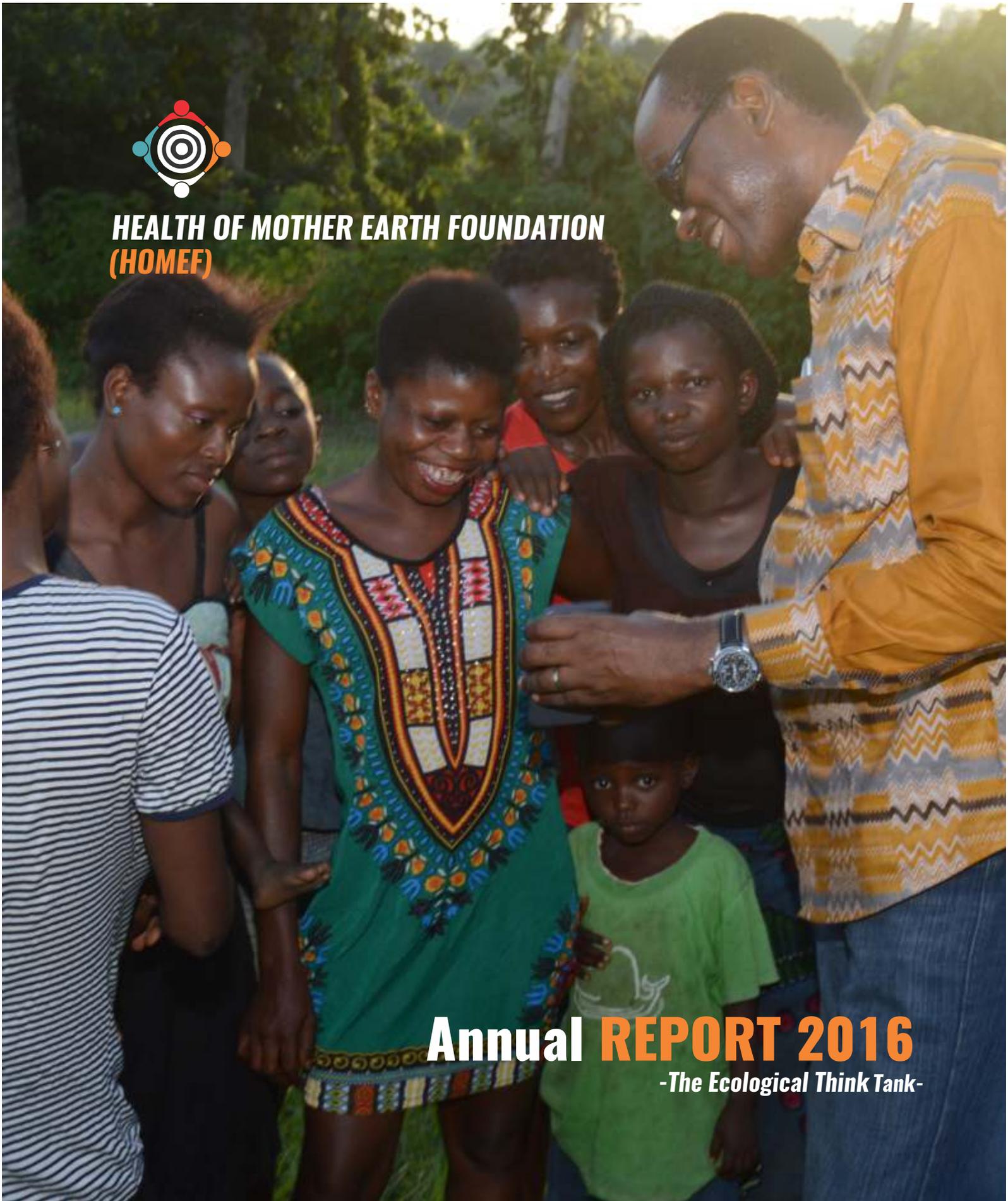




**HEALTH OF MOTHER EARTH FOUNDATION
(HOMEF)**



Annual REPORT 2016

-The Ecological Think Tank-



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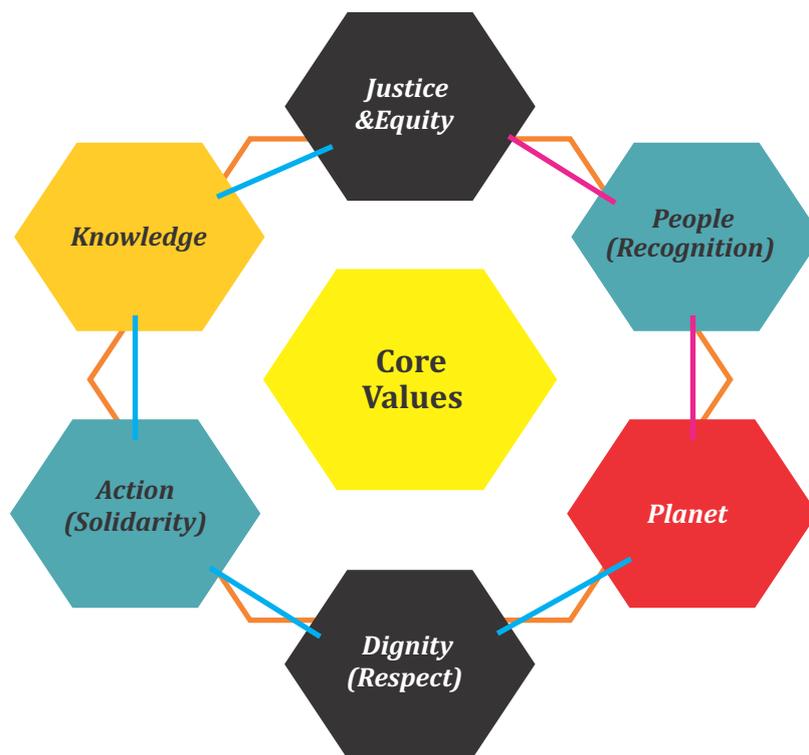
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Knowing HOMEF

