

2014



## Shell – Wetlands International Partnership

### Sustainable Livelihoods and Biodiversity Project (SLBP)

REPORT ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF SLBP  
COMMUNITIES OPERATIONAL PLANS IN  
NIGER DELTA, NIGERIA.

**BY**

Anthony Chowwen (Ph.D.) Team Lead  
Alade Adeleke  
Michael Uwagbae  
Elizabeth Odetola



<b>TABLE OF CONTENT</b>										<b>PAGE</b>	
a.	Cover Page										
b.	Table of contents	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	ii
c.	List of Tables	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	vii
d.	List of Plate	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	ix
e.	List of Figures	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	xi
f.	Abbreviations	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	xii
g.	Team Composition	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	xiii
h.	Credits	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	xiii
<b>1.</b>	<b>Executive Summary</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	<b>1</b>
<b>2.</b>	<b>Introduction</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	<b>4</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Methodology</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	<b>7</b>
<b>4.</b>	<b>Community Operational Plan Outcome (Individual Community Report)</b>				-	-	-	-	-	-	<b>11</b>
<b>4.1</b>	<b>Abobiri Community – Bayelsa State</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	<b>12</b>

## **SECTION 1**

### **COMMUNITY BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

4.1.1	Brief Historical Background	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12
4.1.2	Wetlands Ecosystem	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	13
4.1.2.1	Causes of wetlands Degradation	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	14
4.1.2.2	Uses of wetlands in Abobiri	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	15
4.1.3	Livelihoods Systems	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	15
4.1.3.1	Current Sources of Livelihood in Abobiri	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	17
4.1.4	Trend Analysis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	18
4.1.5	Community Structure and Stakeholders Relationship	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	18
4.1.5.1	Individual Stakeholders in the Community	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	19
4.1.6.	Past Development Intervention	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	20
4.1.6.1	Causes of Project Failure	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	20

## **SECTION 2**

### **OPERATIONAL PLANNING PROCESS, COMMUNITY DIAGNOSIS AND ANALYSIS**

4.1.7	Abobiri Swot Analysis Outcomes	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	21
4. 1.8	Abobiri Problem Diagnosis Outcome	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	22
4.1.9	Community Value, Vision and Goals	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	23
4.1.10	Action Step/Recommended Projects	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	25

**SECTION 3**  
**COMMUNITY PLAN AND IMPACT IMPLICATIONS**

4.1.11	Abobiri Community Operational Plan	-	-	-	28
4.1.12	Proposed Project Beneficiary & Impact	-	-	-	37

**SECTION 4**  
**PLAN MANAGEMENT & SUSTAINABILITY**

4.1.13	Operational Plan Management & Sustainability	-	-	-	39
4.1.14	Recommended PIC Members	-	-	-	40
4.1.15	Performance Evaluation	-	-	-	41
4.1.16	Managing Community Benefits From SLBP Projects	-	-	-	41

<b>4.2. Asarama Community Rivers State</b>	-	-	-	-	<b>47</b>
--	---	---	---	---	-----------

**COMMUNITY BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

4.2.1	Brief Historical Background	-	-	-	42
4.2.2	Wetlands Ecosystem	-	-	-	43
4.2.2.1	Uses of wetlands in Asarama	-	-	-	45
4.2.2.2	Causes of Wetlands Degradation	-	-	-	45
4.2.3	Livelihoods Systems	-	-	-	45
4.2.3.1	Livelihood Sources in Asarama	-	-	-	46
4.2.3.1	Women Livelihood	-	-	-	47
4.2.4	Community Structure and Stakeholders Relationship	-	-	-	47
4.2.4.1	Individual Stakeholders in the Community	-	-	-	49
4.2.5	Past Project Intervention	-	-	-	49
4.2.5.1	Causes of Project Failure	-	-	-	50

**SECTION 2**  
**OPERATIONAL PLANNING PROCESS, COMMUNITY DIAGNOSIS AND ANALYSIS**

4.2.6	Asarama Swot Analysis Outcomes	-	-	-	51
4.2.7	Asarama Problem Diagnosis Outcome	-	-	-	51
4.2.8	Community Value, Vision and Goals	-	-	-	53
4.2.9	Action Steps/Recommended Projects	-	-	-	55

### **SECTION 3**

#### **COMMUNITY PLAN AND IMPACT IMPLICATIONS**

4.2.10	Asarama Community Operational Plan	-	-	-	56
4.2.11	Proposed Project Beneficiary & Impact	-	-	-	63

### **SECTION 4**

#### **PLAN MANAGEMENT & SUSTAINABILITY**

4.2.12	Operational Plan Management & Sustainability	-	-	-	66
4.2.13	Recommended PIC Members	-	-	-	66
4.2.15	Community Representatives To Sign MOU	-	-	-	67
4.2.16	Performance Evaluation	-	-	-	67
4.2.17	Managing Projects For Community Benefits	-	-	-	67

