



## **Getting The Best Out Of Black Gold: Reconnaissance Visit To Turkana Oil Fields**

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Institute for Law and Environmental Governance (ILEG) in Partnership with UK aid through the Kenya Extractives Programme (KEXPRO) is currently undertaking the project “Raising awareness of the Oil sector to improve governance of Kenya’s emerging extractives sector”. A key component of this project involves convening stakeholder dialogues in Turkana to discuss, share information and concerns, identify and implement strategies to promote sustainable oil sector development while minimising adverse impacts on the people and environment. This will be done under the auspices of the Extractives Sector Forum (ESF), a uniquely tailored quarterly multi-stakeholder convening of companies, communities, national and county governments, civil society and academia that are actively involved in the extractives sector in Kenya.

While a number of ESF convenings have been held in Nairobi with remarkable success, local voices have not had adequate opportunity to contribute to the conversations. In fact, an overriding recommendation at virtually all the past convening is to take the ESF dialogues to the grassroots in order to reach the population who are the most directly affected, or are the potential biggest beneficiaries of good governance of the extractive sector. This is particularly important for Turkana County which is by far the most advanced county with regard to oil and gas exploration and development.

As part of the planning for these dialogues, ILEG has planned a 4-day reconnaissance visit to Turkana to acquaint with the current status of the oil development cycle and to contextualize the issues that need immediate stakeholder dialogues. The specific objectives of the visit are to:

- Learn the general status of oil exploration and development in Turkana County
- Understand the general community perspectives on the opportunities and challenges presented by the oil industry particularly during the field development phase
- Learn about county government initiatives and perspectives on the current oil exploration and development cycle.
- Learn about development issues on the ground and how those issues can inform future ESF dialogues and feed into on-going policy processes.
- Create partnerships with local institutions and organizations working on natural resources governance.