



AUGUST 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.

This edition has reports from Oilwatch Ghana: Stop the Coal Dream. There is also a report that the Ghanaian parliament has passed a new law to regulate the petroleum sector. From Oilwatch South Africa we share a Friends of the Earth International's report, Fueling the Fire: New coal Technologies Spell Disaster for Climate. We also have an article by Bwengye Yusuf of Oilwatch Africa Secretariat – Uganda titled Oil Fueling War and Environmental Destruction in Southern Sudan and the World at Large,

In addition, we bring you reports of hope for the Ogoni people and the Niger Delta as the Nigerian President Muhammadu Buhari approves the Implementation of UNEP report and also named the team of Ogoni clean-up Council and Board of Trustees. We are happy to note that Oilwatch Africa's Chair, Nnimmo Bassey, is part of the BoT. We also have news of Oilwatch Africa's upcoming events.

We will always like to hear from you. Send us your reports, articles and stories, photos and news.

Together we can #keepitintheground

OIL FUELING WAR AND ENVIRONMENTAL DESTRUCTION IN SOUTHERN SUDAN AND THE WORLD AT LARGE BY BWENGYE R. YUSUF-OIL WATCH AFRICA SECRETARIAT-UGANDA

The World is at a Loss especially in the Oil rich Unity and Upper Nile States of Southern Sudan. Oil has not been the major source of conflict in Africa's Youngest Independent nation but is also steadily registering enormous foot prints on the countries ecosystems.

The concern is not only felt in Southern Sudan but also in the entire Nile Valley. The East African regional block made up of Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Rwanda, Burundi was very quick to admit Southern Sudan because they are aware of the strategic importance of this Nation. Currently, the heat of the conflict is being felt by Uganda, Kenya, and Ethiopia who are mainly hosting most of the south Sudan refugees. Unless the oil wells dry up in this young nation, you can be sure that the conflict will continue to destabilize the developments in the East African regional block. Many businesses have already been lost, people killed, regional forces attached and this can only continue to rise.

Back at home, the Oil and gas industry is just in shambles characterized by a weak oil regime and regulatory framework, a state of lawlessness punctuated by the worst practices of exploiting the oil and gas resource. Spills and poor chemicals and petroleum waste disposal have become a daily occurrence in the Upper Nile and unity states.

The environment has long been a factor in violent conflict in South Sudan, especially with respect to control over oil and with oil out of the equation, perhaps, we wouldn't have witnessed years of pulling ropes between North and South Sudan.



The first oil was discovered in 1999, and by 2007, hydrocarbons accounted for over 95 percent of Sudan's income. South Sudan became independent in 2011 after years of war with the Sudanese government in Khartoum, intensified by local conflicts over access to oil-rich border areas majorly the Upper Nile and Unity states. And with the fighting taking center stage, South Sudanese communities have also been ringing the alarm bell about pollution and health hazards caused by the oil industry

As seen in the above oil spill, South Sudan would perhaps be better off without dirty energy fossils that are meant to only accelerate War, hunger, starvation and other climate change disasters.

In 2007, the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) undertook a nationwide [Post-Conflict Environmental Assessment](#) in Sudan, which outlined the breadth of environmental problems, including desertification, mining, population displacement, deforestation, waste management and poor governance. Though Sudan's oil industry was relatively

small at the time, UNEP issued a warning on the implications of its growth and the conflict potential of pollution specifically. "Recent tensions in north-south border regions have highlighted several environmental issues that constitute potential flashpoints for renewed conflict," the authors wrote, "including the environmental impacts of the oil industry and the management of the country's water resources." Indeed all these have become a reality today.

Again, a [2014 report by the Dutch NGO Cordaid](#) found there are strong indications that toxic wastewater, drilling muds, oils spills, and chemicals have seriously polluted the environment of Communities living near oil fields. The communities flagged concerns over health problems such as infertility, miscarriages, and eye and skin problems. According to medical staff in some of these oil-rich areas, "communities are not made fully aware of hazards associated with the production of oil."

The report further faults the South Sudan government as unable, and perhaps unwilling, to hold oil companies accountable or provide the security and capacity to repair environmental hotspots.

It is very important for the South Sudanese government and other Oil producing countries across the globe to note that severe damage to ecosystems that communities depend on for their basic needs can have socioeffects that echo for years. Moreover, environmental pollution and subsequent degradation can further increase local grievances, fuel conflicts, accelerate moral de generation, climate change disasters as noted in a November 2015 [report by the Small Arms Survey](#).