## **5.3 OBI – AYAGHA COMMUNITY – DELTA STATE**

### **SECTION 1**

#### **COMMUNITY BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

4.3.1	Brief Historical Background	-	-	-	-	68
4.3.2	Demography and Geography	-	-	-	-	69
4.3.3	Uses of Wetlands In Obi-Ayagha	-	-	-	-	70
4.3.3.1	General Livelihoods In The Community	-	-	-	-	71
4.3.4	Governance Structure and Stakeholders Relationship	-	-	-	-	72
4.3.4.1	Individual Stakeholders In The Community	-	-	-	-	74
4.3.5	Trend Analysis	-	-	-	-	74
4.3.6.	Past Project Intervention	-	-	-	-	75

### **Section 2**

#### **Operational Planning Process, Community Diagnosis And Analysis**

4.3.7	Obi-Ayagha SWOT Analysis Outcomes	-	-	-	-	76
4.3.8	Obi-Ayagha Problem Diagnosis Outcomes	-	-	-	-	77
4.3.9	Community Value, Vision and Goals	-	-	-	-	78
4.3.9	Action Steps/Recommended Projects	-	-	-	-	79

**SECTION 3**  
**COMMUNITY PLAN AND IMPACT IMPLICATIONS**

4.3.10	Obi-Ayagha Community Operational Plan	-	-	-	81
--------	---------------------------------------	---	---	---	----

**SECTION 4**  
**Plan management & Sustainability**

4.3.11	Operational Plan Management & Sustainability	-	-	-	89
4.3.12	Recommended PIC Members	-	-	-	90
4.3.13	Community Representatives To Sign MOU	-	-	-	90
4.3.14	Performance Evaluation	-	-	-	90
4.3.15	Managing Projects For Community Benefits	-	-	-	91

**5.4 Opume Community – Bayelsa State**

**SECTION 1**  
**COMMUNITY BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

4.4.1	Brief Historical Background	-	-	-	92
4.4.2	Wetlands Ecosystem	-	-	-	93
4.4.2.1	Causes of Wetlands Degradation in Opume	-	-	-	96
4.4.3	Livelihoods Systems	-	-	-	96
4.4.3.1	Current Livelihood Topology	-	-	-	97
4.4.4	Trend Analysis	-	-	-	98
4.4.5	Community Structure and Stakeholders Relationship	-	-	-	99
4.4.5.1	Individual Stakeholders in the Community	-	-	-	99
4.4.6.	Past Project Intervention	-	-	-	99
4.4.6.1	Causes of Project Failure	-	-	-	100

**SECTION 2**  
**OPERATIONAL PLANNING PROCESS, COMMUNITY DIAGNOSIS AND ANALYSIS**

4.4.7	Opume SWOT Analysis Outcomes	-	-	-	101
4. 4.8	Opume Problem Diagnosis Outcome	-	-	-	101
4. 4.9	Opume Land Tenure Challenges	-	-	-	103
4.4.10	Community Value, Vision and Goals	-	-	-	104
4.4.11	Action Steps/Recommended Projects	-	-	-	106

**SECTION 3**  
**COMMUNITY PLAN AND IMPACT IMPLICATIONS**

4.4.12	Opume Community Operational Plan	-	-	-	107
4.4.13	Proposed Project Beneficiary & Impact	-	-	-	111





**SECTION 4**  
**PLAN MANAGEMENT & SUSTAINABILITY**

4.4.14	Operational Plan Management & Sustainability	-	-	113
4.4.15	Recommended PIC Members	-	-	113
4.4.16	Community Representatives To Sign MOU	-	-	114
4.4.17	Performance Evaluation	-	-	114
4.4.18	Managing Projects For Community Benefits	-	-	115

<b>5.</b>	<b>Operational Plan Exercise – Field Constraints and Challenges</b>	-	-	<b>116</b>
-----------	---	---	---	------------

<b>6.</b>	<b>General Recommendations</b>	-	-	-	<b>117</b>
-----------	--------------------------------	---	---	---	------------

**7. Appendix.**

I.	Key Informant Interview Guide	-	-	-	-	118
II.	Community Diagnosis (SWOT Analysis)	-	-	-	-	120
III.	Community Value And Vision Processing	-	-	-	-	121
IV.	Names of Community Members who attended Operational Planning Session					
	 Asarama Community	-	-	-	-	124
	 Opume Community	-	-	-	-	125
	 Abobiri Community	-	-	-	-	126
	 Obi – Ayagha Community	-	-	-	-	127

