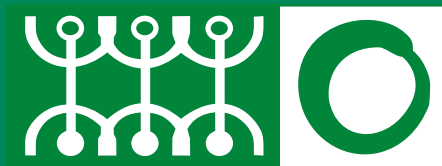


2009 annual report

*New* Steam,  
**great** *Results*



ENVIRONMENTAL RIGHTS ACTION/FRIENDS OF THE EARTH, NIGERIA

A woman is shown in a small boat on a body of water, filtering water through a cloth. The entire image has a green tint. The text is overlaid on the image.

*Protecting the*  
*Environment,*  
*Democratising*  
*Development*

## advisory board

- Nnimmo Bassey
- Oronto Douglas
- Godwin Uyi Ojo
- Nicholas Asthon Jones
- Uche Onyeagucha
- Ike Okonta
- Folake Okediran
- Marie Bystrom
- M.T Fubara-Okorodudu
- Akinbode Oluwafemi

## contents

• Who we are	3
• Acknowledgement	5
• Executive Director's Comment	6
• Post-Petroleum Nigeria !	8
• Pipelines of Pain	12
• Resistance to Manipulation of Food	16
• New steam in Forestry Campaign	21
• Tobacco: Bright Day after Long Nights	24
• Vista of Hope in Litigation	34
• Gender Grows to Full Stature	30
• Boosts For Environmental Reporting	36
• Milestones	40
• New Publications	42
• Financial Statement	43



## who we are

**E**nvironmental Rights Action (ERA) is a Nigerian advocacy non-governmental organization founded on January 11, 1993 to deal with environmental human rights issues. ERA is the Nigerian chapter of Friends of the Earth International (FoEI), the world environmental justice federation campaigning to protect the environment and to create sustainable societies. ERA/FoEN currently hosts the International Secretariat of Oilwatch International, the global south network of groups resisting oil and gas extractive activities. ERA/FoEN is also co-coordinating Friends of the Earth Africa (FoEA) campaign on Food Sovereignty as well as Climate Justice and Energy (CJE). ERA is the premier winner of the Sophie Prize, the international award in environment and development. The organization is also a member of the Green Actors of West Africa (GOWA), Network for the Accountability of Tobacco Transnationals (NATT), and the Framework Convention Alliance (FCA). ERA/FoEN is the co-coordinating NGO for the Nigeria Tobacco Control Alliance (NTCA). It is the host of the Africa Tobacco Control Regional Initiative (ATCRI).

**ERA/FoEN currently operates four offices:** Benin (Headquarters), Port Harcourt, Lagos and Yenagoa. The organization has 25 full-time staff and several volunteers.

### ERA/FoEN Programme Areas:

#### Forest and Biodiversity

- Deforestation
- Resisting Plantations/Monocultures
- Community Forest Management
- Community Rights
- Drought and Desertification
- Gender

#### Food Sovereignty

- GMOs
- Land Rights and Agribusiness (Economic Justice)
- Climate and Agriculture
- Agrofuels
- Gender

### Democracy Outreach Programme

- Legal Resources
- Community Resource Centers
- Policy Advocacy
- Media
- Election Monitoring
- Budget Advocacy
- Gender Justice

### Corporate Accountability and Environmental Health

- Tobacco Control
- Water and Sanitation
- Community Health
- Trade and Corporate

### Energy and Extractives

- Mining
- Oil and Gas
- Energy Sovereignty
- Climate Justice
- International Financial Institutions (IFIs)
- Renewables
- Gender Justice

## acknowledgement

Our sincere appreciation goes to our partners for their support:

- OxfamNovib Netherlands
- Friends of the Earth International
- Tobacco Free Kids Action Fund
- American Cancer Society
- Cancer Research UK
- National Endowment For Democracy (NED)
- Cordaid
- New world Foundation (NWF)
- Third World Network (TWN)
- International Development Research Centre (IDRC)
- World Rainforest Movement (WRM)
- Kairos
- Miliudefessie, Friends of the Earth Netherlands
- Friends of the Earth Norway/NORAD
- Global Greengrants Fund

executive **director's comment**

space for more oil spills, gas flares and attendant destruction of livelihoods.

We capped the year (in November) with our second annual National Environmental Consultation (NEC) in Port Harcourt with the telling theme: "Envisioning a Post Petroleum Nigeria". The high point of the consultation was the presentation of our *Building a Post Petroleum Nigeria: Leave New Oil in the Soil* proposal to the Nigerian President through the Chair of the Nigerian Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (NEITI).



What an eventful year 2009 was for ERA/FoEN and ERA/FoEN people, supporters and allies. It was full of action, full of grit and full of struggles. We are happy to say that it was not only eventful, but that remarkable milestones were erected. We share a few of them in this report.

We kicked off the year with our usual ERA/FoEN people's retreat where we refresh ourselves about who we are, what we do and why we do those things. It is always a gathering of ERA/FoEN staff, members of the Host Communities Network (HoCoN) and members of the Students Environmental Assembly of Nigeria (SEAN) a growing body of youths committed to fighting for environmental justice and for a safer planet. This was followed by the launching of our *No More Oil Blocks* campaign in Lagos in the month of March. Through this campaign we called on the Nigerian state to cease seeking new oil blocks, stop oil theft, exploit existing oil and gas wells transparently and thus boost effective production levels without having to expand the



## executive director's comment

In the course of the year our campaigns against the merchants of death and destruction continued on many fronts. Two of these were through the Public Hearing on the National Tobacco Control Bill and that of the proposed National Biosafety Bill. We continued to aim to stop the killing of more Nigerians and enticement of youths into addictive lifestyles by the tobacco industry. We also fought hard to ensure that when the Bio-safety Bill is enacted into law it would not mean the opening of the Nigerian environment to merchants of genetically engineered organisms. We fight to preserve our rich bio-diversity and secure our food sovereignty.

