

From energy investment to sustainable impact: Seepco's African story

By Oredola Adeola

In the heart of Africa's booming energy sector, Sterling Oil Exploration and Energy Production Company Ltd (SEEPCO) has built a compelling narrative — one that blends growth in energy investment with commitment to sustainability and community well-being. Since its founding in 2005, SEEPCO has grown into one of the continent's fastest-expanding indigenous oil and gas exploration and production firms, significantly contributing to Nigeria's energy infrastructure and economy.

Fueling Africa's Energy Needs

From early production successes in fields such as Okwuibome (OKW) and Anieze under OML 143 to recent expansion into OML 13 in Akwa Ibom State, SEEPCO's investments reflect a strategic push to harness Africa's hydrocarbon resources while generating value for stakeholders and boosting energy security.

But unlike many traditional players, SEEPCO is evolving its model — rethinking what a modern energy company can be in an era of climate urgency.

Embedding Sustainability into the Core

While hydrocarbon production is still central, SEEPCO says it measures success by positive environmental and social impact, not just barrels produced. This shift shows in a panoply of sustainability initiatives:

Carbon Emissions Reduction

One of SEEPCO's most notable sustainability milestones has been cutting carbon emissions by around 25%. The company achieved this by converting over 90% of its vehicles and equipment fleet to run on compressed natural gas (CNG) — a cleaner fuel alternative that significantly lowers greenhouse gas emissions.

Greener Operations

Beyond vehicles, SEEPCO has redesigned its marine barge fleet with double-hull structures to reduce the risk of oil leaks and better protect Nigeria's waterways — a move that demonstrates a sincere effort to protect fragile

ecosystems.

Afforestation and Green Infrastructure

Environmental stewardship isn't just industrial for SEEPCO — it's ecological. The company has committed to planting 10,000 trees annually in Nigeria's host communities, supported by greenhouses and extensive care programs to ensure high seedling survival. These afforestation efforts aim to combat deforestation, enhance biodiversity, and help absorb atmospheric carbon.

Community-Centric ESG Campaigns

In 2025, SEEPCO launched the "Bringing Smiles with Each Barrel" campaign — an initiative that frames sustainability as more than environmental action, but as social impact rooted in corporate accountability and inclusive growth. By linking every barrel of energy to community benefit — from health and gender programs to youth empowerment — the company is positioning sustainability as part of its operational DNA rather than a sideline activity.

Recognition and Industry Impact

SEEPCO's sustainability trajectory has not gone unnoticed. In 2025, the company was honored with the

Sustainability Company of the Year award at the National Association of Energy Correspondents (NAEC) Awards — a testament to its leadership in environmental stewardship and responsible energy practices within Nigeria's oil and gas sector.

Additionally, the firm has been recognized at other ESG-focused forums, further spotlighting its growing reputation as a leader in sustainable energy transition across Africa.

Why It Matters for Africa's Energy Future

SEEPCO's story reflects a broader shift in energy investment dynamics across the continent — from models solely focused on resource extraction to ones that integrate environmental responsibility, social value, and long-term resilience. In a region facing the dual challenge of meeting rising energy demand while addressing climate impacts, such approaches are vital for building inclusive, sustainable, and forward-looking energy systems.

By balancing economic growth, community well-being, and eco-innovation, SEEPCO's journey underscores a critical message: Africa's energy future doesn't have to choose between profit and sustainability — it can deliver both.