## LIST OF TABLES

Table 1: Past Development Interventions	-	-	-	-	-	-	20
Table 2: SWOT Analysis Table for Abobiri Community	-	-	-	-	-	-	21
Table 3: Problem Diagnosis Outcome for Abobiri Community	-	-	-	-	-	-	22
Table 4: Showing Priority Rating of the Livelihoods Projects Recommended by the Community							26
Table 5: Abobiri Community Operational Plan	-	-	-	-	-	-	28
Table 6: Proposed Project Beneficiaries and Impact	-	-	-	-	-	-	37
Table 7: Suggested Names for PIC Members in Abobiri	-	-	-	-	-	-	39
Table 8: Community Structure and Stakeholder Relationship in Asarama	-	-	-	-	-	-	47
Table 9: Stakeholder Groups Ranked in Order of Importance in the Community	-	-	-	-	-	-	48
Table 10: Past Developmental Projects in Asarama	-	-	-	-	-	-	49
Table 11: SWOT Analysis Outcome for Asarama Community	-	-	-	-	-	-	51
Table 12: Problem Diagnosis Outcome for Asarama	-	-	-	-	-	-	51
Table 13: Community Operational Plan for Asarama Community				-	-	-	55
Table 14: Proposed Project Beneficiaries and Impact in Asarama				-	-	-	63
Table 15: Recommended PIC Members In Asarama Community				-	-	-	66
Table 16: Stakeholders To Work With In Obi – Ayagha Community				-	-	-	73
Table 17: Individual Stakeholders In Obi-Ayagha Community	-	-	-	-	-	-	74
Table 18: List of Past Projects and Interventions in Obi – Ayagha Community				-	-	-	75
Table 19: SWOT Analysis of Obi-Ayagha Community		-	-	-	-	-	76
Table 20: Problem Diagnosis Outcome for Obi-Ayagha		-	-	-	-	-	77
Table 21: Operational Plan For Obi – Ayagha Community-		-	-	-	-	-	81
Table 22: Recommended PIC Members in Obi-Ayagha Community		-	-	-	-	-	90
Table 23: Past Developmental Projects in Opume Community	-	-	-	-	-	-	98
Table 24: Community Structure and Stakeholder Relationship in Opume				-	-	-	99

Table 25: Past Developmental Projects in Opume	-	-	-	-	-	99
Table 26: SWOT Analysis Outcome for Opume Community	-	-	-	-	-	101
Table 27: Problem Diagnosis Outcome for Opume	-	-	-	-	-	101
Table 28: Operational Plan for Opume Community	-	-	-	-	-	107
Table 29: Proposed Project Beneficiaries and Impact in Opume Community	-	-	-	-	-	111
Table 30: Suggested Names for PIC Members in Opume Community	-	-	-	-	-	113
Table 31: Names of Community Members at Operation Planning Sessions (Asarama)	-	-	-	-	-	124
Table 32: Names of Community Members at Operation Planning Sessions (Opume)	-	-	-	-	-	125
Table 33: Names of Community Members at Operation Planning Sessions (Abobiri)	-	-	-	-	-	126
Table 34: Names of Community Members at Operation Planning Sessions (Obi-Ayagha)	-	-	-	-	-	127



## LIST OF PLATES

Plate 1: Operational Plan Team During Pre-Field Meeting	-	-	-	5
Plate 2: Operational Team Member Interviewing A Key Informant	-	-	-	7
Plate 3: Focus Group Discussion	-	-	-	8
Plate 4: Trend Analysis	-	-	-	8
Plate 5: Process of Drawing Out Venn Diagram	-	-	-	9
Plate 6: Operation Plan Team Members Engaged in Community Diagnosis/SWOT Analysis	-	-	-	9
Plate 7: Operational Plan Team Member Engaged In Community Development Process	-	-	-	10
Plate 8: Hand Drawn Map of Abobiri by Members of the Community	-	-	-	13
Plate 9: Cross Section Of Mangrove Forest In Abobiri	-	-	-	14
Plate 10: Members of Abobiri Community Engaged in Fishing as a Livelihood	-	-	-	16
Plate 11: Abobiri Community Members Engaged in the Development of Operational Plan	-	-	-	17
Plate 12 : Venn Diagram of Abobiri Community	-	-	-	19
Plate 13: Operational Team Member in Discussions with Community Members	-	-	-	23
Plate 13 : Hand Drawn Map of Asarama	-	-	-	43
Plate 14: Cross Section of Wetland Ecosystem in Asarama Community	-	-	-	44
Plate 15: Cross Section Of Asarama Community Members Engaged In Various Livelihoods	-	-	-	46
Plate 16: Hand Drawn Venn Diagram by Community Members in Asarama	-	-	-	49
Plate 17: Community Members During Operation Planning Sessions	-	-	-	53
Plate 18 : Hand Drawn Map of Obi-Ayagha Community	-	-	-	68
Plate 19: A Cross Section of Freshwater Swamp in Obi-Ayagha Community	-	-	-	70
Plate 20: Fishing as a Livelihood in Obi-Ayagha Community	-	-	-	71
Plate 21: Venn Diagram of Obi-Ayagha Community Drawn by Community Members	-	-	-	72
Plate 22: Operational Team Member Engaged with Community on Trend Analysis	-	-	-	74
Plate 23: Obi-Ayagha Community Members Engaged in Operational Planning Session	-	-	-	78

