

2019 EDITION

Our
Vision
& **MISSION**



OMPALAN

OIL AND SOLID MINERAL PRODUCING AREA
LANDLORDS' ASSOCIATION OF NIGERIA
www.ompalan.org

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The Oil and Solid Mineral Producing Area Landlords' Association of Nigeria (OMPALAN) is an umbrella Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO), promoted by eminent Nigerians and stakeholders in the oil and solid minerals producing states of Nigeria. The cardinal objective of this organization, is to create and sustain peace as well as encourage rapid and sustainable development within the oil and solid minerals producing states. The Association is driven by core professionals and technocrats from a

wide spectrum of human, material, intellectual and spiritual endeavours, working to complement the efforts of Government and other critical development agencies in Nigeria's mining industry in order to breathe life into vulnerable and despondent local communities which are endowed with hydro carbon and other exploitable mineral deposits but, are sadly, perennially ravaged by stiffening conditions of survival from the impacts of worsening environmental degradation.

The association is also mindful of the devastating impacts of accumulated oil spills on vulnerable coastal communities which have no single oil facility, yet are devastated perennially by oil spills that flow unshackled from distant pollution sites through the River Niger-emptying into the estuaries and hitting these helpless

communities with attendant toll on precious life and property. It is in consideration of the above that OMPALAN is building synergy with Government MDAs to ensure that environmental and social impact assessment studies of oil and solid mineral companies be rigorously carried out and that the recommendations to mitigate negative impacts and contribute to socio-economic development are implemented in line with global best

practices and the sustainable community development plan of oil and solid mineral producing areas. The association has established a format of action to work with local communities, aimed at facilitating sustainable community development/implementation plans.

Consequently, OMPALAN seeks to complement Government efforts to deepen products regulation and control policies, inspection and monitoring mechanism in host communities.





Our vision and mission revolves around devolution of power to host communities, synergy among entrenched community institutions, good governance, transparency and accountability, security of host communities & oil and solid minerals companies' staff/installations, secure channel of communication between host communities and oil, solid minerals and related companies as well as domestication of government policies and programs at the grassroots. These we believe, will bring about peace, justice and prosperity to

our people.

To drive our mission and vision through OMPALAN, we have proposed the setting up of three (3) robust initiatives namely: Integrated Partnership Initiative (IPI); Integrated Community-Based Surveillance Support Scheme (ICSSS) and Orientation of Host Communities (OHC). The application of these three robust initiatives are condensed in our bottom-up initiative for sustainable peace and security in mineral producing areas called 'Mining Security & Monitoring Agency of Nigeria (MISMAN).

This pilot scheme for sustainable peace and development of mineral producing areas is the result of a painstaking opinion poll on the way forward for mineral producing communities sampled from a select number of impacted communities across the entire Country. OMPALAN believes that when these programs are effectively applied, they will not only bring to an end, the perennial crises that have bedeviled host

communities of oil and solid mineral producing areas but, will help enthrone the rule of law and deepen investor confidence that will stimulate sustainable development of the entire region.

1. The Integrated Partnership Initiative (IPI): The IPI will represent a platform for stake-holders engagement at different levels, to encourage and promote interaction as well as collaboration between government, host communities and private sector operators. The Integrated Partnership Initiative will help to put in place and manage, a people-based Project Monitoring,

Evaluation and Impact Assessment of development initiatives, carried out by various levels of government, development agencies as well as private sector operatives. This activity will help to seal off leakages in delivery chains and encourage transparency and quality delivery (value for money) of projects and programmes. The IPI also seeks to place high premium on needs assessment in host communities. This will enable prioritizing development of critical infrastructure in host communities and do away with white elephant projects. It will also encourage as well as monitor and report on Corporate Social Responsibilities (CSR) of key oil/gas and solid mineral operators in the country.



**Massive job
creation
through
local content
initiative**

Other critical areas of intervention by the IPI include:

- a. Cross-Border Stability
- b. Health and Education Infrastructure
- c. Recreation/Tourism Development
- d. Entrepreneur Development Initiative
- e. Host Community-Oil/Solid Minerals Exploitation Company Relation
- f. Land Administration and Assets Control
- g. Massive Job Creation through Local Content Initiative
- h. Peace, Security and Stability of Oil Fields/Solid Minerals Sites/Host Communities
- i. Enhanced Police - Community Relation
- j. Pollution Control
- k. Population Control Mechanism
- l. Capacity Building
- m. Proactive Engagement of Entrenched Community Institutions
- n. Elimination of Political Thuggery and Clique Exploitation
- o. Restoration of Durable Peace and Stability in Local Communities
- p. Streamlining & Prioritizing Community Development Projects
- q. Transparency & Accountability in Community Governance
- r. Restriction of direct contact between oil /solid minerals producing companies/development partners and town unions/youth/women organizations.

