



NATURE TALK AFRICA

**CATALYZING COMMUNITY-LED RESILIENCE THROUGH
PARTNERSHIPS, EVIDENCE AND COLLECTIVE ACTION.**

NATURE TALK AFRICA QUARTERLY IMPACT REPORT | SECOND QUARTER (APRIL-JULY) 2026



During April to July, 2026, we remained connected to many local and national partners, collaboratively working together. These partners include: Oil Refinery Residents Association (ORRA), East African Crude Oil Pipeline Host Communities (EACOP HC), Kazi_Njema News and #REPowerUganda team among others to strengthen youth leadership in climate and social justice, and environmental protection work in the Albertine region, Uganda.

Community defenders in oil-affected regions often face intimidation, legal risks, and psychological stress. Nature Talk Africa works to ensure they are not alone.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The second quarter of 2026 marked a significant milestone for Nature Talk Africa (NaTA) as we strengthened our role as a trusted grassroots partner advancing environmental justice, community resilience and the well-being of Environmental Human Rights Defenders (EHRDs) in Uganda's oil-host communities. Guided by our strategic priorities of fostering partnerships, promoting defender well-being, strengthening community-led resilience and advancing climate justice, we shifted from implementing stand-alone activities to building sustainable systems, evidence and collaborative networks that will deliver long-term impact. During the quarter, NaTA deepened collaboration with local communities, civil society organizations, regional networks, and development partners to respond to the interconnected challenges of environmental degradation, shrinking civic space, livelihood insecurity, and psychosocial distress facing frontline communities. With support from UMI Fund, we facilitated community storytelling and resilience dialogues that inspired locally owned self-help initiatives, demonstrating how community-led approaches can strengthen social cohesion, improve livelihoods, and build long-term resilience. Through support from Oxfam America, we convened peer learning and action planning sessions that connected Environmental Human Rights Defenders, community organizers, and grassroots groups to exchange practical solutions for sustainable livelihoods, climate adaptation, and collective organizing. NaTA also strengthened collective advocacy by partnering with civil society organizations under the #AfrikaVuka, #GlobalKickPollutersOut, and #RepowerAfrica movements. Together, we co-organized the People's Community Tribunal, amplifying the voices of oil-affected communities and promoting accountability, environmental justice and a just energy transition. Our participation in launching the #RepowerUganda campaign further positioned NaTA within a growing continental coalition advocating for Decentralized Renewable Energy (DRE) and people-centered energy systems.

A major achievement during the quarter was the completion of our baseline study on the psychosocial well-being of EHRDs in Uganda. The research generated critical evidence on the emotional, social and economic realities facing frontline defenders and introduced the "Resilience Paradox"; a finding that demonstrates how defenders continue their work despite increasing emotional strain and limited institutional support. This evidence is already informing advocacy and programming to integrate mental health and psychosocial care into protection systems for defenders.

Across all interventions, NaTA reached and engaged grassroots communities, EHRDs, youth groups, women's groups, self-help associations and civil society partners, strengthening collaboration, community ownership and locally driven solutions. The quarter reaffirmed that resilient communities are built through strong partnerships, evidence-informed programming and investments in the people who protect our environment and human rights. As we move into the next quarter, Nature Talk Africa remains committed to expanding strategic partnerships, scaling community-led resilience initiatives, advancing defender wellness, and generating evidence that influences policy and practice. We invite development partners, donors, researchers, and civil society organizations to join us in strengthening grassroots leadership and building a more just, resilient, and climate-secure future for Uganda's oil-host communities.



About Nature Talk Africa (NaTA) and the Context Analysis of our working environment.

