



QUARTERLY Dispatch

**Climate Change, Energy
Transition, and Human Rights.**

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Welcome to our monthly Dispatch.

We are excited to release our newsletter which sheds light on the major events that transpired between August-October 2025, These includes our advocacy at the regional level with the recent Africa Climate Summit, the continued crackdown on environmental defenders in Uganda, the importance of protecting these defenders and promoting a safe and enabling environment for them to carry out their vital work.

We hope that this newsletter contributes to a better understanding of the issues faced by environmental human rights defenders and inform efforts to protect and support them. The repression that environmental activists who use peaceful civil disobedience are currently facing in Uganda is a major threat to democracy and human rights. We need to understand that the environmental emergency that we are collectively facing, and that scientists have been documenting for decades, cannot be addressed if those raising the alarm and demanding action are criminalized for it.

The only legitimate response to peaceful environmental activism and civil disobedience at this point is that the authorities, the media, and the public realize how essential it is for us all to listen to what environmental defenders have to say, This report aims to provide the situation of all land and Environmental Human Rights Defenders in challenging corporate impunity arising from land acquisition and compensation for the Tilenga and EACOP projects in respect for free, prior and informed consent(FPIC) for land rights and the project's impact on nature.

It further sheds light on alternative non-judicial mechanisms for seeking remedy to vulnerable communities whose land rights have been violated by Tilenga and EACOP projects in Uganda, these alternative avenues for seeking remedy include targeting the financiers of these projects especially the Banks including KCB and Stanbic Bank.

Yours sincerely,



Imam MUGISHA
Executive Director, YCED.

1.0: Introduction:

In this quarterly dispatch, learn about stories of resilience from the grassroots youth resisting corporate impunity, updates from our advocacy for community led energy transition at the 2nd Africa Climate Summit 2025.

Africa restated its ambition and potential to be a global climate leader, investment destination, and solutions provider, as African leaders and the global climate community gathered for the UNFCCC's second 2025 regional Climate Week (CW2) and Africa Climate Summit 2 (ACS2).

2.0: Africa on the global stage:

Two years after the inaugural Africa Climate Summit in Nairobi in 2023, the two high-level convenings elevated Africa's climate leadership voice on the global stage, drawing participation from African Heads of State alongside global leaders, to place Africa's climate needs and contributions at the forefront of the world's minds as we head towards COP30. Despite tense negotiations on the Summit Declaration over issues such as the controversy over Ethiopia's launch of the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam, and increased calls for adaptation finance, the Summit projected pan-African solidarity on climate. The Nairobi declaration fell short of timelines, but this time round leaders were smart enough,



Figure 1: Delegates accessing the plenary hall for the opening session in Addis-Ababa.

2.1: Key outcomes from the Africa Climate Summit.

a) Adoption of the Addis Ababa Declaration, demanding fair and predictable financing for Africa with a strong unified signal from the continent of adaptation as a priority, financing as key to unlocking implementation, and solutions and investment as the focus.

b) Launch of the Africa Climate Innovation Compact and endorsement of the Flagship Report on African Climate Initiatives, positioning the continent as a solutions provider, and hub for renewable energy, green industrialization, and intra-African trade.

c) Ethiopia's announcement of its bid to host COP 32 in 2027, alongside Nigeria's existing bid, signaling Africa's determination to continue to anchor global climate diplomacy.

d) Publication of Ethiopia's new Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC 3.0) at the opening ceremony of Climate Week 2, committing to a conditional 70.3% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2035 compared to business-as-usual (BAU), up from 68.8% in the previous update, alongside an unconditional 30.7% reduction.

Africa is a continent with diverse climate priorities yet the collective effort to showcase and strengthen African unity has placed the continent in a strong position to shape and influence global processes and priorities while supporting and amplifying the voices of the Global South and climate-vulnerable countries in the multilateral system. It challenges wealthier nations to respond to Africa's calls – scaling up climate finance, reforming global systems, and building a credible pathway for the next generation of climate action while rebuilding trust in multilateral cooperation.

