



HEALTH OF MOTHER EARTH FOUNDATION
ANNUAL REPORT 2017

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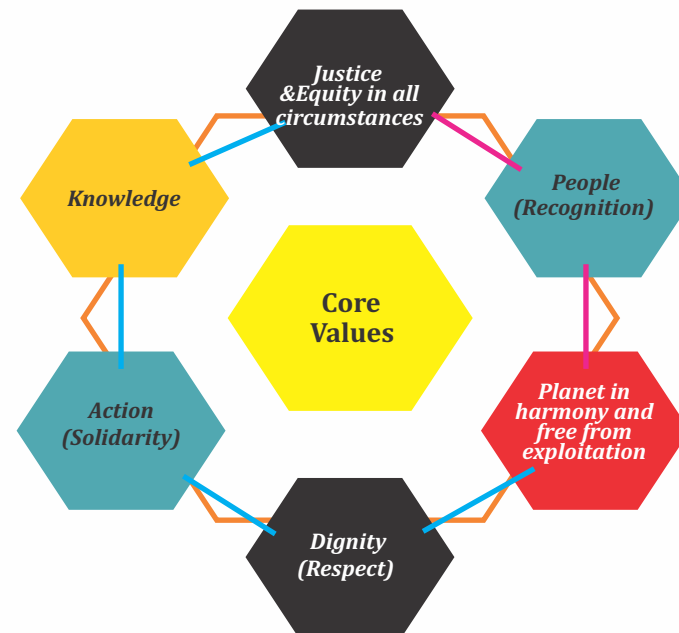
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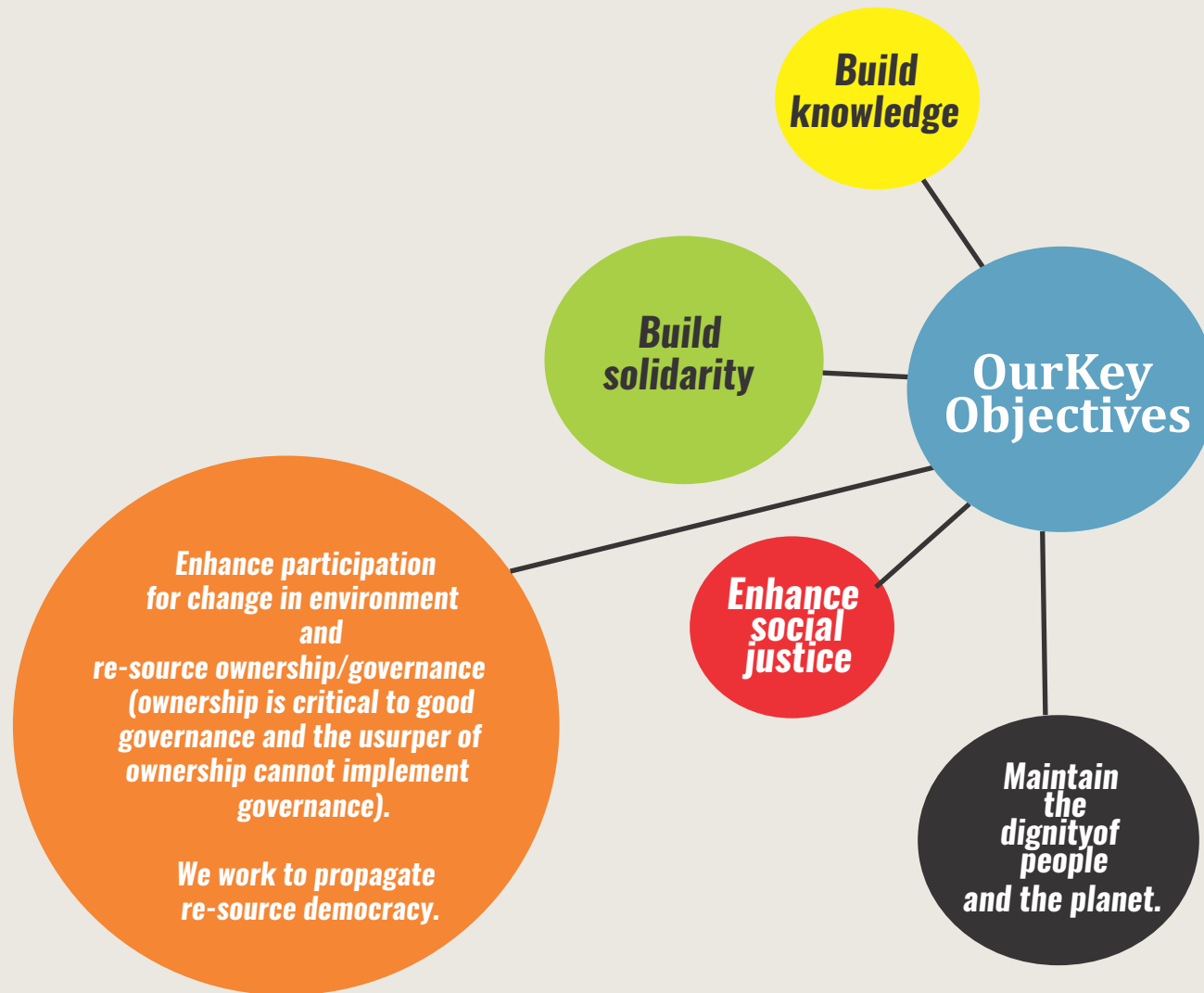
KNOWING HOMEF

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.









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
10. **Akinbode Oluwafemi (Nigeria)** – Environmental justice campaigner

STAFF

Elvis Omorogbe

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Joyce Ebebeinwe

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Stephen Oduware

Project Officer

Edna Ojemerì

Finance officer

SOUTH SUDAN STAFF

Gabriel Ayuen Deng

Project Manager

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Office Assistant

VOLUNTEERS

Mariann Orovwuje

Hunger & Biosafety

Ruth Iziduh

Research

Mfoniso Antia

Sustainability Academy

HOME NOTE

2017 was a busy and momentous year for us at HOMEF. The intensifying global crises, including that of climate change continued to pile pressures on local communities in Nigeria and elsewhere.

The corps of HOMEF fellows – a key resource base for our knowledge generation and sharing, grew by seven in one year, the highest we have ever recorded in a single year since the roll was opened six years ago. This was an outcome of the huge intellectual inputs that came to bear in our work on biosafety (Hunger Politics), on impacts of oil pollution and deforestation on livelihoods (Fossil Politics). We also brought the climate connection to explain the growing conflicts in Nigeria between farmers and herders.

In 2017 we gained Special Consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) of the United Nations. We also gained full accreditation with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). These, no doubt, help expand the scope of our work, especially on the global advocacy levels.

A key achievement for us was the setting up of an office in Juba, South Sudan – our first international office. This was made possible by our partnership with Sign of Hope, the Germany based charity group that works with oppressed and downtrodden peoples.

2017 marked the first year that we have applied litigation as a tool for securing the right to life of our peoples. Along with a host of other groups, we instituted a case in the Federal High Court, Abuja, against the National Biosafety Management Agency (NBMA), Monsanto Agriculture Nigeria Ltd, National Biotechnology Development Agency (NABDA) and a host of others over permits issued for the introduction of genetically modified crops into Nigeria. From the trend of things, the battles have only just begun!

