

HEALTH OF MOTHER EARTH FOUNDATION (HOMEF)

The Ecological Think Tank



ANNUAL
R E P O R T





HOMEF CONTACT INFORMATION

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KNOWING HOMEF

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, resource democracy and environmental defence.

OUR MISSION

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

“

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OUR KEY OBJECTIVES



OUR PROJECT AREAS



FOSSIL POLITICS

(Climate justice
environmental governance,
ecocide, etc.)



HUNGER POLITICS

(Food sovereignty,
biosafety, forests
and biodiversity)



IKIKE

(Arena for contestation of
ideas and generation
of knowledge)

OUR TOOLS

<div>01</div> <div>sustainability academy</div> <div>Knowledge Instigation</div>	<div>02</div> <div>school of ecology</div>	<div>03</div> <div>community dialogues and workshops</div>
<div>04</div> <div>ecological defence</div>	<div>05</div> <div>popular direct actions</div>	<div>06</div> <div>litigation</div>



HOMEF ADVISORY BOARD

1. **Chris Allan (USA)** – Environmental health campaigner and philanthropy activist, USA
2. **Siziwe Khanyile (South Africa)** – Environmental justice campaigner, Programme Director with International Rivers, South Africa
3. **George Awudi (Ghana)** – Climate justice campaigner – Chair of the Board and Campaigner with Friends of the Earth Ghana
4. **Evelyn Nkanga (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, .UK
9. **Lim Li Ching (Malaysia)** – Agro-ecologist and rights advocate works with Third World Network
10. **Akinbode Oluwafemi (Nigeria)** – Environmental justice campaigner

OUR TEAM

Nnimmo Bassey

Director

Evelyn Nkanga

Deputy Director, Administration

Joyce Ebebeinwe

Programmes Manager / Project Lead (Hunger Politics)

Olatundun Dotun-Davids

Administrative Manager

Cadmus Atake

Project Lead (Fossil Politics)

Stephen Oduware

Project Lead (Alliance/Networking)

Mfoniso Antia

Project Lead (Ikike)

Ogechi Cookey

Communications/Research Lead

Pach Ayuen Pach

Programme Manager (South Sudan)

Elvis Omorogbe

Finance Assistant

Kelechi Okoedo

Finance Officer

Shehu Akowe

Abuja Liaison Officer/Project Officer

Magdalene Idia

Measurement & Evaluation Assistant

Omolola Abulatan

Mabel Obaseki

Admin. Assistants



HOME NOTE



2020 was Quite a Year

The year 2020 began like any other year. Hopes were high. Events were lined up. Plans were made. Then there were rumours that a new coronavirus had emerged. It appeared to be burst out at disparate spots. Suddenly cases were reported in all regions of the world. Soon enough a pandemic was declared. Lockdowns were declared and a number of other draconian measures accompanied the atmosphere of fear that thickened across the world. At Health of Mother Earth Foundation (HOMEF), the emergence of COVID-19 required quick thinking and action. We devised means and ways of supporting ourselves and partners. We also deeply questioned the reality of the pandemic and issued a chapbook titled *Who Benefits from Corona?* The book is available on our website.

The year betrayed the illusion that the petroleum civilisation will last into the foreseeable future revealing that such thinking is bred by a rather limited vision of the future. The civilisation has been preserved by our collective myopia or, perhaps preferably, our wilful denial. It has been easy to ignore the cases of gross ecological harm imposed by petroleum extraction and exploitation on communities and territories simply because the power structures could drown out the voices of the people. Power structures hosted in shiny skyscrapers and expansive statehouses could feign ignorance of the gross damage and the rage of inequalities on the streets.

2020 was a very eventful year for HOMEF as you will see in this Annual Report. Events turned virtual and the reach widened. Where stressors deepened, partners helped us to extend help.

From our Team Building to School of Ecology sessions, Right Livelihood Lecture, Power Alternatives, Conversations and actions on Biosafety and Agroecology. We were also active in networks and alliances such as Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa (AFSA), Oilwatch Africa/International and FishNet Alliance.

We are thankful to our supporters. Your support and solidarity helped us to weather the storm in a rather unique case.

Nnimmo Bassey
Director

HOMEFELLOWS

Two new Fellows joined our roll in 2019 bringing the number of fellows to 20. 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)
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), Rights Livelihood Laureate (2006)
19. **Raúl Montenegro (2019)**
Professor at University of Córdoba, Argentina, biologist and environmental activist (Argentina), Rights Livelihood Laureate (2004)
20. **Rene Ngongo (2020)**
Biologist, environmental & Political activist, Rights Livelihood Laureate (2009) (Democratic Republic of Congo)



Decolonizing Narratives –

Building the Team to Face the Tide

Our theme for the year 2020 was Decolonizing Narratives, and it was in line with this that we held the team-building and annual general meeting on 4-6 February 2020 at Asaba, Delta State, Nigeria, which inspired and positioned us to achieve our set goals.

