

September, 22, 2021

MBARARA

**A PROCEEDING REPORT ON CLIMATE ACTION CALLING ON GOVERNMENT TO
TAKE IMMEDIATE ACTION AMIDST CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACTS IN UGANDA.**



A group photo of the participants.

1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

On the 21st day of September, 2021, Youth for Green Communities (YGC) organized a climate strike in Uganda, Mbarara district where its male youth leaders marched via Mbarara city and northern bypass of over 25 km holding placards and posters calling government to take climate action and address registered environment challenges. The climate strike involved four youth members directly, three displaying and interchanging placards and the other recording and taking pictures and over 200 others were involved indirectly.

The Ugandan government, Tanzania, and oil companies operating in Uganda on 11th April, 2021 signed the final agreements including the **Host Government Agreement (HGA)**, **Tariff and Transportation Agreement (TTA)** as well as the **Shareholding Agreement (SHA)** among others to commence the construction of EACOP oil project and exploit Uganda's oil and gas resources at the expense of environmental conservation efforts, community livelihoods and the potential within the off-grid clean energy which can meet Uganda's energy needs without imposing threats on the environment, climate change challenges and community livelihoods.

It is absurd that at a time when responsible countries and companies across the world are stopping exploitation of extractive resources as part of implementing the Paris Climate Change Agreement to save the world from the dangers of climate change, the government of Uganda and its partners are **launching new** oil projects.

Therefore, Climate Strike was aimed at calling upon the government through its relevant ministries and offices to immediately take climate action and address the existing environment related concerns.

The meeting was facilitated by **YOUTH FOR GREEN COMMUNITIES (YGC)**.

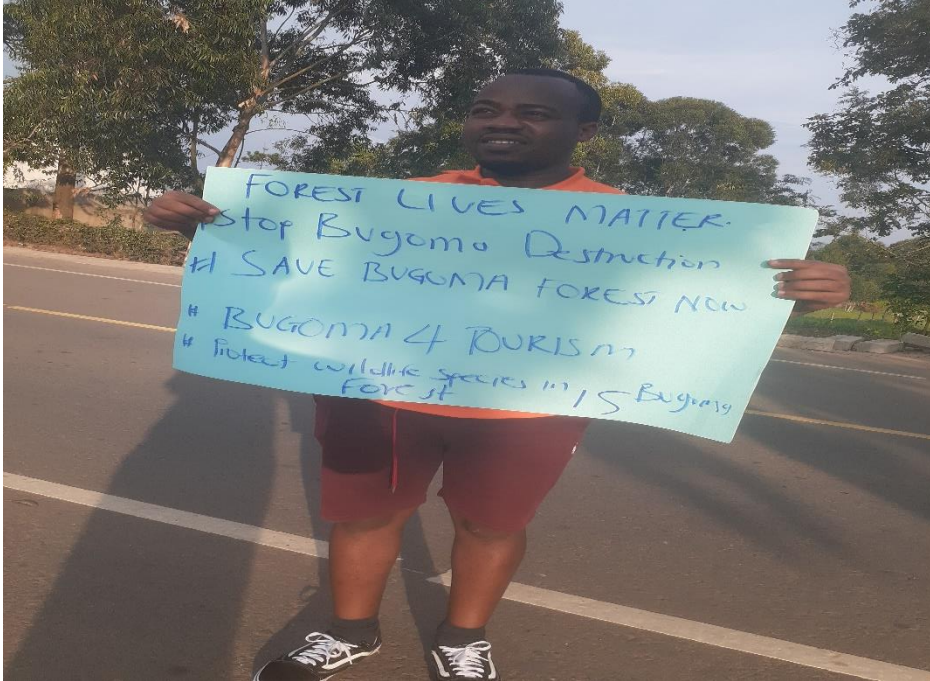
The specific objectives of the meeting included:

1. To call upon government to immediately to take climate action.
2. To raise climate and oil threats awareness in Mbarara district.
3. Call for clean energy adoption and end of fossil fuels in Uganda.
4. Call on the government to address the ongoing environmental challenges like Bugoma and EACOP questions.

