



DECEMBER 2016 EDITION



**GREETINGS!**  
**WELCOME TO THIS EDITION OF OILWATCH**  
**NEWSLETTER PUBLISHED**  
**BY OILWATCH AFRICA.**

Oilwatch Africa newsletters are packaged to share information about activities of our member groups, impacted communities as well as other fossil fuels news bits. As usual, we bring you news from member groups and from across Africa.

Welcome to the December edition of our Oilwatch Africa Newsletter. In this edition we bring you reports from the just concluded COP22 that held in Marrakech, Morocco, where Oilwatch Africa was in full participation to denounce the Petrol-Coated Paris Agreement and give Africans the assurance that despite the lack of action at COP22 in Marrakech hope lies in people power.

Also in this issue we bring you reports from Nigeria's Niger Delta, where the women of the region made demands for the speedy commencement of the clean-up exercise in Ogoniland. There are reports from Groundwork South Africa (Mining, Coal-Burning and Human Rights) and NAPE Uganda (Oil discovery in Uganda the biggest threat to IPGS in the Albertine rift landscape).

We will always like to hear from you; please do send us your reports, articles and stories to [info@oilwatch.org](mailto:info@oilwatch.org) and [nape@nape.org](mailto:nape@nape.org)

Thank you.

Together we can #keepitintheground

## OILWATCH AFRICA AT COP22

COP22 took place in Marrakech, Morocco from 7-18 November 2016. It held with the widely signed Paris Agreement as a backdrop. Another factor that influenced the atmosphere of the COP was the election of a climate denier as the next president of the USA just as the COP was beginning.

Oilwatch Africa (OWA) participated in civil society spaces in Morocco before and during COP22. We had members of OWA from Cote d'Ivoire (Ange Baimey), Nigeria (Nnimmo Bassey), Mozambique (Samuel Mondale), Togo (Kwami Kpondzo) and Uganda (Geoffrey Kamese) in attendance.

### Pre-COP events

OWA, represented by Nnimmo and Kwami participated in conference hosted by ATTAC Morocco at the town of Safi, 04-06 November 2016. During the event, we went on a pollution tour/field trip to the industrial areas of Safi. In particular, we visited locations where polluted effluent from a phosphate factory was simply pumped into the ocean – quite like what we witnessed at Kpeme, Togo during our AGM in 2015.

The conference was a pointed rebuttal to COP22 as most of the participants did not see the COP as a serious space for solving the climate crisis. Issues examined at the conference included:

- The climate crisis, the Ecological crisis and inequalities
- The dominance of multinationals and the financial markets over the debate
- Fighting Climate Change - Their Choices and Ours
- Reflections on Experiences of Struggle
- Thinking about alternatives

During the event we made interventions on “The role of Multinationals in the ecological and climate crises” and also promoted Oilwatch's Annex Zero proposal and the campaign “leave the oil in the soil”.



### **Oilwatch Side Event at COP, autonomous space**

The Oilwatch side event held at Amphitheatre 4 of the University Cadi Ayad in Marrakech on 14th November 2016 from 4:30-6:30pm. The topic was Annex Zero and was an occasion for us to once again promote our call for the creation of Annex Zero sub-nations, nations, communities and territories. The panel was moderated by Nnimmo and speakers included Kwami, Ivonne Ramos (of Oilwatch Latin America) and Alberto of Indigenous Environmental Network.

Kwami kicked off by reporting on activities of Oilwatch in Africa and around the world. This was followed by a presentation on the struggles in Latin America by Ivonne Ramos and an indigenous woman from that region.

Alberto spoke on the systemic exploitation of the earth, the class issue and a regime of generally reckless exploitation. He gave a report on the struggles at Standing Rock in the USA and called for the decolonising of our minds so that we see the urgency of our struggles. Who do we want to be? The spiritual

perspective.

We have to respect the Earth and obey natural laws. He was grateful for the solidarity widely given to their struggle and stated that "We are not environmentalists. We are the protectors of the sacred, of Mother Earth. We have no money, no guns, no TNCs. But we have the power of the spirits. We have the relationship with each other. The forces binding us in the cosmos...the trees...assure us of victory."

Nnimmo made a detailed presentation of the annex Zero position paper of Oilwatch. One key point was that the COP is highly colonial and bypasses/ignores the people to elevate conversations between artificial and sometimes illegitimate States.

