

Dear friends and Colleagues:

It is of utmost importance to continue to emphasize the impacts of oil exploration on the environmental, social and political dimensions of African countries. In recent times, several African countries such as Nigeria, Gabon, Algeria, Sierra Leone, and Ghana have expanded their efforts in the exploitation of their natural resources. Some of these countries have gone into partnerships with foreign companies in order to tap their natural resources. Often, enough attention is not paid to the irreversible environmental impacts, forced human resettlement, health hazard and economic problems that are involved in oil explorations. Local communities suffer tremendously from resource extraction and transformation processes.

One of the articles in this issue examines the “partnership” involved in the oil industry. It engages the reader in the issues surrounding oil exploration in Nigeria. The arguments are compelling and the critical examination of the Nigeria-Delta oil exploitation is detailed in this issue. A second article discusses the role of political education in the sustainability of African communities while a third article gives a general overview of the decline in Africa’s biodiversity as a consequence of poor conservation and preservation practices. The sustainability of African communities depends upon careful and deliberate planning and management of their resources. The “partnerships” that governments, non-governmental organizations, the private sector and citizens engage in determine the direction of the overall development of African countries.

I believe the concerns raised in these articles are noteworthy. We will continue to present you with interesting and timely issues about Africa.

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