

# eco~ INSTIGATOR

A PUBLICATION OF HEALTH OF MOTHER EARTH FOUNDATION

ISSUE #2

NOVEMBER 2013

THE ATTEMPT TO  
GREENWASH  
SHELL OVER OGONI

HOW YOUTHS  
ARE INVENTING  
THE WORLD

## CLIMATE CHANGE AND THE FOOD CRISES

NUTRITION IS  
NOT MANUFACTURED  
IN THE LABORATORY

A CRITIQUE OF  
THE IUCN-NIGER DELTA  
PANEL FINAL REPORT



The *Eco~Instigator* is a publication of Health of Mother Earth Foundation (HOMEF)

#### Editorial Team

Nnimmo Bassey  
George B.K.Awudi  
Oluwafunmilayo Oyatogun  
Zaid Shopeju  
Joy Ailokpede  
Cadmus Atake

#### Layout:

Babawale Obayanju of owales

#### Cover Illustration:

Chaz Maviyane-Davies

#### Circulation

Sheu Akowe

#### Advisory Board:

Chris Allan (USA)

Akinbode Oluwafemi (Nigeria)

Siziwe Khanyile (South Africa)

George B.K. Awudi (Ghana)

Evelyn Bassey (Nigeria)

Esperanza Martinez (Ecuador)

Nnimmo Bassey (Nigeria)

Pablo Solon (Bolivia)

Liz Hosken (UK)

Lim Li Ching (Malaysia)

#### Published by

Health of Mother Earth Foundation  
(HOMEF)Top Floor, 214 Uselu Lagos Road  
P. O. Box 10577 Benin City, Nigeria.  
Telephone: +234 8064558699

[www.homef.org](http://www.homef.org)

All mails, inquires and articles should be sent to [editor@homef.org](mailto:editor@homef.org)



@ Health\_Earth



Health of  
Mother Earth  
Foundation

## ECO-INSTIGATOR: IN THIS ISSUE

|   |           |
|---|-----------|
| <b>Feedback On Eco Instigator#01</b>                          | <b>4</b>  |
| <b>Defiant Hope</b>   | <b>5</b>  |
| <b>Climate Change And The Looming Food Crises: The Report</b> | <b>5</b>  |
| <b>Pipeline Pikins</b>  | <b>10</b> |
| <b>Planet Politics</b>  | <b>10</b> |
| <b>Sustainability Academy/HOMESchool #02</b>                  | <b>11</b> |
| <b>The Attempt To Greenwash Shell Over Ogoni</b>              | <b>13</b> |
| <b>NRAN Maputo Declaration On REDD</b>                        | <b>16</b> |
| <b>How Youths Are Re-inventing The World</b>                  | <b>18</b> |
| <b>Rightlivelihood College Debuts In Nigeria</b>              | <b>20</b> |
| <b>Nutrition Is Not Manufactured In Laboratory</b>            | <b>22</b> |
| <b>A Critique Of The IUCN-Niger Delta Panel Final Report</b>  | <b>25</b> |

## Home Run

**H**OMEF touched the ground firmly in the week 19-23 August 2013 when we held our first public events in Abuja, Benin City and Lagos. It was a HOME run indeed and we are yet running.

We are thankful for the very helpful feedback we received on the maiden edition of the *Eco~Instigator*. Our hope is that you will see this journal as your space to share information, interrogate ideas and help mobilise action for positive change.

When we invited Pablo Solon as our Instigator for the Sustainability Academy/HOME School (HS01) we were full of expectations that the session would bring great insights and build deep knowledge. Well, our expectations were exceeded both by the enthusiasm of the participants and the quality of information shared by Solon. A flavour of what transpired at HS01 is featured in this edition. Even before the 27<sup>th</sup> September 2013 release of the first tranche of the Fifth Assessment Report of the UN's Intergovernmental Panel of Climate Change (IPCC), Pablo had already laid out clearly that what we are faced with had gone beyond global warming to what should appropriately be termed a global burning.

Our demand now is that politicians should halt fiddling while the planet burns! It was exciting to see the strong messages presented at levels that suited high school kids, university level scholars, civil society/community folks and policy makers.

We are proud to announce that Pablo Solon became the first Fellow of HOMEF's Sustainability Academy. All our Instigators automatically become Fellows of the academy. Participants become HOME Scholars and take up membership as such in the think tank upon successfully participating in at least two sessions of the academy.

In this edition special features include poems, articles and reports. We also serve the Maputo Declaration of the No-REDD in Africa Network issued after a strategy workshop in August 2013 at which yours truly participated. Do not overlook our spread on must-read books!

We proudly announce our second Sustainability Academy/HOME School (HS02) coming up 25-30 November 2013 in Port Harcourt and Lagos. HS02 will examine among other topics, The African/Global Awakening and implications for the Environment. The instigator will be Firoze Manji, founder of Pambazuka Press who is currently with the Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa (CODESRIA).

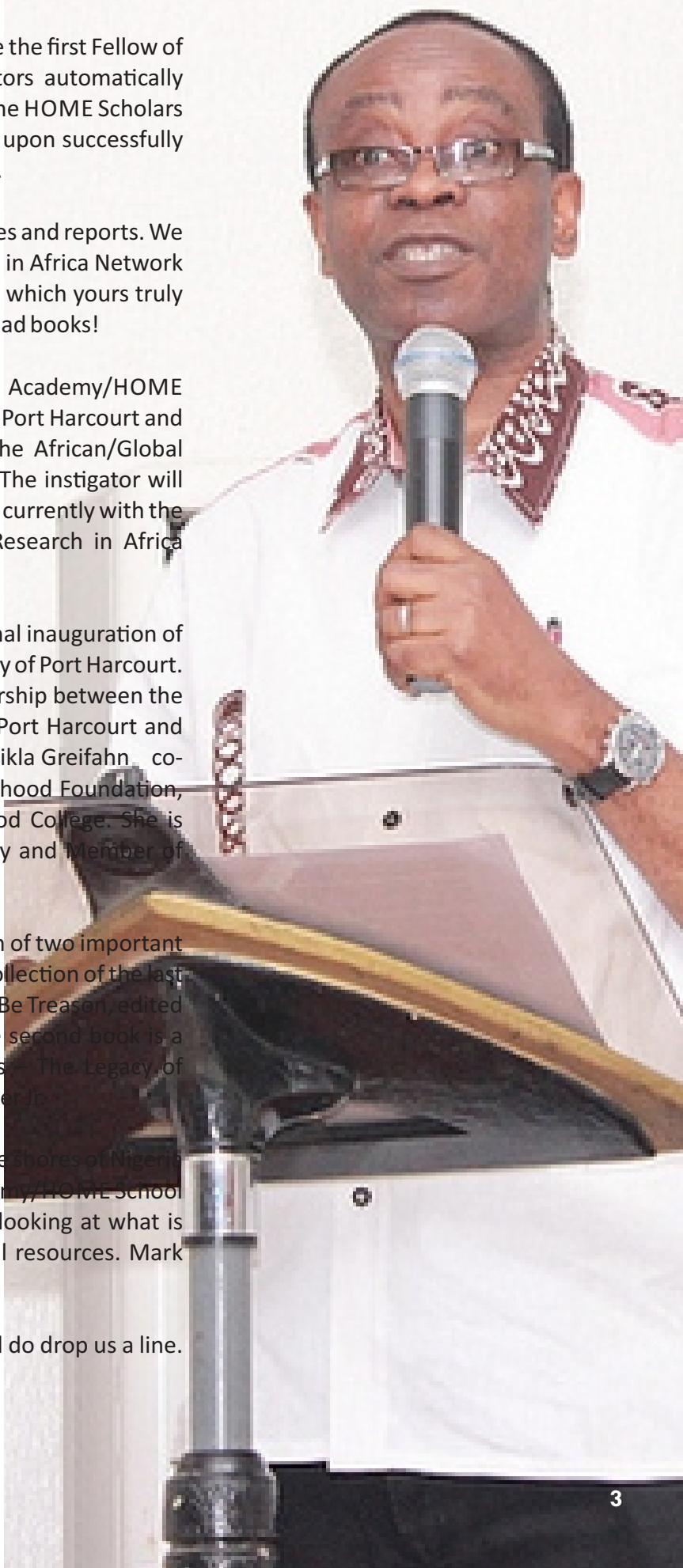
Our session in Port Harcourt will double as the formal inauguration of the Right Livelihood College campus at the University of Port Harcourt. At hand to speak and to cement the unique partnership between the Right Livelihood Award Foundation, University of Port Harcourt and Health of Mother Earth Foundation will be Dr Monikla Greifahn co-chair of the Board of Trustees Trustees Right Livelihood Foundation, and Member, Steering Committee, Right Livelihood College. She is also a former minister of Environment of Germany and Member of Parliament as well.

