



LEKEH DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION (LEDEF) PUBLICATION

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**NIGER DELTA CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE**

**NIGER DELTA**

**AND**

**CLIMATE  
CHANGE**

**IMPERATIVE FOR ACTION**





# Welcome Note

I feel greatly honoured to welcome the permanent secretary federal ministry of environment, Majesty, Honourable, Comrades, Community representatives, respected guests and every participant to this unique and important conference on climate change in the Niger Delta Region of Nigeria. I want to thank the Government of Rivers State, the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Environment, the key stakeholders in the environment and climate sector for given the climate change issue a priority and for supporting this climate change conference in the Niger Delta. I also gratefully appreciate the Urban Movement Innovation Fund, Lush charity pot Uk, Global Greengrant Fund alongside the strategy and development partners of this conference, and other partner organisations here present as well as the Local Organising Committee (LOC) for making this conference a reality. The presence of other dignitaries including women leaders, youth leaders, government officials, community leaders, traditional rulers as well as the private sector and civil society organisations representatives are well recognized and appreciated. I want to state clearly that the Niger Delta climate change conference is quite appropriate and timely. This is in view of the fact that climate change has caused great and significant damage in the communities especially of the oil rich Niger Delta Region, the interventions of the various organizations, government and development partners notwithstanding. These communities have been devastated by flooding disaster, sea level rise, coastal erosion and health challenges. The manifestations and impact of climate change in the region include disappearance of wildlife, destruction of aquatic life, degraded farm lands, water and air pollution with attendant escalating poverty, health hazards and unemployment among the population. The above ugly scenario in the Niger Delta Region informed the theme of this conference: **Niger Delta and Climate Change: Imperatives for Action**. Finally, this is a conference for action and intervention where we

have to share ideas and create a regional faculty on climate change. We need to join hands collectively to promote adaptation and mitigation measures of climate change while addressing the loss and damage that the people of Niger Delta are passing through as a result of climate change impacts. Wishing you all effective participation, fruitful and impactful conference with the determination to articulate appropriate, urgent and practical solutions to the problems of climate change in the Niger Delta Region of Nigeria.

Thanks a million for your attention.

**Comr. Nbani Friday Barilule**  
Executive Director, Lekeh  
Development Foundation



## HOW THE PROJECT WAS CONCEIVED

**C**ontext: Nigeria, Africa's largest economy, has a key role to play in delivering the aims of the Paris Agreement sustainable development in Africa. in the continent of Africa. Today, one fifth of Africans, some 200 million people, are Nigerians. The World Bank projection is that Nigeria will become the world's third most populous country by 2050 with over 400 million people. As a country that is both highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, and also one of the largest emitters of GHG emissions across Africa, Nigeria has an important grassroots leadership role to play There is no doubt that oil has been of great benefit to the Nigerian state and the people as a whole but the oil pollution caused by spillages from the oil industry located primarily in the Niger Delta region has caused the massive destruction to farmlands, sources of drinking water, mangrove forest, fishing grounds and declination of fish, crabs, mollusks, periwinkles and birds. Large areas of mangrove forest have been destroyed over a wide area affecting terrestrial and marine resources. Some past spills have necessitated the complete relocation of some communities, loss of ancestral homes, pollution of fresh water, loss of forest and agricultural land, destruction of fishing grounds and reduction of fish population, which is the major source of income for the Niger Delta people. There are 500 fields in the Niger Delta[1] and 131 flaring sites[2]. Gas flaring is the second most destructive environmental pollutant in the Niger Delta after oil spillage.[3] The environment has been devastated by pollution from Shell's operations, and Nigeria has recorded 4919 oil spills within six years with uncontrolled gas flaring in Ogoniland. The destruction

*Cont'd on p.10*





## WHEN NIGER DELTA STAKEHOLDERS CONVERGED IN PORT HARCOURT FOR CLIMATE JUSTICE

**A**midst the increasing impacts of climate change and fossil fuel extraction in the Niger Delta region of Nigeria, a Niger delta climate change conference was organized in Port Harcourt by LEKEH development foundation on July 10, 11th and 12<sup>th</sup> Day of July, 2023. On the 3<sup>rd</sup> day of the event, July 12, participants embarked on field visits at some oil impacted communities at Ogoni and Eleme and were taken to oil spill sites. The theme of the conference was Niger delta and climate change: imperatives for action. It was supported by Urban Movement Innovation Fund (UMI), Lush Charity Pot UK, Global Greengrant Fund (GGF).

The Conferences was organized in partnership with Health of Mother Earth Foundation, HOMEF, KEBETKACHE Women Development and Resource Centre, OILWATCH, Environmental Rights Action/Friends of the Earth Nigeria, We The People, Yeraba Women Foundation, strategic partners that contributed to technical support for the event.

**Method of delivery:** paper presentations, experience sharing, panel discussions, plenary sessions, field visit, were the approaches adopted for the conference.

Participants were drawn from

opinion leaders, policy makers, academics, community stakeholders, women organizations, youths, media, persons living with disabilities, traditional rulers, public health professionals, state actors and civil society organizations across the niger delta. other stakeholders from Ghana and the United Kingdom (UK) were also present for experience sharing.

The conference was aimed at discussing the climate change and fossil fuel extraction impacts in the Niger Delta; to articulate the impacts on the people, communities and the environment and to chart a path for adaptation and mitigation for the region. It was meant to further deepen awareness on the negative impacts of fossil fuel extraction and climate change particularly on women and young people living in the region. It also afforded the opportunity to interrogate the climate CHANGE policies in Nigeria.

The conference kicked off on July 10 with welcome remarks by Friday Nbani, Executive director of LEKEH DEVT FOUNDATION. He formally welcomed participants to the event and commended them for making out time to attend the event. He said it is an opportunity to discuss the troubling issues of climate change and how it impacts

the niger delta region. He said it is time the Niger delta people took serious actions to save the environment and citizens who bear the brunt of oil extractive activities.

### INSOLIDARITY

Solidarity messages were given by selected stakeholders and representatives of some organizations. Among them were:

Permanent Secretary, Rivers State Ministry of Environment; Dr Oseji, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Delta state; Christian Ahiaikwo, former Chairman, House Committee on Environment, Rivers State House of Assembly; Prof. B.B. Fakae, former Vice Chancellor, University of Port Harcourt, HRH, SUANU BARIDAM, traditional ruler of Bangha community and DARREN CULLEN.

### TECHNICALSESSION

3 key presentations were made by carefully selected resource persons to instigate robust discussions. The presentations include:

SITUATING THE NIGER DELTA IN GLOBAL SOUTH CLIMATE JUSTICE BYNNIMMOBASSEY; STRATEGIC LITIGATION AND LEGAL INSTRUMENTS FOR CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE BYCHIMA WILLIAMS; NATIONAL AND SUBNATIONAL RESPONSE TO CLIMATE CHANGE



IMPACTS BY IBIRONKE OLUBAMISE, NATIONAL COORDINATOR, GEF, SMALL GRANT, PROGRAM.

Rev Nnimmo, a world acclaimed environmental justice icon deepened the knowledge of participants on issues of climate justice, he provided a trajectory of the ecological justice movement around the global south, and noted that the niger delta. He noted that **s o c i a l a n d environmental/ecological justice issues are issues of gender, political and economic domination. He said System change (not just a slogan) is the focus of the struggle for climate justice. The struggle for ecological justice is a struggle to free the world of all forms of domination and exploitation – neoliberalism, Corporate globalization, Neo-colonialism, Militarism. He**

**To achieve social, ecological and gender justice, he charged communities to get involved in the ecological justice struggles to recover climate resilience, defend communities, stop destructive extraction, support agroecology; he recommended that there is need to**

- End Sacrificial zones
- Reject False Solutions and the

**promotion of technological “fixes” like blue, green, and grey hydrogen.**

- Protect environment & human rights defenders
- Eliminate energy poverty

Dr Chima Williams, executive Director of ERA/FOE, and an award winning environmental justice crusader, highlighted some legal instruments for climate and environmental justice as well as national and Sub-National responses to climate change impacts. He noted that Strategic litigation can be a veritable strategy to achieve environmental justice.

THE CONFERENCE continued on JULY 11 and was moderated by Prof. Daniel Ogwu, while Prof. B.B,Fakae, former Vice Chancellor of Rivers State University was the chairman.

Welcome remarks were made by Friday Nbani, executive director of LEKEH DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION. HE formally welcomed participants and commended them for honouring the invitation despite their tight schedules. He noted that the impacts of fossil fuel extractions as well as climate change impacts in the Niger Delta is frightening and call for urgent actions. He urged participants to

Niger Delta communities seriously. He said the meeting is apt and commended LEKEH foundation for putting the meeting together.

Solidarity/goodwill messages were given by permanent secretary, ministry of environment, former chairman of house committee on environment, rivers state house of Assembly; a royal father, HRH KING Suanu Baridam; Darren Cullen from UK and Nerissa Anku from Ghana.

In their separate solidarity messages, they adjudged the conference very apt and timely, lamenting that oil and gas activities in the Niger Delta have caused serious harms to the communities. They stated that there is need for unity among the people of the region.

Darren Curren from UK in his presentation disclosed how he uses art to expose the atrocities being perpetrated by shell, a major fossil fuel extractive company. He said shell is too much involved in green washing, advertising lies and marketing denials, doubts and delays. He noted that fossil fuel is killing the earth and that solutions propagated by IOCs are false solutions. He referred to shell as Hell, and created a logo of the HELL which



- new energy colonialism
- Demand payment of **Ecological/Climate debt**
- Reject expansion of hydrocarbon borders (Frontier basins, etc)
- Reject “green colonialism” land grabs for solar and wind farms, the indiscriminate mining of **critical minerals**, and

contribute their quota to make the conference successful. The chairman of the conference, in his remark, commended the participants for their interest in the plights of the Niger Delta. He noted that the impacts of climate change is real and is affecting

is similar to shell logo. In some of his correspondences with shell, he thanked shell for showing how its business practices share similarities with HELL. HE said both SHELL





AND HELL are about creating a burning world unfit for human habitation and filled with suffering.

