

ANNUAL REPORT 2019





HOMEF CONTACT INFORMATION



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TABLE OF CONTENTS

01	Knowing HOMEF	03
	a. Our Core Values	
	b. Our Objectives	
	c. Our Project Areas	
	d. Our Tools	
	e. Our Board	
	f. Our Staff	
02	HOME Note	05
03	HOMEF Fellows	07
04	HOMEF Activities	09-15
	a. Fossil Politics	
	b. Hunger Politics	
05	HOMEF at Events	17
	a. Participation in National and International Events	
06	Rear Views of 2018	23
07	HOMEF in Networks	25
08	Financial Report	28
09	Gallery	29

KNOWING HOMEF

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**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
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CREED OF MIGHT IS RIGHT.**

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HOMEF is an environmental/ecological think tank and advocacy organisation 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.



OUR VISION

The ecological think tank promoting the culture of ecological knowledge, re-source democracy and environmental defence.



OUR MISSION

Working to support wholesome ecological and socially cohesive/inclusive communities where people live in solidarity and dignity



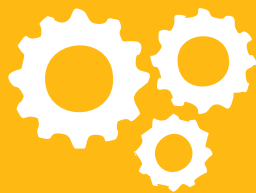
OUR CORE VALUES

- Justice & Equity in all circumstances
- People and the planet in harmony and free from exploitation
- Dignity (Respect)
- Action (Solidarity)
- Knowledge



OUR KEY OBJECTIVES

- Build knowledge
- Build solidarity
- Enhance social justice
- Enhance participation for change in environment and resource ownership / governance (ownership is critical to good governance and the usurper of ownership cannot implement governance).
- We work to propagate re-source democracy.
- Maintain the dignity of people and the planet.



OUR PROJECT AREAS

- Fossil Politics (Climate justice environmental governance, ecocide, etc.)
- Hunger politics (Food sovereignty, biosafety, forests and biodiversity)
- Sustainability Academy (Arena for contestation of ideas and generation of knowledge)

OUR TOOLS

- Sustainability Academy (knowledge instigation)
- School of Ecology
- Community Dialogues and workshops
- Ecological defence
- Popular direct actions
- Litigation

HOMEF ADVISORY BOARD

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



WWW.HOMEF.ORG

STAFF

Nnimmo Bassey
Director

Evelyn Nkanga
Coordinator

Olatundun Dotun-Davids
Administration

Cadmus Atake
Project Officer (Fossil Politics)

Joyce Ebebeinwe
Project Officer (Hunger Politics)

Stephen Oduware
Project Officer (Sustain-Ability Academy)

Mfoniso Antia
Project Officer (School of Ecology)

Pach Ayuen Pach
Programme Manager (South Sudan)

Elvis Omorogbe
Kelechi Okeodo
Finance Officers

Shehu Akowe
Abuja Liaison Officer/Project Assistant

Omolola Abulatan
Mabel Obaseki
Admin Assistants

Deborah Ojimere
Intern

HOME NOTE

2019 was a year loaded with lessons. It was a year of extreme weather events, including the cyclones Idai and Kenneth that hit Mozambique, Zimbabwe and Malawi and the wildfires that ravaged parts of North America, South America, Europe and Australia. Weather events in 2019.

The events confirmed that climate change is here with us, no matter who chooses to be in denial. It has been a year when millions around the world stood together to demand climate actions. It was also a year in which the world showed spectacular climate inaction epitomized by the Conference of Parties (COP25) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. With nations dithering and seeking ways to avoid action and responsibility one would wonder whether policy makers see climate change as another arena for speculators, as a carbon stock exchange.

We must continually challenge oppressive narratives, fight coloniality and push ourselves to take liberating positions in the fight to forge the future that we want.