While continuing with extensive field monitoring of the degrading activities in the extractive sector, our HoCoN was expanded and several reports were issued. Internally we strengthened our gender sensitivity, and our gender committee made notable advances.

Our legal resources department continued with impactful litigation at home and in conjunction with partners abroad in our continued quest for justice and the security of the dignity of man and the integrity of our environment.

It was also in the year that we moved our Lagos office into a more commodious accommodation in the Ogba area of Lagos. Our offices continued to double as resource centres for researchers, writers and community folks.

In the course of the year, yours truly was named among the Heroes of the Environment by *Time* magazine. That was a recognition that actually belongs to our partners, suffering community people and all who live and work on the fence lines of the unacceptable impunity that is the reality of sectors of the Nigerian environment. It was also the year we won the inaugural Bloomberg Awards for Global Tobacco Control. ERA/FoEN emerged winner for its excellence in monitoring and publicizing tobacco industries' activities targeted at undermining public health in Nigeria.

We cannot round up this intro without mentioning our work within the Friends of the Earth International federation. 2009 was a year of greater interlinkages for us and we experienced deep acts of solidarity globally and found support from a number of member groups. Our collective work at the Climate Change COP15 in Copenhagen was full of energy, passion and hope. A great impetus was given to the struggle for climate justice as thousands took to the streets of Copenhagen the Danish capital, supporting vulnerable communities, demanding systems change and not climate change. Our work stood firmly with Africa and demanded for an end to the use of market mechanisms - which essentially mean making merchandise of human misery - and all other false solutions in the pretext of fighting climate change. So long an intro! Dig into the pages. Feel free to tell us what you think!

● **Nnimmo Bassey**

# Post-Petroleum Nigeria



Resource persons during a session at the second National Consultation on the Environment in Port Harcourt.

## Post-Petroleum Nigeria

Our relentless crusade for the realignment of Nigeria's economic and environmental outlook moved a notch higher in 2009 with the huge turnout of critical stakeholders at the second National Consultation on the Environment in Port Harcourt, organised in partnership with the Federal Ministry of Environment.

The event, which held in November 2009 with the theme: *Envisioning a Post-Petroleum Nigeria*, consolidated on the accomplishments of the inaugural consultation the previous year, and served as a rallying point for stakeholders to examine the impacts of oil exploration on Nigeria's Niger Delta in the context of ERA/FoEN's *"Leave the Oil in the Soil"* campaign.

For two days, participants reflected on carefully-researched topics such as the *Environmental Cost of Gas Flaring, Climate Change and Nigeria, Oil Politics and the Crises of the Nigerian State*,

among others, delivered by carefully selected experts and agreed that with the global trend leaning towards clean and safe energy forms, Nigeria could no longer continue to be a fossil fuel-driven economy with the attendant pollution of oil-bearing communities.

It was established that with the theft of an estimated \$400 billion in revenue accruing to the nation for decades of oil exploration as highlighted by a recent World Bank report, there was need to diversify the Nigerian economy and develop capacity for a post-oil Nigeria which will return neglected sectors like agriculture to their dominant position before the commercial exploration of oil began in the country.

The contentious Federal Government-initiated amnesty deal for so-called militants in the Niger Delta was also examined with unanimity in conviction that the issue is yet to be handled with the tact and seriousness it deserves.

## Post-Petroleum Nigeria

In his welcome to the consultation, ERA/FoEN Executive Director, Nnimmo Bassey said the *Leave the Oil in the Soil* campaign basically stands on the point that, rather than exploit new fields with the attendant pollution and human rights abuses, oil should be left in the soil.

The thrust of the campaign is that all oil theft must be stopped as this would double Nigeria's production/capacity from two to four million barrels per day, which is just a short of the five million barrels of production capacity per day projected from 2015. Nigerians would then pay to keep the extra one million barrels in the soil from that year.

Bassey observed that booming oil theft in the Niger Delta has created a cartel that thrives on creating conflicts among locals and was partially responsible for the so-called militancy in the region.

In the light of these challenges, at the end of the consultation, a communiqué signed by civil society groups that participated called on the Nigerian government to take

proactive steps at redeeming the environment from aimed its present state of degradation.

Government was urged to take steps to ascertain and publish the volumes of oil extracted daily, and as a follow up, take immediate steps to stop all forms of oil theft.

Participants noted that gas flaring is a violation of the rights of Nigerians to life and must be halted. They also recommended mass awareness and mobilization of local communities to resist unfriendly environmental activities.

### Other recommendations were:

- The planned exploitation of bitumen should be halted as the activity will inflict unmitigated disaster on communities and raise new levels of conflicts;
- The Petroleum Industry Bill (PIB) must address genuine concerns of oil-bearing communities by ensuring that they are



### Post-Petroleum Nigeria

- Fully involved in the preparation of environmental management plans. It must also proffer sufficient penalties for infringement of the regulations;
- Women and the vulnerable in the society must be protected from the impacts of resource conflicts while identified cases of violation of their rights must be adequately redressed;
  - All stakeholders-communities, civil society groups, government agencies, the media, among others, must collaborate to expose unsound environmental practices and mobilize for laws that will reverse the trend.

## pipelines of **pain**



Polluted stream in Ikarama, Bayelsa State.



Pipelines criss-crossing a community in the Niger Delta.

pipelines of pain

**L**ike previous years, oil companies continued to evade responsibility for leaking pipelines and instead pushed the blame to the community people.