We believe that a successful implementation of our vision and mission through the above listed strategies, with periodic submission of reports to appropriate departments and /or office of Secretary to Government of the Federation, will keep the government well informed and in a position to take decisive action(s), where and when necessary.

2. Integrated Community-Based Surveillance Support Scheme (ICSSS): The integrated community based surveillance support scheme is a bottom-up initiative designed to address the persistent issues of terrorism, militancy and cult related activities in mineral producing areas and aims to enhance the efforts of oil/solid mineral producing companies and the federal government. In order to achieve this strategy of involving host communities in the security/surveillance architecture within the oil/solid mineral producing domain, we propose a bottom-up intervention, in which security and surveillance activities gravitate around the host communities; through the establishment of an Oil Field Surveillance and Security Commission (OFSAC) with the supply chain running through the Federal,

States, LGAs and local communities. The functions of this body include but, are not limited to the following:

- i. To complement the efforts of government security agencies by providing intelligence that will help safeguard oil/solid mineral exploitation facilities and company staff in and outside of the oil fields/solid mineral site within the country.
- ii. To coordinate implementation of Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between oil/solid mineral producing companies and or related establishments in oil/solid producing States and their host communities with a view to achieving effective service delivery compatible with global best practices.
- iii. To resolve disputes between host communities and oil/solid minerals and related establishments operating within the shores of such host communities.
- iv. To entertain complaints by aggrieved communities and or individuals on oil, solid minerals and related matters with a view to resolving them.
- v. To monitor administration of Federal/State Government palliative programs in oil and soil mineral producing States.

3. Orientation of Host Communities (OHC):

The third initiative underpins extensive orientation programs for host communities through appropriate enlightenment campaign and training skills aimed at drumming up support for the rule of law and reviving the appeal of corporate governance in the polity.

The above initiatives present a win-win strategy between development agencies and host communities as they focus on strategic engagements and synergy between host communities, oil/solid mineral producing companies as well as other development institutions and agencies. These strategies work to eliminate the middle-man-syndrome that short-changes as well as alienates host communities from access to mitigation programs; thereby causing agitations and violence in the region.

We are looking forward to a post-amnesty Niger Delta Region, driven by a strong-willed Government that is eager to carry the host communities along and thereby create peace, harmony and sustainable environment for rapid growth, prosperity and overall development of the region.

THE OPERATIONAL STRUCTURES OF OMPALAN

In order for OMPALAN to deliver on her vision, the association's leadership has carefully set up a structure that represents a bottom-up approach that provides for extensive stakeholder engagement processes to bring about inclusiveness, participation and partnership building to deliver expected results to communities, industry and government at all levels. This, in our opinion will bring about peace, sustainability, economic growth and rapid development within oil and solid mineral producing areas of the country and beyond. The structures are anchored on the following:-

The Board of Trustees, being the policy formulation arm, followed by the Executive arm that runs the day-to-day administration of OMPALAN affairs and finally the Advisory Board that coordinates traditional institutions as well as manages chieftaincy affairs. The leadership of these three organs are merged together to form the Caucus, that represents the melting pot of the organization and is charged with the responsibility of managing the political spectrum of the organization as well as

