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AFDB AND FAPA PARTNERS SHOULD NOT INVEST IN THE CAPACITY BUILDING OF THE EACOP RELATED PROJECTS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The African Development Bank (AfDB) through its partner Fund for African Private Sector Assistance (FAPA) [recently signed a \\$500,000 grant agreement](#) with the Government of Uganda for financing of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) to boost business linkages on the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) Technical Assistance project. [According to the Top News website](#), the target of this support is to have at least 100 local micro businesses in Uganda and Tanzania trained to do business on the pipeline project.

The Center for Citizens Conserving (CECIC) is calling on the AfDB and FAPA not to provide this grant to Ugandan MSMEs as [AFDB had committed not to fund the EACOP](#) and the bank is committed to facilitating the transition to low-carbon and climate-resilient development.

“We are at a loss and cannot understand why AfDB who previously stated that they will not fund fossil fuels projects in Africa are now intent on funding projects that are aiding the existence of fossil fuel investments in East Africa. The fact that AfDB is willing to endorse related fossil fuel projects in such an unconducive atmosphere is questionable. We call on the AfDB to withdraw its funds from financing fossil fuels and divert this to renewable energy and sustainable development projects.” said **Edwin Mumbere, the coordinator of CECIC**

Oil-related activities in Uganda and Tanzania have come under pressure from local communities, environmentalists and climate change experts. The oil extraction sites on Lake Albert and the 1,443-kilometer EACOP pipeline pose serious environmental and social risks to protected wildlife areas, water sources and communities in Uganda and Tanzania.

It is expected that the EACOP pipeline will carry 216,000 barrels of crude oil per day at the plateau production. The oil is likely to result in CO2 emissions of over 33 million tonnes each year and this will be greater than current emissions of both Uganda and Tanzania according to [the review of adequacy of Environmental Mitigation in the ESIA for the East Africa Crude Oil Pipeline](#). This pipeline comes at a time when the [world’s scientists are telling us](#) that new fossil fuel developments need to stop if we are to tackle the climate crisis and fulfil the Paris Agreement.

It is very disastrous that Uganda is set to face harsh climatic conditions and destruction of its valuable environment at the time when the whole world is currently facing the impacts of climate change. Uganda has invested heavily in the agriculture sector and this will be affected most by the effects of the EACOP pipeline.

Today the vegetation and water bodies in the Albertine graben are likely to be destroyed and contaminated with chemicals and oil spills from the pipeline.

CECIC is working to prevent environmental degradation and oil threats and abuses in Uganda and has called on the African Development Bank not to invest in the East Africa Crude Oil Pipeline and its related projects.

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