#### ANOTHER TECHNICAL SESSION

After solidarity speeches, 3 key presentations were made by seasoned resource persons. They include:

- TOWARDS A REGIONAL ACTION OPLAN ON CLIMATE CHANGE BY

KEN HENSHAW;

- CLIMATE IMPACTS: NIGER DELTA AND WOMEN'S PECULIARITIES BY EMEM OKON.

The presentations, coupled with a panel discussions by a group of panelists provided direction and motivation for copious deliberations.

Discussants used the opportunity to examine and situate the Niger Delta in the global south

LIVING WITH CLIMATE CHANGE IN THE NIGER DELTA; DISPLACEMENT, CONFLICT AND POVERTY; INFRASTRUCTURE, LAND.

The panel was moderated by ken Henshaw of We The People.

Keynote address entitled

TOWARDS A REGIONAL ACTION OPLAN ON CLIMATE CHANGE was presented by DAVID MICHAEL Terungwa, ED OF GIFSEP;

His presentation was aimed at preparing the minds of participants on the need for the region to prepare for action plans on climate change.

David is Passionate about environmental management, sustainable agriculture and renewable energy. He is dedicated to enabling sustainable development in Sub Saharan Africa and is the Founder and Executive Director of GIFSEP- Global Initiative for Food Security and Ecosystem Preservation; he advocates, educates and mobilizes communities to respond to a changing climate.

Highlight of his presentation include::

Climate Change Issues identified in the niger delta such as Coastal erosion. **Sea level rise, Loss of Land/Infrastructure, Loss of Farmland. Impact on fresh water, Biodiversity loss, Habitat Loss, Ecosystem /Land Degradation and loss of biomass in the ocean, Extreme weather, Flooding and destruction of Lives and Property.**

Proffering a way forward, he advocated that there is need to **DEVELOP A NIGER DELTA CLIMATE ACTION PLAN.** Also needed *coordinated discourse and strategic planning involving policy makers, business actors and regional*



DAVID MICHAEL, ED OF GIFSEP;

- LOSS AND DAMAGES IN THE CONTEXT OF THE GLOBAL CLIMATE JUSTICE MOVEMENT BY

the context of global climate justice movement.

The issues covered at the panel discussions include:

climate and environmental justice movement. Strategic litigation and legal instrument for climate and environmental justice, national and Sub-National responses to climate change impacts. Participants, IN THE COURSE OF THE DISCUSSIONS, further proffered action plan towards a regional action plan and most notably, Loss and damage in





actors among which include

- Niger Delta Governor's Forum
- Niger Delta Speakers Forum
- Niger Delta Commissioners For Environment/Climate
- NDDC
- Ministry of Niger Delta,
- Forum of CSO's working on Climate and Environment

IN HER PRESENTATION ON CLIMATECHANGE IMPACTS: NIGER DELTA AND WOMEN'S PECULIARITIES, EMEM OKON, a seasoned women rights crusader, climate change campaigner and community women mobilizer focused on the impacts of climate change, particularly on women. Emem Okon is the founder and executive director of a pioneer women focused organization known as KEBETHKACHE women development and resource centre based in port harcourt.

On his part, Ken Henshaw, founder and Director of We the people, a pro-people human and environmental rights NGO made a

presentation on PERSPECTIVES ON LOSS AND DAMAGES IN THE CONTEXT OF THE GLOBAL CLIMATE JUSTICE MOVEMENT. He tried to interrogate efforts of world leaders in addressing the climate crises, focusing his discussion on LOSS AND DAMAGE. IN HIS PRESENTATION, ken Henshaw traced the history of the loss and damage conversation, the meaning, contribution to the climate justice movement, it benefits to the communities that bears the brunt of climate change, its desirability and so on.

By far the most significant decision of COP 27 was the agreement to have a new funding arrangement for assisting developing countries that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change in responding to loss and damage

- While the recognition and agreement on Loss and Damage is useful progress towards addressing long standing impacts of climate change, it does not really make meaning in the face of continued extraction and pollution
- Loss and Damage won't save the planet. At best it is a "fund for the end of the world".

- For the Loss and Damage fund to be effective, the root cause of climate change must be tackled simultaneously– and this involves reducing emissions.

Unless emissions are drastically reduced, more and more countries will face the devastating effects of climate change and will fall into the category of countries demanding climate finance.

- loss of food security,
- natural disasters - flooding,
- a vanishing of coastlines,
- human displacement,
- natural resources depletion,
- a lack of clean and accessible water,
- animal migration and pest management issues,
- diseases and other health issues;
- a loss of cultural practices and traditional ways of life;
- economic downturns, energy crises etc.
- Pollution from burning fossil fuel has led to increased sicknesses and death, asthma, cancer and lung diseases etc (**participants to name more**).
- Decrease in crop yields
- Increase in food prices
- Increased heat stress in livestock





and human beings

- Crop damage from heat waves
- Decreased water supply
- There are wars and violent conflicts

EMEM submitted that climate change impacts on women more than men.

- Women are more susceptible to the negative impacts of climate change as they make up the majority of the world's poor
- women and children are 14 times more likely to die than men during natural disasters
- the differentiated impacts of climate change on women are numerous. An understanding of how climate change, sustainable development and population issues intersect—and the specific impacts on women—will help in the development of effective, gender-sensitive policies and programmes

there is insufficient gender consideration in climate change responses

in addition to making suggestions on strategies for climate change mitigation and adaptation, she presented the demands of African women with respect to climate

change.

A panel of discussant was formed and moderated by Ken Henshaw.

Issues presented to them to discuss centred on the following questions asked by the moderator:

- Do we have cases of health impacts of climate change on the Niger Delta people?  
In response to this question, a health expert, Dr BRIGGS said there are many health impacts. He said, for instance that inhalation of hydrocarbon in form of soot can distort the nervous system as well as respiratory disorder. Pollution also affect mental health, affects learning, reproductive health, and so on.

HE NOTED THAT THERE IS NEED FOR HEALTH AUDIT TO BE CARRIED OUT IN THE NIGER DELTA.

- Are There Structures In Place In The Niger Delta States To Address Climate Change Impacts?

IN RESPONSE to this, Dr Awala said there is none yet, to the best

of her knowledge.

SHE SAID there is need for laws or policies that will legalize illegal refineries for easy regulation; instruments that help control flood water. Laws that will bring gas flaring to end; laws that will end pollution.

- ARE THERE IMPACTS OF FLOODING ON PEOPLES LIVELIHOOD?

Akpobari responded to this and said yes. He said flooding is a serious threat to food security adding that it destroyed peoples sources of livelihood. It sweeps away everything. He added that it is painful that people know that flood will come, but have nothing to do about it. Governments are not prepared to take any step to save the communities from flood menace.

**THERE OUGHT TO BE BIG AND WELL MAINTAINED IDP CAMPS TO TAKE CARE OF PEOPLE DISPLACED BY FLOOD..**



## THERE IS NEED FOR ROADMAP TO SAVE COMMUNITIES

## THERE IS NEED FOR MASS ACTIONS – STREET PROTESTS TO WAKE THE GOVERNMENTS TO THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES.

- AS CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACTS WOMEN HEAVILY, HOW CAN SOLUTION PACKAGES BE DESIGNED TO TACKLE IMPACTS ON WOMEN?

EMEN, a gender expert said women should begin to be incorporated in positions where decisions are made and where those solutions are designed.

## ISSUES/CONCERNS RAISED

After the panel discussion, the floor was opened for plenary discussions. Issues and concerns that stood out at the end of the deliberations include:

- CLIMATE CHANGE is real and the Niger Delta communities grapple with its dire consequences, which manifest in many harsh ways, such as flooding, harsh weather, ocean surge, threat to food security, etc.
- Governments at the National and subnational levels seem not to be concerned or interested in the health of the citizens being threatened by pollution and climate change;
- Nothing serious is being done to protect the lives of citizens. The communities and the

environment.

- The mandate of the governments of the oil rich region seems to be focused on ensuring that oil continues to flow at all times not minding the impacts on the environment and on citizens;
- THE GOVT should do health impact assessment and develop health plan/agenda;
- There should be health insurance policy;
- There should be policy of carrying out post mortem on dead bodies to create data bank of the true causes of deaths;
- There are frameworks that can be used to address climate change issues. These frameworks should be

## The communique issued at the end of the three days Niger Delta Climate Change conference

### Preamble

The maiden edition of the Niger Delta Climate Change Conference facilitated and organised by Lekeh Development Foundation was held at Davis Hotel and Suites in Port Harcourt from 10-12 July 2023 with the theme Niger Delta and Climate Change: Imperative for Action.

The conference gathered opinion leaders, policy experts and makers, academics, community people, women organizations, public health professionals and civil society organizations, traditional rulers including HRH King Baridam Suanu, and other key stakeholders from Ghana and the United Kingdom (UK) to discuss the ubiquitous climate change impacts and chart a path for adaptation and mitigation for the region.

The Forum targeted deepening conversations around climate change impacts and awareness on the negative impacts of fossil fuel extraction and climate change particularly on women and young people living in the region. It also afforded the opportunity to interrogate the climate policies in Nigeria.

Discussants used the opportunity to examine and situate the Niger Delta in the global south climate and environmental justice movement. Strategic litigation and legal instrument for climate and environmental justice, national and Sub-National responses to climate change impacts. Participants further proffered action plan towards a regional action plan and most notably, Loss and damage in the context global climate justice movement.

At the end of the very robust engagement, Participants observed the following:

1. The impact of Climate change on the physical environment and livelihoods with respect to the citizens' health condition increases poverty and unemployment, as well as displacements of the people.
2. Conflict, destruction of infrastructure, and land resources demand urgent attention and support from both the Federal and State Governments of the Niger Delta Region to mitigate the adverse effect of climate in the region.