We strategized on how to decolonize false narratives by telling our own stories and communicating in ways that are convincing and effective and how to speak up on our ideas/ideals. We spoke to ourselves and bonded as a team, reviewing our organizational policies and work approaches. We exchanged ideas on how to dialogue and network with allies and ensure that our work is properly rooted.

HOMEF stands firm as the ecological think tank promoting the culture of ecological knowledge, re-source democracy and environmental defence and we work to support wholesome ecological and socially cohesive/inclusive communities where people live in solidarity and dignity. We work at the person, community and policy levels and as part of global movements for the recovery of dignity and for harmonious living with Mother Earth.

We promote justice and equity, action (solidarity), knowledge, dignity (respect) and recognition of people and the planet through our three thematic areas: Fossil Politics (covering issues of environmental justice, climate justice, oil, gas and solid minerals), Hunger Politics (covering issues of biosafety, biodiversity (forests), GMOs, synthetic biology and gene drives) and Ikike (which is the knowledge space for development, sharing and contestation of ideas encompassing the Sustain-Ability Academy, School of Ecology, Community Dialogues, Conversations and Research & Publications such as policy papers, eco-Instigator (published quarterly), factsheets etc. These thematic areas are the wheels of action for the change the organization seeks.



The year's team-building and annual general meeting featured presentations on Decolonizing Narratives, Strategic Networking and Policy Advocacy, telling our Stories and Strategies for Communicating our Narratives. Representatives from the FishNet Alliance in Ibeno, Akwa Ibom State and from the Eco-Defenders Network (Ogoni Clean-up Monitors) also presented on their work within grassroots communities.

We considered the need for the rights of Mother Earth to be respected and for the insurance of justice in our engagement about the environment and Nature's cycles at policy, corporate and individual levels. Communities should be equipped to protest against the oppression and pollution in their environment.

We also learned the importance of networking and advocacy and the various steps involved. It was noted that while networking is intended for joint solving of problems, resource exchange, cooperation and coordination; partnership brings together capabilities and human resources in the form of skills, experience, ideas, reach, resources etc. to tackle common problems that are often beyond the capacity of a single organization.

HUNGER POLITICS

Liberating African Agriculture

Our continent is blessed with vast natural resources and is equipped to produce enough to feed its population. With more than 60% of the world's arable land, rich biological and cultural diversity, and its unique economic and political realities, Africa can sustain itself and compete in the global food market. The continent has about two-thirds of its population employed in the agriculture sector with the majority as small holder farmers who produce over 80% of the food consumed.

It is true that there are challenges in agriculture today that must be addressed. Among these challenges, climate change is one of the most influential with attendant desert encroachment, flooding/unpredictable weather patterns and pests and disease invasions. The twist is that while there are diverse agro-ecological practices that ensure resilience to the impacts of climate change, the phenomenon itself is caused partly by the industrial, fossil fuels dependent agriculture that is now being promoted as a way out.

The advent of the structural adjustment programmes (SAPs) in the 1980s contributed its fair share to the food problems in Africa. Instead of addressing the root of food insecurity in the continent, our governments are led to adopt and invest in programmes and agriculture models that worsen the situation for farmers and for African households. One of such programmes is that of the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA). Founded in 2006 by Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and the Rockefeller Foundation, AGRA promised to double the agricultural yields and incomes of 30 million small-scale farming households by 2020 and thereby halve hunger and poverty in the 13 countries of focus.





To attain this, AGRA received as much as US\$1billion, mainly from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, but also from governments of nations like the US, UK and Germany. African governments have supported this programme with \$1billion a year on items including subsidies for fertilizers.

On 6 August 2020, Health of Mother Earth Foundation (HOMEF) in collaboration with the African Faith and Justice Network (AFJN), Navdanya International and the Institute for Research and Promotion of Alternative Development (IRPAD), convened a webinar themed AGRA's Failed Promises: Liberating our Agriculture. The conversation was inspired by a recent report released by a coalition of groups including Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung, Bread for the World, IRPAD and Biodiversity & Biosafety Association of Kenya (BIBA). The report – False Promises: The Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa – outlines the promises that AGRA dangled before African countries and what the result has been in over 14 years after the launch of the so-called Green Revolution in Africa.

The webinar outlined ways by which African Agriculture can be liberated from under the thumb of institutions that may be “well meaning” but are utterly and even dangerously wrong in their approaches.

