

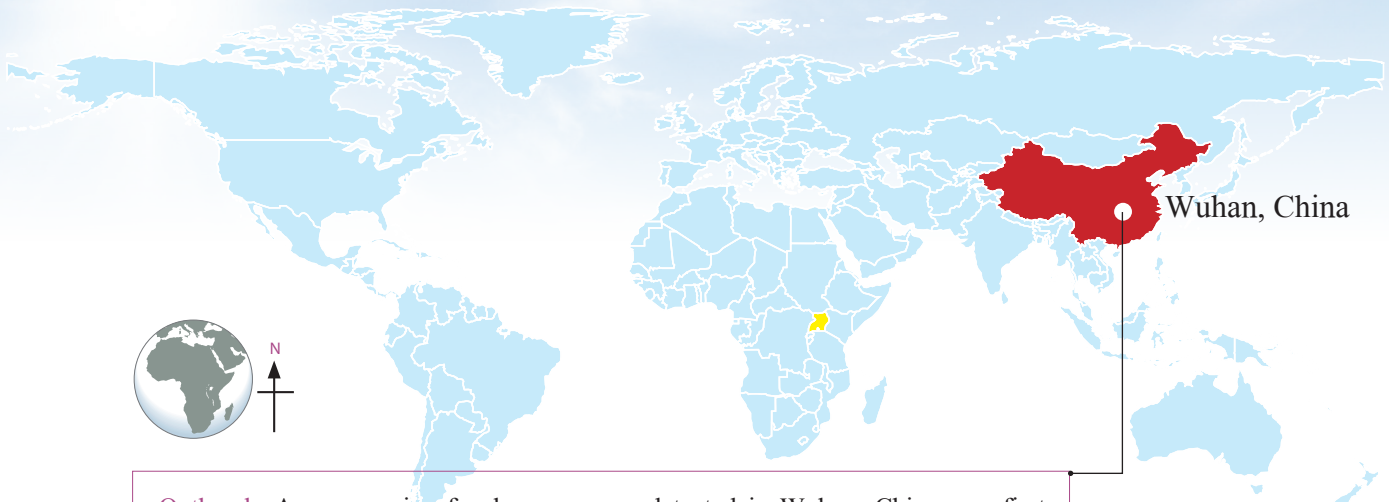
2020

ANNUAL REPORT

PROGRESSING AMIDST A GLOBAL
COVID-19 PANDEMIC



**GLOBAL
RIGHTS
ALERT**



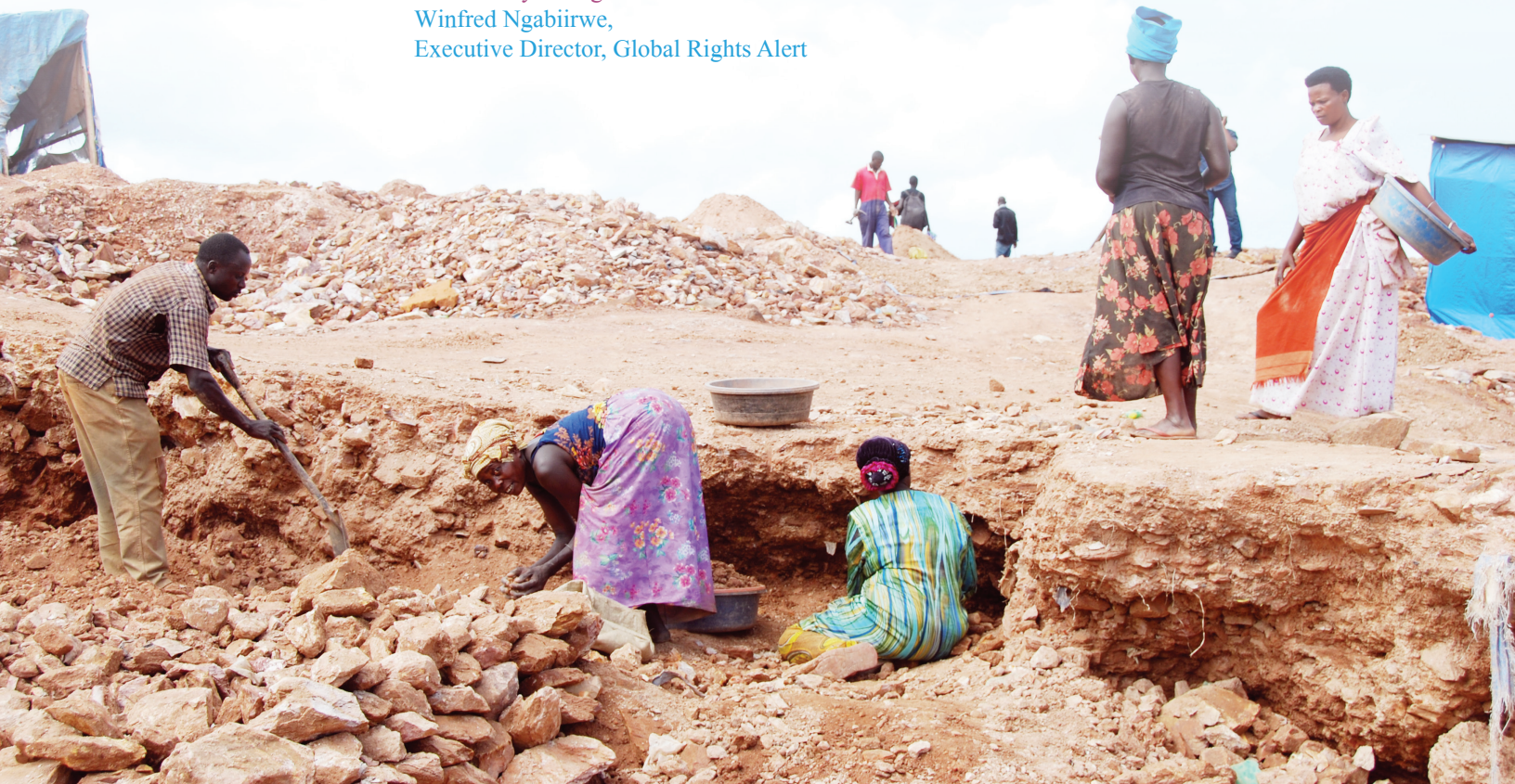
Outbreak. A pneumonia of unknown cause detected in Wuhan, China was first reported to the World Health Organisation Country Office in China on December 31, 2019. Uganda registered her first case of COVID-19 on Saturday March 21, 2020. By July 25, 2021, Uganda had registered over 92,490 cases and over 2,550 deaths. This report was released when the country was under lockdown.