2. Proceedings of the climate strike.

2.1 Remarks from Aryampa Brighton, CEO YGC

- The climate strike was started with remarks from Aryampa Brighton who thanked and appreciated the willingness and bravery of the participants to take part in the climate strike amidst deaths and threats to environmental defenders in Uganda and all over the world.
- He also noted the objective and rationale of the climate strike and he majorly insisted on the need to pressurize government to start being attention to the climate change impacts and environmental degradation happening in different parts of the country.



Mr. Brighton confidently holding on of the posters after his remarks to the participants and shortly before the marching began.

- He explained what explained to what this strike was addressing and these include;
- He lastly wished the other participants Goodluck.

2.2 Remarks from Albert Arinda, Environmental observer with YGC, western Region.

Mr. Albert thanked the leader of YGC for being part of the strike and acting exemplary and other participants. He gave directions and routes to ensure smooth marching of the participants.

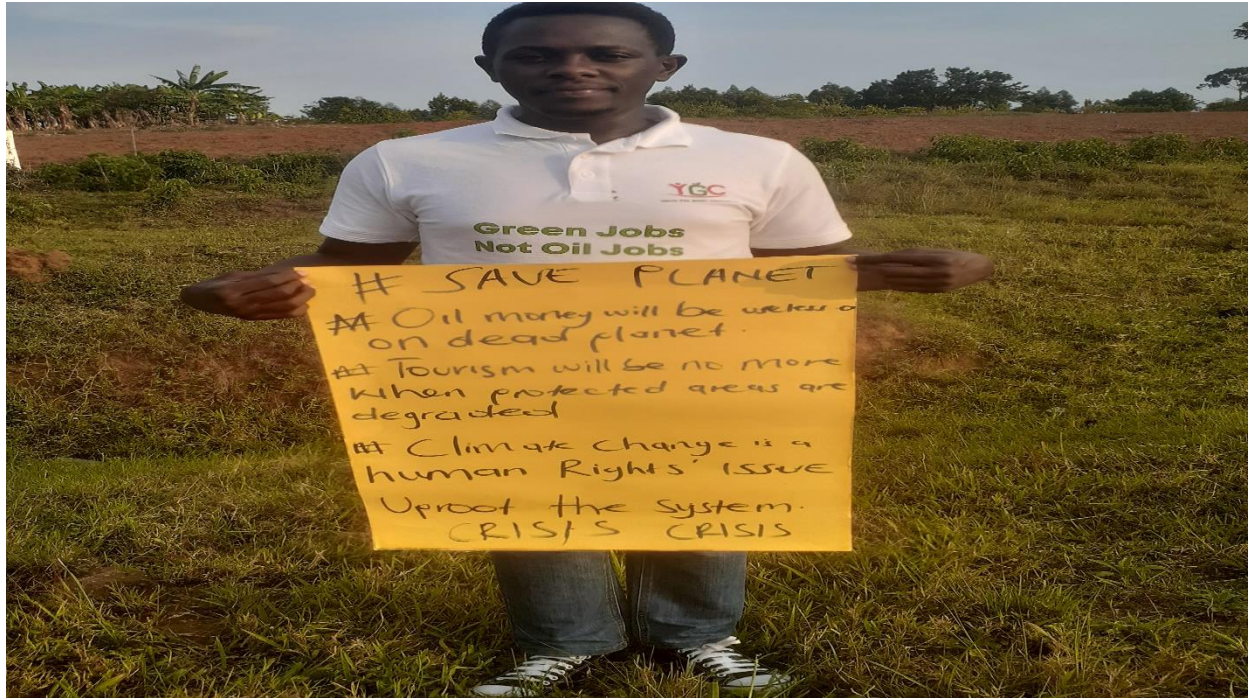
2.3 Pictorial from the climate action and the meaning of different placards displayed.