This report brings you a flavour of what our work in the year entailed. Without your support we could not have walked as far as we did on the path of ecological justice.

Nnimmo Bassey
Director

HOMEF FELLOWS

Seven new Fellows joined our roll in 2017. We now have a solid team of fifteen fellows. They all available to provide intellectual resources and backstopping in the various areas of our work.

Here is the full list:

1. **Pablo Solon (2013)** – Former ambassador of Bolivia to the United Nations/Climate justice advocate
2. **Monika Griefahn (2013)** – Sociologist and Former Minister for the Environment in the German State of Lower Saxony. Co-Chair of the Rightlivelihood Award Foundation
3. **Noble Wadzah (2013)** – Environmental justice activist
4. **Firoze Manji (2014)** – Dental surgeon, Editor at Daraja Press and pan-Africanist
5. **Baba Aye (2015)** – Labour activist
6. **Vandana Shiva (2015)** - world-renowned environmentalist, physicist, philosopher, feminist, activist, and author.
7. **Ruth Nyambura (2016)** - Ecofeminist
8. **Hilma Mote (2016)** – Labour researcher/activist
9. **Alyn Ware (2017)** – Anti nuclear campaigner and co-winner of Rightlivelihood Award
10. **Nkoyo Toyo (2017)** – Gender activist, Politician and ambassador

HOMEF FELLOWS

- 11. Prof Chris Ekong (2017)** – Professor of economics
- 12. Prof G. G. Darah (2017)** – Professor of Literature, writer and political activist
- 13. Ikal Angelei (2017)** – Environmental justice advocate
- 14. Priscilla Achakpa (2017)** – Gender, development and environmental activist
- 15. Mohammed Bello Tukur (2017)** – Lawyer and campaigner on pastoralism

FISHNET DIALOGUE AT OKRIKA WATER FRONT, PORT HARCOURT

On the 7th of July 2017 Health of Mother Earth Foundation HOMEF, held a Community Dialogue with the theme Fish Not Oil. The event was held in Okrika Waterfront, Port Harcourt, Rivers State with a total of 126 participants comprising fishermen/women and traders from various communities, CSOs/ NGOs and the media.

The FishNet dialogue began with Cadmus Atake-Enade of HOMEF, introducing the objectives and programme of the event.

The Director of Health of Mother Foundation, Nnimmo Bassey thanked all participants and further explained that the dialogue was an interactive discussion which creates the avenue for communities to identify the environmental challenges going on in the coastal communities and how best these issues can be tackled to ensure that proper and positive actions are taken to keep the costal environment clean and safe. He assured them that at the end of the exercise their voices and issues will be heard by the Government because all the issues documented will be published and sent to the appropriate authorities for actions to be taken.

Fubara Tokuibiyie, from the Okrika Waterfront community gave the opening words on behalf of the Council of Elders and Chiefs. He expressed appreciation to HOMEF and admonished the participants to be attentive as these issues to be discussed are of vital importance and they would draw the attention of government to the problems faced by fishermen in the community as well as other environmental challenges they experience in the community. The participants were thereafter divided into two groups with each group responding to the issues raised in the diagnostic dialogue training guide.



The facilitators of the two groups explained that many things that used to be found in their rivers are no longer in existence due to pollution from oil spills and Kpo fire (illegal refineries). He explained further that fish and animals such as Abala, Kpopo, Ogangan-Marine traffic, Crocodile, monkeys and some coastal birds have all disappeared.

The people agreed that poor sanitation leads to the emergence of various health challenges such as cholera, dysentery among other diseases which affect the community people.

The people distilled some issues that they would want the government to act on:

- The community needs recycling companies to help them cleanup the waste in their community.
- The government should be petitioned to make provision for a proper dump sites for waste disposal.
- They also demanded that Federal Government should ensure that oil spills and the use of dynamites, and other chemical materials affecting their community should be stopped.
- The Federal Government must also put a stop to illegal refinery and military should stop the burning of illegal refineries and bunkering trucks because they also contribute to the pollution experienced in the coastal communities.
- Government should provide alternative sources of livelihood for unemployed youths and community members to discourage them from engaging in illegal refinery operations.
- Community people must be open and willing to learn and link up with other coastal communities in other to share common ideas and solutions.

The programme ended with the selection of four active community fishermen from four different communities who will act as Community Monitors for the coastal communities.



WE MARCHED AGAINST POISON:

NIGERIANS SAID NO TO GMOS AND CALLED FOR A REPEAL OF THE NATIONAL BIOSAFETY MANAGEMENT ACT, 2015.

Hundreds of Nigerians marched against the introduction of Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) into the country on June 7, 2017. The march was coordinated by Health of Mother Earth Foundation (HOMEF) in collaboration with the Civil Society Legislative Advocacy Centre (CISLAC), Women Environmental Programme (WEP), Climate Transformation and Energy Remediation Society (CLIMATTERS) and the Save Nigeria Group.

The march was aimed at increasing awareness on the dangers of Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) and to make the demands on the Nigerian National Assembly and the Government to repeal the existing Biosafety Act; nullify the permits granted to Monsanto for field trials of maize and the commercial placement of Bt cotton on the market.

The citizens also called for a total ban on GMOs in Nigeria or at best restrict them to the confines of laboratories of research institutions.

The people insisted that Nigeria's food challenges can be tackled effectively with natural crops and increased support for our farmers rather than opening arms wide for a technology that has notoriously failed and proven to pose severe risk to humans, animal and environmental health.

According to the Director of Health of Mother Earth Foundation, “GMOs do not give greater yield and are not more nutritious than natural crops. They have increased the use of toxic chemicals and thrive in monocultures while they deprive farmers the right to save and re-use seeds”.

The response of the leadership of the Nigerian Biosafety Management Agency (NBMA) has remained consistent, tending to allay fears rather than dealing with the concerns of the public. Their position that Nigeria will regulate the use of GMOs based on science and not sentiments does not in any measure respond to the known negative impacts of GMOs. We believe that sentiments cannot be wished away. We are humans and not laboratory rats. The science of GMOs must consider its ethical, moral, cultural, socio-economic and other ramifications. Science itself has shown that it is limited in its very own processes. It must be in the public interest. As was explained by a Molecular Geneticist, Dr Ify Aniebo, in a recent lecture at an HOMEF event, scientists do not have total control of the direction of the new genes which are introduced into plants' DNA. The normal functioning of cells gets impaired and several novel proteins are produced which cause severe health complications. This is one reason for the increase of chronic and other diseases since the introduction of this technology. Apart from allergies, birth defects, liver diseases, neurological and gastrointestinal disorders, the processes can result to mutation which is one of the long term impacts of this technology.

Glyphosate, an active ingredient of Monsanto's Roundup chemical which accompanies the use of GMOs was announced to be carcinogenic by the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) of the World Health Organization in March 2015. Despite strong denials by the biotech industry, the harms posed by this toxic chemical cannot be wished away. Supporters of this technology in Nigeria keep saying that other countries have taken to genetic engineering and Nigeria must not be left out. Nigerians are perplexed by this cheap position.



