**August 12, 2026**

**UGANDAN AND TANZANIAN CSOS' COMMUNIQUÉ ON THE PROPOSED TANGA REGIONAL ENERGY HUB**

1. We, the undersigned civil society organisations (CSOs) working on energy governance, environmental justice, climate action, community rights and accountable natural resource management in Uganda and Tanzania, have reviewed public information indicating that a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed by the Uganda National Oil Company (UNOC), Tanzania Petroleum Development Corporation (TPDC) and Vitol Bahrain E.C.

2. The MoU was signed on August 6, 2026 and the signing ceremony was witnessed by President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni of Uganda and President Samia Suluhu Hassan of Tanzania. The signing ceremony took place at the State House in Dar es Salaam, and marked the launch of the proposed Tanga Regional Energy Hub[1].

3. According to publicly available information, the hub, which requires USD 20 billion in investment, will comprise of petroleum storage, refining, trading, logistics and regional distribution at Tanga.

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[1] https://www.newvision.co.ug/category/news/presidents-museveni-suluhu-launch-new-phase-o-NV_238347_082026

4. Specifically, the infrastructure that is proposed to be developed at the hub includes, a crude oil refinery intended to complement Uganda's planned 60,000-barrels-per-day Hoima refinery, a bidirectional refined petroleum products pipeline, a terminal tank farm and jetty, and a natural gas pipeline linking the two countries, with feasibility studies expected to conclude by October 2026[2][3].

5. A 400-kilovolt electricity interconnector between Uganda and Tanzania, backed by USD 250 million in World Bank financing for Uganda's section, was announced alongside the hub.

6. The hub builds on the 1,443-kilometre East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP), which is expected to carry crude oil from western Uganda to Chongoleani in Tanga, Tanzania.

7. The magnitude of investment required for the development of oil and gas infrastructure is significant enough to make one question the kind of energy future the East African region will have. Investing around $20 billion in petroleum infrastructure, but making no equally large investments in alternative sources such as solar, wind, battery storage and other sources of renewable energy, means that Uganda and Tanzania are set to be dependent on fossil fuels for years to come while countries elsewhere are transitioning to clean energy.

8. Considering that the communities in East Africa are already feeling the effects of climate change through floods and droughts, it would be wise for the region to invest in its resilience and accessibility to affordable and reliable clean, renewable energy.

9. Indeed, the planned development of the Tanga hub is taking place amid a period where communities that have been negatively affected by existing oil and gas projects have numerous complaints regarding compensation and justice. In July 2023, Human Rights Watch (HRW) documented delayed payments, poor communication, inadequate compensation and serious losses of land and livelihoods among households affected by EACOP[4].

10. In addition, independent research published by Ugandan organisations also found alarming gaps in the implementation of livelihood restoration commitments for EACOP-affected people in Uganda. The livelihood restoration programme was marked by late or poor quality agricultural support and inadequate vocational skilling among others. This raises questions around whether the livelihoods of communities that were affected by the EACOP project will be restored[5].

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[2] https://www.theeastafrican.co.ke/tea/business-tech/uganda-tanzania-refinery-at-tanga-5550564
[3] https://www.tanzaniainvest.com/energy/uganda-mou-tanga-regional-energy-hub
[4] https://www.hrw.org/report/2023/07/10/our-trust-broken/loss-land-and-livelihoods-oil-development-uganda
[5] https://www.afiego.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/Research-report-Assessing-compliance-to-EACOP-Livelihood-Restoration-Plan-February-2026.pdf

11. Moreover, the EACOP and its associated developments intersect with an exceptionally sensitive ecological system connecting Lake Albert, the Victoria Nile, the Lake Victoria basin and Tanzania's coastal ecosystems. Spatial analysis published by Earth Insight in May 2026 found that the EACOP and its feeder pipelines intersect with wetlands in Uganda, 11 rivers, 44 protected areas and seven key biodiversity areas, including Murchison Falls National Park (MFNP) in Uganda and mangrove ecosystems on Tanzania's coast[6].

12. On the Tanzanian coast of Tanga, the ecological risks of EACOP are significant. Along the coast, two Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas (EBSAs) including the Pemba-Shimoni-Kisite site and the Tanga Coelacanth site sit at high risk from the oil traffic planned for the Tanga terminal. These EBSAs host several Marine Protected Areas and legally protected Mangrove Forest Reserves, together with coral reefs and species such as the coelacanth, dugong and sea turtle[7]. Tanzania's mangroves along this coastline have been valued at approximately USD 2.1 billion[8] and sequester carbon at roughly ten times the rate of tropical forest trees, meaning their loss carries both an economic and a climate cost[9];

13. These are not abstract risks. Community members and civil society monitors at Chongoleani, Tanga, report that mangroves and other trees have already been cleared to make way for EACOP's oil storage reservoirs and marine jetty, with plans reported for the clearance of up to 40 hectares of mangroves in total. Further, fishing communities have reported reduced catches linked to noise pollution from drilling, alongside unmet food support and compensation commitments[10].

