

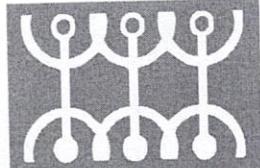
NIGERIA: Oil Pollution, Politics and Policy

POLICY BRIEF #3

Policy Brief#3

NIGERIA: Oil Pollution, Politics and Policy

By
Environmental Rights Action/Friends of the Earth Nigeria
and Oilwatch Africa



OCTOBER 2012

Contents

Summary	1
Introduction	1
Oil Pollution in the Niger Delta.....	2
Sickening spills	4
Some spill recorded in the Niger Delta.....	5
Responses and Blockages.....	6
Politics and Policy	6
Recommendation/ Conclusion.....	8
Policy Recommendation	9
Acknowledgment	9

Summary

This briefing paper looks at the problem of oil pollution and its impacts on local communities, politics and Policy in Nigeria. The oil industry in Nigeria, by practice and perception has failed to rid itself of the dishonourable connection to life-threatening environmental pollution in Nigeria's Niger Delta. What is the impact of 'oil pollution' on local communities, politics and policy in Nigeria? Pollution, oozing from activities of oil companies in Nigeria is responsible for a wide range of wretchedness in host communities. It wipes out aquatic life and crops through regular oil spills and gas flaring. It stokes the air with hazardous gases, leaving its victims unable to find the life that nature originally offered. In the context of fresh insights and new evidence, pollution is at the centre of the destructive role of the oil industry in the region. This briefing paper contributes to the debate on fossil fuel energy production as a source of wider social, economic, political and climate problems, requiring effective policy intervention. Politics and policies in Nigeria are also victims of oil pollution, for their failure to respond adequately to the problem.

Introduction

Pollution is at the centre of the destructive role of the oil industry in the Nigeria and contributes a very important dimension to the popular but contentious resource curse thesis.¹ This paper discusses the impacts of oil pollution on local oil producing communities, politics and policies in Nigeria. "Nigeria: 'world oil pollution' capital"² was how the British Broadcasting Corporation described Nigeria in 2009 after visiting some oil polluted sites in Bayelsa and Rivers States.

¹ Economists have argued that a good number of oil dependent countries are characterised by low-income growth or low income and therefore prone to violent conflict. On the other hand, political scientists have argued that weak political institutions are results of oil dependent economies. Both arguments have an underlying environmental security component that fuel conflict. See John Mitchell with Koji Morita, Norman Selley and Jonathan Stern, *The New Economy of Oil: Impacts on Business, Geopolitics and Society*, Royal Institute of International Affairs/Earthscan, London, 2001; Paul Collier and Anke

Hoeffler (2005) *Resource Rents, Governance, and Conflict*, *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, Volume 49, No.4, pp.625-633.

² Pollution is a fact of life. Generally, one way or the other, every human or non-human life is affected by pollution. See for example, Richard M. Stapleton (Editor-in-Chief) (2004) *Pollution A to Z*, Volume 2, USA: Macmillan Reference. Given the gravity of risk around oil pollution, it assumes a position of significance on which any analysis of impact or effect of its impact can be considered.

³ Caroline Duffield (2009) 'Nigeria: 'world oil pollution capital,' British Broadcasting Corporation <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/10313107> (accessed July 7, 2012).

The Niger Delta is easily one of the most oil polluted regions of the world. About 7,000 spills may have occurred between 1970 and 2000. Environmental groups conversely say more than 300 spill cases occur yearly. Presently, illegal refining of oil by oil thieves accounts for 28 per cent of total oil pollution in the region. The reverberations can be generational in the form of impacts on the local economy, livelihoods, health, and conflict and so on. The difference between Nigeria and other parts of the world, such as the Gulf of Mexico BP's deepwater spill is as much in the pattern of response by the United States' government and the oil company. The President of the USA personally visited the scene on time and sued for immediate recovery of the polluted environment. Many of Nigeria's oil polluted sites have yet to receive attention. According to NOSDRA, some 3400 oil spills in the last four years

Oil Pollution in the Niger Delta

On May 12, 2009, an oil firestorm at Shell's Manifold in Bomo Rivers State, spilled massive volumes of oil that affected more than 39 hectares of land. "It kills our fish, destroys our skin, spoils or streams, we cannot drink...I have no livelihood left," mused Saturday Pirri.⁵

In December, 2011, Shell's oil platform, Bonga field, convulsed, injecting from the leaks more than 40,000 barrels of crude oil into the southern coast of the Niger Delta. 'Black bog filled the neighbouring beaches and impacted fisheries. Nigeria's Oil Spill Detection and Response Agency (NOSDRA), quickly called for suspension of fishing in the area.

