



HEALTH OF MOTHER EARTH FOUNDATION

OUR REVIEW OF THE YEAR 2021

OUR CONTACT INFORMATION

Health of Mother Earth Foundation

#30, 19th Street, Off Ugbowo-Lagos Road

**P. O. Box: 10577, Ugbowo Benin City,
300212, Nigeria**

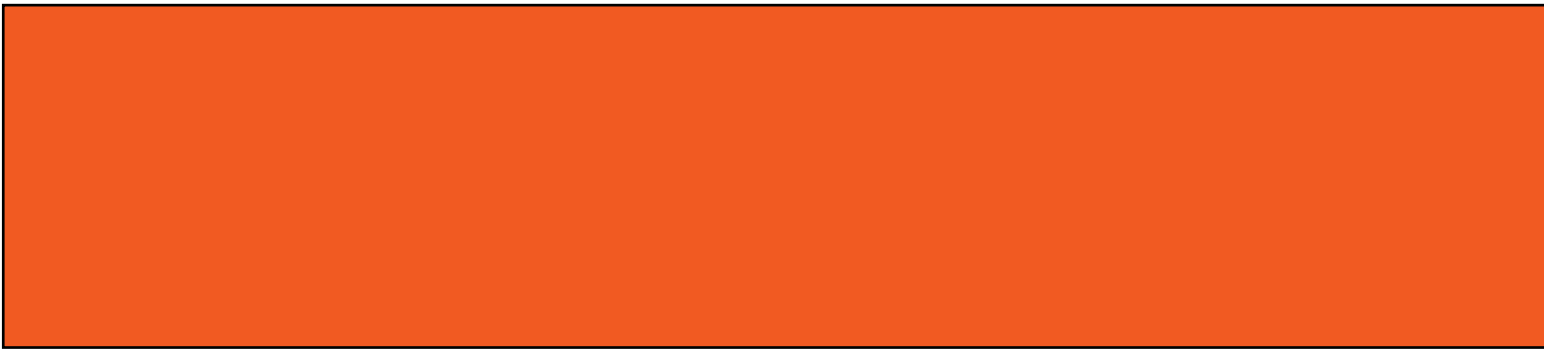
**Telephone: +2349069756927
+2348137706095**

Website: www.homef.org

**Email: home@homef.org
@ecohomef**

The Ecological Think Tank

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KNOWING HOMEF

HOMEF is an ecological think tank and advocacy organization promoting environmental/climate justice as well as food sovereignty in Nigeria and Africa. Our work is rooted in solidarity and in the building and protection of human and collective dignity.

We believe that neoliberal agendas driven by the globalization of exploitation of the weak, despoliation of ecosystems, and lack of respect for Mother Earth thrive most 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 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 building of movements for the recovery of memory, dignity and harmonious living with full respect for the natural cycles of Mother Earth.

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



Our Vision

The ecological think tank promoting the culture of ecological knowledge, resource democracy and environmental defense.

Our Mission

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



*We believe that neoliberal agendas driven by the globalization of exploitation of the weak, despoliation of ecosystems, and lack of respect for Mother Earth thrive most because of the ascendancy of enforced creed of *might is right*.*

Our Core Values

- Knowledge
- People and the Planet in Harmony and Free from Exploitation
- Justice and Equity in all Circumstances
- Action (Solidarity)
- Dignity (Respect)

Our Key Objectives

- Build knowledge
- Build solidarity
- 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 resource democracy.
- Enhance social justice
- Maintain the dignity of the people and the planet

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 knowledge generation)

Our Tools

- Community Diagnostic Dialogues and Workshops
- Ecological Defense
- Knowledge Instigation (Sustainability Academy, School of Ecology)
- Trainings and conferences
- Popular direct actions
- Litigations

Our Advisory Board

1. **Chris Allan (USA)** - Environmental health campaigner and philanthropist activist, USA.
2. **Siziwe Khanyila (South Africa)** – Environmental justice campaigner and 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, Nigeria.
5. **Esperanza Martinez (Ecuador)** – Environmental justice/ political ecologist, Accion Ecologica, Ecuador.
6. **Pablo Solon (Bolivia)** – Climate justice campaigner, diplomat and movement builder, Executive Director, Focus on the Global South, Thailand.
7. **Liz Hosken (UK)** – Mother Earth rights advocate, Executive Director of the Gaia Foundation, UK.
8. **Lim Li Ching (Malaysia)** – Agroecologist and rights advocate with Third World Network.
9. **Akinbode Oluwafemi (Nigeria)** – Environmental justice campaigner, Director, Corporate Accountability and Public Participation Africa, Nigeria.
10. **Mariann Bassey-Orovwuje (Nigeria)** - Coordinator, Food Sovereignty Programme, Friends of the Earth, Nigeria/Africa.
11. **Kwami Kpondzo (Togo)** – Friends of the Earth, Togo.

Our Team

Nnimmo Bassey

Director

Evelyn Nkanga

Deputy Director, Administration

Joyce Brown

Programmes Manager/Project Lead (Hunger Politics)

Olatundun Dotun-Davids

Administrative Manager

Cadmus Atake-Enade

Project Lead (Fossil Politics)

Stephen Oduware

Project Lead (Alliance/Networking)

Mfoniso Antia

Project Lead (Ikike)

Cletus Ita-Chot

Finance Manager

Oghenekome Odhomor

Communications Officer

Pach Ayuen Pach

Programme Manager (South Sudan)

Elvis Omorogbe

Finance Assistant

Kelechi Okoede

Finance Officer

Shehu Akowe

Abuja Liaison Officer/Project Officer

Magdalene Ime Idiang

Measurement and Evaluation Officer

Mabel Obaseki

Administration Assistant

Stanley Godspower Egholo

Project Assistant

Kentebe Ebiaridor

Project Coordinator (Oilwatch International)



HOMEF Fellows

In 2021, the number of our fellows increased to 21. Our fellows provide a store of knowledge, wisdom and experience to inspire our peoples and to provide intellectual resources and backstopping in the areas of our work.

Here's the full list:

1. **Pablo Solon (2013)** Former Ambassador of Bolivia to the United Nations/climate justice advocate (Bolivia)
2. **Monica 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 Wazdah (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 and author. Right Livelihood Laureate (1993) (India)
7. **Ruth Nyambura (2016)** Eco-feminist (Kenya)
8. **Hilma Mote (2016)** Labour researcher/activist (Namibia)
9. **Alyn Ware (2017)** Anti-nuclear campaigner and Right Livelihood Award laureate (2009) (New Zealand)
10. **Nkoyo Toyo (2017)** Gender activist, politician and ambassador (Nigeria)
11. **Chris Ekong (2017)** Professor of Economics (Nigeria)
12. **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. **Raul Montenegro (2019)** Professor at University of Cordoba, Argentina, Biologist and environmental activist (Argentina) Light Livelihood Laureate (2004)
20. **Rene Ngogo (2020)** Biologist, environmental and political activist, Right Livelihood Laureate (2009) (Democratic Republic of Congo)
21. **Hans Herren (2021)** Entomologist, farmer and development specialist. Co-founder of Biovision, Switzerland. Recipient of the World Food Prize (1995) Right Livelihood Laureate (2013)

HOME NOTE

Webs of Resistance and Change - Alliance Building

Our work in 2021 was focused on the theme: *Webs of Resistance and Change: Alliance Building*. We strengthened and expanded alliances to catalyze the change we seek for our political and ecological environment as well as for our food system.

This was achieved through strategic connectivity, messaging (social media, counter narratives), strengthening ethical foundations, transforming narratives, building knowledge and repositioning for change. These were driven by our reflections on our oneness with Nature and the need to reinforce healthy relationships with humans/communities as well as with other beings in our ecosystems.

Strategic connectivity leads to alliance building without which strong resistance cannot be built to defend communities, promote/recover climate resilience and stand against ecocide, environmental racism, neocolonialism, inequalities, gender discrimination and destructive extraction of resources.

Away from the total lockdowns occasioned by the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, the year 2021 presented new energy and an opportunity to take forward the lessons we have learned and are still learning from the global pandemonium. Although there were some restrictions to movement and physical gathering, we found ways to connect and execute the planned projects for the year.

One of our key projects in the year tagged *Shifting the Power Lines* demonstrated the need for sustainable energy paths; challenged current imaginaries on which the exploitative, polluting, wasteful and unjust systems have been built to unlock the world from the grip of fossil energy dependency.

We worked (in collaboration with other groups) with governments to commit to shifting power modes from fossil fuels to renewables, amplified the actions of women and youths in the movement against energy colonialism and promoted participatory research work among activists and academics.

On the food track, coalitions were formed throughout the country and beyond to resist the entrenchment of GMOs, seed and biosafety laws skewed against small holder farmers, and the erosion of biodiversity and food culture. Research and advocacy revealed sustain-able pathways to a resilient and sustain-able food system.

We are thankful to all our partners who worked with us in solidarity throughout the year.

Nnimmo Bassey
Director

03. HIGHLIGHTS OF EVENTS IN THE YEAR

Consultation and Team Building

As usual, we started the year with our annual team building and consultation meeting where we engage in strategic discussions among the HOMEF team and with our partners to define the direction for the year, map key stakeholders and communities of focus, brainstorm on project implementation and strengthen bonding.

From 1-5 February 2021 team members, board members, partners and volunteers converged for the team building and consultation meeting in Asaba, Delta State. Participants joined the event in person from Benin City, Abuja, Lagos, Port Harcourt, Bayelsa and Asaba, while others joined via Zoom from Lagos, the Philippines and Brazil.

We extensively examined the theme for the year. The environmental issues and challenges that the world battles with today are so complex that communities, groups and movements must come together to form strong alliances so as to effectively resist the forces that are responsible for these issues and bring about meaningful change.