They ask: Are we seriously going into a potentially deadly technology because other countries are using it? Do we have the capacity to contain the impact of these crops on our health and the environment? Have we stopped to ask why there is yet so much controversy over this technology since its introduction and why 6 out of the 8 industrialised countries, (G8) have banned the cultivation of GMOs?

GMOs do not only present threat to human health and the environment; the Nigerian economy is also at stake on this issue. A large percentage of our agricultural exports are to the European Union. However, we will recall that they rejected 24 of our food products in 2016.

The European Union food safety authority had likewise rejected beans from Nigeria in 2015 because it contained between 0.03mg/kg and 4.6mg/kg of dichlorvos pesticide when the acceptable maximum level was 0.01mg/kg. At least 19 EU countries already have a ban on GMO products. If Nigeria accepts GMOs we would lose any trade edge with many countries.

A patriotic approach to the food challenge in Nigeria will be to engage in rigorous and independent research to certify the safety of GM seeds in terms of short and long term impacts on humans and the environment; to consult with the people, especially the farmers, to know how best to support them to improve agricultural productivity and to make decisions based on proven facts in resonance with the culture and needs of the indigenous people.

Other actions that can address our food needs include; increased support for organic farming, access of farmers to loans and grants, provision of extension services, storage and processing facilities and good infrastructure to ensure access markets.

The letter submitted to the Senate President which was jointly signed by Nnimmo Bassey, the Director at Health of Mother Earth Foundation; Mariann Orwuje, coordinator of Friends of the Earth Africa's Food Sovereignty Programme (FSP); Gbadebo Rhodes-Vivour, Convener of Nigerians against GMOs and Jackie Ikotuonye, Country Representative, Bio-integrity and Natural Food Awareness Initiative stated that a repeal of the Nigeria Biosafety Management Act will resolve the biosafety challenges facing the nation.



The letter also characterised the Act as having failed in its duty to secure our biosafety because it has proven within a few months of its creation to be a law merely for permitting the entry into Nigeria of GMOs.

Several issues need to be addressed and these include the composition of the board of the Regulatory Agency. The group strongly object to the Nigerian Biotechnology Development Agency's (NABDA) presence as board member of NBMA. Critics see this as "a classic case of conflict of interest that cannot be permitted, especially concerning the sensitivity of the issue of biosafety and biosecurity".

The Act does not specify clearly how large-scale field trials would be contained and regulated to avoid contamination of surroundings or farms. It does not ensure the implementation of the precautionary principle (essential feature of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (CPB)) that entitles our government to decide against approval or for restriction in cases of incomplete or controversial knowledge and does not have provisions for strict liability and redress.

NBMA keeps telling Nigerians that the mere fact of having a biosafety Act is an adherence to the Precautionary Principle. In terms of labelling, we all know that mere labelling of GMOs will not work in our context as road-side food sellers would not label the corn they roast or the akara (bean cake) that they fry. The need to consider our peculiar context cannot be ignored.

The coalition made the following demands on the government:

- A nullification of the permits issued to Monsanto and NABDA on Sunday 1st May 2016 and call for an investigation of the process and circumstances leading to the granting of these permits by NBMA to Monsanto and NABDA in disregard to the complaints of millions of Nigerians. Nigerians should not be used as pawns or as guinea pigs in a commercial gambit to open the country to toxic technologies in furtherance of blatant commercial interests.
- A close surveillance of our markets and farms to halt illegal entry of GMOs into Nigeria and into our food supply.
- A ban of all toxic agrochemicals—especially those identified as probably carcinogens.
- A halt to the assault on our agriculture through genetic modification of our staple crops including cassava, maize and beans, among others. We urge that Nigeria should be circumspect about technologies that aim to contaminate our environment, destroy our agriculture, culture and rupture our socio-economic fabric and assert unbridled controls over our agriculture and foods.

The Senate Committee Chairman on Ecology and Climate Change, Senator Bukar Ibrahim and Senator Abu Ibrahim met and addressed the march on behalf of the Senate President.

The director of Health of Mother Foundation (HOMEF), Nnimmo Bassey and Rhodes Gbadebo Vivor made submissions of the demands of the protesters to the senators on behalf of the coalition.

Senator Bukar Ibrahim responded to the demands and said that the lawmakers are also very much concerned about the safety of Nigerians as regards GMOs and Biosafety. He pledged that the concerns outlined will be looked into with appropriate actions taken to protect and preserve the lives of the people.

Following the response, the senate representatives were assured of our readiness to work with the National Assembly to repeal and replace the NBMA Act 2015 with one that can protect our biodiversity and ensure biosafety and biosecurity in Nigeria. A participant in the protest march, Shehu Akowe, summed up the day by saying, "The solution to the challenge of feeding the growing population is with Nigeria and not the biotech corporations and their official surrogates. African nations must look inwards to seek ways by which to improve on their food production and to make decisions that are in the best interest of the people".



FORESTS CONNECT PEOPLE TO NATURE

REPORT OF HOMEF'S FOREST TOWN HALL MEETING, JUNE 5TH 2017, ABUJA BY 'FUNMI OYATOGUN

On World Environment Day (WED) 2017, Health of Mother Earth Foundation organized a Forest Town Hall Meeting which was attended by 150 people including representatives from forest communities, CSOs, government and the media. The day, which is commemorated globally every year on June 5th, was a much-needed dialogue session among stakeholders to address the need to protect the forests and fight for justice of the communities which depend on them. This was apt as the theme for this year's WED was Connecting People to Nature – an all-encompassing goal which cannot be achieved without protecting the forest.

The Town Hall was held with the support of the Small Grants Programme of the UNDP. In attendance was Mrs Ronke Olubamise, the National Coordinator of GEF-SGP in Nigeria.

Gloria Ekpo, a researcher and development practitioner, moderated the panel of speakers which was made up of Dr. Ako Amadi, Rita Uwaka, Odey Oyama and Martins Egot. Dr Amadi is a renowned environmental service professional and has worked on prominent international environmental projects. Odey Oyama is also a prominent human rights activist and the director of the Nigerian Rainforest Resource Development Centre (RRDC). Rita Uwaka has worked extensively on forest and biodiversity with Environmental Rights Action (ERA) which is also known as Friends of the Earth, Nigeria. The event was also attended by the representative of the Honorable Minister of State for Environment.

While the panel discussed forests in general, Ekuri Community Forest in Cross River State was front and centre as it is a recent and on-going example of how the forests play a central role in connecting people to the nature. A frivolous super highway proposed by the Cross River state government will destroy portions of the forest and annihilate the livelihoods of the people as well as the ecological integrity of the forest ecosystem. The situation at Ekuri, as described by the panellists, displays a blatant disregard for the abundance of undiscovered plant and animal species and their potential for pharmaceuticals and other future innovations.