By 16 January 2012 natural gas rig at Apoi North field, off the coast of Bayelsa State, belonging to Chevron went up in flames for four weeks before serious attention was paid to it.

A fuel tanker fire accident on 12 July 2012 roasted more than 200 people at Okogbe, Rivers State. The oil tanker skewed off the road and fell after an unsuccessful attempt by the driver to dodge a bad spot on the road. From the point of seismic and exploration activities, through production, to transportation, the oil industry in Nigeria is noted for pollution and calamity. It "makes water unsuitable for fishing and render many hectares of land unusable. Brine from oil field contaminates water formations and streams, making them unfit as sources of drinking water,"⁷ notes Okechukwu Ibeanu. For more than five decades, this has been the case in the region. The net result has been serial violations of social, environmental, economic and political rights of local people.⁸

⁵ He is a palm wine tapper who had depended on the trade for years until oil became an issue with the fruitfulness of the palm trees. See Caroline Duffield (2009) *ibid*.

⁶ Environmental News Service (2012) 'Shell Oil Spill Hits Nigerian Shores, Fishing Suspended' <http://www.ens-newswire.com/ens/jan2012/2012-01-02-02.html>

⁷ Okechukwu Ibeanu, O. (2008) "Affluence and Affliction, The Niger Delta as a Critique of Political Science in Nigeria," an inaugural lecture of the University of Nigeria, Nsukka delivered on February 20, 2008, p.18

⁸ See Gabriel Eweje (2006) "Environmental Costs and Responsibilities resulting from Oil Exploration in Developing Countries: The Case of the Niger Delta of Nigeria," *Journal of Business Ethics*, Volume 69, pp.27-28. Available at: <http://allafrica.com/stories/200906300715.html> (Accessed July 15, 2012).



Obedum spill, Rivers State (Photo credit: Young Kigbara)

A single search on Google with 'oil pollution in the Niger Delta' produced 1,830,000 cases, showing stories, news or headlines on major oil spills or responses of local communities in the region. The issue is serious enough to have warranted enormous media and academic attention. This has also been a key factor in the conflictive relationship between local communities on the one hand and oil companies and government on the other hand.

Ogoniland provides one of the countless examples of how oil pollution impacts environment and local populations in oil producing countries of Africa. The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) undertook an environmental assessment of Ogoniland. The report of that investigation (released on August 4, 2011) remains a significant contribution to existing body of knowledge on oil pollution. The report covered groundwater, land, surface water, vegetation, sediment, air pollution, public health, industry practice and institutional issues.⁹ It indicts Shell Petroleum Development Company (SPDC) for massive pollution of land, sediments and swamps through regular oil spills and gas flaring in Ogoniland. Nineteen years after the company was compelled to withdraw its operations, oil spills have remained a regular feature of the oil infrastructure in Ogoniland.

UNEP scientists examined more than 4,000 samples, taken from different locations including those from 142 groundwater wells, drilled for that purpose.⁹ The report concludes that oil pollution in Ogoniland is severe and wide-ranging. Both surface water and groundwater have high concentration of hydrocarbon. There is high-level concentration of benzene in drinking water at a level 900 times more than the standard set by the World Health Organisation. And it is 1000 times above standards set by the Nigerian government.

⁹United Nations Environment Programme (2011) Environmental Assessment of Ogoniland Available at <http://www.unep.org>

According to United Nations Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director of UNEP Achim Steiner, the history of the oil industry in Ogoniland is not only long and complex; it is painful and pig-headed.¹⁰ Within the context of objectives set out in the UNEP environmental assessment project in Ogoniland, there are a number of conclusions that can be made and applied across the entire oil rich Niger Delta.