The government-owned Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) which is expected to show good example also performed below expectation as its ill-maintained facilities wrecked havoc across the country. Apart from multiple spills recorded in the oil bearing communities, incidents were recorded in Ogun and Lagos States, far from the Niger Delta.

ERA/FoEN had cause to revisit Ijegun community in Lagos to ascertain if the NNPC had carried out proper clean up of a spill that occurred there in 2008.

The community had suffered a major pipeline rupture when an earthmover broke a pipeline that was not properly buried by the corporation. That incident claimed over 40 lives and incinerated property worth millions of naira. A few days after the incident, ERA/FoEN raised

the alarm that the panicky response of the NNPC and the so-called clamping of leakages were not tidy as contents from the pipelines might have found its way into community sources of water. Our fears were confirmed when an ERA/FoEN fact-finding team discovered that many sources of community water contained large quantities of petroleum products.

Even with such developments outside the core oil region, perhaps no other state in the country suffered as much oil spills as Bayelsa in the heart of the Niger Delta. The two major oil companies operating in the state: Nigeria Agip Oil Company (NAOC) and Shell carried on as if they owed nobody any explanation for their acts.

Some of the oil spills from Agip facilities that were reported happened at Okoroba, Etieama, Okpoama, Oporoma, Angiama, Kalaba, Okpotuwari, Umbugbene, and Ondewari. From Shell's facility, spills were recorded at Otuabagi, Peremabiri, Betterland, JK4 [Edeageri] and Ikarama communities.

## pipelines of pain

Ikarama experienced two major oil spills from the Okordia Manifold operated by Shell. All the cases were attributed to operational lapses or equipment failure. Three other spills were reported within the year, as a result of failed clamping [another equipment failure], along the Trans Niger Pipeline or Okordia-Remuekpe pipeline of Shell. At JK4, Edagberi community, the people experienced four oil spills.

Kalaba recorded five spills along the same pipeline owned by Agip. Agip allowed large quantity of crude oil to spill for over two months in the community. We repeatedly sounded the alarm over the devastating impacts of the spills on the community. It took two visits to the site by ERA/FoEN and the convergence of voices against the spill to compel Agip to clamp the ruptured pipeline. The toxic effect of the spewed crude oil on the flora and fauna was enormous.

As was the case of the Okpoama oil spill from Agip pipeline, nature suffered. In many cases empty oyster shells were seen sticking wilted mangrove trees by the

river banks. This indicated the destruction of a major source of livelihood and protein.

The oil spills at Peremabiri, Angiama, Umbugbene, Okpotuwari, Ondewari [all in Southern Ijaw LGA] and some sites in Ikarama were set ablaze. These have had great impacts on biodiversity in the affected communities.

Apart from ponds, swamps, and lakes which are veritable resources upon which the people depend for livelihood, other bodies of water that were seriously polluted by the spills include: The Silver River, River Nun, Ossiama River [all in Southern Ijaw LGA], Taylor Creek [in Yenagoa LGA], Ekuoku Creek [in Brass LGA], Oloibiri River, Tereke River, etc [in Nembe and Ogbia LGAs] in Bayelsa State. JK4 and Betterland [in Edagberi] of Ahoada LGA of Rivers State were also affected as they are among communities along the Taylor Creek who suffered the impact of the oil slick that spread along the creek; from JK4 and Betterland to downstream communities.



pipelines of pain

Oil slick on river or creeks, denied the people not only their fishing rights; they even lose their right to swim in the river and the use of the water from the polluted river/ creek for other domestic purposes.

Mandatory Joint investigation Visits (JIVs) that ought to include authentic community representatives have largely become an unreliable activity.

This notwithstanding, ERA/FoEN

continued the pressure on Shell and other oil majors and this paid off as the company was compelled to embark on cleanups and remediation activities. Even community folks admitted that, without our sustained pressure, the companies would not have made any attempt at remediation. Ikarama community people had particularly confirmed that Shell responded in a better way to their complaints.

## resistance to **manipulation of food**



Civil society groups outside Nigeria's National Assembly during the Public Hearing on Bio-safety Bill.

resistance to manipulation of food

**E**RA/FoEN drew public attention to the alleged approval given by the Nigerian government for the Donald Danforth Plant Science Centre, United States, to conduct field-testing of a casava genetically engineered for enhanced levels of vitamin A called “Super Cassava” through their Nigeria proxy, the National Root Crops Research Institute (NRCRI).

As part of our overall strategy, we issued press statements to express our opposition to the trials. The press statements were widely used in national and local newspapers and went a long way in sensitizing Nigerians against the manipulation of cassava which is Nigeria's staple.

We also urged the Nigerian government not to rush to introduce genetically engineered foods. This was done through an open letter to Minister of Environment, Housing and Urban Development, titled “Field Trial of Super Cassava Must Not be Permitted”. The letter was also endorsed by 38 organisations across Nigeria and Africa.

So overwhelming was the outrage that the biotech industry's biggest ally in Nigeria the International Institute for Tropical Agriculture (IITA) was put on the defensive and had to react to our petition through a paid newspaper advertorial titled: “IITA does not and has not approved or disapproved the use of GM crops.”

A new phase of our food sovereignty programme was initiated in 2009 as we started a campaign on exposing the harmful nature of using gas flare sites for food processing. We used the opportunity to further expose the harmful impacts of gas flares that some local women use for processing their “*kpokpo garri*” and other foods.

We identified the harmful practice in Iwherekan, Uzere and Ozoro communities in Delta State and embarked on health status mapping and education of community women on alternatives and existing wholesome traditional approaches of food processing.

resistance to manipulation of food

Beyond the local sphere, ERA/FoEN also deepened its international outreach by participating in several meetings within the FoEI federation, as well as others.

