



HEALTH OF MOTHER EARTH FOUNDATION
ANNUAL REPORT 2014



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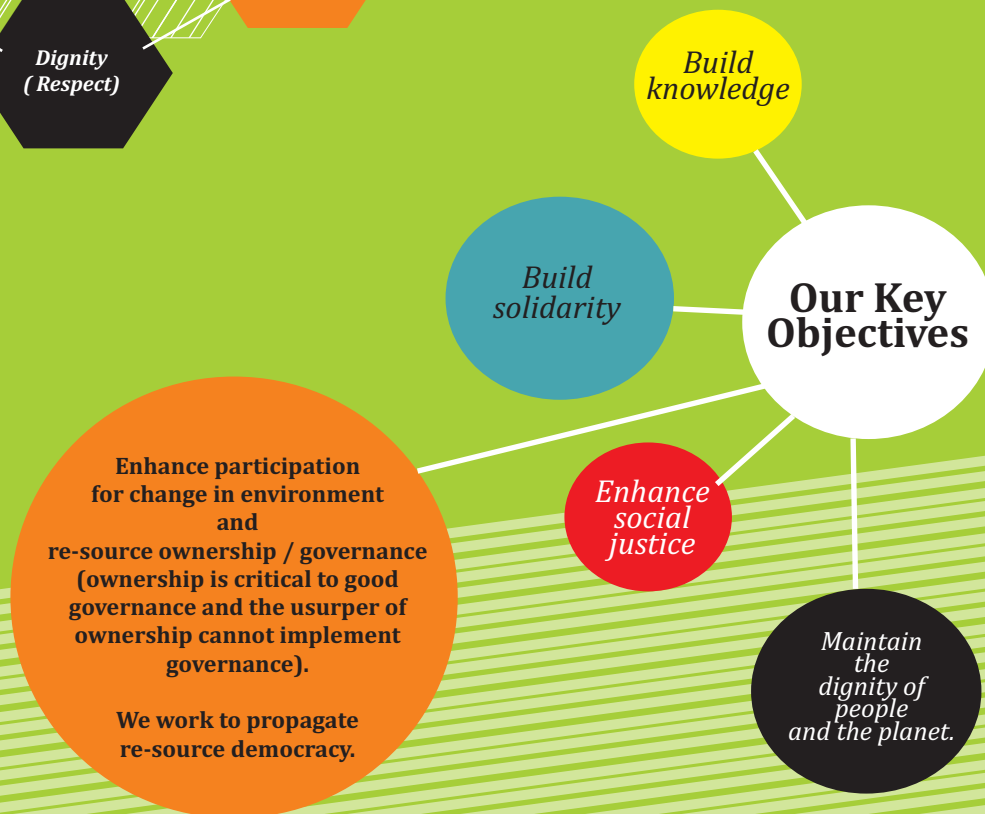
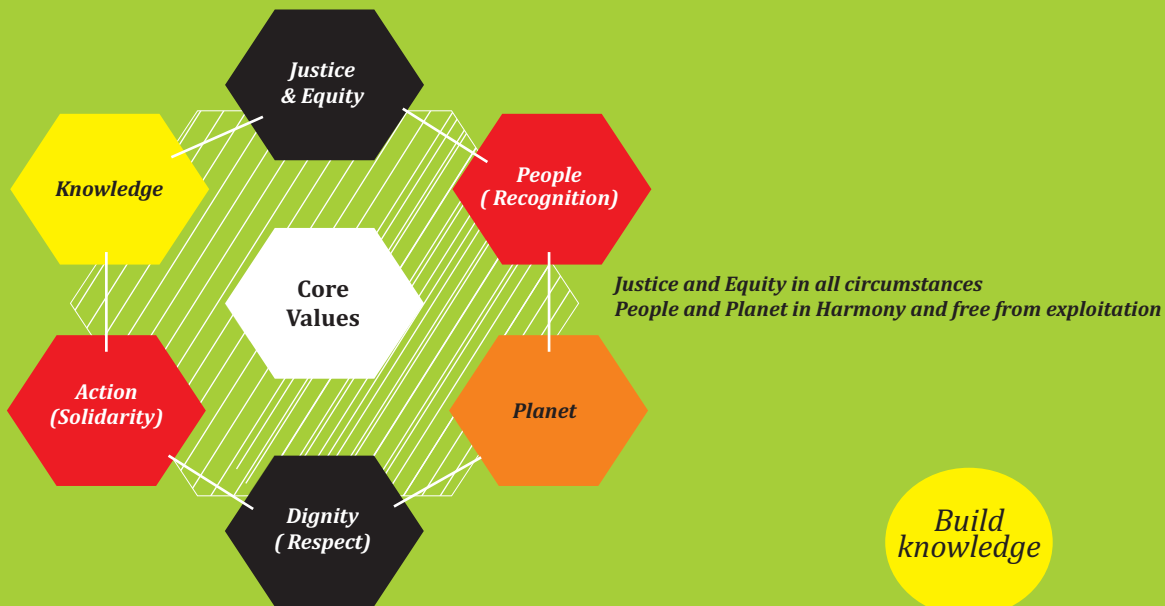
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Knowing HOMEF

We are an ecological think tank and advocacy organisation registered in Nigeria. Nigeria is our base but Africa is our focus.

HOMEF is set up to bridge the yawning gap between policy/decisions made by governments and the actual needs at the grassroots. HOMEF recognises that policies are often top down and actions based on such can distort the possibilities of meeting actual needs.

HOMEF works to fill the gap in environmental advocacy in which grassroots voices are overlooked. We recognise that the global crises have systemic roots and the current paradigm of development and growth based on competition will lead to the critical destruction of biodiversity and continued destructive extraction of natural resources as well as dependency on risky technologies.



