



Centre For Environmental
Research and Agricultural
Innovations

ANNUAL REPORT 2023



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Table of acronyms

| Acronym | Meaning |
|----------------|---|
| CERAI | Centre for Environmental Research and Agriculture Innovations |
| EACOP | East African Crude Oil Pipeline |
| CBM | Community Based Monitors |
| CSOs | Civil Society Organisations |
| MEMD | Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development |
| HSL | Hoima Sugar Limited |
| NEMA | National Environmental Management Authority. |
| NFA | National Forestry Authority |
| SBFC | Save Bugoma Forest Campaign |
| UWA | Uganda Wildlife Authority. |
| IGEN-EA | Inclusive Green Economy Network East Africa |

About CERAI

Centre for Environmental Research and Agriculture Innovations (CERAI) is a company limited by guarantee that was incorporated under Uganda's companies Act in 2020. The organization is committed to conserve and protect Uganda's environment in its density through public policy research and advocacy to influence Environmental, Energy and Agricultural policies in favour of the local person.

Our Mission

To create and deliver transformative environmental protection solutions that enhance safe lives.

Our Vision

A Community with safe environment and climate for sustainable development. We therefore envision to;

- To promote research and development in field of environment and agriculture for better future.
- To empower communities to influence energy policies.
- To promote a health earth ecosystem with a healthy component in and around the world
- To conserve biodiversity and natural resources of local, National and international regime.
- To increase agriculture production, productivity and climate change resilience of small-scale farmers

OUR PROGRAMS



Climate protection and Energy Justice.

The objective of this program is to ensure that all individuals, regardless of socioeconomic status or geographic location, have equal access to clean, affordable, and reliable energy.

The program also focuses on *Key aspects of climate protection* which include: *mitigation, adaptation and international cooperation.*



Agricultural Innovations.

The objective of this program is to enhance efficiency, sustainability, and resilience in the face of evolving challenges.

The program therefore, offers solutions to address the complexities of feeding a **growing global population** while **minimizing environmental impact.**



Biodiversity Conservation.

The objective of this programme is to prioritize and implement effective conservation strategies That are essential for preserving the extraordinary diversity of life on Earth. Thus, the program integrates all holistic approaches that **support** and *Sustain Life on Earth*

SECTION 1

a) Message from Chairman Board



Dear Reader, welcome to the CERAI's annual report. In this report, CERAI shares the work that the organisation has been able to accomplish in the year 2023. The report also summarises the key achievements registered due to our work, challenges and priorities for the year 2024.

First and foremost, allow me to thank the CERAI staff, our partners, Donors and other stakeholders for the tremendous support towards the organisation mandate. I want to say that you have been pillars to our work and we hope for the continuous support in coming years.

In the year 2023, CERAI engaged in various advocacy and capacity building trainings. These trainings empowered communities with knowledge on how to protect and conserve the environment in its natural state. This work wasn't easy since it was tricky to mobilise

activities in some of the communities of work especially in Albertine Graben where oil and gas activities are taking place.

The year 2023 opened up to new partnerships and collaborations from local to Global levels and this increased our coverage of work. For example, under the stopEACOP Campaign, Vuka Africa, Inclusive Green Economy Network East Africa (IGEN-EA) among others, we partnered with different organisations that are part of these movements and implemented Joint activities. If it wasn't through these movements and partnerships, we wouldn't have achieved most of the target for the year 2023.

Furthermore, allow me to thank in special way the CERAI community-based monitors in 10 districts of Uganda, which are affected by EACOP project. These people have done a great job by giving regular updates about the issues faced due to oil and gas projects in the area. The CBMs have further supported CERAI a lot in sustainability of our work even in our absence.

On behalf of the Board, we thank each and every one that have been part of our work in this year especially the whole staff at CERAI for standing strong in the shrinking civic space to defend rights of the oil affected communities. If it wasn't passion and resilience for our partners and CERAI staff, the year 2023 would not yield the organisation mandate.