Our activities covered food sovereignty and economic justice (with a special emphasis on agribusiness; agriculture and climate; and GMOs as well as integration of gender and women's issues in the workplan and promotion of solutions as cross-cutting themes.

We also took part in a parallel event to the so-called Jatropha World Summit which held in Accra, Ghana and which had the theme: "Towards Higher yields' Large Scale Production and Exports for the International Market." Our aim was to expose new threats to Africa's agriculture. The gathering addressed the alarming land grabs in the region, and debunked the widely held assumption that Africa has vast tracts of wasteland.

Participants were unanimous in opposition to the acquisition/allotment of

large chunks of Africa's arable land to foreign companies under the cover of the term 'marginal' lands. One question that kept recurring at the meeting was "who determines which lands are marginal and which are not?" The meeting afforded civil society the opportunity to give alternative views to the purported benefits extolled by the proponents of the agrofuels/jatropha bandwagon.

We participated in the African Union Regional Economic Cooperation Organizations (AU-RECs) ECOWAS meeting, which held in June 2009 in Abuja. An important outcome of our participation in that meeting was that together with other NGO groups we halted the ECOWAS intention of using the workshop to endorse a roadmap towards the adoption of a weak Bio-safety and biotechnology regulation for the ECOWAS region. ERA/FoEN also participated in meeting with sovereignty groups at the Campaign Planning Meeting:

resistance to manipulation of food

“We hold the solution: Celebrating African Family Agriculture Production” organized by Institut de Recherche et de Promotion des Alternatives en Development/Coalition for the Protection of Africa's Genetic Patrimony (IRPAD/COPAGEN), in collaboration with Reseau des Organisations Paysannes et des Producteurs Agricoles (ROPPA), Food First and Fahamu in Bamako Mali 21-22 July. The goal of the meeting was to determine which actions should be taken as part of a continent-wide campaign to promote agro-ecological solutions.

We also participated at the Regional Forum against Agribusiness which had as its theme: “It'sTime for Food Sovereignty which held in Asuncion, Paraguay from August 21-23. This meeting was hosted by Friends of the Earth International (FoEI), La Via Campesina (LVC) and the World March of Women (WMW) as a follow up to the Food Sovereignty Forum which took

Place in Nyeleni - Mali in February, 2007. Participating organizations including ERA/FoEN came together to propose a platform to consolidate their strategic alliance, analyze the growing threats of agribusiness and their expansion in Latin America, and to begin developing campaign strategies to resist agribusiness and promote the food sovereignty for their people.

Another meeting we participated in was the Fifth Regional Forum of COPAGEN, Cotonou, Benin Republic September 14 - 18. ERA/FoEN organised a conference with the theme “Opposing Land Grabs, AGRA and Non-Ecological Agriculture” in October which was attended by NGO representatives from Benin Republic, Cameroon, Ghana, Malawi, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Tanzania, Togo, and South America and farmers' bodies, among others. Groups that participated included those from Friends of the Earth groups in Africa, Friends of the Earth International's Food Sovereignty



resistance to manipulation of food

programme, Third World Network (TWN), African Biosafety Network and COPAGEN.

The conference unmasked the so-called Alliance for a Green Revolution for Africa (AGRA), the scourge of land grabs in Africa and again brought to public domain the struggle for ecological agriculture. Our activities in 2009 were capped with the mobilization of several groups to attend the Public Hearing on Nigeria's Biosafety Bill organised by the

Joint Committees on Science and Technology and Agriculture on December 9, 2009 in Abuja, Nigeria's Federal Capital Territory. Biotech industry allies fought tooth and nail to block critical civil society participation.

ERA/FoEN however, made submissions to the hearing including a memorandum endorsed by 37 groups, comprising NGOs, farmers groups, women groups, communities and students.

## New steam in **Forestry Campaign**



Community folks at the media event for International Day Against Mono-culture Tree Plantations in Benin.

## new steam in forestry campaign

**O**ur quest for justice for communities whose lands and forest resources have been forcefully expropriated by multinationals was more impactful during the year. This was demonstrated more explicitly in the resistance of six communities in Edo State to the French multinational, Michelin, which had forcefully acquired a vast forestry reserve.

On the eve of his exit from office former Edo State's governor Chief Lucky Igbinedion approved the allotment of more than 3,500 hectares of the Iguobazuwa Forest Reserve and individual and communal lands to Michelin Nigeria Limited (Osse River Rubber Estate Company) for rubber plantation for a period of 25 years.

The allotment was without the notice, consultation or consent of community people whose lives and livelihoods depend on farm produce and use of forest resources.

The affected communities include Aifesoba, Iguobazuwa, Obozogbe, Iguoriakhi, Igueihase, and Nikorogha.

ERA/FoEN stepped up a campaign to stop the French multinational from jeopardizing local and indigenous peoples' lives and livelihoods, through its conversion of local forests to a rubber plantation. This involved a series of awareness and advocacy skill building workshops, specifically mobilizing women from affected communities. We collaborated with the World Rainforest Movement (WRM) in these efforts.

In the course of the campaign, the communities sent petitions to the Edo State government as well as Michelin Nigeria Plc, demanding that justice be done in the case.

The Michelin Iguobazuwa case became a global campaign with the involvement of 6000 persons from 60 nations appending their signatures to a global petition

campaign banners new steam

against Michelin and calling on Edo state government for an outright probe and revocation of the sale of the Iguobazuwa Forest Reserve.

Our campaign against Michelin's unsustainable forest practices in Nigeria earned Michelin the 2009 Pinnochio

Awards from FoE France.