2020

UNPRECEDENTED YEAR. 2020 was an unprecedented year for GRA - as it was for the global community, with the COVID-19 pandemic creating a humanitarian crisis with far-reaching impacts on Uganda's economy and society. The pandemic has disproportionately affected people especially women and the youth. While not without its challenges, 2020 was also a year that brought many milestones in which we consolidated development gains while laying the foundation for a continued journey of hope. It was the year that Uganda joined the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI), a campaign we started six years ago....

Winfred Ngabiirwe,
Executive Director, Global Rights Alert



CONTENT

Word from Executive Director	4
List of Acronyms	5
2020 Gains in Numbers	6
Introduction and report summary	7
1.0 Human and Community Resource Rights	7
1.1 The Human Rights Impact Assessment of the East African Crude Oil Pipeline	7
1.2 Stakeholder engagements during COVID-19	8
2.0 Gender and Inclusiveness in natural resource governance	9
2.1 Research and analysis	9
2.1.1 A study on Women and Youth Aspirations for the 2021 General Elections	9
2.1.2A flagship study on the mining landscape of the Karamoja region	10
2.1.3 Investigative study to assess the gender impact of land acquisition processes	11
2.2 Capacity building	11
3.0 Corporate Accountability and Transparency	11
3.1 Uganda joins the Extractives Industry Transparency Initiative	11
3.2 Harnessing diversity and inclusive participation	12
3.3 The Citizens' Convention on Mining 2020	12
4.0 Institutional building and strengthening	13
4.1 Launching our Case Management System	13
4.2 Strengthening Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning	13
4.3 Knowledge management	13
Conclusion and looking into 2021	14
5.0 Annex	15
5.1 Media Engagements	15
5.2 Newspaper features	16
5.3 Social Media	17
6.0 Our Partners	17
Who we are	18

An unprecedented year with challenges and many milestones

I am pleased to present this 2020 Annual Report chronicling the activities and accomplishments of Global Rights Alert (GRA). It is an honor for us to continue championing inclusive governance through development knowledge sharing, building, and strengthening of national capacities, as we remain committed to make natural resources benefit the people.



Winfred Ngabiirwe
EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR,
GLOBAL RIGHTS
ALERT

2020 was an unprecedented year for GRA - as it was for the global community, with the COVID-19 pandemic creating a humanitarian crisis with far-reaching impacts on Uganda's economy and society. The pandemic has disproportionately affected people especially women and the youth.

While not without its challenges, 2020 was also a year that brought many milestones in which we consolidated development gains while laying the foundation for a continued journey of hope. It was the year that Uganda joined the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI), a campaign we started six years ago.

Due to limitations in movement due to COVID-19 restrictions, many stakeholders got to appreciate the role of our Community Based Monitors (CBM) as we relied on them for information from areas where we could not reach. We also noticed many stakeholders appreciate our work as many reached out to us for sensitization on various matters, especially those pertaining compensation. As such we trained 123 community members and 63 local leaders, among others. These helped us to reach 3,412 people.

Additionally, together with other development partners, we conducted studies aimed at informing our advocacy and formed new partnerships during the year. Our milestones, as laid out in this report make us proud to keep pursuing

our objectives of promoting the respect of Human and Community Resource Rights, advancing Gender and Inclusiveness in Natural Resource Governance, Promoting Transparency and Accountability in the extractives industry and building GRA as one of the foremost civil society organisations working on equal beneficiation of natural resources in Uganda and the region.

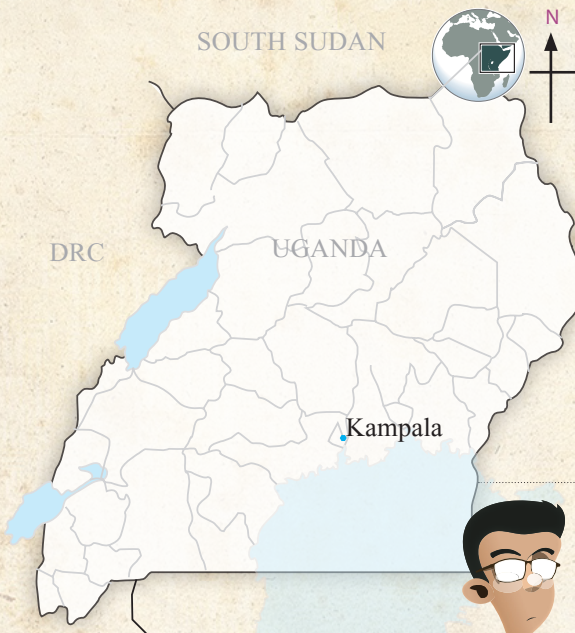
Winfred Ngabiirwe

Winfred Ngabiirwe
Executive Director
Global Rights Alert

List of Acronyms

AAU	Action Aid Uganda
ACODE	Advocates Coalition for Development and Environment
ASM	Artisanal and Small Scale Miner
CBM	Community Based Monitor
CCM	Citizens' Convention on Mining
CSCO	Civil Society Coalition on Oil and Gas
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
DCDO	District Community Development Officer
DGSM	Department of Geological Survey and Mines
DLG	District Local Government
EACOP	East African Crude Oil Pipeline
EITI	Extractives Industries Transparency Initiative
FDI	Foreign Direct Investment
GRA	Global Rights Alert
MEMD	Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development
MoFPED	Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development
MSG	Multi-Stakeholder Group
MUMA	Mubende United Miners Assembly
MUWOGOMA	Mubende Women Gold Miners Association
PAP	Project Affected Person
PWD	Persons with Disability
TIU	Transparency International Uganda
UNRA	Uganda National Roads Authority
COVID-19	Novel Coronavirus Disease