Alongside HS02 we will host the public presentation of two important new books that you must read and share. One is a collection of the last letters of Ken Saro-Wiwa and is titled *Silence Would Be Treason*, edited by Ide Corley, Helen Fallon and Laurence Cox. The second book is a collection of essays titled *Claim No Easy Victories – The Legacy of Amilcar Cabral*, edited by Firoze Manji and Bill Fletcher Jr.

From 2014, HOMEF's work will take step beyond the shores of Nigeria and into the African continent. Sustainability Academy/HOME School 03 will hold in April in Swaziland. And we will be looking at what is going on in African communities rich with mineral resources. Mark your calendar!

Well, folks, do enjoy our servings in this edition and do drop us a line. As we always say, be an eco instigator! ♦

Nnimmo  
[nnimmo@homef.org](mailto:nnimmo@homef.org)



## FEEDBACK on eco-Instigator #01

### THE ECO-INSTIGATOR: AN IDEA WHOSE TIME HAS COME

It was Victor Hugo who once remarked: "You can resist an invading army; you cannot resist an idea whose time has come."

That, exactly, is the best way to describe the arrival of the new environmental journal recently launched by the Health of Mother Earth Foundation (**HOMEF**), the environmental/ecological think-tank and advocacy organization.

And what better time to come than a time when the whole world ought to stand up and take immediate remedial actions to avert the imminent dangers that threaten to destroy our planet life itself inclusive.

Much more, the Eco~Instigator could be said to be most timely because information about threats to the planet and those responsible are needed now more than ever before. The debut issue of the Eco~Instigator appeared only recently, and going by its contents, there is no doubt that the journal is well equipped to fulfill its historical role in the global struggle for environmental sanity.

**UhuruSpirit** <http://www.uhuruspirit.org/news/?x=1500#.UebYRRZGuZb>

I like the Eco-Instigator a lot. You have chosen layout and style that makes it very appealing. The interview works really well. The range of topics is very interesting, and

each piece is delivered in a very accessible manner. Above all, I like the underlying idea to spread ideas, and encourage people to envision alternatives.

**Thomas Sikor**, Professor of Environment and Development, University of East Anglia, Norwich, UK

...This is good quality. Clean!

**Isaac Osuoka**  
Executive Director, Social Action  
Port Harcourt, Nigeria

The Maiden edition of the eco-instigator is truly the first of its kind. It is easy to access. I downloaded it online, its easy to comprehend, instigating, inspiring and educating. One sentence I hold dear is "we must change the paradigm of how we relate to mother earth, its not a problem of compensation but of restoration".

**Ruth Iziduh**, Co-ordinator SPEAK Nigeria

Congratulations to HOMEF for the eco-instigator. This is a very refreshing publication.

The Earth is indeed our home and man has no right to set it off balance.

I am sharing my copy of the magazine and together we will work to save and preserve mother earth.

**Godspower Martins**  
HoCoN Secretary FCT, Abuja. Nigeria



**DEFIANT HOPE**

By Nnimmo Bassey

My house stood there  
 Right there in the gap  
 My house stood in the vacant lot  
 of your toothless mouth

Washed away by torrents of angry  
 sputum  
 Stuck  
 Struck

Pluck me from the bloodied fangs  
 of insatiable gobblers

My farm once here  
 Right there in the gap

Beneath crests of shifting sands  
 Flattened  
 Fried

Free me from the mirage painted  
 in parched pastel tongues

My mind stood there  
 Right there in the gap  
 My mind erupting beyond the  
 dust, sand storms and the unseen  
 deluge

Mocking birds pick grains from my  
 hair  
 Heckled  
 Spooked

Tether me to the flotsam drenched  
 in resilient hopes of unstoppable  
 dreams!

# CLIMATE CHANGE AND THE LOOMING FOOD CRISES: **The Report**

By Oluwafunmilayo OYATOOGUN



*A Report of the Inaugural Health of Mother Earth Academy (HOME School) Sessions in Abuja, Benin and Lagos, Aug 19–23, 2013.*

**ABUJA**

**A**buja, Nigeria's bustling Federal Capital city was the first port of call for the inaugural three-city meetings of the Health of Mother Earth Sustainability Academy (HOME School). The August 19 event which held at Protea Apo Apartments attracted several key policy makers, leaders of non-governmental organizations, students among others.

The meeting with the major theme ***Climate Change and the Looming Food Crises*** was illuminating, scholarly and the discussions very vigorous.

One of the speakers was Comrade Baba Aye of the Health Workers Union. In his comments, he challenged the justice issues behind environmental devastation. He was of the view that even if wealthy countries manage to pay their way out of environmental destruction, poorer countries cannot afford to do so. In his words, “the people most affected are the working people. The reason we are where we are is that the powerful benefit from it. It is a power struggle; struggle for the self-emancipation of the working people.

”Prof. Oladipo, a Nigerian climate negotiator and expert asserted that there was need for Nigeria to build a pressure group that urges the government to be futuristic in its approach towards development. While Dr. Eniola Ajayi, the Ekiti

NGO, *Focus on the Global South*, spoke extensively during the session on the need for Africa to take active steps against climate change. Solon who also serves on the advisory board of HOMEF, said among other comments “Africa is becoming the most exposed region in the world to the impacts of climate change”.

Continuing, Solon reiterated the fact about the vulnerability of Africa to temperature changes. For instance, by 2025, the impact of climate change on water availability in Nigeria will drop to 1700 cubic meters of water per person per year from over 3000 in 1990. This means Nigeria is quickly approaching water scarcity.

In addition, the displacement of people is a key fall-out in the climate change discourse, and consequences such as civil wars and general



OLADIPO



CHIDO ONUMAH



JOHN ODEY



ENIOLA AJAYI

State Commissioner for Environment and Comrade Chido Onumah of African Center for Media & Information Literacy both expressed the belief that the session would be illuminating.

The chief instigator, Pablo Solon, a former ambassador of the Pluralist State of Bolivia to the United Nations and Executive Director of the

conflicts should be of concern. For instance, it is predicted that there will be an increase of African civil wars by up to 54% due to climate change. And while it is possible to adapt to climate change to a certain extent, money is the deciding factor.

So, poorer countries, with fewer emissions will end up suffering the impacts the most. He concluded by giving practical and real solutions to the false solutions of GMOs, ocean





Pablo Solon

stratospheric sulfate injection and the like. His suggested solutions include leaving 2/3rd of fossil fuels in the ground, adopting zero waste strategies as well as the dismantling of military infrastructure.

## BENIN

The train berthed next in the ancient city of Benin, Edo State. The HOME Academy session this time was organized for school children and community members at the Precious Palm Royal Hotel. More than 200 community members and young school children attended the one-day event which also focused on the topic of ***Climate Change and the Looming Food Crisis***.

This session was very interactive, with students, media representatives, community members and youth leaders asking questions on climate change in Nigeria, addressing the food crises and suggesting ways forward.

In line with HOMEF's commitment of engaging young people in environmental education through interactive methods, participating students were invited to recite poems on climate change. One student, Ms. Osaretin Aisosa from Alpha High School and the Young Environmentalist Network (TYEN) recited a poem that read in part; "If climate change were little change, we will probably still be here to finish this poem." Also from TYEN and Alpha High School, Ms. Benedicta Adesanya presented a poem titled *Mobilize, Resist, Transform* from Nnimmo Bassey's anthology of poems, '*I Will Not Dance to Your Beat*.'

There were dignitaries present. The State governor, Comrade Adams Oshiomole was represented by Dr. Onikolease Irabor, a Special Adviser to the Governor. He urged the meeting to produce a communiqué that will proffer solutions to some of the problems of climate



The instigator, Ambassador Solon made a presentation which projected Nigeria's vulnerability to the fast approaching climate change and food crises. He said: "There are several impacts climate change has on the environment including health, wars and food instability. Already, malaria is prevalent in Africa and worse health conditions are the most direct impacts of climate change."