It implies that, to some extent, the state of oil pollution in Ogoniland represents the situation in the entire Niger Delta. Findings of the UNEP assessment add credence and vindicate activists and non-activist groups who have campaigned against oil pollution in the region for decades. The late Ogoni environmental rights activist and writer, Kenule Saro-Wiwa and eight others of the Movement for the Survival of Ogoni People (MOSOP), killed by the then military government of late General Sani Abacha, will be remembered for their struggles against oil pollution. The scale of baseline information provided by UNEP's study cements this knowledge and adds a quantitative dimension, which can be utilised by political, and policy makers.

Sickening Spills

Sickening Impact of oil pollution on livelihoods has yet to be fully appreciated. Apart from the fact that terminally sick and weak people cannot provide for their families, depletion of aquatic and terrestrial resources due to oil spills and gas flaring have had a huge impact on livelihood. This remains a threat to healthy living and the economic survival of local populations. The report of UNEP's environmental assessment of Ogoniland is quite emphatic and revealing in this context.

Communities lack good drinking water, health centres, schools and access roads. Beyond this, is the question of poverty. Oil pollution remains the biggest challenge to the economic survival of women and children. Fishing and farming which are key occupations of the people have progressively been made futile.¹¹ Impact on vegetation, through accidental fires alone is extensive.

There are different estimates of oil spills in the Niger Delta, that it would not be far from the truth to say that these guesstimates do not match the scale of the horrors. According to the Department of Petroleum Resources (DPR), an estimated 1.89 million barrels of crude oil were spilled between 1976 and 1996 from a overall total of 2.4 million barrels¹² spilled in 4,835 incidents.

¹⁰ Achim Steiner (2011) 'Foreword' Environmental Assessment of Ogoniland, United Nations Environment Programme. Available at <http://www.unep.org>

¹¹ Oviemwe George, AIT.

¹² John Vidal. 30 May 2010. Nigeria's agony dwarfs the Gulf oil spill. The US and Europe ignore it <http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2010/may/30/oil-spills-nigeria-niger-delta-shell>

A report by the UNDP indicates that there was a total of 6,817 oil spills between 1976 and 2001, with three million barrels of oil dumped into the environment and only about 30% of that was recovered.¹³ According to the NNPC there have been about 300 separate oil spills daily. Going by a rampant case of under reporting or no reporting at all, it can be said that there is an oil spill every day in the Niger Delta.

The oil companies operating in Nigeria are not unawares of the culpability in the despoliation of the Niger Delta environment. Shell, for example, admitted to Christian Aid that the overall picture of the age and integrity of their pipelines in the Niger Delta as well as their (Shell's) transparency when compared to industry standards was incomplete.¹⁴ Most of these spills occurred offshore and in the swamps. Reports have it that most of the spills have occurred offshore and that a high percentage is due to corroded infrastructure.

According to the World Bank, because supposedly minor oil spills are not taken into account in the mathematics of these oil spills, "the true quantity of petroleum spilled into the environment could be as much as ten times the officially claimed amount."¹⁵

Historically large spills include the largest individual spills include Shell's 1978 spill caused by tank failure at Forcados Terminal in which 580,000 barrels were spewed and Texaco's Funima-5 offshore blow out in 1980 that released 400,000 barrels of crude oil. In sum, it is generally held that between 9 million and 13 million barrels have been spilled in the Niger Delta since 1958 and by 2008 that was an equivalent of one Exxon Valdez every year for that period.

Recent big incidents include the SPDC spill of between 103,000 and 311,000 barrels of oil into Bodo Creek in Ogoniland in 2008/2009.¹⁶ The volume of oil spilled in Kalaba in 2012 has yet to be estimated, but the spill raged from two points for over two months unchecked.

Some spills recorded in the Niger Delta¹⁷

- Shell's 1978 spill caused by tank failure at Forcados Terminal in which 580,000 barrels were spewed
- Texaco's Funima-5 offshore blow out in 1980 that released 400,000 barrels of oil
- Mobil's spill at Idoho in 1998 with a reported release of 40,000 barrels of crude oil.