Panellists included Timothy Wise, co-author of the report and senior advisor at the Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy; Mamadou Goita, also a co-author of the report, a development economist and Executive Director of IRPAD; Vandana Shiva, an environmental activist, food sovereignty advocate, and renowned anti-globalization author; and Devinder Sharma, one of India's leading agriculture, food and trade policy expert, researcher, and writer. Participants from across the world joined the conversation via Zoom and Facebook.

Speaking at the webinar, Timothy Wise pointed out that there is no evidence of 100% increase

in productivity or income doubling as AGRA promised. Instead, there has been a 31% increase in the number of undernourished people in the 13 focus countries.

Maize was heavily supported by the programme, but it showed just 29% yield growth and even where production increased, as in Zambia, the near tripling of maize production did not result in reduction in rural poverty or hunger. Small-scale farmers were not benefiting; poverty and hunger remained staggeringly high with 78% of rural Zambians in extreme poverty.

According to Wise, the focus on maize drove land use out of more nutritious and climate-resilient traditional crops such as millet and sorghum, eroding food security and nutrition for poor farmers. He added that the use of artificial chemical fertilizers has led to the degradation of soil quality. He noted that the Green Revolution model is failing and stressed that agroecology offers higher net returns, diverse and nutritious crops, lower costs to governments and farmers, soil-restoration and other environmental benefits.

Time for Africa to wake up!

The Green Revolution (GR), according to Vandana Shiva, from the beginning was not about feeding the world but about selling fertilizers. She stated that the programme should more appropriately be termed war chemical revolution.

The GR uses more land and water to grow commodities (which do not indicate nutritional content or cost of inputs) and this translates to less food for the people. Agribusiness models are driving hunger. The industries produce for industries while the people hunger.

According to Vandana Shiva, “We should measure true productivity not pseudo productivity; measure total output and true yield not the fiction of high-yielding varieties; and measure the true costs of production and not hide cost with a commodification measure like GDP which only measures commodification of an economy not the true production, not how much food people have, not how healthy the soil is. That is why there is questioning of GDP around the world.”

“The Green Revolution is a failed model; it failed in Europe, in India, in America and the best ways to understand this is in what it has done to the environment, to human health and nutrition and to farmers' income”, explained Devinder Sharma.

He further explained that in India, over 50 years after the programme was introduced, farmers, despite producing record harvests every year are still living in distress. In Punjab, about 1000 farmers commit suicide yearly. This model of agriculture has kept farmers in poverty and small scale farmers are the worst affected. In 2007, the government of India reported that the average annual income for farmers was US\$250 – an amount that can't rear a cow or dog for a year. Between the year 2000 and 2016, farmers were reported to have lost up to US\$600 billion and in the last 2 decades farmers' income has either remained negative or frozen.

Sharma advised that “Africa should learn from India's mistake. We see that this model has not only failed in the developed countries but also in the developing countries. This tells us that we need a new model of agriculture, different from the chemical intensive industrial farming model. Farmers shouldn't be left alone to face the volatility of markets.”

Farmers need a kind of farming system that is ecologically sustainable and economically viable and that provides them with assured income.

African farmers can feed Africa, have surpluses and contribute in a sustainable way to global food trade if post-harvest losses are curtailed. Mamadou Goita emphasized that and stressed on the need for food producers to be adequately supported in terms of infrastructure, extension services and favorable markets.

According to Goita, “We don't need the homogenization of policies in the continent that the AGRA programme promotes because the contexts are not the same, the farmers are not at the same level of production. Africa is diverse and we need to consider the territoriality of African food systems.

We need to change our way of investing in agriculture. We cannot rely on foreign investments that lead to land grabbing. Investment in agriculture must be based on a vision and that vision is agroecology which is not an imported system but an African way of farming in tune with nature. The agroecological perspective that people are pushing forward on the continent will be a key instrument in feeding the world and in creating wealth.”

At the conclusion of the webinar, Nnimmo Bassey, Director of HOMEF encouraged African governments to “take the recommendations to heart and remember that when we move in the wrong direction, no matter how far or fast we go, we will never get to the right destination. When one makes a mistake and takes a wrong road, wisdom says turn back.”



FOSSIL POLITICS

COVID-19, Climate Justice & Access to Energy in Africa

The lockdown across the world and the restrictions on travels occasioned by the outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic have made it impossible for face-to-face meetings at this time, but that must not stifle our resolve to organize and demand environmental/climate justice – the campaign must go on.

Oil Change International and Oilwatch Africa organized two webinars in May 2020. The first was held on 5 May, while the second was on 12 May. These meetings were organized to fill any vacuum in information exchange during the pandemic with regards to access to energy and energy alternatives. There were four panellists, each given time to speak on the subtopics and another allotted time to respond to questions.

