

Endless **Oil Spills**

*Risks of resuming
Oil extraction in
Ogoni land*



HOMEF
HOME OF MOTHER EARTH FOUNDATION

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The rate of oil spills in the Niger Delta has escalated alarmingly over the years, making the renewed push to reopen oil wells in Ogoniland both troubling and ill-timed. Rather than prioritizing extraction, urgent attention must be given to comprehensive cleanup, ecological restoration, and land reclamation. Despite decades of halted oil production in Ogoni, recurrent oil spills continue to contaminate land and water systems, underscoring the depth and persistence of environmental damage. This reality makes it imperative to acknowledge that reclaiming Ogoniland may take a lifetime of sustained and deliberate intervention. This research is not intended as indictment without basis; rather, it seeks to underscore the responsibility of International Oil Companies (IOCs) for the enduring environmental harm and the remediation efforts required to address it. The role of government remains critical, and the need for decisive, transparent, and timely action cannot be overstated.

List Of Abbreviations

APC- All Progressive Congress
BOGA- Beyond Oil and Gas Alliance
HOMEF- Health of Mother Earth Foundation
HYPREP- Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project
IOCs- International Oil Companies
JIV- Joint Investigation Visit
JRS- Jesuit Refugee Services
MEDI- Miideekor Environmental Development Initiative
MOSOP- Movement of the Survival of Ogoni People
NEPL- National Exploration and Production Limited
NNPCL- National Petroleum Company Limited
NOSDRA- National Oil Spill Detection and Response Agency
NSA- National Security Adviser
OML- Oil Minning Lease
SPDC- Shell Petroleum Development Company
UNEP- United Nations Environmental Programme
WHO- World Health Organisation

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Ogoniland continues to suffer from decades of oil spills from abandoned infrastructures, including recent incidents in B-Dere (May 2025), Kpean (August 2025) as well as Eteo- Eleme (June 2023) which have destroyed farmlands, contaminated water, and displaced residents. Following the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP)2011 Environmental Assessment of Ogoniland, which documented severe environmental and public health risks, the Federal Government of Nigeria initiated a cleanup process through the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP) in 2012, with implementation formally commencing in 2016. Nearly a decade later, cleanup has progressed at a slow and uneven pace, constrained by institutional challenges, extreme pollution, with limited tangible improvement in community conditions. This prolonged delay has raised serious questions about the state's commitment to environmental restoration. A decade since the formal commencement of the Ogoni clean up process, Nigerians are disturbed that the process for the wider clean up of the heavily contaminated Niger Delta region is yet to commence. Against this backdrop of unresolved pollution and delayed remediation, the Federal Government's indication of plans to resume oil extraction in Ogoniland is deeply illogical. International Oil Companies (IOCs) remain complicit in historical pollution, abandonment of oil infrastructure, lack of decommissioning, discredited divestment schemes and continued undue influence over extractive policy decisions. This report examines the recent spills in B-Dere and Kpean (2025) as well as the spill that occurred in Eteo-Eleme in June 2023, as evidence of systemic environmental governance failure and reinforces the position that oil operations must not resume in Ogoniland until meaningful cleanup is achieved, aging infrastructure is decommissioned, affected communities are compensated, and the protection of lives, livelihoods, and ecosystems restoration is prioritized—both for Ogoniland and the wider Niger Delta.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Historic context of Oil Exploration in Ogoniland

The exploitation of oil in Ogoniland of Nigeria's Niger Delta region began in 1958, when commercial oil production commenced under the operation of Shell Petroleum Development Company (SPDC). From the 60s through the 80s, Ogoniland became a significant oil-producing region, hosting multiple oil fields, wells, pipelines, and flow stations. During this period, oil production activities were accompanied by frequent oil spills, gas flaring, and equipment failures, resulting in extensive contamination of land, surface water, and groundwater, with severe consequences for agriculture, fishing, public health, and ecological integrity. Oil production in Ogoniland was halted in 1993 following sustained community resistance led by the Movement for the Survival of the Ogoni People (MOSOP), under the leadership of the late writer and environmental activist, Ken Saro-Wiwa. The struggle against environmental devastation culminated in the execution of Ken Saro-Wiwa and eight other Ogoni activists on 10 November 1995 by the Nigerian military government under the leadership of General Sani Abacha. These events drew widespread international condemnation and entrenched the suspension of oil operations in Ogoniland. While production ceased, oil infrastructure including wells, pipelines, and flow stations was largely abandoned rather than decommissioned, leaving the land and waters vulnerable to ongoing pollution and environmental risks.