The first speaker, Rita Uwaka, began on a note that resonates with all and sundry. “The forest is life! It gives us food and our livelihoods”. As she gently reminded the room of some of the functions of the forest, it became clear that environmental protection is not an act of nobility, but a necessary action which we must carry out in solidarity with the planet that gives us life. Rita set the scene for the meeting, outlining the major threats facing Nigeria's forests including crude oil pipelines, forest fires and mangrove contamination due to oil spillage, unsustainable logging practices and land-grabbing for industrial agro-business. In her words, “These plantations that feed faceless loggers and the international lumber trade have devastating social and economic implications on the communities who depend on the forests for their survival”. She likened deforestation to a war. According to Uwaka, “communities must demand their human rights, value for their communities over profit and proper consultation”.

Martins Egot spoke both passionately and knowledgeably about the Ekuri community's historical interaction with their forest. He was the Chairman of Ekuri Initiative and played a key role in organizing the affairs of the community, contributing to their recognition as winners of the prestigious Equator Prize in 2004. The prize recognizes excellent community forest management practices.



His perspective was therefore important as he spoke about first-hand issues experienced by him and his community members. Currently, as he stated, 80% of the community is directly dependent on the forest. “The history and economy of our people depends on the forest and any activity being carried out on our land required our consultation and input” he said. Presenting the stance of the community, Egot clearly iterated – “We do not want this project, we want the improvement of existing roads as well as creation of small feeder roads to service the needs of the community”.

A proverbial story resonated with the participants as Odey Oyama shared it, “Okonkwo in Chinua Achebe's book – Things Fall Apart – made the crucial point that if you find a man defecating in your house, you would take a stick and flog him away”. The premise of this story is the one shared by the Ekuri Forest Community and other stakeholders. He highlighted that land is a heritage provided by God and the government is responsible for holding it in trust for the people.

“Also”, he continued, “land should not be sold to people who will wipe out its relevance to the people by setting up monoculture plantations”. He also demanded that the following questions be answered: where are the funds for the Ekuri Superhighway coming from, what are the conditions attached to the funds and what are the implications for the economic autonomy of the community and state?

These points were buttressed by Dr. Ako Amadi, who likened clearing out the forest as withdrawing all of one's savings from the bank. "Don't mind that forest people are called 'bush men' in a derogatory way...they have the prerequisites to life", he said. He expressed that the forest is a privilege and went on to outline the historical and cultural antecedents to the gross disregard for the forest today. "In fact," he said, "the colonial periods were better years for the forest than these days because there was a global interest in forest science in the 19th century". Of course, these were gradually replaced by the clamor for crude oil.

The audience was well engaged, asking questions, making contributions and coming together to draw up a communiqué which resolved to demand clarification of the funding sources of the Cross River Superhighway, unite to amplify community engagement and mobilization, demand a holistic regard for the forest among other points.

An overriding theme among the participants was the need for forest scientists to amplify their voices, in addition to activities and voices of community members and activists. In the absence of scientists, the experiences of community members are often relegated as 'outcry'. The panellists also prescribed that without a comprehensive Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA), a more inclusive adaptation of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), all forms of environmental and social risks involved in the project would not be ascertained. The forest is more than just a collection of trees. In Dr. Amadi's words, "the biodiversity of the forest cannot be replaced by planting trees". Studies indicate that even after decades, a planted forest cannot compare to a primary forest.

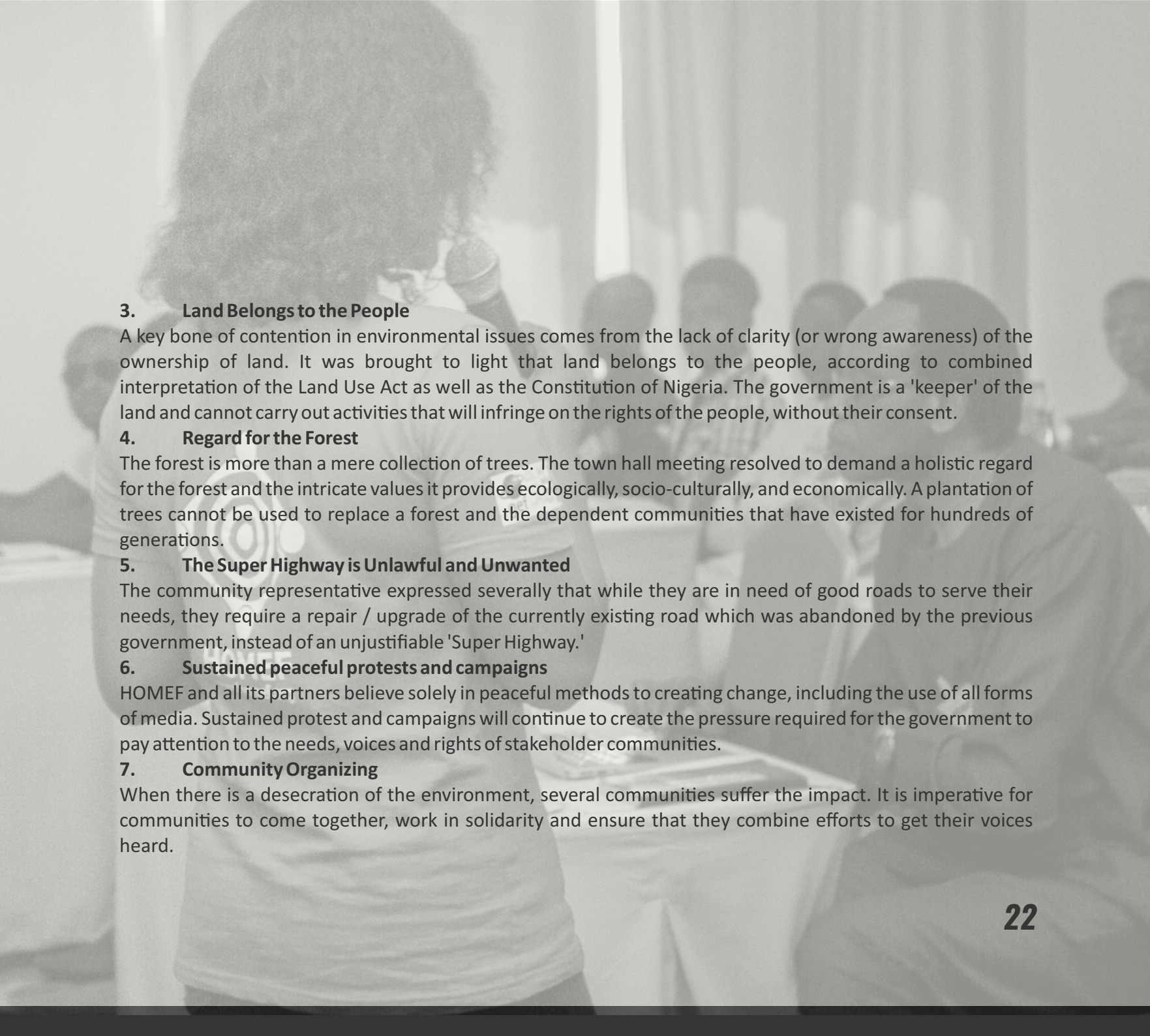
The following are the resolutions from the forest town hall meeting;

1. Clarification of the Funding Source of Ekuri Community Forest

The following questions need to be answered clearly and transparently: where are the funds for the Ekuri Superhighway coming from, what are the conditions attached to the funds and what are the implications for the economic autonomy of the community and state?