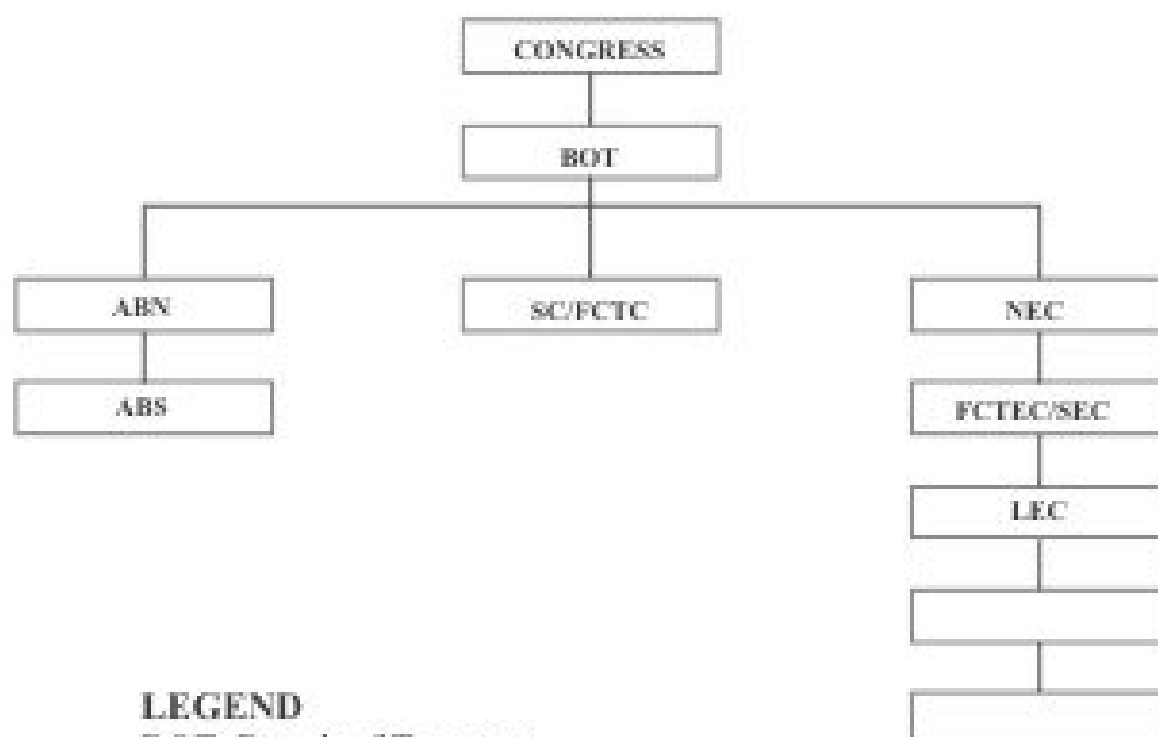


providing oversight functions over the Executive and Advisory arms.

OMPALAN is privileged to have experienced and credible professionals in different disciplines, community leaders of proven integrity and key personalities with several years of experience in different arms of government and the private sector. These core personalities are used to man various arms of the OMPALAN structure with the sole aim of harnessing their technical expertise and intellectual capacities to promote the application of global best practices, towards achieving a triple-bottom line that recognizes industry excellence, wealth redistribution and the maintenance of highest safety standards in human resource and operational performance.

ORGANIGRAM SHOWING THE HIERARCHY OF THE ASSOCIATION

Organigram showing the hierarchy of organs of the Association.



LEGEND

BOT: Board of Trustees

ABN: Advisory Board-National

SC: State Caucus

NEC: National Executive Committee: FCTEC: FCT

Executive Committee SEC: State Executive

Committee LEC: LGA Executive Committee

DEC: District Executive Committee

CEC: Community Executive Committee

FCTC: FCT Caucus

NB: Copy from page 89 of OMPALAN constitution

ORGANIGRAM SHOWING THE HIERARCHY OF OFFICERS OF THE ASSOCIATION

LEGEND:



- CBOT: Chairman, BOT
- DCBOT: Deputy Chairman, BOT
- CNEC: Chairman, NEC
- CAB-NAT: Chairman, Advisory Board -National
- DCNEC: Deputy Chairman, NEC
- DCAB-NAT: Deputy Chairman, Advisory Board, National
- NS: National Secretary
- SL: State Leaders
- PMABN: Principal Members, Advisory Board, National
- ABN: Advisory Board National
- PMABS: Principal Members, Advisory Board, State
- NCIRA: National Coordinator, Inter Religious Affairs
- CSEC: Chairman, SEC
- DSC: Deputy State Chairman
- DCAB: Deputy Chairman, Advisory Board
- CCEC: Chairman, CEC
- CLEC: Chairman, Local Govt. Executive Committee
- CABS: Chairman, Advisory Board -State.
- SS: State Secretary
- VCDEC: Vice -Chairman, DEC.
- DEC: District Executive Committee.
- VCCEC: Vice -Chairman, CEC
- CEC: Community Executive Committee
- PMNC: Principal Members, National Caucus
- CDEC: Chairman, District Executive Committee
- SDEC: Secretary, District Executive Committee