During the event, it was understood that building alliances and webs of resistance would necessitate strategic connectivity, strategic messaging, ethically grounded activities, transforming narratives and putting the health of Mother Earth at the centre of all activities.

There were various sessions on ‘Advocacy: Building Resistance and Provoking Change’; ‘Use of Research in Building Resistance and Provoking Change’; and ‘Building and Sustaining the Team/Network/Alliances’

The meeting provided space for strategizing on HOMEF’s work in the Oilwatch Network and for discussions on fossil and mining conflicts in Nigeria and Africa.

Plans for all the activities under all of HOMEF’s key work areas (Fossil Politics, Hunger Politics, Ikike and Alliance building) were discussed in detail; strategies were fine-tuned, and recommendations made for better outcomes and outputs.

Activities planned with other networks were also discussed. For example, there was space for brainstorming on the FishNet Alliance and the Ecological Defense Network. Also, some light was shed on the project ‘Promoting Agroecology and its Inclusion in Nigeria’s Climate Change Policies.’ The project is planned in collaboration with the Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa as well as farmers, CSOs, researchers and media practitioners in Nigeria.

Other planned activities include biosafety conference and rally; conversations series on Thomas Sankara (which has already taken place), on ecocide, on Frantz Fanon and on AfriTAP; School of Ecology on various subject areas; stilt dialogues; and agroecology workshops with farmers, policymakers, and other stakeholders, etc.

There were also discussions on content creation, documentaries and use of stories; project planning, implementation, and reporting; effective social media use and communication/branding strategy; and ideas for effective administration and coordination within the team.

At the end of the meeting, team/board members, as well as other partners who participated, were energized as all had a strong understanding of HOMEF’s focus and strategy for the year. The sessions were highly interactive and interesting, with exercises that promoted better understanding among team members and partners.



Hunger Politics

This work track covers issues of seeds/GMOs, biosafety, forests, and biodiversity. We asks the basic question: why are people hungry? HOMEf works in the paradigm of food sovereignty and exposes the false premises of food aid as well as its exploitative and contaminating linkages.

We share below, stories/highlights of some of our activities in the year.

Farmers' Dialogue on Healthy and Resilient Food System in Nigeria

A resilient food and farming system is highly dependent on the protection and preservation of biological diversity. While industrial agriculture and market-based technologies destroy biodiversity, real farmers (small holder farmers) are faced with the challenge of making healthy food available in adequate quantities. In recognition of the vital role of small holder farmers, Health of Mother Earth Foundation (HOMEf), on 28 January 2021 brought farmers together to dialogue in Kano State, Nigeria to examine the challenges and threats to Nigeria's food system and define the pathway for food sovereignty.

The issue of Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) and their implications were discussed, followed by discussions on alternatives to GMOs and agroecology as a viable solution to the food and climate challenges. Also discussed were the general and specific challenges farmers face in the cultivation of different crops; harmful farming practices; sustain-able and indigenous farming practices and suggestions for food sovereignty in Nigeria.

Knowledge was shared on how GMOs tamper with Nigeria's ability to achieve food sovereignty. This is linked to the fact that many GM seeds come with patents that disallow re-cultivation of same seeds after the first planting season. This is coupled with the fact that the cultivation of GM seeds, especially the herbicide tolerant varieties lead to soil degradation and loss of biodiversity.

The dialogue re-enforced the importance of preserving biodiversity and the indigenous food system in Nigeria. It was understood that when farmers adopt farming techniques like the use of chemical fertilizers, pesticides and cultivation of Genetically Modified (GM) crops, they import foreign problems.

The farmers noted that farming practices championed by the industrial agriculture are alien to Nigeria's indigenous farming system. The impacts of these practices were mentioned and include: the loss of taste of some harvested crops like tomatoes, loss of firmness, slower crop growth, increased post-harvest spoilage and increased pests invasion which force the use of more pesticides.

The farmers narrated different and related challenges that they experience with the cultivation of crops. For groundnuts, beans and maize, the challenge is pest invasion; for cotton, it is stunted growth; while the challenge with rice is rusting or bronzing. All these challenges are linked to use of inorganic chemicals which interfere with the balance of the agro-ecosystem.

Indigenous and natural remedies were recommended for these challenges. One remedy is the use of compost or natural manure examples of which are cow dung, goat droppings and poultry manure. Another solution is the use of neem or *dongoyaro* leaves, seeds, and oil, recommended for controlling pests that trouble crops like maize, cowpea and okra; and the use of chilli pepper

to drive pests like grasshoppers. For better cotton heads, adequate use of phosphorous and potassium is recommended.

The full report of the Dialogue is available here: <https://homef.org/2021/03/04/farmers-dialogue-on-healthy-and-resilient-food-system-in-nigeria/>



The State of Biosafety in Nigeria: Resolutions from Stakeholders' Conference

There is increased push for the adoption of risky technologies such as genetic engineering especially in crop and animal breeding. This has heightened biosafety risks in many countries including Nigeria. With these risks the safety of the public and environment in these countries is not guaranteed.

In Nigeria, the National Biosafety Management Agency (NBMA) is the national biosafety regulatory body established in 2015. The law setting up the body has been found to have several flaws which are limits its capacity to function as an unbiased regulatory body. It openly promotes the development and deployment of risky technologies including GMOs to the neglect of public opinion.

As of November 2020, NBMA has issued 19 permits for the introduction of GMOs into Nigeria – eight for field trials, nine for use as food and/or feed, and two (GM Cowpea/beans and GM Cotton) for commercial release. Yet, NBMA continues to claim that there are no GMOs in Nigeria.

Health of Mother Earth Foundation (HOMEF) brought stakeholders together in a one-day conference on ‘The State of Biosafety in Nigeria’. The conference which was in-person and virtual was held on 13 April 2021 in Abuja. The stakeholders in attendance included small-scale farmers and food processors, environmental justice and food sovereignty advocates, legal and medical practitioners, academia, biosafety experts and the media.

Presentations were made by Dr Vandana Shiva of Navayana International, Mariam Mayet of African Centre for Biodiversity and Nnimmo Bassey of HOMEF. A panel made up of Dr Casmir Ifeanyi of the University of Abuja, Barr. Ifeanyi Nwankwere a legal practitioner and Joyce Ebebeinwe of HOMEF dissected various aspects of Biosafety and the acute exposure of Nigeria to avoidable risks.

In the conference, HOMEF launched two landmark reports which situate Nigeria’s biosafety situation as well as the presence of GMOs in Nigerian markets. The first report titled ‘The State of Biosafety in Nigeria’ addresses the situation of biosafety in Nigeria with regards to Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs), their use, official and illegal release, and the level of public awareness on the subject. It also reviewed Nigeria’s biosafety regulatory system and analysed the implementation of biosafety principles

such as the precautionary principle. It further exposes the fundamental flaws and gaps in the NBMA Act of 2019 (as amended). Among the defects in the law is the lack of strict liability and redress. In addition, NBMA has promoters of GMOs such as the National Biotechnology Development Agency (NABDA) on its board. This undoubtedly gives room for conflict of interest. The report presents well articulated recommendations for review of the laws for effective Biosafety and biosecurity.

The second report titled ‘What’s on Our Plate?’ shows the prevalence of GMO products in the Nigerian markets. The report is the output of market shelf surveys carried out by HOMEF from 2018 to 2020. It revealed the presence of over 30 products with genetically engineered ingredients on the shelves of supermarkets in Nigeria without any sign of their entry being authorized.

Some of the resolutions made by stakeholders:

- . There should be a total overhaul of the Biosafety regulatory architecture in Nigeria as the gaps and flaws in the current NBMA Act of 2015 and as amended in 2019 are overwhelming.
- . It is dangerous and needless to have gene editing guidelines that can label gene edited organisms as non-GMOs, thus, allowing approval of such organisms without regulation or public consultation. The guidelines are hopelessly against the interest of Nigeria and should be scrapped.
- . The introduction of GMOs in Nigeria should be stopped and our natural seed varieties plus genetic resources should be preserved.
- . Farmers should be supported with needed storage and processing facilities, market and extension services to ensure optimum productivity.
- . The recommendations of ‘The State of Biosafety in Nigeria’ report should be duly considered.
- . We should create community seed banks (for our natural seeds) to preserve indigenous varieties.
- . We should support our local researchers who work with communities as partners and respect indigenous knowledge and practices.



Nigerians Demand a Ban on GMOs and a Repeal of the National Biosafety Management Agency Act (Peaceful Street Rally)

On the 27-29 April 2021, farmers, CSOs, youths, women, scientists and consumers in general gathered in their numbers representing millions of Nigerians and demanded for a ban on genetically modified organisms in Nigeria and for a repeal of the National Biosafety Management Agency Act 2015.

The rally against GMOs was coordinated by the GMO-Free Nigeria Alliance in 10 States in Nigeria where key government offices were engaged with the demands below. The rally took place in Edo State, Lagos State, the Federal Capital Territory (Abuja), Kano, Enugu, Cross River, Katsina, Rivers, Bayelsa, and Benue States respectively.

An important output of this rally is the extensive awareness created on the implications of GMOs across Nigeria especially at the government offices and the commitment to look into the issues highlighted and the demands from the public.

Abridged petition submitted to the various government offices:

URGENT NEED TO BAN GENETICALLY MODIFIED CROPS IN NIGERIA AND TO REPEAL THE NATIONAL BIOSAFETY MANAGEMENT AGENCY ACT

Gathered here today are farmers, youths, women, scientists, medical practitioners, lawyers, civil society organisations and the generality of Nigerians whose food and agriculture systems are being threatened by the unrestrained release of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) into our country, Nigeria. The coalition is led by the GMO-Free Nigeria Alliance and Health of Mother Earth Foundation (HOMEF).