3. There is a need for awareness creation and mobilization of communities on the dangers of climate change as well as adaptation and mitigation strategies.
4. That development partners should intensify their support to community groups to execute climate change mitigation projects to reverse the adverse effects of climate change.
5. There is need to review the Climate Change Act and strengthen climate change policies with the involvement of the Governor's Forum, Speakers and members of the State and National Houses of Assemblies, Ministries of Environments, Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC) and Ministry of Niger Delta are to refocus attention on the impact of climate change on the Niger Delta environment.
6. Mainstreaming of women in the climate change agenda in the Niger Delta Region should be strongly promoted to achieve greater results in the fight against climate change.
7. There is a need for the development of a Regional Action Plan on climate change for greater impact with the combined efforts of all State Governments in the Niger Delta.
8. There is a need to conduct comprehensive health and environmental audit for the development of effective strategies for mitigation of the adverse impact of climate change in the region.
9. There is a need to refocus and situate the loss and damage concept in the context of the regional and national climate action.
10. Maintaining and enhancing the momentum, outcomes, and results of this maiden Niger Delta Conference was strongly endorsed for greater achievements and impacts.

### Recommendations

1. Implement strategies to help communities adapt to climate change. This includes promoting sustainable agriculture practices, enhancing coastal protection



strengthened and put to use;

- There is need for sustainable energy sources, government should invest in these sources;
- There should be policies to discourage pollutions and gasflaring;
- Although there is EIA LAW, it does not seem to add to environment justice;
- PART of adaptation techniques will be to apply climate smart agricultural practices;
- THERE IS need for strategic litigation, strategic advocacy, and increased media engagements;
- GOVTS SHOULD make adequate preparations for flooding, not just issuing alerts;
- THERE IS NEED for citizens to rise up and save their

measures,  
and improving flood  
management systems to reduce the vulnerability  
of communities to extreme weather events.

2. Encourage reforestation initiatives and protect existing forests as forests play a crucial role in absorbing carbon dioxide and regulating temperature, thus mitigating climate change impacts.
3. End the continued illegal and unconstitutional routine gas flaring in the region.
4. Halt the expansion of fossil fuel extraction in the Niger Delta and carry out comprehensive clean up and restoration of the heavily degraded environment.
5. Promote and implement recommendations of the Bayelsa State Oil and Environment Commission Report and the demands contained in the Niger Delta Alternative Convergence Manifesto.
6. Promote the use of renewable energy sources such as solar and wind power.
7. Strengthen monitoring mechanisms and invest in early warning systems for extreme weather events like storms and floods. This will enable timely response and evacuation, reducing the risks to human lives and infrastructure.
8. Capacity-building programs including by learning from indigenous knowledge, should be implemented to enhance knowledge, skills, and resources for climate change adaptation and mitigation.

#### Signed by:

Lekeh Development Foundation  
We the people  
Health of Mother Earth Foundation (HOMEF)  
Friends of the Earth Nigeria/Environmental Rights Action  
KebetKache Woman Development and Resources Centre  
Oilwatch Africa  
GIFSEP  
Yeraba Women Foundation  
African Centre for Rural Development and Environment.  
African Parents for Future

environment;

- The window of averting climate change catastrophe is closing and there is need for urgent decisive actions to save the earth,
- The time to act is now
- Communities are losing mass of land to flooding, sea and ocean rise;
- **WOMEN SUFFER THE IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE MORE**
- Climate change laws, policies, where they exist are not being enforced.
- On flooding, government should rise beyond raising alarms
- The COP that makes decisions on climate change is populated dominantly by those causing the climate change problems. Their interest is to protect their businesses rather than protecting the environment
- women should be included in the

climate change agenda in the Niger Delta Region.

- There is a need for the development of a Regional Action Plan on climate change for greater impact with the combined efforts of all State Governments in the Niger Delta.
- There is need to
- End **Sacrificial zones**
- **Reject False Solutions** and the new energy colonialism
- Demand payment of **Ecological/Climate debt**
- Reject expansion of hydrocarbon borders (Frontier basins, etc)
- Reject “green colonialism” land grabs for solar and wind farms, the indiscriminate mining of **critical minerals**, and **promotion of technological “fixes” like blue, green, and grey hydrogen.**
- Protect **environment & human rights defenders**
- Eliminate energy poverty

Parents for  
Future Nigeria  
Nigeria Coal Network  
African Coal Network  
Movement for the Survival of Ogoni People (MOSOP)  
Society for Women and Youth Affairs  
Sustainable Action for Nature  
MBA Okase Initiative Eleme

Links to newspaper publications.

\*Niger Delta Climate Change Conference Calls For Action Against Negative Impacts of Fossil Fuel Extraction On Women, Young People\*

<https://eastwestreporters.com/niger-delta-climate-change-conference-calls-for-action-against-negative-impacts-of-fossil-fuel-extraction-on-women-young-people>

<https://themail.com.ng/halt-the-expansion-of-fossil-fuel-extraction-in-the-niger-delta-stakeholders-csos-tell-federal-government/>

<https://www.thisdaylive.com/index.php/2023/07/12/flood-fg-urged-to-adopt-proactive-approach-to-avert-disasters>  
Flood: FG Urged to Adopt Proactive Approach to Avert Disasters

Group decries impact of climate change on Niger Delta environment- <https://authorityngr.com/2023/07/12/group-decries-impact-of-climate-change-on-niger-delta-environment/>

<https://www.thisdaylive.com/index.php/2023/07/13/environmentalists-call-for-action-on-climate-change-in-ndelta>  
Environmentalists Call for Action on Climate Change in N'Delta  
<https://sweetcrudereports.com/climate-change-cso-coalition-demands-review-of-loss-and-damage-policy/>





In his closing remark, FRIDAY thanked participants and resource persons. He called for an end for fossil fuel, saying there is need to move to renewable energy.

He informed that the next conference will be in Bayelsa state.

A climate clock was unveiled at the end of the conference. The clock indicated that by July 25, the world will enter into emergency time on

climate change catastrophe. It also state that the world has only 6 years and 11 days to embark on renewable energy.

#### Outputs/outcomes:

Communique was produced and adopted at the end of the 2 days conference

Resolutions/action plan were undertaken, which were contained

in the communique; Participants expressed commitments to take action towards climate change mitigation and adaptation Participants expressed satisfaction, saying that their expectations were met. They acquired more knowledge on climate change issues; they had deeper understanding of the issues; their capacities on adaptation and mitigation were improved

## HOW THE PROJECT WAS CONCEIVED

*Cont'd from p.3*

caused by oil and gas facilities has caused huge economic losses, the Minister for Environment said. In 2011, The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) said the Ogoni environment could take 30-35 years to recover fully from the loss and damage caused by years of oil spills.[4] UNEP documented the devastating long-term impact of the oil industry in Nigeria's Ogoniland, setting out urgent recommendations for a clean-up. However, the systematic failure of oil companies and the Nigerian government to clean up has left hundreds of thousands of Ogoni people facing serious health risks, struggling to access safe drinking water and unable to earn a living.[5] Ogoni Communities still consume water with high levels of benzene, of about 900 times above World Health Organisation (WHO) acceptable levels[6]. leaving communities facing a severe health risk. The UNEP report of 2017 stated that "Some areas, which appear unaffected at the surface, are in reality severely contaminated underground and action to protect human health and reduce the risks to affected communities should occur without delay. In at least 10 Ogoni communities where

drinking water is contaminated with high levels of hydrocarbons, public health is seriously threatened."

The region has also gained the dubious fame of being one of the top ten most polluted places on Earth. The state of neglect is compounded by years of pollution from fossil industries. Oil has been explored and commercially extracted in the Niger Delta since 1958. With fossil fuels driving climate change and surely entering its last phase as a dominant energy source, the situation of the Ogoni in Niger Delta region requires urgent climate attention. The extraction activities by multinational companies including Shell, Exxon Mobil, Chevron, Elf and Agip have caused serious environmental and social damage in the Niger Delta, an oil rich South-Eastern region of Nigeria. Crude oil extraction has caused the pollution of the river basin and surrounding land, the destruction of subsistence crops, and the expropriation of local residents' territory. The opposition of local communities has been brutally repressed by police forces, resulting in bloodshed and hundreds of deaths[8]. Chevron, Agip, Total,



## TIME TO INTERROGATE CLIMATE CHANGE ISSUES

I want to welcome all of us to this meeting. It affords us the opportunity to gather because of

– Prof BB Faka, former VC,  
RIVERS STATE UNIVERSITY



what is trending – climate change. Climate change is trending. It is an all important conference for us to be here; as people who treasure Niger Delta, with its fragile ecosystem. This has been brought about because of extended years of fossil fuel extractions. I know that those who are experts in the area have said so much about. Some the areas, all the paper presentations and discussions, have exposed a lot about that. Some people will say, the environment is abused; so, the advocacy direction we are taking is very important because it is going to bring awareness and will help us in

our directions and seeing Niger Delta, it is also important that certain things we do, we have to understand that certain things we do about climate change is region specific.

And because of that, what we talk about or what we do, adaptation and mitigation are also region specific

But one thing that we know is that for us to gather here, we know that it is going to give a room for other regions around us also to gather and we coalesce into something that is going to be beneficial to all of us. I believe that this conference is going to bring something very positive. It is my prayer that these 2 days discourse will allow us to interrogate the climate change issues in our place. I will leave that so that the experts will bring us papers and lead us in discussions that will make us leave here having the whole session very fruitful.

### HOW THE PROJECT WAS CONCEIVED *Cont'd from p.10*

Indorama, Pan Ocean, Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) together with Shell and other oil companies are currently operating in the Niger Delta region of the country. The ongoing fossil fuel extractive has led to extensive environmental degradation including the contamination of air, water, and soil which continue to negatively affect the health of local communities, this is despite the country being party to the Paris Agreement which is an incredible opportunity for Nigeria to follow the path of Low Carbon Development, which will in turn facilitate sustainable development. Nigeria, being one of the largest economies in Africa, should be a beacon for other African states by accelerating its plans towards a rapid, just transition towards embracing 100% renewable energy. The overall goal of the project is to work together to promote climate action by uniting Niger Delta grassroots leaders' voices to mitigate the impacts of climate change.

#### Objectives:

- Create awareness on the negative impacts of fossil fuel/climate change in Nigeria.
- Strengthening Niger Delta Coalition action towards achieving climate justice and a just transition to renewable sources of energy.

#### Activities

- To organize three-day Niger Delta Climate Change Conference

#### Topics to be discussed include:

- The position of Niger Delta grassroots leaders at COP28.
- The impacts of climate change on livelihood and

food security.