1.2 The United Nation Environmental Programme

Assessment of Ogoniland In 2011, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) released its landmark Environmental Assessment of Ogoniland report following a comprehensive scientific study commissioned by the Federal Government of Nigeria. The assessment, conducted over a period of nearly two years, involved the analysis of more than 4,000 soil and groundwater samples, reviews of medical and environmental data, and consultations with affected communities across Ogoniland. UNEP documented extensive and long-term hydrocarbon pollution of soil, surface water, groundwater, and ecosystems, with contamination recorded at levels far exceeding Nigerian regulatory standards and international health guidelines. In some communities, including Ogale, benzene concentrations in drinking water were found to be over 900 times above World Health Organization (WHO) safety limits, presenting serious and immediate public health risks. The report highlighted chronic exposure pathways through drinking water, farming, fishing, and air quality, linking environmental contamination to heightened risks of respiratory illnesses, cancers, skin conditions, and other health complications. UNEP further identified abandoned and poorly maintained oil infrastructures such as corroded pipelines and wellheads as persistent sources of pollution, even in areas where oil production had ceased decades earlier. The assessment recommended urgent emergency interventions, including the provision of clean drinking water, the establishment of a dedicated environmental restoration authority, and the implementation of a comprehensive cleanup and remediation programme projected to last 25-30 years. Crucially, UNEP stated that environmental restoration and risk reduction must be completed before any consideration of renewed oil production in Ogoniland, underscoring the severity and unresolved nature of the environmental crisis.¹

1.3 The Federal Government's Position on Ogoniland Despite the history of neglect, environmental pollution and ecological damage, the Federal Government of Nigeria has severally indicated intentions to resume oil exploration and production in Ogoniland. In May 2025, Nuhu Ribadu, the National Security Adviser (NSA), in a presentation at the All Progressives Congress (APC) national summit, publicly stated that oil production in Ogoniland would resume soon, more than 30 years after oil operations were halted.² He highlighted that resuming production was part of the government's broader strategy to increase national oil output following improvements in regional security and dismantling of illegal refineries. Following this, in September 2025, President Bola Ahmed Tinubu directed engagement with Ogoni communities, the Nigerian National Petroleum Company Limited (NNPCL), and other stakeholders to finalize modalities for restarting oil operations.³

Among Ogoni communities and civil society organizations, these announcements have revived painful memories of environmental destruction, displacement, and unresolved injustice. The prospect of reopening oil wells comes at a time when oil spill linked to the Yorla oil field (OML 11) remain unaddressed in Kpean community, and at B-Dere community in Gokana Local Government Area. For communities still living with polluted land and water, the proposed resumption of oil exploration is perceived not as a pathway to development, but as a reinforcement of historical environmental harm, unresolved injustice, and a governance approach that prioritizes extraction over remediation and community wellbeing.

2.0 HISTORY OF FIELDS, WELLS AND SPILLS

2.1 Oil Fields and Oil Wells: Aging Wells and Infrastructures Ogoniland has approximately five major oil fields and around 110–116 drilled oil wells across these fields, many of which are now abandoned or inactive yet remain physically present in the landscape. These facilities include wells, flow stations, and pipelines form the backdrop for longstanding environmental impacts in communities such as B-Dere and Kpean. In Kpean community, the recent spill is linked to Well 14 in the Yorla Oil Field (4°33'34" N and longitude 7°29'21" E.) The well, drilled around 1967, is abandoned and visibly decrepit. In August 2025, crude oil began leaking from the facility, resulting in a prolonged spill that later escalated into a fire outbreak⁴.