We made much progress on our project areas – Hunger Politics, Fossil Politics and Sustain-Ability Academy. Much energy was expended in building and expanding our networks of fishers (FishNet Alliance), farmers, doctors, lawyers and the media. Our work with youths as eco-defenders and on climate change was hugely successful as youth brought up practical solutions that governments and individuals can apply to mitigate and adapt to climate impacts.

We are thankful to our advisors, trustees, fellows, staff and partners who made our work in the year truly fruitful.

Nnimmo Bassey
Director



HOMEFELLOWS

HOMEFELLOWS

Two new Fellows joined our roll in 2019 bringing the number of fellows to 19. Our fellows provide a store of knowledge, wisdom and experience to inspire our peoples and 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 (Bolivia)
2. **Monika Griefahn (2013)** – Sociologist and Former Minister for the Environment in the German State of Lower Saxony. Co-Chair of the Right Livelihood Award Foundation (Germany)
3. **Noble Wadzah (2013)** – Environmental justice activist (Ghana)
4. **Firoze Manji (2014)** – Dental surgeon, Editor at Daraja Press and pan-Africanist (Kenya)
5. **Baba Aye (2015)**– Labour activist (Nigeria)
6. **Vandana Shiva (2015)** - world-renowned environmentalist, physicist, philosopher, feminist, activist, and author. Right Livelihood Laureate (1993) (India)
7. **Ruth Nyambura (2016)**- Ecofeminist (Kenya)
8. **Hilma Mote (2016)** – Labour researcher/activist (Namibia)
9. **Alyn Ware (2017)**– Anti nuclear campaigner and Rightlivelihood Award laureate (2009) (New Zealand)
10. **Nkoyo Toyo (2017)** – Gender activist, Politician and ambassador (Nigeria)
11. **Prof Chris Ekong (2017)** – Professor of economics (Nigeria)
12. **Prof G. G. Darah (2017)** – Professor of Literature, writer and political activist (Nigeria)
13. **Ikal Angelei (2017)** – Environmental justice advocate (Kenya)

CTUDE 2019

GLOBAL
ENVIRONMENTAL
POLITICS



14. **Priscilla Achakpa (2017)**– Gender, development and environmental activist (Nigeria)
15. **Mohammed Bello Tukur (2017)** – Lawyer and campaigner on pastoralism (Nigeria)
16. **Jacqueline Moudeina (2018)** – Lawyer, Human Rights campaigner and Right Livelihood Laureate (2011) (Chad)
17. **Babatunde Bolaji (2018)** - Academic and environmentalist (Nigeria)
18. **Ruth Manorama (2019)** – Dalit social activist and human rights defender (India)
19. **Raúl Montenegro (2019)** – Professor at University of Córdoba, Argentina, biologist and environmental activist (Argentina)



HUNGER POLITICS

The year 2019 ran on a fast track and delivered significant success with our objectives for the Hunger Politics Desk and for the organization. The continuous neck-deep dive of the nation into acceptance of risky and unnecessary technologies poses as a serious challenge, one that HOMEf is committed to draw attention to while creating spaces for assessments/dialogue and promotion of food sovereignty and climate justice/resilience.

Highlights of the Hunger Politics Desk (HPD) for the year 2019 includes the engagements with the academia and with the medical practitioners. These events amongst the various other engagements stand out as they brought to the fore the need to address the disconnect between science and social/moral responsibility. Another important event which involved the HPD in the year was the School of Ecology on Emerging Technologies/Setting up of the African Technology Assessment Platform (AfriTAP) which provides space for the interrogation of the emerging technologies

and their implications for Africa beyond the common propaganda.

Other important events in the year includes the stakeholders' conference and workshop on seeds and biosafety which amongst other objectives interrogated the move by Nigeria to sign into the Union for the Protection of New Plant Varieties (UPOV) and stressed on the need for us to develop our own seed law which aligns with our context and needs; engagements with farmers, media, CSOs and lawyers respectively and a follow-up market survey for food products of genetically modified organisms (GMOs). These engagements in addition to influencing/increasing national discuss on the issues of GMOs, emerging technologies and biosafety, provided answers to the questions we are faced with as a people and charts the path to food sovereignty and climate resilience.