He continued by saying, "in most African cases, climate change will lead to water problems. In some cases, there will be scarcity and drought. Climate change may not destroy the earth itself, but life as we know it will be drastically altered." In graphic displays, he likened climate change to change of temperature in a human, first rising to a fever and

eventually to death. Like his earlier points in Abuja, he highlighted the false solutions being currently bandied by corporations and suggested more tangible solutions in their place. According to Ambassador Pablo, "geo-engineering is like putting an umbrella over the earth. This is the first of the false solutions for climate change." He continued: "When you Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs), you are mixing things that don't mix in nature."

Nnimmo Bassey, HOME's Director, in closing the session, remarked: "To fight global warming, we need global action. While there are things countries can do, it requires a global effort." He also promised that HOME would continue in its mandate to provide qualitative education and resources to promote climate literacy among Nigerians.

## LAGOS

The inaugural train of the HOME School had a final stop in Lagos, Nigeria's commercial nerve centre on August 23. It held at the Afe Babalola Auditorium, University of Lagos, Akoka. The event was organized in partnership with the Department of Mass Communications and was sub-themed '**Communicating Climate Change: Raising Awareness to Instigate Action.**' It attracted several persons including students, both from Unilag and the Yaba Technical College (Yabatech), lecturers, journalists, scholars, activists among others.

Bassey, the coordinator, welcome the participants and explained the reason for the meeting which was to promote climate education towards sustainable development.

In addition, he said that for maximum effect, necessary tools like music, poetry, dance and painting will be used to best communicate climate change to young audiences and attract the attention of politicians.





Ismail Ibraheem

Also, the director of HOMEF reiterated that the Stone Age, did not end due to lack of stones, therefore, the fossil fuel age will not end for lack of fossil fuels. "If we don't stop indiscriminate fossil fuels extractions, fossil fuels will stop us" he stated. He added that the amount of energy wasted in Nigeria yearly is enough to feed all of Sub-Saharan Africa, excluding South Africa. "Gas flaring is in Badagry" he said. "You don't have to go to the Niger Delta to see it."

He also specially recognized Tunde Thompson, a popular former journalist who was jailed for activist reporting under the administration of General Muhammadu Buhari.

Next was a welcome remark from Dr. Ismail Ibraheem of the school's Department of Mass Communication. He further stressed that young people must learn not to take things at face value. "Nigerians are acclimatizing to the unpredictability of the climate without addressing the reason behind this," he added.

The interaction session highlighted the fact that climate change is not just a crisis of the environment but a crisis of capitalism and of our

history.

"We need to communicate climate change effectively in order to address it. We want to address how to create action, how to mobilize, how to involve. I use the human fever analogy because it is simple," began Instigator Ambassador Salon. He went on to say that many international deliberations end up being 'business as usual' and that the real problem behind climate change is capitalism. He equally emphasized the need to communicate climate change effectively in order to address it. Ambassador Salon also criticized the controversial Eko Atlantic project being currently embarked upon by the Lagos State government. This is in view of its implications of worsening climate change and its well known potentials of displacing the urban poor. 'I want to see Eko Atlantic, why would anyone want to build that?' he queried.

Thus the Lagos session brought a close to the inaugural three-city HOME School. The second edition will be held in November.

Without any doubt, HOME School and indeed, HOMEF, have come to stay!💎

## PIPELINE PIKINS

By Betty Abah

What do they know?  
What do they see?  
Pipeline *pikins*!

Glistening pipes bearing gold  
Gloating men with glistening  
girls  
And that is all they see!

They do not know the taste of  
tea  
Their bodies are as slender as  
'T'  
Their hunger is as deep as the  
sea

For Poverty and Pains pass  
with Pipelines  
Not the Panadol or Pencils so  
so promised  
Pipelines' profiteers, go, leave  
us in Peace!

*\*(For children in Badagry  
(Nigeria), Gbetsogbe (Togo),  
Abuesi, Kpone and Aboadze  
(Ghana), and the Bandevouri  
and Nkometou (Cameroon)  
communities, devastated by the  
West African Gas Pipelines and  
Chad-Cameroon Oil Pipelines).*

*\*(Pikin is the Nigerian English  
pidgin word for 'child')*

## PLANET POLITICS

By Betty Abah

None among us  
Can tell with planetic precision  
How much we weigh

None can tell our selling tags  
On the pearly platter  
Of planetic politics

You converge in Kyoto  
Hang out in Copenhagen  
Dance your way to Durban

You bewail as always  
The floods that took our  
mothers  
The drought that killed our  
kids

You say you care  
That we dance in the rain,  
Outlive the next harvest

We smile, you didn't know  
We, peanuts on your pearly  
platter of planetic politics  
Saw the crocodile dance in  
your eyes

We are peanuts for pontiffs'  
platters  
We are mere refrains  
Of rehearsed, romantic theme  
songs

We know you lie  
When you bemoan  
The grumbling seas and gory  
skies.  
You don't bat an eye or a lid  
That the coming floods will  
bear us to the oceans  
We are mere menu for  
another tete-a-tete

We are good for banter  
We are good for barter  
We make a good mix for  
bartenders

Today, we see from our  
crumbled hut  
On rain-beaten television sets  
We applaud your swagger  
As you outline your pricey  
vision  
For our panting planet  
We saw the crocodile tears,  
too.

We will await your  
homecoming  
You will pass by our flooded  
paths  
The rains will bear you to the  
oceans!





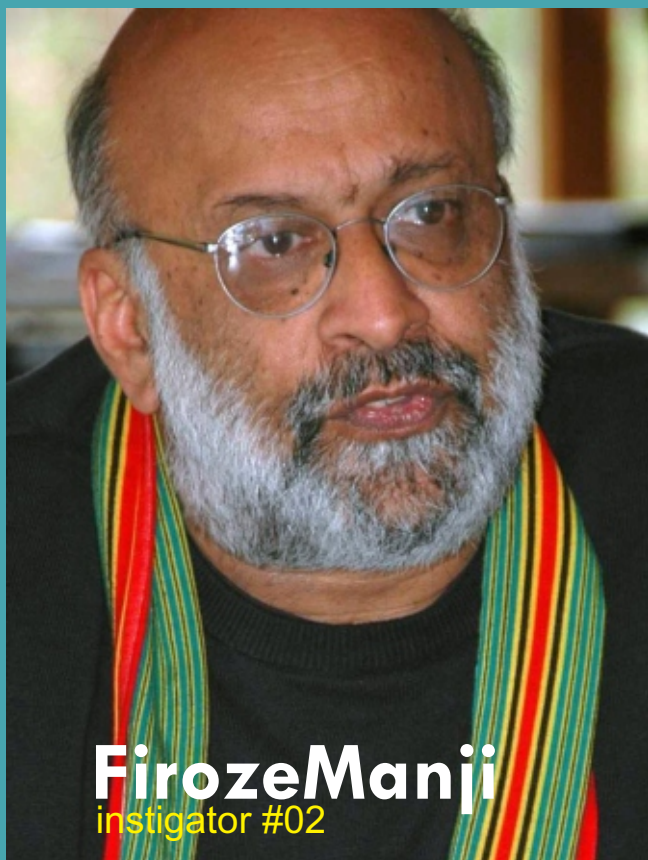
# SUSTAINABILITY ACADEMY/ HOME SCHOOL#02

The African Awakening & Implications for the Environment

The HOME School 02 is back again! This time it will be from 25-30 November 2013. In keeping with our tradition, the Academy will be mobile and will be held in multiple locations across Nigeria. Sessions will hold in Lagos and Port Harcourt. HS02 will examine among other topics, *The African/Global Awakening and implications for the Environment*. We are taking on this topic with the deep understanding that the uprisings in Africa are expressions of discontent with current state of play and the need to throw off shackles of oppression as well as the claws of exploitation. This focus also illustrates the overall stance of HOME as an ecological think-tank. We believe in a holistic interrogation of events around us with a view to uncovering the inner workings and forces that underpin the unwholesome expressions that we experience. Through our Sustainability Academy (HOME School), we build knowledge and instigate actions for positive change.