Nature Talk Africa (NaTA) is a youth-led, community-based organization founded in 2023 and formally registered in 2024 in Hoima District, Uganda. We were established by young people, community organizers, environmental defenders and individuals directly affected by large-scale oil and gas developments in Uganda's Albertine Graben. Unlike many organizations that work from a distance, our leadership and membership come directly from the communities experiencing the realities of displacement, land acquisition, environmental degradation, livelihood loss and social disruption associated with oil and gas extractive industries. We believe that communities closest to environmental and climate injustices should be at the center of designing solutions, shaping policies and determining their own future. Our work is rooted in solidarity, nonviolence, human dignity, environmental stewardship, social justice and community empowerment.

Background: The Albertine region of Uganda is currently undergoing rapid oil and gas development, including major projects such as:

- The East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP).
- The Tilenga Oil Project.
- The Kingfisher Oil Project.
- The Oil Refinery Project.
- The Kabalega International Airport.
- The Kabalega Industrial Park (KIP)

While these projects have been promoted as pathways to development, thousands of local people have experienced:

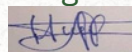
- Land dispossession and displacement.
- Loss of livelihoods and income sources.
- Food insecurity.
- Social and family breakdown.
- Increased vulnerability among women, youth, children and elderly people.
- Environmental degradation.
- Shrinking civic space for community voices.
- Limited access to information and meaningful participation in decision-making.

Message from the Programmes Director

To our supporters, partners, allies and community champions, thank you for standing with Nature Talk Africa. Your trust and collaboration continued to empower grassroots communities to lead transformative climate action. During the second quarter 2026, we strengthened community-led learning, solidarity and peaceful civic engagement by training over 200 youth, women and grassroots EHRDs to champion climate justice while safely documenting environmental and human rights violations. We remain convinced that community knowledge must shape protection systems for environmental human rights defenders and that accountability begins with credible evidence. Our community defenders in oil-affected regions are faced with continuous intimidation, legal risks and psychological stress and that is why, Nature Talk Africa works to ensure they are not alone. Together, we are building resilient communities where both nature and its defenders are protected.

To our community organizers and EHRDs, I urge ourselves to stay inspired and in solidarity. To our supporters, allies and communities, never stop supporting our initiatives and protecting us. Thank you all.

Programs Director



Emmanuel Ongyeer

SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED

1. Nationalization of REPower Afrika Campaign in Uganda: Launch of the #RepowerUganda campaign.



During the week of 20 April 2026, Nature Talk Africa (NaTA) joined other civil society organizations across Uganda, Private sector players and Government ministries to **nationalize the REPower Africa camapign** in Uganda which officially led to the launch of the **#RepowerUganda chapter**, contributing to the continent-wide #RepowerAfrica movement, a pan-african campaign. This campaign calls for accelerating Uganda's transition from energy poverty and fossil fuel dependence to decentralized, affordable and community-centered renewable energy solutions.

Key outcomes:

- NaTA joined national and regional civil society partners to officially nationalize the #RepowerAfrica movement in Uganda through the launch of #RepowerUganda.
- The campaign **amplified public awareness** of the need for clean, decentralized renewable energy as a sustainable pathway to improve energy access while protecting communities and ecosystems.
- The initiative strengthened collaboration among civil society organizations advocating for people-centered energy policies, climate action and a just energy transition.
- Through digital advocacy and public engagement, NaTA helped elevate community voices calling for energy systems that are accessible, equitable and environmentally sustainable.

Outstanding outcome. The launch of **#RepowerUganda** positioned communities at the center of Uganda's energy transition, shifting the national conversation from fossil fuel expansion toward decentralized renewable energy solutions that prioritize people, livelihoods and climate resilience.

2. Community storytelling for joy, resilience and solidarity building among the oil projects affected persons.



On 2 May 2026, Nature Talk Africa (NaTA), with support from the UMI Fund, facilitated a **community storytelling and dialogue session** at Kyakaboga Resettlement Camp. The event brought together 45 community organizers, EHRDs and Project Affected Persons (PAPs) to share lived experiences, strengthen social cohesion and build resilience to the socio-economic and climate injustices associated with oil development.

Key outcomes.