While we appreciate efforts of government at Federal and State levels to promote agricultural development in the country, we are concerned about aspects that would scuttle these efforts and push our people into acute food insecurity in the long term. These concerns are highlighted in the report on the State of Biosafety in Nigeria which was launched by HOMEF on 13 April 2021. One of such concerns is that several permits have been granted for introduction of GMOs into the

country by the National Biosafety Management Agency (NBMA). These approvals have been granted without consideration for the concerns raised by stakeholders. Also, a market survey on GMOs carried out between 2018 and 2020 have revealed the presence of over 30 different products that are labelled as containing genetically modified ingredients even though the Agency continuously says that there are no GMOs in the Nigerian market.

With the COVID-19 pandemic we are reminded of the importance of preserving biodiversity, strengthening our local economies both of which GMOs are at variance with. Small Scale farmers produce the bulk of the food we consume and the system of Agriculture which allows them the save, share and reuse seeds is being threatened by the introduction of GMOs into the country.

We demand a ban on GMOs and a repeal of the National Biosafety Management Agency Act which came into force in the year 2015 and was reviewed in 2019 to include emerging and even more contentious aspects of extremely risky modern biotechnology.

Our campaign against GMOs is particularly against genetic modification of food crops and animals and any other genetic modification that will alter ecosystem balance, negatively impact our agriculture, or destroy local economies and foods. Majority of Nigerians are not aware of these GMOs in our food system and the toxic chemicals that some of them are engineered to withstand while killing everything else. Many are not aware of their implications on human and environmental health and on the livelihood of small-scale farmers.

The NBMA Act needs to be repealed as it is flawed with respect to the absence of provisions for strict liability and redress which mandates that the biotechnology corporations take responsibility for immediate and forthcoming negative impacts of use of their products as is the case in a similar Act in Uganda. Other areas of concern include lack of access to information, poor public consultation and participation, provisions for appeals and reviews, and lack of veritable provisions for the enforcement of the precautionary principle and decision making.

The NBMA Act confers enormous discretionary powers on the agency and gives little room for oversight. The conflict of interest inherent in the NBMA Act equally raises serious red flags about the administration of biosafety in Nigeria. We have the National Biotechnology Development Agency (NABDA) sitting on the board of the NBMA. In 2016, two of the permits issued by NBMA to Monsanto Agriculture Nigeria Limited were applied for by the company for events that were to be implemented in partnership with NABDA. Imagine a developer/promoter of GMOs applying for a permit in partnership with a biotech company and sitting to

approve the same permit. This is an obvious reason to worry about our biosafety regulatory architecture.

The expansion of the Act to include definitions of evolving aspects of the applications of biotechnology such as gene drives, gene editing, and synthetic biology is a tremendously dangerous move that would compound the risks already posed by the application of the first-generation technology. Including these applications in the Act represents an opening of the country to the products of these dangerous and unproven technologies as have been demonstrated by the way the agency grants approvals for importation and release of products of the first-generation GMOs.

The use of gene drive organisms for example has the potential of wiping off whole species of organisms. Gene drives are a genetic engineering tool that aim to force artificial genetic changes through entire populations of animals, insects, and plants and unlike previous genetically modified organisms (GMOs), these gene drive organisms (GDOs) are deliberately designed to spread genetic pollution through generations of species. We note that this poses a severe threat to biodiversity, ecological systems, and environmental sustainability.

We demand a nullification of the permits issued to for the importation and release of genetically modified maize, beans, cotton into the country. These permits have been issued without regard for the complaints by millions of Nigerians and without the consent of many. Nigerians should not be used as pawns or as guinea pigs in furtherance of blatant commercial interests. that aim to contaminate our environment, destroy our agriculture, culture and rupture our socio-

Fossil Politics

This track investigates our massive dependence on fossil fuels and builds from the power of communities who subsidize this perverse industry and who suffer gross despoliation. We believe that a transition from fossil fuels must be rapid and urgent and devoid of distractions by way of fixes that depend on the status quo.

See events highlights below.

Abolishing Persistent Ecologic and Economic Crimes in the Niger Delta (Polluter’s Judgment Roundtable)

The Polluters’ Judgment Roundtable was held at Oronto Douglas Conference Hall, HOMEF’s International Headquarters in Benin City on 23 February 2021.

Over the last six decades the Niger Delta region of Nigeria has been immersed in extensive environmental pollution from the activities of oil and gas corporations. These pollutions have accounted for severe damage to communities, livelihoods and raised health challenges that have plunged life expectancy to a horrifying 41 years.

The people of the region have responded in a number of ways, notably through a recourse to the law courts in Nigeria and beyond. One amongst such cases was the court case where four farmers and fishers from Akwa Ibom, Bayelsa and Rivers States respectively in partnership with Friends of the Earth Netherlands sued Shell to a Dutch court.

Brief chronicle on the case

The case was filed by four Nigerian farmers in 2008, who alleged that widespread pollution on their land was caused by leaks from Shells’ oil infrastructure due to a lack of repair and maintenance.

The case went a step further above the Judgment that was given by a lower court on 30 January 2013 when Shell was held liable for the pollution at Ikot Ada Udoh. This current case that led to the victory held Shell liable for all the environmental pollution and degradation in Oruma, Goi and Ikot Ada communities in Niger Delta region of Nigeria.

The decision on the Oil Spills in Oruma, Goi declared that SPDC vis-à-vis Oguru, Efanga and the other residents in the vicinity for whom Milleudefensie (MD) is representing, held Shell (i) liable for the damage resulting from the leakage at Oruma on 26 June 2005 and (ii) acted unlawfully by not acting before that date to install an (adequate) Leak Detection System (LDS) on the Oruma pipeline, and orders SPDC to compensate Oguru and Efanga for the damage resulting from (i) and (ii), to be prepared by state and to settle according to the law.

13 years had passed by the time the Appeal Court on the 29th of January 2021 ruled in favour of three out of the four Nigerian farmers holding that Shell must compensate them for the damages caused by the oil spill pollution. The Court also held that Shell International has “duty of care” to ensure that their Nigerian subsidiary behaves responsibly in its operations. In the case of Ikot Ada Udoh, the Court asked for more details to figure out the extent of the pollution there.

The farmers involved are Chief Fidelis Oguru and Mr Alali Efanga (plaintiffs/appellants in cases a and b) are from Oruma, a village in Bayelsa State in the Federal Republic of Nigeria), Chief Barizaa Dooh (plaintiffs/appellant in cases c and d) is from Goi, a village in Rivers State, Nigeria while Elder Friday Alfred Akpan (plaintiffs/appellant in cases e and f) is from Ikot Ada Udo, a village in Akwa Ibom State, Nigeria.

In similar vein, on 12th February 2021, another lawsuit also brought against Shell was won by two other communities in Nigeria who were given the right to sue Shell in the United Kingdom for the environmental atrocities committed in the communities in Rivers State, Nigeria.

Health of Mother Earth Foundation (HOMEF) on 23rd February 2021 hosted a Roundtable to unpack the implications of the judgments for the quest for environmental justice by the people of the Niger Delta. The meeting had participants including lawyers, law students, youths, members of Civil Society Organisations, representatives from host communities' network and the media.

The participants interrogated the judgments based on presentations by Barr Chima Williams (one of the lawyers for the four farmers/fishers), Comrade Celestine Akpobari (a frontline Ogoni environmentalist) and discussions lead by Rev David Ugolor with Emem Okon, a frontline women environmental advocate in Niger Delta as moderator.

See the observations and resolutions by the participants here: <https://homef.org/?s=polluters+judgment>



Stories from Degraded Environments in Kono and Bundu

It has been said that no one can tell a people's story better than the people themselves. For six decades and counting, oil extraction activities have constantly degraded ecosystems – lands, rivers, mangroves, etc. in the Niger Delta with at least one oil spill occurring per day.

HOMEF held two Stilt Roots Community Dialogues to enable the affected communities share their stories, folklore and experiences about their mangroves and fishing activities, the pollution of their rivers by crude

oil from pipelines and artisanal refining in the mangroves, livelihood, culture, energy issues and climate change. The dialogues were held at the waterfront of Kono and Bundu communities, Rivers State on 21 and 23 April 2021 respectively.

According to Nnimmo Bassey, HOMEf's Director, Stilt Roots Stories are the vehicle for leadership from below. They awaken communal memories, influence people's perceptions, fire up their imagination and propel action. These stories provide opportunities for fishers and mangrove dependent communities to seek restoration of their ecosystems, revitalize and revalidate their socio-cultural systems and push for harmonious relationship with Mother Earth.

The June 2021 edition of the *Eco-Instigator* (No. 32) has a fuller version of the report on the Stilt Roots Community Dialogues. See at <https://homef.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/ei-32-.pdf>

Demanding Real Zero Not Net Zero: Declaration from Oilwatch International Global Gathering



Oilwatch International network members, community representatives from oil regions, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), community-based organizations (CBOs), the academia and the media met in Port Harcourt, the Rivers State, Nigeria, between 19th – 21st of October 2021, physically and virtually, for the maiden edition of the Oilwatch International Global Gathering.

The gathering, which had the theme *Demanding Real Zero, Not Net Zero* aimed to present the way out of the climate quagmire and present real options for climate action. The Global Gathering looked critically at the false solutions to Climate Change including the Net Zero concept which world leaders, corporations and investors are echoing as the world gets ready for COP26.

Participants deliberated on the failure of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change's Conference of Parties (COP) which over the years has become an avenue for trade talks, commercial pledges, and avoidance of real action irrespective of the glaring unfolding climate catastrophe. At a time when the world is experiencing extreme weather events including droughts, wildfires, cyclones, hurricanes and floods, leaders are getting sucked into false solutions that lock in dependence on fossil fuels with the promises of techno-fixes for carbon removals, solar radiation management and/or carbon offsets.