Some of the activities executed under Hunger Politics include:

Stakeholders' Conference and Workshop on Seeds and Biosafety- 10/11 April @Apo Apartments, Abuja.

Dialogue with Students on the Food and Farming System in Nigeria- 30 April at the University of Benin, Ugbowo, Benin City.

Dialogue with Students on the Food and Farming System in Nigeria- 3 June @the University of Abuja.

Advocacy Visit to the National Agricultural Seed Council- 3 June at Abuja

Dialogue with CSOs on the Food and Farming System in Nigeria 25 July @HOMEF Office, Benin City.

Legal Strategy Meeting on Biosafety 29 July at Apo Apartments, Abuja.

Dialogue with Medical Practitioners on GMOs and the State of Biosafety in Nigeria 13 August @Precious Palm Royal Hotel, Benin City.

Dialogue with Students on the Food and Farming System in Nigeria 20 November at Farmers' Hall, Enugu.

Media Training on Biosafety 26 November at Ibis Hotel, Lagos.

Lawyers' Roundtable on Biosafety 27 November at Apo Apartments, Abuja.



Market Survey on GMOs November/December across 9 states in Nigeria

FOSSIL POLITICS

FishNet Dialogue in Senegal
Stephen Oduware

Fishing plays a pivotal socio-economic role in Senegal. It is the leading sector of the national economy as the main provider of foreign exchange with about CFAF 200 billion in revenues generated per year. The sector represents 30% of total export and employment revenues with about 600,000 people amounting to 15% of the total active population. Artisanal fisheries account for about 80% of total landings, 60% of supplies to export factories, and about 90% of national fish consumption.

Health of Mother Earth Foundation (HOMEF) in partnership with the Centre de Recherche sur Droits Economiques Sociaux et Culturels (CRADESC) and the Comité Local de Pêche Artisanale (CLPA) organized a community dialogue in the town of Kayar on November 30, 2019 to interrogate the Senegalese government's decision to embark on an offshore oil and gas exploitation from the year 2020, and to share the Nigerian experience of the impact of oil and gas operations since 1958. This meeting was attended by fishers, the media and CSOs.

Nnimmo Bassey, Director of HOMEF, in his welcome words applauded the fishers in the country for their consistent and excellent organisation as fishers, and for their enormous contributions to the Senegalese economy. He however stated that what they enjoy from fishing at the moment may soon become a thing of the past when the proposed exploitation starts—saying that the environmental degradation, socio-cultural manipulations, loss of biodiversity and livelihoods experienced in the Niger Delta region of Nigeria will sooner or later be experienced in Senegal if they allow the planned offshore operation to go ahead.

Fatima Diallo, Executive Director, CRADESC, remarked that since the discovery in 2015 and the decision to exploit the gas fields of Saint-Louis and Kayar (both included in the Grand-Tortue complex, which are two main fishing ports), traditional fishermen and other women organizations have been concerned about the production of fishery products and the safeguarding of their jobs.

The meeting was an opportunity for knowledge exchange regarding the impact of oil and gas exploration and exploitation, using the impact experiences from the Niger Delta of Nigeria as a case study. The fishers were taken through aspects of the lifecycle of oil and gas reserve, outlining the impacts of every stage of the cycle on health, biodiversity, environment, livelihoods and wellbeing.