THE PLACE OF LANDLORDS IN OIL AND SOLID MINERAL DEVELOPMENT IN NIGERIA

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INTRODUCTION

The activities of oil and solid mineral exploration and exploitation industries are among the most destructive activities on earth, especially for indigenous and farming communities. The oil and solid minerals they seek, are very profitable, and hence they are difficult to resist except with hard work. Although mining companies are powerful, they are also vulnerable. As members of OMPALAN, we must therefore understand, that at stake, is the cultural survival and well-being of our communities, environment, and ability to make a sustainable living. The information contained in this article is not only for mining as most of the tactics and countermeasures described, also apply well to other extractive and exploitative activities, such as: oil and gas, minerals, logging, all kinds of polluting industries, and big hydroelectric dams. Majority of the activities proposed by large corporations, although they promise local benefits, ultimately devastate local communities and damage their surroundings.

Types of mining

Underground mining (subsurface mining)-involves digging and drilling into the ground to remove the desired solid minerals/oil. Disturbs the earth less but often more dangerous to the mineworkers.

Open pit mining (open cast, open cut, and strip mining)-disturbs large areas of land and wastes a lot of groundwater. Large quantities of solid (often poisonous) waste and large holes are usually left in the earth.

Cyanide heap leach mining (for gold and silver)-involves spraying a cyanide solution (a deadly poison) over the ore and collecting the dissolved metals from the bottom of the heap. Spilled cyanide can quickly kill people as well as fish and other aquatic life. It can also poison drinking or irrigation water.

Mountain top removal-involves blasting away mountaintops using explosives to reach the sought minerals. The large volume of waste materials produced are usually dumped into nearby valleys and streams. Coal and limestone for cement production are the two main minerals mined by this method.

Placer mining (alluvial mining)-In this kind of mining involves dredging rivers and sifting

out the valuable minerals. Usually, sifting is done by hand, often by panning. The ore maybe crushed using mills. Small scale gold mining uses mercury (a highly toxic metal) and can severely contaminate water and crops.

TYPICAL STEPS IN THE MINING PROCESS

Prospecting

Prospecting involves taking rock samples and stream sediment to gauge an area's mining potential. In Nigeria, it requires government permit. It is the least damaging of all mining activities.

Exploration

It is much more intensive, organized, and of larger scale form. Exploration involves taking water, rock and soil samples from the ground, to drilling hundreds of meters into the subsoil with elaborate drilling equipment. It is aimed at discovering the whereabouts of the mineral resources, analyzing their content, and deciding if they are economically viable to exploit. Impacts can include contamination of water resources originating in mining camps and drilling sites, to severe impacts created by building road access to transport the drilling equipment. The exploration phase may last for months or years.

Concessions

Before the commencement of any legal exploration, a mining company will have to obtain a mining concession or permit from the Federal government. This allows them to build roads into an area and begin drilling and taking samples in order to determine the quality and location of the mineral resources. The government may take or expropriate the land itself to make it easier for the mining company to develop its mine.

Terms of Reference (TOR)/Plan of Operations(PoO)

TOR or PoO document follows concession. The document specifies how the project will be defined, developed, and verified. It serves as basis for future decisions and describes a common understanding of the project's scope among stakeholders.

The TOR/PoO document lays out the social, economic and environmental elements, the

environmental impact assessment (EIA) will cover. It authorizes the company to prepare the EIA. Not all countries may require this document, or in some cases it may not be done in a public setting. In some countries, public hearings are required in order to determine which elements the TOR should take into account. This may be one of the first opportunities for communities to intervene in the mining process.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA)

After approval of the TORs, the next step is the EIA. Many a time, other firms are hired by extractive companies to do the EIA. Depending on the project and environmental conditions, this process could last several months to over a year. The EIA is an assessment of the possible impacts (positive and negative), that a proposed project may have on the natural and social environment. EIA is done to uphold social and environmental standards. Unfortunately, it is oftentimes seen just as a document to comply with national laws. The International Association for Impact Assessment (IAIA) defines EIA as the "process of identifying, predicting, evaluating and mitigating the biophysical, social, and other relevant effects of development proposals prior to major decisions being taken and commitments made."

Before proceeding with mining activities, companies must first get approval of their EIA, from respective government ministries, departments and agencies (MDAs). This approval is also called the *Environmental License*.