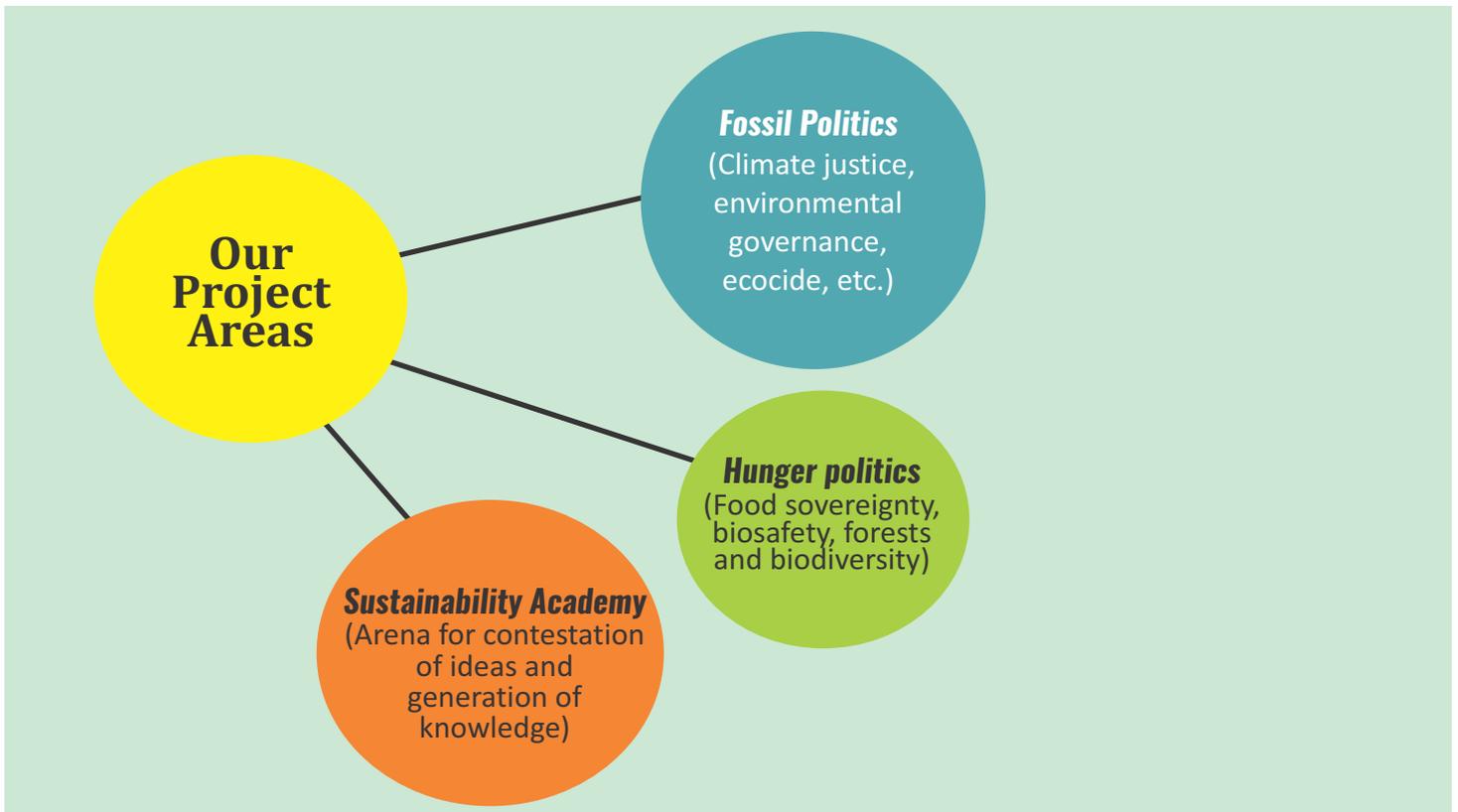
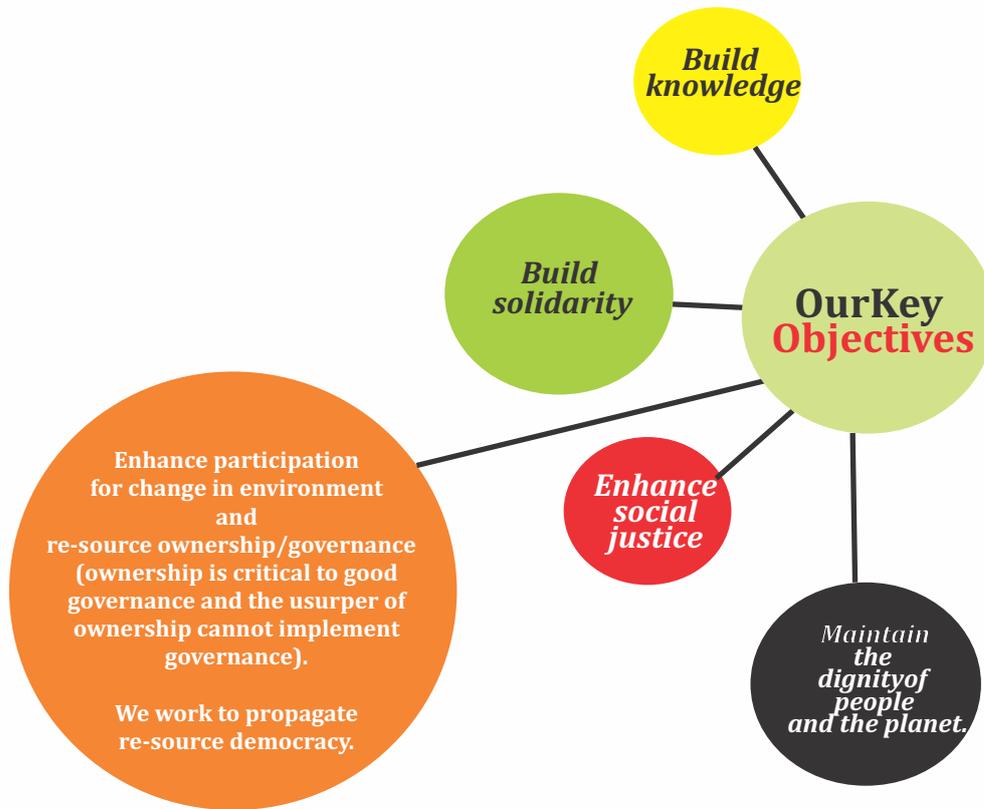
HOMEF is an environmental/ecological think tank and advocacy organisation. It is rooted in solidarity and in the building and protection of human and collective dignity.

We believe that neoliberal agendas driven by globalization of exploitation of the weak, despoliation of ecosystems and lack of respect for Mother Earth thrive mostly because of the ascendancy of enforced creed of might is right. This ethic permits the powerful to pollute, grab resources and degrade/destroy the rest simply because they can do so. HOMEF recognizes that this reign of (t)error can best be tackled through a conscious examination of the circumstances by which the trend crept in and got entrenched. HOMEF's work track is continuous political education that examines the roots of exploitation of resources, labour, peoples, territories, nations and regions. Through this HOMEF contributes to the building of movements for recovery of memory, dignity and harmonious living with full respect of natural cycles of Mother Earth.

Three key areas of focus are fossil politics, hunger politics and creating spaces for knowledge generation and sharing.



*Justice and Equity in all circumstances
People and Planet in Harmony and free
from exploitation*





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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, Campaigner with groundWork, South Africa
3. **George Awudi** (Ghana) – Climate justice campaigner – Chair of the Board and Campaigner with Friends of the Earth Ghana
4. **Evelyn Bassey** (Nigeria) – Youth environmental campaigner, HOMEF
5. **Esperanza Martinez** (Ecuador) – Environmental justice/Political ecologist, Accion Ecologica, 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

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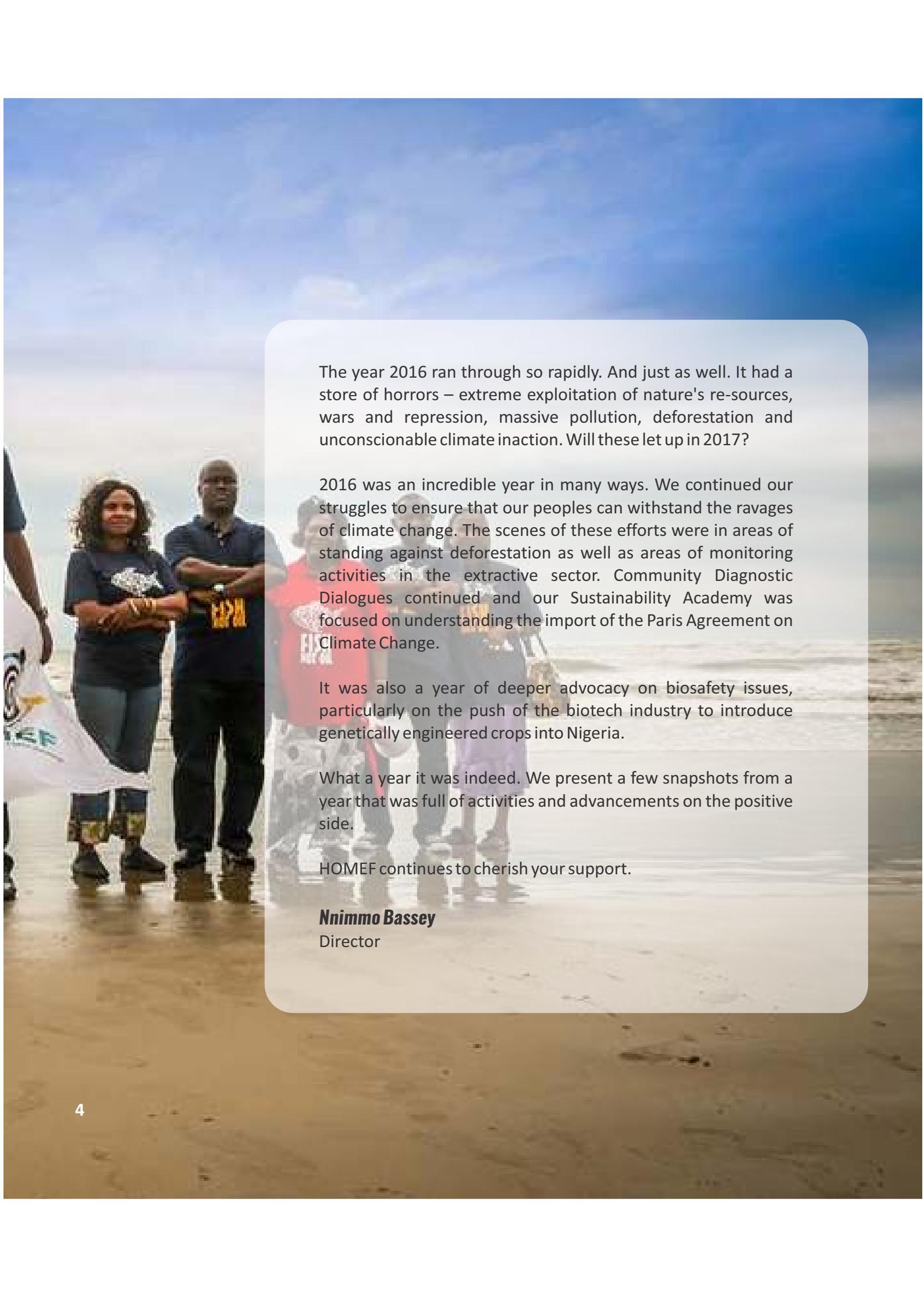
Volunteers

Mariann Orovwuje
Hunger & Biosafety

Ruth Iziduh
Research



HOME Note

A group of people, including a woman in a blue t-shirt and a man in a dark blue polo shirt, are standing on a sandy beach. The ocean is visible in the background under a blue sky with light clouds. The scene is captured in a wide-angle shot, with the people in the foreground and the beach extending towards the water.

