

Nomination 3 Highflyer Award 2024

‘Selling out Nigeria: Shell’s Irresponsible Divestment’ | SOMO Research

For years, we’ve held a special place in our hearts for organizations that call out corporations and governments for their misconduct and hold them accountable for their role in global issues. That’s why we often reserve a nomination each year for a campaign that embodies this mission: speaking to power. This year, one organisation stood out prominently: [SOMO Research](#).

SOMO not only goes above and beyond to highlight the destruction Shell has left behind in Nigeria but also does so with a compelling and well-crafted video. The video features voices from various segments of society, emphasizing the multifaceted resistance to Shell’s actions. This resistance spans legal, political, activist, and civic approaches, all aimed at holding Shell accountable for its environmental devastation.

The video makes it clear that Shell has compounded its errors, not just during its operations but also in its withdrawal from parts of the Niger Delta. The divestment process, where Shell sold its assets to Aiteo, stands out as particularly egregious, as local stakeholders were excluded from the decision-making process. Meanwhile, the consequences of Shell’s actions will continue to affect the region for years to come.

SOMO’s video places those directly affected at the forefront, highlighting collaboration with Nigeria’s [SDN](#) (Stakeholder Democracy Network), the organization leading the resistance. Importantly, the video also credits the filmmaker, [Simpa Samson](#), by name, and acknowledges the colonial history underpinning Shell’s operations in the region – a perspective that is often unjustly overlooked.

The video is exceptionally well-executed. It makes one thing clear: Shell’s departure from the Niger Delta does not mark the end of the challenges. A noteworthy related production comes from Both Ends, which produced a strong piece on the ongoing efforts in the region. While it narrowly missed a nomination, we’ve reserved a special mention for ‘[The Impact from Shell in the River Delta: Our Partner Story](#),’ which focuses on [Kebetkache Women Development](#), a partner organization addressing gender dynamics in this issue.

Additionally, a special mention goes to Wemos, a regular contender on our radar, for their sharp videos critiquing corporate power. This year, they took on ‘big capital’ in a particularly literal sense with ‘[Monopoly: Medicine Edition](#).’ The satirical commercial for the iconic board game challenges the pharmaceutical industry: ‘Become the ultimate pill king and offload all risks onto society.’ Incisive.