Makoma Lekalakala spoke on The Energy we need and the Energy We Want. According to her, the pandemic provided us with an opportunity for collective actions and our obligation is to ensure that we protect the environment and prevent further degradations at this time.

The pandemic gave us an opportunity and paved the way for us to see the kind of energy that we want. It has given us the opportunity to interrogate the kind of energy systems we have and plan towards a complement of the renewables (solar, biogas, wind etc.) in Africa. She also remarked that at this time, we have to push for collaborative efforts to ensure that the pandemic bailouts work for us and not end up supporting the fossil fuel industries.

As we push for a transition, we must ensure that the transition is all-inclusive, creating opportunities and jobs for all. We need to ensure that this transition is not “business as usual” and challenge the policies hindering the move from dirty, polluting energy to renewables. She finally noted that we are already in a transition; our responsibility now is to make this a just one.

Lorraine Chiponda presented on An Outlook of How Coal Power Plants are Spread Out in Africa. She noted that about 80% of energy in Africa is from fossils, and 40% out of that is from coal. Renewables are only 16% - this is a long way from transitioning into 100% renewables, and if by 2030 we maintain the same trajectory of announcing and commissioning new coal projects as seen in some African countries, our energy mix will be 50% coal. She added that funding for coal projects in Africa mostly comes from China. About 1.2million people still suffer from energy poverty in the world, and about 850, 000 (i.e., over 70%) of this number are in Africa – this means that the coal trajectory is not working in Africa. Coal projects have continued to enjoy tax exemptions and stimulus packages in some countries so that energy from coal comes out as a cheap energy source.

In the midst of the call for a just transition, some countries continue to make policies that show their intentions to expand projects on coal and coal plants. Some of these policies come with the promise of a clean coal technology – a venture that is known to be water-intensive, which means that countries affected by droughts cannot afford coal projects with such technology.

Chibeze Ezekiel shared thoughts on How to Push Back Successfully Against Coal. He used Ghana as a case study. He remarked that the advocacy against a planned coal plant in Ghana started with information-gathering and the mobilization of critical stakeholders. He also talked about information-gathering. At the end, the Ghanaian Government halted the coal power plant project. The campaign was a success at this point, but the campaign didn't stop there. The campaigners went ahead to create awareness for renewables and supported the government in their effort towards renewable energy. They also helped local governments to mainstream renewable energy into their local energy plan. In addition, they empowered children also as green champions through their Children for Climate Action Initiative.



RIGHT LIVELIHOOD LECTURE

No Alternative Planet

The 2020 Right Livelihood Lecture was delivered by Rene Ndongo on the topic Climate Change and Energy Alternatives

For over six years, HOMEf and the University of Port Harcourt have hosted the Right Livelihood College Lectures in the University which is one of the nine campuses of the Right Livelihood College (RLC) globally.

The annual lecture serves as a bridge connecting academics, activists, youths, community people and policy makers in the quest to enthrone justice and equity in all spheres of human engagement. The lectures are delivered by Right Livelihood laureates and bring forward actionable knowledge towards solving local and global challenges.

The 2020 session held virtually on 19 June, 2020 and the lecture was delivered by René Ngongo who received the Right Livelihood Award in 2009. René Ngongo is a Congolese biologist cum environmentalist and political activist. He was recently elected as the Rapporteur of the Socio-Economic Council of the Democratic Republic of Congo.

The chief host was the Acting Vice Chancellor of the University of Port Harcourt, Prof. Regina Ogali. University officials who welcomed everyone to the lecture included the Acting Director, Centre for Conflicts and Gender Studies, Dr. Gladys Worlu; Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences, Prof. Prince Mmom; Dr. Obinna Nwodim and; Dr Fidelis Allen, coordinator of the Right Livelihood College campus.

The lecture noted that through COVID-19, nature has sent humans a message that we must heed. We must halt the rapid destruction of natural environments exacerbated by hunting of exotic and wild animal species for recreational reasons and destruction of their habitats, thus accelerating the spread of infectious diseases. It was pointed out that climate change transforms all aspects of human life including water supply, availability and distribution of food resources, reduction of snow cover and melting of glaciers, etc. Our failure to contextualise climate change and identify its root causes is having dangerous consequences.



<https://www.rightlivelivelihoodaward.org/laureates/rene-ngongo/>

René Ngongo noted that forests, including the Congolese forests, are being threatened partly due to the fact that the consumption of resources by humans is exceeding the Earth's capacity to replenish itself. Recurring events such as bush fires in Brazil, the United States and Australia or locust infestations in East Africa, and now the Coronavirus pandemic, demonstrate the interdependence of humans and networks of life in which we live.