We hope that the achievements made in 2023, will be guarded and inform our work in the year 2024. The board continues and promises to keep supporting the organisation together with partners to deliver the organisational mission and vision for the year 2024.



Thank you

Benard Musinguzi Board Chairman

b). Executive summary from Director



Dear readers, welcome to the CERAI 2023 Annual report. CERAI's work in 2023 focused on the three programs that the organisation runs. The year 2023 results made achievements due to our work and shared below.

The year 2023 had some challenges including shrinking civic space, arrest of both Environmental and Human rights defenders and media shying away from capturing anti-oil and gas stories. All these challenges were lessons that empowered us and partners to keep changing strategies to operate in the hostile Environment.

Below I bring to your summary of the work the organisation did in the year 2023. Our work focused on community mobilisation on grassroots, advocacy through media and social media platforms, capacity building workshops for communities and increasing geographical coverage from local to Global levels.

Further our advocacy was centred on issues of oil and gas activities in the Albertine Graben. We focused our advocacy on green economic sectors (Agriculture, renewable energy, fisheries,) as opposed to fossil fuel projects (oil and gas activities). Through community Engagements and media, we advocated for renewable energy investments instead of fossil fuels to conserve and protect our environment.

Below I bring to you some of the key activities we implemented in the year 2023 and achievements. Our work was done from local to Global levels. This increased our coverage and reduced on the risks due to work in partnerships.

Implemented activities

a) **Efforts to stop fossil fuel developments:** In efforts to stop EACOP, CERAI facilitated formation of six stop EACOP groups both in oil-affected communities and in education institutions of Uganda. Three of these groups are in Hoima, Buliisa and Kikuube district and the remaining are in education institutions (Mbarara, Makerere and Kyambogo) universities.

These groups have actively done a tremendous job to keep the campaign running in their areas and the target is to build capacity of these groups and strengthen them to exert maximum pressure to the government of Uganda and Oil companies to drop this project.

- b) **Community Engagements:** We organized various community engagements with different stakeholders in environment and energy sectors. For example, in June 2023, CERAI organized community engagements with oil-affected communities with emphasis on youth to strengthen their capacity in reporting and documenting about oil and gas issues. We further supported youth activists for community visits in the villages being affected by oil and gas activities to see and observe exactly what is happening. This informed their advocacy through the year.
- c) **Save River Rwizi Campaign:** In April 2023, CERAI launched save River Rwizi campaign in western Uganda. River Rwizi is the largest river in Ankole-sub region and covers approximately 8,200km and pour its water in Lake Victoria through Sango Bay Forest. However much important this river is, it has lost 60% of its water catchment areas due to human activities and disposal of plastics by Nile breweries and coca cola companies in Mbarara city. In addition, two hundred people have illegally acquired over 500 hectares of land along this river for investments. Therefore, we organised a day of action and peaceful demonstration calling on the Mbarara capital city Authority and Nile breweries to stop the ongoing destruction of the river. We further petitioned the Nile breweries over the continuous disposal of wastes into the river that is source of livelihood to over 400million people in Ankole subregion.
- d) **Capacity Building Trainings:** In 2023 CERAI organised over 20 capacity building trainings for youth climate activists and youth leaders. The objective of these trainings was to build youth capacity to stand and defend rights of oil affected communities. Youth were also empowered to advocate for renewable energy as opposed Fossil fuel projects. Two hundred youth have been trained and their capacities enhanced.
- e) **Save Bugoma Forest campaign:** CERAI amplified advocacy to save Bugoma Forest that have been encroached on by Hoima sugar limited. Due to our continuous efforts and engagements, the boundary re-opening exercise was done. We wait for the report to be accessed by the public. We continue to advocate for restoration of degraded part of the forest and the year 2024, we shall keep on the advocacy to pressurise Hoima sugar limited to restore part of the forest that was cleared for sugar cane growing.
- f) **Media Engagements:** Due to the restrictive and repressive civic space for both Environmental and Human rights defenders, CERAI organised various engagements with media owners and generalist on the importance to report about Human rights violations that have come along with oil and gas projects. The engagements were done both at grassroot root levels with local journalists.
and at National levels. This made some improvements and attentions to oil and gas issues, however much efforts are still needed to have independent media houses that are not influenced during the reporting.
- g) **Global Days of Action.** As part of Global campaigns, together with partners we organised Global days of action calling on the financial intuitions and Insurance companies to stop financing fossil fuel projects in Uganda. These actions were youth led and were done

