Secretariat report

6th Annual General Assembly Steering committee

02 December 2020

Preamble

Greetings once again to all the comrades sitting in different virtual spaces on the continent.

Allow me to thank the chairperson of IANRA, Mr Rafiq Hajat and members of the steering committee who have served and provided strategic direction to the network. They have all served the network without any financial benefit. They have served the network out of their commitment to social justice and the need for the sustainable use of natural resources in Africa. We are here today, because of how well you have all served the network in the last four years.

To Anne Mayher, the past coordinator, I salute you comrade for getting us to where we are now. All your comrades on the continent express their sincere gratitude for all the hours, days, and years spent in campaigning tirelessly for justice and sustainable use for a people’s development of our natural resources. Today, IANRA network is now 52 members strong, spread across 14 countries in Africa, and we are growing.

Allow me also to thank all our development partners (some of them are here with us virtually) for how they have joined with us from the inception till today. We want to salute your courage, conviction and commitment to assisting civil society groups in fighting for socio-economic and political justice and human rights in Africa.

This gathering marks our 6th annual general assembly (AGM), and we titled, “African Civil Society on the March - Contesting
Dominant Hegemonies in the time of Pandemics” is happening at a time when the world is battling to contain and mitigate the impact of coronavirus – COVID-19 on people’s lives and economies. If you look critically, at the poster of this AGM, it reflects the various pandemic in history that the continent has suffered such as colonialism, racism, debt burden, wars, capitalism, Ebola, SARS and now COVID-19.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) in January 2020 declared the coronavirus as a pandemic because it spread rapidly across different countries within a short space of time. COVID-19 happened against the backdrop of or exposed the scars of our societies: increasing poverty, inequality, poverty, unemployed, gender-based violence and the continued marginalisations of Africans in real decision-making at home and in international fora. COVID-19 has been described by the United Nations as the worse global health crisis, unlike any since the end of World War II – one that is killing people, spreading human suffering, and upending people’s lives. The report further cautioned that COVID-19 crisis is more than a health crisis. It is a humanitarian crisis affecting the core of every society.

It is said that crisis is an opportunity for innovation. Since taking over the coordinator’s role/strategic direction for IANRA on 01st July 2020, the pandemic has given us the courage and inspiration to work innovatively in the past 5 months.

I will now turn to look at how we have coped and continued the fight against unjust power, during these times.

This report provides the programme and financial update for January 2019 July 2020. The programme update is divided into two sections. The first section looks at the organisation’s projects (i.e.EU and Ford
Foundation), with the second section focusing on the fundraising initiatives.

The European Union (EU) project is 3 years South Africa project coordinated by IANRA secretariat with three implementation partners – Actionaid South, Bench Marks Foundation, and Bafokeng Land Buyers Association (BLBA). In comparison to the Ford Foundation project, which is for 18 months.

The presentation of the financial report seeks to present the financial status of the network in terms of its budget against actual expenditures, cash flow, and balance sheet.

This report is presented against three very important factors in the life of the organisation. These are the sudden departure of Anne Mayher, IANRA Coordinator in April 2019, the global coronavirus (COVID-19), and the recruitment of a coordinator for five months (July - November 2020). All these factors have affected the work of the organisation in significant ways.

First, when Ms. Anne Mayher left the coordination role in April 2019, it effectively meant, all IANRA’s activities came to a halt until Moses Cloete (a member of IANRA executive committee) was seconded as the interim coordinator, a positioned he held until 30 June 2020.

Second, the global coronavirus outbreak. The Coronavirus (COVID-19) was declared by the World Health Organisation (WHO) in March 2020 as a pandemic given the rate at which the virus spread around the world. This declaration followed a series of policy actions from the governments across the continent and globally. IANRA host country, South African took a series of policy actions to contain the rapid the spread of the COVID-19.
These actions include, amongst others a total lockdown of the society, with exception given only to essential workers.

On the 5\textsuperscript{th} March 2020, the first coronavirus (COVID-19) case was officially reported in South Africa. Even though the first case in South Africa was imported from Europe, the virus was immediately transmitted into the local communities at an alarming rate.

The rate at which the number of infections increased in South Africa, prompted the South African government to react swiftly with a series of policy measures. President Cyril Ramaphosa, on 15 March 2020 declared a national state of disaster. The President immediate action included closing borders, implementing strict social distancing measures and an initial 35-day nation-wide lockdown, which was subsequently extended, formed part of measures to stop the rapid spread of the virus. The South African Government announced a public health emergency with effect from 26 March 2020, in direct response to COVID-19 pandemic.

