



Oilwatch Africa Conference and General Assembly Report

**Theme:
Oil Over Africa: Economic Boom and Burst**

May 14-17, 2012

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Oilwatch Africa and representatives from academia, development experts and community leaders met under the theme, ***Oil over Africa: Economic Boom and Burst*** to deliberate on the increasing oil and gas exploration, development and production projects on the African continent, and the impact on the peoples of Africa, particularly the socio-economic and environmental costs that are associated with these activities.

The conference was held at Coconut Grove Regency, Accra, Ghana, 13th to 15th May, 2012.

Day One.14th May, 2012.

The programme began with introduction of participants and their expectations, which were pivoted on sharing experiences and knowledge, geared towards taking Africa forward with informed solutions to check the Oil crisis crippling the continent.

The chairman of the conference, Prof. Vladimir Antwi -Danso, Director of Legon Centre for International Affairs (LECIA), stated that oil is gradually taking central place as key revenue earner for many African countries. He noted that while oil brings wealth it also breeds poverty and destruction. Sadly, Presidents and Governments pride themselves on oil finds.

1.1 PAPER PRESENTATIONS

Oil over Africa: Growth in Poverty: by Nnimmo Bassey. He expressed concern over the scramble for Africa resources, and stressed that oil is the driver of poverty in Africa, noting



that oil subverts the key Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) such as; eradicating hunger

and poverty; reduced child mortality; improved maternal health, ensure environmental sustainability and develop a global partnership for development, amongst others. Oil pollution and environmental degradation, arising from different stages of oil exploration and exploitation in Africa oilfields, amount to truncated livelihoods and environmental abuse.

He further emphasised on the connection between oil and poverty in Africa, noting that oil companies pollute through toxic releases such as gas flares, spills and storage of waste materials. Oil spill causes biodiversity loss and deforestation results from all stages of oil extraction, thereby amplifying environmental degradation and ruined livelihoods in oil producing communities. Based on this, he noted that oil has fuelled corruption, as large sums of money is derived from oil production, and from royalties, taxes and other payments from the oil companies to the government. Worthy of note, is Nigeria, during the last four decades, hundreds of billions worth of crude oil has been extracted from the Niger Delta wetlands, earning huge profits for a privileged few, while virtually robbing the affected communities of both life and livelihoods.

Despite the fact that most oil reserves are concentrated in Africa, in countries such as Nigeria, Ghana, Algeria, Uganda, South Africa, Tanzania, amongst others, oil is still “fuelling poverty” as 70 percent of Africa now live in countries that have growth rate of over 4 percent. Only about 4 percent earn over \$10 per day. Also in measuring growth rate, GDP grow by 7.7 percent in last quarter of 2011 and 7.3 percent in April 2012. Hence, poverty is grabbing 70 percent of Africa’s population.

He further stated that leaving oil in the soil in places such as Ogoni, Lofoten, Yasuni, South Sudan, and Costa Rica will be in the best interest of the environment. There is need for Africa to go beyond oil, as toxic economies (oil production) suck the blood of the people, labour, resources, their wellbeing as well as their socio- political space. We are united by the environment, and there are no legislative boundaries to ecological problems.

In conclusion, he said the preservation of our environment, the restoration of polluted streams and lands, the recovery of our dignity will only come about when we stand away from the pull of the barrel of crude oil and understand that the soil is more important to our people than oil.

The Stone Age did not end with lack of stones, so Africa will not end because of lack of oil. We are one Africa; the time to act is now.

2.0 PANEL DISCUSSION

ENERGY RESOURCES AND IMPACTS



Facilitator: Siziwe Khanyile

Africa, the Energy Hot House: by Toyin Akinosho, Publisher, Africa Oil and Gas Report magazine.

He expressed concern that in the last 15 years major exploration has broken out in the minor Basins, mainly in East Africa. Despite the fact that Nigeria has abundant oil and gas reserves, the biggest international oil companies are domiciled there, and the country is pumping more oil every day, than any other African country. However, recent exploration of oil in the African continent has broken out in Ghana, Mozambique, Equatorial Guinea, Tanzania, Uganda, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Kenya, and Mauritania. And many international companies mainly focus on these minor basins, regardless of the major basins in Nigeria and Angola.

He emphasized that Rio mini Basin in Equatorial Guinea, the Tano basin in Ghana, the Mauritania basin, Sierra-Leone/ Liberia basin in both countries, and the Rovuma basin in Mozambique and Tanzania, all in deep water, have been shown to be large containers of oil and gas reserves. So also Uganda's Lake Albertine basin (which straddles the Democratic Republic of Congo) and the Kenyan part of the East Africa Rift.

He concluded that a significant worry for Africa is the fact that the continent does not even know oil reserve as speculated. Our weak institutions and over speculated oil reserves is attracting oil multinationals to scramble for Africa's oil.

Emerging fields and Fragile Ecosystems in Africa: by Frank Muramazi, NAPE Uganda.