Our campaign also brought more women into the fight against deforestation in the region while partnership was strengthened between us and other forest campaigners regarding Michelin's unsustainable forest practices.



tobacco: **bright day after long nights**



National Assembly, Abuja.



bright day after long nights

**B**y the end of 2009, a glimmer of hope shone on our long campaign for a comprehensive tobacco control legislation in Nigeria. After much pressure, the Senate Committee on Health in July organised a Public Hearing on the National Tobacco Control Bill.

We mobilized 35 non-governmental organisations comprising women groups, the Nigeria Bar Association and the Nigerian Cancer Association to submit memoranda in support of the bill. Also at the well-attended public hearing, were the Federal Ministry of Health-led government agencies to lend their support.

Notable Nigerians such as the former Federal Capital Territory Minister, Alhaji Umar Modibo, former Attorney-General of Lagos State, Professor Yemi Osibajo, former House of Representatives member and governorship candidate, Uche Onyeagucha and eminent lawyer and wife of the former Chief Judge of the Federation, Mrs. Mariam Uwais also came before the distinguished committee to

support the bill. ERA/FoEN's submission at the Public Hearing was presented by Onyeagucha who is also a member of ERA/FoEN board.

In an unambiguous support for early passage of the Bill, the Senate President David Mark said: *"We stand between health and economy, that is the truth of the matter. People who are against it are worried about the impact on the health of Nigerians and people who are for it are saying well, the nation stands to benefit from it. The simple question is, and it must be stated clearly 'when do you begin to worry about economy? Is it when you are dead or when you are alive'".*

The Public Hearing was a massive testimony to the public support already mobilized by ERA/FoEN.

#### **ERA/FoEN wins Bloomberg Award**

The Environmental Rights Action/Friends of the Earth Nigeria (ERA/FoEN) was selected as a winner of the inaugural Bloomberg Awards For Global Tobacco Control.

bright day after long nights

The award was created to recognize governments and non-governmental organisations in low and middle-income countries that demonstrates extraordinary achievement in the implementation of the World Health Organization's MPOWER policies regarding tobacco control.

ERA/FoEN was one of the four inaugural awardees of the prestigious award and the only organization to be recognised in Africa. The organization was particularly honoured for excellence in monitoring and publicizing tobacco industry activities intended to undermine tobacco control policies in Nigeria.

In announcing the prize at the 14th World Conference on Tobacco or Health which held in Mumbai India in March, the awards organizers noted:

*“ERA/FoEN has monitored and exposed the marketing activities of the tobacco industry, and they have faced the industry's numerous attempts to undermine tobacco control policies in Nigeria head-on by exposing the front groups used by the industry to carry out its activities. They have also highlighted unfair practices towards tobacco farmers and indifference to child labor.”*

## ATCRI COSOLIDATES

The year 2009 marked the first anniversary of the Africa Tobacco Control Regional Initiative (ATCRI). Successfully established in September 2008 with funding support from a three-year seed grant totaling \$500,000 from the American Cancer Society and Cancer Research UK - the world's two largest cancer charities, the Initiative is being hosted by ERA/FoEN.

In its first year, ATCRI recorded remarkable achievements in the actualization of its set goals and objectives. Perhaps one of the most significant achievements is the acceptance and ownership of the initiative by the African tobacco control community, which contributed to making ATCRI a recognized institution for tobacco control resources and technical assistance in the region within a year. This success has been further reflected in the encouraging reportage that ATCRI received from news media outlets across the continent as well as the international media.

## OTHER MAJOR HIGHLIGHTS OF ATCRI's FIRST YEAR

- Creation of a bilingual web-portal ([www.atcri.org](http://www.atcri.org)), list-serve and newsletter for effective dissemination of information, knowledge and experience on tobacco control issues among African tobacco control advocates. These have become a major source of information on tobacco control activities in the region. It is also worth noting that ATCRI website, which is available in English and French, is the first Africa bilingual website on tobacco control. With our regional outreach objective in view, efforts are on to include Portuguese in the near future, to serve the Lusophone region.
- Organization of two training workshops on tobacco control policy and advocacy for English- and French-speaking countries. The three-day trainings took place in Ghana(English) and Burkina Faso (French). A total of 35 new and existing tobacco control advocates from diverse backgrounds, including NGO activists, health professionals, government officials and the media, participated in the training. The overall aim was to strengthen the capacity of participants in the technicalities and strategies of building policy-oriented advocacy.
- Facilitation of the formation of four national journalists networks in Ghana, Malawi, Togo and Zambia. Creating the national networks is a strategy adopted by ATCRI to build the capacity of journalists on the continent and improve the reportage of tobacco control issues.
- Organization of a “Pan-African Tobacco Forum” during the African Heart Network (AHN) 2009 Conference held in Abuja on September 26 & 27. This event was organized in collaboration with the Nigerian Heart Foundation (NHF). It aimed at mainstreaming tobacco control into the agendas of the AHN, the International Forum for Hypertension Control and Prevention in Africa (IFHA) and the

Pan-African Society of Cardiology (ASC).

- Interventions in national tobacco control debates upon request and in collaboration with national tobacco control activists in support of their efforts to raise public awareness on the need for and lobby government to adopt and implement comprehensive tobacco control measures.
- Success in engaging the interest and support of existing and new funding organizations in ATCRI as a major player in the region. An illustration of this is the award of a grant by the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) for the implementation of a mini-Africa Tobacco Situational Analysis (ATSA) in six countries: Togo, Benin, Mozambique, Ethiopia, Uganda and Botswana.

## gender grows to full stature



Round Table on Mainstreaming Gender in Environmental Campaigns/Reporting in Lagos.