The year 2016 ran through so rapidly. And just as well. It had a store of horrors – extreme exploitation of nature's re-sources, wars and repression, massive pollution, deforestation and unconscionable climate inaction. Will these let up in 2017?

2016 was an incredible year in many ways. We continued our struggles to ensure that our peoples can withstand the ravages of climate change. The scenes of these efforts were in areas of standing against deforestation as well as areas of monitoring activities in the extractive sector. Community Diagnostic Dialogues continued and our Sustainability Academy was focused on understanding the import of the Paris Agreement on Climate Change.

It was also a year of deeper advocacy on biosafety issues, particularly on the push of the biotech industry to introduce genetically engineered crops into Nigeria.

What a year it was indeed. We present a few snapshots from a year that was full of activities and advancements on the positive side.

HOMEF continues to cherish your support.

Nnimmo Bassey

Director

HOMEF Fellows

1. **Pablo Solon** – *Former ambassador of Bolivia to the United Nations/Climate justice advocate*
2. **Monika Griefahn** – *Sociologist and Former Minister for the environment in the German State of Lower Saxony. Co-Chair of the Rightlivelihood Award Foundation*
3. **Noble Wadzah** – *Environmental justice activist*
4. **Firoze Manji** – *Dental surgeon, Editor at Daraja Press and pan-Africanist*
5. **Baba Aye** – *Labour activist*
6. **Vandana Shiva** - *a world-renowned environmentalist, physicist, philosopher, feminist, activist, and author.*
7. **Ruth Nyambura** - *Ecofeminist*
8. **Hilma Mote** – *labour researcher/activist*



COP21 Post Mortem Sustainability Academy 07

The Health of Mother Earth Foundation (HOMEF) hosted two sessions of its 7th Sustainability Academy at University of Abuja and LUFASI Nature Park, Lagos, Nigeria on 15th and 17th June, 2016. The theme of the Sustainability Academy was COP21 Post Mortem.

The sessions in Abuja and Lagos were moderated by Ruth Eskhiegbe and Funmi Oyatogun respectively, and brought together over 200 Nigerians youths who are actively involved in the Climate Change activism.

Two instigators, Hilma Mote from Africa Labour Rights Institute, based in Togo, and Ruth Nyambura, a radical eco-feminist from Kenya, led the conversations alongside HOMEF Director - Nnimmo Bassey and LUFASI Director – Desmond Majekodunmi.

The world is in critical danger with continuous carbonization of the atmosphere, and Africa and other continents of the Global South continue to bear a disproportionate amount of Climate Change impacts. In his welcome address, Nnimmo Bassey challenged young Nigerians to critically examine the 21st Conference of Parties (COP 21) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change that held in Paris December, 2015. According to him, the Paris COP was another missed opportunity for nations to take real climate actions, including especially urgently transiting from dependence on fossil fuels.

Mr. Bassey also expressed his displeasure with the revocation of occupancy rights for up to 10 km on either side of the superhighway project proposed by the Cross River State. Such an action will lead to massive deforestation, biodiversity decimation, displacement of communities and lock in socio-economic deprivations. On the other hand, Nnimmo extolled LUFASI saying, “such platforms as LUFASI Nature Park serve as a practical tool to engage Nigerians with nature and relay information on Climate Change in a space that is educational, relaxing, natural and unique.”

In his ever so passionate manner of speaking, Desmond Majekodunmi – the chairman of LUFASI Nature Park, pointed out the wickedness of the human heart in ignoring the impending state of catastrophe as a result of Climate Change. In his words, “Mother Earth has become a time bomb waiting to explode and we are doing very little about it.”

Corroborating Nnimmo's disappointment with the Cross River superhighway project, Mr.

Majekodunmi implored all participants to divest from the notion that humans are apart from nature by interacting more closely with spaces such as LUFASI Nature Park.

Hilma Mote who spoke on *Youth, Labour and Climate Change* stressed the fact that the planet is our home and therefore we must care for and live in harmony with it. She stressed that “the planet is vulnerable just like human beings are.” “Imagine”, she continued, “if someone threw garbage on your head daily. You would cry for help and our neglect of the Earth's cries for help will either lead it to implode or to die.”

Mote also shared extensive knowledge on the role of young people in combating the challenges of climate change. According to her, as we struggle for the needed “transformation towards a sustainable future for people and the planet, the youth should be at the centre and so all have to engage fully.” She expressed her positive thoughts towards union leaders who have begun to pay attention to the intersection between climate change and labour.

“Nnimmo Bassey has a way of ensuring that all are involved in knowledge sharing”, she said in reference to a meeting in January where a union leader made reference to Mr. Bassey's climate change analogy: “imagine how you feel when you have a bit of a temperature. Now, the Earth has been heating up for so long and no one is paying attention.”

Ruth Nyambura spoke on COP21 and how the Paris Agreement can be implemented. According to her, 21% of the world population contribute about 80% to the challenges of climate change and therefore should bear a higher percentage of the solution. Women must also be at the focal point of solutions as 75% of the small-scale farmers feeding Africa are women, who often have limited land rights but are the most vulnerable. She told the audience that by 2020, the Sahel Desert will be completely uninhabitable according to scientists. “Africa is impoverished because colonial systems linger to stunt our development”, she highlighted. Citing the flower industry in Kenya as an example, Ruth Nyambura condemned the unsustainable agricultural practices which improve GDP statistics but further devastate local ecologies and economies.

According to Nyambura, “food sovereignty is much more important than food security because it challenges the leftover colonial structures which ensure dependence of developing states.” In her critique of the Paris Agreement, she challenged young activists to push for the principle of Common but Differentiated Responsibility (CBDR) which ensures that countries make proportionate investments to solutions as their contributions to the problem. Her passion shone through as she stressed that mitigation and adaptation funds must not come from loans or aid. Nyambura also highlighted a loophole in the system which has been identified by stakeholders for decades – the absence of recognition of climate refugees in the UN. “When the law does not recognize you, you cannot even voice the injustice you suffer

because you do not exist.”

The panellists pointed out that the devastation of the environment and impacts of Climate Change will result in:

- § Climate refugees all over the world.
- § The Sahel region of Africa being more and more uninhabitable.
- § Increase in poverty and vulnerability.
- § Extreme flooding and other environmental hazards.
- § Exposure of humans to dangerous chemicals leading to respiratory challenges, and other dangerous health challenges.

Noting that climate change exacerbates social, economic and ecological injustice the following were the resolutions from the session:

- Urgent transition from fossil fuels to renewable energy sources.
- Those who contributed more to the problem should bear more of the responsibilities in fixing the challenges of climate change.
- We must not relate with the environment as if we are not part of the environment.
- The youths should not just be relegated to “flower girls” in the environmental advocacy process but they should be involved in the process from start to finish.
- Governments should invest in education, green infrastructures and sustainable agricultural techniques as a way of combating climate change.