At the time of this report, the spill at Kpean continues to spread and is yet to be adequately attended to. Another facility in the same field, well 15, is also abandoned though it has not been associated with recent spill incidents, it is a ticking time bomb. The recent spill in B-Dere community is connected to oil infrastructure associated with Bodo West Well 1, part of the Bodo/B-Dere Field, drilled in the early 1970s. Although the well itself is no longer producing, it remains connected to an aging pipeline network that traverses the community. In May 2025, a rupture along this network led to the release of crude oil into the community, surrounding farmlands and waterways⁵. Bodo West Well 2(4°37'N, 7°16'E), also abandoned, has not recorded a recent spill but remains structurally vulnerable due to its degraded condition.



Figure 1: spill site in Kpean, August 2025. Source: Health of Mother Earth Foundation (HOMEF)

Together, well 14 in Kpean and Bodo West, well 1 in B-Dere which are both operated under OML 11 constitute the primary oil facilities linked to recent spill incidents in the two communities. Their age, abandonment, and lack of decommissioning illustrate how legacy oil infrastructure continues to generate environmental risks in Ogoniland. Eteo community has also suffered series of oil spills. In the case of Eteo, the community does not directly host any oil and gas production facility but has severely been impacted by pipeline operation of companies including Shell Development Company. In Eteo community there are 3 pipelines transversing the community which has been responsible for series of environmental pollution in the community.⁶ A report by Health of Mother Earth Foundation (HOMEF) titled: Befouled and Begrimed reveals that oil pollution in the Niger Delta, including communities in Ogoniland, is largely driven by aging, poorly maintained, and abandoned oil infrastructure. The reports catalogue repeated incidents of crude oil leaks from corroded pipelines, obsolete wellheads, and flow stations long past their operational lifespan, many of which remain active environmental hazards despite the suspension of production. HOMEF documents how delayed spill detection, weak regulatory enforcement, and contested or absent Joint Investigation Visits allow spills to persist for extended periods, leading to extensive contamination of farmlands, wetlands, and water bodies. Importantly, Befouled and Begrimed establish that recent spill incidents across Ogoniland and neighbouring communities are not anomalies but part of a long-standing pattern of environmental neglect, institutional failure, and systemic impunity that continues to expose communities to harm long after oil infrastructure has been abandoned.⁷ Concerns around aging and abandoned oil infrastructure in Ogoniland are not new.

UNEP's environmental assessment of Ogoniland identified decades-old oil facilities, corroded pipelines, and poorly maintained wells as persistent sources of environmental contamination, even in areas where oil production had ceased. The report warned that failure to properly decommission obsolete infrastructure would continue to expose communities to pollution, livelihood loss, and ecological harm. The current conditions in B-Dere and Kpean reflect these long-standing, unresolved risks associated with legacy oil operations in the Niger Delta.

2.2 History of spills

Ogoniland has long borne the burden of environmental devastation, with spills dating back decades and affecting communities that rely on agriculture and fishing for survival. Between 1976 and 1991, roughly 2,976 oil spills released about 2.1 million barrels of crude oil, representing nearly 40% of all spills recorded by the Royal Dutch/Shell company worldwide⁸. While these numbers reflect the scale across the entire region, communities like Kpean and B-Dere have consistently found themselves on the frontline of environmental harm. In Kpean, the spill that occurred in August 2025, which is yet to be addressed, is neither the first nor the second. The wells of the Yorla Oil Field have been a source of recurring concern. Historical records and civil society accounts indicate that the community suffered intermittent spills in the 1990s and 2000s, contaminating farmlands, streams, and wetlands. Similarly, B-Dere has faced its share of environmental crises over the years. Pipelines connected to the Bodo West wells have repeatedly ruptured, releasing crude oil into farmlands and waterways. Notable incidents include double spills in 2008 that contaminated local creeks and swamps,⁹ followed by ongoing leaks from aging infrastructure that persisted into the early 2020s, and most recently, the rupture of the Trans Niger pipeline on the 6th of May 2025.