Develop Niger Delta plan to mitigate and adapt for climate change

Address loss and damage from the recent flooding of climate change.

Contribute towards the achievement of Nigeria NDC and just transitional plan.

Discussion on what could be done to limit temperature rises and climate change

- Creating awareness on the negative impacts of fossil fuel extraction and climate change on women and young people living in Niger Delta. Campaign message including Don't gas Nigeria, No more fossil fuel projects anywhere in Nigeria, Cleanup your mess in Niger Delta

#### Outcomes:

- Sustained pressure on the targets to take climate action towards mitigating the impacts of climate change.
- Enhanced awareness of the dangers of climate change on health and economic activities.

#### References

- 1] <https://napims.nnpcgroup.com/Pages/Crude-Oil-Reserves-Production.aspx>
- 2] <https://pearl.plymouth.ac.uk/handle/10026.1/4314>
- 3] <https://issafrica.org/iss-today/are-nigerias-promises-to-end-gas-flaring-merely-hot-air>
- 4] <https://www.unep.org/news-and-stories/story/unep-ogoniland-oil-assessment-reveals-extent-environmental-contamination-and>
- 5] <https://www.amnesty.org.uk/press-releases/nigeria-shell-still-failing-clean-pollution-niger-delta>
- 6] <https://ejatlas.org/conflict/oil-extraction-forces-ogoni-to-consume-benzene-water-for-survival-nigeria>
- 7] <https://www.unep.org/news-and-stories/story/unep-ogoniland-oil-assessment-reveals-extent-environmental-contamination-and>
- 8] <https://www.amnesty.org.uk/shell-criminal-enterprise>



# Situating the Niger Delta in Global South Climate Justice Movement

By Nnimmo Bassey, Director, HOMEf, 11.07.2023

Rev Nnimmo, a world acclaimed environmental justice icon deepened the knowledge of participants on issues of climate justice, he provided a trajectory of the ecological justice movement around the global south, and noted that the niger delta. He noted that social and environmental/ecological justice issues are issues of gender, political and economic domination. He said System change (not just a slogan) is the

focus of the struggle for climate justice. The struggle for ecological justice is a struggle to free the world of all forms of domination and exploitation – neoliberalism, Corporate globalization, Neo-colonialism, Militarism. He

To achieve social, ecological and gender justice, he charged communities to get involved in the ecological justice struggles to recover climate resilience, defend communities, stop destructive extraction, support agroecology; he



Nnimmo Bassey

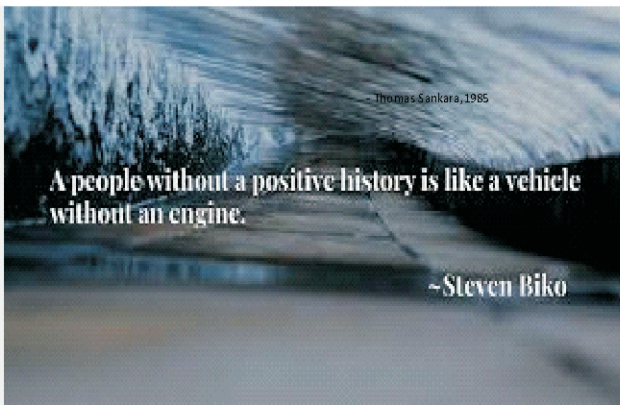
recommended that there is need to

- End Sacrificial zones
- Reject False Solutions and the new energy colonialism
- Demand payment of Ecological/Climate debt
- Reject expansion of hydrocarbon borders (Frontier basins, etc)
- Reject “green colonialism” land grabs for solar and wind farms, the indiscriminate mining of critical minerals, and promotion of technological “fixes” like blue, green, and grey hydrogen.
- Protect environment & human rights defenders

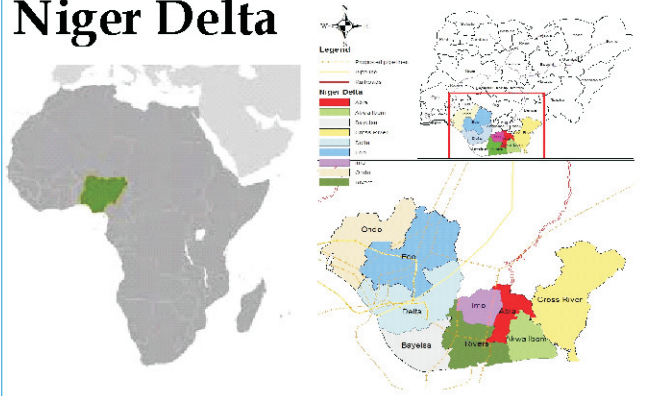
## BE GROUNDED

*“You can fight effectively only against things that you understand well, and you can’t win unless you are convinced your fight is just.”*

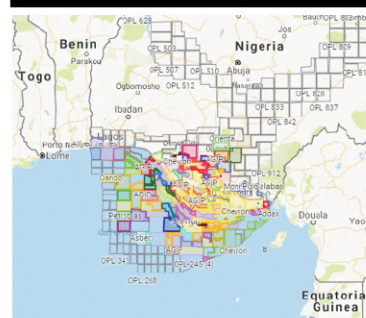
- Thomas Sankara, 1985



## Niger Delta



## Exposed environment



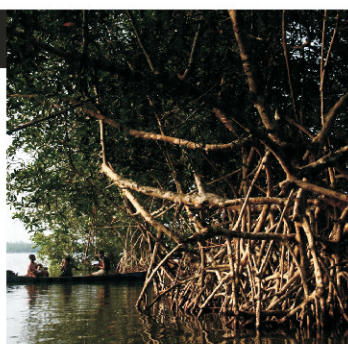
- Environmental impacts
- Oil spills — 1 drop of crude oil pollutes 25 liters of water
- Gas flares — lethal cocktail of toxic gases
- Produced water — Heavy metals. Radioactive
- Toxic wastes
- 21,000 km pipelines... devastates biodiversity

Nigeria's oil and gas leases are clustered around the Niger Delta.

Source: McLennan, James; Stewart Williams (Feb 2005). Deepwater Africa reaches turning point. Oil & Gas Journal. Vol.103, 6; ABI/INFORM Global. pg. 18  
Map from: <http://www.oilandgasinfrastructure.com/home/landgasinfra/hugenafrica/en-se-blo-dcs>

## Basic Info

- >12 % of Nigeria's land mass
- Nigerian population: 200+million
- Niger Delta: 31m in population
- South South
- Farmers and Fishers
- Petroleum sector hub of Nigeria
- Life expectancy: 41 years



FLARES  
BURNT SKIES  
BURNT LIVES



## Gulf of Guinea



- 90% of sea-based environmental pollution footprint in the Gulf of Guinea traced to Nigerian waters
- The region is very laxly policed and is a zone of plunder
- Hundreds of thousands of stolen crude oil moving unhindered.
- Sea Piracy



We are so RICH  
That's why We are so POOR

- Drivers of Global warming & Rentier Politics: xtractivism (fossils, forests), consumption, Industrial Agriculture,



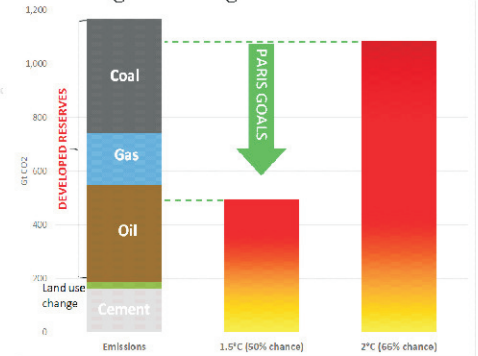
But  
EXTRACTIVISM  
=  
AMPUTATION  
[Nigeria cannot dig herself out of the hole]

## Paris Agreement

Co2 emissions from already-developed global fossil fuel reserves, relative to Paris Agreement goals.



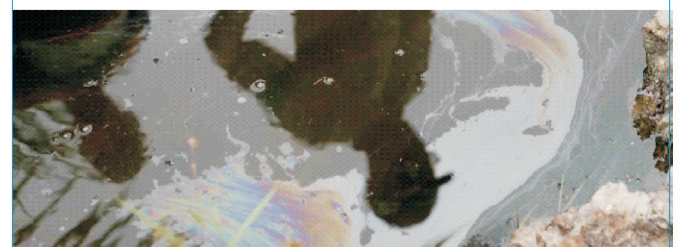
- Source: Oil Change International analysis based on data from Rystad Energy, IEA, World Energy Council, and IPCC.



## Changing Climate



- Rising ocean temperature
- Sea level rise
- Coastal erosion and oceanification
- Acidification
- Salinization + industry's canalization
- Deforestation



Co-Learn & Co-Know

K-Dere

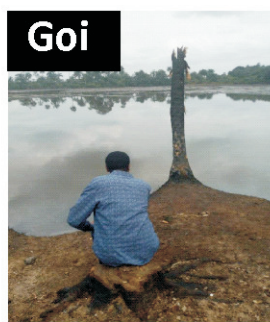
GOI



K-Dere



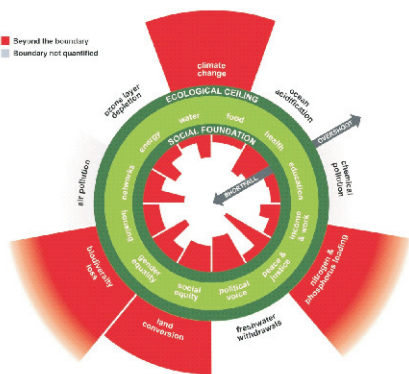




### Recover Memories

KNOWLEDGE  
- cosmological  
- technological  
- organisational

- Coalitions
- Transitions



Keeping above the  
social foundation  
Staying below the  
ecological ceiling

*The doughnut of social  
and ecological ceiling*

Ecological Justice  
demands  
restoration  
and Reparation  
— Wellness



### Break Barriers

- Environmental Racism
- Neocolonialism
- Inequalities
- Gender discrimination
- Ecocide
- Topple the narratives ... Recast the Stories
- Recover climate resilience: defend communities, stop destructive extraction, support agroecology



## SORE SPOTS

- Temperatures target set to between 1.5 and 2°C above pre-industrial levels
- 1.5C about to be reached
- Remaining carbon budget not still divided equitably according to CBDR, capacity and right to sustainable societies
- Just transition/System Change not addressed
- Loss and damage (mechanisms & approaches still debated)
- Trade agreements and dirty energy – pollution from offshore production still not counting for pollution from consuming nations. (e.g. oil and gas extracted in Africa for use in Europe, North America, etc.)