Town hall meeting with Ikarama women



## gender grows to full stature

The year 2009 could be said to be the most active year so far on ERA's Gender mainstreaming efforts. It witnessed a flurry of activities in the course of implementing the ERA/Oxfam Novib '*Gender Mainstreaming and Female Leadership Trajectory Project*'. The project had taken off in late 2008 with the appointment of Betty Abah, Project Officer, as Gender Focal Person and the setting up of a six-member Gender Committee consisting of members from all four ERA/FoEN offices.

ERA/FoEN carried out various activities and implemented policies at both organisational and programme levels aimed at ensuring that projects look at how women in particular are impacted by the various consequences of environmental degradation, gauging their feelings, and adequately addressing their concerns.

Much more, ERA/FoEN reached out to other like-minded groups, stakeholders and the media to ensure that they 'put on their gender lenses' in environmental campaigns and reporting.

For instance, in tackling the much publicized environmental degradation in the Niger Delta, ERA/FoEN now seeks to look at the gender-specific impacts, e.g how it affects women differently from men.

The major steps in realizing the objectives of the projects included:

- **PROMOTING HER GOOD PRACTICE** of a gender-sensitive work environment where no staff feels discriminated or relegated based on his/her gender.
- **PUBLICATION** of campaign materials (stickers, posters etc), articles and opinions in local and international media, promoting gender justice and highlighting the plights of Niger Delta women, specifically, and pushing for policy change.:
  - Publication of a 4-page feature in a 93 page book published by the International Women in Mining Network (RIMM) focusing on Niger Delta Women, published in Canada, contributed by Betty Abah and Morris Alagoa, titled:

**“The Oil Industry's Impact in the Lives of Women in the Niger Delta.”**

W e b l i n k :  
<http://rimmrights.org/indexen.htm>

- Special feature by ERA’s gender focal person in Women in Action, the journal of the ISIS, an international women's group based in Manila, the Philippines, tagged “When Blessing Becomes a Curse in the Niger Delta” (8 pages). And two page interview with Mrs. Warder Ayubakuro, Ikarama women leader also featured in the publication. It was distributed at the Climate Change conference. (<http://www.isiswomen.org/>).
- ERA/FoEN Gender Focal Person was part of the delegation to the World Conference on Tobacco or Health (14th WCTOH) in India and was featured in NET, the online magazine of The International Network of Women Against Tobacco (INWAT), alongside two other Africans, also INWAT members from Kenya and Uganda.
- **WORKSHOPS, SENSITIZATION ROUNDTABLES** were also some of the major strategies used to put gender mainstreaming in the highlight of ERA/FoEN’s campaigns in 2009. It was targeted at Nongovernmental Organizations (NGOs) and Community-Based Organizations (CBOs), the media and other stakeholders.
- As part of the activities, a roundtable for the media and civil society groups held in ERA's Lagos office on February with the theme; “Giving Women a Voice” and attracted several persons from several media houses and prominent women rights activists.
- In June, a *Gender Mainstreaming Roundtable for NGOs, CBOs* and the Media was held in ERA/FoEN’s Port Harcourt office and had in attendance civil society groups across Rivers and Bayelsa States.

In the course of the Port Harcourt meeting, the participants resolved to form a coalition named The Niger Delta Coalition on Gender Justice, to be hosted by ERA/FoEN and having the Pointer Newspaper, Host Communities Network (HoCoN), and the Stakeholders Democratic Network as focal groups.

- **TOWNHALL MEETINGS:** The gender team used the platform to sensitize women and also build their capacities for advocacy work. One of such held in Ikarama Community in Bayelsa State on June 6. It was a townhall meeting

with women in the farming and fishing community infamous for having the highest occurrences of crude oil spills in the area. The meeting attracted several communities people, mostly women, and witnessed environmental testimonies, and strategies.

The general sense of gender sensitiveness was reflected at ERA/FoEN's Second National Consultation on the Environment as women played prominent roles at the conference. One of the conference sessions had an all-women panel made up of renown, young and active women activists.

vista of hope in **litigation against multinationals**



Representatives of impacted Nigerian Communities at RechtBank High Court,  
The Hague, Netherlands .

## vista of hope in **litigation against multinationals**

**D**espite the untiring efforts of oil multinationals to evade responsibility for their acts of impunity in the Niger Delta, we made remarkable progress in our court actions against them at local and international levels.

Our unflinching conviction that impacted communities will sooner or later get justice propelled us to open talks with Italian lawyers on prospects of replicating a court action against Shell in the Netherlands elsewhere. This time we decided it was time to get Eni/Agip to account for environmental pollution in the Niger Delta in an Italian court.

In this regard, we held a strategy meeting with our partners in FoE Europe and an Italian lawyer on modalities for starting a legal case against ENI/AGIP. A work plan for a possible start of the case in 2010 was also perfected.

We continued to provide succor to indigent and oppressed Nigerian citizens, particularly impacted community people that were assisted through legal

advice and proper documentation of their cases. We also unlocked opportunities for legal practitioners to upgrade their knowledge base on the human rights situation in the Niger Delta.

One of the communities that benefitted from our support was the Egi Clan in Rivers State which played host to a meeting of the Host Communities Network (HoCoN). These meeting which was attended by representatives of different groups including the traditional institution in Egi was targeted at obtaining first-hand information on TOTALFINA/ELF's expansion project in the clan.

After series of consultations with impacted communities, it was agreed that apart from a formal demand for reparation from Elf by the clan, ERA/FoEN will support the two legal actions instituted by the local people against the company.

Cases instituted by community people that we supported included the Iwherekan Community suit filed by Jonah Gbemre asking for a dismissal of Shell's notice of



boosts for environmental reporting

After the November 2005 ruling that it was illegal to stop gas flaring in Iwherekan as well as the case of Ikechukwu Okpara & Ors Vs. SPDC & Ors pending at the Court of Appeal Port Harcourt.

