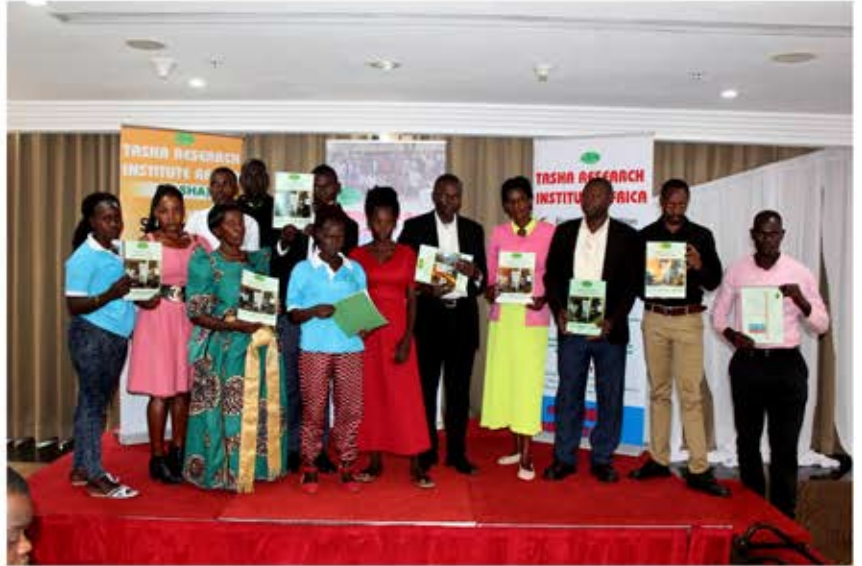


## A SPECIAL CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR MESSAGE: FROM US, TO YOU

As we draw the curtain on 2024 and step into the promise of a new year, we pause to reflect on the journey we've shared and the milestones we've reached together. This festive season, we extend our deepest gratitude to every observer, funder, reader, and collaborator who has made this newsletter—and the work it represents—possible.

First and foremost, to our observers (many of whom are pictured right), your stories and testimonies have been the heartbeat of our mission. Your courage in sharing personal experiences has illuminated truths, inspired action, and strengthened our resolve to advocate for justice and sustainability. You remind us of the power of voices united for change.



### AND TO ALL OUR STAKEHOLDERS,

To our funders, (a special mention to Rainforest Rescue, 11th Hour Project, and American Jewish World Service (AJWS) your generosity has transformed visions into realities. Because of your unwavering support, we've been able to create platforms that amplify voices, produce meaningful content, and empower communities to stand for their rights and aspirations. Your belief in our

And to our readers and collaborators, your engagement, feedback, and partnership have been sources of endless inspiration. You challenge us to think bigger, act bolder, and remain steadfast in our commitment to environmental and social justice. Together, we've built a network of change-makers whose impact continues to ripple far and wide.

*The appreciation segment of the second edition of the Observer Training held at Sheraton Hotel Kampala (pictured above and below).*



## RELAYING STORIES FROM THE GROUND: A TRANSFORMATIVE EXPERIENCE

Relaying stories from the ground through this newsletter has been more than an act of communication; it has been a journey of discovery, empathy, and empowerment. We've witnessed firsthand the struggles, hopes, and triumphs of communities facing significant challenges—and through sharing these narratives, we've built bridges of understanding and action.

Each story has been a testament to resilience and courage, reminding us of the importance of listening, learning, and amplifying voices that too often go unheard. It has been our privilege to serve as a conduit for these stories, and we remain committed to continuing this work with integrity and dedication.

### The Impacts of Pipeline Installation on Kasinyi Village, Buliisa District

The residents of Kasinyi Village, located in Nile Parish, Ngwedo Subcounty, rely on small-scale farming and fishing on Lake Albert for income and food security. Crops such as maize, cassava, sweet potatoes, cowpeas, and watermelons have supported their livelihoods for generations.

Culturally, the community is home to diverse ethnic groups, including the Bagungu and Alur, who maintain a deep connection to the land and natural environment. However, the discovery of oil in the region has brought disruption, displacement, and environmental degradation.

The construction of the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) has left families like that of Selina Ketehe facing devastating impacts. Flooding caused by water flowing from trenches for pipeline installation has submerged farmland, destroyed crops such as bananas, cassava, and watermelons, and blocked access to homes. Children face grave dangers of drowning due to the uncontrolled water flow.

Despite reaching out to TotalEnergies with their concerns, responses have been dismissive and lacked empathy. The community's demands include:

**Immediate assessment of destroyed crops.**

**Relocation of homes near the pipeline to ensure safety.**

**Prioritization of meaningful community engagement to balance development with environmental and social well-being.**



*Water from the pipeline trenches has submerged farms*

### Standing Against the EACOP Project: A Call for Justice

As we close this year, we cannot ignore the pressing threat posed by the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) project. Reports from our observers reveal a deeply troubling pattern of environmental destruction, displacement of communities, and human rights violations. The EACOP project represents a direct assault on sustainable development and the fundamental rights of affected communities.

This pipeline threatens vital ecosystems, water sources, and livelihoods. Its construction has already led to forced evictions and inadequate compensation, leaving families without homes and means of survival. The exploitation of natural resources at the expense of people's lives and environmental integrity must be challenged. >>>Next page



*Waterlogged farms in Kasinyi village: A reminder that the battle against environmental and human rights injustices continues*

We stand firmly with the communities resisting this project. Their bravery in speaking out against injustices has shed light on corporate greed and governmental complacency. At Tasha Research Institute, we will continue to amplify their voices, support their fight, and demand accountability from all parties involved.

We urge our readers, collaborators, and funders to join us in this critical fight for justice. Together, we can ensure that the future is not one of exploitation but of empowerment, equality, and environmental preservation.

As we celebrate this season of hope and renewal, we also renew our pledge to keep the stories alive, the conversations flowing, and the actions impactful. May this Christmas bring you peace, joy, and warmth, and may the New Year open doors to greater opportunities, collaboration, and achievements.

*From all of us at Tasha Research Institute, we wish you a Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year! Thank you for being part of our journey.*