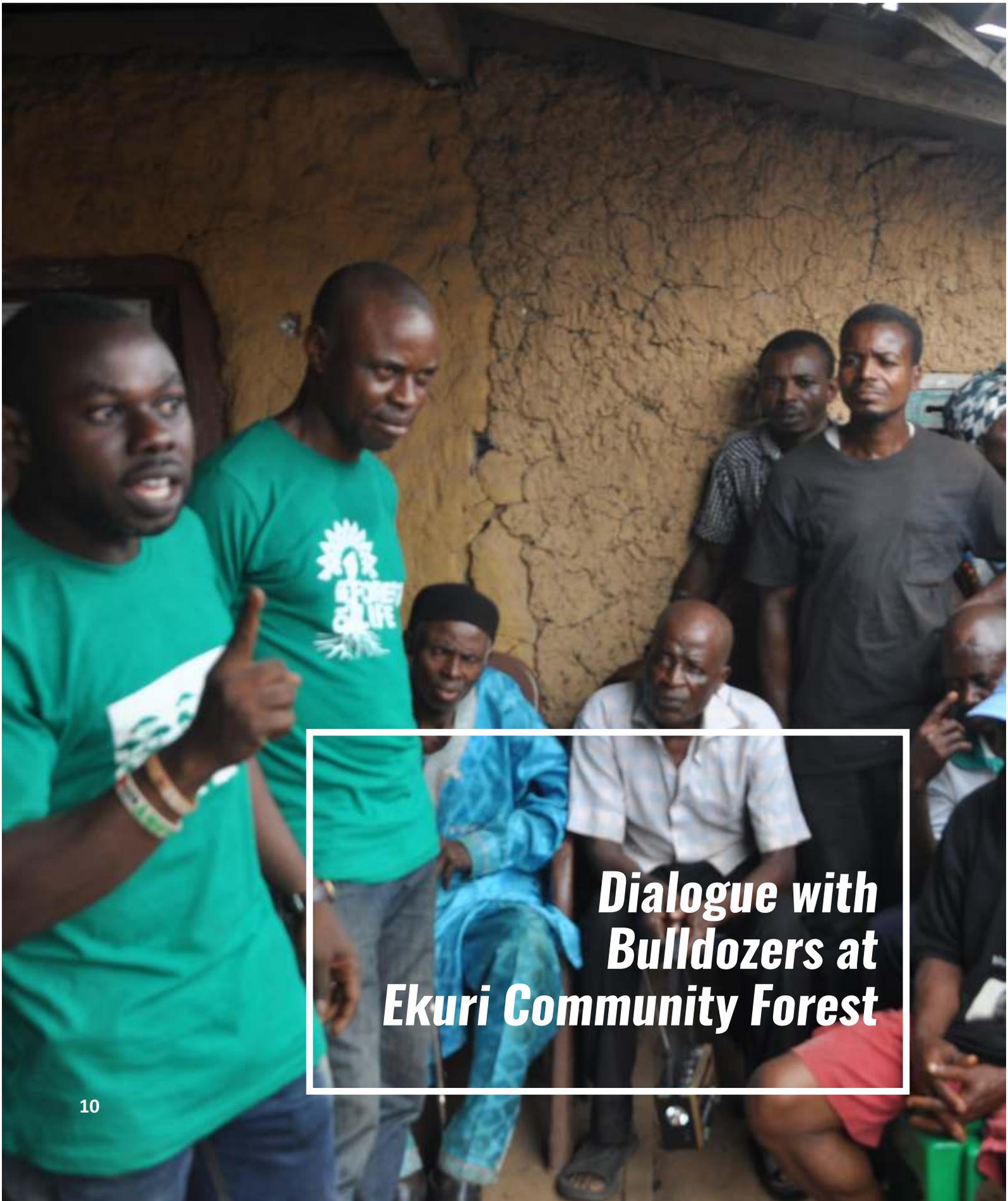
- Youths should combine their academic/technical training with environmental activism and campaign for the greater good of all.
- The government of Cross River State should halt the construction of the Superhighway project until the project receives an approved Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and other guidelines as stipulated by ILO article 169.
- Nigerians should vehemently oppose the moves to introduce genetically modified (GM) cotton and maize into Nigeria's food and farming systems.

In appreciation for environmental activists (such as Nnimmo Bassey and Desmond Majekodunmi) who have often fought lone battles for long periods of time, Hilma Mote shared an apt Yoruba proverb which in English says: “if we stand tall, it is because we stand on

the backs of those who came before us.” She also enjoined Nigerian youths to take the bull by the horn in the fight against Climate Change. According to her proverbial imploration, “silence is an attribute of the dead; they who are alive speak.”

After the presentations, Hilma Mote and Ruth Nyambura were inducted as 7th and 8th Fellows of Health of Mother Earth Sustainability Academy, respectively.

The interactive session came to a close with a guided tour of LUFASI Nature Park, allowing for continued interaction through the park's 20 hectares of protected tropical forest and rescued animals. We look forward to the implementation of these outcomes and commit to providing resources to aid knowledge generation, sharing and action about climate change and the looming food crisis in Nigeria, Africa and the world in general.



***Dialogue with
Bulldozers at
Ekuri Community Forest***



Bulldozers and forests are not friends. Neither are highways or super highways, as the people of Ekuri Community are learning. The Ekuri Community Forest in Cross River State, Nigeria, is an acclaimed example of how communities can sustainably manage their forest. Now, this forest is under threat from the State Government that has embarked on the construction of a 260 Km, 6 lanes dual carriage super highway through their forest, using the highly controversial Land Use Act of 1979 as a cover for dispossessing the people of their land, forest and patrimony.

When the ground breaking ceremony for this project was conducted by President Muhammadu Buhari on 30th October 2015, the Ekuri Community thought that having an all-weather road pass by their community would bring to an end their perpetual struggle to secure access to the outside world through the earth road they had built by community effort. This thinking was shattered by a Public Notice of Revocation signed by the Commissioner for Lands and Urban Development and published in a local newspaper on 22nd January 2016 decreeing, among other things, that:

“all rights of occupancy existing or deemed to exist on all that piece of land or parcel of land lying and situate along the Super Highway from Esighi, Bakassi Local Government Area to Bekwarra Local Government Area of Cross River State covering a distance of 260km approximately and having an offset of 200m on either side of the centre line of the road and further 10km after the span of the Super Highway, excluding Government Reserves and public institutions are hereby revoked for

overriding public purpose absolutely”.

Land Grabbing

The community studied the “Notice of Revocation” and the line profile and found that some of the coordinates show that their forest, community lands and settlements would be taken up by the Super Highway and the extraordinary right of way of 10 Km claimed by the government - beyond the 200 metres right of way allowed from the centre line on each side of the road. Little wonder the community characterises this usurpation as a case of crass land grabbing. This sort of grabbing tends to suggest that this part of Nigeria is *Tarzan* country or simply a no-man's land.

Before this, some critics of the Super Highway project such as the Rainforest Resource Development Centre (RRDC) had stated that “the BLUE PRINTS of such a huge 260km 6 lanes Super Highway project running across the entire Cross River State of Nigeria was not made public before the commencement of construction at the ground breaking event. Significantly also, the blue print of the said project has not been made public till this moment. This is a contravention of the Freedom of Information Act, 2011 of the National Assembly as well as other related legislations...”

Other significant issues raised include the fact that no credible Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) have been conducted before the taking off of the project. The project threatens the Cross River National Park as the highway traverses the buffer zone of the forest.

In its press briefing of 6th November 2015, the RRDC expressed the fear that contrary to the requirement of the Land Use Act, no schedules of compensation (including the names of beneficiaries) had been made public. “The risk is that this project could end up escalating rural poverty if the issues of compensations are neglected. This is so because the affected indigenous people and communities of Cross River State of Nigeria who own these resources could end up losing their sources of livelihoods, income and wellbeing, as well as their natural heritage and territories.”

Dialogue with Bulldozers

With the level of dispossession staring them in the face, the Ekuri Community decided to reject the passage of the Super Highway through their forest and demand a realignment of the road. According to community sources, their petition received a quick but shocking response:

“At the receipt of the Protest Letter, the Governor has quickly sent a bulldozer this morning to Ekuri to begin the destruction of the Ekuri community forest in the name of the Super Highway. This is to show power and strength against poor communities and in

defiance of the dictates of the rule of law.”

If the world keeps quiet and allows the bulldozers to have their way, they would not only bulldoze the future of the Ekuri people, the act would entrench impunity, satisfy the lust for capital, promote deforestation in one of the last remaining pristine forest in Africa and blunt our collective hope for tackling global warming. This is a challenge, not just for Ekuri Community but for the entire global community.





Strategic Agenda Setting Summit

HOMEF anchored a three days meeting for environmental agenda setting in Abuja 17-19th May 2016.

The highly interactive meeting had 41 participants drawn from a broad spectrum of individuals and groups that have a track record of work in the environmental sector and could deliberate on the current challenges as well as proffer a guide for policy direction. The crop of participants included members of the civil society organizations, academia, technocrats, and community actors. The turnout for the workshop was very representative.

Discussions were articulated in panels and group work sessions. There was a panel on **State of the Nigerian Environment** and this took an overview of the nation, focused on climate change and conflicts, especially those of herders and farmers' conflicts as well as deforestation/desertification debate including the Great Green Wall, mangroves, land use and conversions and plantation- based projects. Members of this panel were: Mohammed Bello Tukur, Ken Henshaw, Prof Haruna Ayuba, Dr Ladipo Olajide, Prof Francis Adesina, Ms. Betty Abah with Nnimmo Bassey as moderator.