randomly across the globe. For example, we organised day of action calling on standard chartered bank to drop financial support for the EACOP project. We further organised day of action calling on Marsh an insurance broker to stop outsourcing insurances for the EACOP project. The struggle resulted into over 24 banks pulling out from financing the EACOP project.

- h) **Supporting communities (youth) to defend their rights.** The ongoing oil and gas activities have posed a lot of violations to both human and Environment. Therefore, as part of strengthening youths' capacity, we organised three youth engagements to build their capacities in human rights and how they can keep operating in shrinking civic space to protect and defend their rights especially those affected by oil and gas activities. As of now, their capacities are built in human rights and they are pressuring the government of Uganda and oil companies to stop oil and gas injustices in the Albertine Graben.
- i) **Organic farming for oil affected communities:** Though series of training, we organised community on-farm trainings on smart agriculture to improve their production. Over 500 farmers benefited from these trainings. We further established a small demonstration farm in Kikuube district where farmers and other groups can go, learn and observe better methods of farming. We hope to extend these agricultural trainings to other nine districts affected by EACOP project.

Despite the above achievements, challenges and opportunities, I would like to thank each and every one who supported CERAI the year 2023. We hope for continuous support in the year 2024 as we build a better planet earth.






Gerald Barekye

Chief Executive Officer, CERAI.

SECTION 11

Activities and Achievements

| No. | Activity | Photo |
|-----|---|--|
| 1. | Strengthening youth's capacity on effective use of media to stop fossil fuel projects in Uganda. Twenty-six youth benefited from the training. |  |
| 2. | Formation of StopEACOP groups in university Institutions. In the picture is the student's activist from Mbarara university of science and Technology. |  |
| 3. | Using Radio to reach out to communities with information on renewable Energy |  |

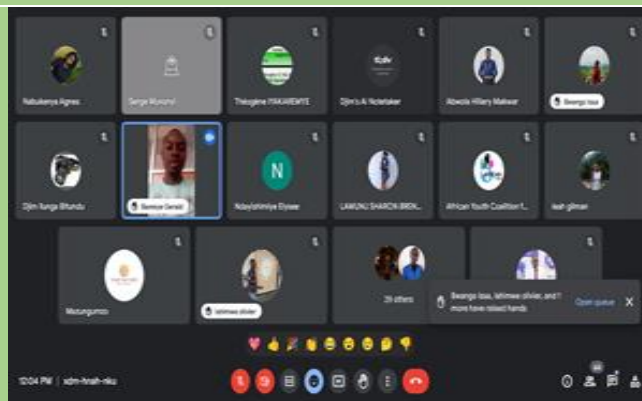
4. Strengthening youth's capacity to document oil and gas issues. The training happened in Hoima district with youth climate activist against EACOP project.



5. Media Engagements. The training brought together 25 media owners and generalist to discuss how important to comprehensively report about oil Injustices.



6. Online exchange learning for Ugandan and DRC youth climate activists who area against fossil fuel developments.



7. Youth Calling on Ugandan Government and oil companies to invest in green economic sectors as opposed to oil and gas activities.



8. Launch of free plastic and waste management campaign in Mubende district.



9. Save River Rwizi Campaign. The campaign targeted Nile breweries and Mbarara capital City Authority to stop dumping wastes into the river that feeds over 400million people in Ankole sub region.



10. Organic farming training for EACOP affected youth in Buliisa District.



11. The empowered youth in agricultural innovations practicing what they learnt.



12. Field visit of youth affected by oil activities to learn better methods of farming.



13. Power up activities in communities. The activities were implemented in kijumba village in Hoima district. Power up Hoima with Renewable energy.



