



**EAST AFRICAN
CRUDE OIL
PIPELINE**

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 8 | JUNE 2024



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STATEMENT FROM THE NEMA ED



Dr. Barirega Akankwasah, PhD

Dear stakeholders,

The National Environment Management Authority (NEMA) welcomes this community newsletter which focuses on the environment in commemoration of the World Environment Day slated on 5th June 2024.

As we all know, EACOP is a project of national importance and NEMA has a duty to uphold the principles of sustainability, preserving biodiversity and ecosystem integrity along the pipeline route. The goal of NEMA is to “To promote sound environment management and prudent use of environment and natural resources in Uganda”. This means working with different key players to ensure the development of Uganda’s resources is done in a sustainable manner. NEMA continues to work diligently with the oil and gas industry to ensure the exploration and utilization of the petroleum resource in a sustainable way that will safe guard the environment and social values.

NEMA continues to keenly inspect and monitor the EACOP project to ensure environment and social safeguards for the project are effectively implemented.

From our routine inspections, EACOP has put in place mechanisms to mitigate potential risks, minimize the ecological footprint and the applicability of environmental and social standards in their operations.

NEMA has inspected key sites along the EACOP route in Uganda including the main camp and pipe yards, where initial civil works were in progress. We have also recently inspected the Kabajjo Memorial Primary School, which was reconstructed as in-kind compensation for a project affected school along the EACOP route. Our findings confirm commitment by the EACOP project to ensure full and timely compensation of all project affected persons, going over and above what loss the Project has occasioned.

Our inspections confirm that trees of ecological importance have been preserved on EACOP Main Camps and Pipe Yards, and there was minimized use and proper management of plastics. Additionally, it was noticed that EACOP applies strict safety standards for its workers. I therefore, encourage other projects to benchmark on EACOP and replicate these good practices.

This year, as we celebrate the International World Environment Day on the 5th June 2024, under the theme: “Land restoration, desertification and drought resilience;” NEMA is aware of the effects of climate change especially as it pertains to land degradation and habitat destruction, which are some of the key causes of desertification. NEMA recognizes that, EACOP has committed to a reduction of their project footprint through avoidance of critical and natural habitat and where this is not possible undertaking offset activities. Also, upon completion of construction activities, habitat restoration within the project footprint is expected to be done.

I want to encourage EACOP and communities adjacent to the project line to strive hard to preserve fragile habitats like wetlands and protected areas.

NEMA’s environment regulatory role remains critical in continued safeguarding against environmental degradation and resource depletion. We will therefore continue to work hand in hand with EACOP to ensure that Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) obligations are met.

NEMA wishes the communities and all Ugandans, a pleasant World Environment Day celebration and encourages a continued dialogue between EACOP and all stakeholders.

Ensuring Sustainable Development

Dr. Barirega Akankwasah
Executive Director (NEMA)

NEMA BOARD VISIT



Accompanied by board members and executive director Dr. Barirega Akankwasah, the NEMA delegation explored various critical sites along the EACOP route in Uganda. The itinerary included visits to the Main Camp and pipe yards, where early civil works were underway.

The primary purpose of the visit was to evaluate the implementation of Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) commitments made by EACOP. The delegation observed replacement houses and witnessed the Livelihood Restoration Program in action, which included demonstration gardens and support for Project Affected Persons (PAPs). These initiatives underscored EACOP's proactive approach to mitigating the project's impact on local communities.

A significant highlight of the visit was the Kabajjo Memorial School, a testament to EACOP's commitment to corporate social responsibility.

Prof. James Okot-Okumu, chairperson of the NEMA board, commended EACOP for organizing the visit and emphasized its importance in fostering transparency and accountability in project execution. The collaboration between EACOP and NEMA reflects a shared commitment to upholding environmental and social standards. Overall, the field visit served as a platform to showcase the progress made in fulfilling EACOP's ESIA commitments and demonstrated tangible efforts to uphold environmental and social responsibilities. By fostering collaboration between regulatory bodies and project operators, such initiatives contribute to the sustainable development of energy infrastructure while prioritizing the well-being of communities and ecosystems.



NEMA - NEMC JOINT VISIT FOR ENVIRONMENTAL OVERSIGHT OF EACOP



In a collaborative effort to ensure environmental protection, National Environment Management Authority (NEMA) and its equivalent in Tanzania, National Environment Management Council (NEMC) conducted a joint visit to oversee the environmental aspects of the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) project. This significant undertaking, occurring from September 4th to 8th, 2023, was facilitated by EACOP with the goal of harmonizing environmental sustainability with regard to infrastructural development projects.

The NEMC delegation, led by the former Director General of NEMC Dr. Samuel Gwamaka, comprised a distinguished team of four members. The visiting teams included a three member delegation from NEMA, along with representation from the Petroleum Authority of Uganda (PAU) (two-member team).

EACOP was represented by Ms. Wendy Brown, the H3SE Director and GM for Tanzania, and JB Habumugisha, EACOP Uganda Deputy MD.