The implications of fossil fuels exploitation on human rights and on primary economies including agriculture, fisheries, and livelihoods of community folks were also discussed.

Some of the observations by the participants:

- . Big polluters, the perpetrators of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions globally have continued to wield untoward influence on the climate negotiations as evidenced in the new mantra of Net Zero, a suite of algorithms and technologies, an updated

version of the myth of carbon offsetting, which now seems still to be leading the discussions, rather than real climate actions, now under the Paris Agreement.

- . Net Zero and other false solutions allow polluters to continue polluting and lock in extractive and other obnoxious activities that empower the fossil fuels industry.
- . Net Zero erases the very essence of history and the responsibilities to cut down emissions.
- . Countries and territories in the Global South that have not contributed significantly to the problem are disproportionately impacted by climate change.

Some declarations from the Global Gathering:

- . There must be a halt to the propagation of false narratives such as Net Zero Emissions at a time the world requires Real Zero Emissions as the way out of calamitous climate change.
- . COP26 in Glasgow UK, should not be an arena for deliberations on false notions such as Nature Based Solutions, Net Zero, Carbon neutrality, carbon offsetting but rather real actions including keeping fossil fuel resources in the ground.
- . The use of Nature Based Solutions should not be an excuse for land and sea grabbing and displacement of indigenous communities.
- . All governments need to urgently go back to a binding global emissions reduction rather than the so-called Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) which according to the UN computations of submissions made so far will lead the world to a calamitous temperature increase of up to 2.7oC above pre industrial levels

Read more here: <https://homef.org/?s=oilwatch+global+gathering>

Ikike

Ikike is the fundamental vehicle for the attainment of the change HOMEf seeks to build by creating spaces for knowledge development, interrogation and sharing.

Events coordinated from this desk are highlighted as follows.

Conversations on Thomas Sankara- Lessons from Our Heroes Past

The lives and experiences of past and fallen phenomenal African leaders hold relevance not just for the sake of history but for current struggles. Health of Mother Earth Foundation (HOMEf), in the first series of her Conversations for 2021, organised in collaboration with ATALC (Amigos de la Tierra América Latina y Caribe / Friends of the Earth [FoE] Latin America and the Caribbean), on 26 February, had a discourse on the life of Thomas Sankara. The guest discussant for the series was Dr. Isaac Asume Osuoka, the coordinator of Social Action International. Karin Nansen, Chair, Friends of the Earth International (FoEI) and Danilo Urrea, Coordinator, ATALC also featured in the conversation. The event was streamed live on Facebook.

In the opening segment, Karin Nansen (FoEI chair), expressed optimism that the conversation will motivate the peoples of Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean in reclaiming their collective history. “The struggles for emancipation led by leaders like Thomas Sankara and others across the three continents form the collective history that ties the peoples together”, she said. According to her, the conversation will enable Latin Americans to learn from the struggles of Africa.

Thomas Sankara was “the driver of Burkina Faso’s (Burkinabè) revolution and developed nuanced political and practical actions to address the combined forces of neo-colonialism, colonialism, patriarchy, ecological degradation, food injustice, among others”, Bassey stated.

Thomas Sankara made these great strides in the four years, 1983 to 1987, in which he held power as the president of Burkina Faso before he was assassinated (in 1987) by a group led by his close friend and second in command, Blaise Compaore. Worthy of note is that Thomas Sankara was only 34 years when he became president.

According to the guest discussant, Sankara’s entry into Burkina Faso’s politics holds great significance for Africa, Latin America and the world generally. Thomas Sankara emerged at a time when even after independence, Western and European powers continued to dominate and keep Africa and Latin America perpetually impoverished. It was an era when Western powers tried and succeeded in creating puppet

regimes to do their biddings and allow Western mining corporations and other financial interests to continue to plunder the continents' resources.

Dr. Osuoka described Thomas Sankara as “the most influential political leader that has emerged in Africa since the end of formal colonial rule.” According to Osuoka, “Thomas Sankara had a profound impact in the development of the political consciousness of people in Africa and the world. He emerged as a champion of the oppressed, showed the example of sacrifice in leadership and demonstrated how the resources of a country could be mobilized to address the needs of the people rather than imperialists interests.”

Thomas Sankara was also described in the conversation as “the representation of the African revolutionary aspiration.” He sought to empower his people to rebuild their country for their own benefit. “He became the preeminent spokesperson on behalf of exploited people in Africa and elsewhere. He tried to rally leaders of the continent against imperialism and all those that served imperialists' interests” Dr Osuoka stressed.

To fight coloniality, Sankara changed the colonial identity of his country from Upper Volta (the colonial name) to Burkina Faso which means Land of the upright. Asume Osuoka considers this re-christening activity to be “an integral part of the decolonisation process.” According to the guest discussant, this is in contrast to what is obtainable in Nigeria where the name given to it by imperialists is maintained till the present time. He advised that “as we move towards decolonisation, we must think of renaming the country on our own terms- to identify ourselves in the way that we want to be identified as Ghana, Benin Republic, Burkina Faso and some other African countries have done.”

Thomas Sankara was described as an internationalist and a Pan Africanist. He was a strong supporter of the Saharawi people of Western Sahara which is still a colony of Morocco in Africa.

Ideas were shared on how environmental activists can, through solidarity and the internationalist mentality, confront environmental challenges. It was recommended that environmental activists should fall back to the similar history of plunder and colonisation which Africa, Latin America and even Asia have suffered due to the commercial interest of Europe. Having this common history in mind, activists in the continents should fight in solidarity against the transnational corporations and extractive industries involved in the devastation of the environment. This is necessary as the forces that are active in environmental degradation in Nigeria are the same across the continents of Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean. International solidarity is, thus, fundamental in dealing with environmental crises.

Thomas Sankara was assassinated but his revolutionary ideas live on. His ideas, actions and policies represent a testament or evidence of what Africa hopes for and that which is possible. Thomas Sankara showed that a people can achieve change but only through collective struggle.



Criminalizing Ecocide- The Conversations

A movement is growing around the world to make ecocide a crime at the International Criminal Court (ICC). With the mounting global movement, a lot of information about ecocide is now in the public domain. However, Health of Mother Earth Foundation (HOMEF) observed that many of her stakeholders are yet to fully understand the enormous potential for systemic change that the championed ecocide law will bring. To fill the observed knowledge gap, HOMEF on 24 May 2021 held a virtual Conversation series with the title “Ecocide: The Crime and the Law.

Jojo Mehta who is the Executive Director of Stop Ecocide International which she co-founded with late barrister Polly Higgins (an inspiring figure in the movement) was invited to lead the Conversations. Jojo Mehta is also the convener of the Independent Expert Panel for the Legal Definition of Ecocide. She informed participants at the Conversations that the expert panel which is currently concluding work on the legal definition of ecocide has 12 members. These members are from different parts of the world including Africa (Serra Leone and Senegal), with a mixture of international criminal lawyers and environmental lawyers. The panel plans to complete the drafting process of the legal definition in June 2021 and then launch the definition publicly with a press conference in same June.

The legal definition was said to be necessary for specific reasons which are to: gain countries’ support (as it is what countries would look at to be able to support the law); fit into the Rome Statute; get a definition serious enough to warrant the place of an international crime and; that is not so high that it becomes impossible to prosecute for the crime.

Jojo Mehta presented a working definition of ecocide as “mass damage and destruction of ecosystems that is systematic and is committed with knowledge of the risks.” According to her, “the definition makes it impossible for the perpetrators of serious destruction of nature to say they did not know what the results of their actions and activities might be.”

The Conversation interrogated why ecocide was not included in the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court which was adopted on 17 July 1998 and has so far been acceded to by about 123 countries including Nigeria. Responding, Jojo Mehta stated that “at the time of the drafting of the Code which became the Rome Statute, the governing document of the ICC, there

was a clause which covered serious environmental destruction. That clause was dropped without a vote before the Statute was agreed upon.” She explained that reasons for dropping the clause may be connected to objections by the United States of America, United Kingdom, the Netherlands and France as well as to the investigation and development of nuclear testing at the time (the 1990s). “Polly Higgins came about the missing clause while carrying out research around the possibility of criminalising ecosystems’ destruction” Jojo Mehta informed.

The reasons why ecocide is championed as an international crime and law were brought to the table at the Conversations. First, in terms of ecological deterioration, what we are facing in the world is a global lethal crisis with different parts of the world facing different degrees and kinds of sufferings due to ecocide. Hence, bringing ecocide to the international level is more practical as the world needs to move together to tackle the climate and environmental crises affecting all. Also, with ecocide criminalised at the international level, any state that has ratified it can prosecute for that crime. Jojo Mehta pointed out that the ICC cannot override a sovereign states’ decision to ratify a crime or not. But by the international nature of the crime and by universal jurisdiction principles, the crime of ecocide can be prosecuted by any ratifying state where the offender/accused has physical or operational presence. This goes to show that the scope for the potential of prosecution for ecocide is broader than what is obtainable for some other international crimes.

Second, politically speaking, it is much easier for states to express support for an international law knowing that lots of states need to come on board for such a law to move forward.

Third, criminalising ecocide at the international level removes corporate impunity and prevents jurisdiction hopping, a situation where companies simply move operations to a different country to escape punishment. This is because focus is rather on the key decision makers behind the ecocidal projects. And these set of persons are often in the wealthy North.