➔ 2020 Gains in numbers



15
Coverage.
Districts
reached



3,412
Reach. People reached
physically with information



68
Coverage.
Active
Community
Based Monitors



63
Training.
Local leaders
Trained



123
Training.
Community members
trained



62
Cases.
Human
Rights Cases
reported

09
Cases.
Human Rights
Cases Resolved



04
Research.
Research
Studiess



3,176,972
Reach. People reached via
different media Platforms

Introduction and report summary

This 2020 Annual Report highlights the key milestones and results achieved from Global Rights Alert 2020 activities. It offers statistical highlights, and is categorized under four programme areas of Human and Community Resource Rights, Gender and Inclusiveness in Natural Resource Governance, Corporate Accountability and Transparency in 2020 and Institutional Building and Strengthening. All the activities done under the above themes such as equipping people with knowledge towards the preparation of the construction of EACOP and sensitising different stakeholders to ensure that women and youth benefit from minerals within their areas.

Our biggest milestone was witnessing Uganda join the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI), a campaign we started six years ago together with other CSOs. We conducted studies aimed at informing our advocacy and also formed new partnerships during the year. There was less physical interactions because COVID-19 and we embraced virtual communication. Nonetheless, we were able to achieve key milestones in our work as you will notice from the report as follows;

1.0 Human and Community Resource Rights

1.1 Empty Promises Down the line: A human Rights Impact Assessment of the East African Crude Oil Pipeline

The East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) is one of the largest infrastructure projects in East Africa and the longest heated oil pipeline globally. It will transport crude oil from Kabaale - Hoima Districts in Uganda to Chongoleani in Tanga in Tanzania for export to the international market. The government has not yet announced the commencement date but estimates that the project will be built within two years once construction begins.

In 2020, GRA concentrated on the activities being done towards the preparation of the construction of EACOP. In this respect, GRA published and launched an in-depth report on the human rights impact of the EACOP. The report explores gender dynamics and their intersections with other inequalities to help make sense of the current picture

to better plan and prepare for the likely gendered impacts of the EACOP and ensure that the government and companies embed gender concerns in every aspect of the project. It also proposes early steps that the government can take to mitigate negative consequences for women and communities. Since its launch, the report has triggered responsiveness from different actors such as the Petroleum Authority of Uganda that is now proactively organising engagements with communities to discuss critical issues identified in the report. Total E&P, which is an industry actor, has also come out and issued a comprehensive statement responding to some critical concerns mentioned in the report.

Similarly, GRA supported selected Local governments to produce compensation rates.



“GRA helped us formulate, develop and facilitate the process of passing the rates into a working document. We now have rates and we have also reviewed them for the 2020/21 Financial Year,” Mr. Godfrey Mutemba, District Natural Resources Officer (DNRO) of Lwengo District said.



2020

FOCUS. In 2020, GRA concentrated on the activities being done towards the preparation of the construction of the East African Crude Oil Pipeline. Since its launch, our report has triggered responsiveness from different actors such as the Petroleum Authority of Uganda



Rakai residents who are facing eviction in Byakabanda.

Case story

EDWARD KAMYA (ACAO RAKAI AND EACOP FOCAL POINT PERSON)

“The EACOP passes through two sub-counties, Luanda and Kifamba which are both composed of 18 villages. After earmarking of the EACOP route, people’s expectations rose, especially on compensation. During that period, we needed someone to bridge the gap between the government, Oil industry actors and the communities affected. GRA has played that role. At the start, there were many gaps due to lack of information but over the years, we have worked with GRA to organise engagements through which we have sensitised the PAPs and formed clear systems of disclosing information. This has been through the GRA Community Based Monitors who have now become part of the district. We have worked with the monitors on many gender and family issues where some families had issues of ownership and who should benefit especially, within the marginalised families. A typical example is one of the Naziwa Norah in Kanoni which was brought on board by a GRA community-based monitor. All in all, GRA has helped us to bridge the gap between the government, PAPs and other development partners.”

1.2 Stakeholder engagements during COVID-19

Just like in other sectors, the emergence presented unforeseen effects which led to



BRIDGE. We needed someone to bridge the gap between the government, Oil industry actors and the communities affected. GRA has played that role.

EDWARD KAMYA (ACAO RAKAI AND EACOP FOCAL POINT PERSON)

significant impacts on human rights in the extractives industry. For instance, during the lockdown, there was a stalemate of projects because everybody, including oil companies, NGOs and government, withdrew from the community due to restrictions in movement as a result of the outbreak of the virus. During this season, we relied on Community Based Monitors; a brainchild of GRA to avail us with information of what was on the ground. Even government relied on them too as Mr. Godfrey Mutemba, the Assistant Chief Administrative Officer of Rakai District revealed;

“During this period, we heavily relied on the GRA through its Community Based Monitors who constantly fed us with information and linkages during the lockdown. With this, we continued getting and registering issues although we couldn’t solve then in time due to the circumstances.” Mr. Godfrey Mutemba.

This caused a spike in human rights issues and communities especially project affected people since there was no one to reach out to for information on any developments.

