



EAST AFRICAN
CRUDE OIL
PIPELINE

VULNERABLE ETHNIC GROUPS SELF-IDENTIFYING AS INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

In Tanzania, five groups are recognized by the African Commission on Human and Peoples Rights as fulfilling the definition for indigenous peoples. The EACOP pipeline Right of Way impacts the land of four of these indigenous communities - Maasai, Barbaig, Akie, Taturu.

EACOP team has been engaging these communities since 2018 and in December 2020 held the first formal meeting with traditional leaders of all four communities.

EACOP and the traditional leaders agreed to use the wording Vulnerable Ethnic Groups self-identifying as Indigenous Peoples when referring to the groups.

EACOP engaged a national indigenous peoples expert and international human rights experts to undertake studies and make recommendations on addressing engagement requirements and impact management in line with the international financing standards requirements (IFC PS 7 and EP IV).

EACOP has put in place the following:



Quarterly 3-day meetings with traditional leaders and influential women of impacted Vulnerable Ethnic Groups self-identifying as Indigenous Peoples. These meetings ensure traditional leaders have up to date information about all aspects of EACOP, they are used to build capacity and understanding of the leaders. Dedicated separate meetings with influential women enable us to ensure that women's voices are heard and priorities discussed.

October
2021

Signed EACOP framework agreement with the traditional leaders Vulnerable Ethnic Groups self-identifying as Indigenous Peoples.

July
2022

Signed Tanzania's first Free Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) Agreement with the Akie people due to potential impacts on an important spiritual site.

September
2022

Signed with the traditional leaders The EACOP Plan for Vulnerable Ethnic Groups self-identifying as Indigenous Peoples (equivalent to an Indigenous Peoples' Development Plan as required by the International Financing Standards).

March
2023

Signed second Free Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) Agreement with the Taturu community regarding the avoidance of important.

January
2024

Signed third Free Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) Agreement with the Barbaig community regarding the avoidance of important.

April
2025

Secured a 46-acre Certificate of Customary Rights of Occupancy for the Akie Sacred Forest.



Development of detailed profiles of each community including contact details of key stakeholders and details of additional mitigation measures required during construction. These are shared with construction contractors.



Design of a social investment programme specifically targeted at these communities' development needs.



EACOP is supported by indigenous NGOs that have strong existing relationships with these groups and help extend EACOP's engagement using traditional indigenous methods.

Spiritual sites and graves are very important and highly sensitive for these communities. Initially it was difficult to get information about possible location and impacts. Over time with the build-up of trusting relationships, communities shared information and avoidance plans were put in place, elders took turns to educate us on what graves mean to their cultures compared to other communities.



After five years of close engagement with these communities, their traditional leaders, elders and key influencers: good relationships of trust have been established; communities feel respected and this is confirmed by other stakeholders. EACOP has been supported by local and district government officials as well as the Ministry of Energy Tanzania.



These communities face many day to day challenges but feel supported by EACOP.