He said that Africa is known as the world's richest in terms of natural resources including forest, wetlands, minerals, rivers and lakes, fertile soil, and wildlife.

The oil rich Africa fields are located in these fragile ecosystems. Of particular interest is the discovering of oil in East Africa, like Uganda, Tanzania and Kenya. The indigenous inhabitants of the land upon which the discovery is made, have expressed fear of disruption, pollution, land grabbing, corruption, human rights abuse and insecurity.

This fear has been expressed in the Albertine Rift oil region in Uganda, which is one of the richest ecosystems in terms of Biodiversity, where it harbours 39% of Africa's mammal species, 51% of Africa Bird species , 60% of Uganda's water bodies (lakes and Rivers), and 70% of Uganda protected areas. Off shore oil discovery in Tanzania and Kenya is along the coastline covered with rich Mangrove forests that are breeding places of many mammals and birds species.

He concluded that the consequences of oil discovery and extraction on the continent have been marked by pollution, loss of community's livelihoods, displacement and dislocation of communal territories and lose of culture. Also in North and West Africa, oil has been accompanied by political instability. Therefore, it becomes crucial to protect these fragile ecosystems and resist oil exploration in emerging fields in Africa.

The Oil Enclave, the case of Nigeria: Faith Nwadishi of PWYP, Nigeria.

She said the oil business of Nigeria is controlled by the super powers. Oil accounts for 95% of the country's revenue, which has not been translated into blessings for the Nigerian people. She lamented that since oil discovery, the international companies have stolen Nigeria oil resources with the consent of our government, in exchange for pollution and truncated livelihoods in the Niger Delta.

Commercial exploitation of Nigeria oil began in 1958 with 5,100bpd export. From 1960 to 2005, Nigeria has recorded 250 fields, 5,284 wells, 7,000km of pipelines, 10 export terminals, 275 flow stations, 10 gas plants, which are located in communities causing death and pollution.

She further stressed that oil production in Nigeria has been marked by corruption at the level of the government and oil companies, noting that between year 2000 and 2008, 130

billion US dollars has been stolen. DPR and NEITI ,institutions created by the government to checkmate the activities of the oil companies, do not know the amount of oil produced or exploited on a daily basis, they depend on the oil companies to provide data that are untrue. Another account is the 1.7 trillion claimed on fuel subsidy, which the government and oil marketers could not account for. This has in no doubt contributed to the rising poverty level of the Nigerian people. Worthy of note is the fact that between 1980 and 2006 those on less than \$1 per day increased from 27% to almost 70%.

She concluded with the words of *Kapucinski, Shah of Shah* “Oil creates the illusion ... of a completely changed life, life without work, life for free.... The concept of oil expresses perfectly the external human dream of wealth achieved through lucky accident In this sense oil is a fairy tale and like every fairy tale a bit of a lie “.

2.1 DISCUSSION

Questions

1. How many oil wells are in Nigeria, and those that have been closed?
2. How do we draw a road map to challenge corporations in Africa?
3. What are the urgent actions we can take to bring communities out of the oil problems?
4. Why is Africa a hot spot for energy extraction?

The Underlisted are responses to the questions above by the presenters:

- ❖ Africa is a frontier for oil production. There won't be new oil in East, and North compared to Africa. Generally Europeans are rent seekers; it is cheaper to run seismic for oil in Africa. However, new basins and deep water horizons appeal to geologists. Speculation of oil reserves also attracts oil companies; for instance Shell wants to buy oil wells in Mozambique. Also, Africa has very weak oil policies.
- ❖ The scramble for Africa's resources is a conscious effort determined by the economic system. International corporations have the desire to accumulate, and not just that they are interested in adventures. Also cost of production and the manner in which Africa is marketed is a key determinable of scramble for Africa's resources. What we must do to get communities out of this oil problem, and save the African continent at large includes:
 - Engage in oil contracts review
 - Grass root mobilization

- Charge activists to seek for political position
 - We must come out with a road map for corporate accountability.
- ❖ Most of the corrupt practices in Nigeria are fuelled by the oil companies, IMF and World Bank. Also oil companies do not respond to environmental pollution because there are no corporate accountability checks on oil production in Africa.
 - ❖ The United States of America has more gas and oil than Nigeria. Nigeria does not have enough oil reserves as relative to time of the Second World War. We are only the 7th largest store of gas in the world. The problem is the rigor that the intellectuals bring about, in terms of rent seeking. Let them stop exploiting the little oil that we have because we don't have enough left.
 - ❖ Africa is giving up their land space, despite the fact that the developed countries are not exploiting, doesn't mean that we have enough reserves.
 - ❖ Traditional leaders should live up to their expectations, and check the way they collect royalties from these oil corporations. Citizen participation is key to answering African quest for resource grab, exploitation and corruption.
 - ❖ We are working hard to stop oil problems. They know what they are doing is wrong, publishing and documenting the problem is a major change we have made. We must continue our fight in solidarity and they will certainly be brought to justice.
 - ❖ We must ensure that we elect people that represent our interest. The sovereignty of the people must be secured.
 - ❖ In Uganda, people lack access to legitimate use of Lake Aban where the oil well is secured. This is sad; we need to defend our environment to a condition that is acceptable.
 - ❖ The question is how we can return to our traditional way of life before the oil regime. There is need to re-strategize and drive this process, which may help us move from the oil regime.
 - ❖ Leaving the oil in the soil is absolutely possible. It is about challenging our developmental philosophy or perspectives. With Nigeria production of oil daily she still cannot feed the population consequent upon corruption. Ghanaian blocks are also being sold like Nigeria. Ghana must check this, and get lessons from Nigeria.
 - ❖ Oil fields rise up due to oil reserve speculations and the rush to exploit Africa's oil becomes appealing.