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Homef Advisory Board

1. Chris Allan (USA) – Environmental health campaigner and philanthropy activist, USA
2. Siziwe Khanyile (South Africa) – Environmental justice campaigner.
3. George Awudi (Ghana) – Climate justice campaigner – Chair of the Board and Campaigner with Friends of the Earth Ghana
4. Evelyn Bassey (Nigeria) – Environmental campaigner, HOMEF
5. Esperanza Martinez (Ecuador) – Environmental justice/Political ecologist, AccionEcologica, Ecuador
6. Nnimmo Bassey (Nigeria) – Environmental justice advocate, Director, HOMEF
7. Pablo Solon (Bolivia) – Climate justice campaigner, diplomat and movement builder- Executive Director, Focus on the Global South, Thailand
8. Liz Hosken (UK) – Mother Earth rights advocate, Executive Director of the Gaia Foundation
9. Lim Li Ching (Malaysia) – Agro-ecologist and rights advocate works with Third World Network
10. Akinbode Oluwafemi (Nigeria) - Environmental Rights Advocate

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STAFF

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Research Assistant

Volunteers

Mariann Orovwuje
Hunger & Biosafety

Ruth Iziduh
Research



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HOME Note from the DIRECTOR

The year 2014 was quite memorable year for us at HOMEF. The exciting fronts were the Sustainability Academies and our engagement with communities. In the second year of our life as an organisation we enjoyed broad support and acceptance on many fronts starting from the communities we work with to the groups and networks we collaborate with.

Our outreach remained strong through our publications and through our Sustainability Academies and fieldwork. Our magazine, the Eco-Instigator reached a wider audience and had important contributions from key environmental justice activists as well as academics. We are proud to say that we published 4 editions in 2014. At one of the sessions of our Sustainability Academy within the year the books *Silence Would be Treason* and *Claim No Easy Victories* were publicly presented.

HOMEF is immensely grateful to our corps of staff and volunteers for all the contributions made for a successful year. We are also grateful to foundations that have reposed such confidence in us and continued to support our work financially and otherwise.

We pledge to keep generating and sharing knowledge in the quest for ecological justice.

Until victory!

Nnimmo Bassey
Director

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HOMEF FELLOWS

Over the span of two years HOMEF had the pleasure of having four distinguished Instigators (facilitators) at our HOMEF Sustainability Academies (HSA). Our Instigators automatically become Sustainability Academy Fellows.

Our Fellows are available to respond to issues pertaining to their areas of expertise whenever the need for such help arises. They generally provide a strong backstop for our pursuits in knowledge generation and dissemination.

Here is the roll call:

HSA Fellow #01



Pablo Solon Romero

Pablo Solon Romero served as Ambassador of the Plurinational State of Bolivia to the United Nations from February 2009 to July 2011. He is the son of the famous Bolivian moralist Walter Solon Romero Gonzeles.

He is now the Executive Director of the NGO Focus on the Global South.

Before becoming Ambassador to the United Nations, Pablo Solon Romero worked as an activist for many years with different social organizations, indigenous movements, workers' unions, student associations, human rights and cultural organizations in Bolivia.

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HSA Fellow #02

As Ambassador to the UN, Solon spearheaded successful resolutions on the Human Right to Water, International Mother Earth Day, Harmony with Nature, and the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

He was very active in climate change negotiations under the UNFCCC, and helped organize the World People's Conference on Climate Change in Cochabamba, Bolivia in 2010.

Global Exchange named Pablo Solon the 2011 international Human Rights Award winner.



Monika Griefahn

Monika Griefahn, a sociologist from Germany, was a founding member of Greenpeace Germany and co-director from 1980 to 1983. From 1984 to 1990 Griefahn worked as the first female member on the international board of Greenpeace and was responsible for founding new offices and for skill-sharing around the world – for example in the former Soviet Union and Latin America.

During and after her time as Minister for the environment in the German State of Lower Saxony (1990 – 1998) she dedicated her work to initiate a new energy policy: for

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renewable energies and phasing out nuclear power as well as creating products and production in a healthy and environmentally safe manner. She also focused on nature conservation and an ecological waste management.

From 1998 to 2009 she served as member of the German Parliament. There she focused on issues in the area of culture and media as well as international cultural exchange and education. After that, she dedicated her time to sustainability consultancy and founded the institute for media, environment and culture to support organizations and companies in their efforts to turn their ecological footprint into positive or at least improve. In May 2012 she became director for the environment and society with the cruise line AIDA Cruises.

As voluntary commitment Monika Griefahn serves among others as co-chair of the Right Livelihood Award Foundation ("Alternative Nobel Price"). For 28 years she has been serving as member on that board and is also a long time jury member.

She became our second Fellow after delivering the inaugural Right Livelihood Lecture at the RLC campus at University of Port Harcourt in November 2013.

Noble Wadzah became our third Fellow at the Sustainability Academy held alongside the inaugural Right Livelihood Lecture at the RLC campus at University of Port Harcourt in November 2013. our inaugural session in August 2013.

HSA Fellow #03

Noble Wadzah

Noble Wadzah is a long-term activist who worked in Friends of the Earth Ghana for several years. While at FoE Ghana his work centred on biological diversity issues - including campaigning against agricultural genetically engineered organisms.

He also campaigned on dirty energy, corporate accountability and climate change. He is a pan Africanist with strong conviction that Africa will only rise in the true sense of the word with concerted mobilisation and informed action of the masses.

Wadzah currently leads Oilwatch Ghana and serves on the global and continental steering committees of Oilwatch International. With Oilwatch, Noble works to uncover the connection between oil and gas extraction and environmental justice abuses.



In Ghana Oilwatch, he is particularly keen to expose the negative impacts fossil fuels extraction have on local employment opportunities and livelihoods.

Noble Wadzah became our third Fellow at the Sustainability Academy held alongside the inaugural Right Livelihood Lecture at the RLC campus at University of Port Harcourt in November 2013. our inaugural session in August 2013.

