



The Hidden Price of Oil: *When land was taken, women lost everything*

01

In Uganda's oil-affected communities, women received less compensation, waited longer, and had to fight harder than men during oil-related land deals. Many were ignored or treated unfairly.

02

When men received the cash payments, families fell apart. Husbands abandoned their wives, leaving women to survive on their own.

03

Women were not told how much compensation was paid. Without control over money at home, many faced anger and violence from their partners.

04

Kept in the dark about compensation amounts, women had no financial power and in too many homes, that powerlessness turned violent.

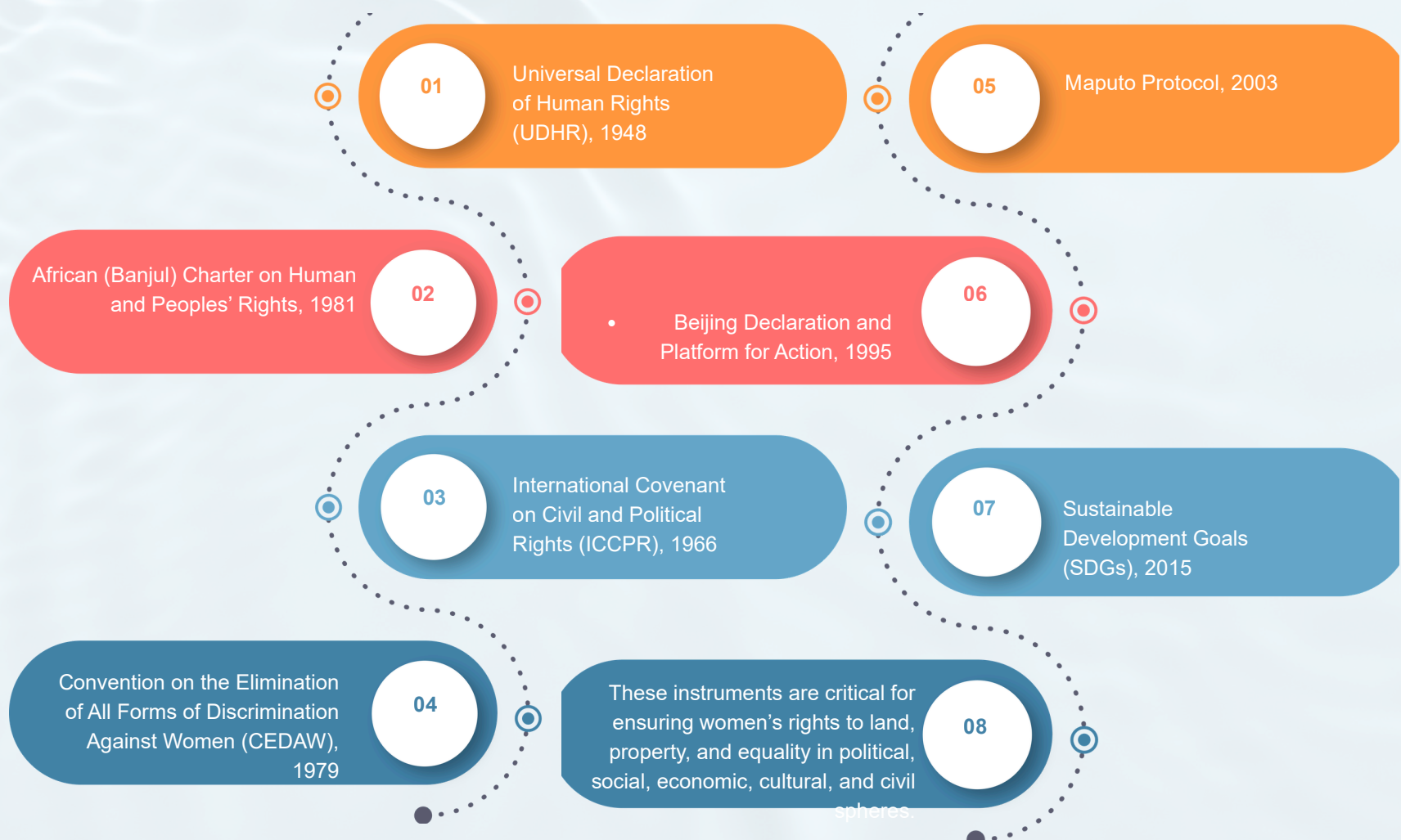


Did You Know?



There are many international and regional frameworks that protect women's land and property rights, based on the principles of non-discrimination and equality in all areas of life.

Key frameworks include:





WOMEN, LAND, AND OIL DEVELOPMENT

- **Women in Uganda face serious challenges in accessing land and property, despite their critical role in households.**
- **They often have less education, work in the informal sector, and carry responsibilities like collecting water, firewood, cooking, and paying school fees.**
- **Oil developments like EACOP have undermined women's livelihoods, forcing them to walk longer distances to farms and reducing their ability to grow food**
- **Displaced women faced unsuitable relocation areas and restricted or polluted access to essential resources.**





Oil Arrived. Protection Never Did. **Environmental harm, climate shocks, and bodily danger all left unaddressed in Uganda's oil regions**

- Climate change has battered women farmers already weakened by oil disruption threatening their crops, their income, and their families' meals.
- Tilenga drilling inside Murchison Falls unleashed a wave of human-wildlife conflict. Elephants destroying crops. Women injured. Lives lost.
- EACOP construction trucks have choked communities in suffocating dust a relentless health hazard that women and children have had to breathe every day.
- Runoff from pipeline construction has flooded and destroyed farmland, pushing families deeper into hunger and desperation.



CONSTITUTION OF UGANDA AND WOMEN'S LAND RIGHTS.

The 1995 Constitution of Uganda strengthened women's land and property rights and promotes gender equality, in line with CEDAW (1979) and the Maputo Protocol (2003). It provides the legal framework to ensure women's rights are treated as human rights.

Key Constitutional Protections for Women:

1. Equality before the law: No discrimination based on sex, race, tribe, social or economic status, religion, or disability (Article 21).
2. Right to property: Every person can own property individually or collectively, and cannot be compulsorily deprived of it (Article 26).
3. Equal rights in marriage: Men and women have equal rights during marriage, at dissolution, and in inheritance matters (Article 31).
4. Protection of widows/widowers: Laws ensure inheritance rights and parental rights over children (Article 31).
5. Affirmative action: The State must take action to address historical and cultural gender imbalances (Article 32 & 33).
6. Full dignity and protection: Women have the right to equal treatment, opportunities in social, political, and economic life, and protection against laws, customs, or practices that undermine their status (Articles 33(1-6)).

Conclusion:

The Constitution establishes a strong foundation for women's land and property rights, but gaps in implementation and social practices still challenge women's access to these rights.



RECOMMENDATIONS TO STRENGTHEN WOMEN'S LAND RIGHTS

1. Reform Land and Property Laws
2. Ensure equality and equity in land access and ownership.
3. Review customary rules to align with women's land rights.
4. Integrate women into all decision-making structures, targeting at least 50% membership in land management bodies.
5. Strengthen Local Land Institutions



Oil Came. Families Broke. Girls Paid the Price.

The human cost behind Uganda's oil boom