- ❖ Until we agree that we are in crisis, then we can get a solution. Remove the statistics and vocabulary and go to the communities, empowering them to take responsibilities and demand justice. Government must be accountable. The people have the power and authority to bring this to work.
- ❖ Nigeria is rich in other natural resources, but the government still looks up to oil.
- ❖ Our collective struggle should be to question and change the existing political system; democracy needs to be strengthened, our legal system must be reformed, we demand accountability.

3.0 PANEL 2

Oil, Ownership and Conflicts- the case of the Sudan, by Prof. Asim el Moghraby, Emeritus Professor of Ecology.

He began with the fact that oil exploration in the Sudan started in the 1960s by Italian AGIB. Also various Chinese and Asian companies have also succeeded in securing oil blocks in Sudan.



He emphasized that oil accounts for 98% of the country's revenue, while other production sectors have been almost completely neglected. Adding that the recent break up of Sudan into two countries (Sudan and South Sudan) promises many uncertainties

of oil proportions, there is a lot of ongoing "cage rattling" and mudslinging on the two sides of the borders infrastructures.

Following the separation, the Sudan is about 25% smaller, covering a land mass of 1,881,000km² instead of 2,256,000km². This accounts for 90% of Sudanese oil specified to Republic of South Sudan. The South is landlocked and depends on the North to export its oil.

The oil conflicts of over 20 years of fighting has killed more than 2 million Sudanese and displaced another 4 million from their homes. An estimated 500,000 South Sudanese are

facing expulsion from Sudan. Also, 35,000 civilians have been pushed from their homes, adding to the already bad situation for relief organizations. He said as part of the latest development, in April 2012, South Sudan seized Heglig Central Processing Facility for second time, shutting off half of Sudan's remaining oil production.

He concluded that both countries are facing ongoing internal conflicts, severe economic problems, and the challenge of devising a new constitution. Both countries lack working democracy, international assistance has been painstakingly slow and ineffective. It is hoped that the two Sudans will have a fresh start.

Ghana Oil Policy by Mohammed Amin Adams

He said that the Ghana oil policy is established on sustainable extraction of oil, effective management and transparency of oil production and export in Ghana. Extraction of oil has been on for a long time, targeting about 250,000 barrels per day, although we have not achieved producing this quantity.

The Ghana oil policy also accounts for petroleum income tax of 50% but negotiated to 35%. 4 billion USD was used to develop the Jubilee phase 1 project.

He stressed that in the Ghanaian oil policy, associated cost of production is estimated on; human right cost, ecological cost and livelihood cost. The Ghana "polluter pays principle" only assures that liability is associated with negligence, and that becomes a petroleum cost to mitigate.

The development of gas associated with the Jubilee fields was for domestic and industrial market but now the gas is being flared because there are no infrastructures on ground for gas gathering. The policy has also accounted for local content and community participation.

On the revenue management level, Ghana oil policy ensures Budget stabilization and funds availability, such as the Heritage fund. The funds will account for investment in other sectors, such as agriculture, solid minerals etc.

Clarifications

Nnimmo expatiated on the vision and principles of Oilwatch, as a consortium of oil and gas resistance network in Africa, Latin America and Asia. He noted that oil cannot be extracted sustainably, if the environmental cost cannot be paid. Ghana had three oil spills cases and the companies involved refused to pay. The Niger Delta is worse as oil spills are not accounted for and communities pay the cost with their lives. The UNEP report has been released since August, 2011, and the Government only set up a committee that is not

working. All the money made from oil cannot clean up any nation, and pay back lives that have been lost. Payment for pollution is cheap, and this is why the so called “polluter pay principle” never pays for pollution. In this regard, Oilwatch seeks to interrogate government policies on oil, and resist the negative impact of oil extraction on people and the environment. We demand environmental justice among nations.

Questions

1. What were the strategies used to resist oil production in some countries? What measures have been taken to check oil pollution in Ghana?
2. Who declares the volume of oil produced in Ghana, government or the oil companies? What are the mechanisms set in place to effectively and transparently utilize the Ghana oil revenue?