HSA Fellow #04

Firoze Manji



Firoze Manji was the instigator at our 3rd Sustainability Academy session. He founded Fahamu Press and served as the founding editor of Pambazuka News. After leaving Fahamu and Pambazuka he founded Daraja and worked with the Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa (CODESRIA). Pambazuka Press and Fahamu Books blazed the trail in publishing key works on the contemporary socio-political situation of Africa and generally encouraged scholarship and popular discourse on the weekly electronic newsletter, Pambazuka News. One of the books published by the Pambazuka Press, ***African Awakenings: The Emerging Revolutions***, inspired the focus of this Sustainability Academy. Two books published by Codesria and Daraja press in 2013 are ***Silence Would be Treason – The Last Writings of Ken Saro-Wiwa and Claim No Easy Victories - Essays on the Legacy of Amilcar Cabral that he co-edited.***

Firoze is Kenyan and holds a PhD dental surgery. He has worked extensively on developmental matters in Africa and has served as Africa director for Amnesty International as well as being a former CEO of the Aga Khan Foundation in the UK. He currently works with ThoughWorks.



Understanding the Ecological and Political Turmoil in Africa

The concluding stop of the three –cities Sustainability Academy #03 was held at Makoko, Lagos. Earlier the train had been to Abuja and Bori-Ogoni (20th -23rd May 2014). The session in Abuja reviewed the challenge of violence in Nigeria as well as the diverse uprisings across the continent. In Bori-Ogoni the focus contextualized the ecological assault that the area has suffered. In Makoko the session hinged on the challenge of climate change as a major violence against vulnerable communities.



The choice of the venue – The Makoko Floating School, was surely a sharp detour from the usual serenity of a conference room as it was hosted on a symbolic venue in clear appreciation to the ingenuity of the people of Makoko having found a way to live in sync with nature despite the changing times and challenges around them. To get to the floating school participants took a canoe ride through the Makoko community – a community built on stilts. For some of the participants this was their first experience of taking a canoe ride passed fishermen and women, carpenters and other craftsmen working on water. It was indeed an eye opening experience for many who never imagined how the local people live in this deprived part of a megacity such as Lagos.

We share below a clip from the welcome words at Makoko.

Makoko Claims No Easy Victories

Makoko is a metaphor for resilience in the face of enormous pressures. This community floating on the waters of the Lagos Lagoon is resilient because it is not a rigid community. It is resilient not because the buildings in this community are the strongest in the world but because they are built in sync with nature and not against her. Her resilience is seen in the young boys and girls who ferry us in the boat taxis in order to make enough cash to pay their daily school fees and so access a measure of education.

The intense pressure the communities that make up Makoko have had to confront is best told by the people themselves and not by observers.

However, beyond their voices and cries observers are able to see the stumps that poke above the waters of the Lagoon in silent testimony to brutal assaults and fires that seek to demolish, dislocate or erase the community.

Makoko is a community loaded with lessons that we can only deny to our peril. Makoko is a laboratory of life. It is a community of possibilities. Makoko gives hope. It also raises challenges. This is why we have chosen to assemble for our dialogue in this structure. In this series of HOMEF's Sustainability Academy, we are interrogating the evident conflicts and turmoil manifesting across the world. We have looked at armed insurgency, economic violence and ecological assaults. We will continue with this at this final lap. Two additional dimensions here will be those conflicts generated by, and expected from, global warming and those generated by forces of disaster capitalism.

Makoko as a community sitting on water is prone to the impacts of sea level rise that could be triggered by intense rains or by global warming. Flooding is a challenge to Lagos, any day and the state pays a lot of attention to building resilience and also mitigating the impacts. However, Makoko teases the sea by sitting on it.



. The Floating School in which this session is being held speaks volumes about how to face sea level rise and deflect its sting. The School is designed and built to float. This means that if the sea rises, the building itself rises. This school is designed and built with in line with the rhythms of nature and not in defiance of nature like Eko Atlantic does, for instance. The Floating School and the entire Makoko communities show us what resilience means.

Capitalism has entered the cannibal stage where it feeds more blatantly on disaster. Not content on accumulation by dispossession, when disasters happen today they are seen as opportunities to displace citizens from their ancestral abodes and not as emergency calls to help the victims to overcome their plight. Thus, if a fire breaks out in a community such as Makoko, those who see the location as prime property, would wish to pour fuel on the fire rather than fight to quench it. This displacement for acquisition trend is not restricted to Makoko, but is a common challenge that shoreline communities are facing from desperate speculators.

The world acknowledges that global warming is real, and that dependency on fossil fuels is a critical contributor to the menace. Yet there is no desire to shift away from the bad habit that is sure to bring on catastrophic global warming. The allure of the fossil dependency is not just in the fact that they make energy much easily available than other energy forms. More importantly, the attraction comes from the fact that fossil fuels are extracted without responsibility, or care for the environment, and that they are money-spinners for governments, oil and other hydrocarbon companies and provide the necessary power for rampaging war machines.

While Makoko is an affront to those who desire her beautiful location, she is a great inspiration for those who believe that progress can only be progress if it is in line with the desires of the people and generally supports life. The Floating School is a concept we believe should be replicated in all communities on the coastline of Nigeria and elsewhere.





