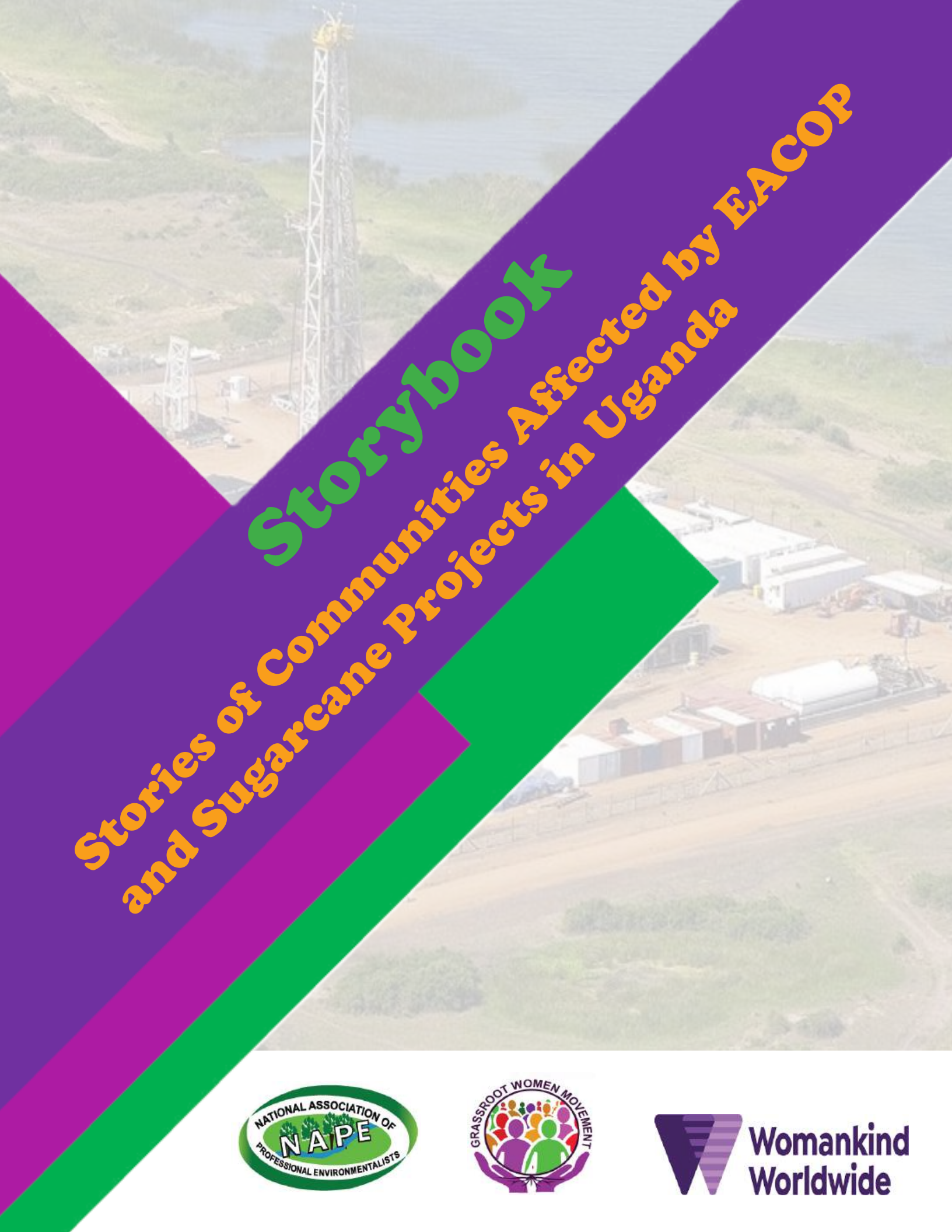


Storybook



Stories of Communities Affected by EACOP and Sugarcane Projects in Uganda



**Womankind
Worldwide**

Table of Contents

Overview of the storybook	3
About NAPE	4
About Womankind Worldwide	4
Abbreviations	5
Introduction	6
EACOP PAPs.....	8
Central Processing Facility PAPs.....	12
Oil roads PAPs.....	14
Feeder Pipeline PAPs.....	16
Youth affected by EACOP.....	18
PWDs PAPs.....	19
Fishing PAPs.....	20
Sugarcane PAPs.....	22



Overview of the Story Book

This storybook was compiled by Betty Ninsiima from the National Association of Professional Environmentalists (NAPE) with support from Womankind Worldwide. It is based on evidence and learning from the feminist oil host community of practice with best practices in feminist building against dirty energy fossils and mining in Hoima, Buliisa, Kikuube, Kiboga and Kyankwanzi districts.