I have singled out South Africa because it is here where our HQ is, but it is fair to say that many other countries quickly responded to the WHO call. Furthermore, South Africa is the chair of the African Union, and we must bear this in mind for our future campaigning work.

Third, a new coordinator was interviewed and recruited on 01 July 2020. The coordinator has gone through a process of induction with the support of Moses Cloete, IANRA executive committee, IANRA members, staff, and partners. The coordinator has had the opportunity in the last five months to familiarise with various institutional processes, procedures, regular meetings with the IANRA members, IANRA executive committee member/s, discussion with present and prospective development partners, review projects, and staff contracts. This report now proceeds to provide an account of the projects and financial status of the network.
EU project Update report

Officially the project ended in July 2020 without the option of extension. The partners only implemented two years of the 3 years project. The factors which contributed to non-implementation of activities include the late disbursement of funds by the EU, former coordinator sudden departure, non-extension of project, and restriction of movement due to COVID-19. The following activities were completed before the end of the project:

Parliamentary advocacy session with South African Parliaments

During the year under-reporting, IANRA project partners were engaged in numerous parliamentary sessions including:

- Organised and participated in the North West provincial workshop on legislative processes, legislation and advocacy work with members of communities, NGO’s and allies
- Participated in the EU legislature’s strategic sessions
- Organised and participated in a round table discussion with the Parliament and legislatures on enhancing citizen participation in legislative work. This meeting included secretaries and deputy secretaries to legislatures, senior legislatures and the EU delegation representatives facilitating the citizens participation
- Member had a contact session with the Chair of the Portfolio Committee on Mineral Resources and his staff
- Members had contact sessions with public participation offices
- Established relationships with Member of Parliament (MP) at the national level and Member of Provincial Legislatures (MPLs). Members held meetings with them and attended various committee meetings and hearings
• The implementing partners hosted several community workshops and conducted impact assessments of mining on communities in South Africa

**Participating communities in the project** - IANRA’s partners are working with 12 communities (Mogobading, Driekop, Mokopane, Ogies, Emalahleni, Kuruman, Kathu, Somkhele Fuleni, Luka. Motlabe, Robega and Chaneng spread across 5 provinces in South Africa. These are Limpopo, Mpumalanga, Northern Cape, KwaZulu Natal and Northwest.

**Published documents include:**

• The National Guide on Legislation, Legislatures and Legislative Processes
• The Community Booklets in five South African languages
• Published provincial policy briefs
• Publish national policy brief

**ActionAid Netherlands Seed Funding - Fair, Green and Global Programme**

Kebedtkeche Women Development and Resources Centre, Port Harcourt, Nigeria held a capacity building workshop and a site visit to the Niger Delta area for IANRA members working in the area of oil and gas. The meeting was held on the 26-28 February 2020 in Port Harcourt, Nigeria.

The objectives of the workshop were to:

• Strengthen the skills and knowledge of participating Civil Society Organisations (IANRA members) and community representatives on issues related to oil exploration and extraction through a process of mutual capacity development.
• Build solidarity among IANRA members affected by oil in their countries
· Develop a plan of activities for IANRA around oil issues, which is likely to include: education and awareness-raising in communities and among CSOs, advocacy, campaigning and research.

· Enable participants to bring back the acquired knowledge into FGG to develop the FGG work on corporate accountability in the oil sector (for example, by providing resources afterwards and providing a good report).

· Enable participating CSOs to build up the knowledge and skills to develop advocacy strategies to set the agendas on oil exploration and extraction in their respective countries, and ultimately to influence government and corporate behaviour and policy on this.

Participating in the workshop were 8 IANRA member countries from Ghana, Nigeria, Democratic Republic of Congo, Kenya, Zambia, Liberia, Sierra Leone, and Zimbabwe, including IANRA secretariat.

Although we targeted 14 countries, we believe that working with 8 member countries was good and the absence of the other member countries in particular Uganda, Tanzania, Malawi and Mozambique was due to factors beyond their control (visas). It is one reason why we must work for the free movement of Africans in our beloved continent.

The total number of 19 people, including community representatives from the Niger Delta region, participated in the capacity building workshop. More than 50% of the participants at the workshop were women. Most of the women who participated in the workshop are community leaders and human rights activists/defenders working with local women and other women’s rights holders on the issues of oil and gas abuses in the Niger Delta region.