The lecturer spoke extensively with reference to the forests of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) which constitutes most of the equatorial rain forest in Africa. According to him, with 155 million hectares of forest cover, the country alone houses more than half of the forests of the Congo Basin, and almost 10% of the world's tropical rain forests. In addition to the socio-economic and cultural uses, the Congolese forests store 140Gt of CO₂ (equal to 3 years of global emissions). Preservation of these forests is therefore vital in the fight against global warming.

He stated that flagship actions that can be taken to preserve forests and promote climate change resilience include:

- Monitoring of the forest sector and denunciation of environmental and social violations
- Improving the regulatory and institutional framework for biodiversity conservation
- Raising awareness and educating the population on climate change
- Establishing bush fire monitoring systems and management plans
- Training farmers on resilient agricultural production techniques (agro-ecology)

"Thinking about energy alternatives today is part of a resilience strategy based on the anticipated increase in greenhouse gases; the ability to find innovative solutions such as renewable, clean and non-polluting energy sources; and based on the need to bounce back from the fossil fuels addiction and begin a just energy transition," Ngongo stated.

He further explained that getting out of dependence on oil means first of all abandoning our development model which is based on overconsumption and waste. It means to build a transition between two worlds- the old one, marked by dependence on fossil fuels and the new one which will inevitably be the product of an energy mix, produced from 100% green renewable sources.

For civil society, the issue of energy is one of the main challenges of the hour. This issue can only be resolved through tripartite participatory management including state actors,

civil society actors and the private sector.

Some steps in the positive direction will include the promotion of renewable energies; participation in environmental and social impact studies of energy projects; improvement of access to electricity; mobilisation of the private sector for its active involvement in renewable energies; recovery of waste for the production of biomass energy; and improvement of the legal frameworks in the energy sector.

It was highlighted that Africa remains the continent with the least energy access. More than 640 million Africans do not have access to energy. This corresponds to an access rate slightly above 40%, the lowest level in the world. Africa has an immense renewable energy potential but it currently uses only a small part of it. Hydroelectricity provides about one fifth of the current capacity but the potential use does not even correspond to one tenth of the total. The technical potential of solar, wind and geothermal energy as well as bioenergy is also significant.

According to the laureate, “access to clean energy is one of the key factors of inclusive growth, especially since it creates opportunities for women, young people and children, both in urban and rural areas. It is an essential component of economic, social and political development and environmental health.”



**If we don't
react urgently
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To improve people's access to renewable energy, the activity of operators at national levels should be rationalised and development of large-scale projects should be flexible and focus on regional levels. Innovative solutions to provide populations in rural areas with reliable and efficient energy modes should be encouraged.

Ngongo urged everyone to get involved to engender the transition that we want, given the magnitude of the challenges and the rapidly worsening climate change. It is our collective responsibility to urgently step up our action at all levels. Citizens including civil society actors, trade unionists, young people and other actors should accelerate the implementation of resolutions and commitments in favour of the preservation of our forest heritage and to engage without delay in the energy transition.

“If we don't react urgently to climate change, we will have to look for another planet”, Ngongo concluded.

TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT

AfriTAP (Africa Technology Assessment Platform) – As the name implies was established to assess the impacts of new and emerging technologies in Africa.

The platform was established in response to the impacts of accelerating high-technologies in Africa, which is upturning livelihoods and rights across the Continent and transforming the landscape for action on agriculture, health, conservation and climate.



AfriTAP as part of a bigger technology Assessment Platform – InterTAPs, came to be from 2 long years of research work in Africa and a continent-wide School of Ecology on 'Impacts of Emerging Technologies on Africa', co-hosted in Nigeria by HOMEF and ETC group in 2019.

The platform is aimed at assessing the implications of new and emerging technologies and creating counter narratives on the new and subtle wave of colonization and coloniality set in motion in Africa by profit driven tech corporations.

Since its creation, the platform has set out two goals through which it will achieve its aims;

- To engage with and support African CSOs and movements working to understand issues around new and emerging technologies and concentration
- To catalyze actions and broader shifts in African-related narratives and policies on emerging technologies towards precaution, consent, justice and sovereignty

In 2020, AfriTAP set out some activities which added toward achieving its set goals.