South Sudan is not alone. Uganda; Nigeria, Angola, Libya, Garbon, Central African republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Countries of South America in the Greater Amazon, the Middle East countries of Iraq, Iran, Kuwait, etc have all tested consequences of an OIL CURSE. Therefore, a WORLD FULL OF FOSSILS is a WORLD AT LOSS. Let's all pull together to advocate for the KEEEP OIL IN THE SOIL. Let's all say YES TO LIFE, NO TO EXTRACTIVES. Bwengye Rajab Yusuf-Oil Watch Africa Network



STOP THE COAL DREAM

If all goes well as planned by the proponents , Ghana will witness the first coal fired electricity plant in the next three years , to be sited at Ekumfi Aboano, a fishing community in the Western Region, 85 kilometers from Accra. The government has secured a \$1.5billion dollar development loan agreement with China through Shenzhen Energy, a corporation largely owned by the Chinese government to develop the project.

The coal plant is designed to trigger several other infrastructure projects, including a new port facility. The coal, the raw materials, will be imported from Colombia and South Africa.

1. Agreement

We are united in our stance that, energy underpins any form of human development and progress in general and particularly for Ghana, raising no doubt, about the need for Ghana to take bold steps in addressing the vicious cycle of its energy poverty . Read more:

<http://oilwatchafrica.org/content/oilwatch-ghana-civil-society-groups-demand-stop-the-coal-dream/>



FUELLING THE FIRE: NEW COAL TECHNOLOGIES SPELL DISASTER FOR CLIMATE

, 25 July 2016 – A new report by Friends of the Earth International demonstrates how Underground Coal Gasification (UCG) and Coal Chemical technologies threaten to destabilise the earth's climate and irreversibly damage local environments.

The report, launched today, comes in the wake of UCG being banned in Queensland, Australia. There is interest in and development of UCG in Europe, Russia, Canada, the US, China and India. It is currently under moratorium in Scotland.

The report includes case studies from Australia, China, South Africa, the UK and the US.

The [report draws together evidence of UCG test projects over the last three decades and highlights how destructive UCG and Coal Chemicals are:](#)

Globally, Underground Coal Gasification could dramatically fuel climate change by potentially creating an extra 1650 billion tonnes of CO₂-four times the total amount that can be emitted if the world is to avoid catastrophic climate change.

Irreversible environmental damage has been done by Linc Energy's recent Underground Coal Gasification experiment in Queensland, Australia, prompting the Queensland government to ban the technology.. Read

more : <http://www.groundwork.org.za/archives/2016/news%2020160725.php>

OGONILAND CLEANUP: BUHARI APPROVES IMPLEMENTATION OF UNEP REPORT

By [Our Reporter - August 1, 2016](#)

AS A WAY of matching promise with action on implementation of United Nations Environment Programme, UNEP, report, President Muhammadu Buhari has approved the composition of the Governing Council and Board of Trustees, key elements of the governance structure required for the cleanup of Ogoniland. A press statement signed by the permanent secretary, Federal Ministry of Environment, Dr. Bukar Hassan, and made available to Nigerian Pilot in Abuja at the weekend, quoted the Minister of Environment, Amina Mohammed, as saying that President Buhari had approve the inauguration of a 13-person Governing Council and a 10-person Board of Trustees, BOT. Read more : <http://nigerianpilot.com/ogoniland-cleanup-buhari-approves-implementation-unep-report/>

PROSPECTS FOR SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA AS OIL, GAS PROJECTS SET TO COME ON STREAM BY 2025

by Isaac Anyaogu Wednesday 3rd
August 2016

About 43 crude oil and natural gas projects set to come on stream in Sub-Saharan Africa by 2025, with a potential to adding 1.1 million barrels of oil per day (bpd) to global crude production, and 7.7 billion cubic feet per day to global gas production, raising hopes the regions energy gap will narrow. According to a published research by GlobalData, a leading provider of data and analysis for consumer, technology and healthcare business, 31 of these projects are crude based while 12 are from natural gas –

Read more here: BusinessDay, West Africa Energy- Oil /Gas/Energy, Wednesday 3rd August 2016, Page 3

