



March 31, 2026
H.E Yoweri Kaguta Museveni
President of the Republic of Uganda
P.O.Box 7168,
Kampala, Uganda

Re: Request for Immediate Action on Establishment of Community Fisheries Protection Units and Kapapi Land Evictions

Your Excellency,

On behalf of the Environment Governance Institute (EGI) and Climate Rights International (CRI), we would like to urge you to use your position as President of the Republic of Uganda and Chairman of the East African Community (EAC) to strengthen the Government mandate under article 237(2)(b) of the Ugandan Constitution to hold in trust for the people and protect natural resources including lakes, rivers, wetlands, forest, game reserves, national parks and any land reserved for ecological purposes for the common good of lives of citizens and indigenous populations.

In exercising this mandate, we recall that in August 2025, during your [consultative meeting](#) with various fishing communities across the country, you rightly emphasized that “indigenous fishermen shall manage the lakes, and the Fisheries Protection Unit must work with communities and not abuse their rights.” Subsequently on December 26, 2025, you further issued [a directive](#) to dissolve all marine fisheries units and instructed the establishment of new structures composed of representatives from indigenous communities and investors, a move aimed at creating social harmony and the sustainable governance of landing sites.

We also recall that, following the directive, EGI and CRI issued [a public statement](#) calling for its timely implementation well before the election period. This was intended to ensure that the directive would not be perceived as a campaign gesture, particularly given the history of similar directives that have remained unimplemented despite their significance to affected communities.

To date, however, there has been no visible progress or public communication regarding the establishment of the proposed community fishing units or the dissolution of the Fisheries Protection Unit and marine enforcement structures. The absence of concrete action risks eroding the confidence of fishing communities in these commitments, especially when the issues at stake directly affect their livelihoods, safety, and access to Lake Albert’s resources.

Reforming fisheries enforcement and establishing community-based management structures remains a critical need. Our engagement with fishing communities in the Lake Albert region since 2021, particularly in areas hosting the Kingfisher oil development, has consistently revealed serious concerns, including reports of serious human rights abuses, illegal burning of fishing boats, extortion within local fishing value chains, and intimidation by enforcement personnel. These findings were documented in our 2025 co-authored report titled “[Extortion, Coercion, and Impoverishment in Kingfisher Oil Development](#).” and the CRI report, “[They](#)

Don't Want People to Stay Here: How CNOOC's Kingfisher Oil Project in Uganda Is Causing Human Rights, Environmental, and Climate Harms, which provides a stark account of the ongoing challenges facing fishing communities in the region. These reports were previously submitted to your office and formed part of the evidence that informed the directive you later issued.

On another emerging and related event, on the campaign trail on January 7, 2026, you issued a [directive](#) halting the eviction of over 4,000 people from Kapai Sub county in Hoima District, an area close to the oil developments, and ordered that those already displaced be allowed to return to their homes. However, following the elections and the confirmation of results, on February 26 these families were forcibly evicted again, by armed personnel [commanded by Brigadier Peter Nabasa](#) of the UPDF. Security forces are reportedly occupying this land [and staying inside the houses of those evicted](#). The situation has since deteriorated further, leaving thousands of cultivators and pastoralists uncertain about their future and stripped of the land on which their livelihoods depend. The affected families were displaced from several villages, including Waaki North, Kapapi Central, Waaki South, Runga, Kiryatete, and Kiganja in Kapapi and Kiganja sub-counties.

This action appears to be inconsistent with the October 2025 [directive](#) issued by the line ministry, in which Dr. Sam Mayanja, the State Minister for Lands, Housing and Urban Development, ordered the return of more than 1,000 families previously evicted from the same Kapapi contested land in Kapapi Sub-county. He further [directed security](#) commanders to withdraw armed personnel and allow the affected residents to return to their land.

As the Commander-in-Chief and Head of State, your directives carry the highest authority and should be implemented promptly, with any delays clearly communicated to the public. The continued failure to implement the directives highlighted in this letter raises serious concerns about accountability within the responsible institutions and begs the question: who is disregarding these directives and why? When matters of significant public interest such as the two cases highlighted above remain unresolved despite clear presidential guidance, it risks creating the perception that such directives are issued merely to appease the public rather than to deliver concrete action.

Therefore, in light of the above issues, we kindly request your office to urgently consider the following recommendations:

1. Expedite the establishment and operationalisation of new marine units by ensuring that their formation is guided by transparent, community-ratified governance structures that genuinely reflect the diverse voices and leadership of indigenous fishing communities.
2. Establish clear and binding safeguards that protect community land rights, cultural heritage, and environmental integrity from any form of undue investor influence or interference.
3. Issue a public directive to halt any further eviction of communities in Kapapi and establish a special Presidential Taskforce including representatives of the affected

communities and religious leaders to oversee and ensure all the affected communities are returned to their land and are compensated for the damages experienced.

4. Support capacity-building for community representatives, including structured training in governance, negotiation, and rights protection, to enable their meaningful and effective participation on an equal footing with private sector actors and government agencies.

Achieving the vision of tenfold economic growth and the aspirations of Vision 2040 require that community land rights and equitable access to natural resources are protected and upheld as foundations of shared prosperity. Your leadership is pivotal in harmonising the prevailing land disputes and safeguarding the rights of indigenous fishing communities, whose livelihoods are essential to both household welfare and national development.

Through ordering the swift implementation of your directive to establish a community-led fisheries protection force and by personally intervening to resolve the Kapapi land issues, you would send a clear message that under your leadership the rights of ordinary Ugandans will be protected and that development will advance in a manner that is inclusive, just, and respectful of community rights.

We remain available should you require any further information and stand ready to work with your delegated representatives to ensure these directives are implemented and that the rights of affected communities are respected.

Yours sincerely,



Samuel Okulony
Chief Executive Officer
EGI-Uganda

Your sincerely,



Brad Adams
Executive Director
Climate Rights International

CC:

Speaker of Parliament of Uganda
Minister of Lands, Housing and Urban Development
Minister of Energy and Mineral Development