Oftentimes, the EIA leaves out or underplays negative social and environmental impacts of the exploration or exploitation activities. An EIA may neglect a local development plan or activity that could be impacted by the extractive activity, or it may not mention threatened, endangered or rare species or important archeological or spiritual sites that would make its approval more difficult. *Sometimes, contractors save time and money by copying another EIA, making the study*

irrelevant. These provide the communities, opportunities for challenging the EIA.

SOCIAL LICENSE

Mining companies are very much aware that they must also get the approval of the local communities before going ahead with projects. This is referred to as the "social license." Though not official in many countries, a great number of investors would be wary of investing in a project if the mining company didn't have the approval of the local communities. Mining companies are always willing to huge amount of money and make endless promises to try to obtain the social license. They promise to build schools or bridges, provide scholarships, and jobs — whatever they think will appease a community. Sometimes, these are official agreements signed by the company and the local government and/or the state or national government. Sometimes it's more informal. While some promises are kept, many are not. The company may then continue to make gifts to keep the population pacified. But in the process, they may create social havoc, violence, and deep divisions within communities and families.

SOCIAL IMPACTS

The impact of mining on a community can be devastating. The more presence an extractive company has in a community, the more disruptive it will be. If they are allowed to explore in your territories, the likelihood of social disruption dramatically increases. It may then take many years to re-build the social, cultural and spiritual structures and bonds that were the community's real wealth.

Social and Health: Mining companies often bring hundreds of single working men into the local community, giving rise to serious social and health problems such as alcoholism, prostitution, sexual assault, rape, and venereal diseases.

Loss of livelihood: Agriculture and fishing can be highly reduced as a result of contamination or drying up of water supplies thereby leading to a drop in local food production as mining jobs replace

agricultural ones.

Sustainable activities like tourism are affected because the area is no longer attractive to tourists. The community becomes impoverished as the cost of living rises sharply due to high wages going to a small portion of the populace.

Effects on women: When men work away from home, women are left to handle finances, support the families, and manage the land. The men can also bring venereal disease home.

Community breakdown: The company may deliberately try to disrupt and weaken a community's ability to organize effectively against them.

Human rights violations: The mining company may employ local people to falsely accuse anti-mining activists of committing crimes. It may employ thugs or paramilitary forces to intimidate, threaten, injure or even kill people.

ENVIRONMENTAL DESTRUCTION

Construction creates noise, dust, vibrations and erosion that affect animals, fishes, humans etc. Air and water are frequently polluted with toxic chemicals during mining operations. This leads to disease and death of birds, fish, animals and humans. Even after the mine is closed, heavy metals usually continue to leach into the groundwater and rivers for centuries, poisoning fish and the animals and birds that feed on them. In West Papua, Indonesia, the destruction caused from the Grasberg copper and gold mining site is so massive that you can see it from space. In the Philippines, toxic mine waste, spilled into the Moggog River, killed all aquatic life and gave rise to flooding that destroyed the rich farming areas along the river. In 1995, the Omai gold mine in Guyana (belonging to the Canadian company Cambior), spilled four and a half million cubic meters of cyanide-contaminated residual minerals into the Essequibo River. Eighty (80) kilometers of the river were declared an environmental disaster zone. Environmental destruction is however not limited to poor countries. In Spain and Hungary, "latest

technology" mines have caused widespread contamination of river and sea resources, killing millions of fish, while impacting municipal drinking water, tourism, fisheries, and the industries depending on them.

Mining requires enormous amounts of water. To produce the gold in one wedding ring, for example, requires 8,000 liters of water. Mining often dries up the local water supply very quickly, making agriculture and livestock production difficult. Drinking and cooking water become scarce as well. Mining can also cause massive deforestation. For example, the toxic fumes produced by the Norilsk smelting complex in Russia destroyed 350,000 hectares of forests. Another impact, important for indigenous peoples, is the destruction of cultural, archeological, and spiritual sites.

HEALTH IMPACTS

All phases and all types of mining can have serious health impacts on humans, closely associated with environmental impacts. Dust can cause respiratory illnesses and irritated eyes and skin, especially in children. Bad water from mines can poison crops, dozens of miles away from the mines. Water contaminated with toxic substances like heavy metals can cause a wide variety of serious ailments, including cancer and birth defects. Food irrigated with contaminated water can cause similar health problems. Copper smelting produces toxic fumes that can destroy vegetation and cause many illnesses and birth defects in humans. Underground mining is especially dangerous because of accidents which lead to trapping and sometimes killing of the mine workers.