14. Global Day of Action calling on the Standard Chartered Bank to drop EACOP project.



15. Global Day of Action calling on Marsh an insurance Broker to drop EACOP.



16. Engagement meeting with youth leaders from Albertine Graben on how to stop fossil fuel impacts.



17. Youth calling on the East Africa Heads of state to invest in Renewable energy sources.



18. Exchange learning between stop EACOP groups in Uganda.



19. Launch of tree planting campaign in Albertine Graben education Institutions.



21. Community visits of oil affected communities.



22. Promoting cooking alternatives to reduce deforestation levels in Albertine Graben.



23. Media Publications

24. Social media engagements

25. Celebrating stop EACOP Award



SECTION 111

a) Achievements,

- Stop EACOP campaign Visibility increased in Uganda
- More youth and women involved in advocacy to campaign against fossil fuel developments
- Standard chartered bank and other financial institutions drops EACOP support
- Increased enforcement by Mbarara capital city Authority to protect River Rwizi
- Over one million trees planted under our campaign Greening schools
- Cabinet approves the Revised Energy Policy for Uganda, 2023
- Total Energies abandons two oil wells in Murchison Falls National Park
- Uganda launches Energy Transition plan
- Established agriculture demonstration farm for oil affected communities in Kikuube.
- Increased reporting on oil and gas issues by empowered generalist
- Increased partnerships from local to Global levels.

b) Challenges

- Increased shrinking civic space for Human and Environmental Defenders
- Repressive laws like anti-money laundering Act and Computer Misuse Act
- Continuous Harassments of CSOs
- Limited financing to increase our scope of work.