Fully aware of the impact of sensitizing Nigerians on developments related to the legal suits, we partnered the media to give wide publicity to all the cases. This was to help us avoid a repeat of a scenario that arose after the judgment of the Federal High Court, Benin in November 2005 when, out of a lack of understanding of the issues, the press were reluctant to report the issue.

In September we had course to organize a two-day Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ESCR) legal support/strategy meeting which brought together potential litigants for the enforcement of citizens' ESCR and the legal team of ERA-Community Legal Aid group (CLAG) in Effurun, Delta State. The meeting discussed the extensive legal work so far carried out in ensuring that community people impacted by extractive activities obtain justice, assigned lawyers to specific litigants and preparation of legal documents for filing at the courts.

A month later, we facilitated another meeting in Effurun, Delta State with two of our partners from Millieudedefensie, four plaintiffs in the oil spill cases in the Netherlands and other stakeholders. The thrust of the meeting was to gather more evidence.

We injected new life into the suits against Shell in the Netherlands. Officials of our legal department attended the jurisdictional objection by Shell in the case of Fidelis Oguru & Anor. Vs. Royal Dutch Shell at RechtBank High Court, The Hague in December.

The year ended on a good note with the heartwarming ruling against Shell and her sister company Shell Petroleum Development Company (SPDC) Nigeria on December 30. Shell had earlier argued that the court lacked jurisdiction to hear the case in the first instance. But the court agreed with our position that it had jurisdiction to hear the case which was brought by four Nigerian farmers from three communities of the Niger Delta against the company for pollution of their environment. The ruling set precedence in the Dutch and European judicial system.

## boosts for **environmental reporting**



Participants at the Media Training on Environmental Reporting in Port Harcourt.

Our partnership with the media which has blossomed over the years moved to higher levels of commitment in 2009 with the commencement of a capacity-building training for journalists on reporting the environment.

The training, supported by VIKES, the Finnish Foundation for Media Communication and Development, was aimed at upping the capacity of Nigerian journalists to be able to identify, analyze and report the environment from an informed perspective.

Trainings were held in Lagos and Port Harcourt. Both exercises also served as platforms for the establishment of a Journalist Network on the Environment which links local communities with mainstream Nigerian media and also plays a constructive role in finding permanent solution to the environmental problems in Nigeria.

At the Lagos training which had 14 journalists from print and electronic media, ERA/FoEN Executive Director, Nnimmo Bassey explained that the state of the environment affected the political and socio-economic lives of the citizenry and as such, there is need for all stakeholders, to play active roles in safeguarding it.

He highlighted the roles of journalists in their capacity as watchdogs in the society, maintaining that they must be grounded in environment issues to be able to convey messages more accurately and engage policy makers on strategies for transformation.

At the training, the Niger Delta was cited as a classic example of underreported environmental disaster that has rubbed off on all the geo-political regions of Nigeria, with gas flaring identified as a major contributing factor to global warming, desertification in northern Nigeria, and resource conflicts in the middle belt.

boosts for environmental reporting

Oil company activities exacerbate coastal erosion in the south. Other presenters highlighted the link between the environment and national and international laws, as well as the necessary skills a journalist must possess to be able to portray the state of the environment in unambiguous media content.

The two days of the training witnessed very robust deliberations and exchanges between participants. The enthusiasm of participants at the Lagos training was also replicated in the Port Harcourt Training in September, which had 13 journalists and Kari Karlevi Risa, a Finnish freelance journalist in attendance.

Risa who compared the state of the Nigerian environment and his home country, centered his discussion on environmental challenges across the globe such as climate change and loss of biodiversity which most people know so little about, and the need for journalists to deepen their knowledge about these issues.

Papers presented at the two trainings include: *Environmental Laws in Nigeria, Obstacles to Environmental Reporting, Utilizing Emerging Media for Environmental Reporting and Advocacy, and Key Environmental Challenges*, among others.



## organisational **milestones**



Director, coalicion Panamena contra el Tabaquismo (COPACET), Dr. Nelyda Gligo, (left), Deputy Mayor, City of New York, Patricia Harris, ERA/FoEN Programme Manager, Akinbode Oluwafemi and Health Secretary, Mexico City Federal District, Dr. Armando Ahued at the Bloomberg Global Tobacco Control Award ceremony.



## organisational milestones

The year 2009 was a major milestone in the history of our organisation. Not only did our work win globally-acclaimed honours like the Bloomberg Global Tobacco Control Award, our Executive Director, Nnimmo Bassey was listed among individuals that made the 2009 Time Magazine Heroes of the Environment Award.

Bassey, who was elected in 2008 as Chair of Friends of the Earth International, a 77 country-member network of civil society groups championing the cause of the environment, was listed among activists that made a difference in their sphere of environmental advocacy. The 38 recipients of awards for 2009 were categorized under leaders and visionaries, activists, scientists and innovators, and moguls and entrepreneurs.

According to the magazine, the 2009 recipient list was informed by the conviction that “They (recipients) are heroes because they set out to discover what that opportunity might be...

