

JUSTICE DELAYED

10 Years of NBIM
Engaging Shell



Oct.
2023

Background

The Norwegian Oil Fund (NBIM) is one of the world's largest funds. Shell Plc is currently its seventh largest holding and NBIM is the oil company's top three shareholder (August 2022). NBIM owns 60,710,213,115 NOK of Shell shares. That's 11,000 NOK of shares for every Norwegian.

What has Norway's Oil Fund achieved with Shell?

In 2013, Norway's Ethics Council found that Shell was "responsible for serious environmental damage in the Niger Delta, with extensive oil spills causing "huge and long-lasting damage to agricultural areas, forest areas, wetlands, fresh water and mangroves", with very serious consequences for vulnerable people living there.

The Ministry of Finance then decided to ask NBIM to engage Shell to sort out these issues for five to ten years.

Those ten years are now up.

NBIM claims significant successes from its talks with Shell. Saying that Shell has reduced spills from its pipelines, improved equipment maintenance and protection, collaborated better with local communities and cleaned up more affected areas.

But this does not reflect reality on the ground



30 Nigerian NGOs - representing women, youth, indigenous people and others - wrote in May to NBIM's CEO, Nicolai Tangen, saying that:

“ While claiming to engage to change Shell, Norway's Oil Fund has in fact long provided powerful financial and moral support for the company. Not much has been achieved with the Ogoni clean-up and it seems that you and your staff are at risk of being misled by Shell and its representatives.

The Nigerian groups invited NBIM staff to go to the Niger Delta to undertake a fact-finding mission to see the true state of affairs.

This resource compiles the past decade of engagement with Shell, which was prompted by directives from the Ministry of Finance. It emphasises Shell's shortcomings in effectively carrying out a strategy to prevent, address, and rectify adverse effects, and explores the implications of this for the Niger Delta's residents.

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- ➔ Letter: Peoples AGM Platform to Norway's Oil Fund
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Profiles: The Nigerian Delegation



Rev. David Ugolor

**Executive Director, Africa Network for Environment and Economic Justice (ANEEJ)
Convener, Peoples AGM Platform**

Rev. David Ugolor, the Executive Director of the Africa Network for Environment and Economic Justice (ANEEJ), is an anti-corruption advocate with over two decades of experience. He champions good governance and anti-corruption efforts in Nigeria through research, policy dialogues, education, and advocacy.

Notably, he was the first National Coordinator of the Publish What You Pay (PWYP) Campaign in Nigeria, rallying over 300 NGOs and grassroots representatives for transparency in the Oil and Gas Industry.

David's global impact includes collaborations on asset recovery at United Nations conferences, and he chairs the Common African Position on Asset Recovery (CAPAR) CSO Network and currently the Vice Chair of UNCAC Coalition. Also the convener of the People's AGM Platform which provides space for Nigerian NGOs and Niger Delta CSOs to carry out advocacy and campaign on Oil and Gas issues and monitoring the activities of Multinational Oil Companies.



Affiah Foh Bridget

Executive Director, Ideal Women Advancement Initiative

Affiah Foh Bridget is a peace-building and conflict prevention practitioner in Nigeria's Niger Delta region, with a background in education and extensive training in peace and security.

As the executive director of Ideal Women Advancement Initiative, she has devoted 17 years to empowering women in oil-bearing communities. Bridget's work spans from combating pollution, gas flaring, and oil spillage to resolving conflicts between farmers and herders, funded by USAID's "Sharing the Green Grass" initiative.

She has trained hundreds of women in diverse skills that blend peace-building, commerce, and environmental education, fostering strong women's networks. Her dedication extends to public speaking, motivation, and mentoring women's groups, and she actively contributes to the People's AGM platform, focusing on issues affecting women and children impacted by oil exploration in the Niger Delta.

Profiles: The Nigerian Delegation



Celestine AkpoBari Nkabari

Founder, Ogoni Solidarity Forum-Nigeria

Celestine AkpoBari Nkabari, originally from Nigeria's Ogoni community, transitioned from working on a palm oil plantation to becoming an environmental activist.

He initially led workers' unions in a fight against corruption and oppressive management at Risonpalm LTD and inspired by Ken Saro Wiwa, he founded the Ogoni Solidarity Forum-Nigeria, championing nonviolent struggle and the Ogoni Bill of Rights.

His notable campaigns include mobilising for the UN Environment Program's audit, opposing land grabs in Ogoni and he is a dedicated mobilizer, central to advancing human and environmental rights in Nigeria. His activism has garnered international recognition, with speaking engagements at Amnesty International and UN events.



Goodluck Odua Macaulay

Campaign Officer, Niger Delta Youth Alliance (NIDYA)

Goodluck Odua Macaulay is a graduate of Political Science and Public Administration from the University of Benin, Nigeria. Currently volunteering as a Campaign Officer for the Niger Delta Youth Alliance (NIDYA), a youth-based organisation in Delta State.