2.2. The Post Africa Climate Summit Dialogue.

YCED engaged young people on their role in shaping energy transition, we emphasized the critical role of community engagement in energy transition, Uganda held at crossroad between producing its oil or keeping it underground as a stranded asset, understanding that the global energy transition has far-reaching repercussions: countries whose economies rely on fossil fuel extraction face the prospect of lower demand, and countries producing minerals needed for clean technologies risk the negative impacts of an unregulated mining boom.

This piece draws on transition experiences in Colombia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ghana, Nigeria, Peru, Senegal and Uganda. It makes the case that only a people-powered and equitable transition can achieve the scale of transformation necessary for a green future. It proposes an operational framework for just transitions that respect universal human rights, address socio-environmental impacts, ensure affected communities and citizens can meaningfully participate in decisions, and put in place strong and accountable governance systems. It shares lessons on context-specific policies for ensuring a fair distribution of both the costs and benefits of planet-saving climate action.

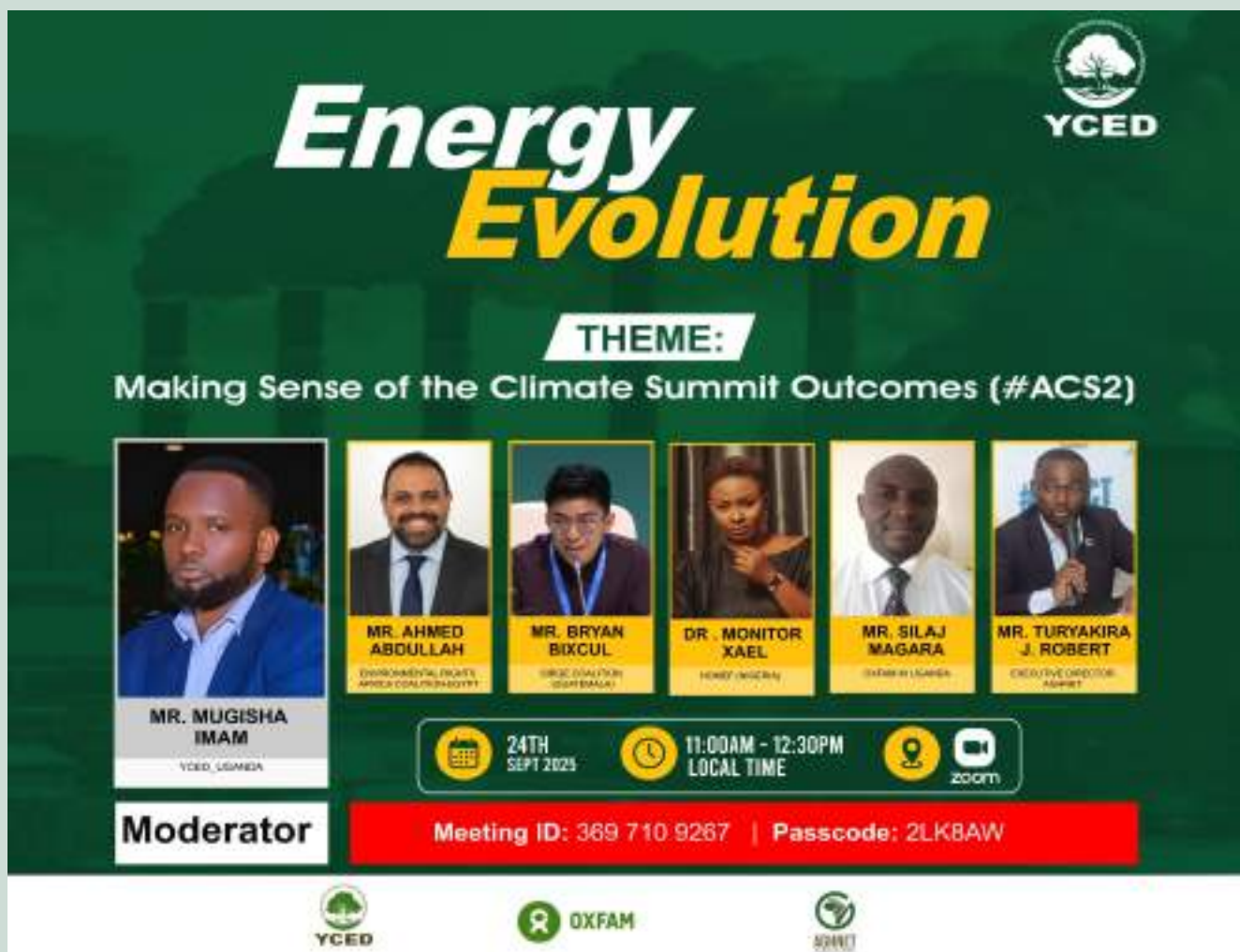


Figure 2: YCED in partnership with other civil society organizations engage on post Climate summit virtual meeting.

3.0: Enhancing the corporate responsibility to respect Human Rights in Uganda's oil and gas sector.

When it comes to the future, young people have a lot at stake. And the field of Business and Human rights is no exception. Irresponsible business practices affect the prospects of young people living in a fair and livable world in the future. But they are speaking up. In many areas, youth are already playing an important role in galvanizing support for responsible business among States and businesses, from climate activists to human rights defenders to young parliamentarians and entrepreneurs.

With the ongoing stop EACOP campaigns, we have also joined efforts with fellow land and environmental Human Right Defenders to show our dissatisfaction with the so-called development that is coming at the cost of communities. We have released several information materials on the need to implement the National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights. The NAPBHR serves a key tool in providing guidance to the State and non-State actors on the requirement that all business operations are to be conducted in line with human rights standards. It's believed that its implementation will contribute to positive human rights outcomes, including the creation of decent jobs, the provision of health, education and other services, protection of the environment, and contributing to the advancement of equality by providing opportunities for marginalized groups.

It's a measure to strengthen the State duty to protect human rights, enhance the corporate responsibility to respect human rights, and ensure access to remedy for victims of human rights violations and abuses resulting from non-compliance by business entities in the Country.



