

>>> Welcome Remarks

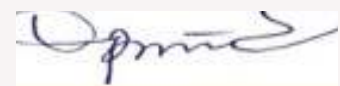
Dear Partner,

We are pleased to share with you our second quarter newsletter where we give you a brief update of grassroots community climate activism efforts, achievements, challenges and way forward. Our primary focus this year is on building grassroots climate action power groups that are equipped with the right knowledge, skills, and resources to lead the fight for climate justice.

As highly vulnerable frontline communities, we know that climate justice cannot wait, however, we remain largely un-empowered on the actions we can take locally to mitigate these effects. This quarter many of our organizing efforts were around the pressing need to invest in clean, sustainable and renewable energy. We held five community meetings bringing together an estimated total of 500 people 85% of whom are communities directly affected by the ongoing Tilenga, Kingfisher and EACOP oil communities. While oil is often promoted as a driver of economic growth, the lived reality for directly affected communities has been displacement, environmental degradation, and long-term climate risks. To challenge this narrative, we continue to work with fellow oil host communities to expose the temporary nature of oil jobs, the hidden environmental costs, and the missed opportunities of investing in renewable energy.

In addition, through our legal empowerment strategy, we have continued to mobilize communities to leverage litigation as a means to advocate for human rights and environmental protection. As part of this effort, we have produced a documentary capturing our story, a story of resilience, courage, and the relentless fight for our rights. The documentary highlights our own experience using the legal justice system to serve as a learning experience and source of inspiration for other project-affected communities. We are happy to inform you that these efforts are not in vain, there is a growing Community Demand for Alternatives voicing a strong call for investment in sustainable alternatives in addition to increased Community Participation

Lastly, we would like to bring to your attention that we continue to operate amid a very restrictive environment as our work continue to be interfered with especially by security and local leaders who are opposed to dissent, instead of responding to the hard question we are putting, they just respond with arrests, intimidation and physical harassment. However, even in the face of intimidation, shrinking civic space, and funding challenges, the resilience of grassroots communities continues to inspire us, and we are proud to share some of their stories and milestones with you in this edition.



Christopher Opio, Team Leader ORRA

Court Documentary

In response to the ongoing delay of the court case filed in 2014 by Project Affected Persons (PAPs), ORRA, with support from the Environmental Defenders Law Center (EDLC) under the Environmental Defenders Collaborative, produced a documentary that captures the frustration, loss, and resilience of affected communities living under the weight of a failing judicial system.

The documentary has been presented at an in-person gathering at 4 community dialogues in Hoima, Buliisa, and Kikuube districts, so far reaching over 300 community members directly. In addition, it has been disseminated through our mailing lists and social media platforms, collectively engaging an estimated 2,000 viewers online. We also shared the film with 15 partner organizations, ensuring wider circulation among human rights and environmental justice networks.

This initiative has contributed to increased visibility of the PAPs' struggle, strengthened solidarity with partners across the region, and added momentum to nationwide efforts pressing for accountability and reforms within Uganda's judicial system. The documentary has served as both an advocacy and mobilization tool, enabling us to broaden our networks, gain support, and amplify community voices on a larger scale. Please find the You-tube link below to watch for more insights.

Click below for the video link;

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Voices That Refuse to Be Silenced



“As grassroots communities, we must continue deepening our knowledge of our rights and legal processes, not only to demand what is justly ours, but also to defend those rights with courage and persistence.”

(Innocent Arari)



“We, the community, are like ancient priests who served selflessly without expecting rewards. Yet instead of recognition, we are targeted and threatened by those in power.”

(Kizza Jonan)

As oil and gas exploitation by TotalEnergies and CNOOC expands across the Albertine region, communities and grassroots defenders continue to face threats, arrests, and intimidation for speaking out. Despite these challenges, grassroots organizers remain steadfast in documenting and resisting the injustices tied to the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) and other oil projects in our communities.

Building on our earlier work, with support from Zero Tolerance Initiative, we have produced a second documentary that sheds light on the courage of community organizers in Buliisa, Hoima, and Kikuube. The film captures the daily threats they face, the fears and hopes they carry, and the voices of those who value their tireless voluntary efforts. Above all, it conveys their collective call to the public: to stand in solidarity, protect defenders, and challenge the harmful narratives of “development” that mask displacement, loss, and repression. The links will be shared on a separate email for amplification.



Consultative Meetings with Community Organizers

Together with our sister organization Nature Talk Africa, we held five community consultative meetings bringing together an estimated total of 500 people 85% of whom are communities directly affected by the ongoing Tilenga, Kingfisher and EACOP oil communities. human rights defenders, and climate activists touching on crosscutting themes like;

“Strengthening Human Rights Protection, Mental Wellness, and Environmental Justice in the Albertine Region.”

"Strengthening human rights protection and environmental justice in the Albertine region to enhance the safety, security and well-being of the grassroots defenders in Uganda's oil-rich communities of Hoima, Kikubue and Buliisa."

These were a much-needed space for reflection and collective problem-solving. We discussed emerging threats and other challenges communities face including threats, intimidation, and the daily pressures of defending communities in an environment where civic space is shrinking. From these conversations, we co-developed a safety and security strategy to support their work and wellbeing, ensuring we can continue advocating for justice with greater confidence and resilience.





Celebrating One Year of REPowerAfrika in Hoima

On July 18, 2025, the Oil Refinery Residents Association (ORRA) and Nature Talk Africa (NaTA), with support from 350 Africa, marked the one-year anniversary of the REPowerAfrika campaign at Kyakaboga Resettlement Village in Buseruka Sub-county, Hoima District. The event brought together over 100 youth, women, and community leaders under the theme: “Youth and Women Leading Change: Showcasing Leadership in Renewable Energy Advocacy.”

The gathering was a moment of reflection and renewed commitment. Speakers reminded participants that the campaign, launched in 2024, was born to challenge Africa’s dependence on fossil fuels and demand a just transition to clean, community-led renewable energy. Over the past year, REPowerAfrika has grown into a powerful movement uniting communities and climate activists from Uganda, Tanzania, South Africa, the DRC, and beyond.

At Kyakaboga, the voices of women and youth rang loud and clear. They shared lived experiences of energy poverty, displacement, and climate impacts, while also celebrating small but inspiring victories, like homes turning to solar power after being disconnected from the costly national grid. The community called for investment in a decentralized, off-grid solar plant to power households, schools, markets, and health facilities.



>>> #KickTotalOutOfAfrica Campaign

As part of the Africa Week of Action, ORRA, in partnership with the East African Crude Oil Pipeline Host Communities (EACOPHC), and Nature Talk Africa organized a powerful people's tribunal at Kyakaboga Resettlement Village. The event brought together over 250 participants, including community members, church leaders, cultural leaders, and political representatives, to hold TotalEnergies accountable for the harm caused by its oil operations in Uganda.

The tribunal gave a platform for communities from Hoima, Buliisa, Kikuube, and other oil-affected districts to share their lived experiences, displacement, environmental degradation, loss of livelihoods, and threats to their safety. Leaders listened, and from these testimonies, clear judgments were made: TotalEnergies must answer for its role in violating community rights and undermining Africa's future. The communities demanded that it is time Total must pay reparation and leave our continent.





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