A **Pollution and Clean Up** panel discussed the effects of oil and industrial effluents. It also raised arguments on sanitation and wastes - including solid wastes, medical waste, military waste, etc. Celestine Akpobari, Ken Henshaw, Prof Ife Ken, Kola Lawal, Emem Okon were the panellists for this session. It was also moderated by Akinbode Oluwafemi

The team on Agriculture, **Biosafety and Environmental Health** deliberated on sanitation, environmental health, the regulations within the sector and the various

players therein. The panellists were Mariann Bassey-Orovwuje, Naseer Kura, Dr Celestine Aguoru and Dr Robert Onyeneke. Dr Ako Amadi moderated the session.

The fourth panel dwelt on **Energy, green growth and development and urbanisation**. Its discussion was centred on the challenges facing our wetlands in Nigeria. The panellists included Huzi Mshelia, Prof Yakubu Ochefu, Dr Iniodu George, Ewah Eleri, Prof Haruna Ayuba, Michael Simire and Prof Chinedum Nwajiuba. The panel was moderated by Faith Nwadishi.

The Environmental **Policies, Laws and Regulations** panel focused on environmental governance and research. Panellists for this session were: Prof M. T. Okorodudu-Fubara, Chima Williams, Charles Aholu, Alade Adeleke and Dr Ako Amadi. This fifth session was moderated by Dr Henry Sawyerr.

These discussions were followed by short sessions where opinions and comments were raised and discussed. In-depth analysis and deliberations took place in group sessions

The working groups were on (a) Climate, Deforestation and Desertification; (b) Pollution & Wastes management; (c) Energy, Green Growth/Development & Urbanisation; (d) Food, Agriculture and Biosafety and (e) Water, Sanitation and Environmental Health. Their task was to draw up policy areas for government and action areas for private sector, communities and civil society.



Background

Environmental problems in Nigeria may appear daunting in some sense, but in the context of ongoing political change, we see a great opportunity for resolving these environmental challenges through actions that would serve as unifying factors at the same time.

In response to this need, Mother Earth Foundation - HOMEF (www.homef.org), an ecological think tank and advocacy organisation facilitated the articulation of a **think tank on the Nigerian environment in Abuja, Nigeria from the 17th – 19th May 2016**. The think tank included a broad spectrum of individuals and groups that have track records of work in the environmental sector drawn from the academia, civil society organisations, technocrats, community actors and media. They deliberated on the current challenges of the Nigerian environment and proffered a guide for policy direction.

The policy direction proposed by the team of experts was hinged on change that would produce results that needed to be clearly defined and imbibed. Secondly, the platforms for attainment of the proposed change were to be delineated and constructed. In other words, this transformation would be built on a foundation where harnessing an opportunity should bring about a just transition that goes beyond the political while not ignoring it, but directly restores our highly degraded environment and thus directly impacts on the lives of citizens.

This transition would be one which requires the treatment of our challenges holistically rather than in silos as well as uncovering the systemic roots of our environmental rot in order to set the path for reconstruction. The team further identified areas of focus for a national agenda, keeping in mind that such an agenda should promote the creation of massive awareness of environmental issues across the strata of the nation. It also stressed that where citizens own the agenda of ecological defence, such agenda would readily become institutionalised and help build a resilient system.

As a guide, the areas deliberated on during the two-day workshop included the following:

Environmental restoration which centres on human activities especially those of oil exploration and exploitation which has raised a number of issues such as depletion of biodiversity, coastal and riverbank erosion, flooding, oil spillage, gas flaring, noise pollution, sewage and waste water pollution, land degradation, soil fertility loss and deforestation, which are all major environmental issues. The effects of these environmental issues have resulted in environmental degradation which necessitates urgent and steady environmental remedial and restorative measures.

Environmental sanitation, which included solid waste management and access to **potable water**. **The different kinds of erosion** as experienced in Nigeria: gully, wind and coastal erosion which are serious challenges. A comprehensive framework was proposed to tackle this menace.

The Great Green Belt and Deforestation discussion was also pivotal due to the billions of naira lost annually due to environmental

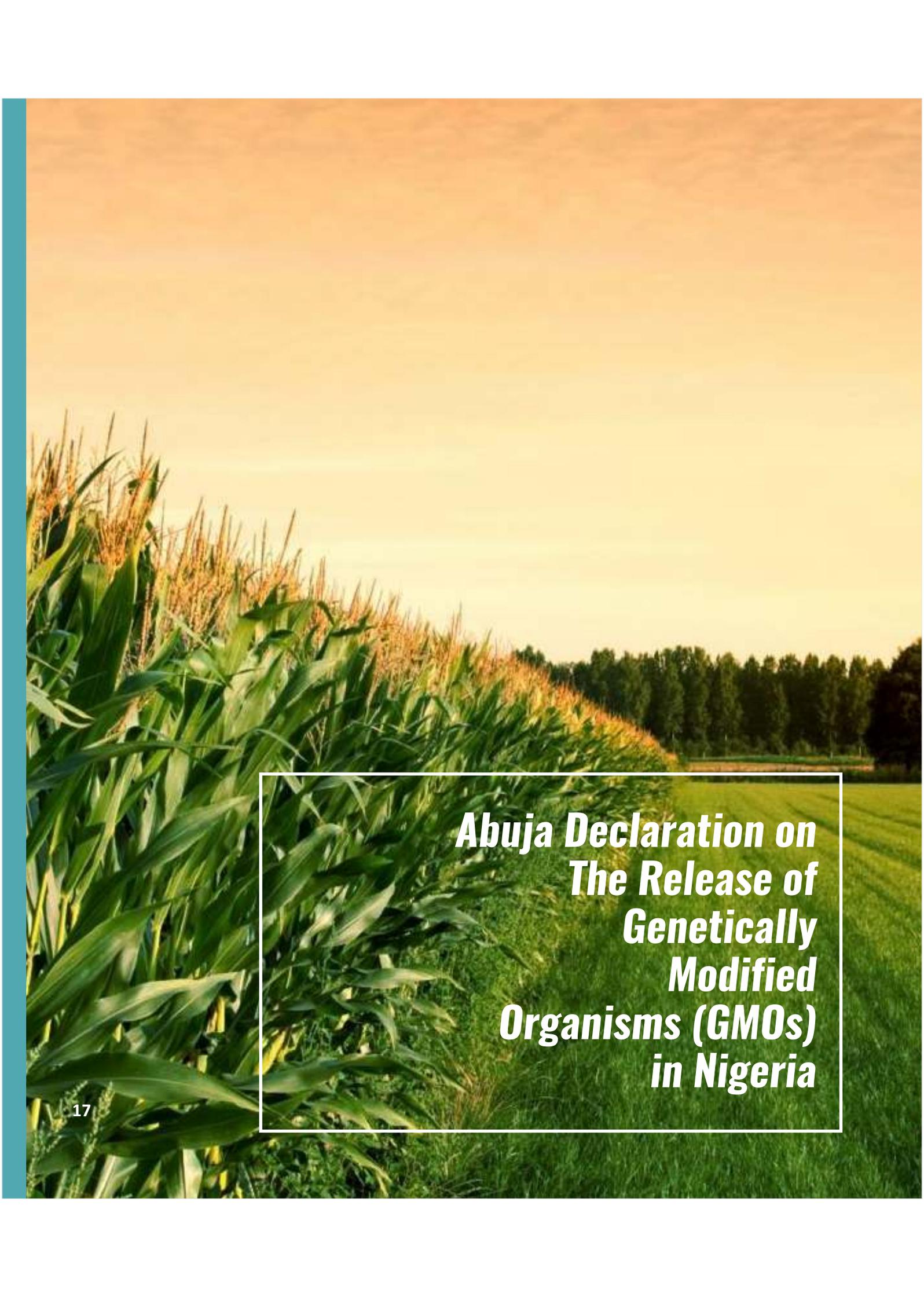
challenges such as deforestation, drought and desertification. This is premised on the immediate survival needs and few options the poor have often been faced with and continual exploitation of the natural resources in the nation.

The Climate change debate of which Nigeria had submitted her intended nationally determined contributions (INDCs) to emissions reduction as required by the UNFCCC. These need to be reviewed and put into action. Awareness creation and development of multiple layers of actors (youth, women, community, CSO, etc.) on climate change are essential.

