



From Emissions to Assets: Carbon Accounting, Trading and Offsetting in Africa's Extractive Sector

THE SITEI 2025 COMMUNIQUÉ

On **Tuesday, 25 November 2025**, CSR-in-Action Advocacy, the non-profit arm of the CSR-in-Action Group, in collaboration with key partners in government, civil society and the private sector, convened the **14th Sustainability in the Extractive Industries (SITEI) Conference**. The Conference, themed **“From Emissions to Assets: Carbon Accounting, Trading and Offsetting in Africa's Extractive Sector”**, was held virtually and brought together policymakers, industry leaders, researchers, financial experts and community stakeholders from across Nigeria, Africa and the global extractive landscape.

The 2025 theme highlighted the urgent need to align Nigeria's governance structures, sustainability frameworks and extractive-sector practices with emerging climate-finance opportunities. It highlighted Africa's evolving position in global carbon markets and the importance of transforming emissions that were long perceived only as liabilities into economic assets that is capable of opening paths to national and community development.

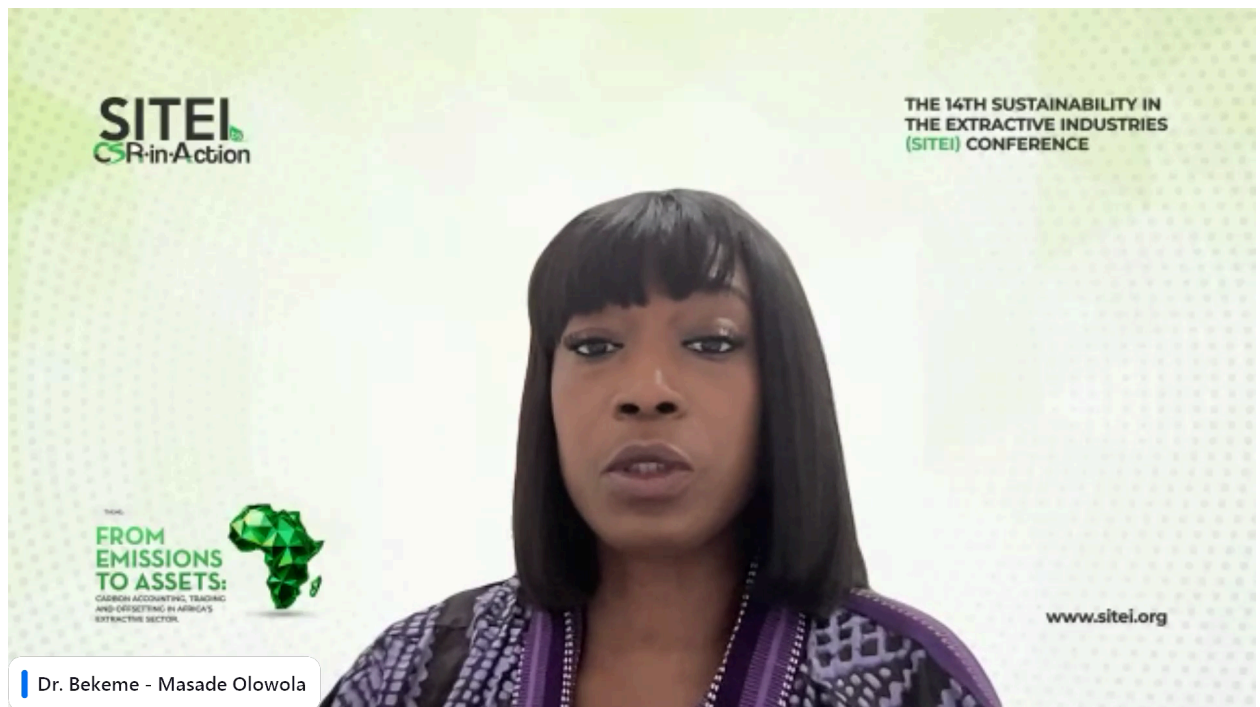
The extractive industries remains a major player in Nigeria's economic identity, they also sit at the frontline of national environmental and social vulnerability. The Conference examined **Africa's rising role in the carbon economy**, the increasing acceptance of carbon accounting standards, the risks of poor MRV (Measurement, Reporting and Verification) practices, and the untapped potential of carbon credit generation across clean cooking, flare gas reduction, methane capture, renewable integration, nature-based solutions and wider decarbonisation pathways.