## Meet HS#02 Instigator: Firoze Manji

The primary Instigator for HS02 will be **Firoze Manji**, the founder of Fahamu Press and founding editor of *Pambazuka News*. He is currently with the Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa (CODESRIA). Pambazuka Press and Fahamu Books blazed the trail in publishing key works on the contemporary socio-political situation of Africa and generally encouraged scholarship and popular discourse on the weekly electronic newsletter, Pambazuka News. One of the books published by the Pambazuka Press, **African Awakenings: The Emerging Revolutions**, inspired the focus of this edition of the Sustainability Academy. The book which is a collection of essays on the cover subject was edited by our Instigator Manji and Sokari Ekine, an environmental scholar (?). Manji's other books include *China's New Role in Africa and the South: A Search for a New Perspective* (2008) and *From the Slave Trade to 'Free' Trade: How Trade Undermines Democracy and Justice in Africa* (with Patrick Burnett).



**Firoze Manji**  
instigator #02

Firoze, a Kenyan—holds a PhD in dental surgery. He has worked extensively on developmental matters in Africa and has served as African director for Amnesty International. He was also formerly Chief Executive Officer of the Aga Khan Foundation in the UK.

We serve you here a clipping from his paper titled *"African Awakenings and Silences of the Media"*:

*The bursting of citizens onto the streets of Tunisia and Egypt early in 2011 and the ensuing overthrow of the dictators Ben Ali and Mubarak attracted widespread media attention that characterized these events as the beginning of an 'Arab Spring'. But during the same period, though largely ignored by the mainstream media, there were mounting protests, demonstrations and actions by citizens in a number of other African countries including Algeria, Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Djibouti, Gabon, Kenya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Somalia, Senegal, South Africa, Sudan, Swaziland, Togo, Uganda, Western Sahara, Zimbabwe. While many of these have not (yet) been on a scale witnessed in either Tunisia or Egypt, the fact is that the events in these countries represent qualitative changes in the political and social environment. And yet these events have received little media attention. The only significant exceptions seem to be in the case of Côte d'Ivoire, Libya, Somalia and Mali where Western governments have been involved in military interventions; Senegal where mass protests, especially by youth, prevented former president Abdulaye Wade from establishing his dynasty; South Africa where striking miners in the Lonmin platinum mines were massacred. Even in these instances, the perspective of the media has been, I would suggest, strongly biased towards propagating the narrative of power – corporate and imperial power.*

A further extract of Firoze Manji's paper *African Awakenings and Silences of the Media* is published in this issue (?????) Requests for the full paper may be made to [editor@homef.org](mailto:editor@homef.org)



Shell Petroleum Development Company Ltd of Nigeria (SPDC), Shell for short, recently received a report titled "Sustainable Remediation and Rehabilitation of Biodiversity and Habitats of Oil Spill Sites in the Niger Delta" from its partner the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). The document dated July 2013 is also tagged as—"a main report including recommendations for the future."

The report has five chapters covering: Background and role of the IUCN-Niger Delta panel; Principles underlying remediation and rehabilitation of biodiversity habitats in the Niger Delta; Background to recommendations for remediation techniques in the Niger Delta; Recommendations and Conclusions. The annexes listed in the document are only to be accessed by sending e-mail requests to the IUCN.

In a critique of this report sent to the IUCN, Professor Richard Steiner, and expert on oil and marine issues, raised a number of concerns of which we shall turn to in a moment. But we hasten to note that the overall picture of the report is one that treats the desperately



# THE ATTEMPT TO GREENWASH SHELL OVER OGONI

By NNIMMO BASSEY

polluted situation of the Niger Delta in a way that and time-buying while they continue with profiteering from their high impact exploitation activities. In its unsigned 'preface,' we are told that the report sets out the "panel's overall strategy for sustainable remediation and sets the scene for the other two objectives of the panel's work: to 'develop a strategy to **safeguard the Niger Delta's remaining areas of biodiversity**' and 'build capacity with local organizations.'"

It also says that 'Now that the recommendations contained in this report have been proposed, SPDC can soon start on the planned set of field pilots, based on specific advice from the Panel and monitored by the Panel over the next two years.'

We emphasise the fact that the panel and Shell recognise that the biodiversity of the Niger Delta has been so decimated by the oil companies' activities that they can now be talking of "**the Niger Delta's remaining areas of biodiversity**."

This admission of the scandalous destruction of the Niger Delta's ecosystem speaks volumes of the great harm that Shell and other oil companies have done to Nigeria. The statement also indicates that Shell intends to take tentative steps towards remediation over a period of two years! Recall that the UNEP report stated that Ogoni waters would require thirty years to be cleaned up. By this report Shell has extended that to thirty-four years if we take into account the two years of

inaction that have already passed.

We must state here also that partnerships between conservation agencies and oil companies have often ended up with the polluters using these engagements for no other purpose than **greenwashing**. It was for the reason of IUCN's partnership with Shell that Friends of the Earth International (FoEI) at its biennial general meeting held in Honduras in October 2008, voted to relinquish its membership of the IUCN. A reading of this report emanating from the partnership of IUCN with Shell validates FoEI's position and shows that the conservation body is enjoying a ride on the back of the tiger.

The report is careful not to mention that this Panel was set up in the wake of the UNEP report of the assessment of the Ogoni environment that issued a damning verdict of Shell's atrocious behaviour in Ogoniland.

The UNEP report stated categorically that the oil company acted below its in-house standards and neither kept to International standards nor the Environmental Guidelines and Standards for the Petroleum Industry in Nigeria (EGASPIN). The IUCN report now shamelessly states, "SPDC has implemented its remediation measures to meet the Environmental Guidelines and Standards for the Petroleum Industry in Nigeria (EGASPIN) standards."



This claim is contrary to what the same report reveals when it states that “in a recently concluded remediation site in Soku, the hydrocarbon levels were higher than the EGASPIN standards of 2002, even though all the authorities have signed off on the certificate for a clean bill of health for that site.”

The report makes a case that because the EGASPIN standards are generalised and not ecosystem-specific as obtains in the USA, Canada and the Netherlands, it means that standards may be stricter or less for certain locations. The report then takes the role of the lawmaker and urges Shell to disregard the laws of the land and follow “suggested target levels indicated in Annex II as a guide for monitoring ecosystem recovery, until site-specific standards are established for the Niger Delta ecosystem.” Wonderful partners!

Given the above observed attitude, it is therefore not a surprising that the names of the writers of

this report and the members of this IUCN/Shell's Niger Delta Panel are conspicuously missing in the publication! It would then help observers to discern better the basis for some of the claims made in the report including why certain areas could not be visited for reasons of the access roads being cut off by floods and for security concerns.

In reviewing the IUCN report, Prof Steiner who has done extensive work on the Niger Delta environment and is a renowned expert on the Exxon Valdez oil spill that occurred in Alaska, among others, stated plainly that the report “fails to meet its professed objectives, presents little new information, contains inaccuracies, represents a flawed process, and seriously undermines the credibility of IUCN.”

In an earlier communication to top leaders of IUCN on 11 September 2011, Prof Steiner had said:

I read through the TORs for the project, and with



respect to whomever drafted them, this is simply one of the most uninformed documents I have read on the Delta, and I have read many such things.

They reflect a profound misunderstanding of what is actually occurring in the Delta, and a part-and-parcel of Shell's fiction about the issue. Further, it is difficult to believe that a company that netted over \$100 billion in after tax profits over the past 4 years does not know what it should be doing to behave responsibly in the Niger Delta - they do, but they just make too much money not doing so. I am concerned that Shell is simply wanting green validation from IUCN for their irresponsible activities in the Delta, and it most certainly does not deserve such.

And, it seems evident that, through projects such as this, Shell is attempting to continue delaying responsible action in the Delta. Shell used the 4-year UNEP Ogoniland study to successfully delay action, and now are looking to use IUCN for another few years delay.

Professor Steiner also notes that the IUCN-Shell panel further plays the famous script that criminalises local people by blaming repeated spills on "anthropogenic activities – especially oil theft and illegal refining."

They also annoyingly hinge this on what they term the "quick money syndrome" afflicting the community people. Prof Steiner is of the opinion that the quick money syndrome in the Niger Delta is that of Shell, the other oil companies and the government.

We note that at the recently held conference on Oil Thefts organised by the office of the Special Advisers to the President on Niger Delta, Shell's representative admitted that the major oil thefts going on in the Niger Delta are of "industrial" scale. Industrial cannot be construed to be "artisanal" or to be referring to local communities.

Among many notes, Prof Steiner points out, "The

report inaccurately states that: "the vast majority (about 97%) of PAHs (polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons) in produced water are of BTEX (benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene and xylene)." But these are not PAHs, and this error exposes a poor grasp of petroleum chemistry."