Just like the recent incidents in B-Dere and Kpean, Eteo community in Eleme Local Government Area also experienced a major crude oil spill in June 2023. The incident was a result of a pipeline rupture that released crude oil into the Oke-Olebo Stream, contaminating water resources and surrounding land. The spill, reported on the 18th of June 2023 occurred shortly after another spill in Aleto community and was observed flowing through freshwater channels, undermining local water security and traditional livelihoods. Over the years, Eteo has experienced multiple oil spills that have adversely affected the community's environment and livelihoods. The notable incidents include the 2018 oil Spill which led the community to seek compensation from Shell through legal action.

Also, another spill occurred in November 2022 Oil Spill that was reported to have further contaminated water sources and impacted the local ecosystem.⁶ A similar rupture also occurred in Bodo on the 7th of March 2025, which caused fire to spread across the mangrove.¹⁰ These events highlight a chronic pattern by which infrastructure installed decades ago, left abandoned and poorly maintained, continue to compromise the environment and community livelihoods. Beyond Kpean, B-Dere, Eteo and Bodo, oil pollution continues to affect other communities across Ogoniland. In Ogale, crude oil has repeatedly seeped from pipelines and manifolds into creeks and farmland, worsening environmental health. Similarly, Korokoro has experienced crude leakage from a wellhead near a remediation site.¹¹

3.0 REPORTS ON RECENT OIL SPILLS

3.1. Report from B-Dere Community

The oil spill that occurred in B-Dere community on the 6th of May 2025 was first reported by Pastor Kpobari Bani a resident of the community. According to Pastor Kpobari who spoke to Health of Mother earth Foundation, he and his family woke up that fateful morning to a pool of crude oil in their home. In a media publication shared by Reuters, civil society groups and community representatives confirmed that the spill originated from a ruptured section of the Trans Niger Pipeline, prompting public concern over delayed response and containment efforts.¹² Eyewitnesses from the community described how oil spread rapidly through water channels, affecting fishing areas and forcing some residents to temporarily abandon farms located close to the spill site.

3.2 Report from Kpean Community

In Kpean community, the ongoing oil spill associated with Well 14 in the Yorla oil field was reported by Mr. Lemi, the Youth President of Kpean Community and other community residents who observed crude oil seeping from the abandoned wellhead, contaminating nearby land and water bodies over an extended period. The witnesses reported persistent leakage, strong hydrocarbon smells, and damage to vegetation before the situation escalated. Community members raised alarms through local networks and advocacy groups, which subsequently brought the incident to public attention.

According to community leaders who spoke with the HOMEF team and members of other civil society organizations during a visit to the community on 26 January 2026, the second phase of the spill began on 4 December 2025 and continued uncontrollably for seventeen days until containment efforts were made on 21 December 2025, shortly before the visit of the National Security Adviser to the President. Despite the fact that a Joint Investigation Visit (JIV) conducted in August 2025 after the first phase of the spill established corrosion of the wellhead as the cause, NNPC staff present during the January visit reportedly informed the National Security Adviser that no Joint Investigation Visit had been conducted at the spill site, citing the pressure of the spill at the time of their visit as the reason. This proves a clear contradiction between the findings of the August 2025 JVI, and the statements made by NNPC staff during the visit of the National Security Adviser.



Figure 2: Image from B- Dere spill, May 2025. Source: HOMEF



3.3 Report from Eteo Community (June 2023 Spill)

The spill incident that occurred in Eteo community on the 18th of June 2023 was first reported by a local fisherman who noticed crude oil seeping out of the ruptured pipeline operated by the NNPC. The spill reportedly polluted water sources, destroyed farmlands and disrupted fishing activities, making living difficult for locals who depend on the environment as a means of livelihood. According to a Research titled Impact of Oil Contamination on Okoroutip and Eteo Communities conducted by Health of Mother Earth Foundation (HOMEF), Jesuit Refugee Services (JVS) and Development and Peace, community residents have reportedly been forced to purchase water at higher prices as their primary source of water has been polluted.

The farmers in the community have also recorded a great decline in the output of agricultural production due to the impact of the spill on soil quality. Several attempts to appeal to the Government and relevant agencies and the operating company for clean-up and compensation have proven abortive. 6 The table below shows the timeline of spills across several communities in Ogoniland between 2019 and 2025. Findings highlights that several spills in different communities are linked to the Trans- Niger Pipeline which cut across these communities.