## Colonial infrastructure

Net Zero is not zero

Carbon Colonisation & Carbon slavery

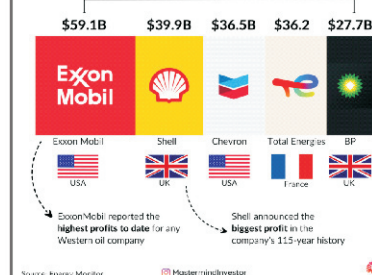
Carbon capture and storage

Figure 16: Proposed and under development oil and gas pipelines, coal terminals, and LNG terminals in Africa.



## Big Oil Profits At Record Highs in 2022

Record Profit of \$200B



• Profit Feeds the Crime

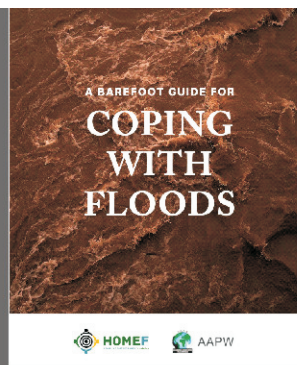


## Contextualize the struggles

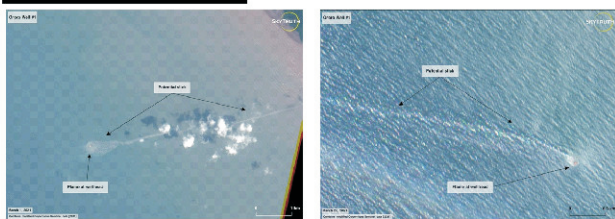
EACOP	Okavango	Niger Delta- Morocco + Europe gas pipeline
ND spills, flares and blowouts	Support fence line community struggles ... coal, Oil...gas...forests and displacements ...fisheries...	Promote agroecology – Small holders feed the people, hold the power

## Willful Blindness

- Over 3, 000 lives lost when Cyclone Idai hit Mozambique, Tanzania, etc. \$2 billion in damage
- 603 died in 2022 Floods in Nigeria. Over 1million displaced
- Floods & droughts
- Water stress
- Conflict & militarization
- Food shortages



## Ororo-1 3 years after...



## Powering CJ Struggles

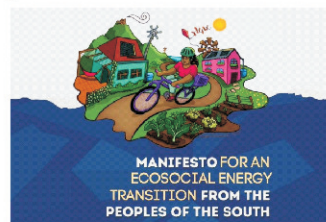
- Monitoring
- Reporting
- Indigenous Knowledge + Technology
- Ecosystem restoration



## Ecosocial Manifesto from the people of the Global South

### Lessons from 2 manifestos

- End Sacrificial zones
- **Reject False Solutions** and the new energy colonialism
- Demand payment of **Ecological/Climate debt**
- Reject expansion of hydrocarbon borders (Frontier basins, etc)
- Reject “green colonialism” land grabs for solar and wind farms, the indiscriminate mining of critical minerals, and promotion of technological “fixes” like blue, green, and grey hydrogen.
- **Protect environment & human rights defenders**
- Eliminate energy poverty



## OGONI UNEP Report 2021

- Massive pollution of water bodies
- Soil polluted with Hydrocarbon to a depth of 5m
- Benzene in drinking water at 900 times above WHO standards
- \$1bn to commence clean-up

## Bayelsa State Oil & Environment Commission Report 2023

- Water bodies polluted with total petroleum hydrocarbon 1million above safe limits
- Oil spill at 1.5barrels per capita
- Chromium in water at 1000 times above WHO standards
- \$12bn over 12 years to repair

- **Environmental + Health Audit**
- **Economic needs**
- **Provide GREEN jobs for the youths**
- **Secure pipelines and facilities**
- **Oil thefts**
- **Comprehensive Review of the PIA**
- **Host Communities**
- **NNPC Ltd, profits, frontier fields and 13% derivation for communities**
- **Ending gas flaring**
- **Halt Deforestation (rain forests, mangroves)**
- **Address Climate Change impacts**
- **Halt Sea Piracy, unregulated and illegal fishing, etc**
- **Clean up. Restore**

## NDAC manifesto



It is very important for us to unite. There are genuine reasons for individualistic approach to advocacies. But where there is real strength and real victory is in the unity of social groups in the region, and that is why this conference is very important.

Over and about the synchronization of all the advocates, all the CSO works that are going on in the region

## THERE IS VICTORY IN UNITY

*By Anku Nerissa, AFRICAN COAL NETWORK, GHANA*

unity is very important and unity will ensure, or is going to ensure that when we all decide that this is what we want, we don't have other CSOs in bed with the oil companies, that way, I don't think that the victory will come to us. But it will

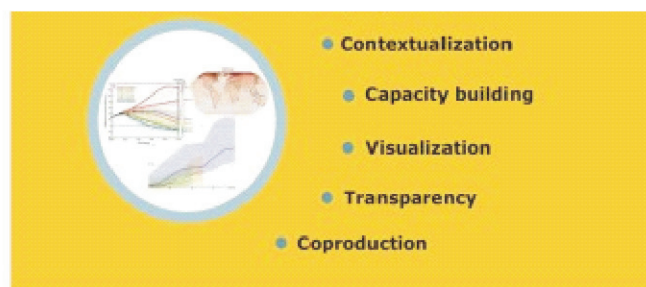
be feasible to turn the Niger Delta region from the current status of being the most polluted region in the world to a paradise on earth. And we are sure you have our solidarity as members of African Coal Network we will go well with us.



# NIGER DELTA

## TOWARDS A REGIONAL ACTION PLAN ON CLIMATE CHANGE

By Michael Terungwa David



### Regional Policies

Niger Delta Governor's Forum  
Niger Delta Speakers Forum  
Niger Delta Commissioners  
For Environment/Climate  
NDDC  
Ministry of Niger Delta

Forum of CSO's working on Climate  
and Environment



### Climate Change Issues

- 01. Coastal Erosion**  
Sea level rise  
Loss of Land/Infrastructure
- 02. Salt Water Intrusion**  
Loss of Farmland  
Impact on fresh water  
All of these issues are made worse by Oil exploration

### Ecosystem Restoration

### Potential Gains from Climate Action in the Niger Delta

- Carbon sink
- Carbon Credit
- Tourism Revenue
- Blue Economy
- Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ);

### Climate Change Issues

- 03. Biodiversity Loss**  
Habitat Loss  
Ecosystem /Land Degradation and loss of biomass in the ocean
- 04. Extreme Weather**  
Extreme weather  
Flooding  
Destruction of Lives and Property



# CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACTS: WOMEN LIVED REALITIES IN THE NIGER DELTA

EMEM OKON, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

KEBETKACHE WOMEN DEVELOPMENT & RESOURCE CENTRE

08033363172 emembridget@yahoo.com @PORT HARCOURT 11<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2023

## Introduction

- Climate change is the latest problem that is faced by human today.
- Climate change is simply change in weather pattern and related changes in oceans, land surfaces and ice sheets
- It affects every aspect of life. It cuts across every sectors.
- Impacts of climate change are already evident.

## What is Climate Change?

- Refers to changes in climate characteristics, including temperature, humidity, rainfall, wind, and severe weather events over long term periods.

## How do we know the climate is changing?

- Temperatures are rising!
- Sea levels are rising!
- The ocean is acidifying!
- Biodiversity is impacted; varieties of plants and animal lives are affected
- There are changes in the patterns of rainfall
- We are experiencing intense heat
- Food insecurity
- Flooding
- Drought

## Effects of Climate Change

- loss of food security,
- natural disasters - flooding,
- a vanishing of coastlines,
- human displacement,
- natural resources depletion,
- a lack of clean and accessible water,
- animal migration and pest management issues,
- diseases and other health issues;
- a loss of cultural practices and traditional ways of life;
- economic downturns, energy crises etc.

## Impacts of Climate Change

- Human Health have become more vulnerable. Children, women, the elderly, persons living with disability, pregnant women & persons infected with HIV.
- Water-borne diseases are more sensitive to climatic conditions. World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that between 2030 – 2050 diarrhoea, malaria, malnutrition and heat stress will cause additional 250,000 deaths per year as a result of climate.
- Drought and flood is affecting food production and bring increased hunger.
- Pollution from burning fossil fuel has led to increased sicknesses and death, asthma, cancer and lung diseases etc (participants to name more).
- Decrease in crop yields
- Increase in food prices
- Increased heat stress in livestock and human beings
- Crop damage from heat waves
- Decreased water supply
- There are wars and violent conflicts

## Gender Mainstreaming in CC

Gender Mainstreaming focuses on gender roles and relationships rather than on women only; it is designed to ensure that women and men have access to project resources and services, in relation to their actual responsibilities.

It is also an organizational strategy to bring a gender perspective to all aspects of an institution's policy and activities, through building gender capacity and accountability.

## Gender and Climate Change

- Women are more susceptible to the



negative impacts of climate change as they make up the majority of the world's poor women and children are 14 times more likely to die than men during natural disasters

- the differentiated impacts of climate change on women are numerous. An understanding of how climate change, sustainable development and population issues intersect—and the specific impacts on women—will help in the development of effective, gender-sensitive policies and programmes

## Why Gender important in CC?

- Nigeria has a population of over 170.5 million and about 80.2million being 49% are women and girls
- Women still face unequal access to decision-making, formal financial systems, land ownership, reproductive health care, and education and information, undermining their well-being in addition to that of their families and communities.
- Women are disproportionately vulnerable to the impacts of Climate change.