- Community members openly shared personal experiences of displacement, livelihood loss, climate impacts and community resilience, creating a safe space for healing, mutual learning and solidarity. We documented **10 personal stories** for amplification.
- The storytelling process strengthened relationships among EHRDs, community organizers, and affected households, reinforcing collective action for environmental and climate justice.
- A significant outcome emerged after the event: the **Nyakasinina Horticulture Group** began hosting weekly resilience meetings every Wednesday, inviting fellow oil project-affected community members across Kabaale Sub-county to share experiences, save together and learn from community elders about the impacts of climate change and oil development.
- The group has become a locally led platform for peer support, financial inclusion, intergenerational learning, and community resilience, while encouraging the formation of additional self-help groups in neighboring communities.

Outstanding impact.

The storytelling initiative evolved beyond a one-day activity into a community-owned resilience movement. Inspired by the dialogue, affected community members independently established regular self-help meetings that combine savings, storytelling, mentorship and collective support, demonstrating how simple, locally driven approaches can strengthen resilience, rebuild social cohesion and empower communities to respond to the long-term impacts of oil development.

3. Co-organizing and co-coordinating of the Peoples' community tribunal with community partners.



On 23 May 2026, Nature Talk Africa (NaTA), in partnership with ORRA and the EACOP campaign network, convened [The People's Community Tribunal](#) in the Albertine region as part of the **#AfrikaVuka** and **#GlobalKickPollutersOut** Week of Action campaigns. The tribunal created a safe platform for oil-affected communities to present first-hand testimonies on the impacts of fossil fuel development, including land loss, inadequate compensation, livelihood disruption and environmental degradation and human rights concerns. Community members collectively called for justice, accountability, fair reparations, protection of community rights and a transition toward equitable and sustainable energy systems.

Key outcomes.

- Over 100 community members, environmental defenders and civil society representatives participated in the tribunal, strengthening collective advocacy and solidarity.
- Community testimonies documented lived experiences of displacement, land conflicts and socio-economic challenges associated with oil development in the Albertine Graben.
- The event amplified grassroots voices through the **#AfrikaVuka** and **#GlobalKickPollutersOut** campaigns, increasing national and international visibility of community concerns.
- The tribunal reinforced community-led demands for human rights-centered development, environmental justice and meaningful participation in decisions affecting local communities.



4. Production and publishment of the Wellbeing of EHRDs and community organizers' baseline study report.



In April 2026, Nature Talk Africa (NaTA) completed a **baseline wellness study** involving Environmental Human Rights Defenders (EHRDs) working in Uganda's climate-vulnerable and oil-affected communities. The study generated important evidence on the emotional well-being, resilience and protection needs of frontline environmental defenders. [The study report](#) was published on June 26, 2026.

Key findings:

- Environmental Human Rights Defenders are experiencing significant psychosocial distress. Many reported chronic stress, anxiety, emotional exhaustion and burnout resulting from prolonged exposure to environmental conflicts, intimidation, displacement, land disputes and increasing pressure associated with environmental advocacy.
- Psychosocial challenges are closely linked to economic and community impacts. Defenders not only face emotional strain but also financial insecurity, livelihood disruption, weakened community trust and social fragmentation; especially in communities affected by oil and gas development.
- Grassroots defenders have limited access to professional mental health and psychosocial services. Existing protection mechanisms largely focus on legal and physical security, leaving critical mental health needs insufficiently addressed, particularly in rural areas.
- Peer solidarity remains the strongest source of resilience. Informal support networks, community organizations, spirituality and collective action continue to help defenders cope despite limited institutional support.

Outstanding research finding. The study identified a "**Resilience Paradox**": although EHRDs continue to demonstrate remarkable commitment and resilience under increasing pressure, this resilience is sustained largely through personal sacrifice and informal community support rather than institutional systems. As a result, many defenders continue their work while silently experiencing emotional exhaustion, placing them at growing risk of burnout and reducing the long-term sustainability of environmental and climate justice movements.