The discussions were framed within the backdrop of Nigeria's new **Carbon Market Activation Policy (2025)**, Africa's commitments at **COP30 in Belém, Brazil**, and the continent's projected ability to generate **up to 300 million tonnes of carbon credits annually by 2030**.

Founder of CSR-in-Action and Convener of SITEI, **Dr Bekeme Masade-Olowola**, in her welcome address, emphasised the urgency for African institutions to build credibility, transparency and technological readiness for climate-finance participation. She affirmed that emissions, when properly measured and independently verified, can catalyse new economic value, create thousands of jobs and strengthen national resilience.

Dr Masade-Olowola stressed that:

“Africa is no longer marginal to the climate conversation. Our natural capital positions us at the centre of global opportunity. The challenge and the responsibility before us is to build integrity, strengthen MRV systems and ensure that the value generated benefits communities and the nation equitably.”



She also introduced **FuelTree**, a technology enabled clean-cooking and carbon-project ecosystem integrating AI-driven telemetry, real-time consumption measurement and a Virtual Cylinder Recirculation Model (VCRM), designed to deliver verifiable emissions reductions aligned with Article 6 frameworks; a SPV of CSR-in-Action, SME Funds, and Climate Credit Network Africa (CCNA).

The Conference was expertly moderated by **Mr Chigozie Ejimogu**, who underscored the rising investor expectation for companies within the extractive space to transition from emissions reporting to **value-creating decarbonisation strategies backed by credible [data](#)**.



The sessions were filled with two powerful and deeply informative presentations:

Session 1:

"Carbon Credits Explained: Carbon Accounting and Measurement and the Clean Cooking Revolution"

Presented by: Femi Oye

Mr Oye set the stage with a solid introduction to global and African carbon markets, including the distinction between voluntary and compliance systems, and the need for strong MRV at the heart of carbon integrity. He noted the clean cooking opportunity as one of the most scalable and socially transformative carbon opportunities in Nigeria, for example:

- Nigeria had **more than 95,000 annual deaths as a result of indoor air pollution**.
- **Ongoing over-dependence on firewood and kerosene** in rural and peri-urban communities.
- The **lost value from over 200 billion cubic feet of gas flared** in 2024, estimated at over **USD 300 million**.

He showed how AI-enabled LPG distribution models can create high-integrity carbon credits as well as unlock measurable health, economic and social benefits.



Session Two:

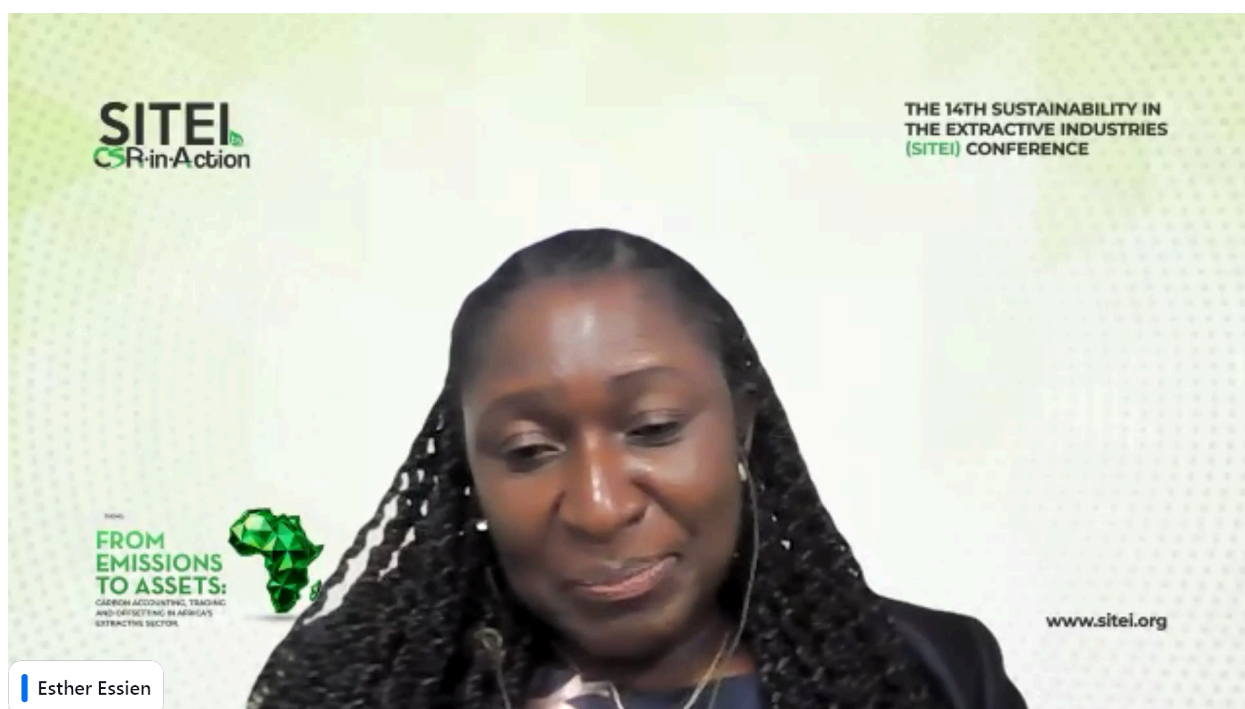
“Carbon Opportunities in Extractives – Where the Money Is”