¹³. "Niger Delta Human Development Report". UNDP. 2006. p. 76.

¹⁴ Nnimmo Bassey. 2012. *To Cook A Continent, Destructive Extraction and the Climate Crisis in Africa*. Pambazuka Press.

Page 81

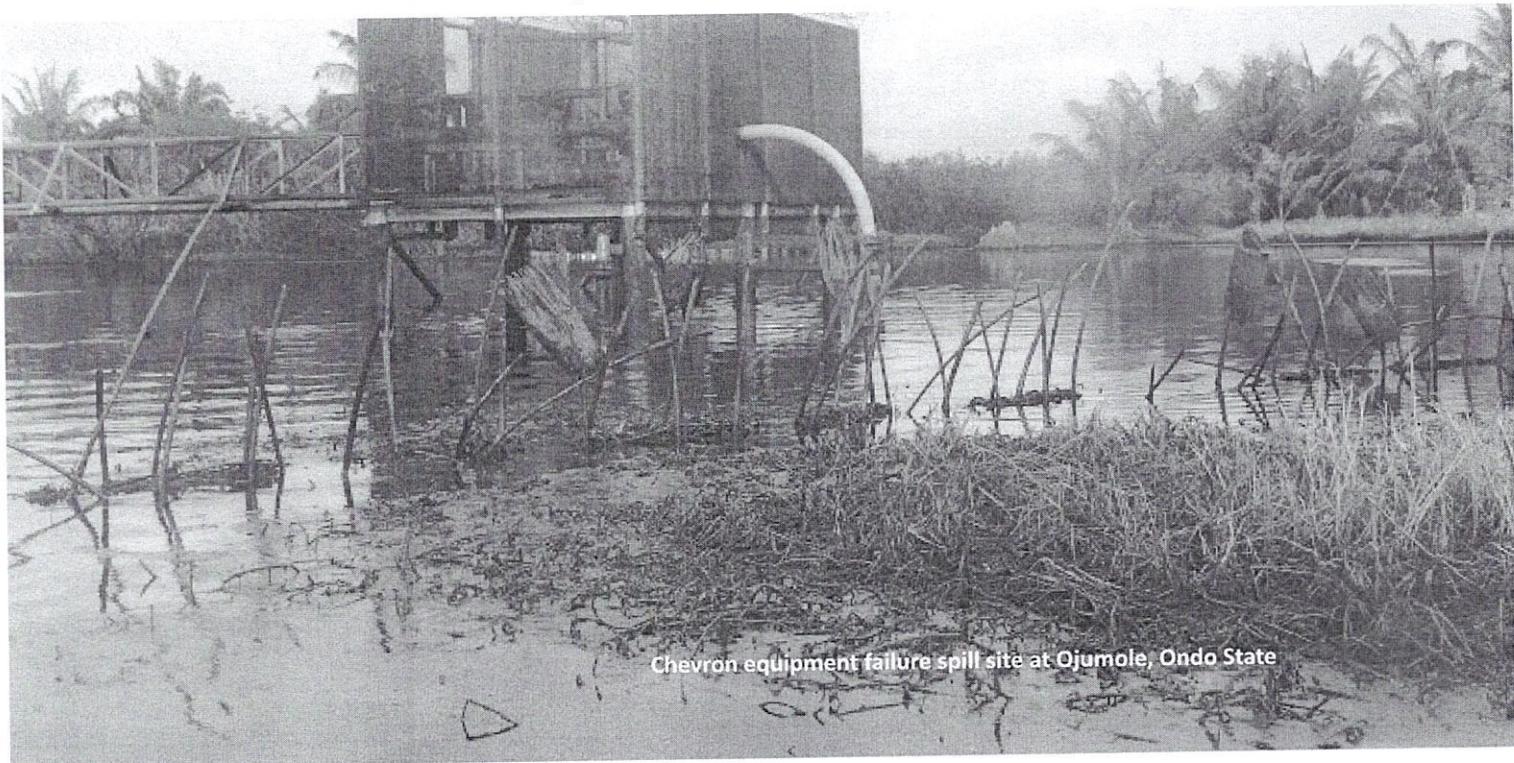
¹⁵ Perception and Reality: Assessing Priorities for Sustainable Development in the Niger River Delta (Moffat and Linden).