2. Community Sensitization, Mobilization and Empowerment

Any successful community effort will require proper sensitization, mobilization and empowerment. The entry protocol will include identification of the power structures in the community, individually sensitize the opinion leaders, organize collective community dialogues and connect the community with resources to exercise their human rights provided according to the law. This will enable the community negotiate appropriate compensations, where necessary.

A person with curly hair is seen from behind, speaking into a microphone. They are wearing a white t-shirt with a logo that includes the word 'HOME'. In the background, several other people are seated at a long table, listening to the speaker. The setting appears to be an indoor community meeting or town hall.

3. Land Belongs to the People

A key bone of contention in environmental issues comes from the lack of clarity (or wrong awareness) of the ownership of land. It was brought to light that land belongs to the people, according to combined interpretation of the Land Use Act as well as the Constitution of Nigeria. The government is a 'keeper' of the land and cannot carry out activities that will infringe on the rights of the people, without their consent.

4. Regard for the Forest

The forest is more than a mere collection of trees. The town hall meeting resolved to demand a holistic regard for the forest and the intricate values it provides ecologically, socio-culturally, and economically. A plantation of trees cannot be used to replace a forest and the dependent communities that have existed for hundreds of generations.

5. The Super Highway is Unlawful and Unwanted

The community representative expressed severally that while they are in need of good roads to serve their needs, they require a repair / upgrade of the currently existing road which was abandoned by the previous government, instead of an unjustifiable 'Super Highway.'

6. Sustained peaceful protests and campaigns

HOMEF and all its partners believe solely in peaceful methods to creating change, including the use of all forms of media. Sustained protest and campaigns will continue to create the pressure required for the government to pay attention to the needs, voices and rights of stakeholder communities.

7. Community Organizing

When there is a desecration of the environment, several communities suffer the impact. It is imperative for communities to come together, work in solidarity and ensure that they combine efforts to get their voices heard.

CLIMATE CHANGE, PASTORALISM, LAND AND CONFLICTS

Our conception of ownership of any piece of the Earth depends largely on our relationship with the Earth. When land is treated as a commodity, seeing it as an article of trade becomes inevitable. This is the driver of the call for the formalization of land titling and ownership, a means of personal acquisition and dispossession of others based on the strength of the individual's financial or political strength. In this context, the value of land is seen in its geology or fertility.

Farmers and pastoralists see land in distinctly different ways than speculators and governments do. Consider the idea of laws governing land as a resource. Whereas communities of peoples, whether farmers or pastoralists see land as an integral part of their lives, economic reproduction and culture, governments see land as a thing that should be appropriated and utilized mostly for its economic value. Nigeria's Land Use Act of 1978 concretizes this concept and takes the sense of oneness with the soil away from vast numbers of our peoples.

If climate change escalates the movement of herders, is migration the only way to mitigate the impacts? Would better soil and water management impede the rate of desertification in Nigeria? If the great Green Wall project restores its area of focus, would that reverse the migration and conflicts?

What are the lessons, (for example, land restoration techniques used in neighbouring countries) that groups like CORET share among pastoral groups across the Sahel and what is the interface with farmers in soil fertility and peace building efforts? Are there cultural practices and political factors that lock in the crises?

HOMEF hosted a crucial Sustainability Academy 7 in conjunction with CORET in October 2017 on the theme Climate Change, Pastoralism, Land and Conflicts. Participants included farmers, herders, public officials, diplomats, civil society and the media. Two key papers were presented and far reaching resolutions were reached at the end of deliberations.

Climate Change and Gender

A presentation on “Climate Change, Pastoralism and Land Conflicts: The Gender Perspective” was made by Priscilla Achakpa, Executive Director, Women Environmental Programme (WEP).

According to her, climate change induced conflict is a global threat to human security and environment. She stressed that these conflicts impact differently on different regions, ages, genders, groups and according to income levels and occupation. Many in Africa are generally considered more prone than in developed countries due to lower capacity to adapt. Climate variability and change alter ecosystems and affect human land use and livelihood and have the potential to make pastoralist more vulnerable.

She explained that access to land has been shown to be important to poverty reduction and economic growth and the empowerment of the poor. The importance of land can be seen in how land conflicts are so pervasive and more difficult to solve than any other conflict.

There is a strong link between mobility and climate change induced conflict. Livestock mobility enables pastoralists to take advantage of the ever-changing diversity of dry land ecology, they track the random concentration of nutrients in space and time.

The situation of women and men in pastoralist communities is not static as incidences of drought have led to transformation in the socio-cultural and socio-economic organization of these societies. The nomadic pattern of Nigerian herders has contributed to the increase in female-headed households amongst pastoralists in Nigeria. Due to loss of cattle and other livestock, women play an active role to ensure family survival through engagement in diversified income generating activities.

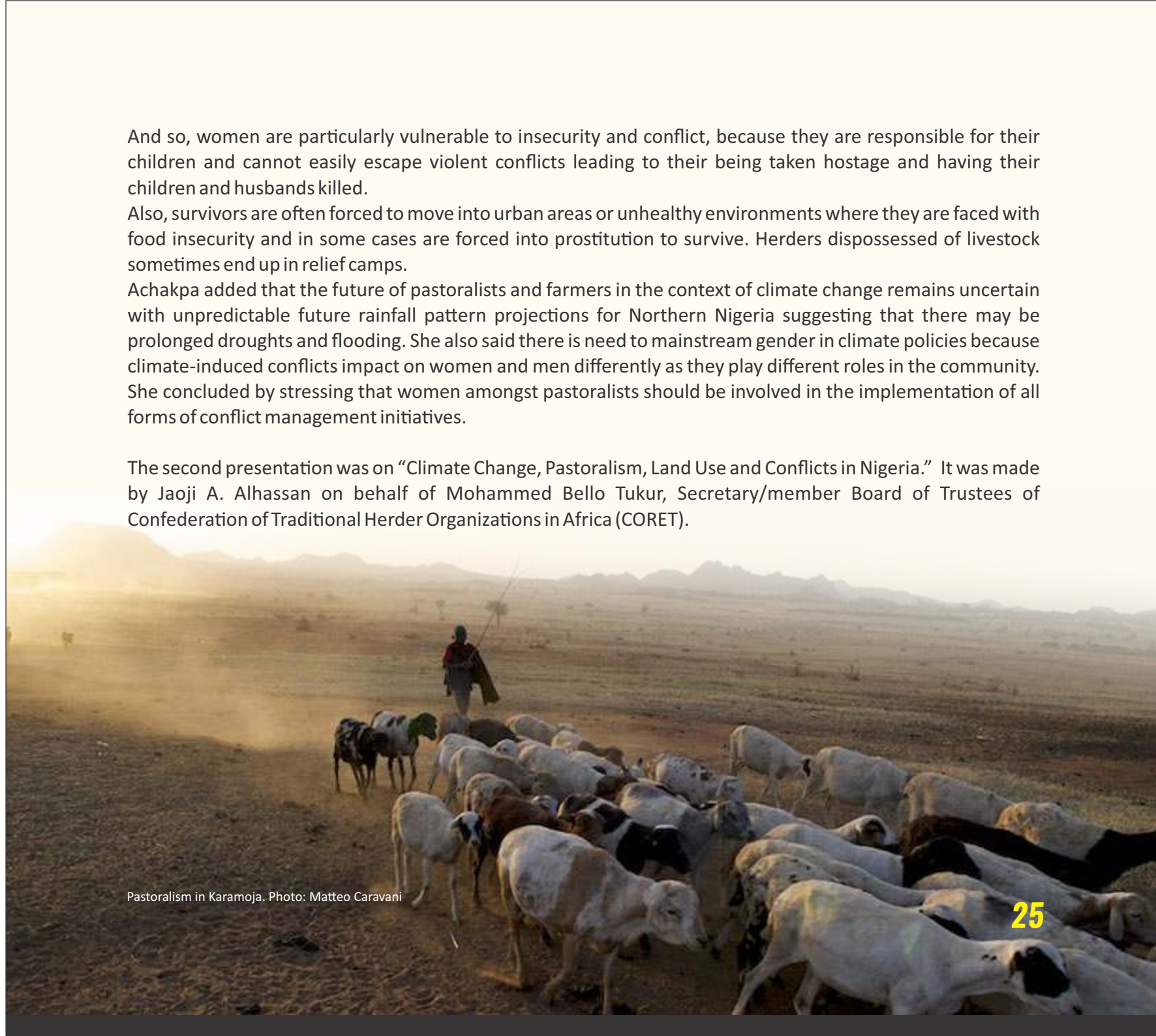
And so, women are particularly vulnerable to insecurity and conflict, because they are responsible for their children and cannot easily escape violent conflicts leading to their being taken hostage and having their children and husbands killed.