- Mapping of stakeholders and legal instruments
- Undertaking research, analysis and horizon scanning on new technologies in Africa
- Creating publications and popular materials about specific technologies to be used by civil society organizations and social movements across Africa, one of which is the AfriTAP brochure.
- Creating and growing a strong Pan African AfriTAP network, prioritizing the creation of strong collaborations in Lusophone, North African, Southern and East African regions
- Organizing a series of in person and/or virtual conversations in Africa about the food system and technology under the project **Which Way Forward**

The diversity of languages in Africa brought the necessity of establishing two desks to cover the Anglophone and Francophone Africa. The Anglophone desk is called AfriTAP (Africa Technology Assessment Platform), hosted in Nigeria by HOMEF and the Francophone desk is PENTAfrique (Plateforme D'Evaluation Multidimensionnelle des Technologies En Afrique), hosted in Mali by IRPARD Afrique. The two desks were established in September 2020. As the first sets of tasks, AfriTAP kicked started horizon scanning, stakeholders mapping and a series of conversations on impacts of COVID-19 and technologies on our food system and Agriculture. This series of conversations is tagged 'Which Way Forward'.

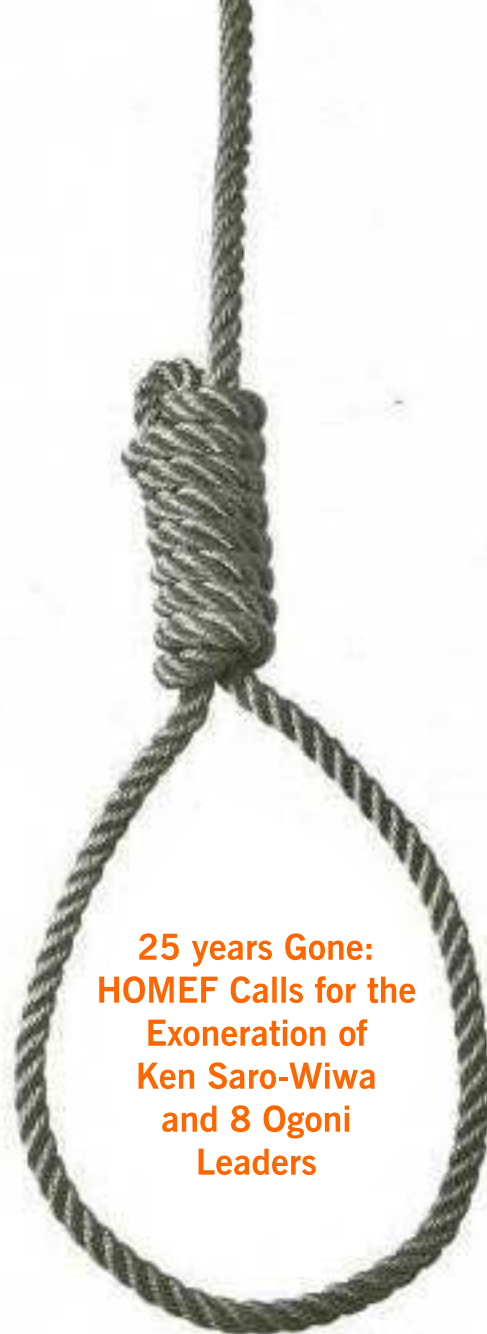
The episodes of WWFwd conversations series held in 2020 served as a means of getting people to share their experiences on how the pandemic affected their way of life and whose voices they trusted more for information during the intense lockdown period. In that episodes, participants explored a range of possible futures – post COVID 19, including the role of technologies, corporations and agro-ecosystems in shaping those futures.

The series was aimed at helping us understand the prevailing narrative on the COVID 19 pandemic as it relates to food, technology, agriculture and science, as well as give us the opportunity to come together to plan, shape and deploy our preferred narratives while attempting to chart a course for the future we want.

Stories shared by participants from different parts of Africa indicated that experiences were similar across the continent. From loss of jobs which led to anxiety and fear of the unknown, looting/stealing/riots, inconsistencies in information from government agencies, the exacerbation of the division between protected cities/sacred zones and sacrifice zones, higher death rates among sacrifice zone, decreased food availability and accessibility to hike in prices of food products. It was also gathered that tech platforms like zoom, google teams and other communications and virtual meeting avenues were very useful during the lockdown.

The target of the platform is to see a continent where tech and tech solutions will be created by Africans, with indigenous people and the African Landscape and peculiarities in mind. Also to see a continent devoid of the new wave of colonization and coloniality.

2020 was an eventful year but we trust that we will be able to achieve much more in the coming year.



**25 years Gone:
HOMEF Calls for the
Exoneration of
Ken Saro-Wiwa
and 8 Ogoni
Leaders**

Health of Mother Earth Foundation (HOMEF) called for the exoneration of Ken Saro-Wiwa and the eight Ogoni leaders (Saturday Dobee, Nordu Eawo, Daniel Gbooko, Paul Levera, Felix Nuate, Baribor Bera, Barinem Kiobel and John Kpuine), who were tried by a kangaroo military tribunal and killed in 1995 by the Nigerian State on false murder charges.