Youth Concern on Environment
and Development

"Toiling and conserving for the future"



HUMAN RIGHTS!!

The development of large oil and gas and infrastructure projects in Uganda is underway and has necessitated huge chunks of land intake, and thus the involuntary resettlement of affected persons and the compulsory acquisition of land has been ongoing. Over 5527 households (called "Project Affected Persons" or "PAPs"), corresponding to a total of 31 716 individuals, settling over 1,183 hectares have been displaced paving the way for the Tilenga project located in Buliisa and Nwoya districts. In addition, in Uganda only, a total of 3,648 households (PAPs), corresponding to almost 25,000 individuals, settling over 1,402 hectares of land (2740 acres) have been displaced to pave way for 1445 kilometers heated East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP). In Tanzania, a total of 9,898 households (PAPs) and about 61 524 individuals) with over 4,063 hectares (10039 acres) of land have been displaced as well.

The ongoing protests continue to clearly show how frustrated Project Affected Persons are, and some research has actually shown that most PAPs who were compensated in cash failed to acquire similar pieces of land elsewhere,

Last year on 11th November 2024, 15 activists who were protesting Uganda's ongoing oil developments were arrested by police and remanded to Luzira prison. The activists, primarily young Ugandans, were demonstrating against the construction of the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP), a major project they argue threatens the environment and the livelihoods of local communities. Kampala Metropolitan Police spokesperson Patrick Onyango confirmed the arrests, stating that the demonstrators are facing charges of common nuisance. TotalEnergies responded to our request by stating that despite engaging with Police and advocating for their release, the Police maintained their protocols, charged them in court the same day and remanded them to prison.

Today 4th April 2025, students we violently arrested as they marched to the Stanbic bank headquarters in Uganda lifting the voices of communities displaced by the East African Crude Oil Pipeline. Standard Bank still chooses profit over people, ignoring the suffering of thousands of Project Affected Persons,

Uganda adopted and launched its National Action Plan (NAP) on Business and Human Rights on October 28, 2021, this is an extract of the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs) dubbed- the "Protect, Respect and Remedy" Framework, which underpins one of the commitments in the Universal Periodic Review. The NAPBHR is a key tool in providing guidance to the State and non-State actors on the requirement that all business operations are to be conducted in line with human rights standards. It's believed that its implementation will contribute to positive human rights outcomes, including the creation of decent jobs, the provision of health, education and other services, protection of the environment, and contributing to the advancement of equality by providing opportunities for marginalized groups.