Also, survivors are often forced to move into urban areas or unhealthy environments where they are faced with food insecurity and in some cases are forced into prostitution to survive. Herders dispossessed of livestock sometimes end up in relief camps.

Achakpa added that the future of pastoralists and farmers in the context of climate change remains uncertain with unpredictable future rainfall pattern projections for Northern Nigeria suggesting that there may be prolonged droughts and flooding. She also said there is need to mainstream gender in climate policies because climate-induced conflicts impact on women and men differently as they play different roles in the community. She concluded by stressing that women amongst pastoralists should be involved in the implementation of all forms of conflict management initiatives.

The second presentation was on “Climate Change, Pastoralism, Land Use and Conflicts in Nigeria.” It was made by Jaoji A. Alhassan on behalf of Mohammed Bello Tukur, Secretary/member Board of Trustees of Confederation of Traditional Herder Organizations in Africa (CORET).

Pastoralism in Karamoja. Photo: Matteo Caravani



Mr. Alhassan opened the presentation by stating that agriculture contributes 41% to the nation's GDP of which livestock contributes 11%. Livestock production is primarily in the hands of agro pastoralists and transhumance pastoralists. Traditional livestock depends on natural factors and how these factors develop or diminish affects the livelihoods of millions of people within the livestock value chains.

There are various types of pastoralism in Nigeria. This includes the international transhumance, crossing into or out of Nigeria from Benin, Niger, Cameroon and Chad. Nigeria has about 34 designated livestock international entry and exit points. Internal movement from the Sahel, especially those from Niger Republic tend to put livestock in Northern States under pressure thus triggering other internal livestock movements such as the inter-regional and inter-state movements.

Land pressures are caused by increased population, land grabbing by big crop farmers and the pursuit for industrialization as well as mining activities. Land use changes and climate uncertainties have made it more difficult for traditional livestock production and even ranching as a solution to farmers – pastoralist conflict as being discussed among government circles. Ranching is difficult for small-holder farmers and pastoralists because of cost implications.

There are various types of farmers – pastoralist conflicts and the major causes are depletion of natural fodder, lack of pasture, surface water reduction, access to grazing/water and climate change which changes the use of land, poor resource development and management, weakening of inter-cultural relations between major ethnic and occupational groups and poor governance at the local level, livestock rustling and theft, deterioration of grazing land with low literacy, lack of education among pastoralist, lack of access to land in the wake of rapid population expansion, rapid growth of urban centres and the Boko Haram insurgency in the North East. These factors have forced many pastoralists to migrate with their herds to other parts of Nigeria and Cameroon, often triggering new sets of conflicts.

The effect of farmer – pastoralist conflict and security implication are huge. Violence on women and children, huge economic losses, damage to the environment and ecosystems, loss of lives and livelihood, displacement of persons and animals. The media controls the narrative and dictates public discourse, and unfortunately, the pastoralists are demonised and their voices are missing.

RESOLUTIONS

Participants agreed that climate change is a global threat to human security and its impact on population groups varies and farmers, pastoralists, women and children are some of the most vulnerable groups in Nigeria.

To address the impacts of climate change and prevent incessant crises between farmers and herders that arise as a result of land and other environmental issues, the Academy resolved as follows:

1. There should be greater engagement of extension workers by all levels of governments to effectively engage in communicating climate change to farmers and pastoralists.
2. Pastoralists and farmers have lived in harmony in Nigeria and can do so now. The ongoing conflicts are needless and distort development efforts.
3. There should be re-orientation for pastoralists and farmers for harmonious co-existents as both are interdependent and their actions can be mutually beneficial.
4. The fact that climate change impacts differently on different categories of people should be considered in preparing climate actions.
5. The Great Green Wall Programme aimed at combating desertification amplified by climate change through improved use of land and water resources should incorporate the pastoralist in their fodder production scheme for sustainable development.
6. Government should carry out livestock development policy review to align them with regional and international practices.
7. The Federal Government should initiate actions to produce a detailed land use plan for the country.
8. Youth restiveness should be addressed by all stakeholders through capacity building, mentoring and skills diversification. Development partners have a role to play in this direction.
9. There is need for public-private partnership and scientific re-orientation for the development of pastoralism in Nigeria.
10. Herders should adopt the practice of managed intensive systematic rotational grazing.
11. In the brokering of peace and the implementation of all forms of conflict management initiatives, it is pertinent that women are carried along. Their full participation and inclusion should be entrenched in such processes.
12. Media should engage more in investigative journalism in reporting conflicts rather than stereotyping

pastoralists and others.

13. The Federal Government should create a Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries as is obtained in several other African countries like Ethiopia, Kenya, Cote D'Ivoire, Senegal, Mali, Niger and Tanzania.
14. Climate change is not a boundary-limited issue. Nigeria should approach this issue from this perspective in pursuing adaptation, funding, resilience and mitigation strategies in communities.
15. There is need to take inventory of the all existing grazing reserves, traditional grazing areas, trans-humance corridors, major stock routes, fully develop at least one per state in line with the recommendations of the Inter-Ministerial Committee on Livestock Development in Nigeria of 2015 and implement the Report of the Presidential Committee on Pastoralism and Insecurity.

WATER POLLUTION AND THE QUALITY OF LIFE

There is no doubt that the quality of water available to a people can determine the quality of life of the people. Health of Mother Earth Foundation (HOMEF) extended her advocacy to the **Republic of South Sudan** where a workshop was organized in collaboration with the Nile Institute of Environmental health (NIEH) with the theme: Water Pollution and the Quality of Life. This event dissected the issues of both surface and ground water pollution and its overarching effects on the people and the environment. It was held at Land Mark Hotel, Juba on 15th August, 2017.