### **Other Actions and Side events, green zone**

Oilwatch was visible in a number of side events organised by other organisations and networks. At those meetings, our positions were presented either as speakers from the platforms or while making comments from the floor.

Such side events include one titled “A Fair Way to Keep it in the Ground” co-hosted by Stockholm Environmental Institute and Oil Change international. An important highpoint was a meeting on 15th November 2016 that we had with indigenous women from Latin America where the need for exchange of visits and strategies/knowledge were stressed.

We also took part in an action wherein a letter demanding that fossils should be kept in the ground was presented to the UNFCCC secretariat.

We also spent a lot of time with African trade unionists, engaging them on the politics of the COPs as well as getting them to see the urgent need for labour to be fully engaged in climate justice actions. They were very receptive and we will continue on that path with a view to building solid partnerships with trade unions in the course of our campaigns.

The COP continues to present itself as a space that is not engineered to take real climate action. This particular COP was expected to lay out the pathway for actions including an increase in ambition by the nations. What we saw instead was another session of procrastination by world leaders. The Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) generated from the Paris Agreement, rather than pointing at a scenario that would keep temperature increase within the limits of 1.5-2 degrees Celsius is actually pointing towards 3 degrees global temperature increase above preindustrial levels. However, the COPs still provide excellent spaces for mobilisations, networking and campaigns against the expansion of fossil fuels extraction in the world.



## STATEMENT OILWATCH DENOUNCES THE PETROL-COATED PARIS AGREEMENT

It is now accepted that climate change is a major crisis that can turn catastrophic for the planet if real actions to avert it continue to be avoided. This crisis can only be effectively dealt with by tackling the root causes. The burning of fossil fuels by humans for energy is the primary cause. Since the beginning of the industrial revolution up to 80 percent of atmospheric capacity to absorb carbon emissions has been taken up by industrialised countries. The reality is that at least 80 percent of currently known fossil fuels must be left unburned to avoid catastrophic global warming and to avoid local destruction where fossil fuels are being extracted. With these known facts, it would be expected that the Conference of Parties (COP) of the UNFCCC would focus on moving the planet from the pathway to catastrophic temperature rise. What has been seen, however, as exemplified by the Paris Agreement, is a clear denial of the fact that this crisis is rooted in the blind fixation on petroleum-dependent civilisation. Read more : <http://oilwatchafrica.org/content/oilwatch-denounces-the-petrol-coated-paris-agreement/>





## STILL HOPEFUL DESPITE LACK OF ACTION AT COP22 IN MARRAKECH

By Nnimmo Bassey

The 22nd Conference of Parties (COP22) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change doubled as the first meeting of Parties to the Paris Agreement agreed to at COP21 in 2015. Optimists in Marrakech thought that with so much global enthusiasm over the Paris Agreement, this was to be a conference of actions and that the world would, at last, see some concrete global actions to tackle global warming.

At the end, there were only a few reasons for cautious optimism.

First, the [actions under the Paris Agreement](#) will be taken only after 2020, but if ambitious actions are not taken before then, 2020 may be too late. Second, the key action element in the Paris Agreement is what is known as Nationally Determined Contributions, or NDCs. As the name implies, these are collections of the means or pledges made by nations about steps they would take to cut emissions to ensure the planet doesn't experience catastrophic global temperature increase by the close of the century.

The [Paris Agreement set 1.5 degrees Celsius to well-below 2 degrees Celsius](#) increase as a target. This was one of the attractions that the Paris Agreement held for many. By the time countries' pledges were collated, it became known that these contributions would see the world warming by over 3 degrees Celsius by the end of this Century—a clearly catastrophic prospect for small island states, Africa, and other vulnerable areas.