The project contributed to strengthening the capacity of IANRA members through the sharing of country experiences and solidarity visit to Ogoni an oil affected community.
The site visit to the Goi Village in Ogoniland, Niger Delta presented an opportunity for IANRA members to assess first hand, the impact of oil exploration in communities’ and the livelihood.

The Goi community is part of the ancestral home of Ogoni people. The villages tell a story of the terrible effects of oil and gas exploration on the life and livelihoods of people, especially women, children and young people.

This is one of the inspiring stories that must motivate the formation of a working group that will deal with oil and gas, as I will speak about later.

What is now evident is this: the community is now a ghost town. All the inhabitants have fled the community due to environmental, water and ecological systems degradation. Following the declaration of the Ogoniland as a danger zone by the UNEP, the Nigerian government under the Federal Ministry of Petroleum Resources of Nigeria established the Hydrocarbon Pollution and Remediation Project (HYPREP) with a core mandate of rehabilitating the Ogoni environment and to restore the livelihood of the people. However, there is a lack of progress in the implementation of the recommendation of the UNEP to clean up oil spill sites and put in place other emergency measures to restore the Ogoni environment. It appears as if the Nigerian government and its agencies have turned their back on the people leaving them with contaminated air, surface and underground water.

This story of the impacts of mining and extractives generally is repeated in thousands of communities throughout the continent.

The secretariat has received a proposal from IANRA members in the Niger Delta to monitor the implementation of HYPREP, which would seek to identify the gaps in the clean-up process both on the part of HYPREP, the
contracting companies and impacted communities. The proposal offers IANRA an opportunity to move beyond the rhetoric and begin connecting its advocacy with affected communities in other natural resources domains.

Advocacy work must become one of the strongest weapons of our movement as we go forward.

At the same time, the proposal provides an added advantage of generating evidence for advocacy and connecting similar struggles in different regions within the continent. For the network, this represents a new way of organising to challenge the dominant hegemony over the lives and livelihoods of communities.

**Ford Foundation**

The *promoting a dialogue on good governance in the minerals sector in Sub-Saharan Africa* is an 24 month grants due to end in November 2021. The grant has four objectives:

i. to support IANRA in testing, implementing and evaluating its methodology for multi-stakeholder and network policy monitoring of mineral resources legislation and policy, ensuring the full participation of affected communities, especially women

ii. to provide technical assistance and educational information to national, regional and continental government officials, and building understanding of problems faced by communities and countries regarding the impact of mineral resources policies on development and human rights

iii. to deepen the understanding of IANRA members, communities, and partners regarding mineral resources and general natural resource policy content as well as governmental and inter-governmental, national/sub-national/continental processes

iv. to expand on and explore work on the following possible projects: women and land rights and popularising tools for land rights
documentation; women, gender and extractives and gender budgeting with mining revenues and other funds at local and national levels; development of a Mineral Resource and Revenue Sharing Mechanism; work to empower and protect women artisanal and small scale miners, and a broader view of conservation

The work packages under this project are progressing. We managed during the various country lockdowns to adjust to new ways of working in times of pandemic. Through the use of information technology and social media to:

- Host webinars
  i. Capacity building an effective network (9th September 2020);
  ii. COVID-19 Impact on Mining Communities in Africa
  iii. Africa’s Artisanal and Small-Scale Mining Amidst COVID-19
  iv. Bench Marks Foundation annual conference titled ‘organising in the times of pandemics’ (20th October 2020)

- Document the stories of change in mining-affected communities of Rustenburg, South Africa (video documentary)

However, this project offers the network an opportunity to building and consolidate a truly pan-African platform connecting the various issues and themes in the natural resources eco-systems through working Groups.

What IANRA can contribute to the global and continental struggle around natural resources plunder lies in connecting the different strands of groupings into an effective voice for change.

We can use the Ford Foundation project to start planting IANRA in different parts of the continent. There is an opportunity within the Ford project for IANRA members to start exploring harnessing the potential of working groups.
These working groups will be autonomous entities, and they must harness their voluntary power and agency for good the communities and societies at large.

If we are the harness the individual and collective energies within IANRA, it is time to start putting together the best of our activists and their movements, organisations through the re-formation of working groups.

These will be formed out of the key areas of work and interest of our network and thus become a formal part of the work of IANRA going forward.

The proposal is that we establish the following working groups:

i. OIL, GAS AND THE ENERGY SUSTAINABILITY
ii. THE OCEANS ECONOMY
iii. WATER, TAILINGS AND MINING
iv. LAND, FORESTRY AND LIVELIHOODS
v. REGULATIONS OF RESOURCES AND PEOPLES DEFENCE
vi. EXTRACTIVE AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Each working group will be convened by co-chairs with consideration for the principles of representativity in gender, regional diversity, language and or core affected community orientation and so on. Each working group will have clearly defined terms of reference.