South Sudan is rich in biodiversity and boasts of lush savannas, swamplands and rainforests which are home to many species of wildlife. The country is one of the African countries with rich natural resources, most especially in the Sudd. The exploitation of petroleum resources has brought about serious contamination of water in the oil field communities.

Conflicts and Pollution

The water bodies in South Sudan and Africa at large house a wide range of biodiversity that support the people. Over the years, mining activities and other extractive activities have contaminated ground and surface water around the region through indiscriminate dumping of toxic waste in rivers, open mining pits, oil and waste spills, etc.

These toxic pollutants sip down through capillary action to contaminate ground water. This pollution is a threat to the wellbeing of the environment and its biodiversity.

There is also the issue of scarcity and water stress in the continent. A UNEP (1999) report indicates that by the year 2025, Africa will be 64% water stressed and that means availability of water will greatly reduce, possibly leading to famines, disease, poverty and extinction of animal and plant species.

Health Effects of Water Pollution

Some of the health effects associated with water pollution were given at the workshop. Apart from killing plants and or important organisms in the soil, fishes and birds are adversely affected. Oil pollution in water give rise to sicknesses and diseases ranging from anaemia, depression, leukaemia, cancers (skin, mouth, lungs), diarrhoea, goitre, dizziness/headaches, vomiting, asthma, bronchitis, skin diseases, deafness, eye diseases and reproductive problems, etc.

The case of water and environmental pollution in South Sudan was likened to Ogoni in Nigeria where a UNEP assessment report on the polluted environment in the area showed that there was widespread pollution and that the locals face lifetime exposure to chronic oil pollution. There is hydrocarbon pollution of surface water throughout the area as well as of the groundwater that feeds local wells. The ground water in some areas was found to have up to 8cm layer of oil on it and soils are polluted with hydrocarbons up to a depth of 5 metres in 49 observed places.



HUNGER **POLITICS IN 2017**

BY JOYCE EBEBEINWE

REAR VIEW

The year 2017 was a very eventful and impactful one. It presented a total package of knowledge, experience and adventure. I am grateful to HOMEF for the privilege to contribute to her vision and growth.

I worked on two main projects under Hunger Politics:

- . Promoting Nigeria's Biosafety
- . No to GMOs in Nigeria

My roles included planning and organization of events, preparation of reports (journalistic and detailed), tracking and filing of media publications, etc.

Under the Promoting Nigeria's Biosafety Project, we had the following events:

1. HOMEF Team Building meeting, 2017: On the 22nd-23rd of March we had our Team building meeting at the Precious Palm Royal Hotel, Benin City. This meeting helped us to get to know our selves better, to understand the objectives of the organization and how to effectively work together as a team for greater results.
2. Media Biosafety Trainings in Benin City and Abuja: On the 24th of March, we held the Media biosafety training at the same venue in Benin City. Following the Benin media training, on the 24th of April, we organized training for 20 journalists in Abuja. It aimed at increasing knowledge through the media of the negative implications of GMOs in Nigeria. The presentation by Dr. Ify Aniebo on the Science, Controversy and Potential Risks of GMOs amongst other presentations helped to drive in the objectives of the meeting.
3. Lawyers Roundtable: Next day (25th April) after the training for the journalists in Abuja we had a training for legal practitioners. The lawyers got new and well-informed insight into the issue of GMOs. In the end as one of the resolutions, a team was formed to look into the Biosafety Act, 2015 and seek ways to push for its review and also to take actions towards litigation.

4. Protest March against GMOs: HOMEF in collaboration with other civil society organisations in Abuja on the 7th of June 2017 organised a protest march against GMOs. This march reached the National Assembly with a letter to demand a review or repeal of the Nigerian Biosafety Act of 2015 and a withdrawal of the permits given to Monsanto Agricultural Nigeria Limited. The march for which people turned out in their numbers greatly increased awareness of the public on the subject of GMOs and the state of Biosafety in Nigeria.
5. Litigation: HOMEF in solidarity with sixteen other civil society groups filed a lawsuit against the Nigerian Biosafety Management Agency (NABMA), the Hon. Minister of Environment, Monsanto Agricultural Nigeria Limited, National Biotechnology Development Agency (NABDA), Hon. Minister of Agriculture, the Attorney General of the Federation and National Agency for Food and Drugs Administration and Control. The suit is over permits granted to Monsanto Agricultural Nigeria Limited for the commercial release of Bt cotton (MON 15985) and to Monsanto Agricultural Nigeria Limited and NABDA to jointly carry out confined field trial with (1) NK603 and (2) MON89034 x NK603 maize in Nigeria.

Partner events at which I represented HOMEF:

- . A conference on Climate Change and Gender Development in Niger Delta held by Kebetcache Women Development and Research Centre in Ughelli, Delta State on the 10th of February 2017.
- . The workshop/annual general meeting organised by AFSA (Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa) at Thika, Kenya on the 8th-12th October 2017. At this event, HOMEF was admitted as a full member of the Alliance. This is one of our major achievements this year.
- . Do No Harm (DNH) training held by the Christian Rural and Urban Development Association of Nigeria (CRUDAN) on the 22nd-23rd of November in Kaduna.

Other assignments included preparation of proposals, research, drafting of press statements and assisting with financial reports.

Challenges and lessons learnt

The challenges i had were few and were welcomed as opportunities for growth. I had to learn how to speak with confidence and how to work effectively on different projects/events at the same time.

I have improved on my writing and research skills and I look forward to the year 2018 for even greater achievements as an organisation.

First, I thank God for his faithfulness over me and my family despite all our short comings he kept watching over us

My first activity of the year started on a 4 day visit to Okobo, Okaba and Awo Akpali where mining activities is wreaking the lives of the community people in Ankpa Local Government Area in Kogi State. I was accompanied on the visit by Comrade Godspower Martins, Director of U-RED. We held meetings and also observed the damage done on Okobo and Odagbo/Okaba communities by mining activities.

Our staff retreat and training event held in Benin City, Edo State was wonderful. My wife came along with me and it was such refreshing time. The lessons learnt from this program kept me focused for the tasks of year.

Some other programs I participated in include Forest Town Hall Meeting, Right to know/Stakeholders Workshop and the rally against Poison (GMOs).

I represented HOMEF during year in some meetings with other organisations. These include one by Africa Centre for Leadership, Strategy and Development (Centre SLD) for the Launch of a research report on environmental governance in the Niger Delta. Others were the Extractive Working group meeting on Open Government Partnership organized by Ministry of Mine and Steel Development and one organized Ministry of Environment in collaboration with UNDP.

It was my duty to organize a community dialogue that brought herders and farmers together at Aco Community in FCT, Abuja in September 2017. The program tagged; Climate Change, Our Land, Our Food had Ikal Angelei as Instigator. She became an HOMEF Fellow at the event.



IT WAS AN EVENTFUL YEAR

BY SHEHU AKOWE.