HOMEF'S key calls relative to the issues we have been interrogating are as follows::

1. African leaders must ensure that the continent gets out of the trap of being the arena for proxy wars by interests inimical to the well being of our environment and peoples
2. Ecological warfare must not be a tool in the war against terror. In this regard HOMEF endorses the demand: #BringBackOurGirls and adds that they must be brought back to a secure environment devoid of stigmatisation and exploitation in any guise including exploitation as child brides.
3. Nigerian and African leaders must protect our environment and peoples from the activities of rampaging resource extractors, ensure that environmental costs do not continue to be externalised to the people/environment and that ecological crimes are severely sanctioned
4. African governments must be primarily responsible and accountable to our peoples rather than to international financial institutions and to multinational corporations
5. The Nigerian government should scrap the Hydrocarbon Pollution Restoration Project (HYPREP) and replace it with a National Environmental Restoration Agency (NERA) under the Federal Ministry of Environment, with a mandate to clean up the Nigerian environment including in particular the Ogoni environment as demanded by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) report issued three years ago.
6. The Makoko Floating School model should be adopted and replicated across all coastal communities by the Nigerian government as a climate change adaptation measure and to



teach the lesson that our architecture must support our ways of life and be in sync with the rhythms of nature.

7. The Nigerian and Lagos State governments should commit to upgrade the Makoko communities and provide support for the communities including by providing adequate health, educational and other services. The community should also be protected from property and financial speculators as well as from other disaster capitalists.

Our Instigator was Firoze Manji, director of the Pan African Institute Of ThoughtWorks, has done deep work on the issue and he lead us in the sessions. He facilitated (and co-edited) the publication of Claim No Easy Victories – The Legacy of Amilcar Cabral as well as Silence Would Be Treason- The Last Writings of Ken Saro-Wiwa. He was with us at our sessions at Abuja and at Bori in Ogoni. Makoko affirmed that there are no easy victories. We must all act in solidarity. We are here to learn of your struggles and to extend that needed solidarity.

THE FOOD WE WANT

The Sustainability Academy held in November 2014 at the Assembly Hall of Eghosa Anglican Grammar School had students from ten secondary and primary schools in attendance.

The conclusion of Sustainability Academy 04 was unambiguous that Nigeria does not need genetically modified organisms. It noted that GMOs would affect our local agriculture, have negative impacts on health and destroy cultures that are related to traditional knowledge and living patterns. The session called for support for farmers to grow wholesome and natural food especially to ensure that children are suitably nourished.

Resolutions of the Sustainability Academy HS04 included:

- The Government should provide the basic amenities needed by local farmers to aid them in producing their own food.
- The production of GMOs should be discouraged due to its adverse effects on humans and the environment.
- Farming should be made more attractive so that youths can engage in it.

Earlier in the year we had a series of campaigns on the need for the draft Nigerian Biosafety to have strict safeguards including liability and redress provisions.

We urged that genetically engineered crops should not be allowed in Nigeria. In the process we published a factsheet titled “Not on Our Plates” with which we had advocacy visits to government ministries as well as the National Assembly.

We also had a major press briefing on this subject at Lagos in July 2014.

Ogoni Women and the Memories of Hope The birth of Ogoni Women Ecological Defenders (OWED)

Report by Cadmus Atake, Zaid Shopeju and Oluwafunmilayo Oyatogun

Before the sun rose in the Ogoni sky, veterans of epic ecological struggles were already making their way to Bori, to the historic Finimale Sauna conference hall at the headquarters of Khana LGA. This hall lays claim to the MOSOP addresses by the Late Ken Saro-Wiwa in the early 1990s. The hall was packed full with women, young and old, who knew the critical role they play in the ecological struggle. We also could not help notice the men who hung around the windows and doors, hoping to be a part of the action. The occasion was the workshop titled Memories and Hope: Ogoni Women as Ecological Defenders organized by the Health of Mother Earth Foundation (HOMEF) on the 6th and 7th of August, 2014. The program was co-organized by the Federal Ministry of Environment (FMoE) and supported by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

It is commonly said that what a man can do, a woman can do better, but in the case of Ogoni the women seem to have been relegated to the back burner for too long. Ogoniland has become the poster child for environmental problems in Nigeria, especially as a result of unscrupulous extraction activities of multinational corporations.



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So, even though the women of Ogoni were well aware of the problems surrounding them, the workshop provided them with an opportunity to actively articulate the best paths to be taken if their land is to recover from years of ecological attacks. In fact, with the women as the focus of the workshop, we were not surprised to see plays, poems and other artistic renditions that helped lighten the ambience of the heavy despoliation of Ogoni environment and the much ignored UNEP report of 2011. There was also an abundance of passion and determination, qualities that have characterized the Ogoni people over the years.

The much welcomed United Nation Environment Programme (UNEP) report in 2011 on the state of the environment of Ogoniland brought a glimmer of hope to the indigenes as the detailed document spelled out clearly what was required for the government and oil polluters to do to recover the best of Ogoni. Unfortunately, three years later, the federal government has failed to respond to the recommendations of the report. The “keep off” posts erected by the Hydrocarbon Pollution Restoration Project (HYPREP) are the only visible signs of an acknowledgement of the report. The oil companies who have done major damage to the areas have successfully driven the people away from their livelihoods and the “keep off” signs only seal the exile the residents have been forced into.



Comrade Celestine Akpobari opened his remarks with his trademark saying that “to destroy a people, one only needs to destroy their environment.”

He decried the rate of devastation in Ogoniland and the seeming indifference of the government to the plight of the Ogoni people. Comrade Akpobari gave a sneak peek into old Ogoni, recalling his days as a vibrant child on the farm with his mother and the abundant harvests from the fertile, unpolluted Ogoni soils.

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Following his lead, the Federal Ministry of Environment representative, Esther Okon, gave her remarks and thanked the women for their courage in taking part in the Ogoni struggle. Renowned Nollywood actress, Hilda Dokubo, expressed her feelings of insecurity about the poverty and destruction ravaging Ogoniland. "Insecurity encourages social vices and women must rise up against the causes of these insecurities", she said. The Director of HOMEF, Nnimmo Bassey, encouraged the participants to continue in the struggle for justice. He assured participants that they could count on the full support of HOMEF in their efforts to see the cleaning up and restoration of Ogoni land.