¹⁶ Cited at http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Environmental_issues_in_the_Niger_Delta#cite_note-OIR-7

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2012/apr/23/shell-nigeria-oil-spill-bigger>

¹⁷ For field reports on spills in the region see knee deep in crude (Vol.1&2) by ERA, regular reports are also available at www.eraction.org

- The Shell Spill in 2008 at Ikot Ada Udo where a capped well failed and spewed an unreported amount of crude oil for months before it was stopped
- Agip oil spills at Kalaba, Bayelsa State raged for over two months starting from February 2009 before it was stopped. More spills occurred on the same pipeline in September 2012 and remained unchecked for a long stretch of time.
- Exxon oil spills at Ibemo, Akwa Ibom State in May and June 2010
- Shell's Bonga Spill- 40,000 barrels? December 2011
- ExxonMobil Spill at Ibemo – 25km off shore – 9 November 2012. Mobil claimed only 200 barrels of crude oil were spilled in this incident, but the spread impacted a wide stretch of the coastlines raising suspicions over the veracity of this estimate.



Besides the oil spills and gas flares, millions of barrels of produced water and other toxic wastes are daily dumped into the Niger Delta. Indeed up to 600,000 barrels of produced water are dumped into environment on a daily basis in the Niger Delta. The types and quantities of dispersants utilized in fighting offshore spills such as those of Shell's Bonga incident, Chevron's rig explosion and ExxonMobil's Ibemo spill are not known. The toxicity and inherent danger in the use of those chemicals cannot be gauged without a disclosure of the chemicals used.

¹⁷For field Reports on spills in the region see *Knee Deep In Crude* (Volumes 1 and 2) by Environmental Rights Action. Regular reports are also available at www.eraction.org

Responses and blockages

The Nigerian government has undertaken some policy measures in response to the menace over the years. Such measures include the establishment of the Federal Environmental Protection Agency (FEPA) and the Federal Ministry of Environment. There is also an environmental policy and anti-pollution legislations such as the Environmental Guidelines and Standards for the Petroleum Industries (EGASPIN)¹⁸ in 1992 and recently we also have the Nigerian Oil Spill Detection and Response Agency (NOSDRA). However, politics of oil pollution and political economy of oil production have worked against these measures. Economic and political factors are elevated above environmental protection because Nigeria depends on oil for more 95 per cent of its foreign exchange and derives about 80 per cent of its revenues from it.

The National Assembly should review deficient laws to ensure curtailing the daily occurrence of polluting activities in the country. The steps to review the National Oil Spill Detection And Response Agency (NOSDRA) Act so as to provide that agency with the sort of teeth needed to deter polluters are commendable. As the chair of the Senate Committee on Environment said “An effective legislative framework for oil spill management needs to go far enough to ensure that apart from remedying the environment that it can provide enough deterrent for bad environmental behaviour.”¹⁹

Politics and Policy

Oil pollution has proved to be a very serious political issue although it got on the political agenda of Nigeria in the late 1980s. Even colonial petroleum laws placed marginal interest in oil pollution. Since 1937 when oil prospecting started in Nigeria, the government has scarcely punished environmental crimes arising from the activities of oil companies. This is in spite of the many existing petroleum and environmental protection laws having elements or provisions for prevention and protection of the environment from oil pollution.

In 1989, the federal government, in a bid to establish environmental problems on the political agenda initiated a workshop on environment in which key environmental problems and the need to create necessary regulatory institutions and policies were discussed. Since then, several policies and regulations and agencies have emerged. Gas flaring and oil spills are major areas in which these policies, rules and agencies are supposed to address in the context of devastating impact of the industry.

¹⁸Sets standards for the operation of the oil industry. Pollution of water and soil are handled by the Department of Petroleum Resources.

¹⁹Senator Abubakar Bukola Saraki. 2012. Lead Debate On A Bill For An Act To Amend The National Oil Spill Detection And Response Act 2006 To Provide For Penalties And Compensation For Oil Spills And For Other Related Matters 2012.