Fourth, ecocide as an international crime and law will lead to the shifting of cultural mindsets and will send a very strong moral message. It will shift the normative and put carelessness about damage to nature below the moral red line. It will also represent a deep fundamental shift, serving both as a deterrent and as an

empowering instrument for activists, NGOs, academics, scientists and all others working towards more responsible relationship with nature.

Read the full report here: <https://homef.org/2021/03/24/conversations-on-thomas-sankara-lessons-from-our-heroes-past/>

Alliance Building (FishNet Alliance)

FishNet Alliance is a network of fishers engaged in and promoting sustainable fishing in line with ecosystem limits. The Alliance stands in solidarity against extractive activities in water bodies - including rivers, lakes and oceans.

The following events were organized with the FishNet Alliance and contributed towards alliance/capacity building for resistance against forces threatening livelihoods and sustenance in coastal communities.

HOMEF Trains Fishers in Bayelsa



Bayelsa is among states with well-defined coastlines and sandy beaches. It is home of foraging and nesting for several species of fish, mammals and other animals. The marine freshwater ecosystems are threatened basically as a result of extractive activities.

Health of Mother Earth Foundation (HOMEF) organised one-day training for fishers in Bayelsa state on Thursday, 10 December, 2020. This training aimed at building and strengthening the grassroots fishers to monitor, report and advocate for healthy marine environment and to ensure their participation in formation of policies concerning aquatic environments. Participants were drawn from fishing communities around Yenagoa as well from Southern Ijaw, Ekeremor and Brass LGAs. Also present were CSOs and the media.

In February 2020, an enormous number of dead fish washed up on an extensive stretch of the Niger Delta coastline. This news first broke out when community people from Ogbulagha Kingdom

in Burutu LGA of Delta State raised an alarm over the massive death of fish, floating and littering their shores. Reports also came in from fishing communities in Ondo, Bayelsa, Rivers and Akwa Ibom States. It is, however, worrisome that the actual cause of the incident has not been found till date. Just as the community people were grappling with the massive die-off of fish believed to be caused by pollution from oil and gas related activities, COVID-19 came and obstructed their path to recovery.

The meeting ended with a call to unite fishers and the need for fishers to be part of the FishNet Alliance – a network of fishers engaged in and promoting sustainable fishing in line with ecosystem limits. Fishers were instigated to stand in solidarity against extractive activities in water bodies including rivers, lakes and oceans.

At the end of the training and group session, the fishers resolved that:

- . There should be increased participation of fishers in policy spaces as regards aquatic environment management.
- . Extraction of oil and gas of any kind offshore and onshore must stop and no new fields should be opened.
- . There should be promotion of traditional knowledge of fishing practices including those that would help mitigate climate change impacts.
- . Activities of industrial trawlers along the Atlantic coast of Bayelsa must be duly regulated.



Coastal community monitoring, HOMEF engaged fishers

The attention paid to coastal communities vary depending on whether such areas are urban or rural. The flooding and projected impacts of the refinery on Lagos, a mega city, attracts global attention, while smaller towns such as Ibeno and communities like Uta Ewa, Ibaka or Ago Iwoye hardly get a mention.

Coastline communities depend on aquatic ecosystem resources to secure their livelihoods and maintain their cultures. A distortion of this environment brings about both subtle and direct impacts on the social, cultural, and economic lives of the people. Canalisation, for instance, and sea level rise, bring in salt water from the sea, thus contaminating freshwater sources. This brings about the stressful contradiction of living on water and yet having none to drink. Besides the pressure on potable

water, the intrusion of salt water also alters the diversity of aquatic and terrestrial species in the territories.

The Health of Mother Earth foundation HOMEF engaged fishers in coastal ecosystems monitoring and training session at Uta Ewa in Ikot Abasi LGA of Akwa Ibom State. The session exposed the diverse challenges facing fishers around the country. The Director of HOMEF, Nnimmo Bassey urged fishers and the community people in general to protect the coast line from degradation.

The fishers in their resolution after the meeting outlined what they intend to achieve with the environmental training that was received during the session. The resolutions include:

- . They will share experiences on how oil spills and environmental pollution affects their community.
- . They will share knowledge received with other community members.
- . They will use the knowledge in advocacy, dialogue with the operating companies on safe fishing methods under the FishNet Alliance.
- . They will use the knowledge gained in engaging government to provide facilities for storage Ag's processing of their catches.
- . They will engage in replanting of mangrove tree species and other forest tree species. They will adopt community conservation methods to ensure sustainable reforestation.
- . They will also dialogue with the ministry of agriculture and natural development to ensure adequate support for fisheries in the community and the state in general.
- . They demanded that oil companies and the government should clean up their rivers and estuaries and pay



adequate compensation for losses due to oil pollution.

- . They called on the Nigerian Inland Waterways Authority to clear up wrecks and abandoned equipment from their waters for safe navigation and fishing activities.
- . They also called for security agencies to save them from ravages of sea pirates who are a serious threat to lives and property in the area. Present at the event were members of the community council, members from various fishers associations, NGOs and the media.

A chapter of the FishNet Alliance was duly set up in the community at the close of the training session.

HOMEF AT EVENTS: (Participation in National and International Events)



5th International Rights of Nature Tribunal Official Verdicts

The 5th International Rights of Nature Tribunal took place on Wednesday, November 3rd, and Thursday, November 4th at 4 pm (GMT) in Glasgow, alongside the United Nations Conference on Climate Change (COP26). Due to COVID and traveling restrictions, this Tribunal was a hybrid event – online through Zoom and in person at the Auditorium of the University of Strathclyde.

The Fifth International Rights of Nature Tribunal heard two fundamental ecological cases facing the world today: the false solutions to the Climate Change crisis and the Amazon, a threatened living entity. The cases were presented by frontline, impacted communities and experts from around the world, and were heard by a panel of globally recognized judges, who examined and ruled on the cases from a Rights of Nature perspective: Enrique Viale (Argentina), Alberto Acosta (Ecuador), Nancy Yáñez (Chile), Atossa Soltani (EE.UU.), Rocío Silva Santiesteban (Perú), Osprey Orielle Lake (USA), Nnimmo Bassey (Nigeria), Lisa Mead (UK), Carolyn Raffensperger (USA), Yaku Pérez (Ecuador), and Princess Esmeralda (Belgium), and the Tribunal was presided over by Leonardo Boff (Brazil).

VERDICTS FALSE SOLUTIONS TO THE CLIMATE CHANGE CRISIS

In the context of the current climate emergency and increasing global ecological breakdown, the International Tribunal for the Rights of Nature, founded upon existing normative frameworks of universal law, which are inviolable, non-negotiable and applicable to all living beings, and applying the Universal Declaration for the Rights of Mother Earth, has found that the practices set out

violate a number of the rights of Mother Earth and members of the Earth Community of some of the living beings of which she is composed, including but not limited to the right to life and to exist, to be respected, to continue their vital cycles and processes free from human disruptions, to maintain its identity and integrity as a distinct, self-regulating and interrelated being, to integral health, to be free from contamination, pollution and toxic or radioactive waste, and the right to not have its genetic structure modified or disrupted in a manner that threatens its integrity or vital and healthy functioning.

Taking from this premise, the Tribunal gives recommendations on the following fields:

- Geoengineering and its various techniques
- Carbon Offsets
- Net Zero Emissions and Nature-Based solutions
- Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS)
- UNFCCC
- Rights of Future Generations

As regards the two cases brought before the Tribunal in relation to gas flaring and venting in Ecuador and the sacrifice zone of Quintero Bay in Chile, which both serve to demonstrate the kind of extreme pollution that is being caused by fossil fuel extraction, the Tribunal gives further recommendations for the Sacrifice Zones in Chile and gas flaring and venting in Ecuador.

AMAZON, A THREATENED, LIVING ENTITY

The International Rights of Nature Tribunal is founded upon existing normative frameworks of universal law, which are inviolable, non-negotiable, and applicable to all living beings. The Tribunal, applying the Universal Declaration for the Rights of Mother Earth has found in this case serious violations of a number of the rights of Mother Earth and of some of the beings of which she is composed, including but not limited to the right to life and to exist, to be respected, to continue their vital cycles and processes free from human disruptions, the right [of the Amazon region] to maintain its identity and integrity as a distinct, self-regulating and interrelated being, to integral health, to be free from contamination, pollution, and toxic or radioactive waste, and the right to not have its genetic structure modified or disrupted in a manner that threatens its integrity or vital and healthy functioning.

The Tribunal assessed the scale of the damages and impacts caused to the Amazon and condemns those directly responsible for the crimes of ethnocide, ecocide, and genocide against the Amazon and its peoples, namely: banks, financiers of megaprojects in the Amazon; transnational companies, including mining and agribusiness corporations; States, for permitting these criminal actions against the Amazon, violating international law and national legislation, and for the systemic violence that has installed itself in these territories, availing the actions of criminal organizations that operate at the fringes of the law and that invade the territories of the traditional peoples and are unpunished authors of murders and the kidnapping of indigenous leaders, activists, and defenders of human rights and the Rights of Nature.