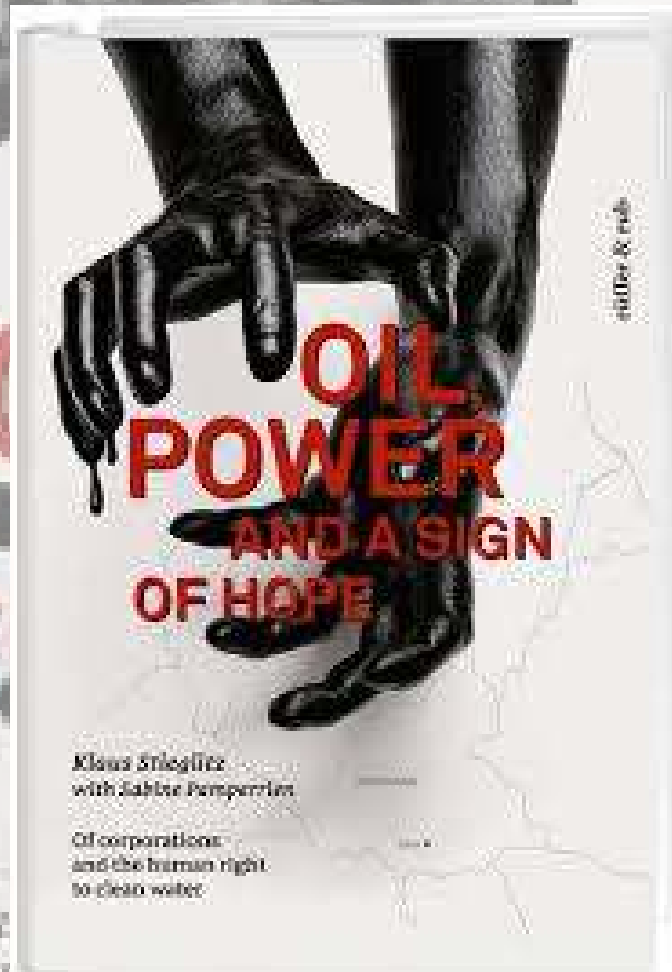
I also worked on planning the #10 Sustainability Academy programme that we cohosted with Confederation of Traditional Herder Organizations (CORET) as a follow up to the community Dialogue between farmers and herders.

Furthermore, on 6th Dec. 2017 Heinrich Boell Foundation organized a one day meeting of experts during which a scientist spoke on research findings confirming the presence of GM products in Nigerian markets.

Lastly, it was my privilege to attend an Investigative Public hearing hosted by Chairman, Senate Committee on Agriculture and rural Development on GM Maize illegally imported into Nigeria crown activities of the year. I learned at this event that a solid well-reasoned one-minute talk could weigh more than a vacuous speech of one hour. I am referring to the game changing speech that Mariann Bassey Orovwuje made at the close of the public hearing on 7th Dec. 2017. She literally took GMO proponents and importers of illegal GM seeds and products to the cleaners.

In conclusion, with the number of programs attended and others followed on social media throughout the year, it will not be an exaggeration to say that 2017 was an eventful and educative year for me. I look forward to a greater 2018.

BOOK



The book was released from the HOMEF stable within 2017, Oil, Power and a Sign of Hope.

HOMEF 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. Climate Space – <https://climatespace2013.wordpress.com>
4. No REDD in Africa Network (NRAN) <http://www.no-redd-africa.org>
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. WoMiN – African Women United Against Destructive Resource Extraction – www.womin.org.za

PARTNERS

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

1. Tikva Grassroots Empowerment Foundation/Tides Foundation
2. Bread for the World
3. Sign of Hope
4. Rosa Luxemburg Foundation
5. Thousand Currents
6. The GEF Small Grants Programme
7. Heinrich Boel Foundation
8. Federal Ministry of Environment/United Nations Development Programme
9. Grassroots International
10. University of Port Harcourt
11. Base Consult

FINANCIALS

STATEMENT OF FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES											
	RESILIENCE FOR	BUILDING A	BUILDING	STRENGTHENING	BEYOND	CAPACITY	PROMOTING	RES	GMOS AND	MANAGEMENT	
	RESISTANCE	NETWORK OF	STRONGER CONN-	THE RIGHT	OIL	BUILDING	NIGERIAN	DEMOCRACY	FOOD	GENERAL	
		FISHER-FOLKS	ECTED COMMUNITIES	TO WATER	DIALOGUE	FOR COMMUNITY	BIOSAFETY	BUILDING KNOWLEDGE	SOVEREIGNTY	ADMINISTRATION	TOTAL
	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
Rent/Hire of Venue	88,000	68,000	-	-	-	-	-	178,000	-	-	334,000
Advocacy Visits	95,000	55,650	665,465	771,851	270,000	-	674,081	94,522	500,000	-	3,126,569
Transp & Travelling	735,818	189,000	-	635,244	-	1,240,557	564,900	3,024,370	1,172,858	500,006	8,062,753
Depreciation	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	355,350	355,350
Publicity	450,000	341,000	-	400,000	540,000	550,000	-	1,700,000	-	-	3,981,000
Accommodation	289,333	469,491	-	426,570	-	-	-	1,257,132	-	-	2,442,526
Living & Refreshment	310,000	-	-	-	-	230,000	-	920,950	-	-	1,460,950
Honorarium	260,000	-	-	-	2,950,000	530,000	-	1,237,551	-	-	4,977,551
Project Admin.	375,000	485,000	452,230	500,063	300,850	738,280	545,425	1,350,000	1,256,000	-	6,002,848
Printing and	-	180,000	335,000	599,814	994,000	150,000	-	-	1,710,000	-	3,968,814
Media	-	-	-	-	-	275,000	2,816,325	855,500	-	-	3,946,825
Publications/ training	-	100,000	795,000	500,000	3,000,000	1,231,850	-	855,500	769,935	-	7,252,285
Consultancy/ Legal Fees	-	-	-	85,851	-	-	2,386,885	600,000	832,068	-	3,904,804
Campaign materials	663,000	-	-	600,000	550,000	-	-	-	298,694	-	2,111,694
Project coordination/	125,000	-	2,399,188	1,500,000	500,000	-	-	-	-	-	4,524,188
Salaries	-	925,000	790,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,715,000
Viedo/Photography	-	150,000	-	-	-	188,000	-	300,000	-	-	638,000
Workshops/Networking	-	240,000	561,050	668,000	-	-	-	1,148,800	-	500,000	3,117,850
Project Evaluation/ Review	-	-	-	-	907,000	1,227,400	320,000	601,050	-	-	3,055,450
Litigation Consultation	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,581,545	-	-	-	2,581,545
Rally GMO						-	1,295,000	-	-	-	1,295,000
Procument						-	400,000	-	-	-	400,000
Audit fees	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	550,000	550,000
Management Cost	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,170,000	1,253,132	-	513,560	2,936,692
Research	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	200,000	-	-	200,000
Bank Charges	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	141,517	141,517
	3,391,151	3,203,141	5,997,933	6,687,393	10,011,850	6,361,087	12,754,161	15,576,507	6,539,555	2,560,433	73,083,211

HEALTH OF MOTHER EARTH FOUNDATION
-The Ecological Think Tank-