The gravity of oil pollution and its impact in the region requires oil companies to come into compliance with pollution regulatory laws. The oil companies, however, do not seem ready to fully comply with relevant oil related environmental protection laws. It must be noted also that the relevant government agencies do not appear set to enforce relevant laws through regular inspection, monitoring and punishment of environmental crimes. They seem neither ready to offer necessary incentives to polluting companies to change their behaviour nor politically willing to fully enforce rules that hurt profits and revenues.²⁰ In fact, some of them domiciled in the Ministry of Petroleum Resources are complicit in historical and on-going pollutions because they are also operators in the field.

This is not new. Protecting the environment from oil pollution is tacitly considered too costly if we consider the importance of the oil to foreign capital and oil dependent Nigerian state. Government officials in Nigeria understand national interest in terms of uninterrupted oil production on which they depend for revenues and foreign exchange. There is hardly any incentive to protect the environment if this means regulation or disruption of production.

A new petroleum law, expected to address several matters, including provisions that seek better protection of the environment is expected to be passed soon by the country's National Assembly. However, and regrettably, the draft bill, fails to make adequate provision for protection of the environment from continued oil and gas pollution. This is part of the challenge posed by the politicisation of anti-oil pollution laws in which capital and its cronies are culprits.

Inadequate enforcement of existing environmental protection laws such as the Environmental Impact Assessment Act (EIA) have been identified by academics, researchers and non-governmental groups as one of the main obstacles to protecting the environment in Nigeria. As a tool for environmental public decision-making, commitment to the EIA has the ability to include local communities in evaluating impacts of oil company activities on climate, ecology, livelihoods, politics and the economy.

Environmental impact assessments ought to be a good method of evaluating environmental impacts of projects. But it is often violated in Nigeria, particularly in the Niger Delta, where from time to time, relevant government agencies grant waivers to oil majors on what they call 'high priority projects,' to start developments of projects without undertaking full length evaluation of impacts of such projects.

²⁰. V.O. Nwaago, R.A. Onyeagba, G.N. Chima and D.I. Agwaranze (2007) 'Effects of Drilling Wastes on the Farmland Microbial Spectrum in Egbema, South-South Nigerian Community' Research Journal of Microbiology, Vol. 2, No. 8, pp.632-638.



Environmental protection laws such as the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 (OPA) makes provision for oil company response plans to oil spills. It specifies national and area contingency response plan.²¹ Likewise, NOSDRA and the National Policy on Environment have provisions for preventing oil pollution in Nigeria if fully implemented.

Recommendations/Conclusion

Oil pollution in the Niger Delta is responsible for serial destruction of soil, groundwater, surface water, air and so on. Impacts on livelihoods, health of people, politics and policy have been mainly negative in the sense that only little progress has been made in reversing the trend. Meanwhile, continued failure of government to enforce relevant laws for the protection of the environment has continued to contribute to poverty and deprivation of local community people of their rights to human and acceptable standards of living. Ogoniland provides a good example and evidence.

UNEP's report on environmental assessment of Ogoniland has enriched the knowledge of the relationship between oil pollution and socio-economic conditions of local community people. Even more significant is the nature of politics and policy around oil pollution.

²¹. Collins N.C. Ugochukwu and Jurgen Ertel (2008) Negative impacts of oil exploration on biodiversity management in the Niger Delta area of Nigeria' *Impact Assessment and Project Appraisal*, Vol. 26, Number 2, June, pp.139-147.

13

For the Nigerian state and oil companies, oil pollution through gas flaring has become a resource like oil and gas. By the CDM policy of the United Nations which Nigeria has fully embraced, oil and gas pollution can be seen as resources and sources of wealth for mindless and environmentally dumb capitalists.

Policy Recommendations

- Oil pollution can be eliminated by strict enforcement of existing and future environmental protection laws, including the EIA Act and the Gas Rejection Act. Political will must be exerted to punish environmental crimes and make pollution unfashionable.
- Oil companies should be compelled to replace aged pipelines and equally ensure that pipes are not run on the surface of the ground.
- The Petroleum Industry Bill should be pro-people and pro-environment. Collective punishment of communities should be avoided in cases where crimes are committed in the oil fields
- Strict metering of oil production will discourage oil spills and wastages/leakages including those caused by oil thefts by local or organised groups.
- All spills sites must be remediated with polluters paying for this and victims duly compensated. Types of dispersants and other chemicals used in tackling oil spills must also be disclosed and approved before usage.
- A post petroleum future for Nigeria must be urgently constructed through a rapid transition from dependence on oil and gas as key energy and revenue sources. This remains the ultimate path to follow if fossil fuel dependence is to be avoided in the interest of the climate and humanity.