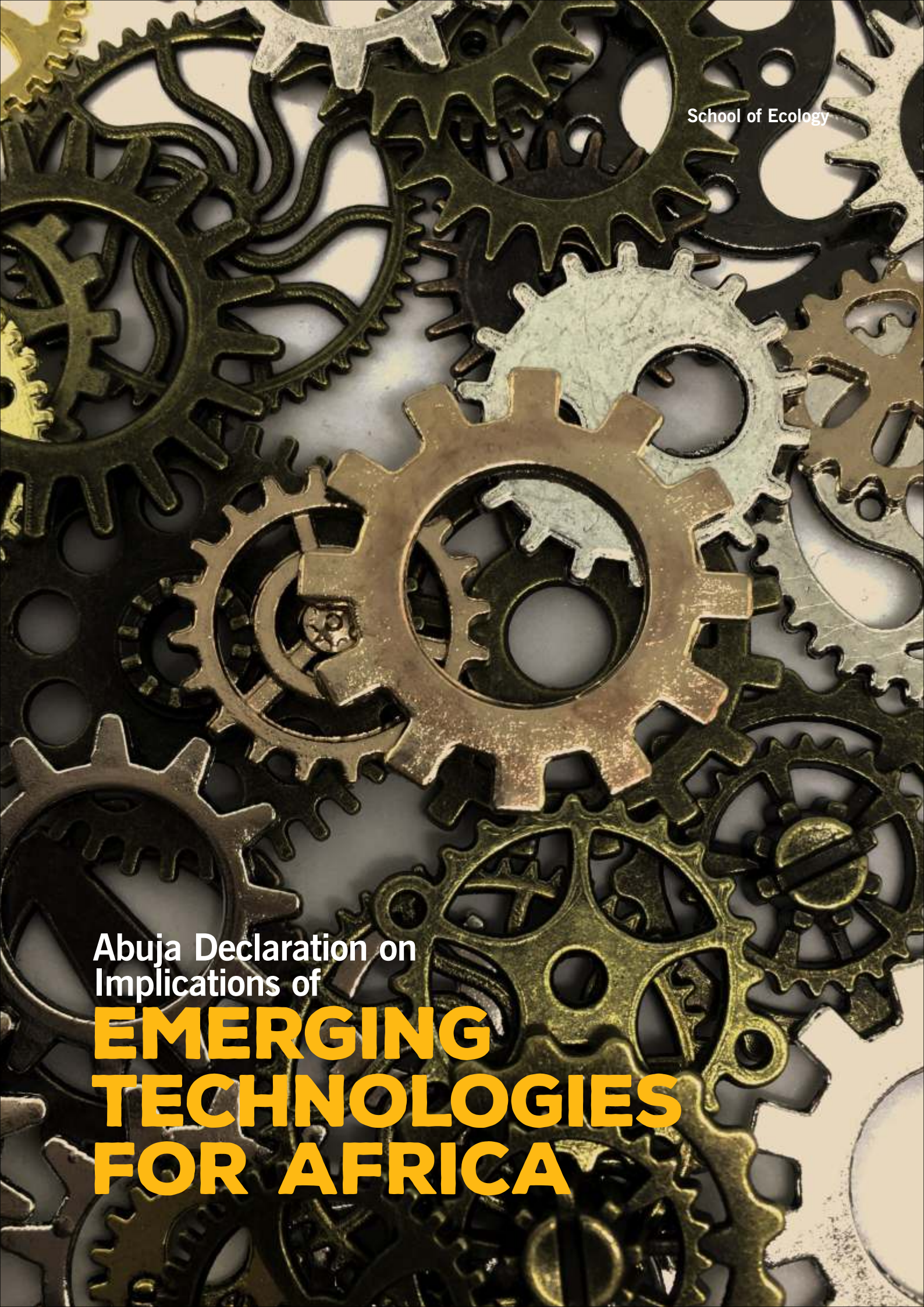
Oil was first found in Nigeria in 1956 in Oloibiri by the then a British protectorate, by a joint operation between Royal Dutch Shell and British Petroleum. This marked the beginning of the episodes of degradation of the Niger Delta environment—famous for being one of the most polluted places on earth. The region has continued to witness varying degrees of pollution from gas flaring, oil spills, and the discharge of industrial effluent into rivers. The impact is on air, land and water! The rivers and creeks in the region are becoming acidic, making it inhabitable for humans and other aquatic beings. The mangroves that serve a perfect spawning ground for fish have been destroyed and fishers are forced to travel into deep waters where they are often attacked by sea pirates. There are also the issues of restricted fishing around areas marked for offshore activities.