To address this, GRA quickly adjusted its programming to cater for the emerging issues in the industry. As such, we organised virtual engagements to help the affected stakeholders in creating an enabling

environment to mitigate the effects of the pandemic. Working with district Local Governments, we created spaces for dialogue to reflect on government responses to minimise the adverse effects of COVID-19 and how public and private sector players were recognising and dealing with the real and potential impacts. We utilised different platforms including webinars, engagement meetings, and radio talk shows, caravans, and television features. The engagement strategies proved essential in defining and exposing human rights violations hence setting precedence in the cases and thus yielded the results as explained below;

- Mining communities in Kasanda have been able to negotiate and obtain a location licence 1.9 square metre on Kagaba Hill, Kamusenene Village, Bukuya Town Council, and Kassanda District. This was through GRA initiatives that have seen ASMs organised into groups and training them on their rights and linking them to different duty bearers.
- Communities have been shaping up CSR initiatives, playing a major role in determining what their needs are e.g. Boreholes have been set up in Kabale, Buseruka, Health Centres in Rakai
- Trainings of CSOs, Local Governments and Community Based Monitors on, legal and regulatory frameworks have created awareness on compliance to Civic space requirements and strengthened or improved harmonious working relationship between Security agencies and NGO monitoring agencies.

i) Platforms used during the COVID-19 lockdown period

Due restrictions on movement due to COVID-19, we were unable to physically meet the different stakeholders. We relied on the following to communicate to them; Webinars, Radio talk shows, Caravans, Television, Newspapers, and Social Media.

2.0 Gender and Inclusiveness in natural resource governance

Under this programme, GRA builds knowledge and creates awareness about gender dimensions in the extractives industry. We tailor activities that seek to break social, cultural, and structural barriers that hinder the active participation of groups that are marginalised based on gender, age, and other factors. Through conducting

research, we advocate for gender policies and practices and achieve better outcomes for the women and young people in communities that host Mineral resources.



Prossy Namugenyi, a Community Development Officer of Nabigasa Village in Kyotera District says that during 2020, she worked closely with GRA through its Community Based Monitors to provide her with information

from areas where she cannot reach because Nabigasa Sub-County has 38 villages. Namugenyi says she had a heavy workload in 2020 because they received many cases of young girls getting pregnant and men battering their wives and some even chasing them away.

Since the PAPS got to know the compensation rates, Namugenyi says they also got reports of some men attracting new brides as soon as they get proceeds from compensation. To address these issues, Namugenyi said they worked together with GRA to organise sensitisation meetings at Sub-county level, especially on the different referral ways affected people could use to get justice. She also cites a challenge anxiety in the community at the time of the lockdown due to lack of any updates on the Oil and Gas developments. Since it was a political season, some politicians used the opportunity to feed the communities with false information. “I credit GRA for creating platforms for information sharing which have helped to clear the air in some issues. This has been successful because of the involvement of not only district leaders but also those at the village level,” she adds.

2.1 Research and analysis

2.1.1 A study on Women and Youth Aspirations for the 2021 General Elections

In 2020, GRA concluded a study that aimed at finding out the aspirations of women and youth as the country headed into the 2021 General Elections. This was done in the districts of Hoima, Kikuube and Bullisa. Our primary goal was to support women and youth in redefining the political agenda and carving their role in decision-making spaces. We ensured that their demands, ideas, and aspirations are voiced and heard and that they



Participants in the study pose for a photo after a meeting to validate the findings of the study.

are high on the political agenda. So, we set out to understand their aspirations and factors that facilitate or limit their participation in the extractives sector and support them in putting forward their views.

The study takes a more in-depth look at the experiences of women and youth about what is going on in their communities, their needs, and challenges, and how the oil and gas operations are affecting them, and how they would like to see these changes.

GRA validated the study findings through meeting the various stakeholders in the Albertine region. The findings informed our policy positions and policy engagements with key actors, including local leaders seeking political offices, technical officials within government structures, private companies in the oil sector, and other relevant stakeholders.

2.1.2 A flagship study on the mining landscape of the Karamoja region

In the last half of 2020, GRA flagged off a study to establish the impact of mining on the women's economic and social wellbeing of the women in Moroto and Amudat districts. The study sought to establish the environmental and social safeguards for women and other vulnerable groups in the mines and determine the contribution of mining to the economic well-being of women in the Karamoja region. The findings from the study reveal that women in the Karamoja hardly access most of the profitable mining opportunities with many being engaged in low paying and labour-intensive roles which greatly contributes to their continued marginalisation.

The study also proposes recommendations that can be adopted by actors from Local

Government, Civil Society, Mining companies to ensure equal representation and access to benefits, strengthen women leadership at local levels, promote respect of human rights, advance environmentally safe practices and ensure that safe guards are in place.

The Karamoja region of Uganda is one of the most endowed regions in terms of mineral wealth, boasting over 50 known minerals ranging from gold, marble, uranium phosphates, silver, copper, iron, gemstones, and limestone. As expected, mining is a significant economic activity in Karamoja, with the active participation of women, men, youth, and children in the trade. However, most of these people are engaged in artisanal gold mining, which is both informal and limiting in terms of the substantial benefits, especially to women and young adults.

2.1.3 Investigative study to assess the gender impact of land acquisition processes

In 2020, GRA intensified its efforts of monitoring effects of oil and gas activities to people affected by projects especially women, youth, the elderly, and other groups at risk. As a result, we have produced five research reports on the effects of the land acquisition and resettlement processes. Last year, we concluded an investigative study to assess the implication of land acquisition and resettlement processes on the social-economic wellbeing of people affected by extractives projects in Buseruka Sub-county Hoima District. The study analyses the effects of land acquisition and resettlement processes, comparing livelihoods of people who opted for resettlement and those who settled for cash compensation. It also analyses the gender impact of the land acquisition and resettlement processes while recommending mitigation measures for future interventions.