One red flag that came from the COP is the divergent interpretation of the means of implementation of key aspects of the Paris Agreement:

Developing nations hold that industrialized nations should provide finance and technology for adaptation measures and for transformation of energy systems based on the equity principle of common but differentiated responsibilities. Read more <https://www.greengrants.org/2016/11/21/still-hopeful-despite-marrakech-cop22/>

# NIGER DELTA WOMEN DECLARATION ON THE CLEAN- UP OF OGONILAND WOMEN UNITE FOR THE CLEAN UP OF THE ENVIRONMENT!

Women from the Niger Delta communities in Akwa Ibom, Bayelsa, Cross river, Delta, Edo and Rivers states met on November 22 and 23, 2016 to debate and discuss the implementation of the UNEP report and the clean up process in Ogoniland and other Niger Delta communities. The women came to the meeting with samples of polluted fishing nets, polluted water and congealed crude oil from their communities. It was a safe space for women to learn, exchange and debate the political and practical dimensions of the clean up in Ogoniland and to act as a collective towards the implementation of the emergency measures recommended in the UNEP report. They also strategized on ways to ensure adequate and effective representation of women in the clean up processes.

The strategy meeting deliberated extensively on the impact of the oil extractive activities on women in the Niger Delta and the recent move and efforts of the Federal Government as regards the implementation of the UNEP report and subsequent clean up of Ogoniland.

## Declaration

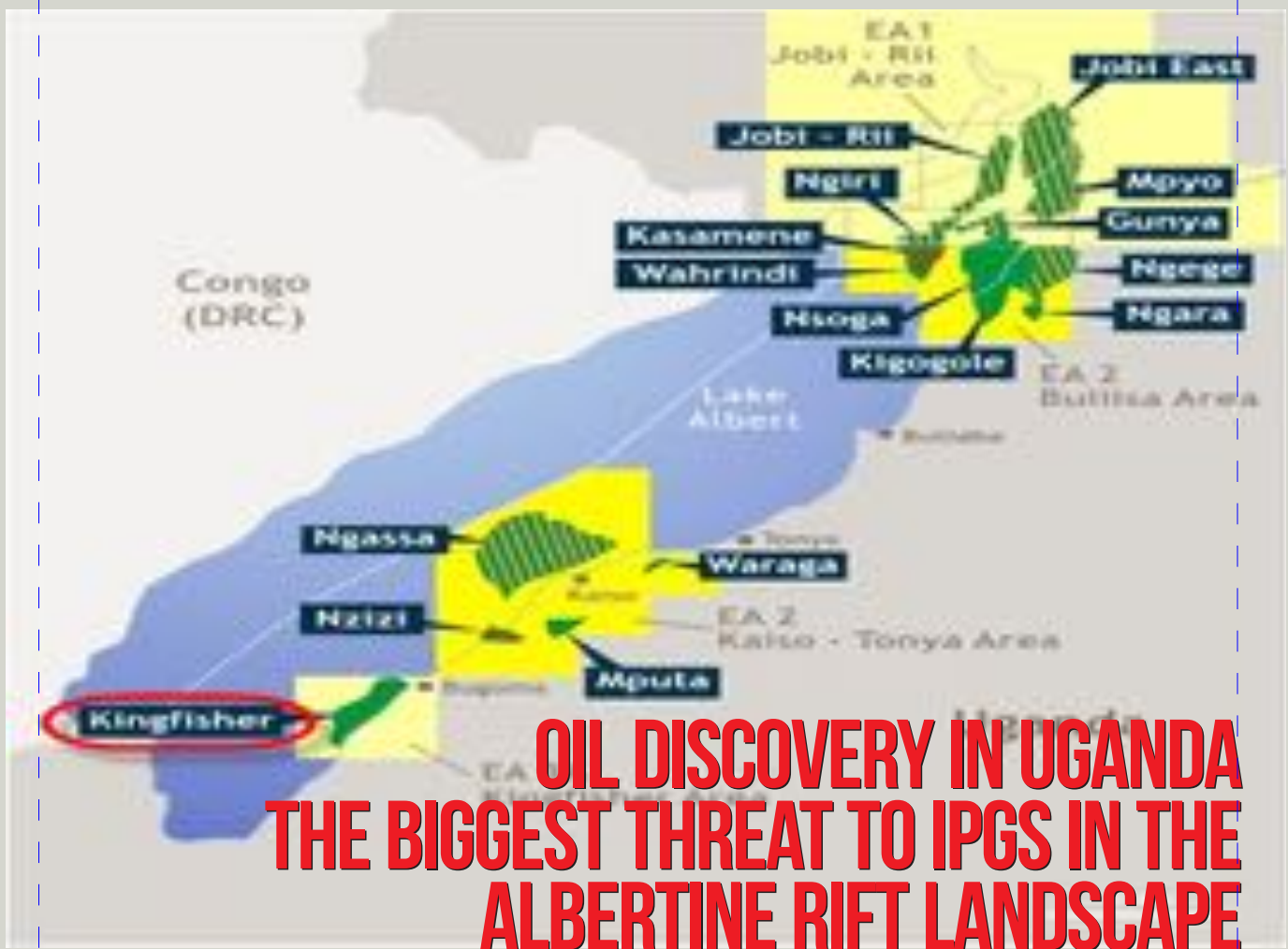
We the women from diverse Niger Delta communities sharing our stories and experiences, having witnessed the impacts in our communities strategizing together on the way forward for the cleanup of the Niger Delta environment declare as follows: Read more:

