

# TotalEnergies faces second lawsuit over Uganda oil projects

Five activist groups have sued French oil major TotalEnergies for a second time over its project in Uganda and Tanzania in a Paris civil court, they said on Tuesday, 27 June 2023, after an earlier fast-track attempt was dismissed in February.

By [America Hernandez](#) 27 Jun 2023



File photo: The logo of French oil and gas company TotalEnergies is seen on an oil tank at TotalEnergies fuel depot in Mardyck near Dunkirk, France, 16 January 2023. Reuters/Benoit Tessier/File Photo

The French and Ugandan groups, led by Friends of the Earth France, accuse the energy company of failing to protect people and the environment from its Tilenga oil development and the \$3.5bn East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP).

Their lawsuit makes use of a 2017 French "duty of vigilance" law requiring large companies to identify risks in their global operations and supply chains, and detail strategies to prevent them.

"TotalEnergies considers that its vigilance plan is implemented effectively and has ensured that its subsidiaries in Uganda and Tanzania have applied the appropriate action plans so as to respect the rights of local communities and biodiversity," the company said in an emailed comment.

"We look forward to a debate on the merits in court."



ENVIRONMENTAL LAW

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America Hernandez 28 Feb 2023

The company holds a 62% stake in EACOP, which will run 1,443km (897 miles) from Uganda's Lake Albe

oilfields to the port of Tanga in Tanzania, with the capacity to send up to 246,000 barrels of crude per day out to world markets as early as 2025.

The first suit sought - and failed - to halt the projects by judicial order under a special fast-track process, with the judge finding that TotalEnergies' so-called vigilance plan was legally adequate.

The judgment added however that only a detailed investigation in a standard-speed trial could examine whether the company's actions on the ground were in line with its duty to prevent identifiable harms.

This latest legal attempt instead seeks reparations for those who claim they have already been harmed as result of the project construction.

Allegations run from lack of timely payment for land on which the pipeline will be built, to damaged houses from flooding during construction of oil processing facilities.

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

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