The teams visited several key sites during the visit, including:

- Pumping Station (PS1)
- Kingfisher oil field site
- Kafu River crossing
- Replacement houses near Kafu
- EACOP office in Masaka
- Kibale River crossing
- Mutukula border crossing

At each site, EACOP and PAU presented the environmental management measures being implemented, allowing the teams to witness these practices firsthand.





EACOP ENGAGE WITH THE NATIONAL FORESTRY AUTHORITY AND SIGN A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

In line with EACOP's environmental mitigation and conservation requirements, EACOP has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Ugandan National Forestry Authority (NFA) to facilitate the continued partnership between the two entities for biodiversity conservation and natural resource management where their areas of interest coincide.

The EACOP route traverses a section of Taala Central Forest Reserve used mainly for eucalyptus forestry, and this MoU provides a mechanism for collaboration between EACOP and NFA for improvement of biodiversity conservation in the area as well as other forestry conservation initiatives as agreed upon.

EACOP is committed to meeting the International Finance Corporation (IFC) Performance Standards including the International Best Practice methodology of 'avoid, minimize, restore, offset' concerning the environment in areas where direct and indirect impacts may occur during the pipeline development and operations. The company has put in place measures that will be implemented during and after construction of the pipeline to restore and enhance the environment. Among the planned interventions are biodiversity offsets which the Company will work with mandated government institutions like the NFA to support successful implementation.



EACOP JOINS ROOTS CAMPAIGN AND SIGNS A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH MINISTRY OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENT



On Thursday 11th May 2024, East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) Ltd. signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Ministry of Water and Environment (MWE) to cooperate on various conservation initiatives.

The first and major partnership between MWE and EACOP is the Running out of Trees (ROOTS) campaign to which EACOP has committed UGX 1.2 billion for planting trees in the 10 Districts traversed by the Pipeline.

The effort to replant trees is driven by various regulatory and other requirements including:

- the National Forestry and Tree Planting Act 2003: reserved species (section 30) and protected trees (section 31),
- the National Environmental Act 2019: Part X - as per obligations in the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA),
- the Land Acquisition Act 1965: Compensation in relation to the Resettlement Action Plan (RAP) (although all fruit trees and commercial species were compensated under the RAP) and
- most importantly, the commitment made by EACOP to mitigate our environmental and social impacts and safeguard the environment.

In joining this ROOTS campaign, EACOP will work with implementing partners to plant trees on land belonging to schools, churches, the Bunyoro and Buganda Kingdoms and other institutional landowners identified through the ROOTS secretariat with a focus on indigenous species and fruit trees across the 10 EACOP host districts.

MoUs will be established with the identified cultural institutions, schools, churches, individuals to facilitate the planting of trees on their land. The trees that will be replanted, cannot be replanted too close to the EACOP route because there are restrictions on the planting of deep-rooted plants along the EACOP Right of Way (RoW) to maintain pipeline integrity and facilitate access.

Speaking at the signing ceremony, Mr. Martin Tiffen, Managing Director (MD), EACOP, stated that EACOP is very pleased to be joining the ROOTS campaign, which is fully in line with our commitments to environmental and biodiversity protection & offsetting, as well as positively engaging and impacting with institutions and communities in the vicinity of our activities.

In his remarks, Mr. Alfred Okot Okidi, Permanent Secretary (PS), MWE expressed gratitude to EACOP MD for the contribution of UGX 1.2bn going towards tree planting and growing and stated that the Ministry having been engaged in the Environment and Social Impact Assessments through its directorates, will as well be instrumental in completing the cycle of mitigating the predicted impacts and is committed to providing the necessary support for the successful implementation of conservation

initiatives in the Project's area of influence.

The signing, which marked the commencement of the ROOTS campaign, was concluded by a tree planting ceremony at the Ministry to inaugurate EACOP joining the ROOTs campaign. The agreed MoU will in addition to ROOTS, provide the framework for other partnership and collaboration opportunities, notably- wetlands conservation.



INDEPENDENT BIODIVERSITY AND LIVELIHOODS ADVISORY COMMITTEE VISIT TO EACOP 2024

An Independent Biodiversity and Livelihoods Advisory Committee (IBLAC) has been established, and its remit covers both EACOP and the upstream projects. The IBLAC Mandate is to advise on how best to conserve and enhance biodiversity and related aspects of community livelihoods within their areas of operation and the wider Projects area of influence within the landscape before, during, and after the Projects.

The Committee is composed of international experts from a range of worldwide organizations. These experts participate in meetings, site visits, and discussions on management of the biodiversity and livelihoods.

Each year IBLAC undertake an annual field visit to Uganda and Tanzania. The visit in Uganda took place 28th April to 7th May 2024.

IBLAC visited Kaku-Kiyanja wetland in Lwengo, Kyampisi Central Forest Reserve (CFR) in Mubende and an agricultural demonstration farm in Mubende.