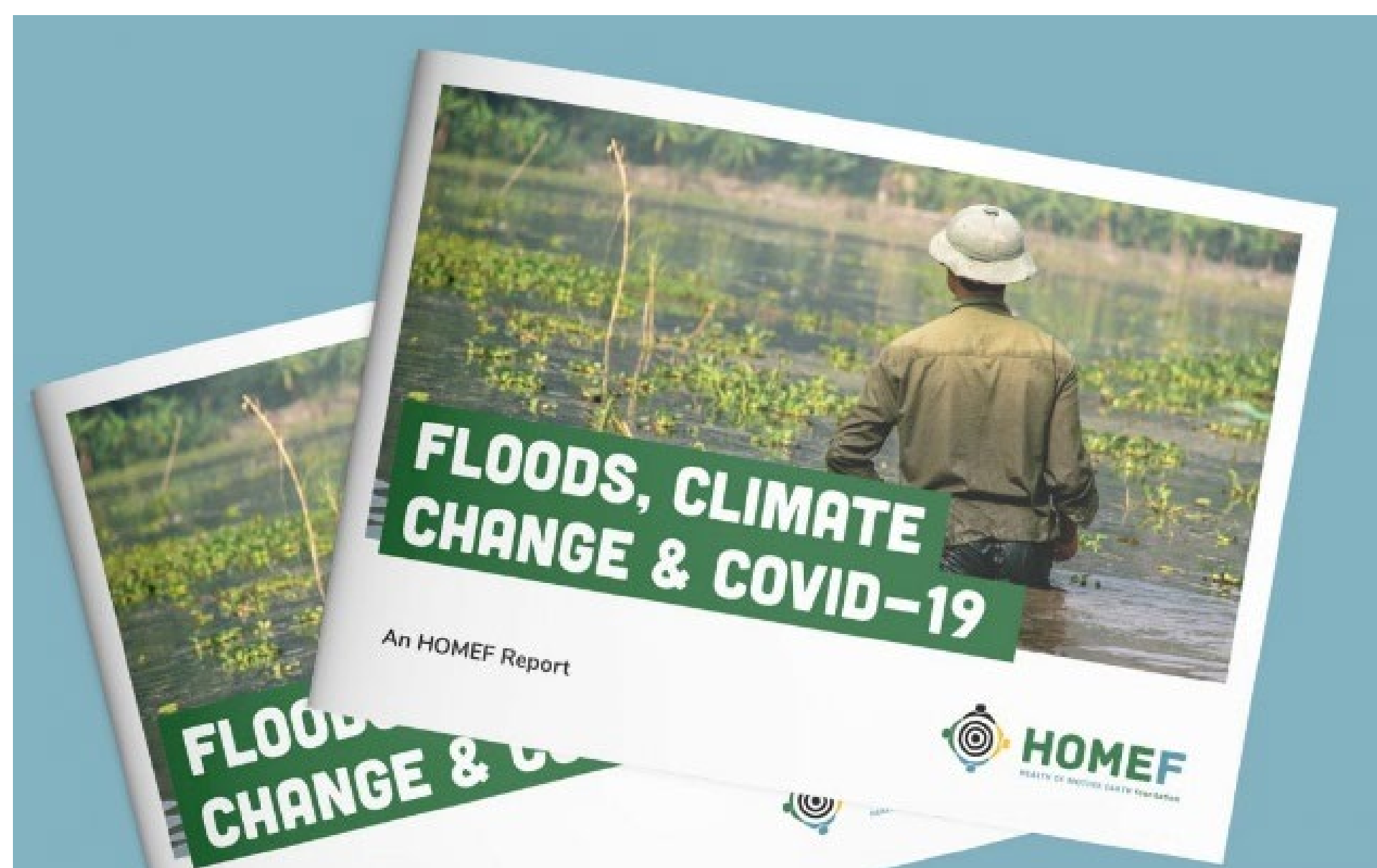
The Tribunal thus proposes measures for:

- . The recognition and guarantee of the Amazon as a Subject of Rights
- . Its integral reparation
- . De-Mercantilization of Nature
- . The recognition of the Indigenous Peoples as Defenders of the Amazon
- . Tribunal actions in territory

Press contact:

. Josefina Möhle, Communications for the Tribunal, communications@garn.org
Secretariat: Natalia Greene tribunal@rightsofnaturetribunal.org

RESEARCH AND PUBLICATIONS



1. Floods, Climate Change & Covid-19 Report (<https://homef.org/2021/01/30/floods-climate-change-covid-19-report/>)
2. Hotspots of Conflict (<https://homef.org/2021/08/17/hotspots-of-conflicts/>)
3. Report on the State of Biosafety in Nigeria (<https://homef.org/2021/06/24/report-on-the-state-of-biosafety-in-nigeria/>)
4. Woes of the Well head (<https://homef.org/2021/12/09/woes-of-the-wellhead/>)
5. Africa caught in the Fossil Trap (<https://homef.org/2021/11/29/africa-caught-in-the-fossil-trap/>)
6. Four editions of eco-Instigator (<https://homef.org/2021/03/31/eco-instigator-31/>, <https://homef.org/2021/07/07/eco-instigator-32/>, <https://homef.org/2021/10/15/eco-instigator-33/>, <https://homef.org/2022/01/21/eco-instigator-34/>)

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Shell Moving Offshore to Evade Clean Up Responsibility – Groups Alert FG

Civil society groups in Nigeria have urged the Nigerian government to compel Shell to clean up the massive pollution its extractive activities have created in the Niger Delta and cautioned that the company's plans to divest its operations by moving offshore is only targeted at evading the scrutiny that its onshore activities have attracted. Three organisations – Health of Mother Earth Foundation (HOMEF), Corporate Accountability and Public Participation Africa (CAPPa), and the Environmental Rights Action/Friends of the Earth Nigeria (ERA/FoEN) made this demand following reports that Shell is in talks with the Nigerian government to sell its stake in onshore oilfields.

Shell Chief Executive Officer, Ben van Beurden, had announced last week at the [oil company's annual general meeting](#) in The Hague, Netherlands, that the company has struggled for years with spills in the Niger Delta because of pipeline theft and sabotage as well as operational issues.

Beurden had remarked that Shell cannot solve community problems in the Niger Delta, and added that, "that is for the Nigerian government perhaps to solve".

But in a joint statement issued in Lagos, the three organisations described the Shell plan as a clear abdication of responsibility for years of ecocide in the Niger Delta and expressed worry that the Nigerian government will be setting a wrong

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A pile of torn, crumpled, and shredded pieces of newspaper and paper, scattered on a white background. The fragments show various text elements including names, dates, and headlines, illustrating the concept of information being broken down or discarded.



precedent if it allows Shell to move offshore without addressing the grave environmental imprints its extraction has caused in the Niger Delta region.

Besides attempting to dodge responsibility over their onshore mess, Shell is attracted to offshore extraction because oil companies pay less, and sometimes zero, royalties to Nigeria on wells in deeper waters. The move to extend exploitation with impunity for higher profits is unacceptable.

The groups however noted that this is the time for Nigeria to diversify and transition from oil/gas rather than allow Shell and her cohorts to set their eyes on more polluting activities offshore.

Director of HOMEF, Nnimmo Bassey said: “We never expected less from a company that has ridden roughshod on the environment and people of the Niger Delta while raking in blood profits. From Ogoni to Ikarama to Ikot Ada Udo and Ejama-Ebubu, the footprints that Shell wants to run away from are open wounds that cannot be healed by evading responsibility”.

He insisted that Shell’s operations have been a vicious cycle of reckless extraction, pollution and environmental degradation, utter disregard for the people, and brazen attempts to place the blame on the same people it has inflicted pains on.

Executive Director of CAPP, Akinbode Oluwafemi said: “We are not deceived by the media whitewash on the reasons for Shell’s so-called divestment. Shell must own up to the onshore mess. Offshore operations mean aquatic life will suffer and our fishers will make fewer catch. It means we will have more dead fish littering our shorelines. Ultimately, it will only expose the incapacity of the Nigerian government to track pollutions.

“What we demand is accountability and the Nigerian government owes the impacted people of the Niger Delta the responsibility of making Shell do that”.

Acting Executive Director of ERA/FoEN, Chima Williams said: “It is simply unacceptable and wishful thinking for Shell to even think it could escape liability from the mess it has created in the Niger Delta. The landmark ruling of the Dutch court against Shell in favour of the Niger Delta farmers in January 2021 and the UK court ruling in February affirming the rights of communities to sue even in European courts have opened vistas of opportunities that communities will exploit to hold Shell accountable.”

“Shell is going nowhere without cleaning up and paying up. The era of impunity is over”.

The groups urged communities that have been impacted by Shell’s operations to remain undeterred in their quest for justice, citing the January 29, 2021 landmark Dutch court ruling ordering Shell to compensate for oil spills in two villages over a decade ago as example to show victory will certainly come even if it is delayed.

It urged the communities to explore legal tools such as the Liability Roadmap launched in 2020 to hold Shell to the task.

“There is no hiding place from the mess that Shell has created. It must not only own up, but it must also clean up and pay up. We are undeterred in our quest to bring Shell to justice”, they insisted.

Nigerians Reject the UPOV-91 Based Plant Variety Protection Law

Petition submitted to the office of the Secretary General, The International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants (UPOV), Genève 20, Switzerland.

The undersigned coalition of farmers, Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), researchers, youth and women groups representing millions of Nigerians and Africans have denounced the adoption of an UPOV91 based Plant Variety Protection (PVP) law in Nigeria. They demand that Nigeria withdraws the law and adopt a sui generis law based on the peculiar agriculture system in the country.



The provisions of the Act at section 43(2) contravenes the Constitution of Nigeria and its validity is already challenged in the law court. The Registered Trustees of Health of Mother Earth Foundation supported by over 50 organisations filed a lawsuit challenging the undemocratic process and the inconsistency of the UPOV based PBR law with the Nigerian constitution and have sought an order of perpetual injunction restraining the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development by themselves, their agents, servants, workmen or otherwise whatsoever from carrying out any activity or further activity pursuant to section 43(2) of the Plant Variety Protection Act 2021. The lawsuit seeks a declaration that section 43(2) of the Plant Variety Protection Act 2021 is illegal, invalid, null and void and contrary to the letters and spirit of Sections 6 and 36 of the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (as amended in 2011).