Environmental laws/regulations which is not lacking in the nation; however, some of these laws and regulations require to be reviewed. Examples of laws that require review include those that led to the setting up of the following agencies:

- (a) The **Biosafety** Management Agency (NABMA), especially with applications for introduction of Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs)
- (b) The National Oil Spill Detection and Response Agency (**NOSDRA**)
- (c) The National Environmental Standards and Regulations Enforcement Agency (**NESREA**)and
- (d) The Environmental Impact Act (**EIA**)

The importance of a national **environmental baseline** which would provide a comprehensive understanding of the physical, chemical, biological and social environment in Nigeria cannot be over-emphasised. This is because well planned and executed studies would enhance project/programme efficiencies and increase acceptability by stakeholders



***Abuja Declaration on
The Release of
Genetically
Modified
Organisms (GMOs)
in Nigeria***

At the conclusion of the conference on **Just Governance: The Nigerian Bio-Safety Law, GMOs, and Implications for Nigeria and Africa held at Reiz Continental Hotel, Abuja, May 23-25, 2016**; we, the participants from diverse religious and faith based bodies, communities and civil society organizations (CSOs) from Nigeria, Africa and other parts of the world, affirm that organic foods are healthy, nutritious and remain a vital aspect of human rights to food and food security.

Informed by the robust, structured and eye-opening presentations by specialists and panelists and spontaneous contributions by the participants, we strongly object to the release of Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) in Nigeria, convinced that GMOs are not the solution to hunger.

Nigeria's fertile land guarantees the nation food sovereignty. Consequently, hunger is due to bad governance, poor infrastructure for preservation and distribution of food and lack of adequate all round support to small holder farmers who constitute over 70% of the farmers in Nigeria. We, therefore, stornly recommend to the Nigerian Government to invest more in agriculture.

The Nigerian Bio-Safety Law, in its present form, is a recipe for the destruction of Nigeria's ecosystem, food cultures and systems. The process leading to its passage was devoid of critical input and public participation that would have enabled Nigerians to significantly determine and protect their food cultures and systems. It lacks legal safeguards for protecting their rights.

We observe that the public hearing at the

National Assembly did not meet an acceptable, minimum, global standard and best practices in a democratic society. The hearing was just a formality to create the semblance of a democratic process and skewed in favour of the GMOs Trans-National Corporations. The Government should not only introduce appropriate mechanisms but repeal the laws seeking to legalise and adopt GMO seedlings and food products and consequently marginalize Nigerian farmers.

Furthermore, the Nigerian Bio-Safety Law is not in the interest of Nigerian farmers and the wider public because it facilitates the introduction of Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) on a massive scale that violates the **precautionary principle**, which forms the basis of the African Union's revised African Model Law on Biodiversity, to which Nigeria is a signatory.

We adopt the comments of Health of Mother Earth Foundation and Environmental Rights Action/Friends of the Earth Nigeria on the relevant sections of the Bio-Safety Law and strongly suggest their incorporation into the Nigerian Law to safeguard the rights of Nigerian citizens and protect Nigeria's ecosystem.

The potential socio-economic, cultural and ethical impacts of GMOs are enormous and diminish the positive impacts of small holder farmers who are feeding the country; promoting cultural practices, community well-being, traditional crops and varieties; reducing rural unemployment; engendering trade; raising the quality of life of indigenous peoples; and re-affirming food security.



PHOTO CREDIT: huffingtonpost.co

Aware that the UN recognizes socio-economic consideration as a key element in biosafety negotiations and decision-making processes (*Protocol on Socio-Economic Considerations; Article 26*), we, therefore, appeal to the Federal Government to conduct a socio-economic impact assessment of GMOs before the Government takes measures that destroy Nigeria's agricultural sector.

The concern about Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) is not only about safety for consumers, we are equally concerned about the more damaging systematic appropriation of the rights to seeds by the Trans-National Corporations that deprives farmers of their traditional rights to seeds, in favor of patents by multinational corporations (*South-South Dialogue Conference*).

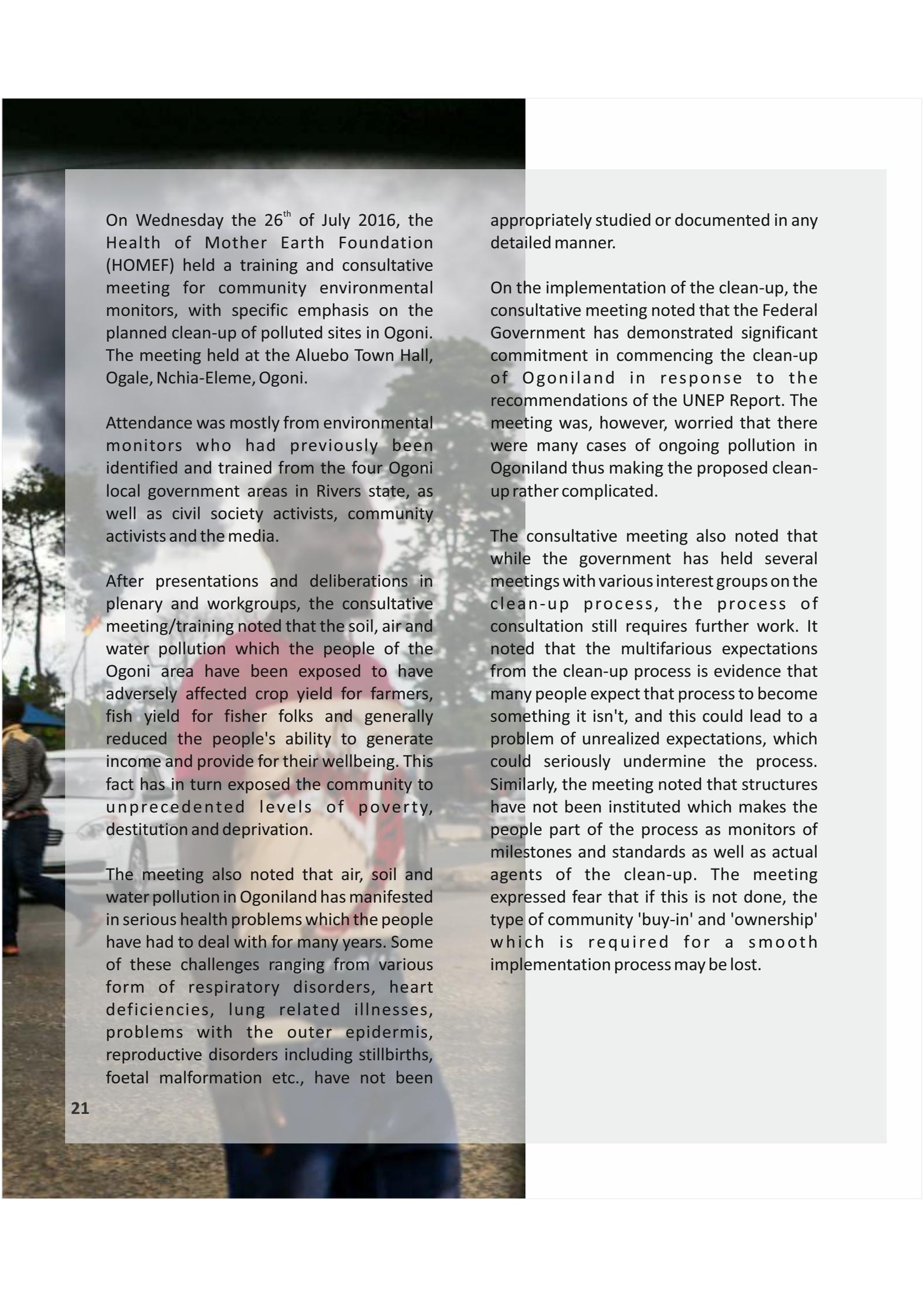
There has been intensive and sustained propaganda on the positive contributions of GMO on food security questions, very little has been done to draw attention to the inherent risks and hazards of industrial mono-cropping and consumption of GMOs such as loss of biodiversity, destruction of livestock, land grabbing, land and environmental degradation, communal conflicts over land and loss of rights. Therefore, there is an urgent need to present the true and full picture to Nigerians.

Industrial agriculture has no real contribution to national food sovereignty of Nigeria. It is part of the western development and capitalist economic regime bent on making Africa remain a cheap resource continent and market for finished products. More fundamentally, the GMO project is anti-creational. It disturbs, contradicts and destroys the ecosystem. God created every plant and vegetable with its seed in it.

We implore our policy makers to learn from the experience of Burkina Faso and a host of other countries that are rejecting the GMOs and their false gospel of agricultural development. We maintain that Nigeria's food sovereignty lies in investing aggressively in agriculture, empowering small holder farmers, and practicing agri-ecology that is sustainable and environment-friendly.

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RS STATE
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**Report and Resolutions
of Ecological Defenders
Consultative
Meeting and Training**
*held at Aluebo Town Hall, Ogale,
Nchia-Elleme
on the 26th of July 2016*



On Wednesday the 26th of July 2016, the Health of Mother Earth Foundation (HOMEF) held a training and consultative meeting for community environmental monitors, with specific emphasis on the planned clean-up of polluted sites in Ogoni. The meeting held at the Aluebo Town Hall, Ogale, Nchia-Eleme, Ogoni.