Following the opening words from the speakers, Mrs Constance Meju and Emem Okon anchored an interactive session leading the women down memory lane. It was a lively, if sad, session listening to the women relive what Ogoni used to be prior to the devastation by oil extraction.

Once the women settled in, they were not short of words. One prominent voice during the workshop was 82-year old Comrade Che Ibegwura who spoke eloquently on the place of networking in ecological defense. As he began to speak, everyone else fell silent, his poignant words reverberating through the hall: "Environment is life and we must connect with people of similar interests to defend the environment. This is networking. " He went on with the grace and wisdom that comes from his life experience, to stress that "oil companies never came to Ogoniland to develop it, they came in search of capital and with that came destruction", to which thorough networking is the only counter-force. According to Comrade Che, "if companies have joint ventures, citizens must also join forces because pollution does not respect ethnic boundaries." Not surprisingly, Comrade Che was able to drive home his point using apt proverbs as he recounted the memories of Ogoni while she still flourished, emphasizing that "an animal does not know how to help another animal's baby" and therefore we are responsible for the defence of our ecology.

“The things that have dimmed our hope are deep and complex”, he said, “and memories are vital – memories of the good Ol’ Ogoni as well as memories of those who died in the struggle. Networking brought me here and once we achieve a common goal, we can decide what to do with our own land.”

Other women had questions and contributions, some of which brought tears, others laughter and others a lesson or two. One woman, Mrs Grace Namo, brought awareness to an often ignored sector of the Ogoni economy – pottery. She said, “in the past we made clay pots as there was abundant clay to produce them. Today, we cannot produce clay pots because our soil is so heavily polluted. Our pottery industry is dead.” This bears witness to the extent of oil pollution and its far-reaching impact beyond riverine industries. Neewa Dugbon from Bane Khana L.G.A joked that “everyone in Ogoniland is sick, suffering from one disease or the other except the Ebola virus disease”, making reference to the current epidemic in the sub-region. While this brought a few laughs, it struck the audience with the stark reality of the effects of oil in the region.

On the second day, more emphasis was placed on the content of the UNEP Report published in 2011. It is a pity that such a comprehensive report reached the government and Shell and made no impact. Whatever impact may have been made is comparable to water running off a duck's back. Apart from the cosmetic “keep off” signs mentioned earlier, the UNEP report seems to be a forgotten story. Comrade Celestine Akpobari was able to communicate in-depth the expectation of the UNEP towards Shell and the government in Ogoniland.

After his words, Nnimmo Bassey encouraged the people to protect their resources keeping in mind that their livelihoods depend on having a safe environment. Speaking on the topic Resource Democracy, Bassey stressed the fact that what we call natural resources are actually nature's resources and should be treated as gifts from nature and not as objects to be plundered.



According to him, the people must have the primary say about what happens in their environment including who extracts what, for what purpose and for whose benefit. He suggested that the UNEP Report should be published in local languages so that the people can further understand its contents and demand implementation.

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On individual developments, Constance Meju and Hilda Dokubo shared with the women on the importance of exercises for their daily upkeep. More topics discussed included “Networking for Ecological Defense” by Comrade Che Ibegwura, “Impact of Pollution on the Elderly” by Constance Meju and “Impact of Pollution on Women” by Legborsi Saro Pyagbara, the MOSOP president. It is also striking how invested the women participants were in their current situation as was evident in the nature of their questions and the eagerness to share experiences and to learn more. One of the most inspiring aspects of the workshop was the field visit to Goi community - one of the most oil-damaged communities in Ogoni.

The community welcomed the participants warmly, gladly volunteering information about their lifestyle, history and ongoing challenges. Chief Mene Tomii lamented the contamination of Goi Creek, stating that “only 30 percent of our livelihoods are land-based, the other 70 percent depends on this creek.” Chief MB Dooh and Madam Bia Dooh Koda – all from the Goi community – reinforced their commitment to continue to pursue environmental justice in their homeland.

After two days of consultations, paper presentations, drama, poetry and songs, the women resolved and demanded the following:

1. The immediate and full implementation of UNEP Report including the scrapping of HYPREP, establishment of an Ogoni Environment Restoration Authority, Ogoni Environment Restoration Fund as well as a Centre of Excellence for environmental monitoring and remediation.

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2. Immediate provision of safe drinking water to all impacted communities.
3. Immediate commencement of cleanup of the Ogoni environment as well as other polluted areas in the Niger Delta.
4. Halting of all oil exploration, further contamination and compensation for inflicted harm.
5. Creation of employment opportunities and establishment of a specialist health institution in Ogoniland to address the health impacts of the pollution in the land.
6. The creation of a network of Ogoni Women Ecological Defenders (OWED) to network with other community based organizations in Nigeria and monitor environmental justice in Ogoniland. OWED will also monitor and regularly review actions taken with regard to the UNEP recommendations for the restoration of the Ogoni environment.

You can leave Ogoni physically, but the agony of the ecological devastation there can never be forgotten. Participants noted that 2015 will mark the 20th anniversary of the murder of Ken Saro-Wiwa and other Ogoni patriots. They all agreed that it would be a case of criminal neglect if the fourth anniversary of the UNEP report arrives in that landmark year without a serious start up of the cleaning up of their environment.

CLIMATE OF CONFLICT

From the **RIGHTS LIVELIHOOD COLLEGE CAMPUS**

Nnimmo Bassey led a workshop on A Climate of Conflict with Post Graduate students at the University of Port Harcourt on 27 November 2014

Here is an excerpt from how Fidelis Allen, the coordinator of the RLC Campus saw the event:

Climate of Conflict was the title of Nnimmo Bassey's lecture on November 26, 2014, inside the old Social Science hall for graduate students. He wrote To Cook a Continent, Destructive Extraction and Climate Crisis in Africa. He is a Swedish Rights Livelihood Foundation Alternative Nobel Prize recipient. I had invited him to speak to my graduate students in Environment and Conflict at the University of Port Harcourt's Centre for Ethnic and Conflict Studies, where I currently serve as Assistant Director. Bringing Bassey was not a mistake. It would be the second time since signing a memorandum of understanding between his organization, Health of Mother Earth Foundation and the Rights livelihood Foundation (RLF) and the University of Port Harcourt. Since signing the memorandum of understanding, the Faculty of Social Sciences of the university has been one of five Rights Livelihood Colleges (RLC) in the world. The main idea is to promote debate on sustainable development.