The fishers expressed concerns about the proposed offshore project, probable issues like the loss of economic activities and the future of the actors (fishermen and women) like the almadies of Pirre, reduction in fish

production and the increasing illegal immigration of young people, the health effect if the proposed project fails, the level of awareness about the project and the level of preparedness for the new trade to come.

At the end of the dialogue, the fishers resolved that community people's involvement in decision-making moments is sacrosanct. Hence the following resolutions were made:

1. There is need for the creation of a prospective platform that informs and educates the local population about the proposed project and how it will affect the people and the environment
2. Relevant CSOs and CBOs should organize sensitization sessions to inform and warn people about gas exploitation drawing lessons from the meeting
3. There should be more knowledge/experience exchange between fishers in Cayar and fishers in other countries (such as Nigeria) faced with similar challenges of oil pollution.



School of Ecology

Abuja Declaration on
Implications of

EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES FOR AFRICA

On 7th and 8th of October 2019, Health of Mother Earth Foundation and ETC Group (www.etcgroup.org) organized a School of Ecology and a continent-wide gathering on new and emerging technologies and their implications for Africa. Present in these meetings were participants who were carefully selected for the School of Ecology, members of civil society, scientists, legal practitioners, faith-based organizations. The African countries represented included Burkina Faso, Nigeria, Ghana, Kenya, Togo, South Africa, Eswatini, Cote d'Ivoire, Uganda and Cameroon.

The School of Ecology provided a space to interrogate socio-economic and development concepts, emerging technologies and their implications for Africa. Parallel to the school, diverse civil society actors in Africa held a meeting which built on previous twelve months of research and interviews on how to create a “technology assessment platform,” relevant to African development needs and aspirations.

At the end of the discussions, the participants declared:

1. An urgent need for the establishment of an African Technology Assessment Platform (AfriTAP) which brings together civil society groups working together to track, understand and assess the implications of emerging technologies.
2. African governments must urgently diversify national economies away from dependence on fossil fuels and transit to renewable energy for all, owned and controlled by people
3. That seeking public free, prior and informed consent (FPIC) of indigenous people and local communities must be a precondition for the introduction of any new technologies in their territories. These communities must also retain their right to say NO.
4. A moratorium on the approval or deployment of any variant of genetically modified organism and urgent nation-wide consultations on these and other emerging technologies.
5. That governments should shift their focus from industrial agriculture as a solution to the world food and climate crisis, to agroecology; invest in research on agroecology and support small scale farmers with provision of extension service along with infrastructural resources.

REPORTS

MARKET SHELF SURVEY FOR GMOS

HOMEF conducted a follow-up survey of our markets, revisiting cities earlier surveyed and a few others to check the presence of genetically modified products and to further increase awareness on their implications. The survey identified food products which are clearly labeled as being produced with genetic engineering/genetic modification as well as those containing genetically modified ingredients

This survey revealed the presence of 47 products that are said to contain genetically modified ingredients or produced with genetic engineering.

These products are spread across supermarkets and stores in the nine states that were surveyed. The products included vegetable oils, cereals, ice cream, chocolates, food spices, mayonnaise/salad cream, cake mix etc. and were mostly imports from USA and South Africa. Genetically modified ingredients were mostly corn and soy.

A total of 15 new food products of genetic modification were seen in the 2019 survey and they included varieties of vegetable oils, cereals, food seasoning/spices and mayonnaise



HOMEF INTERNATIONAL



THREAT TO FISHERIES IN THE GULF OF GUINEA

Pollution from industries and exploitation of resources on the Gulf of Guinea have led to the degradation of the marine ecosystems. Violence from sea pirates and other unlawful activities in the zone have also contributed to make the Gulf of Guinea one of the most unsafe waters today.