Goodluck is dedicated to addressing environmental issues, particularly in combating oil spillage and degradation in the Niger Delta region.

They played a key role in the People's AGM and rally in 2022, advocating for oil companies' investors to witness the environmental damage. In 2023, Goodluck participated in the 2nd Peoples AGM in Abuja, urging international financial institutions to cease financing fossil fuel projects in Nigeria.

Letter: People's AGM Platform to Norway's Oil Fund

C/o: Africa Network for Environment and Economic Justice (ANEEJ)

39, Oyaide Avenue, Off Benoni Road, GRA, Benin City, Edo State, Nigeria.

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16th May 2023.

OPEN Letter from People's AGM Platform, Nigeria to Norwegian Oil Fund

Nicolai Tangen
CEO
Norges Bank Investment Management
Bankplassen 2
P.O. Box 1179 Sentrum
NO-0107 Oslo, Norway

Dear Mr. Tangen,

In January 2012, we and other Nigerian groups, joined by allies from across Africa and around the world, wrote [a letter](#) to the chair of the Norwegian Council on Ethics. It welcomed the Council's plan to investigate oil pollution in the Niger Delta and the impact this may have on the environment and human health.

We noted that it would be unethical for the Norway Fund to continue 'profiting' from its investments in Shell, while Shell is 'profiting' from its continuing negligence regarding the environment and people of the Niger Delta. We encouraged the Council on Ethics to recommend full divestment and exclusion of all holdings of the Norway Government Pension Fund in Royal Dutch Shell, Plc. and its subsidiaries, due to the consistent and severe environmental and social harm caused by Shell's negligent oil and gas operations in the Niger Delta, Nigeria

We also invited the Ethics Council to undertake a fact-finding mission to the Niger Delta.

At that time, the Ethics Council and the Norwegian Pension Fund Global decided to maintain its investments in Shell, while stating that they would engage the company to persuade it to tackle water and air pollution, and to compensate affected communities.

This February, the Fund's new Responsible Investment report presented its 10-year dialogue with Shell about Nigeria as a success story, stating that:

"Shell PLC and its partners in Nigeria have implemented various measures, including maintenance, better protection of wellheads and closer collaboration with local communities. The clean-up of affected areas is progressing, and the backlog has been

significantly reduced. The company is working with the Nigerian authorities to clean up legacy pollution in Ogoniland and is continuing to pay its share of the clean-up costs."

This is absolutely not the reality observed by people living in the Niger Delta, or by reports such as the Independent Monitoring of the Ogoniland Clean-up, released by Stakeholder Democracy Network, as well as the observations made during the people's AGM. The fact is that not much has been achieved with the Ogoni clean-up and it seems that you and your staff are at risk of being misled by Shell and its representatives, and that you do not have the full picture of people's reality on the ground here in Nigeria. A recent investigation by the Nigerian Tribune exposed how in the Niger Delta communities, oil spill is impoverishing residents, devastating the environment, and dislocating cultures.

This is absolutely not the way to make Norway's Fund into "the leading fund in responsible investments and in managing climate risk", in line with the vision your prime minister Jonas Gahr Støre set out 18 months ago at the Glasgow climate summit.

In May 2022, just ahead of Shell's own AGM, the People's AGM Platform was initiated at a meeting in Lagos, Nigeria. It brought together 30 organisations from the Niger Delta and from other regions of Nigeria to discuss Shell's role in Nigeria and on climate change. It concluded "that the operations of Shell and other multinational oil companies, rather than enrich the people of Niger Delta, has become a nightmare for the people as pollution from spills and gas flaring has led to the complete degradation of the environment, destroyed the source of livelihood, and inflicted untold pain and hardship on the people.

We therefore call on you to respond urgently to undertake a fact-finding mission to the Niger Delta in collaboration with civil society organisations, to ascertain the true state of affairs.

We encourage the Council on Ethics to recommend full divestment and exclusion of all holdings of the Norway Government Pension Fund in Royal Dutch Shell, Plc. and its subsidiaries.

We equally call on you to re-direct significant investment to support the development of new technology that will advance a just transition from fossil fuels to renewable energy sources.

We want the Norwegian Pension Fund to follow the example of the Church of England who has made a commitment to vote against Shell's Chair and Directors and the transition plan update during the company's 2023 annual general meeting.

As a top 3 investor in Shell, the Norwegian Fund bears a weighty responsibility for what Shell has done in the Niger Delta, and for its broader role in accelerating climate change. And you have continued profiting handsomely from Shell - we estimate that the Norwegian Oil Fund has made around US\$400 million in dividends from Shell over just the last 12 months.