Response

The Government of Ghana is at that center for development, but there are problems in implementing the revenue management law because of weak institutions. We are trying to strengthen institutions to properly check mate the activities of the oil industries. He said the oil companies refuse to pay tax of 600 Million GHC because they did not declare their profit. He worried that there are no strong measures put in place to prevent oil spills. Security of oil wells is their priority as the government has bought 4 jets to secure the rig. Ghana does not know the volume of oil drilled and produced by the companies, the FPSO is not adequate and the records are not clear. Ghana has zero gas flare tolerance, unfortunately, but we flare gas because there are no gas installations on ground to preserve or process the gas.

He further argued that the proposal to leave oil in the soil has both economic and environmental concerns. But Ghana has decided to drill oil, because oil is an asset that needs to be exploited. If we cannot prevent oil production we can ensure that it should be extracted sustainably.

Comments

Nnimmo Bassey: 50 years from now, crude oil will be history; even now it is an old fuel. Nigeria was richer without crude oil. In 1963, the British wrote to Shell, “that African politicians will be the last to know that you don’t have to exploit resources because you have it”.

Frank Muramazi: Beyond exploiting oil resources we can look out for other energy alternatives.

Prof. Vladimir Antwi Danso: We need to demand audit of environmental protection law in Ghana.

Faith Nwadishi: There is need for us to empower community people to take charge of their land, and resist any oil production. The people have the power.

4.0 GROUP WORK

GROUP 1 (Environmental policies and Governance in Africa in relation to fossil fuel)



- Gaps in policies
- Accountability issues
- Prevalent policies and implementation
- Need citizen empowerment with regards to ensuring that the policies are implemented
- Citizens must be involved in developing policies for its effective and efficient implementation to ensure co-ownership between the people and the government
- Strengthening of institutions and political will for policy implementation
- Need for contracts transparency at all levels
- A strong African voice / African charter on extractives

Group 2 (Resource conflict in Africa, Lessons Learnt and way forward)

- Weak institutions (Lack of implementation of policies)
- Corruption
- Failure to carryout cost benefit analysis
- Displacements of communities (people, livelihoods and lands)
- Lack public consultation
- Improper border demarcation

- Lack of transparency
- Lack of political will

Way forward

- Strengthen or build strong institutions
- Transparency or accountability (external Auditing of government policies)
- Sensitization and awareness programmes
- Stakeholders consultations
- Civil society interventions

DAY TWO (15 May, 2012)

The following points were identified.

- Support for communities to carry on their struggle
- Oil production can never be sustainable
- Community mobilizations
- Government intervention
- Poverty can never be eradicated with this development platform that we have now (oil regime)
- We need to come together to change the weak institutions in our continent
- The jubilee oil of Ghana cannot be the solution
- Oilwatch has brought us together as Africans
- Check our habits and weak institutions will be history
- Need to build our Continental development agenda
- If we can achieve our set objectives then we can change Africa
- Need to look at oil from the cost rather the benefits.
- Ghana is yet to get our objectives of leaving the oil in the soil.
- Ineffective leadership challenges
- Challenging the quest for energy (oil) in Africa.

5.0 PANEL DISCUSSION 1

Facilitator: Frank Muramaz.

Pipe dreams and Pipelines, where did WAGP go? By Noble Wadzah, Oilwatch Ghana

The West Africa Gas Pipeline (WAGP) project was designed to supply gas from Nigeria to Togo and Ghana to meet energy needs. WAGP is associated with ECOWAS and WAPCO with financial assistance from World Bank and IMF.

He argued that the speculation of the WAGP project was targeted at checking climate change and gas flaring. The question is whose energy is this project targeted for, and why is Nigeria still flaring gas? It was observed that the process was fraudulent, in that, it

was not geared towards regional integration as claimed. The gas supplied was targeted for industrial use, and the rich, while the local people benefit nothing. He stressed that WAGP was registered outside Nigeria, and WAGPCO became an issue of sovereignty. He concluded that the WAGP project was meant for corporate interest and not for the common Africans.

Coal Sweat; the high cost of energy in South Africa: Siziwe Khanyile from Oilwatch South Africa

She spoke on the economy of South Africa that it relies heavily on coal mining for large scale, energy intensive industry, and more than 90% of SA electricity comes from coal. SA is also the largest emitter of Green House gases in Africa, accounting for about 42%. South Africa has the cheapest electricity production globally, and therefore, there is no incentive to move away from energy intensive industry and mega projects.

She further stressed that most of the energy produced is consumed by industries, like smelters in Richards Bay and the Vaal. 40% of electricity is consumed by the rich and 20% of the population is energy poor and does not have access to electricity. Residences pay up to 7 times more per unit of electricity than big business, therefore cross subsidizing industry. She emphasized that the high cost of coal in South Africa is marked by climate change, emission of obnoxious gases, destruction of regional aquifers, solid waste disposal problems, and acidic leaches from waste heaps, drainage impacts and interference with underground and surface water.