## WOMEN LIVED REALITIES

- Main traditional means of livelihood are farming and fishing (name others).
- Most of them are based in rural communities.
- Tradition does not permit inheritance from the father nor from the husband.
- Some of the women are very poor
- Their sources of water are streams, rivers, creeks, boreholes – most of these are all polluted by the oil extraction process.
- They have no access to electricity
- Some of the girl children become victims of forced-marriages and sexual abuse, these result in high level of child motherhood,

unwanted pregnancies and sex trade.

## Addressing the effects of climate change

- It is widely accepted that mitigation and adaptation measures are necessary to address climate change effects.
- Mitigation** is the prevention of further climate change by reducing the sources or enhancing the sinks of greenhouse gas emissions e.g. switching from using fossil fuels to renewable energy.
- Adaptation** is the adjustment of the natural and built environment, and human behaviour to reduce their vulnerability to climate change impacts e.g. flood defences against sea level rise, reduced meat consumption to curb agricultural emissions.

## Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation strategies

- Mitigating climate change is about reducing the release of greenhouse gas emissions that are warming our planet.
- The need to **reduce** carbon emissions is driving increasing growth in the renewable **energy** industries. **Low-carbon renewable energy** should replace fossil fuels in terms power generation, hot water/ space heating, and transport fuels.
- Energy Efficient bulbs – fluorescent bulbs
- Cover the pots with lid while cooking
- Turn off all electrical appliances when not in use
- Unplug electrical appliances when they are fully charged

## Mitigation and Adaptation Strategies

- Use renewable energy sources like solar, wind, thermal, and small hydro;
- Big cities should develop sustainable public transportation such as bus rapid transit, electric vehicles
- Promoting more sustainable uses of land and forests.
- Eat Less Meat
- Use recycled paper –to save the forest
- Buy fresh food from farmers market not frozen food
- Use clothes lines not dryer
- Use Energy saving stoves
- PLANT TREES**
- TALK ABOUT CLIMATE CHANGE TO PEOPLE - Evangelization**

## National Action Plan on Gender and Climate Change

- The **goal** of the Action Plan on Gender and Climate Change is to ensure that national climate change processes in Nigeria mainstream gender considerations to guarantee inclusivity of all demographics in the formulation and implementation of climate change initiatives, programs and policies.
- The action is particularly focused on agriculture, forestry and land use.
- Looks at improving agricultural infrastructure.
- Conducting a survey on the needs of women and men in agriculture.
- Conducting trainings for men and women on forest management.



GAS FLARE IN IWHEREKHAN CPMMUNITY, DELTA STATE



- Integrate women and climate change into waste management system.
- Conduct sensitization on public hygiene, open defaecation and handwashing.

#### GENDER EQUALITY IN THE CONTEXT OF CLIMATE CHANGE

- This has to do with the relations between women and men in the context of climate change.
- Gender determines what is expected, what is allowed and what is valued in women and in men in a specific context.
- It is argued that there is insufficient recognition of gender considerations in climate change responses

#### WOMEN'S RIGHTS ISSUES IN THE CLIMATE CRISIS

- **Poverty:** 70% of the 1.3 billion people living in poverty conditions are women. 40% of poorest households are headed by women.
- **Lack of access to land:** women own less than 10% of land though they are 50 – 80% involved in food production.
- Worldwide of the 75 million children that are not in school, 41 million of them are girls.
- Extreme climate effects such as floods, landslides, storms affect women and men in different ways.
- The disappearance of forest products endangers women's welfare and that of their families. Women depend more on forest products for food, medicine, and fuel.
- Climate change affects agricultural production and this increases the burden on women.
- Women are more vulnerable to death and injuries during disasters such as floods.
- Loss of natural resources and agricultural productivity increases women workload and leaves them less time for other income generating activities.
- Loss of medicinal plants impedes women capacity to treat ailments.

#### UNITED NATIONS FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE (UNFCCC)

- The UNFCCC has designated a Gender Focal Point and adopted series of steps to integrate gender in the convention.
- UNFCCC provides a guide on how to integrate gender into the National Adaptation Plans of Action (NAPA).
- COP13 in 2007 led towards the promotion of gender equality in climate change responses.

#### AFRICAN WOMEN DEMANDS

- Equal representation and meaningful engagement of women, girls, people with disabilities, Indigenous Peoples, and youth in their diversity at all climate change processes at global and national levels.
- **Climate Finance:** African feminists demand the provision of adequate, accessible, affordable, flexible, and human-rights- centered climate finance as a matter of justice and equity. We call for increased transparency and accountability for pledges made and public funds delivered by developed countries.

#### AFRICAN WOMEN DEMANDS

- Delivery in full of USD 100 billion climate finance per year. African countries' climate finance needs have been estimated to be USD 250 billion each year. Climate finance must deliver beyond the USD 100 billion mark while ensuring the need to keep warming below 1.5°C.
- Scaling up adaptation finance by prioritizing grants as opposed to loans to allow low income countries that are already heavily indebted and facing unsustainable debt burdens to support adaptation programs that provide social safety nets and increase communities'

resilience to climate shocks, as well as reduce the care burden when public services are inadequate, under-financed or fail in the wake of severe climate impacts

#### AFRICAN WOMEN DEMAND

- Protection of the rights of women small-scale farmers and food producers, artisanal fisheries, pastoralists, and Indigenous Peoples from losses and damages caused by climate change, eviction, abuse, and violence.
- Expand women access to and control over land.

#### WOMEN RIGHTS ISSUES IN THE NIGER DELTA

- Unequal power relations between women and men that excludes women from decision making processes.
- Harmful traditional practices against women such as maltreatment of widows.
- Issues of lack access to land.
- Lack of access to safe drinking water.
- Sexual violence
- Poor access to credit facilities

These challenges make women more vulnerable to disproportionate impacts of climate change.

#### WHAT IS GAS FLARING?

- During the process of drilling, excess hydrocarbon which cannot be recovered or recycled are burnt and released into the atmosphere.
- Gas flaring involves the burning of estimated 2.5 billion cubic foot of gas on a daily basis.

#### GAS FLARES IN THE NIGER DELTA

- Gas flaring is one of the major problems associated with crude-oil production. Gas-flaring emissions contribute significantly to global warming. They are produced when extra gases are burned off during the oil-drilling process.

#### EFFECTS OF GAS FLARING

- **Land grabs:** Flare sites are located on family and community land. It reduces available land for agriculture.
- Flaring releases **methane**, a greenhouse gas that, when released directly into the air, traps heat in the **atmosphere**.
- The process of flaring contributes directly to global warming and climate change.
- Causes acid rain. This makes rain water very



unsafe for drinking.

- Women are responsible for household water management in rural communities where there are no access to clean drinking water.
- Women harvest rain water for household use as alternative in the absence of clean water.
- This is not healthy due to the impact of gas flaring on the roof.

#### FLARE CAUSES HEALTH CHALLENGES

- According the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP), life expectancy in the Niger Delta averages around 40 years. This is due to exposure to air and water pollution through oil and gas extraction and the emission of toxic gases into the atmosphere.
- Corrodes roofing sheets.
- Causes health challenges; high rate of cancer and lung diseases in the Niger Delta.

#### HEALTH CHALLENGES

- Gas flare affects the central nervous system and leads to emotional instability.
- It affects the side of the brain that controls emotions.
- Decreased fetal body weights.
- Causes daytime tiredness, which has implications for women considering their gender roles of being responsible for household chores.

#### EFFECTS OF GAS FLARING

- Gas flaring is responsible for bronchitis in adults as well as asthma and blurred vision in children.
- Gas flares affects agriculture and most women in oil rich communities are farmers. This affects food security.
- Gas flaring causes early menopause.
- Gas flaring causes miscarriages
- A research report by the InterAmerica Centre for Environment & Health, Canada reveals that Gas flare result in the following:
  - Slows down lung functions.
  - Causes joints and muscle pains as well as indigestion
  - Causes headache, abdominal pains, confusion and loss of memory.
  - It affects the skin and the eyes.

#### WHAT WE CAN DO

- Improve understanding of gender and climate change.
- Conduct analysis of gender and climate change.
- Produce and document information on gender and climate change.
- Influence national and international policies.
- Develop gender-responsive strategies.
- Strengthen local capacities. Create awareness on international commitments.
- Promote more active role for women and women organizations in discussions about climate change.

ISSUE	IMPACTS ON CLIMATE CHANGE	DIRECT AND INDIRECT IMPACTS ON WOMEN
Natural Resources: Food, Water, Fuel& Land	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Drought, Flooding</li> <li>• Decrease in crop Yield or crop failure</li> <li>• Shortage of clean portable water</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased household work burden and time spent on gathering water, food and fuel such as firewood</li> <li>• Exposure to contaminated water sources</li> <li>• Loss of traditional land tenure</li> </ul>
Natural Disasters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Warming oceans</li> <li>• Changing weather patterns/seasons</li> <li>• Erratic and more intense weather events</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lack of access to education/information about weather</li> <li>• Restricted ability to respond (e.g., women often unable to leave house without male companion)</li> <li>• Lack of survival skills regularly taught to boys, such as swimming or tree climbing</li> </ul>
Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase in infectious, water-borne or vector-borne diseases, e.g., malaria, due to increased temperatures and intensified storms</li> <li>• Heat related illnesses</li> <li>• malnutrition</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pregnant and lactating women, along with the very young and very old, are most vulnerable to health threats</li> <li>• Increased lack of health-care services, immunizations, family planning, reproductive health care in disaster zones</li> <li>• Potential increase in maternal and infant mortality rates due to lack of care</li> </ul>



# Critical Perspectives On Loss and Damage

By Ken Henshaw

## Origins of the Loss and Damage Conversation

- The Loss and damage conversation was first brought into the UN climate change space in 1991.
- Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS) used it as a proposal for the establishment of an insurance system island countries that were heavily impacted by rising sea levels.
- In 2007, Loss and Damage was included in UN texts during the climate negotiations that held at Bali.
- By 2013, the argument for and against Loss and Damage gained momentum and became a key conversation point in climate talks.
- The COP 19 established the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage associated with Climate Change Impacts (Loss and Damage Mechanism).
- At the COP in Madrid in 2019, countries agreed to establish the 'Santiago Network'.
- "The Network will connect vulnerable developing countries with providers of technical assistance, knowledge, resources they need to address climate risks comprehensively in the context of averting, minimizing and addressing loss and damage".
- In 2021 the Glasgow talks outcome paid attention to Loss and Damage, urging developed countries and others to facilitate 'enhanced and additional support' for activities addressing loss and damage. Parties decided on the functions of the Santiago Network and issued a call for submissions.
- Group of 77 (G77) and China – jointly for a dedicated Loss and Damage finance facility.