While claiming to engage to change Shell, Norway's Oil Fund has in fact long provided powerful financial and moral support for the company. By issuing a one-sided account of Shell's actions in your Responsible Investment Report and also by voting for all their directors to be reappointed

last year, and against an independent resolution calling for Shell to set greenhouse gas emission targets in line with the Paris Agreement.

We hope and trust that you will now be prepared to acknowledge that your engagement has failed to change Shell's approach to the Niger Delta. And that you will take real responsibility to use your power on behalf of the communities in the Niger Delta who have long suffered at the hands of Shell, Eni, Chevron and other companies, and also on behalf of the billions of people across the world who are suffering the impacts of climate change, such as those in Nigeria and in Pakistan who suffered from unprecedented floods last year.

It is especially urgent to learn the right lessons from the past, and to ensure that losses and damages are adequately dealt with now that oil companies are eyeing up investment opportunities in the north of Nigeria, as well as similar projects across Africa and around the world.

Communities in the Niger Delta and other parts of Nigeria do not have 10 more years to wait. It is long past time for the world to compensate communities affected by oil and gas extraction, and to embark on a rapid and just transition to a world powered by more sustainable and equitable technologies.

We look forward to your reply.



Rev David Ugolor,
Convener and Executive Director,
Africa Network for Environment and Economic Justice (ANEEJ)

For and on behalf of the following persons and organisations:

1. Rev. Nnimmo Bassey, Executive Director, Health of Mother Earth Foundation
2. Joel Bisina, Leadership Initiative for Transformation and Empowerment (LITE-Africa)
3. Legborsi Saro Pyagbara, Indigenous Centre for Energy and Sustainable Development, ICE-SD
4. Bridget Emem, Kebetkache Women Development and Resource Centre
5. Edem Edem, Green Concern for Development (GREENCODE)
6. Umo Isua-Ikoh, Peace Point Development Foundation
7. Nelson Nnanna Nwafor, Foundation for Environmental Rights, Advocacy & Development (FENRAD Nigeria)

8. Amb. Clinton Ikechukwu Ezeigwe, Christian Fellowship and Care Foundation
9. Tijani Abdulkareem, Socio Economic Research and Development Centre (SERDEC)
10. Abiodun Oyeleye, New Initiative for Social Development (NISD)
11. Tijah Bolton Akpan, Policy Alert
12. Ken Henshaw, We The People
13. AkpoBari Celestine, National Coordinator, Ogoni Solidarity Forum-Nigeria
14. Isreal Orekha, Connected Advocacy
15. Kola Giwa, Action for Community Participation
16. Kentebe Ebieridor, Oilwatch Africa
17. Joseph Ekiye, Stakeholders Democracy Network
18. Bar. Chima Williams, Environmental Rights Action/Friends of the Earth
19. Gbale Joseph, Niger Delta Youth Council
20. Inyingi Irimagha, Gender and Development Action
21. Sheriff Mulade, Executive Director, Center for Peace & Environmental Justice (CEPEJ)
22. Monday Osasah, African Centre for Leadership, Strategy and Development
23. Lukman Adekunle, 21st Century Community Empowerment for Youth and Women Initiative (CEYWI)
24. Comrade Taiwo Otitolaye, National Coordinator Publish What You Pay (PWYP), Nigeria
25. Titus Adebayo, Community Outreach for Development and Welfare Advocacy (CODWA)
26. Eloho Ekoh, New Apostolic Centre for Development (NCD)
27. Bashama Yusuf Dandalin Matasa Initiative for Rapid Development
28. Mohammed Attah, NGO Network
29. Emmanuel Kuza, Community Law Centre
30. Torki Dauseye, Bayelsa NGOs Forum (BANGOF)

Cc

- Johan H. Andresen, Chair, Council of Ethics
- Ida Wolden Bache, Governor of Norges Bank
- Jonas Gahr Støre, Prime Minister,
- Trygve Slagsvold Vedum, Minister of Finance
- Eigil Knutsen, Chair, Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs
- Øystein Børsum, Deputy Governor of Norges Bank with special responsibility for NBIM
- Knut Eiliv Lein, Norwegian Ambassador to Nigeria

- Mahmoud Farahmand, the Conservative Party
- Sveinung Rotevatn, the Left Party
- Lan Marie Berg, the Greens
- Kari Elisabeth Kaski, Socialist Left

Letter: Caroline Dennett



Safety Consultant for Shell 2013-2023

My name is Caroline Dennett and a year ago today I resigned my contract as a safety consultant at Shell, because I could **no longer tolerate your failure** to address the harms you knowingly cause to our planet and to local environments, eco-systems and people, whilst publicly claiming you have green policies and high ambitions for safety.

I worked with you for over 10 years, trying to keep people safe, trying to prevent oil and gas leaks, major incidents and injuries and fatalities.

Your **stated safety ambition** is to “do no harm to people” and “no leaks”, Goal Zero you call it – and it sounds honourable....but you are **completely failing on it**.