She noted that unsustainable production and consumption in SA is marked by large fossil intensive corporations such as Eskom, Shell, Sasol, amongst others. International Financial institutions such as World Bank and the Africa Development Bank are responsible for funding and supporting government policies that allow for unsustainable fossil fuel development. In all Government, IFIs and corporations promote destructive policies that deepen the environment, health and climate crisis that we face in South Africa.

The Economic costs of oil: Challenges to Ghanaian Fisheries, by Richster Amauh.

Marine fisheries account for 80% of the total production of fish in Ghana, which provides 60% of protein intake. There is high dependence on fisheries in coastal communities. He observed that there have been reported cases of oil spillage by Kosmos oil from fisher folks, 8 dead whales in two years, all in the western region, since oil extraction started in offshore Ghana.

He stressed that Ghana has a zero tolerance gas flare policy, but gas has been flared since the inception of oil extraction in Ghana, and this may account for reduction in oxygen level of fish, acid rains and poisoned gases which affect fisheries production. He complained that fisher folks have been harassed by military officials, stopping them from fishing some meters away from the oil rig. No compensation for the impact of reduction of fishing grounds on the fisher folks.

He further noted some socioeconomic impacts of oil, such as the Dutch disease, high cost of living, break down in community cohesions, conflicts with local, social and cultural values, he also recommended the urgent need for parliament to pass the production and exploration bill which may account for marine protected Zones and non-oil extraction areas. He concluded that, oil extraction in Ghana poses ecological threat to fishing communities and livelihoods, therefore, there is a need to build capacities of the fisheries commission to meet the challenges of the oil exploration activities in Ghana.

The Shut Pipelines of South Sudan by Dr. Khalid, South Sudan.

In the Republic of South Sudan (RSS), oil provides 98% of revenue to the government. He appraised that shutting down South Sudan oil production represents an integral part of the RSS management proprieties. The RSS is acting in protection of its resources, territorial integrity, dignity of her people and economic worth.

He mentioned that at the moment, the government of RSS is engaging in environmental baseline studies, involving local participations and other stakeholders, to determine, the social and ecological impact of oil production in the country. Shutting down RSS oil pipelines has accounted for no oil spills or gas flares impoverishing local communities. This we believe is a blessing for RSS, we are also looking at alternative energy source beyond oil.

5.1 Questions and Responses

1. Is Ghanaian government policing oil facilities, what are the community people or CSOs doing about this problem?

What is the vision and mission of shutting down oil in RSS?

2. How much do fisheries bring to the economy of Ghana?
3. What are the measures on ground to protect mangrove swamps in Ghana oil producing region?
4. What are the challenges of clean development mechanism in South Africa?

Responses

1. In Ghana, Fish is seen as food rather than as a natural resource, and Ghanaians are second largest consumer of marine fishes. Fisheries provides 1.2 million dollar per annum to the economy of Ghana. Ramsar areas are not protected. So protecting mangroves is a challenge, but the Africa mangrove network needs to raise awareness here. We are partnering with Oilwatch Ghana to raise awareness on the impact of oil extraction on fisheries.
2. The vision and mission of the RSS is to care for people and the environment, keep our integrity and look at alternative sources of energy beyond oil.
3. Cheaper electricity supply from coal is for industrial users, World Bank approved 3.75billion dollars loan to finance Eskom's coal fire power. Clean coal technology is false solution and not a strategy for clean development mechanism.
4. WAGP project is a direct product of the new agent of colonization. Most times parliamentarians don't have access to the EIA and other information, before they set out for implementation. The challenge has been in community resettlement plan and disconnection between community engagement and governments.

6.0 PANEL DISCUSSION 2

Facilitator: Toyin Akinosho.

"What the scientist saw" UNEP and Ogoni by Celestine Akpobari, Ogoni Solidarity Forum, Nigeria.

"Oil was discovered in commercial quantity in Ogoni by Shell in 1958 and about 900 million barrels of oil of estimated value, 30 billion US dollars was said to have been drilled from the area since discovery and production. There are about, 96 oil wells in Ogoniland connected to five oil fields where gas were flared twenty-four hours a day for thirty-five years". He pointed out effort by Ogoni to promote dialogue and participation of the people in addressing policies around oil and gas investments, and ways of mitigating its negative impacts was met with brutal state repression that eventually led to state sponsored killings of thousands of Ogoni people including Ken Saro Wiwa, the late environmental campaigner.

Speaking further he gave account of UNEP's work in Ogoni where they pointed out that the history of oil exploration in Ogoni has put people and politics and the oil industry at loggerheads rendering a landscape characterized by a lack of trust, paralysis and blame, set against a worsening situation for the communities concerned. They worked over a

period of 14 months where they examined more than 200 locations, soil examination on 69 sites, 4,000 water samples, 5,000 medical records, and monitored 780 boreholes. They concluded as part of their findings that pollution is widespread in Ogoniland, many people have been exposed to chronic oil pollution throughout their lives. Surface water throughout the creeks of Ogoni has hydrocarbons, and Hydrocarbon pollution has reached groundwater at 41 sites. Soils are polluted with hydrocarbons up to a depth of 5 meters in 49 observed places. Also fisheries have been destroyed. Benzene, a known carcinogen, was found in drinking water at a level 900 times above World Health Organization (WHO) standards.