2.2 Capacity building

Over the years, GRA has evolved and grown in advocacy. As such, we keep innovating basing on the lessons learnt from our various interventions. The year 2020 created a new environment and thus, we became more innovative and explored new ways of getting voices and at the same time frame experiences of marginalized groups in the extractives sector. We explored an art initiative that aims to help women and other marginalized groups living in communities where extraction projects are taking place to find their voice through artistic expression. Through the various platforms we organised, women and

50

MINERAL WEALTH. The Karamoja region of Uganda is one of the most endowed regions in terms of mineral wealth, boosting over 50 known minerals ranging from gold, marble, uranium phosphates, silver, copper, iron, gemstones, and limestone.



groups of youth and the disabled got trained in the use of art in expressing themselves and documenting their experiences. As a result, short skits, art pieces, plays were produced, and these have been very significant in advocating for the rights and inclusion of marginalised groups. These have been disseminated through radio stations, Television and the different multi-media platforms.

3.0 Corporate Accountability and Transparency

The Extractive industry is very capital intensive which requires massive investment that in most cases cannot be generated domestically. Governments usually engage multi-national corporations to help them extract their resources on a business case. Under our programme of corporate accountability and transparency, GRA conducts activities aimed at expanding transparency and accountability in all government dealings in the extractives sector.

We push for the adoption and implementation of best practices enshrined in key global and regional instruments, enhance civic and citizen participation in formulation of policies and laws governing natural resources and create platforms promoting multi-stakeholder dialogues on extractives governance. 2020 was an illustrious year when it comes to this specific programme. Below are some of the key highlights;

3.1 Uganda joins the Extractives Industry Transparency Initiative

On August 12, 2020, Uganda was admitted to the Extractives Industry Transparency Initiative (EITI) making it the 54th country implementing the EITI's globally and the 26th in Africa. The admission was monumental for GRA and reminds us of the campaign we started six years ago, petitioning the government to join the Extractives Industry Transparency Initiative (EITI). This was on the backdrop of the secrecy in oil deals which we believed would undermine citizen's ability to benefit from oil revenues.

According to Mugambe Gloria, the Head Uganda EITI Secretariat, EITI is an initiative that aims at promoting transparency and accountability in the governance of extractives in a country. The process is clear and designed in such a way that countries must identify how they want EITI to work for them, given the challenges they face in their extractives sector, but the main principles of the standard are transparency and accountability. Uganda's cabinet took the decision for Uganda to join the EITI in January 2019. The Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development Hon. Matia Kasaija then made a public

The EITI Value chain



statement on Uganda’s intent to join the EITI and identified the chairperson to lead the process and set-up a Multi-Stakeholder group (MSG) to oversee the EITI implementation process. The MSG comprises of representatives from Government, Civil Society and Companies. The EITI Secretariat was constituted in November 2019 to provide support to the government and the MSG and we started working on Uganda’s candidature application. Together with the MSG, Gloria says the secretariat came up with a two-year workplan and other supporting documents and submitted the application to the EITI International Secretariat.



“Civil Society has been a crucial part of the EITI process in Uganda. Civil society represents the Ugandan public. It is a good thing for them to push for transparency and accountability. They have done research, presented evidence, lobbied, and consistently pushed for Uganda to join the EITI. Even in the implementation process, our outreach activities have been led by our Civil Society component. Uganda has joined at a good time when we are able to learn from other countries and understand what we need as a country,” – says Mrs. Gloria Mugambe (Head UGEITI).

3.2 Harnessing diversity and inclusive participation

As an organisation, GRA has always aspired to create initiatives that enhance inclusive participation of citizens in the business of the extractives Industry. 2020 saw us commence on a project that aims at Harnessing Diversity and Inclusive EITI agenda for Uganda. Implemented in partnership with Publish What You Pay and the Civil Society Coalition on Oil and Gas, the project is vested in creating awareness and deepening the understanding of the EITI among civil society, local authorities, and communities to drive greater engagement and support for the EITI implementation. In the past months, we have created platforms and engaged with stakeholders ranging from District Leaders in the Masaka Region, Cultural leaders in the Bunyoro region, Political leaders, Youth and Women to get their views on the EITI subject. The several engagements we held throughout the year have resulted in a deeper understanding of the EITI among CSOs which has formed a basis to demand for reforms from government and holding duty bearers accountable.

3.3 The Citizens’ Convention on Mining 2020

On September 24, 2020, GRA hosted the 4th Citizens’ Convention on Mining under the theme “Sustainable Development of Mineral Wealth in East Africa”. The grand event was

organized in partnership with the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development, Advocates Coalition for Development and Environment (ACODE), Transparency International Uganda (TIU), Action Aid International Uganda (AAIU), and the Uganda Association of Artisanal and Small Scale Miners (UGAASM). The event took place at Imperial Royale Hotel and was officially opened by Hon Sarah Opendi Achieng, Minister of State for Energy and Mineral Development. The Annual event created a platform for learning and information sharing among actors in the mineral sub-sector in East Africa and compelled key duty bearers to make commitments towards promoting transparency and accountability in the sub-sector. It brought to the fore gender mainstreaming needs for the mining sub-sector to ensure balanced access to benefits by women, men, and youth. The convention created a platform for citizens to deliberate on the issues affecting the mining sub-sector and enabled stakeholders to take stock of progress and achievements within the sector over the last five years.

4.0 Institutional building and strengthening

4.1 Launching our Case Management System

Over the years, GRA has set up initiatives that put communities at the forefront of advocacy. To achieve this, GRA has been working with a network of Community-Based Monitors (CBMs) who track, document, address and report human and resource rights violations related to oil, gas, and mining in their communities. With our support, CBMs mediate and



State Minister of Mineral Development Sarah Opendi during the Citizens' Convention on Mining 2020 at Imperial Royale Hotel

address some identified issues. However, for cases that are complex in nature, CBMs refer them to our different partners for redress. As part of our efforts to streamline our processes and improve our service level through our community-based monitors (CBMs), we have made investments in building digital capacity and leveraging technology to transform how we operate and serve our constituents. Last year, GRA launched an online Case Management System designed to consolidate data into one central point where cases entered are verified, followed up, or escalated to relevant stakeholders through different platforms and engagements to ensure a successful resolution. The system helps us to ensure that we can leverage the data to make timely, informed programmatic decisions, and tell evidence-based stories of our impact.