You know that continued oil & gas extraction causes extreme harms, to our climate, to our environments and to people.

I wrote to you Sir Andrew, and the Executive Committee on 23rd May last year, with my concerns, and **to date I have received no response**. My letter was a serious professional assessment of safety concerns, which you have ignored.

And so I come here to today, to talk to you about **your process safety record**, particularly your catastrophic record in the Niger Delta, and ask you directly to listen to these concerns, and answer my question.

For anyone not familiar with the **term process safety**, it basically means doing all that you can to keep the hydrocarbons (oil, gas and derivatives) in the pipe, and prevent, leaks, spills, fires, explosions, etc.

You do not need me to tell you that the Niger Delta, and the communities who live there, have been **sacrificed and continue to experience extreme hardships** because of your careless operations. They have no choice but to **drink, eat, and breathe the poisons from your circa 60s years** of oil and gas extraction there.

I have heard you blame **sabotage** from locals for these leaks and spills. How convenient, transferring responsibility.

However, the **results of the process safety culture surveys** I have conducted in your Shell Nigeria operations since 2012, have told a different truth.

A **catalogue of production pressures**, short-cuts, budget restraints, unsafe manpower levels, poor maintenance regimes, including overdue maintenance on safety critical equipment, lack of training and second-class treatment of Contractors who go unpaid for months, unable to feed themselves and their families.

In the last round of process safety culture assessments, across Shell Companies in Nigeria Management were informed in **January last year**, that:

40% of the workforce said you **did not have adequate personnel** to conduct operations safely.

35% said they believed you are **putting production 1st** and process safety 2nd in the pursuit of profits.

35% also said that **corrective maintenance** on safety critical equipment (aka critical repairs) was not done in a timely manner, and a staggering 80% said **spare parts** were not available when needed.

Not surprisingly therefore, 30% said they **didn't trust management** to address process safety issues promptly.

Setting aside the statistics, here are direct concerns expressed by personnel, and shared with management.

“Organizational restructuring has led to **reduced manpower with increased work loads to people**. A system induced, error enforcing condition for **people to attempt to take shortcuts or neglect critical aspects** when executing jobs. **This is a recipe for process safety incidents.**”

“I have heard of **at least two individuals in the organization who have died as a result of overbearing workload** (working through day and night)”

“A lot of work and focus needs to be given to maintenance to **ensure sustenance of equipment integrity** as there are presently **too many broken down or compromised equipment.**”

“**Process safety cannot be assured in a plant with high failure/ high breakdown rate, obsolete equipment, and lack of trainings for staff in the frontline. Not being able to operate a plant as designed effectively **increases our vulnerability and exposure to process safety incidents**”**

And as for sabotage, workers indicate this could be prevented by improved and increased security, and I quote...

Shell can improve on **making our well heads safe and secure**, because there have **been too many sabotage and theft** leading to Loss of Primary Containment” (in layman's language, that's leaks and spills).

So the pollution in the Delta **isn't simply down to sabotage**, is it? It is caused by the **wilful neglect** of your own equipment and assets in pursuit of profits, huge profits.

I have 2 questions, one to investors and one to the CEO, Executive Committee, Board.

To investors here and watching remotely:

Given this catalogue of process safety failures, can you say with your hand on your heart that the funds that you represent, the pension fund members, the savers, the ISA holders, just anyone who's financial assets you manage, want to dabble in what is effectively blood money? do they want their hands stained? Is it time to hold Shell to account and use your power to clean them up to or disengage entirely?

To the CEO, Executive Committee and Board members:

Why do you withhold funding to your own assets, that would enable them to be operated more safely and maintained properly?

Will you now commit the necessary finances and resources to prevent harm to workers and the communities, to prevent extensive leaks and spills the likes of which we have seen in the Niger Delta for decades and continue to see, with loss of life and health, loss of livelihoods, loss of nature and loss of ecosystems?

Engagements with Shell

Communities in the Niger Delta have been appealing for justice for decades. In 2012 various citizens groups took their call to the Chair of Norway's Ethics Council. Noting in a letter that:

“ Shell has consistently violated its legal and ethical obligations in Nigeria, it is well aware of this continuing problem, it knows how to correct the problems, and yet continues to operate negligently and with impunity. Shell's behavior in the Delta does not constitute isolated and infrequent accidents. Rather, the company's willful negligence has continued over several decades.

Their letter quoted the Oil Fund's rules which say that companies may be excluded from its portfolio if the company “contributes to or is responsible for serious or systematic human rights violations, or severe environmental damage”.

Ethics Council Conclusions

Norway's Ethics Council then travelled to the Niger Delta to investigate Shell. The Council's report, submitted to the Ministry of Finance in 2013, validated all of the community's concerns. The Council found that:

A: The extent of oil spills from Shell's operations is too large at present and that the subsequent damage is unacceptable.