The Government of Uganda is committed to implementation of the NAPBHR as a measure to strengthen the State duty to protect human rights, enhance the corporate responsibility to respect human rights, and ensure access to remedy for victims of human rights violations and abuses resulting from non-compliance by business entities in the Country.

The Action Plan lays out clear strategies and roles of all stakeholders in its implementation. prevention of violation and abuses of human rights in business operations, mitigation of the negative impacts of businesses on the communities and enhancing access to remedies for the victims of human rights violations and abuses arising from business.

References.

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https://www.banktrack.org/article/mass-arrests_in_uganda_as_hundreds_gather_worldwide_urging_china_to_halt_eacop
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4.0: Youth collective media advocacy around Kampala flooding crisis and the plan to redevelop the Nakivubo channel amid lack of statutory approvals.

The construction and alleged "giveaway" of the Nakivubo Channel have been directly linked to significant and deadly flooding in Kampala throughout 2025. The project, led by businessman Hamis Kiggundu, has drawn criticism for its handling, with heavy rains in March and October leading to severe city-wide flooding.



Figure 3: Nakivubo channel that has been given a way for re-development to Kampala Business man ,Mr Hamis Kiggundu.

The Nakivubo Channel controversy and its consequences

I. Worsened flooding: Recent heavy downpours have inundated downtown Kampala, including major arcades and transport hubs, leaving homes and businesses devastated. In October 2025, flooding was directly attributed to the ongoing works on the Nakivubo Channel, and images showed completely submerged construction sites.

II. Accusations of illegality: The project has been surrounded by controversy, with critics alleging illegal construction on a vital public drainage channel. In August 2025, the Kampala Capital City Authority (KCCA) halted construction pending a technical review, though work continued despite the directive.

III. Presidential involvement: The project gained presidential support after Kiggundu sought intervention, citing "government bureaucracy" that had stalled the project. This was despite objections from city officials like the Lord Mayor and environmentalists.

IV. Legal challenges: The project faces legal challenges, with lawyers in September 2025 suing Kiggundu, the Attorney General, KCCA, and the National Environment Management Authority (NEMA) over illegal construction and lack of proper environmental approvals.

V. Alleged "giveaway": Critics continue to refer to the project as a "giveaway" of the channel for private commercial development, with a Parliamentary inquiry being initiated to investigate the legality of the matter.

According to the Kampala Flood Mapping Technical Report (World Bank, 2018), over 170,000 residents are regularly affected by flooding and the average annual cost of building damages caused by floods in Kampala is close to US\$50 million.

In urban areas like Kampala, effective waste management serves as a key component within any complex urban management system and an important factor in flood control. Poor waste management can contribute to urban flooding by blocking drainage systems.

The Kampala Drainage Master Plan 2016-805 billion project recommends “structural measures (such as construction of new drains and crossings) and non-structural measures (such as improving solid waste management and promoting use green/pervious compounds for new developments).

Because Kampala’s flooding challenge needs a streamlined approach to ensure that funds and resources are used efficiently to meet the demands of this pressing issue. The flooding situation has reached critical levels, and it’s time to implement the long-term solutions understanding the Loss and Damages that come along with it.

The Kampala Climate Change Action Strategy 2016 identifies the drivers of vulnerability to heavy rain and flooding, including land use (housing on hilltops and settlements in wetlands), drainage network issues, poor solid waste management practices, and limited rainwater harvesting.

Watch the recording (<https://youtu.be/xL7uGY1pAJg?si=mISDvuSQNgPdQ1Yz>)



5.0: Partnership, collaboration and Lobbying.