In addition, he highlights that that the panel contradicts Nigeria's legal requirement when it says that a response time of 48 hours for Tier III spills is "not feasible for SPDC." In what he terms "preliminary conclusions," Steiner says "In a normal client/contractor relationship, a client would likely conclude that the final report of the contractor – IUCN-NDP - was not fit-for-purpose, and either request substantial amendment with more detail, or request its money back." He then goes on to say that "this is not a normal client/contractor process."

Shell received precisely what it wanted from this process – a few more years to make \$ billions from oil in the Niger Delta, not have to upgrade its oil infrastructure to international standards and not have to correct its irresponsible business practices, and now will be leaving the area. "

He rounds off his critique of the report by recalling: This was my concern before the project was initiated, and remains my unfortunate conclusion now.

That IUCN participated willingly in this corporate deception, allowing environmental harm to continue unabated in a biodiversity hot spot, calls into serious question the credibility of IUCN.

And so the game goes on, two years after the UNEP report on the Ogoni environment had clearly exposed the death warrant oil activities had issued on the unsuspecting people.

With government foot-dragging over the matter of the clean-up of Ogoni land, Shell and its partners prefer to go to Afghanistan (to recall a phrase coined by veteran writer,

Sonola Olumhense, for when we avoid dealing directly with issues at hand but choose to dance around it elsewhere).

Meanwhile the Ogoni and the wider Niger Delta environment lies comatose while the oil companies continue to pollute and profiteer without let.

It is also in this context that we consider any attempt by oil companies like Shell to sell off onshore fields and swim into the swamps and offshore as unethical and unacceptable.

This should not even be whispered until after they have cleaned up the mess they have already caused and fully paid up for all liabilities accumulated through their years of unacceptable behaviour. ♦



## **NRAN MAPUTO DECLARATION ON REDD**

**T**he NO REDD in Africa Network gathered here in Maputo Mozambique, on 26th and 27th August 2013 during the occasion of an international workshop on REDD with participants from Mozambique, other African countries, North America and South America. They deliberated on the implications of Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation (REDD) for Africa and by extension the global South.

We recognise the decision of the Tunisian meeting in March 2013 that decided on the need for a No REDD Platform to educate and inform communities and governments of the developing countries about the negative impacts of REDD in all its forms.

We acknowledge the fact that African governments have been ambushed with offers and promises of development financing flowing through REDD and adopted this without applying critical minds and making the necessary consultations.



We appreciate the participation of government officials and representatives of government workers from various departments to contribute to the conversation on REDD but note the unfortunate position expressed by them that despite the repertoire of evidence against REDD, the African governments are adamant to go ahead with REDD.

We, the undersigned, noted and expressed the following;

1. REDD was basically designed as an escape hatch for polluters in the industrialised countries to enable them to continue to pollute while assuming that their pollution was offset in forests elsewhere,
2. REDD does not reduce emissions and is merely a project for carbon trading,
3. REDD does not halt deforestation but defers, displaces or actually encourages conversion of forests into monoculture tree plantations,
4. REDD and REDD type projects lead to displacement of forest dependent communities, servitude, killings, repression and other human rights abuses,
5. Much of African land and forests have been either sold off for REDD projects or are marked to be auctioned off to private interests,
6. REDD rewards logging companies and agri-business,
7. REDD projects have been rushed on developing country governments with very little opportunity for internal and local consultation with the promise of development funding,
8. REDD represents a major threat to security of land, food and water in Africa as it is a land grabbing agenda of continental scale.

On the basis of the above and other considerations, the workshop declared as follows

1. Governments must take steps to protect our forests from deforestation and degradation and do so without expectations of carbon credits,
2. Polluting industries and countries must stop emissions at source and not deflect the burden to other countries,
3. Demand and over-consumption are major causes of deforestation and must be reduced to sustainable levels,
4. Governments must improve weak and ineffective forest sector governance and ensure that forest-dependent communities are duly consulted and their consent obtained with regard to actions on their forests and forest resources,
5. Governments must facilitate and support a new development pathway not premised on forest conversion,
6. Governments must consider development alternatives that are based on the historical capacities of the local communities and only collaborate with investors on projects designed by them rather than accept development projects designed elsewhere primarily to meet the interests of others,
7. African governments have a duty to protect the resources of their nations and protect the people and resources in their care from re-colonisation.

***The list of Signatories and more details are available at:*** <http://www.no-redd-africa.org>

# HOW YOUTHS ARE RE- INVENTING THE WORLD

by Adesuwa Uwagie Ero

If you had thought all along that you have heard too much about environmental injustice and degradation, then you may need to have a re-think.

Not all that happens is put out in the news. In short, the more you read or listen to the news, the less you tend to know about some critical issues. Simply put, the polluters are fast catching up on this fact—only bad news brings money, and they (polluters) now easily have their ways by patronizing media outlets through adverts and also through several other enticing and equally entrapping ways. And buying their silence!

Meanwhile, huge environmental problems, climate change manifestations continue to besiege us. Meanwhile, politicians and climate justice activists continue to throw banter on their commitment or otherwise to climate change mitigation. On the other hand, climate deniers continue to lure many on the destructive path of ignorance and dishonesty.

But for a minute let's stop and reflect. Let's talk

about some of the amazing things coming out of the challenges that stand tall over us. No, this is not to say that the climate crisis is a good thing. Rather, it is to stress that there are people out there who have done amazing things to contribute to the revolution we want to see and, while we have benefited as members of their community, they have benefited just as much as individuals. Yet, how many people have noticed? This group is none other than the same group that the older world likes to tag as 'the young and the restless'.

The fact remains that young people are doing really innovative and productive things with their time and energy. Not many are aware of the amazing things that so many young people are involved in, projects that enhance their own quality of life while protecting the planet.

One of such project is the community garden. What a marvellous idea! With the rate of explosion of urban centres, you would agree that green areas and gardens are few and far between. This is more so in over-populated cities where fresh air is a rare product.



This particular project is something for which I must commend the local non governmental organisation "Excellent Center for community youth development Initiative" in Oka-Useni in Ikpoba-Okha Local Area, Edo State, Nigeria.

They have provided a place for youngsters to get involved in activities that are recreational, productive and at the same time, empowering.

They engage young unemployed youth of the community in gardening activities by equipping them with technical/practical information on gardening and also provide them with seedling at highly subsidised rates. These gardens are great spots for learning, sharing and acquiring skills.

Community gardens are simply amazing. Local people collectively own the land and grow food on it and share the produce. Just think about the practical potentials. Income earned here can be reinvested in the community.

The skills picked up could help get jobs and chart new careers paths for the young people involved. This is important in light of the acute unemployment issues in the country.

Community gardens are great tools for fighting hunger and malnutrition. They are particularly educative for children who love to see things grow and eat what they produce themselves.

They learn to become resourceful, resilient and self-sufficient, or at least not as dependent on

others as they otherwise would be. The idea of healthy lifestyle and clean eating is being reintroduced in a very natural way. Gardening is therapeutic. It builds character.

There is something about it that reconnects you with nature and this feeling of inner harmony which you often lose in cities. It is also a great way to get to know people and of course, it promotes communal ties. Community gardens are open avenues where people who know nothing about gardening get to learn about the activity.

Therefore, we can conveniently say that our 'young and restless' group are now breathing a new fresh air into our chaotic and patched world.

There is just a lot of good coming out of our environment. Youth everywhere are mobilising and making their lives count in more ways than one. Much more gladdening, they are picking life-enhancing skills in the process.

Community gardening helps us learn to cope with real world difficulties. It develops our individual potentials, enriches us and our surrounding.

So, while the polluters pillage, youths are helping to re-invigorate, re-energise, and re-invent their world!

Truly, youths are making a difference!





## RIGHTS LIVELIHOOD COLLEGE DEBUTS IN NIGERIA RLA, HOMEF & UNIPORT Partners for Change

**T**he Right Livelihood Award Foundation in Stockholm has announced the University of Port Harcourt, Nigeria to be the world's fifth campus of the Right Livelihood College (RLC).

Committed to building knowledge and sharing practical solutions for a peaceful and sustainable world, the RLC is extending its reach to Africa's most populous country. The new campus to be co-hosted by the University of Port Harcourt and the Health of Mother Earth Foundation (HOMEF), will be the second campus in Africa and the fifth in the world.