## Loss and Damage

- "Effects that would not have happened in a world without climate change, which have not been mitigated, and which cannot be (or have not been) adapted to" (ActionAid, 2010)
- "The actual and/or potential manifestation of impacts associated with climate change in developing countries that negatively affect human and natural systems" (UNFCCC, 2012)
- Referring to the consequences of climate change that go beyond what people can adapt to, or when options exist but a community doesn't have the resources to access or utilize them. This could include the loss of coastal heritage sites due to rising sea levels, or the loss of homes and lives during extreme floods- UN

## COP27 Outcomes

- COP27 concluded more than 39 hours after the scheduled Conference
- COP27 adopted 60 decisions in total.
- By far the most significant decision of the Conference was the agreement to have a new funding arrangement for assisting developing countries that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change in

responding to loss and damage.

- The details of this new strategy are to be worked out ahead of the next COP

## Loss and Damage is a Political Issues

- Loss and Damage expresses the key climate justice arguments that have dominated the civil society landscape for a few decades.
- It recognizes the historical role that the the global north has played in contributing to the climate crisis.
- Less than 10 Percent of global emission is attributed to the global south
- 89 percent of fossil fuels infrastructure in Africa serve export purposes
- Africa's extractive sector employs less than 1 percent of Africa's workforce.

## Loss and Damage Vs More Damage

- While the recognition and agreement on Loss and Damage is useful progress towards addressing long standing impacts of climate change, it does not really make meaning in the face of continued extraction and pollution
- It is a fact that the impacts of climate change are increasing. There is almost



Ken Henshaw

a consensus in the scientific community that the world will likely miss the 1.5 degrees target, a target made 8 years ago.

- In the face of continued emissions, loss and damage is a fund that will keep increasing in tandem with emissions and its destruction. Loss and Damage won't save the planet. At best it is a "fund for the end of the world".

## A Bribe to Continue Polluting?

- Just before COP27, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) issued an Emissions Gap report that aggregated the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) that countries have made under the Paris Agreement and concluded that the pledges would do nothing to ward off impending catastrophic global heating.

- In fact, the report highlighted that the world should prepare for a temperature rise as high as 2.8 degrees Celsius above preindustrial levels by the close of this century.
- The report emphasized that the window to avert climate catastrophe was rapidly closing and that the world needs urgent transformation and deep actions to cut emissions by at least 45 percent by 2030.
- COP 27 did not do anything drastic to reduce emissions

## What Exactly Does Loss and Damage Cover?

- The conversation around Loss and Damage seems to be overly focused on measurable damages and losses, like flood devastated infrastructure and other stressors.
- However, there are several direct and indirect climate change impacts that may not be covered by the Loss and Damage spectrum.
- For example does loss and damage cover migrations and conflict?
- Does Loss and Damage cover the backlog of impacts? Communities have been battling with climate change impacts for several decades, even before the world came to terms with these realities.

## Looking at the Funding

- How will this fund be managed differently from other global climate funds?
- The combined adaptation and mitigation finance flows in 2020 fell at least US\$17 billion short of the US\$100 billion pledged to developing countries.
- How will this fund be sourced? Developed countries? emitting companies? Fossil Companies?
- Will the fund be voluntary?
- Should countries that extract fossils and get revenues from it not take some responsibility for Loss and Damage?
- The UN Secretary-General has called for the use of windfall taxes on fossil fuel companies for loss and damage caused by the climate crisis.
- Others have called for debt for loss and damage swaps, international taxes and a dedicated finance facility for loss and damage.
- United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) 2022 Adaptation Gap Report indicates that international adaptation finance flows to developing countries are five to ten times below estimated needs.
- Over US\$300 billion per year by 2030 is needed to fill the gap.

## Finally

- For the Loss and Damage fund to be effective, the root cause of climate change must be tackled simultaneously– and this involves reducing emissions.
- Unless emissions are drastically reduced, more and more countries will face the devastating effects of climate change and will fall into the category of countries demanding climate finance.



# STRATEGIC LITIGATION AND LEGAL INSTRUMENTS FOR CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

BY CHIMA WILLIAMS

Dr Chima Williams, executive Director of ERA/FOE, and an award winning environmental justice crusader, highlighted some legal instruments



Chima Williams

for climate and environmental justice as well as national and Sub-National responses to climate change impacts. He noted that Strategic litigation can be a veritable strategy to achieve environmental justice

## National Impacts Facts & Figures

Start-up Year: 2009

Total Number of Projects: 180; NGO Partners: > 130

National Coverage: 200 communities in 29 states

Grant Amount: \$8,450,000; Total Co-financing: \$7,950,078

- Community-based conservation of threatened ecosystems and species
- Sustainable agriculture and fisheries, and food security
- Low-carbon energy access co-benefits
- Local to global coalitions for chemicals and waste management
- Catalyzing sustainable urban solutions
- Community-based Adaptation
- CSO-Government-Private Sector Policy and Planning Dialogue Platforms

## Impacts on CSOs

Building Capacity

Project design, proposal writing, project implementation, resource mobilisation, media engagement etc

Knowledge management

Mentoring

Community/Government engagement

Access to other development grants

SGP has reached more remote communities than any other development assistance in Nigeria.

Gender mainstreaming, and the physically challenged

## Examples of Innovative Projects

- Community seedbank to conserve indigenous plants species-FCT.
- Protection of endangered Sclater monkey - Akwa Ibom State
- Over 30 community forest management projects -Cross River State
- Promotion of leaf to wrap food to restore biodiversity and reduce plastic pollution -Osun state

# NATIONAL AND SUBNATIONAL RESPONSE TO CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACTS

BY IBIRONKE OLUBAMISE, NATIONAL COORDINATOR, GEF, SMALL GRANT, PROGRAM

## Presentation Outline

- National Responses to Climate Change
- Subnational Responses to Climate Change
- The GEF Small Grants Programme
- National Impacts
- Discussions

## National Responses

Internationally: ☐ Type of Party: Non-Annex I

☐ Party to Paris Agreement:

• Date of ratification- 16 May 2017

☐ Party to Kyoto Protocol:

• Date of ratification - 10 December 2004

☐ Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)

☐ Gender and Climate Change Policy

## Subnational Responses

- State Governments - Lagos
- Local Governments -
- Civil Society Organisations (CSOs)
- Development Partners (UN agencies; Multilateral and Bilateral)
- International Organisations
- Private Sectors
- Individuals

## THE GEF SGP, NIGERIA

The GEF Small Grants Programme NIGERIA  
Overview of NATIONAL IMPACTS

- First river in Africa to achieve a rights status-Delta
- Improving traditional knowledge of species; Nurseries & tree planting; fabrication of efficient cook stoves; Community Forest Scouts for forest management;



IBIRONKE OLUBAMISE

alternative livelihood activities;  
Establishment of orchards

## Examples of Innovative Projects

- Innovative extraction of bio-gel from moringa olifera to address land degradation and food security-Oyo state
- Trained over 2,000 teachers and students as Climate Change Champions and established over 30 Eco Clubs in over 60 state schools - Abuja
- Effective and innovative adoption of Liquefied Natural Gas-Lagos/Ogun

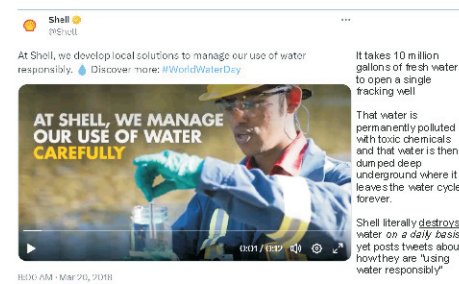


# HELL IN THE NIGER DELTA

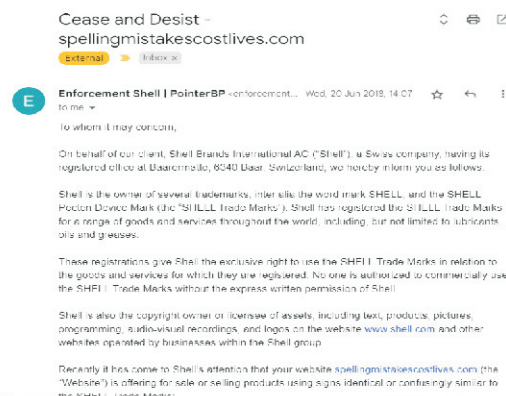
— Darren



**D**arren Curren from UK in his presentation disclosed how he uses art to expose the atrocities being perpetrated by shell, a major fossil fuel extractive company. He said shell is too much involved in green washing, advertising lies and marketing denials, doubts and delays. He noted that fossil fuel is killing the earth and that solutions propagated by IOCs are false solutions. He referred to shell as Hell, and created a logo of the HELL which is similar to shell logo. In some of his correspondences with



shell, he thanked shell for showing how its business practices share similarities with HELL. HE said both SHELL AND HELL are about creating a burning world unfit for human habitation and filled with suffering.



## NIGER DELTA, AN EPICENTRE OF EXTRACTIVISM: WE HAVE TO START TAKING ACTIONS NOW - **LEGBORSE PYAGBARA**

**M**y work is on energy, biodiversity traditional knowledge. I thank you, all of us for finding the time to be here for this programme. Going through the path of history, I remember that sometime in 1993, we had a pan Niger Delta regional conference; we had all the experts, people like Ledum Mitee, Oronto Douglas and others. That time, we were just coming out of military era, and just entering the democracy we were all looking for; Niger delta was hot, with a lot of issues. We tried to look at the issues to be presented to the world. Donor attention was here,

The world was looking up to Niger Delta, Obasanjo has flown down to Niger Delta; the attention was there. But I think that we lost the opportunity; today, people talk about donor fatigue in the Niger Delta. There is a fatigue because people felt that a lot has been invested in the Niger Delta and they are not seeing results.