4.2 Strengthening Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning

To further strengthen our ability to monitor, evaluate, learn from our work, and remain accountable to our stakeholders, GRA conducted

a Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability, and Learning readiness assessment targeting GRA staff. The aim was to identify the existing MEAL system's current strengths and weaknesses, re-assess the incentives in place and needs for building a robust MEAL system. The process also identified vital components that GRA can integrate to make the existing system more effective and responsive to its demands. This process was participatory in nature, involving all staff, the board, community-based monitors, and other stakeholder representatives to ensure that the needs of different groups are catered for while rebuilding our system. The resultant and detailed report discussed internally by the team focused on implementing key action points and recommendations therein. This process is also part of GRA's broader efforts to strengthen evidence-based planning, implementation, and reporting.

4.3 Knowledge management

2020 was a year of learning and as such, GRA established a knowledge management initiative to improve on data collection, storage, access, and referral both internally and

externally. Knowledge management is a crucial focus for GRA since it helps in fostering learning by easing of access to information, help in evidence generation which informs decision making and can be used to share best practices with our partners. Under the initiative, GRA established a digital newsletter called ‘The Natural Resource Eye’. The newsletter serves the purpose of informing our partners and stakeholders on major developments and knowledge generated every quarter. In 2020, we published two newsletters.

Conclusion and looking into 2021

Most of 2020 was slow because of the COVID-19 restrictions on movement but we later picked up in the

last half of year. Notwithstanding this, we made some improvements in programme quality and harnessing opportunities that have enabled us to advance our mission of making natural resources benefit the people. We pledge to continue empowering communities to negotiate for equitable benefit sharing, influence decisions that impact their lives, and mitigate human rights abuses associated with the exploitation of natural resources. We shall continue to harness opportunities and learn by taking stock of our triumphs and being cognizant of challenges and changes in the following year.



Uganda Multi-Stakeholder Group (MSG) training and induction meeting on EITI.

5.0 Annex

5.1 Media Engagements



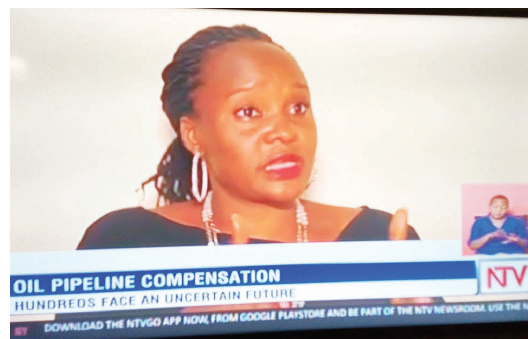
Uganda's progress in joining the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative



THURSDAY, AUGUST 20 2020 9AM - 10AM

LIVE ON nbs

organised by: fCODE RSCC UGANDA



5.1 Newspaper Features

22 NEW VISION, Tuesday, February 11, 2020

OIL & GAS

Go slow on borrowing to invest in oil sector



CHRISTOPHER EMANZI

Ever since the Government took the decision to exploit the country's oil deposits, it has earned itself new friends — the Chinese. Seldom do you find the world's largest economy desirous to be friends with Uganda, one of the "poorest countries in the world", but let us first take a look at China's foreign direct investment (FDI) strategy for Africa.

China's FDI in Africa is supported by two state-owned banks, including China EXIM bank



It is clear that most of the loans we are taking from the Chinese government will be paid back using the oil proceeds

"China's relationship with these countries is purely business with heavy interests"

the contractor through competitive bidding. Chinese loan projects in Uganda will always be taken by Chinese companies regardless of their capacity to deliver good works. This kills procurement processes and discourages other competent companies, including our own local firms, from bidding for such jobs.

This will result in bad loans as the price quotes will be outrageous as

Indigenous groups lose court bid to block Canada pipeline

Canada's federal court last week denied a bid by indigenous tribes to block a long-delayed expansion of an oil pipeline, dismissing their claim that they had not been adequately consulted on the project.

The decision is a win for Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, whose government in 2016 approved the project connecting the Alberta oil sands to the Pacific coast for crude shipment to new overseas markets.

It also risks, however, turning climate activists who supported Trudeau's administration against him.

The federal court said the Coldwater Indian Band and other tribes had not proved that Ottawa "failed to meet its duty to consult and accommodate during the re-initiated consultations."

"Although indigenous peoples can assert their uncompromising opposition to a project, they cannot tactically use the consultation process as a means to try to veto it," chief justice Marc Noel said.

Natural resources minister Seamus O'Regan said the government had held "the most comprehensive consultation ever undertaken for a major project in Canada's history" with indigenous people.

"This project is in the public interest," he said, pointing to its "creation of thousands of good, well-paying jobs" and "getting more of our valuable natural resources to global markets."

According to Alberta premier Jason Kenney, the ruling "removes the last remaining legal obstacle" to the construction of the Trans Mountain pipeline. The tribes, however, vowed to bring their fight to the Supreme Court.

"We say this project cannot go through," Leah

Oil, mining companies to declare contracts and revenue

By Martin Kibubi

Uganda has been confirmed as a member of the Extractives Industry Transparency Initiative (EITI), a global standard body that promotes transparency, accountability and good governance in the management of extractive industries, such as oil, gas and minerals.

Much as it has a number of advantages, some sector players have cautioned the Government regarding the move.

Uganda becomes 54th member and the 26th in Africa to join EITI.

Going forward, the country will not have any confidential information regarding its extractive sector.

DISCLOSURE

Uganda is now required to disclose information along the extractives industry value chain, including awarding of extraction to the way revenues make their way through the Government.