Strengthening the feminist organizing capacity of Grassroots women was delivered through collaboration between Womankind Worldwide and the National Association of Professional Environmentalists (NAPE) in 2024-2025. This storybook is based on interviews with project beneficiaries.



About the National Association of Professional Environmentalists (NAPE)

NAPE is a National lobbying and advocacy non-governmental organization (NGO) which was established in 1997 and whose vision is an inclusive Ugandan society where Women and Youth take center stage in the sustainable management of Natural resources. The organization is committed to sustainable solutions to Uganda's most challenging environmental and economic growth problems. The organization monitors government and private sector actions, conducts research, provides educational materials, mobilizes and builds capacity of Project Affected people/communities (PAPs), connects other civil society organizations (CSOs) and engages government and private sector actors to enforce good natural resources governance.

In order to achieve this, NAPE runs a number of core programs mainly; Good natural resource governance, human rights and democracy, Energy and Climate change, community food sovereignty, Oil and gas governance, Conflict resolution and peace building, Campaigns against destructive extractives and large plantations, Promoting Gender parity, women and youths economic empowerment and fighting Sexual and Gender based violence, Forests and wetlands management, Campaigns against hazardous chemicals, Amplifying grassroots voices through grass root movement building and Community Green radio programming, establishing field based Sustainability schools, Public Interest Litigation, Advocacy Research and documentation.

About Womankind Worldwide

Womankind Worldwide is a UK-based organization that supports women's rights movements in Africa and Asia. Womankind's vision is a world where women's rights are respected and promoted, and where women and girls can live free from violence and discrimination. Womankind has been supporting NAPE's work in Uganda, and this book is a testament to their partnership and commitment to empowering communities. Womankind Worldwide is a global women's rights organization (WRO) working with women's movements (WM) to transform the lives of women. Our vision is a world where the rights of all women are respected, valued and realized. We support WMs to strengthen and grow by carrying out diverse joint activities, including advocacy and communications work, women's rights programming, awareness raising, knowledge sharing, research, capacity development and fundraising. Our Theory of Change purpose fully focuses on the need for an intersectional approach and our partnerships across our focus countries.

Abbreviations

AIDS	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
CBO	Community Based Organization
CSO	Civil Society Organization
EACOP	East African Crude Oil Pipeline
HIV	Human Immune Deficiency Virus
MSF	Movement Strengthening Fund
NAPE	National Association of Professional Environmentalists
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
SGBV	Sexual and Gender Based Violence
UGX	Uganda Shilling
VAWG	Violence Against Women and Girls
WER	Women's Economic Rights
WM	Women's Movement/s
WRO	Women's Rights Organization/s
WWD	Women with Disabilities
PAPS	Project Affected Persons



Introduction

Uganda's extractives sector is rapidly transforming from small-scale and artisanal mining to large-scale industry in rural areas of the country. Extractives include oil, gas, and the accelerated licensing of mining operations as vast deposits of gold, uranium, copper, and rare earth minerals have been discovered.

These operations are accompanied by mega 'infrastructure' investments like roads, pipelines, power lines, and dam projects which serve the industry and displace local communities. Women bear the brunt of this.

Extractivism is defined as the large-scale extraction of raw materials such as oil, minerals, or industrial agricultural and monocultural products intended not for local consumption but for export, which entails many countries' integration into and dependency upon the capitalist world market.

In Uganda, the land rush has displaced communities to make space for intensive monocrops, oil exploration, and infrastructure projects. Government purchases land, often providing landowners with no choice and limited compensation, and then leases it to investors, including foreign companies. The economic ideology espoused by

governments throughout Africa and beyond is that increased foreign direct investment will create a more developed and prosperous economy with jobs, wealth, improved social services for all, and better living conditions. However, the reality for rural women is different. Governments become indebted and social security provision is not realised. State-subsidised investment in infrastructure for the extraction, transportation, and combustion of fossil fuels contributes to significant national debt.

This is transferred to citizens through cuts to already starved public and social services. Much of the work done by women in affected areas, as elsewhere, is unpaid and undervalued by men, the government, and the private sector. This has a negative impact on women's income and wellbeing, creates an increase in unpaid care and domestic work, and contributes to violence against women.