Attendance was mostly from environmental monitors who had previously been identified and trained from the four Ogoni local government areas in Rivers state, as well as civil society activists, community activists and the media.

After presentations and deliberations in plenary and workgroups, the consultative meeting/training noted that the soil, air and water pollution which the people of the Ogoni area have been exposed to have adversely affected crop yield for farmers, fish yield for fisher folks and generally reduced the people's ability to generate income and provide for their wellbeing. This fact has in turn exposed the community to unprecedented levels of poverty, destitution and deprivation.

The meeting also noted that air, soil and water pollution in Ogoniland has manifested in serious health problems which the people have had to deal with for many years. Some of these challenges ranging from various form of respiratory disorders, heart deficiencies, lung related illnesses, problems with the outer epidermis, reproductive disorders including stillbirths, foetal malformation etc., have not been

appropriately studied or documented in any detailed manner.

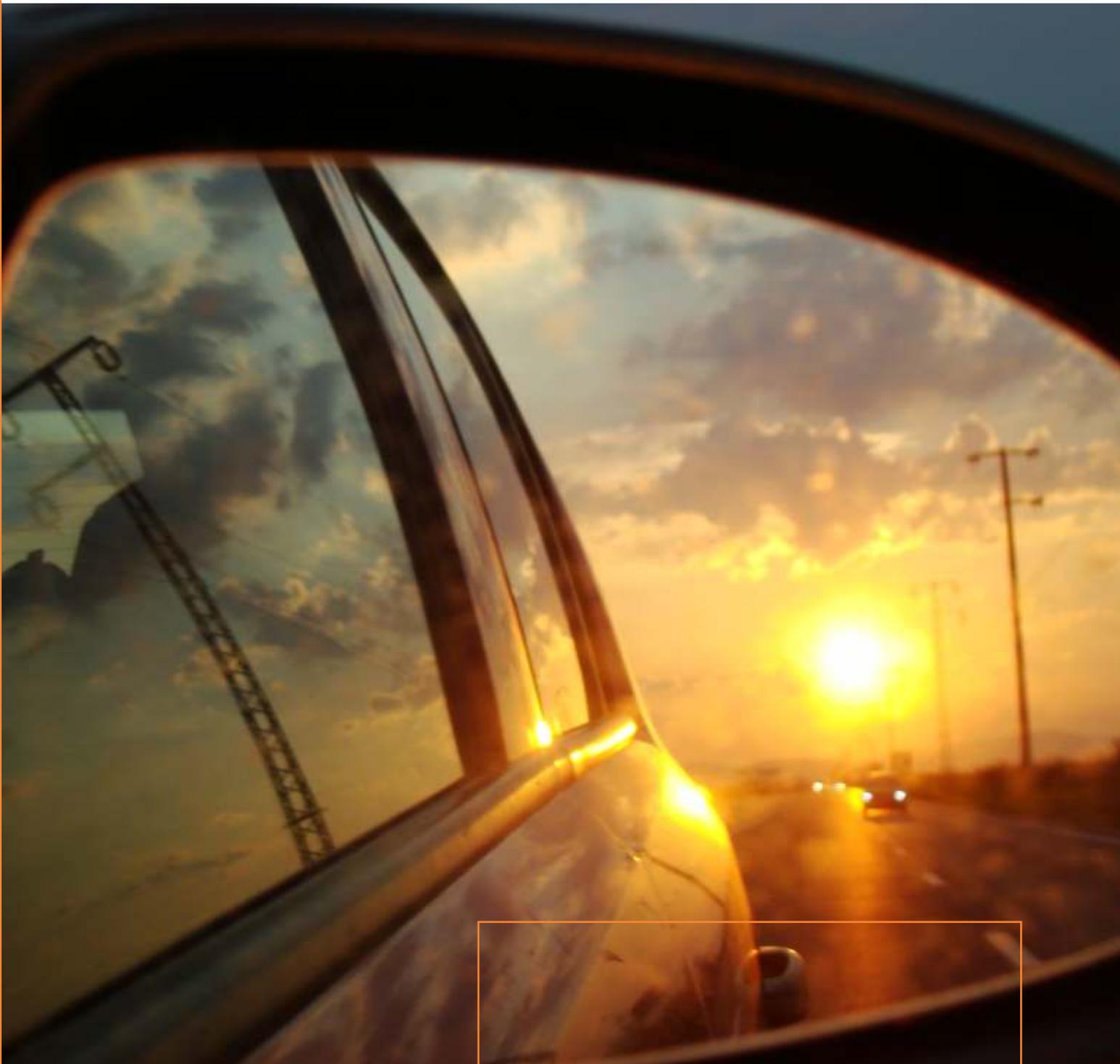
On the implementation of the clean-up, the consultative meeting noted that the Federal Government has demonstrated significant commitment in commencing the clean-up of Ogoniland in response to the recommendations of the UNEP Report. The meeting was, however, worried that there were many cases of ongoing pollution in Ogoniland thus making the proposed clean-up rather complicated.

The consultative meeting also noted that while the government has held several meetings with various interest groups on the clean-up process, the process of consultation still requires further work. It noted that the multifarious expectations from the clean-up process is evidence that many people expect that process to become something it isn't, and this could lead to a problem of unrealized expectations, which could seriously undermine the process. Similarly, the meeting noted that structures have not been instituted which makes the people part of the process as monitors of milestones and standards as well as actual agents of the clean-up. The meeting expressed fear that if this is not done, the type of community 'buy-in' and 'ownership' which is required for a smooth implementation process may be lost.

Books

Three books were released from the HOMEF stable within 2016

- **Living in Fear – Wars, conflicts and natural resources in the heart of Africa**, by Juan Lopez Villar. Published for HOMEF by Kraft Books
- **A Highway through the Forest – Community Forest EIA review** by HOMEF. Published for HOMEF by Kraft Books
- **Oil Politics – Echoes of Ecological Wars** by Nnimmo Bassey published by Daraja Press



A REAR VIEW
from Cadmus
2016 an outstanding year

The year 2016 began with an amazing trip outside the shores of Nigeria in February 2016. I was invited to Accra Ghana to represent HOMEF in an Oilwatch Africa meeting which gave me the opportunity to network with members of other organizations who were present at the meeting.

The meeting was aimed at creating and developing a well-organized network of Mining communities in West African thereby uniting extractive impacted host communities under one platform in other for them to share ideas, have stronger voice and to stand in solidarity against the extractive industries operations in West African region.

On my return from Accra, Ghana we had our

first Community monitoring training with the Egi / Erema community people, held in Port Harcourt Rivers State which was aimed at retraining those who were trained the previous year on how best they can protect, preserve and conserve their God given natural environment at all times from the impacts of oil exploration and extraction in their land.

In May, we had the Breakfree from fossil fuel 2016 campaign which was coordinated by HOMEF with support from 350.org and was organized in collaboration with other CSOs and NGOs in three iconic locations in Niger Delta, Oloibiri-Bayelsa State, Ogoni, River State and Ibeno Akwa Ibom State.