In addition, the Government will also be required to disclose how the natural resources benefit the public.

Joining the EITI implies that Uganda has agreed to publish the processes, royalties, contracts, licences and revenues obtained in the extractives sector to the public.

Through participation in the EITI, countries agree to a common set of rules governing what has to be

EITI STANDARDS

Under the new standards, the transparency body requires member states to address issues of gender, environmental issues, contract transparency and state-owned enterprises in the sector.

It also requires full, independent, active and effective participation of civil society.

The second requirement is mainly on the legal and institutional framework, including allocation of contracts and award of licences. Under this, it requires

disclosures of information related to the rules for how the extractive sector is managed, enabling stakeholders to understand the laws.

Thirdly, EITI calls for disclosures of information related to exploration and production, enabling stakeholders to understand the potential of the sector.

On revenue collection, the transparency body recommends a comprehensive reconciliation of company payments and government revenues from the extractive industries.

disclosed and when.

As a new member, the Government has been given 18 months to come up with a harmonised report on the sector to the international body. Thereafter, the country will then publish timely annual reports on the sector.

In addition, all mining and petroleum companies (both government and private) will be compelled to give its operations, contracts awarded and the terms, volumes they produce and the profits to the Government and public.

The news of Uganda's becoming a member of the EITI was confirmed in a statement on Wednesday following

successful application by Uganda in July.

Saul Ongaria, a senior economist with the Ministry of Finance, who is also the chief co-ordinator of the EITI processes at the ministry, said: "It is now mandatory that all mining and petroleum companies in the country declare everything."

In the 18-month period, he said, the Government has been tasked with reconciling all the data at its ministries, departments and agencies (MDAs) in the extractives sector.

In addition, he said, each of the MDAs are also required to publish using

online platforms.

For private companies, Ongaria said, it will be mandatory for them to declare everything. "We are hopeful that joining EITI will increase our revenues now that everyone has to declare," he said.

EITI SECRETARIAT REACTS

The development was also confirmed by Leila Pilliard, the EITI communications officer at the EITI International Secretariat in Oslo, Norway.

In a letter to our reporter, Pilliard said: "EITI intends to help Uganda promote understanding of natural resource management, strengthen public and corporate governance and provide the data to inform greater transparency and accountability in the extractives sector. In each country that has joined the EITI, a multi-stakeholder group, composed of government, companies and civil society supports implementation of the EITI standards," she said.

However, Uganda will only be compelled to declare proceeds or deals in the extractives sector got after joining the EITI.

Going by this standard, Uganda will be required to make public what the country will offer to international oil companies which are set to undertake Final Investment Decisions (FID), for the refinery and pipeline projects.

Both the Government and oil companies will have to publish the production-sharing agreements and

transport tariffs for the deals.

GOOD NEWS FOR UGANDA

James Muhindo, the national co-ordinator of the Civil Society Coalition on Oil and Gas (CSCO), believes the move will attract real investors in the mining and minerals sector, as opposed to having briefcase companies.

"Now the public will be able to account for every coin received. It will also eliminate cases where individuals decline to remit taxes," he said.

Winfred Ngabirwe, the executive director at Global Rights Alert, said: "This is a breakthrough. The EITI has standards on gender and women affairs, as well as environmental issues, which must be followed. These will shape the sector."

Both agreed that Uganda should ensure participation of women and marginalised groups, as it is required by the EITI, for them to benefit.

A WORD OF CAUTION

However, a senior government official, said the Government has rushed to join the EITI.

"The EITI can be used to arm-twist the Government and award a contract to a certain company. I think we rushed, we should have done it after the major deals in the country are signed," the source said.

Going forward, the source said, the country will be dancing to decisions made by EITI and foreign powers to undertake all projects.

5.2. Social Media



204 People reached 19 Engagements [Boost post](#)



Global Rights Alert

Published by Jim Bakasi · 5 November 2020 ·

In an effort of having inclusive engagement with communities affected by the extractives industry, GRA has today conducted a follow-up dialogue to disseminate CSO findings on the issues resulting from oil exploration activities in the Bunyoro region. The dialogue aimed at collecting views from the Bunyoro community and also strategizing on how they can work with civil society to find lasting ways of engaging actors.

Mirac Albertine Bunyoro Albertine Petroleum Network on Environmental Conservation- BAPENECO The Fund for Global Human Rights Democratic Governance Facility - DGF



2,395 People reached 251 Engagements [Boost post](#)



Global Rights Alert

Published by Jim Bakasi · 18 December 2020 ·

Democratic Governance focuses on building open, responsive, and accountable institutions and processes that serve the needs and preferences of the public. In Uganda, The Democratic Governance Facility DGF supports institutions that strive to achieve inclusive governance that captures aspirations of all citizens.

As an implementing partner, GRA is pleased to have joined Democratic Governance Facility - DGF as they launched their 2019 annual report. The report highlights the DGF milestones for the past year which have been a combined effort of all implementing partners. #DGFAnnualreportlaunch

Civil Society Budget Advocacy Group - CSBAG African Youth Initiative Network - Ayinet



721 People reached 44 Engagements [Boost post](#)



Global Rights Alert

Published by Jim Bakasi · 18 December 2020 ·

Democratic Governance focuses on building open, responsive, and accountable institutions and processes that serve the needs and preferences of the public. In Uganda, The Democratic Governance Facility DGF supports institutions that strive to achieve inclusive governance that captures aspirations of all citizens.