Each working group will elect its administrative secretary, whose responsibility is to ensure that the proceedings are recorded, and together with the chairs reports are submitted to the secretariat and shared with the network members.

There are four ways to begin this process:

i. **Nomination of co-chairs** - the first task is to ensure that co-chairs are nominated to the specific groups including the secretary
ii. **Webinar** - secondly, each group to convene a webinar with members to generate agreement on objectives, methodologies and reporting obligations

iii. **Reporting platform** - thirdly, reporting on a platform that is linked to the secretariat and the coordinator and where all co-chairs and secretary’s will have access to

iv. **Feedback** - finally, reporting obligations must be to our principals as well, not only vertical. How we ensure effective reporting in the context of serious digital divide and challenges of connectivity is an interesting challenge for us to navigate

This way of working would enable IANRA to connect the various intersections between thematic areas of work and serve as a network that links national groups, with continental and international groups working on similar issues.

It is important to note that this is a marathon and not a sprint so we must pace ourselves and look out for allies whom we can work and together learn.

The Network must seek out funders and other partners who can support the smooth running of these learning and movement building.

**Ford foundation program-Finance Innovation and Resilience program**

We will be attending an online program hosted by the foundation on the 25-27 November 2020 the program is called finance innovation and resilience program, this will be a good learning opportunity for IANRA as the main objective of the program is to empower civil society organisations to increase their financial resilience in line with their institutional mission. It is focused especially on three intersecting themes: resource mobilisation, strategic finance, and use of communication and executive leadership to achieve financial stability and strength.
Alternative Mining Indaba, February 2020
IANRA sent Moses Cloete who was the acting coordinator, then to attend the mining indaba. IANRA still sits on the AMI Steering Committee.

How IANRA continues to engage this platform must be a matter that we must discuss going forward.

New membership
The steering committee as approved for ratification a new member of IANRA from Nigeria following the necessary procedure of becoming an IANRA member as stipulated in the constitution.

Communication with Members
The coordinator together with the project officer have started hosting members only webinar series titled “IANRA Khuluma” which in the Nguni languages means IANRA Talks. The first webinar was held on 31 July 2020 discussing the impact of Covid-19 in mining affected communities in Africa, the idea around these webinars is to rotate them around members with each member coming up with their topic. We are planning to host 2 webinars a month. One will be closed and will only have members participating and the other will be to open to wider civil society to join in. This will give us a chance to grow our base during these webinars and after as these meetings will be recorded and posted on all IANRA social media platforms.

The Coordinator has initiated a get to know your member programme which takes the form of a survey for IANRA Members. The main purpose of the survey is to solicit feedback from members about who you are, where they are located and the work they do. In addition, we will obtain members perspectives on how we could work better together as well as improve the service secretariat provide to members.

Website
Website - We have successfully revamped and re-launch our new website.
Fundraising
Since assuming the coordination role of IANRA, efforts have been made to established contacts with some development partners, and individuals. For example, Raith Foundation, Open Society Foundation (Africa Office), Actionaid International, Actionaid Netherlands, Open Society Foundation for Southern Africa, Open Society Foundation for East Africa, Ford Foundation, Africa Tax Justice Network, and Southern Africa Resource Watch. However, these efforts are still to translate into any concrete funding partnership.
IANRA must truly live its mandate and to do that we must become a truly PAN-AFRICAN ORGANISATION

- Electing a new vigorous younger leadership who can pick up the spear will help.

- Sub-regionalisation will help (Nodes in the sub-regions). To become a truly Pan African network, with regional nodes (South, North, East, West and Central Africa). It must build members capacities.

- Developing continental working groups will help

- Supporting members on the ground will help, because without them we are nothing. We must further strengthen the members and, importantly, the communities they represent.

- We cannot continue to ignore climate change in our work. Whilst Africa accounts for only 16 percent of the world’s population and emits about 4 percent of global CO2 emissions (with South Africa the most dominant polluter), it pays disproportionately compared to the humans in other parts of our world. The average North American, for instance, emits 17 times more carbon than the average African.

- We must increase our emphasis on internet based organising (to supplement others methods) because we find ourselves turning to, is the opportunity for a great leap forward for IANRA.

Good luck and hard work. We must stay safe, and not simply wait for a vaccine. We are our vaccine when we do the right things now and for the future of our people.