Through the communiqué in partnership with Africa Institute for Energy Governance (AFIEGO), the groups respond to news published by the New Vision newspaper of recent studies assessing the impact of oil activities on biodiversity in Murchison Falls National Park (MFNP). The studies were sponsored by TotalEnergies.

The studies concluded that oil exploitation activities under the Tilenga project have had no negative impact on wildlife in MFNP, In the communiqué, you will find critical observations highlighting the discrepancies between these findings and community experiences.

The findings also differ from previous assessments undertaken by scientists under the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS).

Further, the findings fail to account for the impact of climate change, which is driven by companies such as Total, on biodiversity in Murchison Falls National Park. Through the communiqué, the signatories express skepticism over the objectivity of the studies sponsored by TotalEnergies and make recommendations to protect people and nature amidst oil activities in the park



September 30, 2025

COMMUNIQUE: UGANDANS CANNOT TRUST STUDIES AND FINDINGS BY TOTALENERGIES ON OIL IMPACTS ON MURCHISON FALLS NATIONAL PARK

1. INTRODUCTION

On September 23, 2025, Africa Institute for Energy Governance (AFIEGO) held meetings with oil-affected communities from Hoima and Buliisa districts. Among others, the meetings discussed the environmental, social and economic challenges faced by communities due to the ongoing oil exploitation activities in Uganda. AFIEGO also held discussions on the aforementioned subject with civil society partners.

The meetings and discussions were organised following an article titled, *Murchison Falls Wildlife Safe from Oil Activities-Experts*, being published in the New Vision newspaper of August 28, 2025. In the article, the New Vision informed the public that TotalEnergies in partnership with Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA), Uganda Conservation Society, the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and others had conducted a survey and concluded that oil activities under the Tilenga oil project were not having a negative impact on wildlife in Murchison Falls National Park (MFNP).

Oil-affected community members and civil society groups discussed the above survey and observed as follows.

5.1: Save Kitubulu Forest: We launched an environmental protection campaign dubbed **#SaveKitubuluForestNow** at Kitubulu Forest in Entebbe. This forest reserve, which falls under the protection of the was controversially allocated by the Government of Uganda to a Chinese investor, Tian Tiang.

Kitubulu Forest, which spans several kilometers and stretches toward the shores of Lake Victoria, plays a vital ecological role. It contributes to air purification, supports local biodiversity, helps regulate rainfall, and acts as a natural buffer protecting Lake Victoria from pollution.

The forest was given away for development without a proper environmental impact assessment, disregarding its crucial role in sustaining the local ecosystem. Through this campaign, we called on the Government of Uganda and the Chinese investor to halt any destructive activities, and we invited all Ugandans to stand up and protect the "lungs of Entebbe". We believe that the protection of human rights begins with the protection and conservation of nature. Without a healthy environment, the right to life, health, clean water, and sustainable livelihoods cannot be fully realized.

Kitubulu is a legally protected forest under the National Forestry and Tree Planting Act, 2003, and holds immense ecological, cultural and community value. This allocation is a violation of environmental laws and a threat to biodiversity, climate resilience and public trust.

As environmental groups, civil society organizations, and concerned citizens, we express our strongest opposition and outline clear demands for the immediate cancellation of this allocation, accountability from government institutions and the full protection and restoration of Kitubulu.

2

National News

Ms Evelyn Anite says the government has allocated 150 acres of Kitubulu forest land to Tian Tang Group

BY KARIM MUYODO

A new controversy has erupted over the government's decision to allocate part of Kitubulu Central Forest Reserve in Entebbe to a Chinese investor for building government offices and a shopping mall.

This move has sparked outrage among environmentalists, policy experts, and local leaders.

The 15000 (about 2300, 2000) project, spearheaded by Mr Paul Zhang, the head of Tian Tang Group, is part of a broader plan to transform the area into a modern plant and animal park for investment and preservation.

Ms Evelyn Anite, who said it is aimed at creating an "alternative capital city" in Entebbe.

Ms Anite confirmed that the government had allocated about 150 acres of Kitubulu forest land to Tian Tang Group for what she described as a "new economic zone", a complex meant to host various departments and agencies currently renting space in Kampala.