The Right Livelihood College is a capacity building initiative of the Right Livelihood Award Foundation in Stockholm, Sweden, which awards annually the "Alternative Nobel Prize". The RLC aims to make the knowledge and experience of the Right Livelihood Laureates accessible to all. By linking young scholars with the Laureates, it hopes to make the "winning ideas" of the Laureates inspire, succeed and multiply. The RLC currently has its Global Secretariat at the Universiti Sains in Penang, Malaysia.

The RLC will be hosted in the Faculty of Social Sciences of the University of Port Harcourt, otherwise known as the "Oil Capital" of Nigeria. Many Post Graduate students in the

institution typically focus their research on environmental pollution and on socio-economic issues arising from the activities of the extractive industry in the region.

Dr. Monika Griefahn, Co-Chair of the Board of Trustees, Right Livelihood Award Foundation, and a member of the Steering Committee of the RLC welcomes the new development.

"We are very pleased that a Right Livelihood College campus is being established at the University of Port Harcourt in Nigeria", she says. "The College continues to make positive impact in the lives of young scholars and continues to build direct links between academics, laureates and the wider community.

We commend the University of Port Harcourt and the Health of Mother Earth Foundation for engaging in this partnership, and wish them every success as the newest RLC campus."

Also, speaking on behalf of the Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences of the University of Port Harcourt, Dr. Fidelis Allen says: "The University of Port Harcourt has remained a citadel of learning and in the best traditions of



scholarship we see the opportunity to host the RLC campus as one that will challenge our scholars as well as connect them with their peers around the world. We are equally pleased with HOMEF for making this partnership possible.”

## Background

The RLC is the global capacity building initiative of the Right Livelihood Award Foundation, based in Stockholm, Sweden. Since inception in 1980, the Right Livelihood Award, popularly known as the “Alternative Nobel Prize”, has been bestowed on 153 laureates from 64 countries. It highlights and supports stellar achievements in the fields of peace and justice, the environment and for the awardee's endeavours to eliminate material and spiritual poverty.

Laureates of the Right Livelihood Award are automatically Fellows of the RLC. This is of immense benefit to scholars as they have ready access to individuals and organisations that have made immense contributions to humanity through practical solutions.

The Fellows act as the principal source of supply of learning resources through engagement in activities of education, scientific research, and practical activities that share and upscale their work.

Some of the RLC campuses across the world include the Universiti Sains Malaysia, Penang, Malaysia; Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia; Center for Development Research (ZEF), University of Bonn, Germany, and Lund University Center for Sustainability Studies (LUCSUS), Lund University, Sweden. The RLC's Director is Professor Anwar Fazal, who won the Right Livelihood award in 1982 for his work to successfully promote and expand consumer rights in Malaysia and internationally as then President of the International Organisation of Consumers Unions.

Two Nigerians and one Nigerian organisation

have so far won the Right Livelihood Award - Nigeria's environmental justice martyr, the late Ken Saro-Wiwa in 1994, together with his organization the Movement for the Survival of Ogoni People (MOSOP), and Nnimmo Bassey in 2010.

Bassey, Director of HOMEF, sees the coming of the RLC to Nigeria as a vital partnership that will help find solutions to the environmental, economic, socio-political and other challenges besieging the region's communities.

“The RLC couldn't have come at a better time. The Niger Delta region of Nigeria has brought so much petroleum-dollar to Nigeria. Sadly the extraction of the petroleum resources has brought devastation to the environment and livelihoods of the people. We believe that targeted researches here will generate tools for tackling these problems and that these tools will find application in other challenged territories beyond the Niger Delta. HOMEF is proud to collaborate with the University of Port Harcourt in hosting the Right Livelihood College campus in Nigeria,” he added.

Uniport will be formally unveiled as the Nigerian chapter of the RLA Campus during the Sustainability Academy (aka Home School) #02 in Port Harcourt scheduled for between 25th and 26th of November 2013. The event will witness the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). On hand to sign the MoU will be Monika Griefahn, Uniport's Vice Chancellor Professor Joseph Ajienka and Bassey, coordinator of the Academy.

The new partnership will enable Uniport's Post-Graduate scholars to have access to the corps of Right Livelihood laureates as well as exchange opportunities with four other existing campuses across the globe.

For more information on the RLC please visit <http://www.rightlivelihood.org/college.htm>



# NUTRITION IS NOT MANUFACTURED IN LABORATORY: Defend Local Farmers & Agriculture

*Resolutions of at a Workshop on Stopping the False Nutritional Kite & Understanding the Convention on Biological Diversity organised by the Health of Mother Earth Foundation (HOMEf) and held at Protea Hotel Apo Apartments, Abuja, Nigeria on Tuesday 08 October 2013.*

**F**armers, farmers associations, representatives of Communities, government agencies, international agencies, business, civil society groups, faith based organisations and the media attended the workshop.

The workshop was convened by HOMEf to boost learning on nutrition through natural foods and to interrogate the claims/myths of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) as the panacea for nutritional deficiencies in Nigeria and Africa as a whole. Secondly, the workshop aimed to build knowledge of participants on the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) process as a foundational tool for defending our environment.

Three papers were presented as follows:

- a. Understanding the Convention on Biological Diversity by Rufus Ebegba
- b. Nutrition from Natural Foods/Crops by Yemisi Olowookere
- c. Unmasking the mythic Nutritional Kite by Nnimmo Bassey

These presentations were followed by robust interrogations and group deliberations.

The workshop observed that:

1. The Convention on Biological Convention (CBD) is technical and not an easy convention to be understood by the average Nigerian farmer.
2. Many conventions and treaties are entered into by the government without consultation with farmers and citizens
3. Small scale farmers are the largest aggregate investors in agriculture in Nigeria and in the world
4. Policies affecting farmers are developed without the consent and inputs from farmers
5. There are unauthorised genetically modified organisms (GMOs) and foods in Nigeria
6. Nigerians are not aware of the health and dietary risks of GMOs
7. Nutrition is not manufactured in the laboratory and must not be used as a guise for introduction of GMOs into Nigeria
8. Large scale land grabs is happening in Nigeria without consent of farmers and communities





9. Poverty and poor dietary options lead to food insecurity and poor nutrition
10. Over processed foods often presented in plastic packages are not helpful in the nutritional needs of the people
11. Groups like the G8 promoting the so-called Alliance for Nutrition are working in the interest of multinational agribusiness with the objective of capturing the African market and dislocating agricultural policies
12. There is an increasingly dependency on multinational agribusiness and supporting government agencies that do not portend good for Nigerians
13. African governments have been largely complacent about the covert activities of the biotechnology industry to undermine food sovereignty on the continent
14. Food sovereignty is impaired by dependence on food imports and manipulation of crops

The workshop also noted the recent passage of policies on agricultural trade and GMOs by the Council of Ministers of the Common Market for East and Southern Africa (COMESA) and saw this as a growing threat to African agriculture, demanding that the policies are not deeded and should be jettisoned.

The workshop resolved as follows:

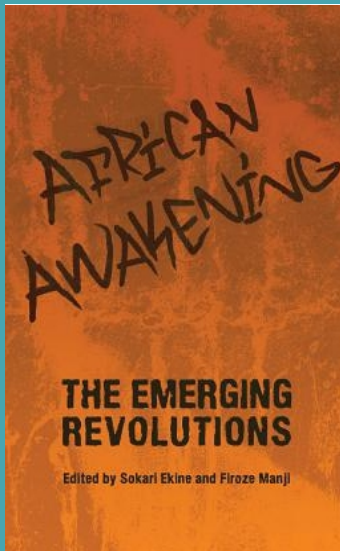
1. Government and civil society groups should embark on intensive education of grassroots farmers on the provisions of the CBD and related conventions, treaties and policies
2. Initiatives to enhance indigenous agricultural and food preservation techniques should be developed
3. The provisions of the CBD should be fully explained to farmers and citizens as a key tool for biodiversity protection
4. Government should ensure that GMOs are not brought into Nigeria in the absence of a strict Biosafety Law and in line with the precautionary principle of the Cartagena Protocol

