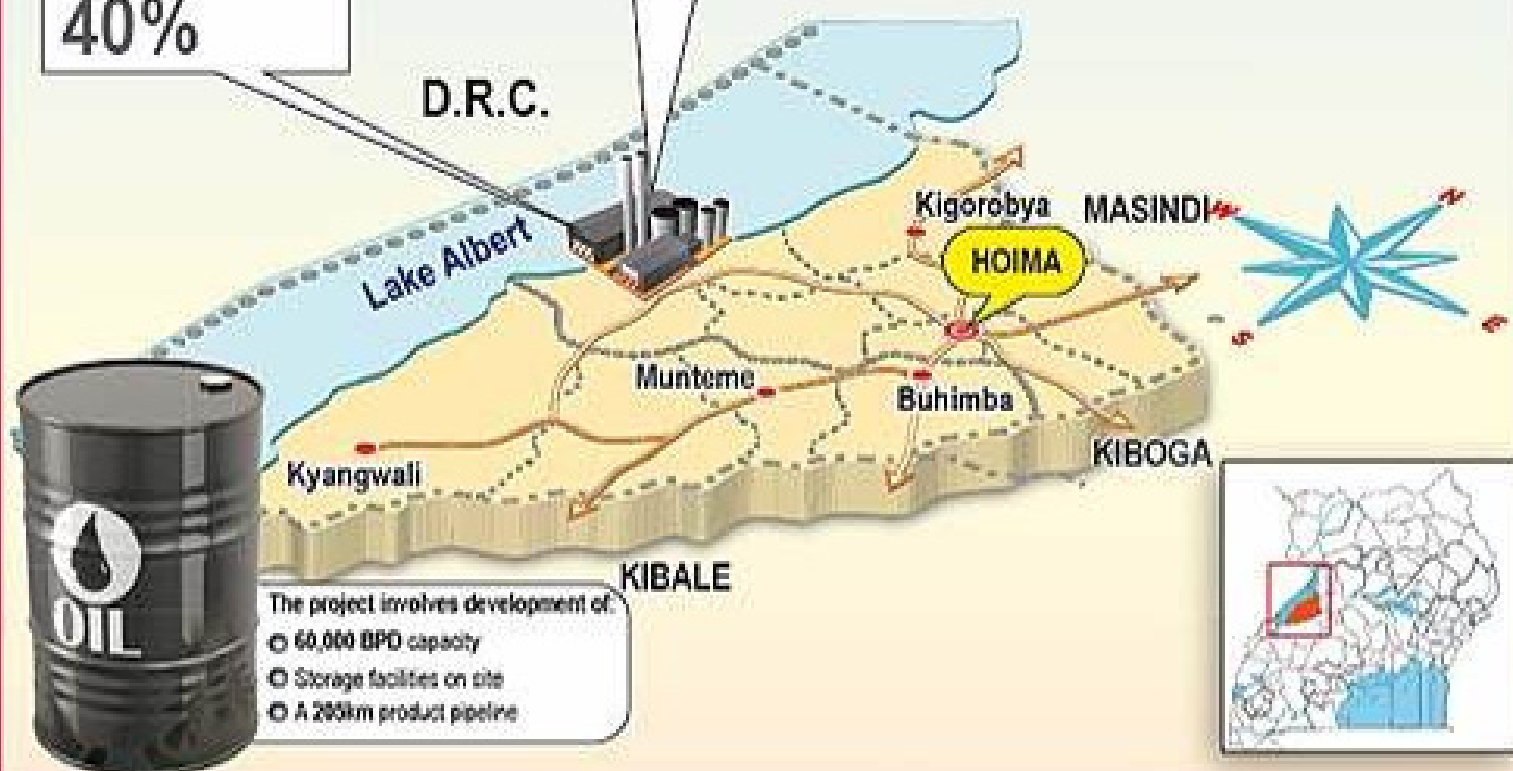
--- International boundary

--- District boundary

--- County boundary

● District headquarters

● Trading centre



A publication of:

National Association of Professional Environmentalists (NAPE) 2016

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