Meanwhile, oil companies, government leadership, and the national and international elite turn a profit. According to women participants in the feminist school held in 2018, the Ugandan government has promised "middle income country status," but poverty is actually on the rise. The widening of the class-gap is largely shouldered by women.

Affected communities have limited access to information and knowledge about laws and regulations on the extractives industry. Even when they do, their ability to access justice is limited.

This is compounded by their exclusion from decision-making about activities that detrimentally affect their lives, but which enrich the local and ruling elite, corporate actors, and distant foreign investors. Land grabbing, insufficient regulations or implementation of the law, lack of compensation, and disputes between communities and companies cause grievances, loss of homes and livelihoods, and displacement—often with dire consequences.

Ugandan society is patriarchal. Women have positions in local governance structures, but they are generally seen to be mere figureheads with little voice or power. Many women's knowledge

of their rights as embedded in the Constitution is limited and those with access to such knowledge face multiple barriers to accessing and realising them. Policies are not made democratically or driven by local development concerns.

For years, women impacted by extractives have participated in Movements under MSF project which aims to strengthen the Ecofeminist movement to promote and protect the economic rights of marginalised women affected by compulsory land acquisition in different districts in Uganda ie Hoima, Kikuube, Buliisa, Kiboga and Kyankwanzi.

The project was designed in response to the fact that 300,000 women have been displaced and an additional one million women are at risk of displacement. MSF project was funded by Womankind Worldwide.



*Tumuhairwe
Fausta and Nshabaohurira Fabisi
narrating their story*



In 2012 government earmarked our land on 29 square km and 7118 people were affected. The affected people were given 2 options for cash compensation and inkind relocation. For those who asked for relocation 73, it was only 46 people whom government constructed houses in kyakaboga resettlement village in Baseruka subcounty, Hoima District. 27 people who expected relocation did not receive houses Government had promised to construct houses for each persons in his or her land but later government decided to construct all houses in one place that looks like a camp.

We had too high expectation because government was telling us we were going to be rich but what we can see we are instead becoming poorer. For example, one cannot keep livestock due to the bad neighbours.

“When we were told to leave our land in kabaale we came to kyakaboga and our children lacked school to go to. There was delayed compensation for those who asked for cash compensation for 4 years and those who requested for relocation resettlement we took 6 years before government handing over the constructed houses at kyakaboga. Our children were given skills training though the training was not very complete. There

was witch craft due to mixed cultures and behaviour in the camp, Children delayed to catchup in the school education after taking to long to get to school, mixed cultures and behaviours from different tribes which killed the future of the young generation in our community, Climate change effects, limited source of energy of household use and theft of family property” narrated Tumuhairwe Fausta

Through NAPE movement trainings, we have formed Tuyendembele worriers group that is helping us to save and do income generating activities. NAPE has given us projects like bee keeping and honey processing, we also started small locally and now we have improved and increased production. NAPE and other organizations like KWG, ORRA have continuously sensitized us on land rights and environmental conservation. The NAPE women-led movement has empowered us as women to be able to stand and fight for our rights and be confident in public and now some of us own land tittles.

Though we would like our local children should be given jobs both casual and skilled jobs for better future rather than seeing people from other districts benefiting more than us who were affected by the refinery and we should be treated equally

We would love with support from NAPE to be given an exchange learning visit to other oil affected areas like Tanzania to share experience and learn from them ways of resisting from the oppressions. NAPE and Government should consider bringing skills centers especially at Kyakaboga for those children who have dropped out of school.



Sarah Natukunda and Lucy Mbuubi, project-affected persons (PAPs) under the East African Crude Oil Pipeline Project (EACOP), had high hopes for economic benefits and improved livelihoods. However, their experiences have been marred by inadequate compensation, environmental degradation and human rights violations.

Sarah Natukunda criticized the compensation process, stating that payments are insufficient and fail to account for long-term environmental and social costs. Lucy Mbuubi echoed similar sentiments, highlighting the challenges faced by PAPs, including delayed compensation and poverty.

The construction of the pipeline has led to the destruction of wetlands, water sources and indigenous trees, causing adverse climate changes plus other severe environmental risks, including oil spills that threaten wildlife and communities

that dependent on natural resources.