OTHER IMPACTS

In the Philippines, indigenous people were driven out of their homes at gunpoint by guards hired by a Canadian mining firm. A mining company in Australia forced local farmers to sell their land at a price determined by the company.

Other negative impacts are:

1. Increase in crime
2. Land trafficking
3. Displacement of hundreds of families
4. Militarization and the appearance of

armed groups

EFFECTS OF SMALL-SCALE MINING

Though this article is centered on large-scale mining projects, small-scale and artisanal gold or diamond miners oftentimes also cause severe environmental and social problems.

HOW TO FIGHT BACK

The actions described in this section are best used before mining concessions are granted, but they can also be valuable later, even if exploration or mining has already started. As you carry out your work, remember that while it is important to be active, it's more important to be safe. There are personal risks involved: you and your family may be the target of smear campaigns, death threats, and other ploys meant to weaken your resolve and make you give up the fight. Occasionally, activists fighting extractive industries have lost their lives. Though most companies will not risk their reputation or the future of their projects on such drastic actions, a few will not hesitate. Remember also that your work can stir up opposition from the local population who may see their false hopes for progress or quick money thwarted by your actions.

Prevention first! -The duration of the struggle and its impacts on the community are, to a great extent, determined by two factors:

- (a) how quickly you can mobilize against the threat, and
- (b) the strength and resilience of your community. It is helpful to think of an extraction company as a 'disease', and your community as your 'body.'

As in any real disease, the longer you delay taking measures to stop it, the more it can spread and cause damage. The disease must be treated as soon as possible to prevent it from spreading. It is much easier to head off a company's assault BEFORE exploration takes place. After they build roads, explore, discover resources, and spend money, stopping them is a longer, more difficult battle. There is also a psychological advantage that companies gain from having

large investments in a project, because at that point people might say “it’s already happening” or “the project is inevitable.” If exploration begins and the company finds profitable deposits of valuable metals or petroleum, the government may become much more interested in exploiting the resources. It is not strange for governments to violate their own laws, or create new ones, in the hope of obtaining income from taxes that are promised from mining. However, communities that organize themselves well can influence the process at every step, from preventing projects from starting at all, to getting compensation, to safely shutting down (decommissioning) projects after they have been operational.

PREPARING YOURSELF FOR THE STRUGGLE

For the important task of preventing companies from exploring (or finishing their exploration), you first need to become informed yourself, then publicize the threats by spreading the word to others, and then mobilize the community. If concessions have been granted and exploration or mining has started, the following actions are still useful to limit the damage.

How to become informed

To find out if a mining company intends to apply for an exploitation concession, look for articles in your local or national papers, or notice rumors. Strangers may arrive in cars to look around, and surveyors with technical equipment may start to survey the area. This is when you should start to dig for information. Identify the safeguards and constraints for companies to operate as contained in the laws, the constitution, and international treaties. Find out the legal procedures for acquiring concessions. If available, get a copy of government maps showing mining areas and the status of concessions.

See if a company is in the process of acquiring concessions in your area. If it is, start alerting local communities and governments, but make sure you have reliable information. Find out how much your local government officials know, and if they are willing to help. Go to the Ministry of Mines website and get

as much information as possible on the project. If that doesn’t work, ask for this information from the Ministry of Mines (or its equivalent) directly. If there are regional mining directorates, it may be faster to get information from these — but always leave a paper trail. That is, request information through paperwork, and make sure that the officials stamp your copy of the request with the date and a signature for future reference.

If a company already has a concession, research what steps are necessary before they can take the next step. Get copies of any and all available documents. I believe Nigeria has a National Development Plan that may identify areas where extractive industry activities are allowed or planned. It will be useful to have this document to establish whether your community is within one of these “extractive development” areas, so you can start alerting and educating all stakeholders (communities, local governments, development NGO’s, etc.) about the impacts of extractive industries.

Know your enemy:

Dig for details about the company involved.

Who are they?

What is the company’s country of origin?

What are they planning?

Who are the major shareholders?

What is their record?

To find answers to these questions, check out the company’s website as frequently as possible.