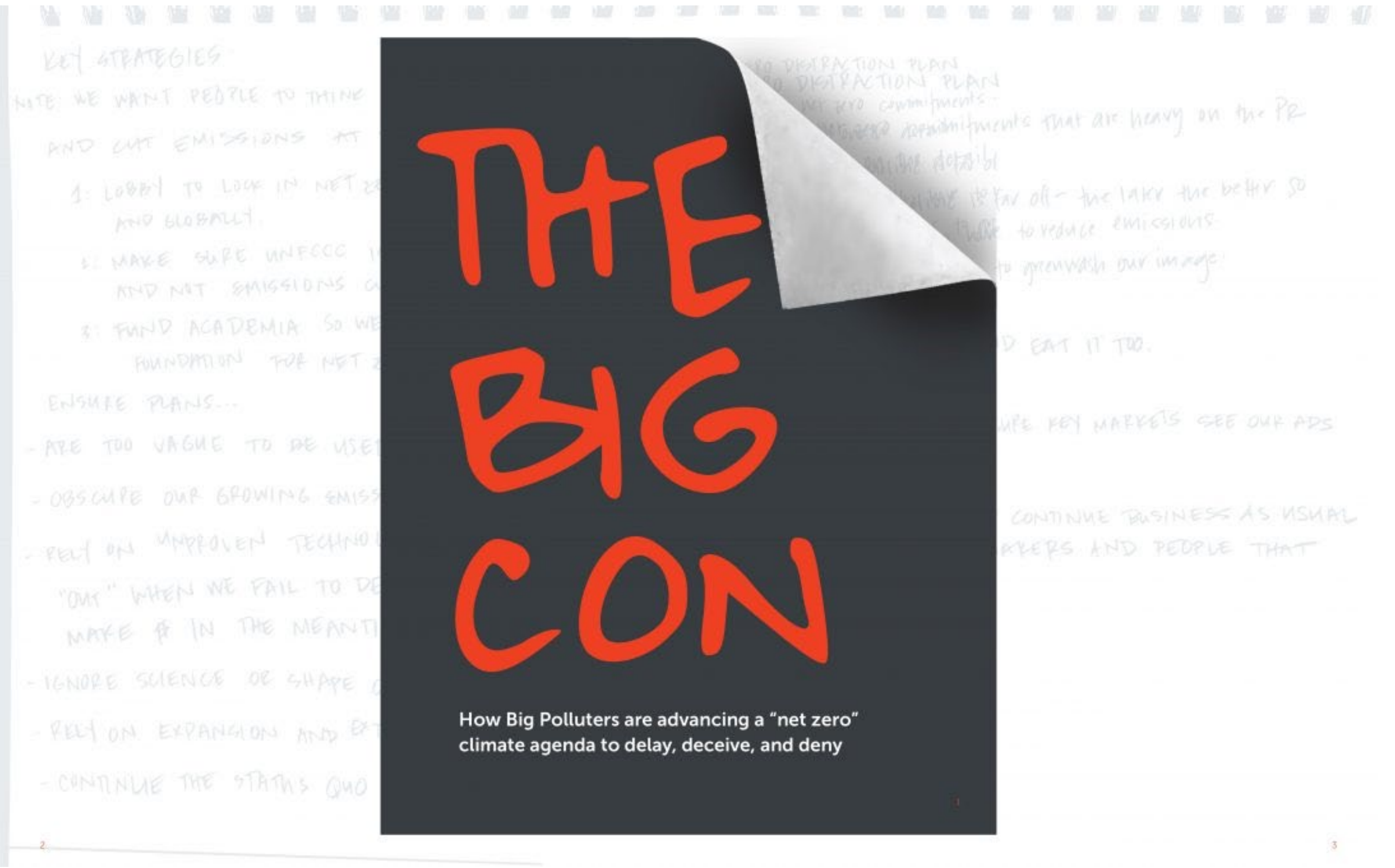
We believe that the Plant Variety Protection (PVP) Bill which was signed into law by the Nigerian President, Muhammadu Buhari on 25 May 2021 and which allows Nigeria join the International Union for the Protection of New Plant Varieties (UPOV-91) fails to take into account the particular seed and agricultural context of the country.

The law creates an environment where Intellectual Property Rights override farmers' rights and commercial seed trumps farmers

and indigenous seed systems; marginalizes farmers and not only breaches fundamental principles of international law, but also constitutes a discrimination vis-à-vis farmers and their seed systems.

Conformity of the Nigerian PVP law with UPOV 1991 is bound to have dire consequences for a country where 80% of the farming population consists of small-scale farmers who conserve and improve plant genetic resources and who depend on traditional practices of saving, reusing, exchanging and selling farm-saved seed for their livelihoods.

Read the key demands here: <https://homef.org/?s=Nigerians+reject+the+UPOV>



Report: USD 1.4 trillion fossil fuel buildout jeopardizes Africa's economies, climate, and communities

A new report assesses fossil fuel industry plans to sink USD 230 billion into the development of new oil and gas production in Africa in the next decade — and \$1.4 trillion by 2050. It finds these projects are not compatible with a safe climate future and are at risk of becoming stranded assets.

The report, *The Sky's Limit Africa: The case for a just energy transition from fossil fuel production in Africa*, was researched by Oil Change International (OCI) and released in partnership with Oilwatch Africa, Africa Coal Network, Health of Mother Earth Foundation (HOMEF), 350Africa, WoMin African Alliance and the Center for International Environmental Law.

Continue reading here: <https://homef.org/2021/10/15/report-usd-1-4-trillion-fossil-fuel-buildout-jeopardizes-africas-economies-climate-and-communities/>

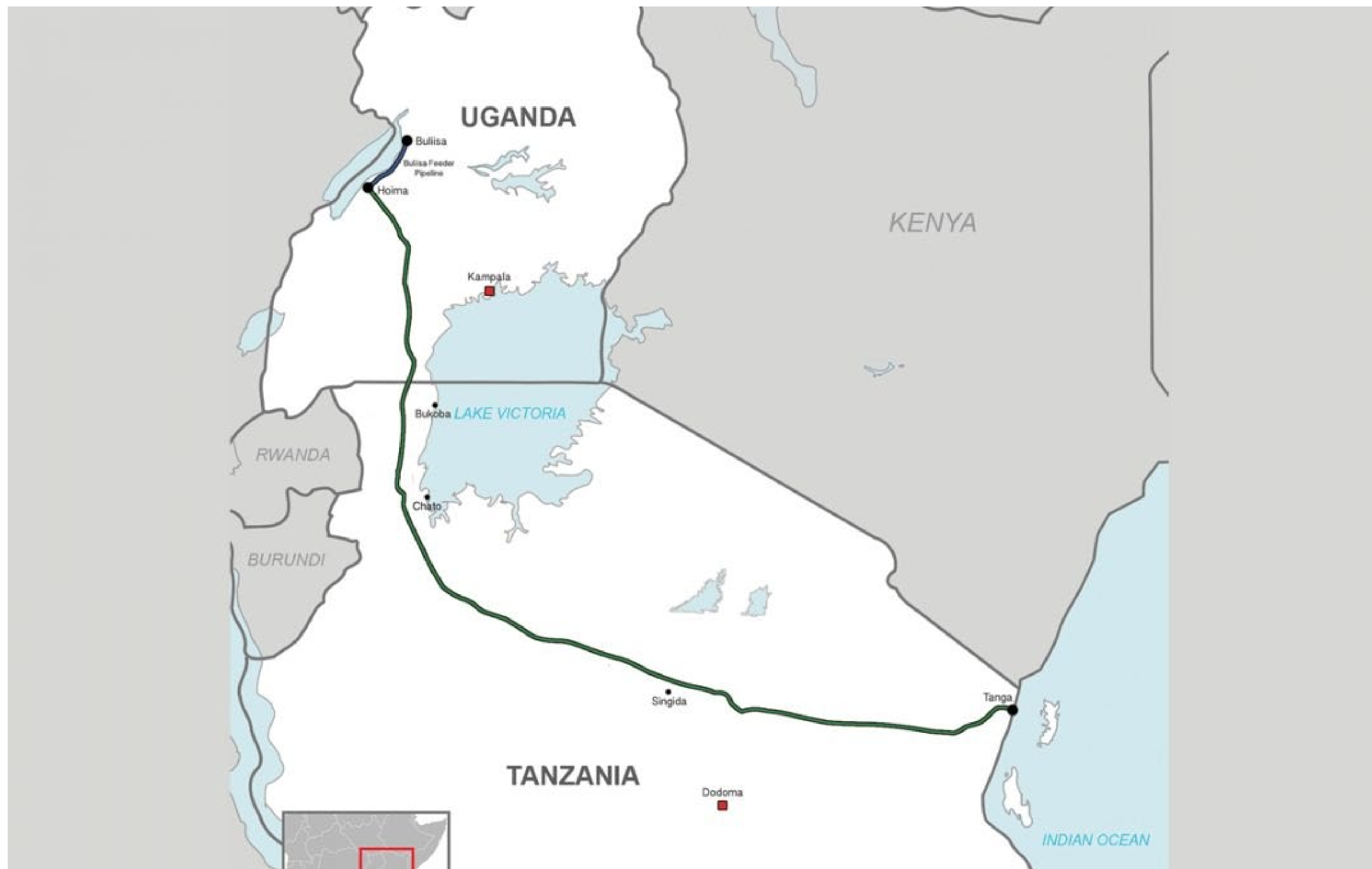
The Big Con: How Big Polluters are advancing a “net zero” climate agenda to delay, deceive, and deny – Corporate Accountability

As the impacts of the climate crisis become ever more apparent, people around the world, led by Indigenous Peoples, women, youth, and frontline communities, are demanding action. In response, Big Polluters and the governments that do their bidding have begun to tout commitments to achieve “net zero” emissions as solutions to the crisis they have caused.