The National Association of Professional Environmentalists (NAPE) has played a crucial role in empowering PAPs like Sarah and Lucy through movement building and sustainability education. This initiative has enabled them to understand their rights. Lucy Mbuubi credits NAPE with empowering communities to identify issues and work together to find solutions while holding leaders accountable but also to resist unfair compensation practices and demand fair treatment.

Sarah and Lucy wish to participate in an international exchange visit with other affected countries like Tanzania to exchange knowledge and share experiences with communities facing similar challenges but also strengthen their movement and advocate for their rights more effectively, gain insights into effective strategies for resisting environmental degradation and human rights abuses



Judith
Beroirwoth and Gladys Birungi
from Ngwedo narrating their
stories

SSROOT WOMEN MOVEMENT
THOUGHT IT WAS OIL AND PROSPERITY
as Land Grabbing, forced evictions, accelerated hunger
Based Violence, ecosystem depletion and climate disasters
**WE DEMAND AN END TO OIL DRILLING
AND OIL PIPELINES**



Judith Beroirwoth and Gladys Birungi are among the many women who were affected by the Central Processing Facility and they were appreciating oil as women since they were expecting much but it turned into a night mare as their land was taken away and their properties were destroyed and compensation was given to men leaving women behind and yet women are the daily bread winners.

Oil company had to elect some representatives and those that were elected could not stand and speak on behalf of others since they were told only good things about oil and sometimes were given money in order not to oppose their plans.

"We tried to ask for environmental impact assessment report but we could not get it and the oil companies had lawyers which was not the case on our side which affected us most. Women who were single were forced to get husbands which was not their choice just for compensation to be given to the husbands" narrated Gladys Birungi.

They added that the houses that they constructed for them denied them their conjugal rights since they did not have the privacy and the facilities that were used were expensive to repair. Many indigenous trees were cut which are not easy to replace. They had a borehole which was serving the

community and it was blocked in paving away to oil road though they promised to put it back but up to now are still promising. Women who were selling teas near the company were being chased as the Chinese wants to buy eats from their own people.

Floods from the CPF are also contaminating the L. Albert waters and their animals and what hurts them is that they requested to visit the company to see where the floods were coming from but they were denied access.

Some of them who were taken to camps lack enough land for agriculture and the little they produce has no market and their road to the market was also blocked. These companies determined the buffer zone without considering the land owners and they were forced to sign in darkness.

Their fear now is staying near the factory and their houses being near the pipeline that in case of an accident from the pipeline, these companies will not consider compensating them.

"Through the NAPE Eco feminist movement, we are now recovering some of our lost properties, we know our rights and we can stand and speak out with one voice. We now own land and we have land titles" narrates Judith Beroirwoth

*Nankya
Margaret and Nyandera Joyce
narrating their stories to the NAPE
Gender Officer*



Nankya Margaret, Nyandera Joyce and Nyamayunge Milius, residents of the oil-rich Albertine region in Uganda, were among the many individuals affected by the construction of oil roads in their area. Their land, once a source of livelihood and sustenance, was taken over for the project, leaving them with limited

compensation and uncertain futures. Nankya Margaret and Nyamayunge Milius were shocked when they received compensation amounts that they felt did not reflect the true value of their land. The compensation process was opaque, and they were not given a clear understanding of how the amounts were calculated.

The limited compensation they received was insufficient to sustain their livelihoods, leaving them feeling dispossessed and marginalized.

The National Association of Professional Environmentalists (NAPE) stepped in to support Nankya Margaret, Nyamayunge Milius, and other affected community members.

Through NAPE's movement building efforts, they were empowered to understand their rights and advocate for fair compensation.

With NAPE's guidance, Nankya Margaret and Nyamayunge Milius learned about their rights as project-affected persons (PAPs). They discovered that they

were entitled to fair and adequate compensation, as well as participation in the decision-making process regarding the project. Armed with this knowledge, they became more confident in asserting their rights and demanding justice.