He further explained that the findings in the report underline that there are, in a significant number of locations, serious threats to human health from contaminated drinking water to concerns over the viability and productivity of ecosystems.

He concluded by recommending the following actions to be taken

- Expert analysis of UNEP report
- Presentation at Community/CSO forum
- Publication of popular version of report
- Advocacy and circulation of popular version
- Campaign for implementation of the report
- Start with decommissioning of all obsolete facilities in Ogoniland by shell

Oil of Discontent - Resources and Instability in West Africa by Darimani Abdulai, TWN, Ghana.



He started his presentation by analyzing the people's expectation to include:

1. Oil resources are public good
2. The process of extracting these resources also affect public interest
3. The public expect oil resources to

translate to:

- Build the productive capacity of other sectors and citizens
- Employment generation
- Energy security

- Improved government revenue
- Less ecological destruction and pollution
- General national economic development and transformation

He said that public discontent about oil arises as a result of failure to:

- Catalyze development and transformation (graphic poverty)
- Build the productive capacity of other sectors and citizens
- Generate employment (unemployment prevalent)
- Improve government revenue (Donor dependent)
- Provide energy security (cycle of power erratic & fuel crises)
- Degree of environmental & livelihoods destruction
- The conflicts around oil

He also pointed out the following as the conflicts in Africa

- All over Africa, citizens are confronted with various conflicts of different levels of intensities
- Between 1963 and 1998 alone a total of 26 armed conflicts erupted in Africa affecting 474 million people, (61 per cent of the population)
- Currently there are 92 internal conflicts in 24 African countries
- Eight Countries in Africa have been listed as conflict hotspots, majority are oil producing.

He also said that out of the now 16 West African countries, five are emerging out of conflicts, four others are either hotspot or are in some form of conflicts and all of them are oil producing or prospecting countries.

He also listed the following as the causes of conflict in Africa:

- Natural resource capture is at the centre of these conflicts and instability in Africa
- Oil capture-economic power-political power
- Insatiable corporate accumulation
- Economic models which prioritise economic and elite interest above all others
- Lack of appreciation of indigenous knowledge and production relations.

He concluded by saying that there is need to review the current regimes of oil production, finding alternatives for energy, promoting variety instead of one-size fit all economic model and building critical mass of citizens to confront corporations and governments.

Gas Flaring, Health and Energy Poverty by Alagoa Morris:

As way of introduction he started by explaining why flaring of gas is unavoidable. He stated that geologists and petroleum engineers have explained that the environment beneath the soil where crude oil deposit are found contains not just the crude oil, but also gas and water, that in trying to exploit or extract the crude oil, the gas and water also comes along from the depth of the ground. However, separation takes place when these materials get to the flow station. While the water is disposed off around the immediate environment, the gas is flared. This kind of gas is referred to as associated gas.

He pointed out that Nigeria is second only to Russia in gas flaring but the Civil Society groups have not relented in their advocacy against the wasteful and harmful practice by the oil companies and the tacit support by the Federal Government. Explaining, he said the reason why gases are flared today is because of weakness in the implementation of Environmental Laws and that even though all stakeholders seem to be in agreement that gas flaring needs to be curtailed it is puzzling that Gas flaring still continues, even increasing in places like Nigeria; though flaring has been declared illegal since 1984 under section 3 of the "Associated Gas Reinjection Act" of Nigeria. He also said that while oil companies give flimsy excuses such as lack of market, operational safety and lack of gas re-injection facilities as three main reasons for flaring gas, the Civil Society in Nigeria and their allies abroad have expressed the fact that the only reason for the continued waste of this precious natural resource and harmful practice is simply because 'it is cheaper' for the oil companies to flare and lack of effective policies and political will on the part of government.

He further said that World Bank has revealed that Gas flaring cannot be stopped but continuous flaring can be eliminated this is the reason why the Associated Gas Reinjection Act of Nigeria made provision for emergency flares with express permission. The goalpost for the end to gas flaring in Nigeria has continued to be shifted based on the excuse that there were no infrastructure in place to effect what the Civil Society groups have been advocating for (to end gas flaring without delay). In Western Europe 99% of associated gas is used or re-injected into the ground. Alternatives to flaring are gas re-injection, or to store it for use as an energy source. Gas flaring is wastage of precious resources.

He went on by highlighting the following as the health impacts of gas flaring

- Filling the atmosphere with toxins.
- The effects of the flare on our eyes and environment.
- Gas flares have potentially harmful effects on the health and livelihood of the communities in their vicinity, as they release a variety of poisonous chemicals.
- Humans exposed to such substances (toxins from gas flares) can suffer from a variety of respiratory problems and other blood-related diseases.
- Studies estimate that exposure to benzene would result in eight new cases of cancer yearly in Bayelsa http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bayelsa_State (in the Niger Delta).