“ The frequency and volume of oil spills... are far higher than those which are normal worldwide...The starting point is that the extent of oil spills from SPDC's operations is too large at present and that the subsequent damage is unacceptable.

B: Shell is to a large extent responsible and has powers to prevent risks and to respond more rapidly when spills occur.

“ The company has a responsibility for the SPDC JV's [Shell Petroleum Development Company Joint Ventures] unanimous decisions and the implementation and follow-up of these as the operator. The operator also has a special responsibility to propose and implement measures to prevent or reduce damage. The Council on Ethics thus believes that the company has a responsibility for the serious damage to the environment and the local people's livelihoods.

C: Many ecologically sensitive and very valuable areas in the Niger Delta have been damaged.

“ Vegetation is destroyed, water is polluted and fish and game withdraw from the area or die. Oil spills can also go deep into the ground and down to the groundwater.

D: Oil spills have serious consequences, impacting poor and vulnerable people who are left with few ways to find food, clean water and work.

“ Local communities who have few or no alternatives can experience very serious consequences due to damage to agricultural land, their drinking-water supply, forests, fish and other aquatic resources.

E: Clean-up and rehabilitation of land and water are slow and limited, and compensation of communities is inadequate.

“ In several cases, local contractors and groups that Shell has hired to carry out the cleaning up and rehabilitation seem to have done work that is not good enough or to have left the area before the work was finished.

There are still large oil spills from way back in the 1970s that have not been cleaned up and rehabilitated in Ogoniland.

Norway's Finance Ministry chose not to take up the Ethics Council's recommendation to put Shell on a watch list for four years, towards possible exclusion from its portfolio after that time if Shell had not cleaned up its act.

Instead the Ministry asked NBIM to engage with Shell for five to ten years on the issues raised by the Council, to bring Shell's performance in line with its ethical standards.

10 Years of Engagement with Shell

NBIM staff held a series of engagement meetings with Shell staff in recent years and bought more Shell shares, raising its holding from 2.3% to 3.1%.

NBIM has been engaging Shell on climate strategy, while voting to endorse Shell's 2023 U-turn on its climate pledges:

- Voted to back Shell's management on every point at the company's 2023 AGM, despite Shell's plans to dilute its already weak climate strategy.
- Backed the management of climate-destructive companies such as BP, TotalEnergies and Toyota, voting against many other climate-conscious investors.

Issues reported by the Ethics Council and actioned by Norway's Ministry of Finance in 2013 have seen little action in response from communities at the frontline.

Failures of Shell

Ten years after the report from Norway's Ethics Council, the Bayelsa Commission echoed the Council's findings quite exactly. Finding that Shell and other oil companies in the Niger Delta are to blame for **failures of strategy, prevention, response and remediation**.

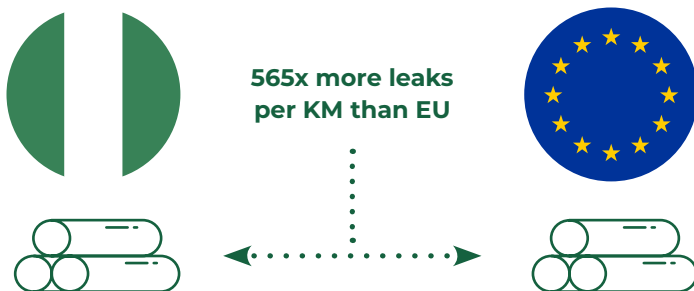
There is ample evidence from a range of sources to back up communities' concerns:

1. Bayelsa Commission, May 2023. A four-year review, chaired by the former Archbishop of York, that included fieldwork and original scientific studies of soil pollution and of residents' health.
2. The Oil Spill Monitor website from National Oil Spill Detection and Response Agency (NOSDRA), the Nigerian environmental regulator.
3. Independent Monitoring of the Ogoniland Clean-up, Stakeholder Democracy Network and Centre for Environment, Human Rights and Development, November 2021.
4. Lawsuits in the UK and in The Netherlands.
5. Media investigations, for example by The Nigerian Tribune, July 2023.
6. Caroline Dennett letter to Shell executives, May 2022.

Finding A - excessive, damaging spills, continued gas flaring

- Between October 2013- October 2023, CO2 emissions for onshore alone in the Niger Delta accounted for 94.5 million tonnes of CO2, valued at 6.2 billion USD (NOSDRA).
- Gas flaring, which was not examined by the Ethics Council, is also a serious danger to local communities' health and a major contributor of regional and global climate change.
- "In 2021, Nigeria was the seventh largest emitter of gas by flare volumes. 6.6 billion cubic metres (bcm) were flared representing 17.67 million tons of CO2 emissions" (Bayelsa Commission).
- "Local communities are unfairly exposed and bear the environmental and health impacts of this dangerously polluting act. Flaring locations are indiscriminate and flares have even been operated close to schools. Estimates suggest that 2.2 million people across the Niger Delta live within four kilometres of a flaring site."