The university community in Nigeria seems to have left the debate on climate change to a rather sluggish Nigerian environmental civil society, indisposed political class and uncritical policymakers. Sluggish in the sense, civil society organizations are as guilty as the university community, for failing to adequately respond to the problem of climate change. Many such organizations sit on the fence. As for the university community, scholars seem uninterested in critical engagement with the false solutions. They seem distances away from analyses that support a climate justice perspective.



Yet, the solemnity and implication of global warming require spirited involvement of both students and scholars in evidence-based analyses. The university community is expected to provide leadership when it comes to analyses, research and advocacy.

Bridging The Gap Between Intellectuals And Social Change

As already implied, existing gaps between the intellectual community and social change is seen in its response to the problem of climate change. The lukewarmness means that policymakers can do without critical analyses of the preferred market solutions. Many promote ideas that simply reflect preferences of a few --corporations, governments, consultants, and neoliberal civil society groups. There is no gainsaying that the university community worldwide has to be actively involved in engendering social change through useful knowledge production, analyses, advocacy and policy making. But, the community service portfolio of many academics has remained undischarged.

One tragic reality is the uncritical intellectual dependence on resources, concepts, tools and knowledge generated by western scholarship. This is part of a bigger imperialist or ideological project in which solutions to world's problems are expected to be driven by interests of dominant power centres. As expected, intellectual imperialism has many of its victims within the university community in the developing world. They are expected not only to uncritically accept analyses provided by western scholarship on social problems, they have to follow the pattern of analyses and language used by global dominant intellectual powers without questioning.

This was the dream of the modernization logic which downgraded indigenous solutions to social problems.



Intellects

Social Change

The uncritical receptive disposition of policy makers and intellectuals in the developing world serve a neocolonial goal. If we apply this theoretical idea to the market approach sold by developed country dominated United Nations, we should easily see its intellectual foundation and interest of dominant powers.



Real Solutions

These levels of conflict around the problem of climate change reflect a fundamental flaw with the solutions pursued. At the national level, for example, in the case of Nigeria, a national policy framework based on proper analyses and consultation with relevant stakeholders is lacking. When such consultations are made, they are usually shabby and devoid of informed critical analyses. Beside a poorly articulated response by the federal government on the basis of global market approach, is the issue of lack of capacity for analyses.

This is where the university community and civil society are expected to play a crucial role. Again, there is the problem of failure to detect the ideological goal of marketization and commodification of pollution. As earlier noted, solutions to the climate crisis require a paradigm shift in energy systems. But world leaders are not willing to make this shift. They have rather continued to denounce and undermine it.

The deception and hypocrisy following it is at once a factor responsible for the increasing rate of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. The biggest threat to the climate is capitalism. Whether in the US, Japan, UK, Brazil, South Africa, Nigeria or China, the story is the same. National and global policy leaders are not fatigued when it comes to rejecting or undermining the arguments of the global climate justice movement.

Conclusion

Climate change conflict manifests at different levels, including the initial point of diagnoses, discourses-- solutions, impact--- as well as knowledge generation. In each of these levels, the lesson is, market strategies are conflict-ridden. This credential serves a lesson for the world to quickly move away to an approach that considers the interest of nature and humanity a priority. This requires urgent attention: reduce greenhouse gas emissions to a level below 2 Degrees Celsius. The catastrophic consequences of failure to achieve this need, need not be repeated here. It requires new coalitions with the university community in the developing world playing a critical role in analyses.

HOMEF on the Move

In 2014 we participated in the following National events and activities:

1. Pan Niger Delta Conference, 27-28 January 2014 at Port Harcourt. This conference was central to the formulation of the Niger Delta position with regard to the National political conference proposed by the government. Our Director was one of the speakers at the one-day conference where he canvassed our positions regarding destructive extractive activities and the need for the enthronement of Re-Source Democracy by which the rights of humans and other species on Earth are respected.

2. We conducted a Pollution tour of Makoko (Lagos), Ikarama (Bayelsa), Rumuekpe, Goi and Bodo (Rivers) with Jay Naidoo, a trade union activists and former cabinet minister in the administration of late President Mandela. Also on the trip was Larry Umunna of GAIN. This tour took place 9-12 February 2014 and provided great moments of solidarity with the visited communities.

3. HOMEF Director, Nnimmo Bassey

was of the delegates to the Nigerian National Conference 17 March – August 2014. He served in the Environment Committee and through this our areas of ecological concern were vigorously pursued. It was as a contribution to the National Conference that we elaborated on the concept of Re-Source Democracy and published and circulated a booklet with the same title. This concept was accepted by the conference and is part of CONFAB outcome that will one day be key to resolving highly volatile resource issues in the country.

4. As part of our networking we participated in a workshop on Niger Delta environment organized by NACGOND at Ogoni, 12 April 2014

5. Biodiversity Action Plan /UNDP – Engaged in the Community Biodiversity Action Plan team with focus on four states of Nigeria: Akwa Ibom, Bayelsa, Delta and Rivers.

6. Our Director, Nnimmo Bassey was elected Chair of the global board of the Global Greengrants Fund at meeting in Boulder CO 26-28 June 2014

7. We participated in a conference organized by Social Action with the theme Beyond Transparency in Abuja 22-23 July 2014

8. It is not often that individuals are awarded national honours for activism. It happened that on 29 September 2014 the President of Nigeria conferred our Director with the prestigious National Honour of Member of the Federal Republic (MFR) for his environmental activism.