Presented by: Ms Esther Essien

Ms Essien provided a sector-specific analysis of Nigeria’s extractive-sector decarbonisation pathways. She identified methane capture as the **most valuable carbon opportunity**, given methane’s high global warming potential and premium credit pricing. She also highlighted:

- Flare gas reduction as a fast-yielding investment.
- Renewable energy integration (solar, wind, mini-grids, hybrid systems) as a method to reduce operational costs by up to **50%**.
- The promise of Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) technologies for long-term abatement.
- Nature-Based Solutions (NBS) as key to community empowerment, environmental restoration and long-lasting carbon sequestration.

Her speech called for much stronger regulatory convergence, improved MRV systems, robust institutional cooperation and a systematic commitment to supporting the fledging sector from governments to ensure its credibility and to instil investor confidence.



The Challenges

At the Conference, participants and speakers raised several important challenges that needed urgent, multi-stakeholder attention:

- Weak national MRV systems to back the production of high-integrity carbon credits.
- Increasing environmental degradation and flare-gas emissions.
- Growing climate-related risks and threats to local livelihoods.
- Weak regulatory and institutional coordination across implementing agencies.
- Energy insecurity and high dependency on fossil-fuel infrastructure.
- Low awareness of carbon markets among local communities.
- The underrepresentation of women and vulnerable groups in carbon-project governance.
- The lack of accountability in social spending under regulatory frameworks.
- Continued deforestation driven by fuelwood dependence.
- Limited access to finance for community-level clean energy and transition projects.
- Insufficient transparency in emissions reporting and environmental practice.
- Fragmented datasets and a lack of gender-disaggregated data for project planning.

SITEI 2025 Recommendations

The following recommendations were identified as essential for the extractive industries, government institutions, development partners and host communities:

- Strengthening MRV frameworks to meet global verification standards.
- Investing in methane capture and flare-reduction projects as immediate value drivers.

- Accelerating clean-cooking programmes using LPG and other modern fuels.
- Scaling renewable energy integration across extractive operations.
- Supporting data generation, validation and transparency in emissions reporting.
- Building the capacity of regulators and operators on carbon standards.
- Promoting gender-inclusive leadership and decision-making within climate and extractive governance.
- Enhancing accountability for social spending and community impact.
- Establishing cross-agency coordination for carbon market governance.
- Encouraging public-private partnerships to finance large-scale decarbonisation.
- Strengthening community engagement, social licensing and benefit-sharing.
- Ensuring carbon-project design and development includes vulnerable and marginalised groups.
- Promoting homegrown, locally-tailored solutions that fit the socio-economic context.
- Pushing transparency and trust-building between local communities and extractive companies.

Conclusion

SITEI 2025 ended with a clarion call to action for Nigeria and Africa to act now. At a time when the global carbon economy is rapidly scaling up, the continent has a competitive advantage. As reiterated during the Conference, **emissions can become assets**, with the right mix of credible systems, coordinated policies, communities and accountability, inclusion and sustained leadership at all levels of governance.

Participants commended CSR-in-Action for its continued leadership in convening constructive dialogue, driving research and supporting the creation of value-driven, community-centred climate solutions for the extractive sector.

Signed:

For: SITEI Steering Committee

Dr Bekeme Masade-Olowola

Chief Executive / Founder, CSR-in-Action



Meka Olowola

Chairman, SITEI Organising Committee