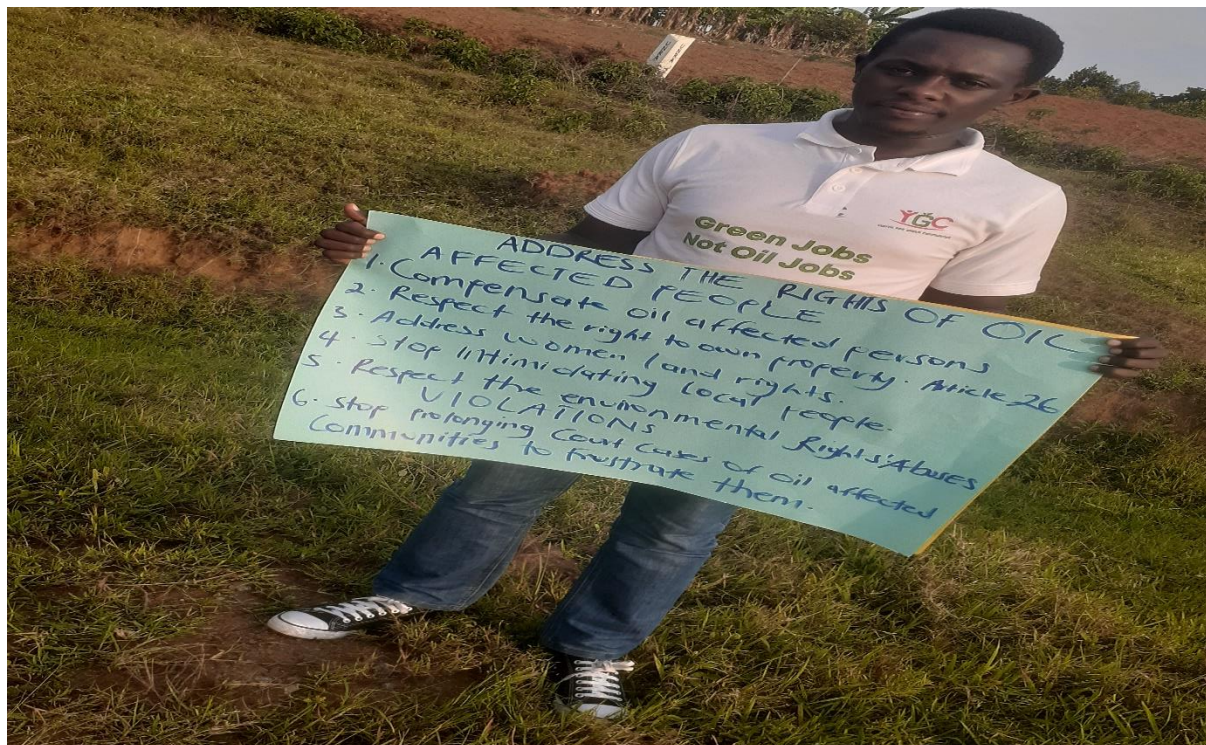
These placards call government of Uganda to start paying attention to climate change by signing the climate bill into law and taking climate action now.



This placard informs government to stop EACOP and other oil activities because of its diverse effect on crop growing and food insecurity. The government should invest in clean energy, end fossil fuels, promote green jobs and not oil jobs that sustain food security.



This reminds the government that climate change is now a human rights issue. That we should end extractives like oil and gas mining to save the planet. That it is useless to have money on a dead planet, it affects tourism and other green economic activities.



This placard highlights the rights of oil affected persons being abused amidst oil exploitation in Uganda which most people in western and other parts of Uganda are not aware of. We therefore call upon the government to address the same now.



As part of our Save Bugoma Campaign, we further through action demand the government of Uganda to declare Bugoma central forest Reserve a tourism conservation area and stop the ongoing destruction by Hoima sugar limited intending to replace it for sugarcane growing.



A group photo calling on government to take climate action, stop EACOP and other oil threats and address oil affected abuses immediately.