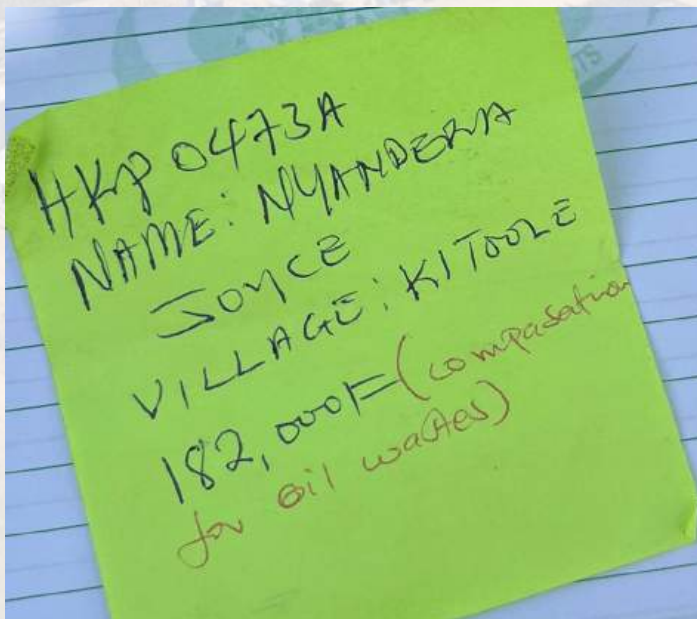
NAPE through her community meetings and training sessions, enabled Nankya Margaret, Nyamayunge Milius and others to organize and mobilize.

They formed a collective voice, advocating for their rights and interests in the face of the oil project. Through NAPE's support, they gained the skills and knowledge necessary to engage with project implementers and government authorities.

Thanks to NAPE's movement building efforts and Womankind team for the support, Nankya Margaret and Nyamayunge Milius felt empowered to stand up for their rights.

They no longer feel helpless and marginalized but rather became active participants in shaping their own futures.

With NAPE's support, they continue to advocate for fair compensation and sustainable development that prioritizes the needs and well-being of their community.



Amount of money paid to Nyandera Joyce as compensation

Feeder Pipeline PAPs

Stories from Kasolo Winnie and Barondemu Spetuma



Kasolo Winnie and Barondemu Spetuma's lives were forever changed when their land was taken over for the feeder pipeline project. They were among the many project-affected persons (PAPs) who received limited compensation, sparking widespread discontent. The situation worsened when Sexual Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) by Chinese workers surfaced, further traumatizing the community. Like many others, Kasolo Winnie and Barondemu Spetuma were asked to sign

documents without being given adequate time to understand or interpret them.

Many signed ignorantly, agreeing to give up their land without fair compensation. Beatrice Nyamahunge, another affected person, shared her experience, *"When oil officials came to my village, they told me to sign on the forms as a resident adjacent to the feeder oil pipeline route. Later, I realized that I had signed not to be compensated for my land acquired*

for the 200-meter buffer zone from the feeder pipeline.”



Beatrice Nyamahunge holding a document she signed in darkness.

“I ignorantly signed the documents consenting to free takeover of my land,” narrates a 50 year old Beatrice Nyamahunge from Buliisa district.

“When oil officials came in 2021, they told me to sign on the forms as a resident adjacent to the feeder oil pipeline route. Later, I realized that I had signed not to be compensated for my land acquired for 200-meter buffer zone from the feeder pipeline,” regrettably recalls Nyamahunge, a resident of Kigoya parish in Buliisa Sub County.

The National Association of Professional

Environmentalists (NAPE) stepped in to support Kasolo Winnie, Barondemu Spetuma, and other affected community members. Through NAPE’s movement building efforts, they learnt about their rights and the importance of free, prior and informed consent before land acquisition. NAPE’s grassroots movement building approach empowered them to stand firm and fight for their rights.

With NAPE’s guidance, Kasolo Winnie and Barondemu Spetuma discovered they were entitled to fair compensation and participation in decision-making processes regarding the project. Armed with this knowledge, they became more confident in asserting their rights and demanding justice.

The issues of SGBV by Chinese workers are a serious concern that requires immediate attention and action. NAPE’s efforts to address these issues and ensure that the rights of affected communities are protected are crucial in this context.

Through NAPE’s support, Kasolo Winnie and Barondemu Spetuma found their voices and are now actively advocating for their rights and the rights of their community. Their story is a powerful example of the impact of community empowerment and the importance of standing up against injustice.

Youth affected by EACOP

Stories from Kiiza Gorret and Kobusingye Bridget

Kiiza Gorret and Kobusingye Bridget were once bright and ambitious young women with dreams for their future. However, their lives took a drastic turn when their families' land was taken over for the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) project.

With limited compensation and no alternative livelihoods, they were forced to drop out of school and move to internally displaced persons (IDP) camps. In the camps, Kiiza Gorret and Kobusingye Bridget faced immense challenges. Without access to education or economic opportunities, they struggled to make ends meet. The risk of exploitation, including sexual gender-based violence (SGBV) by Chinese workers, loomed large. The girls' futures seemed bleak, with some even fearing they might be forced into prostitution to survive.