Share this information with groups and communities. In digging for details about the company, the importance of using the Internet cannot be overstated. Find other websites that also post information about the company. Research the company’s history of social and environmental practices to know who you are dealing with, and to present your community and government with evidence of patterns of bad behavior. If possible, contact other communities where this company has operated. Endeavour to enlist the support of religious or civic leaders. Try to ensure that it is made up of honest local individuals, preferably respected leaders of your community or area. Keep key people

informed about meetings and other important events the company may host.

Inform The Community

As you find out about the company, the mining processes, impacts, history of similar mines, etc. spread that information to the community via pictures, brochures, books, videos and pamphlets.

Go door to door talking to people in your community and nearby, and work to convince them of the need to organize and mobilize against the project. All this helps to create a "critical mass" of public opinion against destructive mining and in favor of sustainable development and community well-being. Then meet with neighboring communities and local entities such as local governments, productive groups, and women's organizations — anyone whose well-being may be imperiled by an extractive project. Get copies of the mining, petroleum, or other relevant legislation and bylaws (such as environmental legislation) to the leaders as quickly as possible so they can become familiar with them. Circulate printed material, mostly pictures, showing the impacts, and addressing some of the illegalities.

In areas where there is a tradition of reading, print a simple handout sheet explaining the rights of communities and the obligations of mining companies. Emphasize the fact that people and communities have rights, and that the companies' rights are not any more legal than individual or collective rights. Knowing they have rights backed up by our country's constitution and international treaties helps empower people to oppose the destructive mining activities.

Community Consent.

One of the most powerful instruments in protecting communities from devastation caused by extractive projects is the right of communities to give or withhold their consent to a project. This is called the right to Free, Prior Informed Consent (FPIC). For it to be meaningful, the consent needs to be given free of pressure from government or industry, prior to the beginning of any activity that may impact a community's environment

or social well-being, and must be informed. That means that communities ought to have the right to know what is being proposed, and they should have the right to say no. The World Bank's Extractive Industries Review concluded that all potentially affected communities, indigenous or not, have the right to FPIC.

Use Local Media

Create a simple community newspaper (or print articles in an existing paper) and/or post bulletins around the community. Get interviewed on radio programs or create your own. Show (and give away) videos of the social and environmental impacts of mining and cases of successful resistance. Audio visual material is often more effective than written material in getting the message across.

Work hard with local government

In some cases, the communities will decide it is a waste of time trying to get local government on their side, due to corruption or "sell outs." In this case, consider national government officials. Identify friendly legislators (House of Representatives and Senate) and try to win them over to your side. Widen your base of support by not limiting yourself to one political party.

Get Funding

The struggle may last for years and may involve substantial money. Organizations to help with funding are available. Although external funding can make it easier to carry out more activities against destructive extractive project, it is best not to rely on it completely. Try to build and maintain a resistance based on your own resources; this will greatly increase your chances of success. You should also be aware that the influx of large amounts of money can also damage a weak organization.

Form Alliances

Reach out to religious and environmental organizations, local governments, regional and national governments and NGOs. Work with and inform these local organizations. Inform local church or other religious leaders about mining and its impacts on the poor and marginalized, and about the social havoc it

often causes. The support or involvement of religious leaders or even of the church itself may make all the difference in the outcome. While the support of local political leaders is very important, be on the alert for political parties that may want to use your struggle for their own political ends. You may be tempted to “politicize” your struggle by supporting such groups. It may work, but could also backfire if the party in power sells your struggle to the electorate as a mere tool used by political parties. Think thrice before you let party politics into your struggle. Look for possible allies beyond your immediate area. Also seek out tourism organizations (or individual tourism entrepreneurs) within your region or at the national level, if tourist attractions are threatened.

Quickly Expand Your Alliances

It’s always good to create alliances with a variety of groups, including environmental and human rights organizations. University students can sometimes become inspired by your struggle and offer free help. You may know someone at a university who can help organize a meeting between friends or a University club or department (biology, tourism, hydrology etc.). University professors are also an excellent resource. Ask to give presentations in their classes and recruit students. Professors may be willing to do research for your organization and might include students on the project, or even have students do this work as part of a class assignment.

You can also raise funds and increase publicity by asking professors and students to hold a forum, a teaching, or a conference about your struggle. This can generate media interest as well.