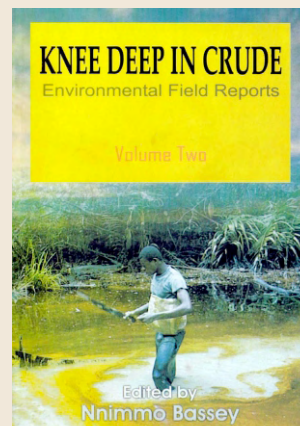
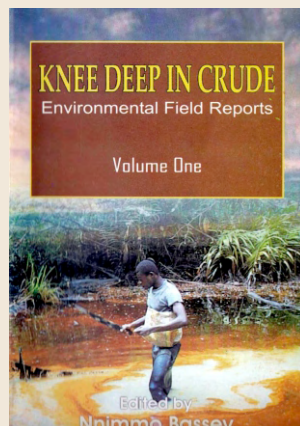
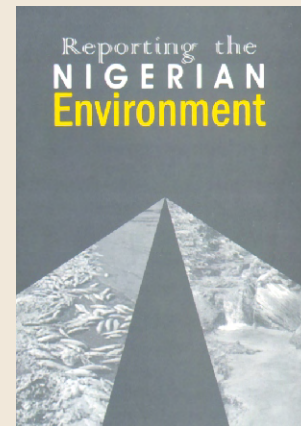
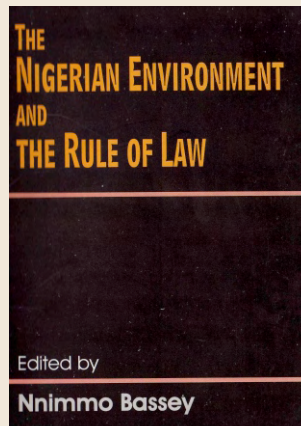
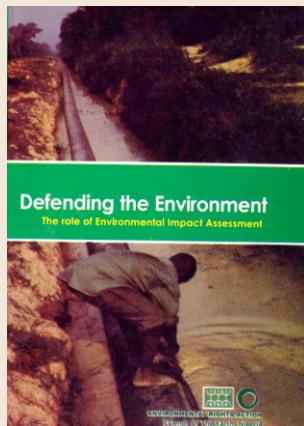
From saving wild mountain rivers in China to measuring the Arctic's icy expanse, from protecting the lush forests of Africa to conducting a feisty online debate, our green heroes are informed by this simple notion: We can all make a difference.”

Besides championing ecological justice in the Niger Delta and other parts of Nigeria, the Friends of the Earth Chair has also been in the forefront of anti-Genetically Modified Organism (GMO) campaigns at the national and international scene as well as the crusade for minority rights.

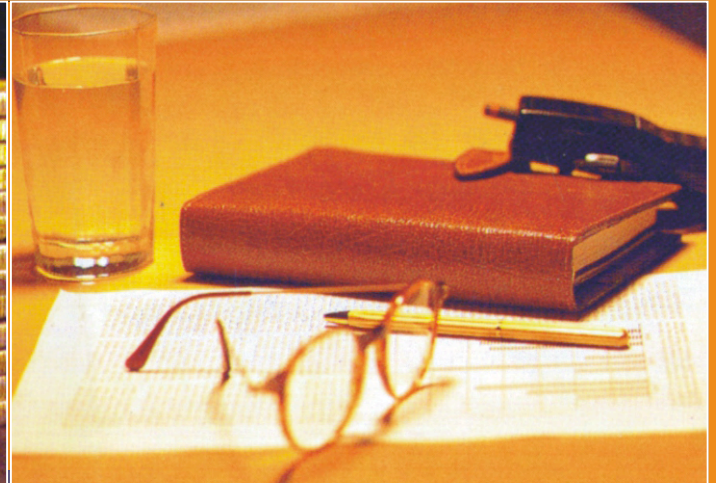
Same 2009, our Lagos Office moved out of the small apartment from where it operated for over 10 years to a much more spacious office building which has enough space for future expansion. The new Lagos office among others, has a library, a conference room, crèche, a kitchen and several modestly furnished offices.

*these are  
must read books*

Published by ERA/FoEN IN 2009



# financial **statement**



## financial statement

### INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2009

Note	\$	N
<b>INCOME</b>		
NOVIB	244,845	36,726,736
HIVOS	-	-
NORAD/ NNV	171,658	25,748,642
NED	24,960	3,744,000
OTHER FUNDERS	273,598	41,039,746
	<u>715,061</u>	<u>107,259,123</u>

### EXPENDITURE

Remuneration	80,160	12,024,000
Consultant	12,266	1,839,900
Communication	11,686	1,752,900
Rent	40,062	6,009,346
Coordination	3,000	450,000
Field Monitoring	12,256	1,838,450
Campaign & Advocacy	27,202	4,080,250
Media Works	3,775	566,250
Telephone & Postage	2,400	360,000
Transport & Travelling	29,409	4,411,318
International Travel	21,219	3,182,832
Legislative Promotion	9,980	1,497,000
Training	41,299	6,194,800
Legal Expenses	21,709	3,256,385
Workshop	22,136	3,320,400
Accommodation	29,517	4,427,480
Conference	61,055	9,158,300
Research	21,267	3,190,000

Documentation	-	-
News Letters/ Publications	20,151	3,022,650
Administration	13,012	1,951,750
Utilities	23,676	3,551,400
Internet & ICT	8,908	1,336,200
Meetings	38,195	5,729,200
Office Running	12,462	1,869,323
Networking	11,898	1,784,700
Community Meetings	14,504	2,175,600
Facilitation	-	-
Evaluation & EIA	7,913	1,186,890
Community Exchange	7,375	1,106,250
WAGP	-	-
Development of ERA Property	34,669	5,200,391
Activist Support	33,000	4,950,000
Insurance	-	-
Bank Charges	5,127	769,040
Depreciation	15,922	2,388,345
	<u>697,209</u>	<u>104,581,350</u>
Excess of income over expenditure	<u>17,852</u>	<u>2,677,774</u>

Exchange rate \$1 = N150





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“All the people shall have  
the right to (a) generally  
satisfactory environment favourable  
to their development”.

-Article 24, African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights

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