- Gas flares are often located close to local communities. Many of these communities claim that nearby flares cause acid rain which corrodes their homes and other local structures, many of which have zinc-based roofing.
- Thermal pollution, Climate anomalies, extinction of vegetation and animal species.
- The area also has Nigeria's highest infant mortality rate - 12 per cent of newborns fail to see out their first year.

Resource Extraction and Land Grabs by Lillian Bruce of Civil Society Coalition on land.

She said that millions of rural dwellers and other land users depend on land and other natural resources to meet their daily food requirements and livelihoods. A growing global demand for energy and natural resources in recent years is driving an expansion of extractive and infrastructure projects into some of the most remote areas and into the ancestral territories of indigenous people. Investment requires land grabbing, which displaces communities and groups, and this creates lots of distortion in society. Land can be acquired legally, by putting the rights of the people on check.

She further stressed that it becomes very key to determine the scale, source of land, and characteristics of the deal, and the contents of transaction, which will better inform our decision towards land acquisition. Contracts of investment, by way of acquiring land should consider the integrity, culture and livelihood of the people and not impoverish them. It becomes crucial to have a good land planning for societal development.

6.1 Questions and Responses

1. How can the health issues be improved in the Niger Delta?

What are the laws responsible for land acquisitions, especially when the land is endowed with natural resources?

2. What practical steps can we put in place to ensure that the Government puts an end to gas flaring and better effects the gas master plan to utilize associated gas?

The following are the responses from the Panelists:

- ❖ There have been land acquisitions in Tema, Ghana, by the government, and communities have been displaced from their homes.
- ❖ To check land, we need good land planning, payment for acquired lands and developed land use plan.

- ❖ We are strategizing strong influence at the senate to take up the UNEP report on Ogoni and see Shell is brought to Justice.
- ❖ There have been conflicts on gas flares.
- ❖ We are dealing with land grab issues in Ogoniland, and the multinationals and government must be brought to justice.
- ❖ Need to strengthen institutional capacities for citizen participation.
- ❖ If we must see the change, we must be committed to community empowerment and mobilization for action.

The conference came to a close at 1:45pm. Participants had a quick lunch and then proceeded on a field trip to Jomorow district west of Ghana to a community called Half Assini for an Oilwatch town hall meeting with community members from that district.

APPENDIX 1.0

CONFERENCE STATEMENT/ COMMUNIQUÉ

Oilwatch Africa Conference and General Assembly

**Accra, Ghana,
14 to 15 May 2012**

Oilwatch Africa and representatives from academia, development experts and community leaders met under the theme, ***Oil Over Africa: Economic Boom and Burst*** to deliberate on the recent proliferation of oil and gas exploration, development and production projects on the African continent, and the impact on the peoples of Africa, particularly the socio-economic and environmental costs that are associated with these activities.

The Conference expressed concern over the unbridled oil exploration projects across Africa; noted with regret the adverse environmental impacts from the activities of the oil producing companies and the concomitant effects on community livelihoods and social displacements; recognized the contributory role of oil as a major source of conflict; denounced the lack of strong institutions and the lack of transparency and accountability in the oil and gas sector; and noted with concern the pervasive corruption that emanated from the fossil fuel production activities in Africa.

On the basis of the foregoing concerns, the Conference made the following demands:

1. African oil producing countries should strengthen their institutions in order to protect citizens and communities, and deliver on development that is consistent with the peoples' aspirations.
2. African oil producing countries should conduct cost-benefit analysis as a pre-condition for further exploration.
3. African countries should minimize their dependency on fossil fuel by exploring and adopting alternative renewable energy sources.
4. African governments should take democratic measures to end conflicts and land-grabbing especially those related to oil, gas and mining.
5. Transparency and accountability in the relationship between governments and citizens, including communities.

6. An end to impunity in all its forms and manifestations by oil companies and governments.
7. The establishment of environmental tribunals by governments to deal with environmental aberrations.
8. Citizen empowerment, full disclosure and adequate community consultation and participation in decision-making processes.
9. The Nigerian government should implement with immediate effect the UNEP report on the assessment of Ogoniland.

Conclusion

We reiterate the mandate of Oilwatch that sustainable fossil fuel extraction is impossible to implement and call for **LEAVING *THE OIL IN THE SOIL***.

We commit to work together to strengthen the capacity of communities and socially marginalized groups in oil producing countries to ensure our demands are met.