"The government has allocated land in Entebbe to Chinese investors for the construction of modern facilities, including a five-star hotel, hospital, conference centre, and housing estates," Ms Anite said.

"Unless you are in a government-constructed facility, your office will have to move to Entebbe. The aim is to decongest Kampala," she added.

Mr Zhang said construction is expected to commence next month, describing Entebbe's proximity to the international airport as a "strategic advantage" for investors.

"Some time ago, I approached the minister with a proposal to build an international conference centre along with other amenities such as hospitals, international schools, and modern housing in Entebbe," Mr Zhang said.

"We believe this will transform Entebbe into a modern administrative hub."

He added that his company was built through the minister's office and

Outrage over Kitubulu forest land giveaway



Part of Kitubulu Central Forest Reserve cleared by a developer. PHOTO: FEE

Complaints. We are not allowing this forest giveaway. That's clear. It is disrespectful that no one from NFA has ever come to discuss with us or even inform us of any plans regarding this forest."

Entebbe Mayor Pauline Nsububa

ent been guarded under the National Forestry and Tree Planting Act, and managed by the NFA.

It is one of the few remaining natural habitats on the shores of Lake Victoria, providing a crucial buffer zone that helps maintain water quality and biodiversity.

Mr Kitubulu condemned the move,

had written several letters to NFA seeking clarification, but had received no response.

"All the letters have been seen and forwarding activities in that forest are coming from NFA. We appeal to them to cancel all permissions because this forest is not for destruction," he added.

NFA defends allocation

When contacted, Mr Frederick Mwangi, the executive director of NFA, defended the authority's decision, saying the plan for Kitubulu allows for "wise use" through eco-tourism.

"The forest management plan talks about conservation through wise use. The best way to save Kitubulu is through sustainable eco-tourism, and eco-tourism is one of those approaches," Mr Mwangi explained.

He added that developers were given strict conditions before being allowed to operate within the forest. "Every developer is required to carry out environmental and social impact assessments, and all this was done," he said.

Environmentalists, however, insist that the government must suspend all ongoing allocations and conduct a comprehensive environmental audit.

They argue that converting a protected forest reserve into commercial property sets a dangerous precedent.

They warn that clearing Kitubulu could worsen flooding in Entebbe, accelerate soil degradation, and undermine Uganda's commitments under international environmental conventions.

As the debate rages on, Kitubulu, once a quiet, lush green forest bordering the shores of Lake Victoria, has become the latest battleground in Uganda's ongoing struggle between conservation and commercial development.

Efforts to reach out to State Minister for Water and Environment, Mr. Bwalya Arwaya for a comment on the ongoing developments in Kitubulu forest were futile as she never picked up our repeated phone calls to her by press time yesterday.

6.0: Upcoming events.

The road to Belem,YCED, in partnership with other environmental organizations will organize a series of pre-COP30 conversations with a focus on following up with Climate Agreements and Strengthening Multilateralism, The Pre-COP is a crucial milestone on the road to COP30, offering communities, ministers and negotiators a chance to align on priority outcomes, demonstrate political commitment, and set the tone for Belem.

Pre-COP conversations offer the chance to set the tone, build consensus, and ensure that when Parties gather in Belém, COP30 emerges as the genuine turning point for climate action that the world needs.

PRESENTS

Countdown to COP30

Tues, 21 Oct 2025 15:00 - 16:00 (UTC+03:00) Nairobi

Indigenous Voices, Action & Accountability

As the world prepares to gather in Belém, Brazil, Indigenous Times Media invites you to a special Twitter Space series exploring Africa's climate priorities. Join the conversation. Let's talk justice, resilience, and the future we want.

#RoadToCOP30 #ClimateJustice
#IndigenousVoices

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Fair finance training. training on the banks policy assessments, Using the Fair Finance Methodology, to enable us assess, report on, and campaign for more responsible investment policies and practices, and increased transparency, accountability and corporate responsibility from Development Finance Institutions.

These assessments cover themes of: Climate Change, Corruption, Gender Equality, Human rights, Labor rights, Nature and Transparency and Accountability.