Different development actors have poured in money in the early 2020s, late 1990s and all the rest. At the same time, under emergency issues coming up with in the north east shifted attention On the GEF fund, I was part of

discussions between 2009 and 2014 and eventually, the money was approved. It took them 6 years to set up the system. The project is in about 11 countries and it is talking about restoring lost or degraded biodiversity. We had one project on restoring biodiversity in the Niger Delta then. It was targeted at restoration of biodiversity in bonny; some animal species and so on were said to have gone extinct in the bonny area.

So, the attention has always been here at the Niger Delta; and we often seize the opportunities. Today, we still get the attention. Niger delta remains the hot bed of global competition for oil. Extractivism is here with us and the whole world has come to the conclusion that gas flaring, extrativism, and roles of oil companies contribute to climate change and will become the epitome of climate crisis. This means that we start at this critical point to raise our voices



## **Niger Delta Climate Change Conference Calls For Action Against Negative Impacts of Fossil Fuel Extraction On Women, Young People**

**OGONA ANITA, EASTWEST REPORTERS.COM**

The maiden edition of the Niger Delta Climate Change Conference facilitated and organised by Lekeh Development Foundation was held at Davis Hotel and Suites in Port Harcourt from 10-12 July 2023 with the theme Niger Delta and Climate Change: Imperative for Action.

The conference gathered opinion leaders, policy experts and makers, academics, community people, women organizations, public health professionals and civil society organizations, traditional rulers including HRH King Baridam Suanu, and other key stakeholders from Ghana and the United Kingdom (UK) to discuss the ubiquitous climate change impacts and chart a path for adaptation and mitigation for the region.

The Forum targeted deepening conversations around climate change impacts and awareness on the negative impacts of fossil fuel extraction and climate change particularly on women and young people living in the region. It also afforded the opportunity to interrogate the climate policies in Nigeria.

Discussants used the opportunity to examine and situate the Niger Delta in the global south climate and environmental justice movement. Strategic litigation and legal instrument for climate and environmental justice, national and Sub-National responses to climate change impacts. Participants further proffered action plan towards a regional action plan and most notably, Loss and damage in the context global climate justice movement.

### **Halt the expansion of fossil fuel extraction in the Niger Delta – Stakeholders, CSOs Tell Federal Government**

EKEMINI SIMON, THE MAIL JULY 19, 2023

Opinion leaders, policy experts

## **HOW NIGERIAN NEWSPAPERS CAPTURED IT**

and makers, academics, community people, women organizations, public health professionals, civil society organisations, traditional rulers among other stakeholders in the Niger Delta have called on the Federal Government of Nigeria to stop the expansion of fossil fuel extraction in the region.

The stakeholders insist that the impact of climate change on the physical environment and livelihoods with respect to the citizens' health condition has increased poverty and unemployment, as well as displaced the people of the region.

To mitigate this, the stakeholders have called on the Federal Government to carry out comprehensive clean up and restoration of the region which they describe as being heavily degraded.

The stakeholders made their position known in a communique signed by Lekeh Development Foundation, We the people, Health of Mother Earth Foundation (HOMEF), Friends of the Earth Nigeria/Environmental Rights Action, KebetKache Women Development and Resources Centre, Oilwatch Africa and 11 other civil society organisations.

The communique issued at the end of the three days Niger Delta Climate Change conference facilitated and organised by Lekeh Development Foundation with the theme "Niger Delta and Climate Change: Imperative for Action", was held at Port Harcourt from 10-12 July 2023.

The stakeholders demanded an end to what they described as continued illegal and unconstitutional routine gas flaring in the region.

They called on the government to implement strategies to help communities adapt to climate change noting that this includes promoting sustainable agriculture practices, enhancing coastal protection measures, and improving flood management systems to reduce the vulnerability of communities to extreme weather events.

The stakeholders called on the government to encourage reforestation initiatives and protect existing forests as forests play a crucial role in absorbing carbon

dioxide and regulating temperature, thus mitigating climate change impacts.

Part of the recommendations in the communique reads "Promote and implement recommendations of the Bayelsa State Oil and Environment Commission Report and the demands contained in the Niger Delta Alternative Convergence Manifesto.

"Promote the use of renewable energy sources such as solar and wind power. Strengthen monitoring mechanisms and invest in early warning systems for extreme weather events like storms and floods. This will enable timely response and evacuation, reducing the risks to human lives and infrastructure.

"Capacity-building programs, including by learning from indigenous knowledge, should be implemented to enhance knowledge, skills, and resources for climate change adaptation and mitigation."

### **Group decries impact of climate change on Niger Delta environment**

JULY 12, 2023

**Douglas Blessing, Port Harcourt, THE AUTHORITY Newspaper**

A group, Lekeh Development Foundation (LDF) has decried the disastrous impact of climate change on the Niger Delta environment and other parts of the country.

In his remarks, at a two-day Niger Delta Climate Change Conference, organised by the group, with the theme: "Niger Delta and Climate Change: Imperatives for Action", Executive Director of LDF, Nbani Friday Barilule, noted that climate change has caused great damage to communities in the oil-rich Niger Delta region.

Barilule listed some of the impact of climate change in the region to include; disappearance of wildlife, destruction of aquatic life, degraded farmlands, amongst others.

Meanwhile, the Executive Director of Health of Mother Earth Foundation (HOMEF) Rev Nnimmo Bassey has stated that the best way to encourage a cleaner environment is for the government to invest in renewable



energy.

Bassey who was one the facilitator at the programme, stressed that what is happening in Niger Delta is ecocide, therefore call for the restoration of the environment.

He also noted that the negative approach to the environment has caused more damage that development in the recent times.

Speaking on the government ignorance in tackling effects of flooding in the region, Bassey said: "People are not secured in the flood. Security is not only putting policemen to carry guns, to set road blocks on the highways, giving the people a liveable environment is a right of the people, is a right in the Nigerian constitution, is a right in Africa Charter for Human and Peoples Right.

"If government cannot go beyond warning people that flood is coming, to provide alternative, to provide security, safety measures, to provide relief materials, to compensate those who been impacted over the years, then is a failure on the part of the government.

"The last flooding killed 603 Nigerians by official count, one million people were displaced. That to me is a tragedy that requires action but uptill now we have not seen any action".

Also speaking on flooding, a

human rights defender, Celestine Akpobari, said "By now, a government that care about the people should have known that they will build a very big IDP camp where people will go to when the flood comes".

According to Akpobari, the issue of flood should be given more attention even than oil spill, adding that the government should be encouraged on how to manage the situation during flooding season.

Because you will not stop the people farming and looking for their livelihood, the best thing a government that care about the

people should do is to begin to alter the pattern of farming in this area. If they were farming yam and cassava that will take from January to October for harvest, you channel their energy into commercial cash crops (those crops that can stay three months). Remove their heads from how we used to farm before we were embarrass by flood.

Government should take the issue of flood very seriously, even much more that oil spill, because oil can spill you still see the land, the can clean it and use the land again but this flooding is actually eating it up completely and you won't get it back completely".

Links to newspaper publications.

\*Niger Delta Climate Change Conference Calls For Action Against Negative Impacts of Fossil Fuel Extraction On Women, Young People\*

<https://eastwestreporters.com/niger-delta-climate-change-conference-calls-for-action-against-negative-impacts-of-fossil-fuel-extraction-on-women-young-people>

<https://themail.com.ng/halt-the-expansion-of-fossil-fuel-extraction-in-the-niger-delta-stakeholders-csos-tell-federal-government/>

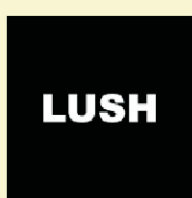
<https://www.thisdaylive.com/index.php/2023/07/12/flood-fg-urged-to-adopt-proactive-approach-to-avert-disasters> Flood: FG Urged to Adopt Proactive Approach to Avert Disasters

Group decries impact of climate change on Niger Delta environment - <https://authorityngr.com/2023/07/12/group-decries-impact-of-climate-change-on-niger-delta-environment/>

<https://www.thisdaylive.com/index.php/2023/07/13/environmentalists-call-for-action-on-climate-change-in-ndelta> Environmentalists Call for Action on Climate Change in N'Delta

<https://sweetcrudereports.com/climate-change-cso-coalition-demands-review-of-loss-and-damage-policy/>

## OUR PARTNERS







# WHO WE ARE

**L**ekeh Development Foundation (LEDEF) is a grassroots based advocacy organization that works with communities to address local and global challenges in a constructive manner. LEDEF was created with a team of ecological defenders trained by Health of Mother Earth Foundation (HOMEF) to monitor, verify and report issues in the field of oil spills, gas flaring, water related issues, land grabs and violation of environmental/human rights in the Niger Delta region of Nigeria. Our themes include climate justice, energy justice, gender justice, and livelihood support. We have several years of cumulative experience in the field, in advocacy, in campaigning on climate change, devastated environments and environmental crises. The LEDEF has championed grassroots struggles demanding climate justice, a clean environment, Water not Coal and Life After Coal, and has been working with other organizations to strengthen the local struggle to ensure that the community voice is heard. LEDEF is a community rooted advocacy organization that strongly works to promote human rights and end fossil fuels, black soot, gas flaring, climate change, waste related issues, poverty, and other environmental degradation issues.

## OUR VISION:

To promote environmental justice, fundamental human rights and economic empowerment where present and future generation enjoy healthy life for sustainable development.

## OUR MISSION:

To improve the quality of life and the health of communities by influencing stakeholders, groups and institutions into realizing movement that will protect, defend, and secure human rights, environment and natural resources through peaceful actions.

## THEMATIC AREAS:

Human Rights  
Gender Justice/Women Empowerment  
Climate Justice/Renewable energy  
Livelihood Support for Victims of Loss and Damage

## STRATEGY/APPROACH:

Partnership/Engagement  
Capacity Building/Economic Empowerment  
Campaign and Advocacy

## CORE VALUE:

Integrity  
Transparency  
Passion

## MOTTO:

Educate  
Engage  
Empower

### CONTACT:

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