Analysis suggest that Nigeria's pipelines are 565 times more likely to spring a leak per 1,000 kilometres than those in the EU.



Caption: Analysis suggests that Nigeria's pipelines are 565 times more likely to spring a leak per 1000 kilometres than those in the EU. Source: Bayelsa Commission.

Finding B - Shell's responsibility for prevention and damage limitation

Old and poorly-maintained infrastructure (Bayelsa Commission):

- “40% of pipelines were over 30 years old, with much of the infrastructure suffering from mechanical failures due to poor construction and maintenance.”
- “International standards for inspection, repair and corrosion-proofing of pipelines do not appear to be observed. Much of the oil infrastructure is nearing the end of its operational life.”
- “Nigeria's pipelines are 565 times more likely to spring a leak per 1,000 kilometres than those in the EU.”

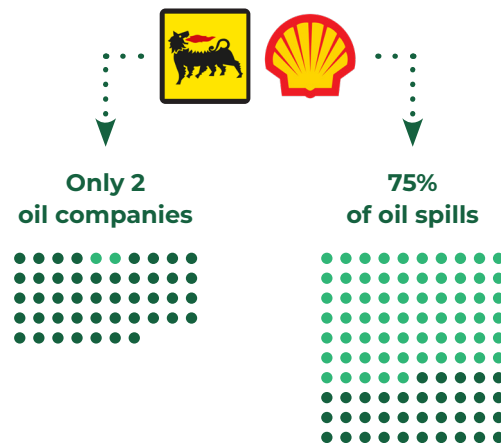
Caroline Dennett, former process safety consultant for Shell found in the process safety culture surveys on Shell Nigeria operations since 2012:

“ Operations since 2012 [show] a catalogue of production pressures, short-cuts, budget restraints, unsafe manpower levels, poor maintenance regimes including overdue maintenance on safety critical equipment, lack of training and second-class treatment of Contractors who go unpaid for months, unable to feed themselves and their families.

Slow incident reporting (Bayelsa Commission):

- “By law companies are meant to report all oil spills within 24 hours... Shell met this requirement in only 26% of cases during the period 2014-2017.”
- “Delays are often not linked to site accessibility, with some of the leaks that take the longest to address being within easy reach...between 2014 and 2017, it took Shell seven days on average to respond to a spill.”

In 2021 the UK Supreme Court and the Dutch Court of Appeal both reached judgements that support the charge that Shell bears responsibility. The Dutch Court, for example, called on Shell to install a leak detection system in its Nigerian pipelines, as it does in Europe.



Caption: Number of oil spills recorded across 2006-2020. 2 of 47 oil companies operating across the Niger Delta - Eni (Agip) and SPDC (Shell) - **accounted for 75% of spill incidents.**
Source: Bayelsa Commission.

Finding C - ecologically sensitive areas damaged

(Bayelsa Commission):

- “Once home to one of the largest mangrove forests on the planet, rich in ecological diversity and value, is now one of the most polluted places on Earth.”
- “Since oil production began, up to 40% of the Niger Delta's mangrove forests have been lost...the Niger Delta accounts for 27% of all mangroves around the world that are potentially threatened by oil spills.”
- “There is a general absence of any environmental restoration in Bayelsa and beyond.”

Finding D - very serious impacts on poor and vulnerable people

(Bayelsa Commission):

- “Exposure to oil pollution killed 16,000 infants within the first month of their life in 2012.”
- “Average life expectancy in Bayelsa is approximately 50 years.”
- “For 6,300 oil spills from 2010-2015, remediation work was only done in 4% percent of cases.”
- A study of soil and water samples, as well as of local residents’ blood, found alarming results; “They have been absorbed into the human food chain. And they have ultimately found their way into the bloodstreams and tissue of people living in affected communities.”
- Ground water samples “exceeded the recommended maximum safe level of Polyaromatic Hydrocarbons by at least 100 times” and in samples from “Egbebiri exceeding the WHO limit by over 1 million times.”

Impacts of gas flaring (Bayelsa Commission):

- “Gas flaring produces harmful volatile organic compounds... [and] causes contaminant build-up, deteriorating water quality, poor agricultural yields and the economic and ecological deterioration of important Deltan food staples, such as cassava, yam, cocoyam, and local fisheries.”
- “Several studies have documented the connection between gas flaring and a range of chronic diseases including bronchial, rheumatic and eye conditions along with hypertension. Prolonged exposure to flared gas has also been associated with cancer and neurological, reproductive and developmental effects. On Commission visits, local residents reported lung and skin damage and deformities in children.”