This report makes clear that Big Polluters’ idea of “net zero” is part of their continued plan to protect deeply unjust global systems, distract from taking the real action needed, and to evade responsibility for the climate crisis and to continue to pollute.

Governments must stop buying into and reinforcing this dangerous scheme, and instead commit to real action to reach the needed emissions reductions by 2030, and to hold Big Polluters accountable for their deception.

Link to report in English: https://www.corporateaccountability.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/The-Big-Con_EN.pdf



Big Win in Uganda – Tanzania Pipeline as Financiers Withdraw

On the 10th of April 2021, the governments of Uganda and Tanzania, alongside the French multinational Total and the state-owned China National Offshore Oil Corporation (CNOOC), signed the final agreements that will kickstart the construction of a controversial \$3.5 billion crude oil pipeline that cuts across both countries.

Both Total and CNOOC are license holders in Uganda but can only commence drilling operations when the pipeline is completed. These sites are expected to have a combined production

of 216,000 barrels per day at plateau. The upstream partners are Total (56.67%), CNOOC (28.33%) and Uganda National Oil Company – UNOC (15%). The production will be transported from the Albertine Rift Basin in Western Uganda to the port of Tanga in Tanzania via the planned 1,445 kilometer (898 miles) cross-border pipeline, with Total, UNOC, Tanzania Petroleum Development Corporation (TPDC) and CNOOC as shareholders. It is believed that this will be one of the longest electrically heated crude oil pipelines in the world thus requiring a significant investment.

The proposed project will have significant negative impacts on the local communities, wildlife and its habitats. It falls within sensitive biodiversity hotspots such as the Albertine Rift in Uganda which is one of the most important regions for nature reserves in Africa. It is host to over 50% of Africa's birds, 40% of Africa's mammals and about 20% of its amphibians and plants, it contains more vertebrate species than anywhere else on the continent. The area also has more threatened and endemic species than other regions in Africa. Population concentration within the Albertine Rift is also high with over 1,000 per km² in some areas. Most of these communities being extremely impoverished.

Following significant resistance efforts within the continent and beyond, financiers of the project have been withdrawing their support with the most recent being three French banks: BNP Paribas, Société Générale and Crédit Agricole have committed not to provide financing for the Total-led East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP).

Culled from www.oilwatch.africa Continue reading: <https://homef.org/2021/05/04/big-win-in-uganda-tanzania-pipeline-as-financiers-withdraw/>

OUTLOOK ON THE YEAR 2022



The year 2022 promises to be productive and markedly empowering. The theme/focus for the year 2022 is *Propelling the Transition*.

Below is an overview of project plans.

- **Propelling the Transition**

- . Diagnostic dialogues at community and policy levels (Africa, Asia, and Latin America)
- . Learning from the wise/Intergenerational dialogue (social media versus moonlight tales)
- . Collection and sharing of creative traditional/new stories of climate change and survival (Africa, Asia, and Latin America)
- . School of Ecology to debate alternatives, struggles of fossil fuels companies to extend the end of oil and the implication of divestment drives by fossil fuel industry
- . Podcasts

- **Standing with Re-Sourced Communities— Oilfield and Mining field Dialogues/Monitoring**

- . Community ecological training/monitoring and hotspot mapping
- . Resisting destructive extraction across Nigeria
- . Train communities in Nigeria on the implications of the Petroleum Industry Act 2021.
- . Niger Delta Convergence on Re-Source Democracy
- . Documentary on the impacts of oil extraction and the dangers of ongoing divestments

Institutional Strengthening of Oilwatch Africa for Impact

- **Life below water/ Fisheries, pollution & divestment**

- . School of Ecology session on the ***Ending the Fossil Age: Divestment Drive of Oil and Gas Companies***
- . Knowledge exchange meetings to set up coordination of Global Ocean Hub for human rights
- . Marine Ecosystem Monitoring, Reporting and Advocacy Training for fishers in Delta State
- . National and regional networking

- **Promoting Biosafety**

- . Research on GMOs and impacts in Nigeria
- . Advocacy & grassroots mobilizations
- . Investigation on GM Cowpea in Nigeria
- . International call for a halt on the push for GM Cowpea across West Africa (To be organized in collaboration with ACB)

- **Building the FishNet Alliance**

- . Identify new fishers’ communities and establish FishNet Alliance in new countries
- . Host an Annual General Meeting of the Alliance and use this to strengthen group principles and the organisation.

- **Coping with Climate Change as a Cause of Conflict in Coastal Communities of West Africa**

- . Research into Climate and Conflict in the Gulf of Guinea (focus on Niger Delta)
- . Development of training tools and training

HOMEF IN NETWORKS

- Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa (AFSA) (<https://afsafrika.org/>)
- Yes to Life, no to Mining (<https://yestolifenotomining.org/>)
- Climate Space (<https://climatespace2013.wordpress.com/>)
- No REDD in Africa Network (NRAN) (<https://no-redd.africa>)
- Oilwatch Africa/International (<https://www.oilwatch.org/>)
- Daraja – A Pan African space set to rally the global majority towards a path of radical social transformation and power (<https://darajapress.com/>)
- Global Alliance for Rights of Nature (GARN) (<https://www.garn.org/>)



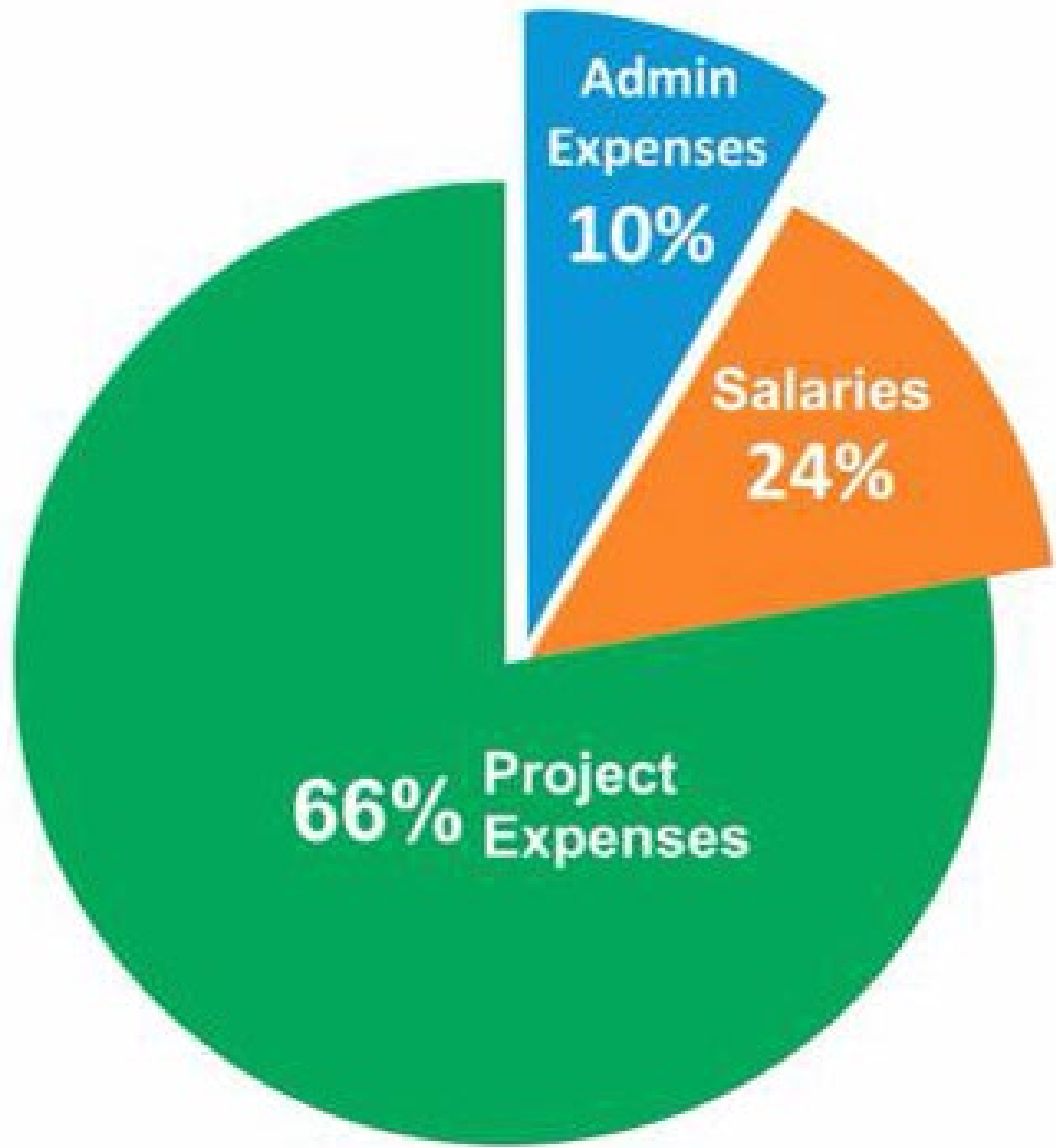


OUR PARTNERS

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

- Thousand Currents
- Grassroots International
- Bread for the World
- Ford Foundation
- Rosa Luxembourg Stiftung
- Full Circle Foundation
- Oak Foundation
- Base Consult
- Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa
- Energy Transition Fund
- African Centre for Biodiversity
- Shehu Musa Yar'Adua Foundation
- ETC Group

HOMEF’s 2021 Financial Summary



Description of Expenses	Amount in NGN
Salaries	53,569,724.26
Administrative Expenses	23,757,683.58
Project Expenses	150,793,260.30
Total Expenses	228,120,668.14
Total HOMEF Income	334,662,978.00
Fiscal Sponsor Income	41,200,000.00



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