14. While EACOP's developers committed to a Tanga Coastal and Marine Biodiversity and Livelihoods Restoration Programme, the project's own scientific advisers acknowledge that restoring the affected mangrove, seagrass and coral habitats could take 20 to 30 years or more[11].

15. It is against the above background that a refinery, gas and petroleum products pipelines, a terminal tank farm, a jetty and expanded marine logistics are planned under the Tanga hub project.

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[6] https://www.earth-insight.org/report/eacop-2026/

[7] https://earth-insight.org/insight/eacop-ripple-effect/

[8] https://www.nemc.or.tz/uploads/publications/sw-1725884790-State-of-the-Coast-for-mainland-Tanzania%202024%20(Compressed).pdf

[9] https://drilled.media/news/Total-Tanzania

[10] https://stopeacop.net/our-news/communities-unite-in-tanga-to-speak-out-against-eacop/

[11] https://dailynews.co.tz/eacop-restores-interrupted-biodiversity-environment-at-chongoleani/

16. The undersigned CSOs are concerned that the Tanga hub project could compound existing human rights harms and environmental risks in Uganda and Tanzania. These include pollution, threats to water security and biodiversity as well as disaster-response impacts across both countries.

17. They are also concerned that the Ugandan and Tanzanian governments are seeking to proceed with another mega fossil fuel project amidst unresolved social impacts and huge human rights failures related to the EACOP. These failures go against the spirit and objectives of the East African Community (EAC) Treaty.

18. Worth noting is that as at the date of this communique, the full text of the MoU, its annexes and the underlying feasibility studies had not been made public. East African citizens, civil society and independent experts cannot assess a project of this scale, cost and risk without access to the underlying documents.

19. The proposed investment also raises concerns about fiscal sustainability and the potential exposure of Uganda and Tanzania to financial risks associated with large fossil fuel projects. Uganda's public debt reached 52.4% of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in FY2024/25 and is projected by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to rise to about 60% of GDP by FY2030/31.

20. Moreover, interest payments consumed more than 26% of domestic revenue in FY2024/25[12] and Uganda is rated at moderate risk of debt distress with little room to absorb a shock[13].

21. The IMF has warned that anticipated oil revenues in Uganda will not be sufficient to close Uganda's budget deficit, projected to remain above 6% of GDP through FY2030/31.

22. Committing public institutions, guarantees or borrowing to invest in the Tanga fossil fuel project, on top of EACOP and the Hoima refinery, stands to deepen Uganda and Tanzania's debt.

23. Moreover, the climate change concerns of the Tanga hub project as well as the EACOP are immense.

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[12] https://www.monitor.co.ug/uganda/business/finance/ratio-of-uganda-s-public-debt-has-surged-to-52-says-imf--5356562

[13] https://www.imf.org/en/publications/cr/issues/2026/08/06/uganda-2026-article-iv-consultation-press-release-staff-report-and-statement-by-the-578554

24. In light of the above, the undersigned affirm that regional cooperation between Uganda and Tanzania should improve people's lives, protect shared ecosystems and strengthen resilience to climate change. We call for the proposed Tanga Regional Energy Hub to be reconsidered and redirected towards a transparent, rights-based and renewable-energy future for East Africa.

25. We call upon the governments of Uganda and Tanzania, UNOC, TPDC, Vitol Bahrain E.C. and all prospective financiers to develop and publish a costed renewable energy alternative for the Tanga hub, prioritising solar, wind, battery storage, clean cooking and decentralised rural energy. The Tanga hub project should be a renewable energy one, and not a fossil fuel project.

26. We also call for a transparent, published comparison of the climate impact, economic, employment and energy security benefits of the petroleum package against equivalent investment in renewable energy and energy efficiency, including full lifecycle emissions, climate damages and decommissioning costs.

27. Finally, we urge the commissioning of an independent audit of all EACOP compensation and livelihood restoration projects in Uganda and Tanzania with a view of addressing gaps in the compensation and livelihood restoration programmes.

**SIGNATORIES**

- Action for Climate and Environmental justice (ACEJ)
- Activists for Climate Justice Initiative (A4C)
- Africa Institute for Energy Governance (AFIEGO)
- African Initiative on Food Security and Environment (AIFE)
- Centre for Citizens Conserving Environment management (CECIC)
- East African Crude Oil Pipeline Host Communities (EACOPHC)
- Environment Governance Institute (EGI)
- Initiative for Green Planet Uganda (IGPU)
- Liberty Probono Initiative (LPI)
- Nature Talk Africa
- Oil and Gas Residents' Association (ORGHA)
- Organization for Community Engagement (OCE)
- Tasha Research Institute Africa
- Women on Environmental Mission (WEMU)
- Youth Concern on Environment and Development (YCED)

- Youth for Environmental Justice and Climate Action (YECA)
- Youth for Green Communities (YGC)
- GreenFaith Tanzania
- Green Conservers
- Foundation for Environmental Management and Campaign Against Poverty (FEMAPO)
- Kigoma Development Organization (KDO)