

Event series on Oil Extractivism and Visit of Ugandan Civil Society Representatives to Vienna, 8–10 June 2026



From 8 to 10 June 2026, three Ugandan civil society representatives, environmental activists and human rights defenders visited Vienna to discuss the social, ecological and political consequences of oil extractivism in Uganda and the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP).

The visit was organised by the Department of Development Studies at the University of Vienna in the framework of the project [Fostering international civil society cooperation: the EU CSDDD as a new entry point for just transition \(FICSC-EUCSDDD\)](#). The project investigates how the EU Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive (EU CSDDD) can become an entry point for strengthening civil society cooperation across global production networks and for holding companies accountable for human rights violations, environmental damage and climate-related harms. Within the project, Antje Daniel and Charlotte Lonitz are currently conducting a case study on the civil resistance to oil extraction in the Albertine Graben and to the planned East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP). The oil drilling and the 1443 km long pipeline through Uganda and Tanzania has become known for displacing over 100,000 people, not following international standards on adequate compensation and relocation, destroying communities, families and livelihoods, endangering sensitive ecosystems like central water sources and national parks, as well as being one of the major contemporary “carbon bombs”.

The Ugandan invitees are, in one way or another, all active in fight for social and environmental safeguards of the extractivist endeavours of the Ugandan government and international oil corporations like Total Energies. Christopher Opio, is directly affected by the oil constructions and now resident of Kyakaboga Resettlement Camp, team lead of the *Oil Refinery Residents Association* (ORRA), founder of NatureTalk Africa and member of the #StopEACOP coalition; Janepher Baitwamasa is a human and women’s rights defender and programme coordinator

of the *Navigators of Development Association* (NAVODA) in Hoima; and Nicholas Omonuk is an interdisciplinary climate activist, founder of *End Fossil Occupy Uganda* and member of networks including Agape Earth Coalition, Fridays for Future and United for Climate Justice.

The event series opened on Monday, 8 June, with the panel discussion [“Öl, Extraktivismus und die Klimakrise: Aktivismus in Zeiten von shrinking spaces”](#), organised together with the Vienna Institute for International Dialogue and Cooperation (VIDC) at Impact Hub Vienna as part of the VIDC Global Dialogue series. Baitwamasa, Opio and Omonuk were joined by Fatim Selina Diaby, a Germany-based author and intersectional BIPoC climate justice activist. The discussion situated EACOP within colonial continuities and unequal fossil-fuel dependencies, addressing land dispossession, gendered inequalities in compensation processes, repression and co-optation of activists, as well as the importance of community organising and active transnational solidarity.

On Tuesday, 9 June, the guests visited the Department of Development Studies and exchanged perspectives with researchers and activists from Austria, Uganda and Bangladesh on the role of media, religion, local leaders and gender in civil society struggles. Afterwards, they joined the university seminar “Improbable Solidarities”, where they presented the conflict around EACOP and discussed different understandings of transnational cooperation and solidarity with the students. In the evening, Attac Austria hosted a screening of the documentary [EACOP – A Crude Reality](#) at WUK as part of the film series “Welt(en) in Bewegung”. The screening was followed by a Q&A with the Ugandan guests on current developments around the pipeline, their experiences on the ground and their demands towards the international community.

The final panel discussion on Wednesday, 10 June, was organised with the [Network Social Responsibility \(NeSoVe\)](#) and focused on due diligence legislation and strategic impact litigation as tools for civil society organisations to hold multinational corporations accountable. Together with Anna Leitner, spokesperson for resources and supply chains at GLOBAL 2000, and Tina Rosenberger, managing director of NeSoVe, Opio and Baitwamasa discussed the opportunities that regulatory frameworks such as the French Duty of Vigilance Law and the EU CSDDD may offer for affected communities, workers and producers. At the same time, the panel highlighted the structural barriers that often prevent grassroots actors from making use of such legal instruments.

Across the different formats the event series underlined the need for sustained attention, collaboration, solidarity and support between civil society actors globally. It showed that struggles against the harmful practices of multinational corporations and complicit governments require both local resistance and transnational alliances to protect people, livelihoods, ecosystems and the climate at the frontlines of extractivism.