These Ogoni activists who were members of the Movement for the Survival of the Ogoni People (MOSOP) were accused and executed under the Military dictatorship of Gen. Sani Abacha. The accusation of complicity in the murder of four Ogoni chiefs was directly tied to the activists' strong and unflinching stand against the polluting activities of the Royal Dutch Shell oil company known for their atrocious ruination of the Niger Delta.

Years later, even after the witnesses recounted their statements, admitting that they were bribed to bear false witnesses against Ken Saro-Wiwa and the 8 others, there still has not been justice for the masterminded killing of these men. The execution of these men brought sanctions on Nigeria from the international community and, in particular, led to Nigeria's suspension from the Commonwealth of Nations. The cause for which these men fought and were killed was validated by the August 2011 report of the Environmental Assessment of Ogoniland by UNEP which revealed the depth of destruction of the soil, waters and air in Ogoniland.

HOMEF called on the Nigerian government to exonerate Ken Saro-Wiwa and the 8 others as a step towards bringing the gruesome history to a closure.

Nnimmo Bassey, the director of Health of Mother Earth Foundation, stated that “exonerating Ken Saro-Wiwa and the other Ogoni leaders is the least the government can do to acknowledge the travesty of justice against the victims, the Ogoni people and humanity.” He also called for the recognition of these men by the Nigerian government as heroes of environmental justice. Bassey added that “exonerating these men will bring a sense of recognition to the environmental struggles of the Niger Delta people and highlight the needed accountability on the part of the government and companies operating in the region while also showing the world that Nigeria is no longer a state that criminalizes dissent.”

HOMEF believes that if Ken Saro-Wiwa were to be alive today, the demands captured in the Ogoni Bill of Rights of 1990 would still form the bedrock of demands for the respect of environmental rights, cultural dignity and re-source democracy. He would not be silent in the face of continued ecological degradation. And we must not be silent, because as Saro-wiwa wrote, Silence Would be Treason.

ENVIRONMENT QUARTER HOUR PODCAST

In the struggle for environmental justice and food sovereignty there is a constant need to get more people to become aware of the roots of exploitation of resources, peoples and nations, of threats and issues related to their environment and food system.

The need to reach a wider audience with our narratives, using the right language and channel led us into creating the HOMEf's Environment Quarter Hour and Podcast. HOMEf's Environment Quarter Hour is a 15-minutes weekly radio programme which began in 2020. The programme is aired by different radio FM stations in Edo and Rivers States, and via an online radio. The aim is for HOMEf and the public to have a common communication platform that allows for collective thinking and learning. Fifteen episodes were aired in 2020 and are accessible as podcasts through the 'media menu' of our website (www.homef.org).

The episodes connect to our thematic areas- fossil politics, hunger politics and alliances/networking.

They are outlined below:

1. **Welcome to HOMEf's Environment Quarter Hour:** This is the introductory episode of the programme. Here, HOMEf is introduced and the goal of the programme shared. This episode defined the term environment as a natural space covering all living and non-living things. The definition was given in recognition of the social, cultural, political and economic conditions that affect the quality of the environment.
2. **Just Transitions:** This episode which presents just transition as a vision, an ongoing process and dialogue that brings in different actors – from community members to state authorities. The episode pushes us to question the issue of just transition - to

ask questions about who is controlling the energy transitions that we are asking for, that is, the transition from fossil to renewable energy.

3. **Oil Pollution in the Niger Delta:** The episode addresses one typical question that has been asked for decades and continues to be asked in the Niger Delta – Is crude oil a blessing or a curse to the people of the Niger Delta?
4. **Annex Zero: Keep the Oil in the Ground:** This episode focuses on nations, communities and indigenous peoples that are taking real climate actions (leaving the oil in the ground). These are Annex Zero nations such as Costa Rica and communities like Ogoni of the Niger Delta.
5. **Global Action on Climate Change 1:** In this episode, issues surrounding climate change such as production of electricity, transportation and industry works depending on the burning of fossil fuel, greenhouse gases, global warming, flooding, deforestation, locust invasion, etc.
6. **Global Action on Climate Change 2:** The episode focuses on global structures put in place to address climate change. Examples are- UNFCCC (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change set up in 1992); IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change established in 1988); COP (Conference of Parties), etc.
7. **Why Nigeria should Stop Gas Flaring:** This episode stressed the environmental, health, economic and political impacts of gas flaring.
8. **Actions for Environmental and Climate Justice:** This episode focuses on specific actions that the public can take to get justice for and put an end to the destructive activities of big polluters in the extractive sector.
9. **The Pull of the Mangroves and the Sea:** Mangroves are trees or shrubs found in tropical regions, a breeding ground for fisheries. This episode promotes the preservation and restorations of Africa's mangroves ecosystem.
10. **Politics of Hunger (and Food Sovereignty):** The episode enlightened listeners on what it means to be food secure and on how to overcome the challenges surrounding food systems in Nigeria and Africa.
11. **Who will Feed the World?** The episode centres on the ongoing debate and struggle in the global arena concerning who should control food and farming systems – the debate on “Who will feed the world's growing population”?
12. **What's on our Plate? Exposing GMOs:** This episode is an extension of our advocacy against Genetically Modified Organisms. It is a caution!
13. **Agroecology can Feed the World:** In this episode Agroecology is promoted as against industrial agriculture which is not beneficial to the common people.
14. **Tale of the Fisherman:** This episode is inspired by a true life story of the worsening situation of already struggling fisher folks across oil producing communities of the Niger Delta particularly and other fishing communities in Nigeria due to Covid-19 pandemic and other government policies.
15. **Polluter's Judgement and Women's Right** is a new episode recently added (in 2021) to our podcast- - to share with listeners what the recent judgement against Shell means for women.