9. HOMEF was requested by the Federal Ministry of Environment to play a coordinating role in the preparation of the Nigerian State Of Environment Report (NSOER). The first ever NSOER was carried out in 2008 and a radically different version with 2014 as baseline is now in the works. The inaugural meeting of the technical team held in November 2014

Our participation in international events:

- Can't Eat GDP conference hosted by HBF in Berlin, 24-26 February 2014
- Global Growth conference in Rabat, Morocco 24-25 April
- Right Livelihood Award Regional Conference in Sekem, Egypt
- Speaker tour with Friends of the Earth (BUND), Germany. 18-21 June 2014
- FES Conference on GDP, Entebbe, Uganda, 21-24 August 2014
- Degrowth Conference, Leipzig, Germany, 2-4 September
- Right Livelihood Award Jury, Germany, 10-13 September
- One World Award Gala/award event, Germany, 19-21 September.
- Degrowth Conference, Leipzig, Germany, 2-4 September
- Keynote at UWC Robert Bosch Campus opening, Freiburg, Germany, 23 September
- International Social Science Council (ISCC) conference at Potsdam, 17-19 November

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· UNFCCC (COP20), Lima 4-12 December 2014. We engaged in activities including The Alternatives to Power conference, Rights of Nature Tribunal and workshops of the No REDD in Africa Network

HOMEF plays roles in the following influential global networks and organisations

1. Yes to Life No to Mining - The website for this network was launched on 13 November 2014 – www.yestolifenotomining.org
2. International Social Science Council (ISCC)
3. The SPARC – A Floating Knowledge Archive for the Survival of People and Planet – www.thesparc.net
4. Climate Space – <https://climatespace2013.wordpress.com>

5. Oilwatch International – www.oilwatch.org
6. No REDD in Africa Network (NRAN) – www.no-redd-africa.org
7. Daraja – A Pan African space set to rally the global majority towards a path of radical social transformation and power.
8. /The Rules – www.therules.org

PUBLICATIONS

We published 4 editions of our Eco-Instigator in the year. We also published two booklets: To MINT an Illusion and Resource Democracy.

Within the year, To Cook A Continent was translated into two languages, Portuguese and Finnish.



HOMEF In Social Media

HOMEF remained active on social media with presence on Facebook, Twitter, Vimeo, Flickr and YouTube.

In the year 2014 under review the Health of Mother Earth Foundation's social media engagement on both Facebook and twitter reached over 1, 000, 000 and over 213,000 timeline impressions. Our Facebook fans base increased from 356 people at the beginning of 2014 to 521 people as of 18th December 2014. We have 54% of our likers being men and 46% women. While most of HOMEF's fans are mostly from Nigeria there is a reasonable fans base from over 44 countries globally.

From the Inside: Rear views of 2014

The Year 2014 went more quickly than anyone thought it would. With our Eco-Instigator publication waxing strong, we also published 'Not on Our Plates,' 'Re-Source Democracy' and 'To MINT an Illusion'. As I reflect on the year, I am amazed by how much the HOMEF team was able to put together so many publications and programs all rooted in solidarity and protection of our collective dignity.

It was also a boost to our morale when our Director, Nnimmo Bassey, received important recognition for his persistent advocacy for human and environmental rights. From receiving honours as Member of the Order of the Federal Republic (MFR) from the Nigerian Presidency to his induction as a Fellow of the Nigerian Institute of Architects. We celebrate with him on his awards. This is inspiration to continue in our pursuit for justice as little droplets of water make a mighty ocean. Indeed, 2014 was a good year.

I look forward to the Year 2015, the Year of the Soil. On Nigerian turfs, we expect a politically eventful year with the upcoming elections. But we know that this is an opportunity to project our voices against environmental and social injustices. It will be a year to loudly reject attempts to introduce GMOs into Nigeria. I look forward to the challenges and milestones that the New Year will offer.

Oluwa-
funmilayo
Oyatogun



As the saying goes, "experience is the best teacher." We learn each day. To me, 2014 was a year of great experiences that will linger in my memory for the rest of my life.

In the wake of the year 2014 I had my first boat ride to the fragile coastal community of Makoko', a community located on the lips of the Lagos Lagoon where we had our first sustainability Academy (Home School) for the year in May 2014. Makoko was our last stop after we had two earlier sessions in Abuja and in Bori – Ogoni, Rivers State. I will never forget the trip to Makoko community. During the trip to the community I had an amazing time but was a bit scared when I heard we were to get to the venue by canoe.

Although the trip was scary, I enjoyed every part of it. I particularly recall an incident we had with some hooligans who demanded entry fee from us into the community just because we had a foreigner in our company. As they rocked our boat my thoughts ran wild and I silently prayed that they would not push us overboard. It was a truly scary experience.

On Arrival at the famous Makoko Floating School, venue for the academy I could not but wonder at the design and construction of the structure. The magnificent floating school is a structure our Director describes as a resilient structure which can adapt to climate changes and should be replicated across various coastal Communities of Nigeria.

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In this session the lead instigator Firoze Manji, spoke on the theme Turmoil in Africa. After the session it became clear to me that Climate change issues and the struggles for access to resources are major causes of the crises and uprisings experienced in Africa and around the world.

Another important experience for me was at our meeting with women at Bori Ogoniland, Rivers State in August 2014. The workshop had the theme: Memories and Hope- Ogoni Women as Ecological Defenders. My heart broke when the women shared stories of the pains and struggles they go through daily to eke a living for themselves and their families as the only sources of their livelihood (farming and fishing) have been taken away from them by pollution from oil spills. Their stories got me thinking intensely about the ill treatment and the level of irresponsibility displayed by multinational companies operating in the Niger Delta region.

As I see what we achieved in 2014, I look forward to 2015 with high expectations.