Outstanding impact of this research: The findings/report have/has attracted more collaboration, **NaTA representative has been invited for an international interview** to share our lived realities on mental wellbeing, safety and protection of community organizers and EHTRDs. This will further amplify our community voices and realities.

5. Peer-to-peer learning, resilience and solidarity building among EHRDs and community organizers in Kabaale-Hoima.



Recognizing that resilient movements require resilient people, Nature Talk Africa (NaTA), with support from Oxfam America, convened a **peer learning, reflection and action planning session** to strengthen solidarity, facilitate practical learning and identify community-led pathways for resilience, sustainable livelihoods and collective action.

- On 7 July 2026 at Nyakasinina Catholic Church Compound in Kabaale Sub-county, the session brought together 30 community organizers, EHRDs and representatives of grassroots self-help groups; included the Nyakasinina Horticulture Group, Nyahaira Youth Initiative, Nzorobi Beekeepers Association, Holy Mary Saving Group (Iyatal, Kataaba A), Albertine Region Environment Network (ARnet) and representatives from other emerging Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs).
- Through **participatory reflection and peer-learning circles**, participants shared their organizing journeys, exchanged lessons from community-led initiatives and explored collaborative strategies for sustaining environmental, climate and social justice work while strengthening household resilience. Discussions on; horticulture, beekeeping, savings groups and youth enterprises; that restore livelihoods, enable adaption to climate change, strengthen environmental stewardship and build social cohesion. Participants also reflected on common challenges; land-related pressures associated with oil development, climate variability, limited access to finance and the emotional burden of sustained grassroots advocacy.
- A **major outcome** of the exchange was the strengthening of partnerships and solidarity among grassroots groups, creating new opportunities for collaboration, mentorship and joint action across communities. Participants committed to expanding peer-to-peer learning, supporting the formation of additional self-help groups, strengthening Village Savings and Loan Associations and integrating sustainable livelihood initiatives into community organizing as practical strategies for reducing vulnerability and improving household resilience. The session further reinforced the importance of prioritizing the joy, well-being and psychological care of EHRDs by creating safe spaces for reflection, mutual encouragement and collective problem-solving.
- We know that community resilience grows through local leadership, strong relationships and economic empowerment. By connecting grassroots organizations, NaTA strengthens livelihoods, adaptive capacity and locally owned environmental and climate justice movements across Uganda's oil-host communities.

6. Celebration of the 2nd anniversary of the REPower Afrika campaign with ORRA at Kyakaboga Resettlement camp-Hoima



On 18 July 2026, Nature Talk Africa (NaTA), in partnership with the Oil Refinery Residents Association (ORRA) and joined by Kazi_Njema News, successfully commemorated **the 2nd Anniversary of the REPower Africa Campaign** at Kyakaboga Resettlement Village in Buseruka Sub-county, Hoima District.

Held under the theme “**Youth and Women Leading Change**,” the celebration brought together more than 80 participants, including Local Council leaders, women, youth, elderly community members, environmental defenders and community organizers.

The event **provided a community platform:**

- To reflect on two years of the REPower Africa Campaign, strengthen awareness of decentralized renewable energy (DRE), discuss Uganda’s energy transition and jointly identify locally driven solutions to persistent energy poverty affecting communities displaced by oil and gas development and resettled in camp-like settlement; a case for Kyakaboga Resettlement village.
- Participants emphasized that despite being among the first communities affected by Uganda’s Oil Refinery Project, they continue to experience **severe energy insecurity** characterized by unaffordable electricity, unreliable national grid services, delayed technical support and exclusion of many vulnerable households from accessing electricity.
- The celebration concluded with community commitments to become **volunteer REPower Africa ambassadors** and continue peacefully advocating for equitable access to clean, affordable, community-owned renewable energy; a **community-owned solar plant** at Kyakaboga resettlement camp.

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