We prepared a policy paper to highlight the challenges as well as ways to instigate a deliberate combination of actions and stakeholders to restore and protect the once fecund marine ecosystem.

Full report at:

<https://homef.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/Threat-to-Fisheries-Policy-Brief.pdf>

On June 18th and 19th, 2019, HOMEF in collaboration with Nile Initiative for Health Environment (NIHE) held a two day's workshop in Juba at landmark hotel, and was facilitated by Director HOMEF, Nnimmo Bassey and Dr. Bior Kwer Bior of NIHE. The purpose of the workshop was to bring different media houses, civil society organizations and youth from different communities in oil rich state to train them on

The dialogue was on Environmental health reporting, with focus on Rights to Water, Right to Life. The event was aimed at creating more awareness and exposing the impacts of the extractive industries activities on water resources and sanitation in South Sudan and also to create access and monitoring of safe drinking water for communities living in remote rural areas of South Sudan and capital the city Juba.



Health of Mother Earth Foundation (HOMEF) in collaboration with the Right Livelihood College, Robert Bosch Stiftung and the Center for Conflict and Gender Studies at the University of Port Harcourt organised the 2019 Right Livelihood Lecture on 28 May, 2019 with the theme: Global Environmental Politics, Human Rights and Conflicts. The Lecture was followed on 29 May, 2019 with the 12th session of the Sustain-Ability Academy.

The events featured lectures by three Laureates of the Right Livelihood award: Dr. Ruth Manorama (2006), Prof. Raul Montenegro (2004) and Bill McKibben (2014) and were attended by over 300 persons including the Vice Chancellor, staff and students of the university; Non-Governmental Organisations; and media representatives. Ruth Manorama, speaking on Gender, Ecology and Human Rights, stated that for the past 50 years, human rights activism and indeed feminist activism, globally and in India, have managed to challenge several centuries of patriarchal order by striking at the root of exploitation, oppression, subjugation and degradation of women; deconstructing covert and overt violence against women in personal and public life.

According to Manorama, “there is a trajectory between ecology and human/gender rights. When the environment is polluted and the earth is in turmoil, women and the poorest of all are the hardest hit.”

GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLITICS, HUMAN RIGHTS AND CONFLICTS

Manorama shared about how she has dedicated her life to battling a host of interconnected issues related to oppressions arising from caste, gender and class hierarchies. She has fought for rights of domestic workers and the unorganised labour sector, slum dwellers, Dalits, and for the empowerment of marginalized women. She works at the grassroots level and as well focuses on mass mobilization and advocacy at the international level.

Bill McKibben spoke on Climate Change: A Ticking Time Bomb. He explained that the rate at which our planet is changing was unnatural, adding that it is more than anytime we know of from geological records and that it is as a result of climate change. He gave example of the Antarctic and the Arctic which are probably the biggest physical structures on our planet, noting that they are both melting at an enormous speed. "80 percent of the rays reaching the Arctic used to be reflected back into space but now all the energy gets absorbed and that fast tracks the melting. Even the ocean is 30 percent more acidic because it is also absorbing more carbon from the atmosphere than it used to. The interior of our continent is drying fast and

that's why we see horrific drought in the Middle East, Central America, Africa and many more places".

A third Lecture was delivered by Prof. Raul Montenegro. Speaking on Social and Environmental Conflicts: Interaction between Communities and Universities, he pointed out that so many factors are top drivers of conflicts and crises including: social and environmental destruction, fake news, bad governments, dictatorship, corruption, breach and violation of laws, consumerism, organised crime, lack of justice, inequity, poverty without power, and militarization.