Zaid
Shopeju

2014 brought wonderful experiences to me as a member of the amazing team of fearless environmental warriors at the Health of Mother Earth Foundation (HOMEF). The positive vibe, drive and energy of the team and our volunteers made a world of difference in our advocacy and campaigns all through the year 2014. For me the high point of 2014 was the honouring of our founder - Nnimmo Bassey with a national award by the Presidency. That stood out as an acknowledgement of Nnimmo's contribution to nation building especially on human rights and environmental justice.

Secondly, being part of the training of over 200 women in Bori on environmental monitoring - a workshop that placed premium on women's role in our struggle for restoring the health of the environment. I'm confident we will record more success in 2015.

Shehu Akowe

Learning every day is essential for anyone that desires to contribute meaningfully to ecological justice in our nation and beyond. I learned a lot through reading postings on our HOMEF Internal lists and from so many social media items concerning Climate justice and the rights of Mother Earth.

Working as an Aide to our Director at the National Conference from March-June, 2014 ignited the zeal in me the more and showed me that struggles for the safety of Mother Earth should never be compromised.

I cannot forget the day I set out to share our Re-Source Democracy publication to the Delegates of the National Conference. Security men at the entrance were on red alert and pointed their guns at me as I arrived with a huge bag (Ghana must go) containing the publication.

Some members of the Conference refused to accept copies of the book for one reason or the other including that the concept might mean taking their remaining share of National Cake from them. Others happily collected copies for themselves and for their friends. Hundreds of copies were shared that day.

May, 20th 2014, the Abuja HOMEF Sustainability Academy (HOME SCHOOL) was another great educative experience for me.

The year 2014 confirmed to me that the fight for environmental justice must be intensified until victory is secured.



Participating in HOMEF activities presented a load of memorable moments

Where do I begin? Where do I start? There were so many memorable moments.

We had a lot of "Wow" Moments and a Big Bang just like the fireworks that exploded up in the sky and around the world at the transition point of one year to another.

Defining Moments:

HOMEF Sustainability Academy #03: I had a "Bang" and explosive time in HOMEF's Sustainability Academy #03, which held in Abuja with Dr Firoze Manji, Director of ThoughtWorks – a pan Africanist think tank based in South Africa who was the instigator for the session. The subject in discourse was "Turmoil in Africa: Uprising or Chaos?" The session was quite interactive and explosive. The session kicked off with the presentation of two great books- A MUST READ: "Claim No Easy Victory – The Legacy of Amilcar Cabral," Edited by Firoze Manji and Bill Fletcher Jr; and "Silence Would Be Treason - Last writings of Ken Saro-Wiwa" Authored by Ken Saro-Wiwa and Edited by Ide Corley, Helen Fallon, Laurence Cox; forwarded by Nnimmo Bassey.

Implication of the non-implementation of the UNEP Report on women and the aged in Ogoniland: Another Wow moment was the workshop organised by The Health of Mother Earth Foundation (HOMEF) in collaboration with the Federal Ministry of Environment on the implication of the non-implementation of the UNEP Report on women and the aged in Ogoniland. The workshop held at the Peace Centre, Bori, in Ogoni. Rivers State.



**Mariann
Orovwuje**

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The workshop drew women from various Ogoni communities as well as government agencies, the media and other community people. I have never seen such a large turnout of women, young and old, coming together to speak on matters that affect their communities. The resource persons did their best to make participants understand the UNEP report and the implication of the inaction of our government after 3 years of its release. It also developed competence and the ability to focus on specific resource problems through bottom up interrogation of the UNEP report, as well as the concept of 'Re-Source Democracy'. I for one was learning about "Re-Source Democracy" concept for the first time.

Resource persons also took us through environmental monitoring guidelines and knowledge of the pollutants in the environment. I went home very inspired.

GIZ Country Concept Start up Stakeholders Workshop: I represented the Director of HOMEF at this workshop. HOMEF was invited after one of the conveners of the meeting checked their webpage and found out that they work on the issues around food and GMOs and have done considerable work on it. Good to note that HOMEF webpage is a source of reference. HOMEF's was among the NGOs they consulted with to help them take a decision on the projects and areas of focus. It was a good space for sharing and brainstorming.

Partners

HOMEF had the pleasure of receiving support in various forms from these esteemed institutions:

1. Tikva Grassroots Empowerment Foundation
2. Grassroots Foundation
3. Third World Network
4. Federal Ministry of Environment/United Nations Development Programme
5. University of Port Harcourt
6. Mass Communication Department, University of Lagos
7. Protea Hotels Apo Apartment, Abuja
8. Base Consult

HEALTH OF MOTHER EARTH FOUNDATION
Annual Reports and Accounts
For the Year Ended 31st December 2014



STATEMENT OF ACTIVITY

	NOTE	Unrestricted N	Temporarily Restricted N	Permanently Restricted N	Total N
Changes in unrestricted net assets					
Contributions & Grant Income	8	19,562,320.20	—	—	19,562,320.20
Other Income	6	—	—	—	—
Investment Income		—	—	—	—
Net assets released from restrictions:					
Satisfaction of program restrictions		—	—	—	—
Satisfaction of Equipment restrictions		—	—	—	—
Expiration of time restriction		—	—	—	—
Total Revenues, Gains and other Support		19,562,320.20	—	—	19,562,320.20
Expenses and Losses					
Sustainability Academy	9	6,852,497.00			
Memories of Hope	10	7,121,387.00			
Biosafety	11	2,478,100.00			
Management & General Admin. Expenses	12	1,059,196.21			
BREAD Project	13	<u>653,500.00</u>			
		18,164,680.21			
Change in Net Assets		1,397,639.99			
Net Assets at the beginning of the year		<u>727,882.00</u>			
Net assets at end of the year		2,125,521.99			

BREAD represents Building Rural Ecological Action & Defence