Recent spills in the affected communities.

Oil Field	Oil Well	Period Drilled	Community	Status	Recent spill info (2025)
Yorla Oil Field	Well 14	Late 1960s	Kpean	Abandoned /Corroded	Spill Started Aug 3, 2025, ongoing for months; fire outbreak Aug 15, 2025.
Yorla Oil Field	Well 15	Late 1960s	Kpean	Abandoned	No recent spill reported but a ticking time bomb
Bodo/ B-Dere Oil Field	Bodo West 1	Early 1970s	B-Dere	Aging/ Vulnerable	Pipeline Burst on May 6, 2025, crude flowed into farmland
Bodo/B-Dere Field	Bodo West 2	Early 1970s	B-Dere	Aging/ Vulnerable	No recent spill, but infrastructure remains a risk

Timeline of spills

Dates	Location	Incident
2019	Kegbara- Dere	Legacy Pipeline leak (Tans Niger pipeline) ¹³
June 11, 2023	Aleto (Eleme)	Trans Niger Pipeline spills into farmland and Okulu river ¹⁴
June 18, 2023	Eteo (Eleme)	Another Trans Niger Pipeline Burst after Aleto ¹⁴
2022-2023	Several locations in Ogoniland	Over 10 distinct spills recorded
February 2025	Ogale	Saver pit overflow ¹⁵
April 2025	Korokoro	Cude oil leakage from well head near remediation site
May 6, 2025	B- Dere	Trans Niger Pipeline rupture
August 2025	Kpean	Multiple spills & fire at Well 14 tied to abandoned infrastructure

4.0 CORPORATE AND GOVERNMENTAL RESPONSES AND ACCOUNTABILITY

4.1 Responses from Rivers State Ministry of Environment, NOSDRA and NNPC

Following the oil spills in B-Dere and Kpean in May and August 2025 respectively, both National Oil Spill Detection and Response Agency (NOSDRA), Nigerian National Petroleum Company Limited (NNPC) and the Rivers State Ministry of Environment were expected to respond under Nigeria's oil spill regulatory framework, including conducting Joint Investigation Visits (JIVs) to assess the extent of environmental damage. For the Kpean spill at Yorla Well 14, sources confirmed that a JIV was carried out in August 2025 which details are later highlighted in this report. For the B-Dere spill linked to the ruptured Trans-Niger Pipeline, while civil society organizations, including the Health of Mother Earth Foundation (HOMEF), documented the spill and its impacts on residents and livelihoods,¹⁶ there is no publicly reported record of an official visit by NNPC or NOSDRA specifically to the B-Dere site following the incident on the 6th of May 2025. Media reports indicate that NOSDRA acknowledged the spills and pledged regulatory oversight¹⁷, yet the lack of accessible investigation reports highlights gaps in transparency and accountability. NNPC, as the operator of the affected pipelines, confirmed the rupture of the Trans-Niger pipeline in B-Dere, but there is little evidence of a timely or comprehensive cleanup operation. Overall, the responses of both agencies, while procedurally expected, appear limited in scope and publicly verifiable action, leaving communities to cope with ongoing environmental, health, and livelihood impacts. CL staff during the visit of the National Security Adviser.

4.2 Joint Investigation Visit (JIV)

4.2.1. JIV on Eteo June 2023 and B- Dere May 2025 Spill
Joint Investigation Visits (JIVs) are intended to determine the cause and consequences of oil spills by bringing together representatives from regulatory agencies, operators, and community stakeholders; however, in the case of the Eteo June 2023 and B-Dere spill May 2025 spills, no record of a JIV visit or an official JIV report released publicly despite the documented ruptures of the Trans Niger Pipeline and communities impacts.