Montenegro added that to have a healthy and mutually beneficial relationship between communities and the academics, it should be taken into account that good science interacts with good popular knowledge. This means that there should be no secrecy of information, knowledge should flow freely and it must be accessible to the community; working groups should develop their activities in horizontal structures but try to avoid university hegemony; and safety measures should be designed, adopted and displayed according



Rear Views

DECOLONIZING MINDS





Stephen Oduware

The year 2019 has been an eventful, enlightening and insightful year for me. In the course of executing activities for the year, I have learnt so many new things and skills for a career in environmental/climate justice campaigns. I was part of the planning and organizing committee for HOMEf's Team Building Meeting (TBM) where I also learnt how to prepare press statement, opinion articles and granting press interviews among other things.

The activism space continues to expand, and community people have joined the fight to reclaim their rights and people's power. The high point for the year was the cancelation of the proposed Bargny Coal Plant Project by the Senegalese government – This is a monumental victory for activists and the community people who would have suffered the impact of the project for life.



Cadmus Atake:

The year 2019, was another great year equipped with lots of activities. The theme for the year was, “Decolonizing Minds”- it was indeed a year of decolonizing minds from been dependent on fossil fuel addictions and on the destructions of the environment and food systems. This was effectively done through our various dialogues and project activities and working with a great team and colleagues made my year more engaging and interactive.



HOMEF NETWORKS

1. **Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa (AFSA)** - <http://afsafire.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

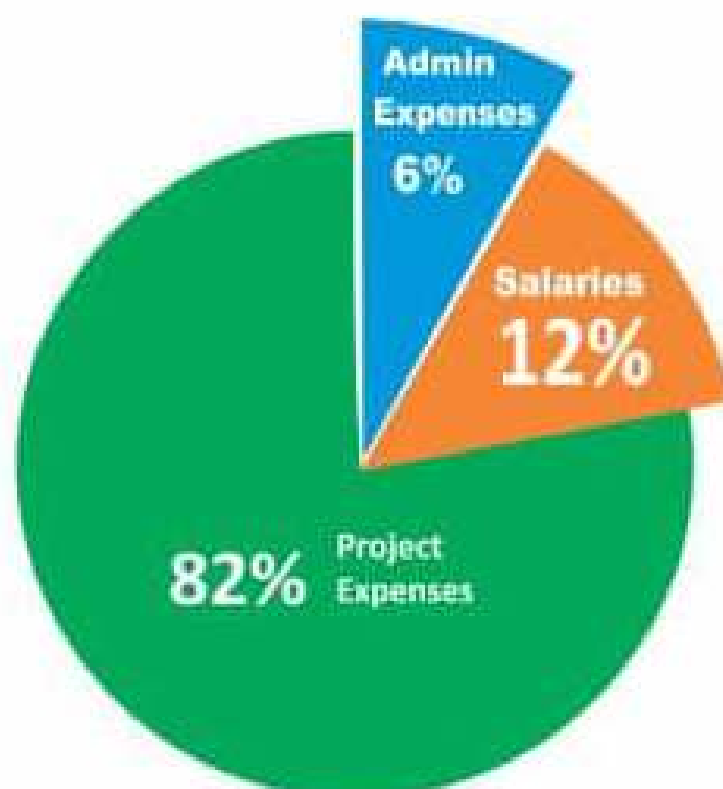
HOMEF had the pleasure of receiving support in various forms from these esteemed institutions:

1. Tikva Grassroots Empowerment Foundation/Tides Foundation
2. Bread for the World
3. Sign of Hope
4. Rosa Luxemburg Foundation
5. Thousand Currents
6. Grassroots International
7. Full Circle Foundation
8. Global Greengrants Fund
9. Right Livelihood College/Robert Bosch Stiftung
10. University of Port Harcourt
11. Base Consult



FINANCIALS

HOMEF's 2019 Financial Summary




Description of Expenses	Amount in NGN
Salaries	12,825,939.64
Administrative Expenses	6,966,151.01
Project Expenses	89,088,921.07
Total Expenses	108,881,011.72
Total Income	135,776,938.23





More stories @ <https://www.flickr.com/photos/100756072@N02/albums>

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 HOMEF Instigator