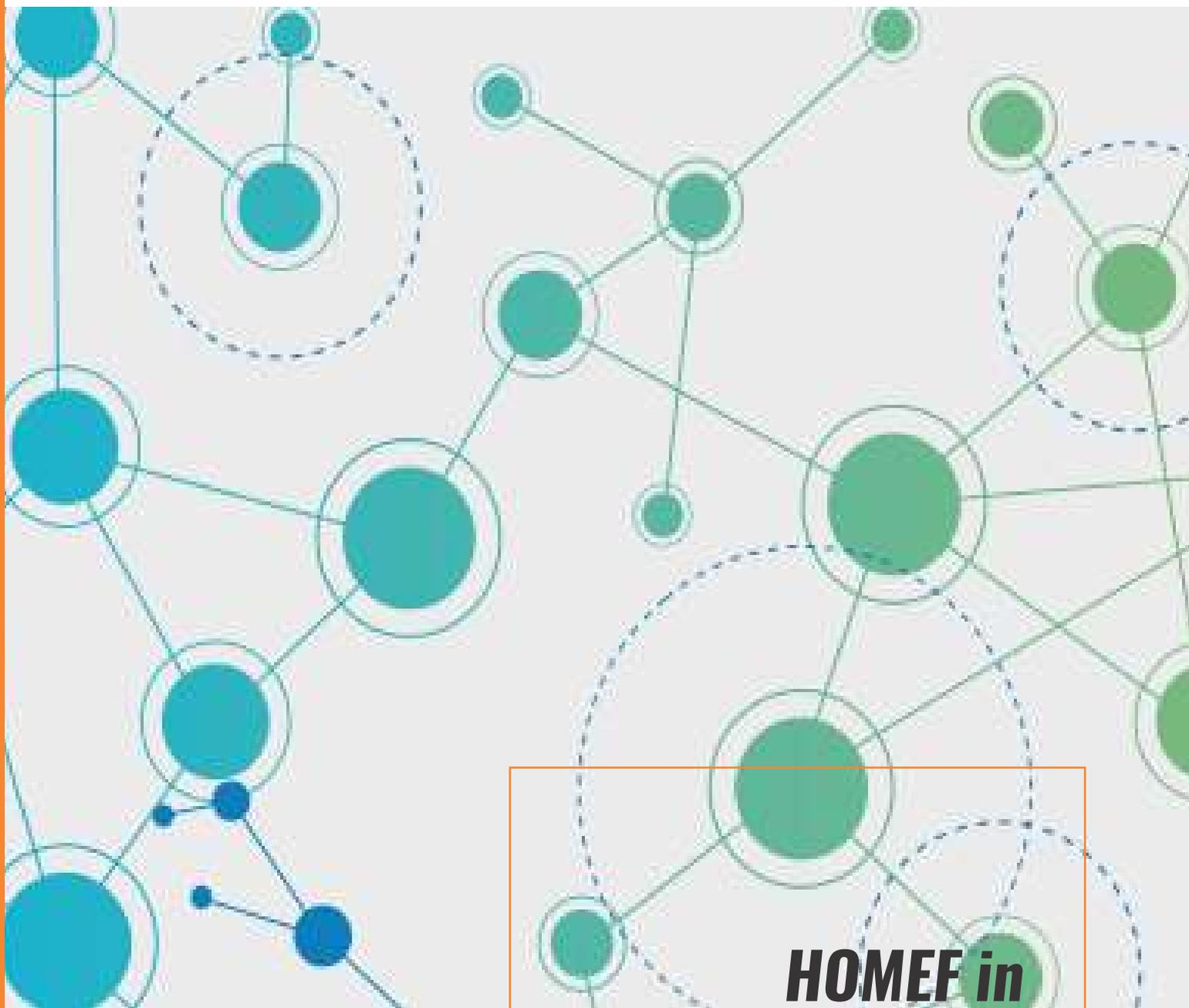
The event saw hundreds of community people gathered in various locations to demand for a fossil fuel free Nigeria. It was indeed a massive campaign which drew the world's attention more to the environmental degradation going on in the Niger Delta region of Nigeria. After the Breakfree from fossil fuel which took place May 10-14th, 2016 other activities unfolded such as the Environmental Strategic meeting held in Abuja also in May. In June HOMEF collaborated with TYEN to organize a climate change program for secondary and primary school Children, where the acclaimed documentary, **Nowhere to Run** was screened.

Following my experience with the Ogoni people in Eleme, we went further to train the women in Ibeno in Akwa Ibom state also on Environmental monitoring in October.

To crown the activities for the year, in November I was delegated to represent HOMEF

in a two days strategic /AG Meeting organized by Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa (AFSA) in Addis Ababa Ethiopia. It was an unforgettable experience flying across West Africa into Eastern Africa on air for over five hours. On arrival in Addis Ababa International airport, I was amazed by the warm reception and courtesy displayed by the people of Ethiopia. Indeed, I had a great time while the meeting lasted although I missed our local food, all through my stay in Addis the only food I was familiar with was rice and various kinds of salad, but on my return I couldn't wait to get a real taste of my Nigerian fufu and egusi soup.

In all these programs, activities and trips I learnt that there has never been a better yesterday working in HOMEF. It always keeps getting better as the organization keeps growing and expanding in all aspects of its operations.



***HOMEF in
Networks***

1. **Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa (AFSA)** - <http://afsafrika.org/>
2. **Yes to Life No to Mining** - The website for this network was launched on 13 November 2014 – www.yestolifenotomining.org
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 Africa/International** – www.oilwatch.org
6. **Daraja** – *A Pan African space set to rally the global majority towards a path of radical social transformation and power.*
7. **NRAN** – *No REDD in Africa Network*

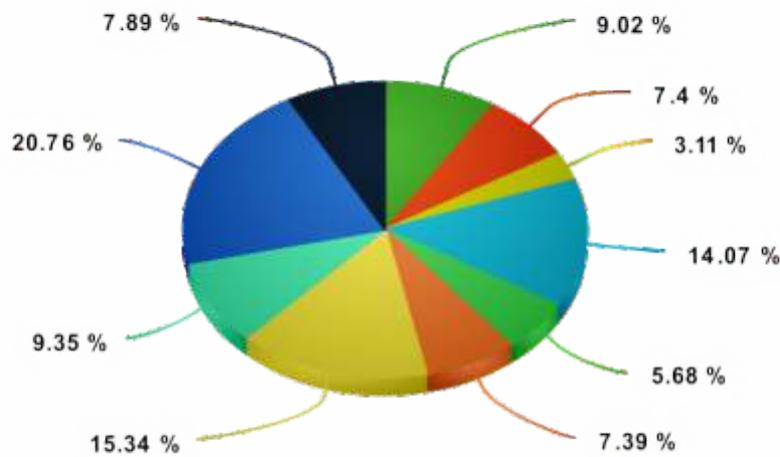


HOMEF Financial Report

HEALTH OF MOTHER EARTH FOUNDATION
ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 2016

	STATEMENT OF FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES										TOTAL
	SUSTAINABILITY ACADEMY	BUILDING COMMUNITY RESILIENCE	COMMUNITY DIALOGUES & MONITORING TRAINING	COMMUNITY DIALOGUES & MONITORING TRAINING	CAPACITY BUILDING FOR COMMUNITY FOREST GEF/SGP	COMMUNITY WOMEN ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH & MONITORING TRAINING	STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL AGENDA SETTING	MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES	FISH NOT OIL PROJECT FUEL RALLIES	BREAK FREE FROM FOSIL AND GMO CONFERENCE	
	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
Reny/Hire of Venue	86,700		80,800			78,000					245,500
Advocacy Visits	500,000										2,045,000
Transp & Travelling	297,000	1,123,540	214,000			292,500	200,000	2,260,910	1,068,700	1,321,800	9,393,450
Depreciation								355,350			
Media/Publicity	100,000	224,000	101,000			312,000	150,000		119,400	1,160,000	2,416,900
Maintenance											
Accommodation	217,000		105,000			87,750				252,800	662,550
Living & Refreshment	200,000	222,850	119,600			263,250			620,000	415,000	1,840,700
Honorarium			73,000			312,000				162,000	547,000
Project Admin./Officer	640,000	200,000	70,000			195,000	50,000		298,500		1,453,500
Printing and Stationery		430,000					140,390				430,000
Documentation									450,500		710,590
Publications											450,500
Consultancy Fees											
Management & Admin. Cost			235,000			234,000	1,450,000	170,000		635,000	3,257,869
Campaign/Production materials	150,000		100,000			234,000					484,000
Contract					1,737,082						1,737,082
Project coordination/Felicitors					200,000		624,000				1,550,000
Salaries								1,000,000		350,000	480,800
Action/Rally											563,500
Internet											-
Report Writing											-
Telephone Land line											-
Newspaper/E-New letter											-
Cable Network											-
Networking	250,000					2,240,000					250,000
Equipment											2,240,000
Audit fees								550,000			550,000
Eco Instigator Magazine	750,000	350,000							189,000		1,100,000
Community Academy/Dialogues								430,000	80,000	690,000	189,000
Office Rent		64,000									1,264,000
Training, Seminar & Workshop					435,000						435,000
Bank Charges								98,148			
	3,190,700	2,614,390	1,098,400	4,976,051	2,008,500	2,614,390	5,427,908	3,306,900	7,345,000	2,792,200	35,374,439

HOMEF FINANCIAL REPORT



- SUSTAINABILITY ACADEMY
- BUILDING COMMUNITY RESILIENCE
- COMMUNITY DIALOGUE AND MONITORING TRAINING
- CAPACITY BUILDING FOR FOREST COMMUNITIES
- COMMUNITY WOMEN ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH MONITORING TRAINING
- STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL AGENDA SETTING
- MANAGEMENT AND ADMIN. EXPENSES
- FISH NOT OIL PROJECT
- BREAKFREE FROM FOSSIL FUELS RALLY
- BIOSAFETY AND GMO CONFERENCE

meta-chart.com



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