4.2.2 JIV on Kpean spill, August 2025

A Joint Investigation Visit (JIV) led by the (NOSDRA) was reportedly conducted at Kpean community on 8 August 2025 and concluded on 9 August 2025, following the oil spill incident at Yorla Well 14. The investigation team comprised officials of NOSDRA, representatives of the Ministry of Environment, staff of Nigerian Exploration and Production Limited (NEPL) the operating company and representatives of the impacted community. Findings from the JIV indicated that approximately 28 barrels of crude oil were released during an explosion at the well. The spill primarily affected land, with crude oil identified as the contaminant. According to the investigation, the facility responsible for the spill was the wellhead at the Yorla well 14, and the cause of the spill was corrosion, consistent with the deteriorated condition of the aging infrastructure. The impact of the spill was observed mainly on surrounding vegetation, which was oil-stained and visibly withering, indicating immediate ecological stress in the affected area. The JIV recommended that NEPL (OML 11) should carry out immediate repair of the damaged wellhead and that the impacted site should be cleaned up under NOSDRA's supervision to prevent further environmental harm.

NEPC/HSE/1402/11/001/25

**NATIONAL OIL SPILL DETECTION AND RESPONSE AGENCY
JOINT INVESTIGATION VISIT (JIV) FORM**

Note: This JIV Form is to be completed and signed by all participating parties in the field

1. Company: **NEPC DML 11**

2. Type of Complaint/Incident:
 Oil Pollution Fire/Explosion Drilling Mud/Chemical Pollution
 Others (Specify).....

3. Incident Details
 i. Date of Incident: **6/12/2025** ii. Date first reported: **6/12/2025**
 iii. Date of first investigation: **8/12/2025**
 iv. Date of follow-up investigation: **7/12/2025; 10/12/2025; 13/12/2025**
 v. Time investigation started: **1:41 PM**
 vi. Estimated quantity spilled: **28 BARRELS**

4. Site Details
 i. Site Location: **YORK WELL 14 AT KPEAN COMMUNITY**
 ii. Position of Spill Leak: **N. 4° 26' 15.92" E 7° 21' 40.30"**
 iii. Spill area
 Land Swamp Freshwater Mangrove Coastline
 Near shore Offshore Others (specify).....
 iv. Structural Controls in Place
 Boom Trenches Band wall Sorbents Others (specify).....

5. Circumstances Around Spill Point
 i. Visual observation of Hole Position
 12 O' Clock 10 O' Clock 2 O' Clock 3 O' Clock
 4 O' Clock 5 O' Clock 6 O' Clock
 ii. Type of Oil contaminant
 Crude Oil Condensate Chemicals Refined Products
 Others (specify).....
 iii. Facility
 Pipeline Flow line Wellhead Manifold Flow Station Rig
 Storage Tank Compressor Plant Others (specify).....
 iv. Cause of Spill
 Corrosion Equipment Failure Third Party Interference Accident
 Operational Error Others (specify).....
 v. Visible Signs of Third Party Interference
 Checkmate Marks Drilled Holes Blasting Theft Acid
 Others (specify).....

8. Photograph/Map/Chart Ref.
 Still photographs Video coverage Mapping

9. Samples taken: **14 BARRELS**

10. Investigation carried out by
 Foot Boat Aircraft

11. Remarks/Recommendation: **NEPC DML 11 SHOULD CARRY OUT IMMEDIATE REPAIR WORK ON THE WELL-HEAD ON THE IMPACTER SIDE SHOULD BE CLEAN-UP WORK**

12. Time investigation ended: **6:30 PM**

13. Name and Signature of Participants
 ♦ NOSDRA
 1. **IKPONUYI, JOSEPH** **13/12/2025**
 2.
 3.
 ♦ DPR
 1.
 2.
 3.
 ♦ STATE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT
 1. **KURURU, J. O** **13/08/2025**
 2.
 3.
 ♦ LOCAL GOVERNMENT COUNCIL
 1.
 2.
 3.
 ♦ COMPANY
 1. **AKHINMISHA, A M** **12/08/2025**
 2. **OSMAN ABUDULLAHI** **12/08/2025**
 3.
 ♦ COMMUNITY (KPEAN)
 0803751499 - 1. **Emo Lewis** **Donaldson** **Leke** (Youth Leader) **13/08/2025**
 0802674807 2. **Chief Leke** **Leke** **Nwankwiri** (Chief of Oko) **13/08/2025**
 0805378478 3. **Com. Nwankwiri** **G. Ken** (Spokesperson) **13/08/2025**