The National Association of Professional Environmentalists (NAPE) stepped in to support Kiiza Gorret, Kobusingye Bridget and other affected youth. Through NAPE's movement building efforts, they learned about their rights and the importance of advocating for themselves. NAPE's programs focused on empowering youth with skills and knowledge to resist exploitation and demand justice.

With NAPE's guidance, Kiiza Gorret and Kobusingye Bridget discovered they had the right to fair compensation, education and protection from exploitation. They learned to assert their rights and demand accountability from project implementers. Armed with this knowledge, they became more confident in speaking out against injustice and advocating for their futures.



Kiiza Gorret



Kobusingye Bridget

Stories from Moreen Aure and Kwikyiriza Daizy



Moreen Aure



Kwikyiriza Daizy

Moreen and Kwikyiriza's experiences were marked by inadequate compensation and a lack of support. They were not alone as many project-affected persons (PAPs) felt that the compensation process was unfair and failed to account for the long-term impacts of the project on their livelihoods. The limited compensation they received was insufficient to sustain their lives, leaving them feeling dispossessed and vulnerable.

The National Association of Professional Environmentalists (NAPE) stepped in to support Moreen, Kwikyiriza and other affected community members. Through NAPE's movement building efforts, they learnt about their rights and the importance of advocating for fair compensation. NAPE's programs focused on empowering PWDs and other vulnerable groups with skills and knowledge to resist exploitation and demand justice.

Through NAPE's support, Moreen and Kwikyiriza found a new sense of purpose. They began to envision a future where they could live with dignity and respect, despite the challenges posed by the EACOP project. With NAPE's help, they are now working towards creating a better life for themselves and their communities, determined to resist the negative impacts of the project through alternative livelihoods.

NAPE's movement has given Moreen and Kwikyiriza a voice, empowering them to stand up for their rights and fight for a brighter future. Their story is a testament to the power of community empowerment and the importance of protecting the rights of vulnerable populations

*Rachael
Mugisa Wandigali and Moreen Bingi
narrating their story*



Rachael Mugisa Wandigali and Moreen Bingi, residents of Kaiso fishing village, were struggling to make a living due to the harsh enforcement practices by government officers. Despite receiving fishing nets from the government, they were being taken away by the same authorities, citing that the nets were not modern.

The situation was further complicated by the fact that the enforcement officers would sell the confiscated nets at a high price to other fishermen, often to their own colleagues. This created a cycle of exploitation, where the very people tasked with enforcing the rules were profiting from the confiscation of government-supplied nets.

The Kaiso fishing village was also plagued by prostitution and the risk of HIV transmission. Many women, including some of the fishermen's wives, were forced into prostitution to make ends meet,

putting them at risk of contracting HIV. The lack of economic opportunities and the exploitative practices of the enforcement officers had created a desperate situation. The National Association of Professional Environmentalists (NAPE) stepped in to support Rachael, Moreen, and other affected community members.

Through NAPE's movement building efforts, they learnt about their rights and the importance of advocating for themselves. Knowing Their Rights With NAPE's guidance, Rachael and Moreen discovered they had the right to fair treatment, economic opportunities and protection from exploitation.

They learned to assert their rights and demand accountability from government officers. Armed with this knowledge, they became more confident in speaking out against injustice and advocating for their futures.



*Story
from Amiina, Turyahebwa Esther
and her husband*



Turyahebwa Esther who had come a long with her husband to avoid GBV at home and Kyarisiima Amiina, residents of a community affected by a sugarcane plantation, were facing immense challenges. The sugarcane plantation had taken over their land and almost half part of Bugoma forest leaving them with limited access to food and firewood.

The community was forced to grow sugarcane on their land to supply the factory, leaving them with little room for food crops. Those living in

internally displaced persons (IDP) camps struggled to access basic necessities. The situation was further complicated by the fact that young schoolgirls were being impregnated by company workers, adding to the community's trauma.

The National Association of Professional Environmentalists (NAPE) supported Turyahebwa, Kyarisiima, and other affected community members. Through NAPE's movement building efforts, they learnt about alternatives to livelihoods like practicing kitchen gardens

Two young school girls who were impregnated by the Sugarcane company workers



Stories of Communities Affected by EACOP and Sugarcane Projects in Uganda