Acknowledgement

This ERA/FoEN Nigeria Policy Brief was written by Fidelis Allen with research assistance from Jonathan Mariere. The brief was edited by Nnimmo Bassey. The series is our contribution to the policy-making processes in Nigeria.

This document is prepared with support from Norges Naturvernrbund/Friends of the Earth Norway.

The Layout design was done by Babawale Obayanju.

²²Fidelis is a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Political and Administrative Studies, University of Port Harcourt, Choba, Port Harcourt, Nigeria.

About ERA/FoEN

Brief History

Environmental Rights Action/ Friends of the Earth Nigeria (ERA/FoEN) was founded on the 11th of January, 1993 as a Nigerian Advocacy Non- governmental organisation, concerned with the protection, preservation and conservation of the natural environment, and the sustainable exploitation of its natural resources. ERA/FoEN is the Nigerian chapter of the Friends of the Earth International (FoEI) the world environmental justice federation campaigning to protect the environment and to create sustainable societies. ERA is dedicated to the democratisation of development, defence of human ecosystems in terms of human rights and promotion of environmentally responsible governmental. Commercial, community and individual practise in Nigeria through the empowerment of local people. ERA/FoEN is the co-ordinating NGO in Africa for Oilwatch International and the current host of the secretariat of the Oilwatch International .ERA is a prize winner of the Sophie award (1998) and also the recipient of the Bloomberg award.

ERA seeks global objectives and collaborates with national and international partners in the pursuit of its global objectives.

Mandate and Objectives

ERA derives its mandate from Article 24 of the African Charter of Human and People's Right: That "All people shall have the right to (a) generally satisfactory environment favourable to their development". ERA seeks to achieve a number of objectives in the area of protection of the environment and democratisation of development. It is also committed to the preservation of human ecosystem within the framework of human rights, and the promotion of sustainable and responsible management of natural resources and the environment.

Projects undertaken

- Ø Promotion and coordination of NGO's in Africa towards empowering communities and creating awareness to respond in defence of their environmental human rights.
- Ø Working as a Chapter of Friends of the Earth International (FoEI) in partnership projects on extractive industries, forestry issues, and food sovereignty. ERA won the pioneering edition of the Sophie Awards in 1998 for its achievement in environmental development.
- Ø Attracting policy recognition and corrective measures for the ecological disasters created by petroleum exploration and mining activities.
- Ø Attracting government policy change in compliance with the World Health Organisation (WHO) Framework Convention on Tobacco Control.
- Ø Promoting political and economic policies for the development of the long neglected areas of the oil producing Niger Delta region of Nigeria.
- Ø Creating awareness and public sensitization about Genetically Modified Organisms, and Agrofuels.

- Ø Poverty eradication support programmes including community empowerment and Resource Centres development.
- Ø Promoting best practices in sustainable natural resources exploitation and development including its impact on the people.
- Ø Embarking on community environmental monitoring/ trainings

ERA Publications

Areas of Focus

- Ø Natural resources and community conservation
- Ø Energy and Mining.
- Ø Environmental education and training.
- Ø Democracy outreach
- Ø Gender issues.
- Ø Legislative and legal processes in areas of mandate.
- Ø Media and Publication.
- Ø Anti-Tobacco campaigns.