4. Impact of Incident
 i. Properties impacted by the incident
 Farmland Fish Pond Vegetation Fishing Net Surface water
 Vulnerable Objects Others (specify).....
 ii. Nature of impact
 Stunted vegetation Oil stained fishing nets Dead floating fishes
 Dead floating crabs Withering of vegetation Others.....
 iii. Definition of impacted area
 Within Company's facility/ROW Outside Company's facility/ROW

7. Extent of Impact
 a) Community (indicate name) b) Land (indicate area in m²)
 i. **KPEAN** i. **500 M²**
 ii. ii.
 iii. iii.
 iv. iv.

b) Creeks/Creeklets Tidal Non-tidal

NAME	DIRECTION OF SLICK	LENGTH OF SLICK	WIDTH OF SLICK

c) Swamp Tidal Non-tidal

NAME	DIRECTION OF SLICK	LENGTH OF SLICK	WIDTH OF SLICK

d) River Tidal Non-tidal

NAME	DIRECTION OF SLICK	LENGTH OF SLICK	WIDTH OF SLICK

e) Shoreline/water

NAME	DIRECTION OF SLICK	LENGTH OF SLICK	WIDTH OF SLICK

FIGURE3: Copies of form of JIV conducted in Kpean community on the 8 of August 2025



Figure 4: Image of withered vegetation; an Impact of the Kpean August and December 2025 spill. Source: HOMEF

5.0 IMPACTS AND DEMANDS

5.1 Human and Environmental Impacts of spills

The oil spills in B-Dere and Kpean as well as Eteo communities have had devastating effects on both people and the environment. Community residents were forced to flee their homes due to respiratory distress caused by continuous exposure to crude oil fumes, while others could no longer use fire to cook safely in their homes for fear of fire outbreak due to hydrocarbon contamination in the air. Farmlands and vegetations which form the backbone of local livelihoods, were coated in crude oil, destroying crops and rendering soils infertile. Water bodies that support fishing and provide essential drinking water were similarly polluted, disrupting critical sources of food and income. Vegetation, including fruit trees, mangroves, and other native plants, suffered severe damage, affecting biodiversity, and the ecological balance of the area. Collectively, these spills have caused displacement, health hazards, and significant economic losses, left lasting environmental scars and undermined the sustainability of local livelihoods in both communities. The environmental impacts observed in these communities occur within a context already documented by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Environmental Assessment of Ogoniland. The UNEP report established that decades of oil pollution had severely degraded soil, surface water, groundwater, and ecosystems across Ogoniland, with long-term consequences for both human and non-human communities. Consistent with UNEP's findings, these environmental impacts directly intersect with local livelihoods. Farming and fishing activities, which UNEP identified as closely tied to environmental health in Ogoniland, were disrupted as contamination affected soil fertility, aquatic life, and access to clean water. The continued presence of polluted environments underscores the relevance of UNEP's assessment to present-day spill incidents.

5.2 The People's Demands

In response to recent and historic oil spills in Kpean and B-Dere communities, affected residents, with the support of civil society organizations including Miideekor Environmental Development Initiative (MEDI) and Health of Mother Earth Foundation (HOMEF), have articulated shared demands centered on environmental justice, livelihood protection, and accountability. In Kpean community, these demands were formally articulated in a press release issued by MEDI on 5 December 2025¹⁹, and in B-Dere community, similar demands were echoed by residents and environmental advocates after the May 2025 spill, as documented in media reports and civil society statements by HOMEF and allied organizations.^{20, 21} The demands include:

- A full and transparent investigation into the oil spill incidents, with findings made publicly available.
- Immediate containment and thorough cleanup of impacted sites, including farmland and surrounding land areas, carried out under regulatory supervision and to acceptable environmental standards.
- Compensation for affected farmers, households, and fisherfolk, whose livelihoods and sources of income have been damaged by oil pollution.
- Accelerated decommissioning, repair, or securing of aging and abandoned oil facilities, in line with environmental recommendations, including the fencing and securing of oil wells located within community areas. Independent monitoring of remediation activities, with meaningful participation of community representatives to ensure transparency and effectiveness.