Participating Countries:

Congo
Ghana
Liberia
Mozambique
Nigeria
Uganda
South Sudan
Sudan
Tanzania
Togo
South Africa

APPENDIX 2.0

ATTENDANCE LIST

Abdulai Darimani	Third World Network-Africa	adarimani@yahoo.com
Afoke Ohwojeheri	ERA- Nigeria	afoke@eraction.org
Akpo D. Brain	Development Inst.	dakalopo@thedevin.org
Akpobari Celestine	Ogoni Solidarity Forum	ogoniadvancement@yahoo.com
Alagao Morris	ERA- Nigeria	alagoa@eraction.org
Dr. Khalid M. Riak	Dar Petroleum- South Sudan	khalidriak@yahoo.co.uk
Dr. Satti	ITTAS consultancy	sattiabdul@gmail.com
Eric Asamoah	Ghana Red Cross	mamponghe@yahoo.com
George Awudi	FOE- Ghana	geobrigkwa@yahoo.com
H. Agyeman	CDC Ghana	cdcgh@yahoo.com
Hannah Sekyi	Accra Daily Mail	Hannahsekyi@yahoo.com
Heriyabu	LEAT- TAMAMA	info@leattz.org/heriyabu23@gmail.com
Jonathan W. Yiah	SDI- Liberia	managementteam@sdiliberia.org
Ken Kinney	The Development Inst.	kkinney@thedevin.org
Ken Sachey	GNA	kensac200@yahoo.com
Kentebe Ebiaridor	Oilwatch Africa	Kentebe@eraction.org
Klutsey Jonathan	Oilwatch Ghana	oilwatchghana@gmail.com
Kojo Hayford	TV3 Net work	Kh.hayford@gmail.com
Kpondzo Kwami Dodzi	FOE- Togo	kwadodzi@yahoo.fr
L. Acheapong	SSF/ Oilwatch	director@ssfghana.org
Mercy Hedezone	Insight	Akosuamercy206@yahoo.cokm
Mohammed Amin Adams	IBIS	Amin@ibiswesafrika.com
Mohammed Suleman	Public agenda	sulemanm720@yahoo.com
Muramuzi Frank	NAPE- Uganda	nape@nape.or.ug
Nana Adam	GA.C.F.C/FWG	Nanaeduafo@gmail.com
Nana Ama Yirrah	Colandef	colandef@gmail.com
Nkwaha Chidinma	DSC	cua-n@yahoo.com
Nnimmo Bassey	Oilwatch/ ERA	nnimmo@eraction.org
Noble Wadzah	Oilwatch Ghana	oilwatchghana@gmail.com
Nwadishi Faith	PWYP/KIF Nigeria	nwadishifaith2007@gmail.com
Richstex Amarfo	CSO Alliance/ Fisheries Agenda	amarfio20019@yahoo.co.uk
Samuel Mondlane	FOE Mozambique	mondlane06@gmail.com

Sayah Agbey	SNV- Ghana	nagbey@snvworld.org
Siziwe Khanyile	Ground work	siziwe@groundwork.org
Toyin Akinoshi	Africa Oil & Gas report	Toyin.Akinosho@africaoilgasreport.com
V. Antwidanso	LECIA univercityGh	vladanso@yahoo.com
Yaw Dankwa	CDC Ghana	cdcgh@yahoo.com
Amy Samuel		cua-n@yahoo.com

APPENDIX 3.0

PAPERS PRESENTED

- ***Oil Over Africa: Growth in Poverty:*** by Nnimmo Bassey
- ***Africa, the Energy Hot House:*** by Toyin Akinosho
- ***Emerging Fields and Fragile Ecosystems in Africa:*** by Frank Muramazi,
- ***The Oil Enclave, the case of Nigeria:*** Faith Nwadishi
- ***Oil, Ownership and Conflicts - the case of the Sudan,*** by Prof. Asim el Moghraby, Emeritus Professor of Ecology.
- ***Ghana Oil Policy*** by Mohammed Amin Adams
- ***Pipe dreams and Pipelines, where did WAGP go?*** By Noble Wadzah, Oilwatch Ghana
- ***Coal Sweat; the high cost of energy in South Africa:*** Siziwe Khanyile
- ***The Economic Costs of Oil; Challenges to Ghanaian Fisheries,*** By Richster Amauh
- ***The Shut Pipelines of South Sudan*** by Dr. Khalid, South Sudan.
- ***“What the scientist saw” UNEP and Ogoni*** by Celestine Akpobari, Ogoni Solidarity Forum, Nigeria.
- ***Oil of Discontent - Resources and Instability in West Africa*** by Darimani Abdulai, TWN, Ghana.
- ***Gas Flaring, Health and Energy Poverty*** by Alagoa Morris
- ***Resource Extraction and Land Grabs*** by Lillian Bruce

APPENDIX 4.0

NEWS REPORTS

1. NGO calls for non-fossil energy production in Africa
<http://ghananewsagency.org/details/Social/NGO-calls-for-non-fossil-energy-production-in-Africa/?ci=4&ai=43682>.
2. News (May 18th, 2012)
Leave the crude oil in the soil --African governments told
3. Oil exploration project worry African leaders <http://www.allvoices.com/contributed-news/12209116-oil-exploration-projects-worry-african-leaders>