5. There should be strict penalties for defaulters of the provisions of the CBD
6. Nigerians should eat healthy organic foods that are culturally appropriate
7. Policy makers to ensure that only safe products are allowed into Nigeria and ensure a strict implementation of the CBD.
8. The current Nigerian Biosafety Bill pending signature of the President should be opened to farmers and the generality of the public for inputs. The Nigerian President should not assent to the National Biosafety Bill in its current form to give opportunity for citizens' and critical stakeholders input in line with the provisions of the Cartagena Protocol which Nigeria is signatory to.
9. There should be full transparency on the part of government and her agencies in the labelling and liabilities and redress in the Biosafety laws and in the promotion of practices that support food sovereignty
10. Agro-ecological food production should be encouraged for biodiversity conservation
11. Agriculture is all about our culture and is equally deeply political and must be treated with serious considerations in these spheres

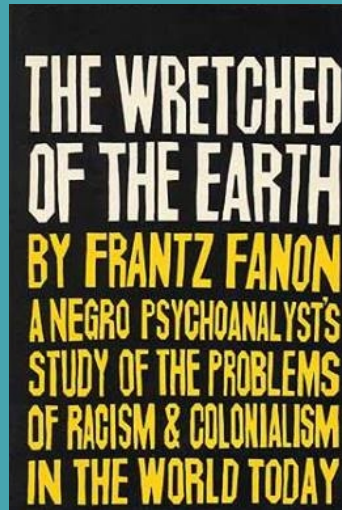
The workshop supported the call by the African Food Sovereignty Alliance (AFSA) calling for a reversal of the policies adopted by The Council of Ministers of the Common Market for East and Southern Africa (COMESA) on Seed Trade Harmonization Regulations, 2013 and the Policy Statements and Guidelines for commercial planting of GMOs, Trade in GMOs and Emergency Food aid with GMO content.

The workshop agreed with AFSA's position that "the COMESA Policy aggressively promotes the wholesale proliferation of GMOs on the African continent by way of commercial plantings, commodity imports and food aid and flouts international biosafety law." It was noted that South and East Africa might be a starting point for the spread of these objectionable policies into other parts of Africa. ♦

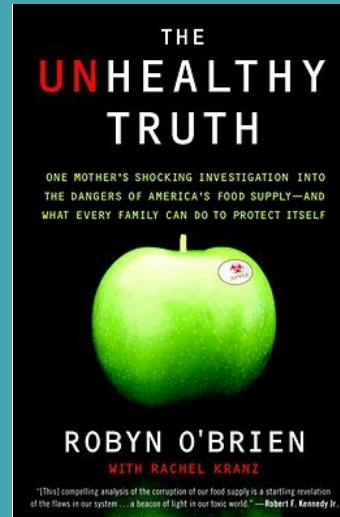
# BOOKS YOU SHOULD READ



An insightful and comprehensive compilation of the year's events, this record offers in-the-moment comment and analysis as well as informed reflection on the 2011 African uprisings. While the tumultuous uprisings in Tunisia, Egypt, and Libya have seized the attention of media analysts, the concurrent rebellions in Benin, Gabon, Senegal, Swaziland, Ethiopia, Djibouti, Uganda, and in other parts of the African continent have gone virtually unnoticed. Arguing that these disturbances are the result of decades of declining living standards, mass unemployment, land dispossession, and impoverishment of the majority, this account provides an overview of the struggle for democratization, which constitutes a reawakening of the spirit of freedom and justice for all.



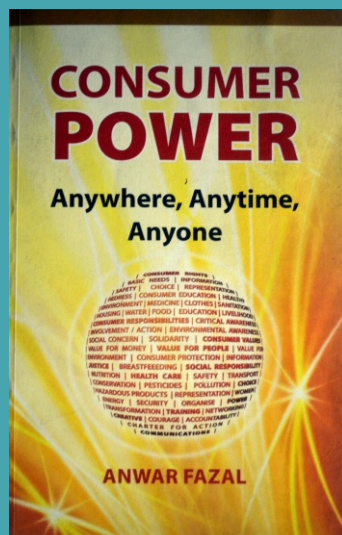
The Wretched of the Earth presents thorough critiques of nationalism and of imperialism, a discussion of personal and societal mental health, a discussion of how the use of language (vocabulary) is applied to the establishment of imperialist identities, such as colonizer and colonized in order to teach and psychologically mold the native and the colonist into their respective roles as slave and master, and a discussion of



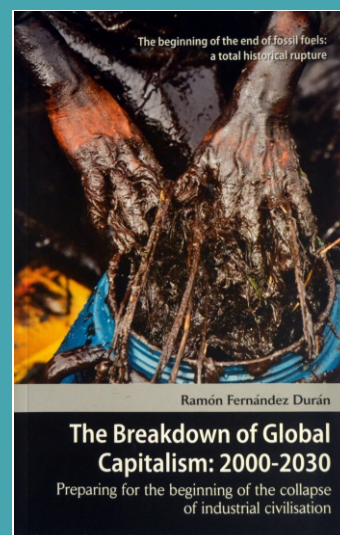
Tracing the relationship between Big Food and Big Money, O'Brien maintains that the United States allows hidden toxins in its food—toxins that can be blamed for the alarming recent increases in allergies, ADHD, cancer, and asthma.



Mouratidi portrayed activists of the Global Justice Movement from 43 countries: farmers and workers, students, reindeer-breeders, native and indigenous people, scientist, Christians, atheists, citizens and revolutionaries. She asked all of them, including many nationally recognised, prominent personalities - like peace Nobel Prize Laureate Rigoberta Menchú and Nobel Prize Laureate for Economics Joseph Stiglitz - the same question: "Why do you do what you are doing?" In answering this question, the interview related a great deal about their own stories and personal motives for their engagement.



Anwar Fazal has given us vision, a vision so penetrating that it could probe the problem of serving consumers everywhere in the world and set the pattern that we should follow. He has given us a voice so strong that it resonates in all languages in all cultures, in all lifestyles. He has given us superb organizational ability, ability so creative that he has developed and built four networks critical to the future of the brilliant consumer interopol. He has given us stature, a stature so established that we are respected by national governments, by international bodies and perhaps most of all by the multinational corporations.



This book may be criticized as being pessimistic. But in reality it is attempting to prepare us for very great change - nothing less than the total collapse of industrial civilization. Ramón Fernández Durán sees this collapse emerging from current global crisis which is characterized systemic chaos, ecological disaster and resource war. He views the beginning of the end of fossil energy as the core element of this crisis which will bring a historic rupture. Indeed, The Breakdown of global Capitalism: 2000-2030 describes the first phase of a long decline of industrial civilisation that may last two or three centuries.

BE PART  
OF THE  
HOME  
RUN



Register for HS  
online at  
[http://www.h  
omef.org/no  
de/34/registe](http://www.homef.org/node/34/register)

r



# *A Critique Of The* IUCN-NIGER DELTA PANEL FINAL REPORT

By Richard Steiner

The IUCN Niger Delta Panel (NDP) final report released last week (dated July 2013): *Sustainable Remediation and Rehabilitation of Biodiversity and Habitats of Oil Spill Sites in the Niger Delta: Main Report including Recommendations for the Future*, fails to meet its professed objectives, presents little new information, contains inaccuracies, represents a flawed process, and seriously undermines the credibility of IUCN.

The following are preliminary comments on the just-released Final Report, given that the report's 11 Annexes are not included in the report and were thus unavailable for review. Upon review of the Annexes, I may have more comments to offer.

## Background

The IUCN Secretariat has had a “partnership” with Shell for several years, and in January 2011 Shell apparently approached IUCN proposing the Niger Delta Panel (NDP) process. The internal discussion between Shell and IUCN was concealed at the time from those associated with IUCN with experience in oil spill issues of the Niger Delta. When in September 2011 we became aware of the secret internal discussions between Shell and IUCN regarding the Niger Delta issues, some of us raised concerns about the underlying premise for the NDP process, the Terms of Reference (TORs) for the project, and the secretive internal discussions from which it

derived.

In a September 11, 2011 email to IUCN Director General, IUCN President, and the Head of the IUCN Business and Biodiversity Program, I wrote the following:

I was thus dismayed to learn a few days ago that IUCN had entered into an agreement with Shell to convene a panel on oil spill restoration in the Niger Delta, and that there appears to have been a deliberate attempt by the Secretariat, Council, CEESP Chair, [et.al.](#), to conceal this project from those of us associated with the Union who had most experience with this issue.

I read through the TORs for the project, and with respect to whomever drafted them, this is simply one of the most uninformed documents I have read on the Delta, and I have read many such things.