6.0 THE ILLOGIC OF RESUMING OIL DRILLING IN OGNILAND

Proposals by the Federal Government of Nigeria to resume oil drilling in Ogoniland stand in stark contradiction to the environmental realities on the ground, the recommendations of international scientific assessments, the persistent resistance and demands of affected communities. The logic of such proposals disintegrates when examined across temporal, policy, governance, and moral dimensions. Temporally, the proposal to reopen oil wells ignores present realities. Oil spills in Ogoniland are not historical footnotes; they are ongoing events. Recent and ongoing spills highlighted earlier in this report demonstrate that abandoned oil infrastructure in Ogoniland remain unsafe and have persistently caused pollution. The cleanup of spills from previous years is incomplete, remediation is slow and communities continue to live with polluted land and water. Reopening oil drilling under these conditions represents a dangerous misplacement of priority, choosing renewed extraction over environmental restoration and the wellbeing of the people. From a policy standpoint, the government's position directly contradicts UNEP's findings and recommendations. UNEP explicitly stated that environmental remediation should come before any consideration of renewed oil production. More than a decade later, those conditions have not been met. Instead of fulfilling UNEP's roadmap for recovery, the government is attempting to resume extraction in a region UNEP itself described as severely contaminated. In terms of governance, the failure of regulatory institutions further exposes contradiction. Agencies mandated to respond to spills, enforce standards, and protect communities have repeatedly shown incapacity or unwillingness to act decisively. Delayed responses, contested Joint Investigation Visits, and weak enforcement mechanisms undermine any claim that the government is prepared to manage renewed oil operations responsibly.

A government that has failed to control existing pollution cannot credibly claim readiness to oversee new extraction. Morally, reopening oil drilling in a land where people lack access to clean water, safe farmland, and healthy living conditions constitutes a profound injustice. Oil extraction is framed as "development," yet the lived reality for Ogoni communities is displacement, illness, and environmental ruins. This amounts to an ongoing form of ecocide where ecological destruction is normalized, and community survival is subordinated to extractive interests. The contradictory posture of the Nigerian government is further sharpened by its public commitments to energy transition, including its association with global transition frameworks such as the Beyond Oil and Gas Alliance (BOGA)- an alliance that provides funds to nations to enable them transition to renewable energy²². Reopening oil wells in Ogoniland runs counter to these commitments and signals a troubling unwillingness to break from extractive dependency, even in territories already devastated by extractivism.

7.0 CONCLUSION

The recent and ongoing oil spills in Ogoniland from Kpean, B-Dere Eteo and to other affected communities, are a direct continuation of decades-long environmental devastation documented in the 2011 UNEP Environmental Assessment of Ogoniland. UNEP's report revealed widespread soil and water contamination, severe ecological degradation, and grave health risks, all of which remain largely unaddressed. The persistent leaks from abandoned wells, corroded pipelines, and poorly maintained infrastructure constitute ecocide, threatening both the environment and the survival of local communities. Despite repeated calls for remediation and accountability, corporate and governmental inaction has allowed this crisis to persist, undermining livelihoods and human rights.

In this context, any move to reopen oil wells in Ogoniland is fundamentally illogical and indefensible. Reopening extraction in a landscape where pollution is ongoing, cleanup akin to a snail's crawl, and communities remain with the devastation of decades of extractivism and yet to be restored livelihoods amounts to a continuation of harm rather than a path to recovery. It reflects a governance failure in which the state seeks to expand extraction while remaining unwilling to stop existing destruction. Such plans deepen injustice and entrench environmental violence against communities that have already borne an unjust share of oil exploration and exploitation.

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ABOUT HOMEF

Health of Mother Earth Foundation (HOMEF) is an ecological think tank advocating for socio ecological justice and food sovereignty in Nigeria and Africa at large. HOMEF recognises that the global crises have systemic roots and the current paradigm of development and growth based on competition will lead to the critical destruction of biodiversity and continued destructive extraction of natural resources as well as dependency on risky technologies. HOMEF works on Fossil Politics and Hunger Politics, using cultural tools to build and share knowledge through her Ikike platforms.