Figure 2 Chimpanzees encountered at Kyampisi CFR where EACOP will implement forest restoration programme



Figure 1 IBLAC at Kaku-Kiyanja wetland (in background) engaging oldest member of the community wetland protection committee. Wetland is part of proposed EACOP wetland offset



Figure 3 IBLAC visiting agricultural demo site in Mubende showcasing climate smart agriculture



Figure 4 Theory of change training workshop at Golden Tulip to enable projects to design feasible biodiversity conservation initiatives

ENVIRONMENT GOOD PRACTICES ON EACOP CONSTRUCTION SITES IN UGANDA

EACOP is committed to mitigating our social and environmental impacts and safeguarding the environment.

In addition to complying with national regulatory requirements EACOP is adhering to international Environmental and Social requirements, specifically the Equator Principles and the International Finance Corporation (IFC) Performance Standards. These constitute a global management framework to identify, assess and manage environmental and social risks in Projects. The Equator Principles are aligned with the IFC Performance Standards and require compliance with those standards by Projects.

As construction activities start to ramp up in Uganda, the project has implemented several good practices to mitigate our environmental impacts and safeguard the environment such as avoiding trees, relocating beehives and good topsoil storage. Read below for further information and pictures of these good initiatives conducted to date.

Trees Avoidance at Main Camps and Pipe yards (MCPYs)

Main Camps and Pipe yards (MCPYs) are temporary facilities that are being established along the pipeline corridor to accommodate workers and store line pipe before distribution along the right of way (RoW). Working with the EACOP environment team, the EACOP construction team has undertaken efforts to conserve some of the trees in the MCPY footprint constructed to date (while considering the safety risks to workers of retaining the tree and the camp functionality and layout).

At the MCPY located next to Pump Station (PS) 1 in Hoima district, the construction team overlaid the camp layout with the existing trees and adjusted the camp layout to save 7 out of 13 trees on site. In line with National requirements, all trees that were removed were categorized according to their International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) status and recorded. For trees that were retained, they were fenced off and signages installed with common and scientific names for more awareness.



Figure 1: Trees saved at MC-PS1



Figure 2: Labeling of saved trees with scientific botanical names



Figure 3: Fencing off the saved trees at MC-PS1

Relocation of Beehives

During pre-clearance surveys, which were part of the activities to prepare for Early Civil Works, bee hives were encountered at some of the construction sites namely PS 1 and Main Camp (MC)-PS1. EACOP worked with a local community bee farmer to safely re-locate the bee hives to an apiary farm in Kigolobya (Hoima district).



Figure 4: Beehive discovered at MC-PS1/PS1



Figure 5: Local beehive farmer assisting with the relocation of the beehive



Figure 6: Bee farmer wearing adequate PPE for the relocation of the beehive

Topsoil Storage - MC-PS1

Due to the temporary nature of the MCPYs, topsoil that has been stripped is properly stored for reinstatement purposes after the use of the camps. The topsoil is regularly being checked for alien invasive species and there has been re-growth of vegetation which is a sign of the fertility status of the topsoil.



Figure 7: Re-growth of vegetation at the location of top soil storage at MC-PS1

Bird Nest - PS1

EACOP is committed to protecting breeding habitats, hence when a Laughing Dove (*Spilopelia Senegalensis*) nest with two eggs inside was observed during pre-clearance surveys at PS1, the area with the nests was immediately barricaded, a sign installed and it was agreed with the construction team not to remove the stockpile until eggs hatched and squabs taken by the mother.

Daily monitoring was conducted to ensure that disturbance of the nest from the workforce or machinery was minimized. The eggs hatched within 4 weeks and Laughing Dove and squabs have safely left the nest.



Figure 8: Laughing Dove nest with eggs at PS1



Figure 9: Cordoning off area with bird's nest to minimize disturbance to the nest



Figure 10: Hatched birds

Slope Stability

On MCPY 3 topsoil was applied to the slopes to promote grassing and ensure slope stability. The slope was planted with papyrus reeds and grass and watered. This has resulted in a re-growth on the site in 3-4 weeks.



Figure 11: Growing of grass on the slopes at MCPY03 to promote slope stability

Reducing plastics on EACOP Construction sites

EACOP has undertaken measures to minimize plastic waste on site by encouraging the use of re-usable water bottles. Portable drinking water is provided at various locations at the construction sites and workers on site are encouraged to refill their re-usable water bottles with drinking water from these drinking points. This has resulted in less plastic waste at the construction sites.



Figure 12: Portable drinking water at site

WORLD ENVIRONMENT

5 JUNE 2024

To mark this day, EACOP is celebrating how it is applying the environmental mitigation hierarchy (avoid, minimize, restore and offset) to reduce development impacts and safeguard the environment.

AVOID

MINIMISE

RESTORATION

OFFSETTING



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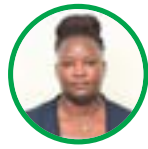
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