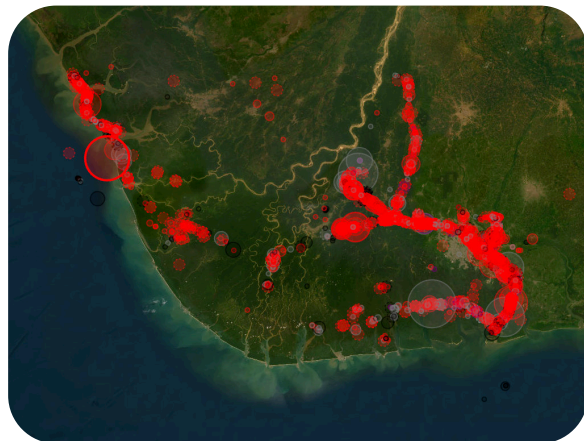
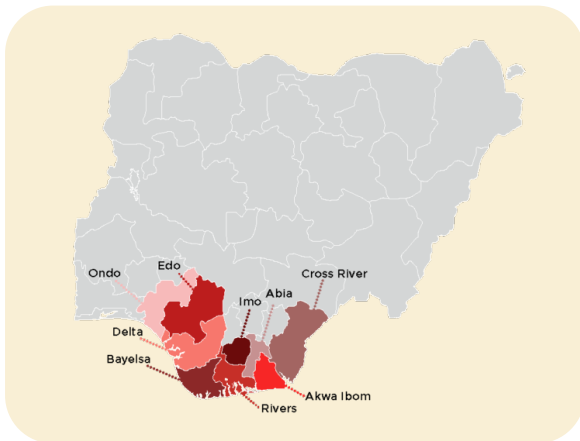
Finding E - slow and limited cleanup, compensation and rehabilitation.

(Bayelsa Commission):

- “An independent analysis of official data relating to over 6,300 spills between 2010 and 2015 showed that remediation work was only undertaken in 4% and that in 90% of spills there was no post clean-up assessment.”
- “In Ogoni, despite an international report published over a decade ago by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), physical remediation is still yet to begin at scale.”

Impacts in the Niger Delta

- The Niger Delta, in southern Nigeria is approximately 2.84 times the size of Viken, 154 times the size of Oslo and is inhabited by 30 million people from 40 ethnic groups.
- This area has extensive mangrove wetlands, which provide habitat for fish breeding, endangered species and play a crucial role in mitigating the increasing frequency and severity of floods and storm surges caused by climate change. Communities in the Delta were displaced by extreme flooding last year.
- For over 60 years, international oil companies have rushed to extract billions of barrels of oil from the Niger Delta with catastrophic consequences. Thousands of oil spills, unrestricted gas flaring, and frequent releases of toxic contaminants have poisoned people's farmlands, the water they drink, the air they breathe, resulting in severe health challenges.



Caption: (Left) Map of the Niger Delta region, Source: Stakeholder Democracy; (right) Shell oil spill intensity mapped across the Niger Delta region from 2013- present date. Filters: Company: SNEPCO, SPDC, Incident date: >2023-01. Source: Oil Spill Monitor. Barrels spilled >2023-01: 6591.97 Incidents reported >2023-01: 207

Recent Oil Spills

Details of how community members have experienced specific spills in the last few years.

Ekeremor LGA, Bayelsa oil spill, 2018-2020 Shell Trans-Ramos pipeline (Bayelsa Commission)

In Ekeremor Local Government Area, a community leader reported concerns to SPDC in May 2018. She raised the alarm over the oil spill from the Trans Ramos pipeline and also on the alleged intimidation of community leaders of Aghoro who were involved in the investigation of an oil spill that occurred in the area. The spill caused destruction to aquatic life and hardship for the communities who had no fresh water to drink for several weeks.

A reconnaissance visit by members of the BSOEC Secretariat to Ekeremor in 2018, prior to the establishment of the BSOEC, saw a site devastated by the oil spill, with the local communities concerned that they had not been supplied with fresh water for three weeks,

and that their children were reporting strange illnesses. Only when the incumbent Deputy Governor of Bayelsa State visited the spill site with national media and some much-needed relief materials for members of the community such as drinking water and food, concerted efforts to address the spill began.

The community leader said, "they have contaminated our communities and we have no drinking water. All the fish and mangroves have died and they want to force us to sign a JIV report. We will not accept this."

Eighteen months later, a visit by the BSOEC to the community in November 2019 reported that the spill was still continuing.

The clean-up was completed on 21 February 2020.



Aker Brygge is a popular waterfront district in the heart of Oslo, and it covers an area that's close to 0.96 km²

Date: 17 May 2018
Barrels of oil spilled: 1114

Area: 1.13 km² (community report)
People affected: Unknown

Rivers State oil spills, June 2023
Shell Trans-Niger pipeline
 (The Guardian)

Within one week, two oil spills were reported in Rivers State, one pipeline owned by Shell in Eleme community and another spill at Eteo community were reported.