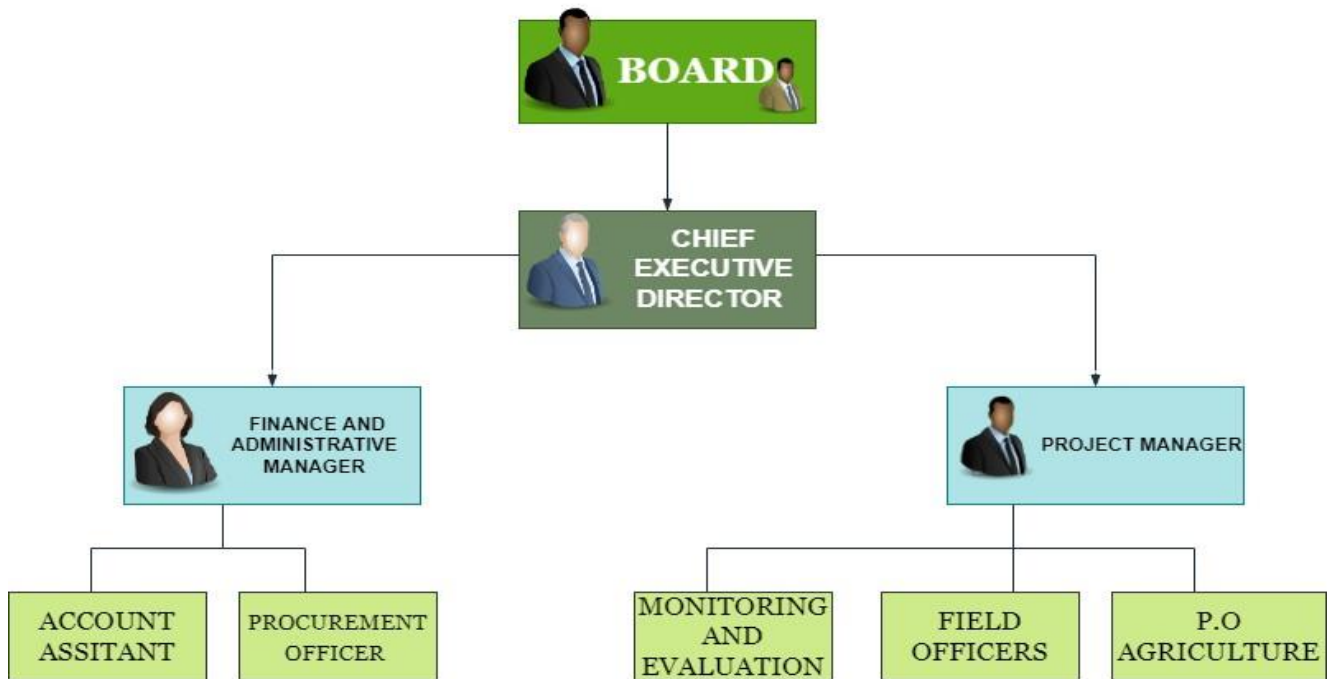
Priorities 2024

- Continuous Advocacy to stop Fossil fuel developments in Uganda
- Pressuring the Africa leaders that committed to Nairobi declaration to implement them.
- Advocacy for the implementation of energy transition plan for Uganda
- Environmental restoration plans with IPLCs
- Continue advocacy for solar policy and other policies
- Advocacy against GMOs and more focus on organic farming for oil-affected communities.
- Advocacy to stop destruction of Bugoma forest
- Capacity building trainings for IPLCs including women and youth.

Appendix

Organisation structure

CERAI, ORGANISATION STRUCTURE



Staff Profiles

1. **Gerald Barekye**

Gerald is the current Executive Director. Gerald Holds Bachelors in Agriculture and Rural Innovations from Makerere University and have over five years of experience in Environmental and Natural Resource management. Previously Gerald worked with African Institute for Energy Governance (AFIEGO).

2. **Kashoborozi James**

Kashoborozi is currently Head of programs at CERAI. He holds bachelors in Environmental science from Makerere University.

3. **Arijuka Andrew.**

Andrew is a graduate from Bukalasa agricultural college. He holds bachelors in crop science and he is research associate at CERAI.

4. **Ainomugisha Amon**

Amon is currently field officer CERAI. She holds bachelors in social sciences from Kyambogo University.

5. **Komugisha Mercy**

Mercy is currently a finance officer at CERAI. She holds bachelors in finance and accounting from Makerere University. Previously mercy worked with Centenary Rural Development bank Uganda.

6. **Kemigisha Ritah:**

Ritah holds bachelors in Human resource from Kyambogo University with four years' experience in human resource management she is currently a Human resource manager and head of administration with CERAI.

7. **Tumusiime Kakuru.**

Kakuru holds bachelors of Law from Uganda Christian University with Diploma in law practice from Law Development Center. Kakuru is currently Legal officer with CERAI.

Read our 2023 advocacy materials

1. [Media-Brief -East-African-CSOs-call-for-investment-in-renewables-over-fossils-10-May2023-1.pdf](#)
2. [MEDIA-RELEASE.pdf](#)
3. [Press-Release-African-CSOs-want-action-taken-on-Ramsar-wetlands-4-Sept-2023.pdf](#)
4. [PRESS-RELEASE-CONDEMNING-OIL-ACTIVITIES-IN-MURCHISON-FALLSNATIONAL-PARK.pdf](#)
5. [Press-release-CSOs-call-for-protection-of-Ugandas-main-economic-activities-fromKingfisher-and-related-oil-projects-24-Jan-2023.pdf](#)
6. [Press-release-Ugandan-CSOs-call-for-protection-of-Ramsar-wetlands-from-oil-activities-20Feb-2023-1.pdf](#)
7. [Ugandan-and-Tanzanian-CSOs-response-to-consultations-on-draft-Germany-ECA-policy-24Aug-2023.pdf](#)
8. [what-you-need-to-know-about-EACOP-and-its-impacts..pdf](#)
9. [Advocacy letter for the oil affected communities.jpg](#)
10. [call for action to stop the Degredation of Ramsar Wetlands.](#)
11. [open letter to the East African Presidents.](#)



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