<http://www.homef.org/article/niger-delta-women-declaration-clean-ogoniland>

# CENTRE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL RIGHTS, GROUNDWORK AND OTHERS. PARTNERS ON MINING, COAL-BURNING AND HUMAN RIGHTS

Cape Town and Pietermaritzburg, 5 October 2016 - Poorly-regulated mining and coal-fired power generation in South Africa are responsible for air and water pollution, destruction of arable land, and biodiversity loss, violating the human rights of many communities, including their rights to life, health, water, food, culture and a healthy environment. Despite the human rights harms of mining and of coal-burning, the South African government is not enforcing the relevant environmental standards, and allows excessive pollution to continue. Government has also allowed the mining industry to be one of the least transparent industries in SA.

This dire situation has increased public opposition to mining projects. Tragically, the response has been a pattern of harassment and violence against opponents exercising their human rights to freedom of expression and assembly. In March 2016, a culture of intimidation and violence around a proposed mine in the Eastern Cape led to the assassination of Sikhosiphi "Bazooka" Rhadebe, a leader of the opposition to the proposed mineral-sands mine near his community. To date, no one has been brought to justice for this crime. Read More: <http://www.groundwork.org.za/archives/2016/news%2020161005%20-%20MINING,%20COAL-BURNING%20AND%20HUMAN%20RIGHTS.php>



# OIL DISCOVERY IN UGANDA THE BIGGEST THREAT TO IPGS IN THE ALBERTINE RIFT LANDSCAPE

by Bwengye Rajab Yusuf (Oil Watch Uganda)

IPGS refer to "International Public Goods" and majorly, these are "Water Supply, Food security, climate resilience and biodiversity). These world over are termed as the key goods for human survival and therefore are a critical success factor for development of any country across the globe. In Uganda just like in other African countries that have not escaped the Oil curse, these IPGs might never be realized amidst a looming and steadily developing Oil and Gas Sector. Active Oil extraction is currently concentrated in and around the Rift's biggest fresh water lake "Albert" and the concentration of oil wells around this lake are a pointer that, it risks future extinction through future oil spills, drawing millions of litres of water to run machines in Oil processing facilities, cool down heated oil pipelines and meet the water requirements in other Oil related infrastructure developments. What strikes you most on Lake Albert is the fact that the most active oil production field "Kingfisher Oil Pad" is located deep into Lake Albert Waters yet environmental laws of the country provide for a minimum of 10 meters buffer zone from any lake or riverine ecosystem.

It looks like there is already a hatched plan to wreck disaster on the above lake as most of the Oil wells punctuated in and around this lake have actually been tagged with names that refer to either the fish or wildlife species or sacred natural sites indigenous to this section of the rift valley for instance (waraga oil wells (Royal burial grounds for Waraga a former Bunyoro Kingdom king) , Ngassa (Fish specie indigenous to Lake Albert), Nsonga (Sacred Natural site a rich fish breeding site), Kasemene (fish specie in lake Albert), Mputa (Lake Albert fish specie, Gunya (Albert Nile Crocodile), Ngiri ( Wathogs /wildpigs of Murchison falls NP, etc, etc

Therefore, given the fact that the oil discovery is in a fragile belt that hosts 39% of Africa's Mammal species, 51% of Africa's bird species and 19% of Africa's amphibian species, 70% of Uganda's major protected areas including 7 out of 10 National parks, 8 out of 15 forests, 12 wildlife reserves, 13 wildlife sanctuaries and 5 wildlife community areas, its most likely that IPGS in this landscape will stand little chance in this era of Dirty energy Extraction.

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