They reflect a profound misunderstanding of what is actually occurring in the Delta, and a part-and-parcel of Shell's fiction about the issue. Further, it is difficult to believe that a company that netted over \$100 billion in after tax profits over the past 4 years does not know what it should be doing to behave responsibly in the Niger Delta -- they do, but they just make too much money not doing so. I am concerned that Shell is simply wanting green validation from IUCN for their irresponsible activities in the Delta, and it most certainly does not deserve such.

And, it seems evident that, through projects such as this, Shell is attempting to continue delaying responsible action in the Delta. Shell used the 4-year UNEP Ogoniland study to successfully delay action, and now are looking to use IUCN for another few years delay. I informed a wider audience of these internal discussions between Shell and IUCN, and was accused by IUCN of committing an “ethical breach” in so doing.

My 9-11-11 email to IUCN Secretariat closed with the following:

I respectfully ask that you contract an independent investigator to look objectively into how this project was conceived and developed, the deliberate attempt to conceal the project from those involved with the Union who are most knowledgeable on these issues, and to recommend ways to prevent a repeat of this sort of episode in the future.

As well, and most importantly, I respectfully urge you to terminate the Shell/IUCN Niger Delta Panel project, and to terminate the Shell/IUCN partnership agreement as it clearly does not, and cannot, lead to constructive conservation action.

However, IUCN elected to proceed with the NDP process. In January 2013, IUCN released an Executive Summary of the Final Report, but oddly not the Final Report. I asked in April 2013 for the Final Report, and was told it would be available in May. The final report, dated July 2013, was finally made available to me last week, at the end of August.

The Final Report does not include the 11 Annexes, to which it repeatedly refers. Thus it is difficult to review the report in total. I have asked for the annexes. And the final report does not include a list the panel members (which are found only on a FAQs link), and even that list does not provide sufficient detail to substantiate the claims of the panel's oil spill expertise made by the report.

I asked IUCN via email yesterday to disclose how much money Shell has paid IUCN for the NDP process, but IUCN replied that this is confidential and it will not disclose this information.

One of my primary objections regarding the IUCN-NDP process was/is that Shell has been required by Nigerian Law for decades to respond to and restore damage from oil spills (see discussion below). Yet through this IUCN-NDP process, Shell is asserting that it does not know how to comply with the law, and that it has not been in compliance with these Nigerian legal requirements.

The IUCN-NDP process was initiated exactly when the 4-year UNEP study of oil contamination in Ogoniland was completed. This supports the suspicion that Shell is using such studies as a convenient excuse, a cover, to delay taking necessary steps to improve its performance in the Niger Delta. It is a simple delay tactic, and all that this tactic requires is willing collaborators, which Shell has apparently found in UNEP and IUCN. This may be why IUCN concealed this process as long as possible from those who might object.

Then, last month, Shell announced its long-anticipated exit from most of the onshore regions of the Niger Delta. Below is part of the August 2, 2013 news story in Dutch News.nl :

### **Shell to pull out of Niger Delta Friday, August 2, 2013**

Anglo-Dutch oil giant Shell is to pull out of its oil activities in Niger Delta, its managing director in the country told the NRC in an interview on Friday.

“We are leaving,” MutiuSunmonu told the paper. The “recklessness” and size of thefts are forcing Shell to halve its activities in the country.



On Thursday, CEO Peter Voser talked of “divestment” in Nigeria during the presentation of the company's second quarter results. He gave the “challenges” in Nigeria as one reason why Shell booked disappointing results.

In summary, Shell:

- has received \$ billions in profits from its oil operations in the Niger Delta,

- has been required to conduct its business there with the highest international technical standards,

- has not re-invested sufficiently in its onshore infrastructure to make it safe,

- has continued to operate on the Niger Delta knowingly with substandard infrastructure and operational standards,

- has commissioned studies by UNEP and IUCN for a few \$ million to present the appearance of propriety all the while simply delaying for over 6 years the necessary re-investment in the onshore infrastructure to comply with Nigerian law, and

has subsequently announced that it is leaving the onshore area.

So for a few million dollars paid to UNEP and IUCN over the past 6 years, Shell has knowingly continued to operate a substandard oil production and transportation system in the Niger Delta, earned \$ billions, re-invested little, and is now “leaving.” And that is Shell's “sustainable business model” in Nigeria.

It is clear that Nigerian law requires Shell/SPDC to employ the highest international standards in its operations in Nigeria, and it is equally clear that these legally required standards have not been met by Shell/SPDC. In addition, it is apparent that Shell/SPDC either knew, or should have known, that it has been consistently out of compliance with Nigerian federal law. I consider such wilful neglect as evidence of gross negligence on the part of SPDC.

Fundamental in this is that if a company cannot conduct its business safely (e.g. protect

against the illegal activities repeatedly cited by the company and the IUCN-NDP report), then it should not operate in the region unless and until it can.

Preliminary Conclusion

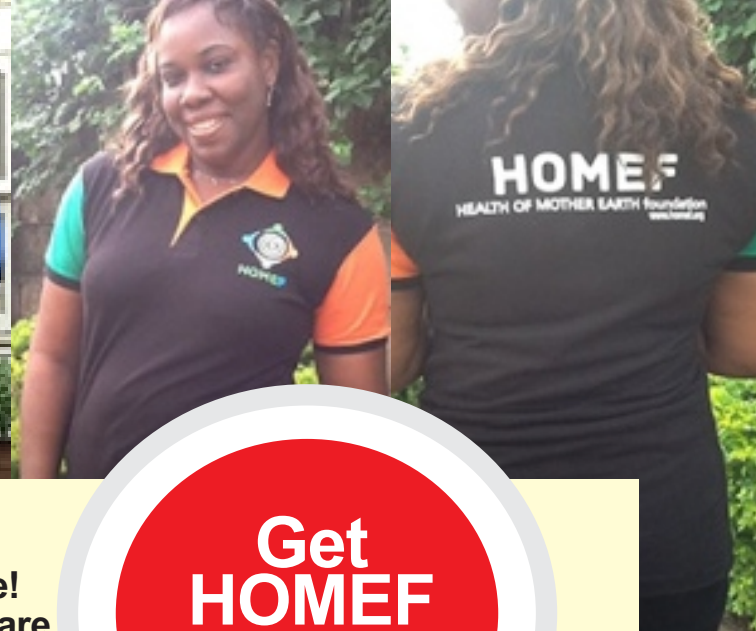
In a normal client/contractor relationship, a client would likely conclude that the final report of the contractor – IUCN-NDP - was not fit-for-purpose, and either request substantial amendment with more detail, or request its money back.

However, as discussed in the Background section above, this is not a normal client/contractor process. Shell received precisely what it wanted from this process – a few more years to make \$ billions from oil in the Niger Delta, not have to upgrade its oil infrastructure to international standards and not have to correct its irresponsible business practices, and now will be leaving the area.

This was my concern before the project was initiated, and remains my unfortunate conclusion now. That IUCN participated willingly in this corporate deception, allowing environmental harm to continue unabated in a biodiversity hot spot, calls into serious question the credibility of IUCN.

\*(Steiner is a conservation and sustainability consultant with Oasis Earth, Anchorage, Alaska, and a global authority on the Niger Delta).





Spread the word...support the cause!  
Tshirts and other HOMEF materials are  
available on request from  
***[homef@homef.org](mailto:homef@homef.org) at a token price.***

**Get  
HOMEF  
T-SHIRT TODAY!**

**SUBSCRIBE  
TODAY**

To get HARD copies of this  
magazine, you can subscribe  
to HOMEF via email:  
***[editor@homef.org](mailto:editor@homef.org)***

*You can also download a  
SOFT copy of the Magazine  
online from [www.homef.org](http://www.homef.org)  
for free!*

***Spread the word... Join the  
cause.***

**HOMEF... Solidarity &  
Dignity.**

## **HOMEF IN NETWORKS**

### **Oilwatch Africa/International**

HOMEF is founding member of  
the **No REDD in Africa  
Network (NRAN)** formed in  
March 2013 at the World Social  
Forum at Tunis

**Yes to Life – No to Mining  
Network (YLMN)** – HOMEF is  
a member of this anti-mining  
network that came to being  
under an ancient baobab tree  
at Tharaka, Kenya in April 2013  
at an African Biodiversity  
Network meeting

### **Alternatives International**