On June 13, 2023, a crude oil spill reportedly occurred at a Trans-Niger Pipeline (TNP) a facility operated by Shell Petroleum Development Company (SPDC), spilling crude oil into the environment in Aleto Community, Eleme.

The crude spilled on farmlands and into the Okulu River, where some rural dwellers fetch water from, destroying farm crops including cassava, yam, and vegetables, which were planted three months before the spill occurred. The aquatic life was also savaged and fishermen in the area were rendered jobless.

Just five days after the Aleto spill, another pipeline in Eteo Community operated by SPDC in the same Eleme Local Council burst on June 18, 2023. Sadly, three months after the spill occurred, the National Oil Spill and Response Agency (NOSDRA) has not carried out investigations on the cause of the spill in Eteo, and possibly advice on remediations.

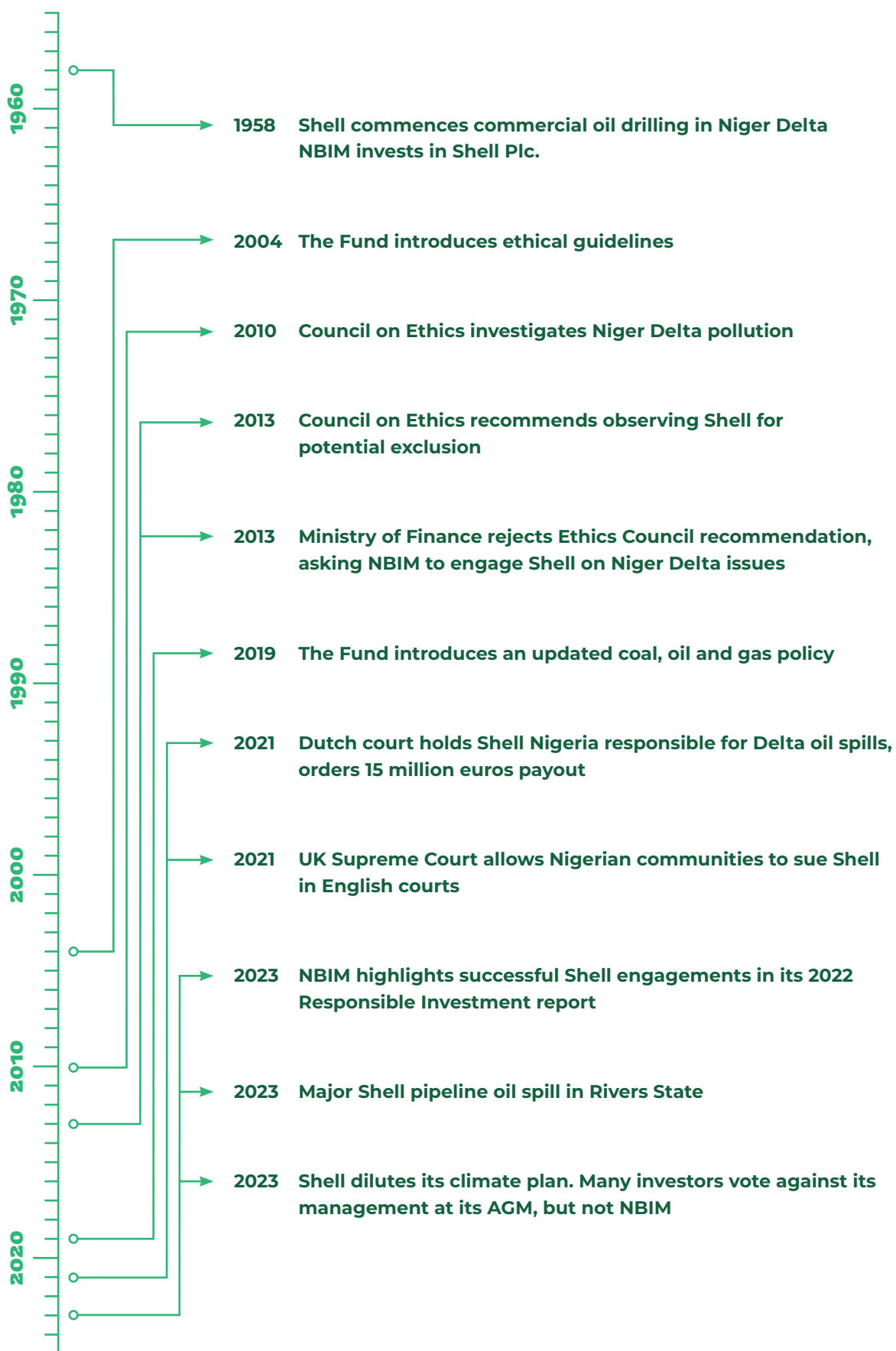
From August reports, Eteo community oil spill is yet to be cleaned up.



Date: 13 June 2023
Barrels of oil spilled: 180,000

Area: 10 km²
People affected: 190,194

Timeline of events



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