As an implementing partner, GRA is pleased to have joined Democratic Governance Facility - DGF as they launched their 2019 annual report. The report highlights the DGF milestones for the past year which have been a combined effort of all implementing partners. #DGFAnnualreportlaunch

Civil Society Budget Advocacy Group - CSBAG African Youth Initiative Network - Ayinet


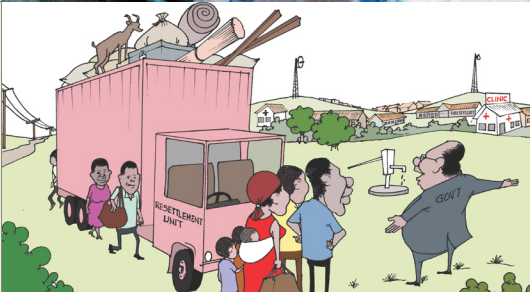




854 People reached 114 Engagements [Boost post](#)

6.0 Our Partners

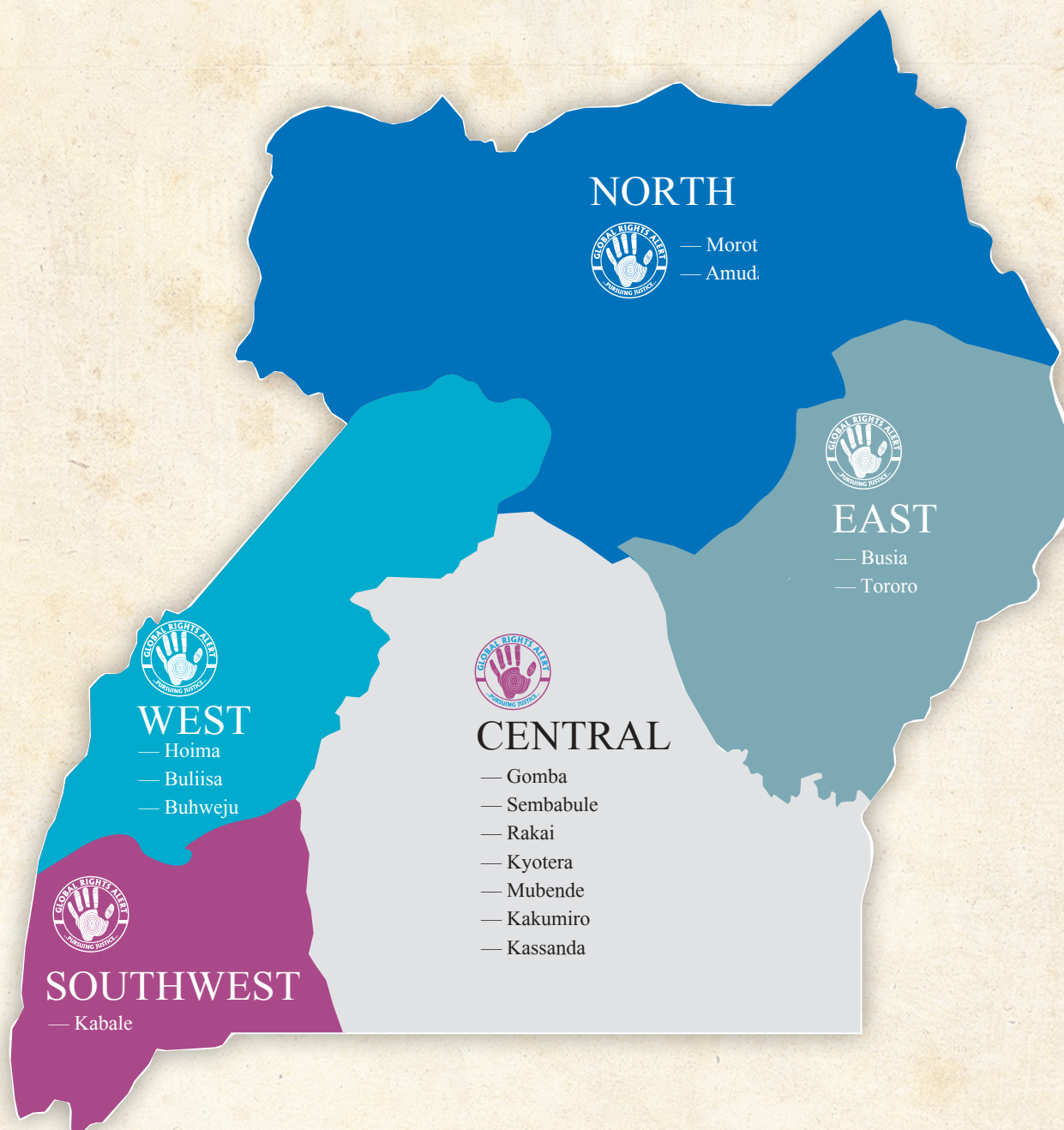


Who we are

Summary		
GRA		Global Rights Alert (GRA) is a Civil Society Organisation whose mission is to make natural resources benefit the people. GRA's work centres around empowering communities to negotiate for more equitable benefit sharing regimes, influence decisions that impact on their lives and mitigate conflicts and human rights abuses associated with the exploitation of natural resources.
Vision		To be East Africa's leading Civil Society Organisation defending and promoting Human and Community resource rights in the extractives industry
Programme Areas		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Human and Community Resource Rights — Gender and Inclusiveness in Natural Resource Governance — Corporate Accountability and Transparency — Institutional Building and Strengthening
Memberships		GRA has been partnering with some organisations to execute its work. These include; National Coalition of Human Rights Defenders Uganda (NCHRD-U), Civil Society Coalition on Oil and Gas (CSCO), Publish What You Pay (PWYP), Bunyoro Albertine Petroleum Network on Environmental Conservation (BAPENECO), Albertine Region Land Platform, The Uganda National N.G.O Forum, Development Network of Indigenous Voluntary Associations (DENIVA), Bunyoro Coalition on Oil and Sustainable livelihoods (BUCOSA)

Districts

GRA works in key districts to execute its work as seen in the box below.





**GLOBAL
RIGHTS
ALERT**

Global Rights Alert
Plot 24, Martyrs Way,
Minister's Village, Ntinda
P.O. Box 27977, Kampala
Tel. +256414531661
Email: info@globalrightsalert.org
Website: www.globalrightsalert.org