Other Areas

- Ø “Oilwatching in South America: A Pollution Tour of Venezuela, Curacao, Peru and Ecuador” by Nnimmo Bassey 1997.
- Ø “The Human Ecosystem of the Niger Delta, an ERA Handbook: by Nick Ashton Jones, et al., 1998.
- Ø Environmental Testimonies, 2000.
- Ø “The Emperor Has No Clothes”, Report of the Conference on the People of the Niger Delta and the 1999 Constitution, 2000.
- Ø “Pipe Dream: The West Africa Gas Pipeline and the Environment”, 2000.
- Ø “Where Vultures Feast: 40 Years of Shell in the Niger Delta” by Ike Okonta and Oronto Douglas, 2001.
- Ø Bola Oyingbo (1965 – 2001): “The Struggle Continues”, 2001.
- Ø “Death and Destruction: The Tobacco Attack on Nigeria”, 2002.
- Ø “We Thought It Was Oil But It Was Blood (Poems)” by Nnimmo Bassey, 2002
- Ø “A Blanket of Silence: Images of the Odi Genocide”, 2002.
- Ø “Empowerment in Action” by Godwin Uyi Ojo (ed), 2003
- Ø “Before the Earth Bleeds Again” by Godwin Uyi Ojo and Jaye Gaskiya (eds), 2004.
- Ø “A Wedge in the Wood: Proceedings of the National Consultative Conference on Environmental Reform in Nigeria” by Godwin Uyi Ojo and Jayeoba Gaskiya (eds), 2004.
- Ø “Environmental Laws of Nigeria: A Critical Review” by Godwin Uyi Ojo and Jayeoba Gaskiya (eds), 2004.
- Ø The Shell Report: Continuing Abuses in Nigeria – 10 Years After Ken Saro Wiwa”, 2005 ERA/ FoEN.
- Ø Gas Flaring in Nigeria: A Human Rights Environmental and Economic Monstrosity”, 2005 ERA/ FoEN
- Ø Proposed Environmental Bill of Nigeria, 2004 ERA.

- Ø Genetically Modified Crops: The African Challenge, 2006
- Ø Reporting the Nigerian Environment (2010)
- Ø The Nigerian Environment and the Rule of Law (2009)
- Ø Envisioning a Post Petroleum Nigeria (2010)
- Ø Mired in a Fossil Trap (2011)
- Do not Play Politics with Hunger(2011)
-

Periodical and Features Publications

- Ø ERAAction (Official magazine of ERA/ FoEN), published since 1998 to date
- Ø Field monitoring reports.
- Ø Quarterly Newsletters (Environmental Impact and Hotplate)

ABOUT OILWATCH AFRICA

1. Oilwatch is a network that builds solidarity and fosters a common identity among peoples of the Global South. Oilwatch understands similarities in the current pattern of resource exploitation in countries of the Global South, which reflects historical legacy of disempowerment of peoples, plunder of natural resources and destruction of environment, and considers the recognition of the right of peoples to self-determination as primary in the resolution of environmental problems.
2. Oilwatch is a network of RESISTANCE to the negative impacts of fossil fuels (coal, gas and oil) extraction and related industries on PEOPLES and their environment.
3. Oilwatch exists and works to stop the expansion of socially destructive and environmentally damaging oil activity in the tropics and other parts of the Global South.
4. Oilwatch members support all initiatives of local peoples to resist coal, oil and gas activities. These initiatives include monitoring of devastation and violations that arise directly or indirectly from oil activity, and support for local demand for compensation and restoration.
5. Oilwatch is a network, which applies and fosters DECENTRALIZATION. It works more as a movement rather than a centralized entity.
6. Oilwatch supports nations and communities that resist the destructive activities of oil companies.
7. Oilwatch creates consciousness of a model of development that is non-fossil fuel-based, socially responsible, and is environmentally sensitive and protective
8. Oilwatch promotes exercising of rights of nature, human rights and collective human rights of communities affected by the oil activity to oppose exploration and exploitation, facing companies and governments at the local, national and international level. It demands and advocates that communities that resist hydrocarbon operations should be recognized rather than suppressed.
9. Oilwatch encourages energy sovereignty, promotes energy autonomy and works with alternative politics of communities, regions and countries to initiate the pathway towards energy sovereignty, in such a way that it promotes the abandonment of the oil model. The aim is to anticipate a political proposal that gives substance to our strategies of resistance that allows new alliances with other sectors and for us to obtain greater legitimacy with society.

For further information contact:
eraction@eraction.org; tel: +234 52 880619, +234-52-941098