2020 Publications

1. Dead Fish is not Manna
2. A Walk in the Curfew and other Pandemic Tales
3. Biosafety is not Gamble
4. Who Benefits from Corona? – A breakfast with Mr. Gates
5. Floods, Climate Change and COVID-19
6. Guide for Dialogue on Climate and Power Alternatives
7. The Need to Establish Fresh Water and Marine Protected Areas in Nigeria (Policy Paper)
8. A Guide to Aquatic Ecosystem Monitoring, Reporting, Organizing & Advocacy
9. Blue Economy Blues – HOMEf's Introduction to the Blue Economy
10. Threat to Fisheries in the Gulf of Guinea (Policy Paper)
11. A Bill for an Act to Amend the National Biosafety management Agency (Amendment) Act 2019



HOMEF NETWORKS

1. **Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa (AFSA)** - <http://afsafrika.org/>
2. **Yes to Life No to Mining** - The website for this network was launched on 13 November 2014
– www.yestolifenotomining.org
3. **Climate Space** –
<https://climatespace2013.wordpress.com>
4. **No REDD in Africa Network (NRAN)**
<http://www.no-redd-africa.org>
5. **Oilwatch Africa/International** –
www.oilwatch.org
6. **Daraja** – A Pan African space set to rally the global majority towards a path of radical social transformation and power.
7. **Global Alliance for Rights of Nature (GARN)** –
<https://therightsofnature.org>





PARTNERS

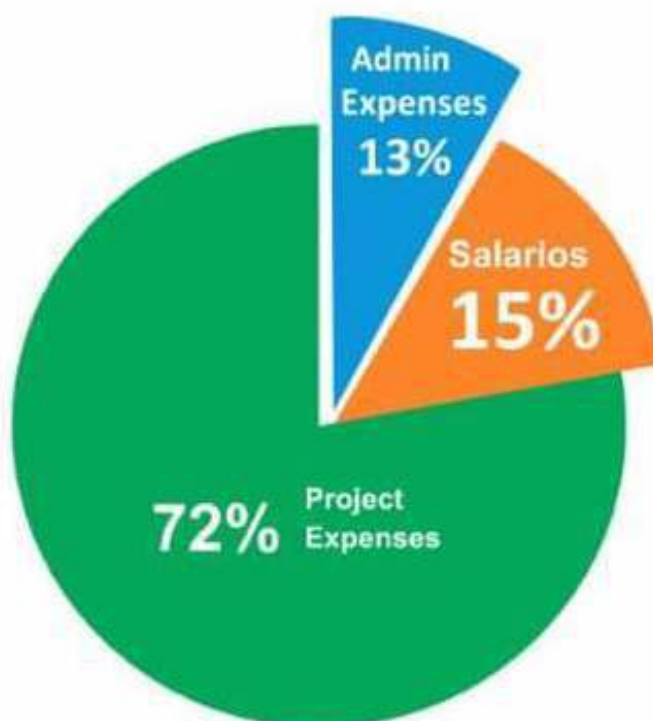
HOMEF had the pleasure of receiving support in various forms from these esteemed institutions:

1. Bread for the World
2. Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung
3. Thousand Currents
4. Grassroots International
5. Full Circle Foundation
6. AgroEcology Fund
7. Energy Transition Fund
8. Global Greengrants Fund
9. Right Livelihood College/
10. University of Port Harcourt
11. Base Consult



FINANCIALS

HOMEF's 2020 Financial Summary



Description of Expenses	Amount in NGN
Salaries	17,432,500.00
Administrative Expenses	15,341,991.00
Project Expenses	86,609,838.00
Total Expenses	119,384,329.00
Total Income	131,136,099.00



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