<http://nigerianewsstand.com/prospects-for-sub-saharan-africa-as-oil-gas-projects-set-to-come-on-stream-by-2025/>

BUHARI NAMES GOVERNING COUNCIL, BOARD OF TRUSTEES FOR OGOINI CLEAN-UP – FULL LIST

[August 5, 2016 by Cletus Ukpung](#)

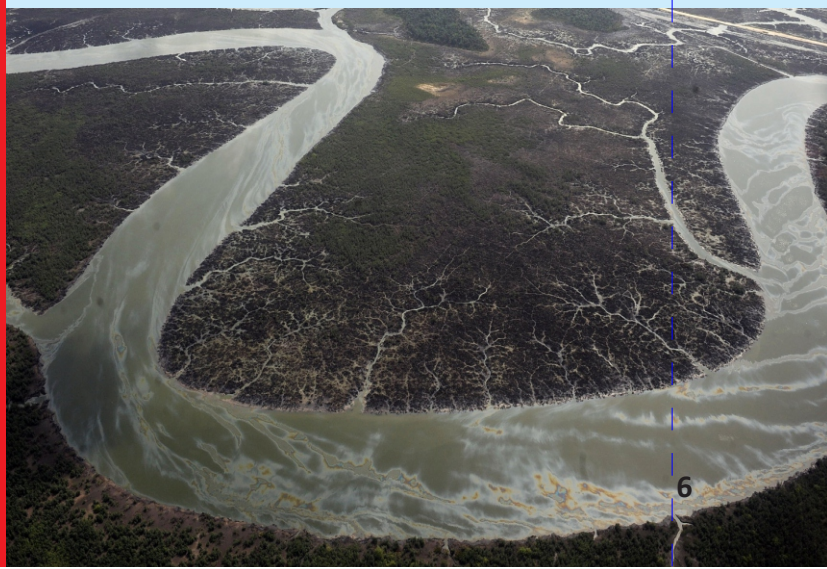
President Muhammadu Buhari has appointed a former commissioner in Lagos State, Wale Edun, as Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Ogoni clean-up project.

Nnimmo Bassey, Director, Health of Mother Earth Foundation (HOMEF), is part of the 12-member Ogoni clean-up Board of Trustees. He was picked to represent non-governmental organisations on the BoT. The 12-member BoT was inaugurated last Thursday by Mr. President, alongside a 13-member Governing Council for the clean-up.

Mr. Edun was Commissioner for Finance in Lagos when the leader of the All Progressives Congress, Bola Tinubu, was governor of the state. Read more :

<http://www.premiumtimesng.com/news/top-news/208098-buhari-names-governing-council-board-trustees-ogoni-clean-full-list.html>

http://www.nbcnews.com/id/44015602/ns/world_news-world_environment/t/billion-clean-up-tab-nigeria-oil-mess-un-says/#.V6W2TmXm9uY





PARLIAMENT PASSES BILL ON OIL SECTOR REGULATION

August 5, 2016 by [oilgas in News in Brief](#)

Parliament on Thursday, August 4, 2016, passed the Petroleum Production and Exploration Bill. The Bill is among other things expected to regulate activities within the country's oil and gas sector and ensure value for money.

Until the passage of the E&P Bill, the country's oil sector was regulated by the PNDC Law 84 which some industry watchers cited as having some shortfalls which made it difficult to operate in conformity with modern terms of the petroleum industry. Read more: <http://www.reportingoilandgas.org/parliament-passes-bill-on-oil-sector-regulation/>

UPCOMING EVENTS-

Oilwatch General Assembly/20th Anniversary comes up on the 3rd – 7th Sept 2016 with the theme: "Impacts of fossil fuels over land and food sovereignty in Africa" at Sanctum Hotel, Entebbe Road, Uganda.



Contact us:

<http://www.oilwatchafrica.org>

[Join our mailing list by sending a mail to info@oilwatch.org](mailto:info@oilwatch.org)
[/napeuganda@yahoo.com](mailto:napeuganda@yahoo.com)/nape@nape.org

Oilwatch Africa Secretariat
National Association of professional Environmentalists (NAPE-Oil
Watch Uganda

P.O.BOX 29909, Kampala-Uganda
Zana -Entebbe Road, Plot No. 7138 Kampala

Website: www.nape.or.ug

Tel: +256414530181 Skype address: napeuganda