Use the Law and the Political Process

Lawsuits and Injunctions

A legal challenge to a project sends a powerful message to the company, its shareholders, and your elected representative, and can sometimes stop the project or slow it down considerably — giving you time to organize better. Try to make the legal challenge as solid as possible, since if

successful it can establish a legal precedent for similar situations elsewhere. If you feel the courts are so corrupt that you know you will lose, you may still want to go forth so you can eventually present your case in the international arena. Carefully study the constitution and mining legislation. Present legal challenges whenever possible.

Challenge And Delay The Eia

Communities must insist on a substantive EIA before any mining operations are established. The EIA should be done by a neutral agency (one not funded by the mining company). Insist that it includes an expert on environmental health. If the EIA identifies drastic potential impacts, it can play a key role in building opposition to the project. Sometimes the information from the assessment can be powerful enough to prevent the start of mining operations in a region (unusual, but possible). If the EIA has been done, obtain a copy and get it reviewed. You might conduct your own review, but it often requires expert advice — perhaps an organization whose specialty is to review EIAs. If you can afford it, hiring a lawyer experienced in mining law is a wise decision. After you have analyzed the EIA, summarize its contents and reproduce and distribute your findings to all relevant organizations and communities. Make sure you include a shortened version pointing out its flaws, and the real impacts of the project. Pointing out the study’s flaws may provide legal grounds to stop the project. Find, and present to government officials, as many technical and legal errors as possible, and reasons to reject the EIA. Examples: Rivers or streams that they should have but didn’t study, protected species they overlooked, areas they said they studied but didn’t, wrong elevation/rainfall information, incorrect boundaries, incomplete list of chemicals used for drilling equipment, and inadequate social evaluation.

NOTE:

Communities that focus on the legal and technical aspects of extractive industries will

probably lose the battle if they do not also have strong local support from residents and international allies.

In other words, this is a political struggle and you cannot rely on technical approaches alone, because mining companies will almost always have more money to spend on their own experts.

For this reason, it is most important to prevent a company from buying or forcing consent from the community, i.e. obtaining the social license.

Prevent the social license

It is difficult to fight against the company's tactic of buying off people. They pay high wages, offer everything to everyone (such as medical services, new schools, and jobs), and hire people to do nothing, just to get them on their side. Create the anti-mining and pro-community awareness that is needed to defeat these projects. Highlight the risks involved to the community's welfare and its social cohesion. This is best done through organizing yourselves and educating local people about the mine's real impacts.

Create Economic Alternatives To Mining

While it's important to say no to mining, your struggle will be much more respected by the community if you work to create alternatives and help to solve the problem of poverty — giving people an alternative to being hired by the company. In the Intag region of Ecuador, local organizations created the following alternatives:

- ✓ Shade-grown coffee association,
- ✓ Several community ecological tourism initiatives (at the mining site)
- ✓ Several handicraft groups,
- ✓ Hand-made soap and shampoo products, Vegetable Ivory products, Marmalade and sup production
- ✓ Sustainable agricultural organizations, Fish farming and egg production.

Alternative economic projects are important, but remember that the companies can pay much more —at least for a short or medium term —than what these activities generate. In the end, the social and environmental educational projects are most crucial to

demonstrate the long term devastating consequence of mining and the sustainability of alternatives.

Organize Globally

A lot of this work really comes down to leveling the playing field between corporations with economic and political clout and local communities. If the companies have the courts on their side, you can have the press, local communities, and hopefully local governments on yours. International organizations can be a huge help to counter the imbalance too.

Take the struggle beyond the local arena as soon as possible

The battle has to be fought on many fronts at once — local, regional, national and international. Global attention, whether from governments, the press, or NGOs, will have an impact in your country — nationally and locally.

Campaign In The Country Of Origin

It's important to create and sustain good relationships with one or more international organization, ideally in the mining company's home country, (such as Mining Watch in Canada, and Earthworks and Oxfam America in the USA). Get them to help you publicize your story and shame the company back home, because that's where much of the power in this struggle is. Contact newspapers in the company's country of origin and send articles, denunciations and petitions to their government. If the information is reliable and the company wants to appear responsible, that can lead to changes in policies or management. If a company has a well-earned reputation for being a responsible corporate citizen, it may drop the project altogether (of course, you may get a very irresponsible company with no reputation to lose). Have local residents send a personal message to the country's president to denounce illegal or aggressive tactics. Report the company to the Securities and Exchange Commission (or equivalent in their country of origin) in an effort to have them delisted (prevented from trading in the exchanges). For this strategy to work it is important to point out any false or fraudulent