Plate 24: Obi-Ayagha Community Members During Focus Group Discussions	-	89
Plate 25: Hand Drawn Map of Opume Community	- - - - -	93
Plate 26: Cross Section of Mangrove Swamp in Opume Community	- - -	94
Plate 27: Cross Section of Swamp Forest in Opume Community	- - -	95
Plate 28: Operational Team Member in Session with Opume Community on Trend Analysis		98
Plate 29: Opume Community Members During Operational Planning Sessions	- -	104
Plate 30: Chief, Elders and Community Members that Attended Operation Planning Session		114

## LIST OF FIGURES

Fig. 1: Pie Chart Showing the Percentage of Female/Male Population in Abobiri Community	13
Fig. 2: Pie Chart Showing the Percentage of Female/Male population in Asarama Community	43
Fig. 3: Pie Chart Showing the Percentage of Female/Male Population in Obi-Ayagha Community	70
Fig. 4: Pie Chart Showing the Percentage of Female/Male population in Opume Community	93

## **ABBREVIATIONS**

KII	-	Key Informant Interview
FGD	-	Focused Group Discussion
CEDS	-	Community Economic Development Strategy
PIC	-	Project Implementation Strategy
SLPB	-	Sustainable Livelihood and Biodiversity Project
WIA	-	Wetlands International
TOR	-	Terms of Reference
ATRs	-	African Traditional Religions
CDC	-	Community Development Council
MOU	-	Memorandum of Understanding
SWOT	-	Strength, Weakness, Opportunities and Threat

## TEAM COMPOSITION

1. Dr Anthony Chowwen  
Managing Director,  
Living Earth Nigeria Foundation, Nigeria
2. Alade Adeleke  
Executive Director,  
Nigerian Conservation Foundation, Nigeria.
3. Mr Michael Uwagbae  
Manager, SLBP  
W/A, Nigeria Office
4. Mrs Elizabeth Odetola  
Project Associate/ Logistic Officer  
WA, Nigeria Office



© Credits

Funding for the preparation of the SLBP Operational Plan for the participating Communities (Abobiri, Asarama, Obi-Ayagha and Opume) was graciously provided by Wetlands International Africa Regional Office.

## 1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The local knowledge of community members, time, and energy are key to a successful planning process that links local needs and vision with achievable results. Outside experts, facilitation and resources can play a useful role but only a community driven process can create a community and economic development plan based on local values, assets, challenges and priority.

Over a period of 5 weeks between May and June 2014, 4 participating sites of the Sustainable livelihood and Biodiversity Projects (SLBP) were facilitated in a planning process to produce operational plan for each of the communities. The plans are being developed as part of the SLBP project objective of sustaining and restoring Niger Delta wetlands, their values and service for people and biodiversity.

A combination of survey methods, participatory approaches and community planning techniques were deployed to elicit required information for action planning. Some of these methods include Key Informant Interview, Focussed Group Discussion (FGD), Trend analysis, Institutional Network/ Venn diagram, Community Diagnosis / SWOT Analysis and Community Development Planning model based on elements of Community Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) which answers the questions of ***'Where are we now? Where do we want to be? How do we get there? and How do we sustain progress?'***

In-depth analysis of data from key informant interview, FGD and community facilitation shows that all participating communities are dependent on Wetlands for their livelihoods. Although, a high level of dependence is still discernable, the rate and level of dependence has reduced with time from almost 100% dependence 30years ago to an average of 60% today. Some of the reasons given for less dependence on Wetlands include wetlands degradation and reduced productivity and profitability from fishing and farming business. The growing quest for "white collar jobs" especially civil service jobs around community is another reason for less dependence on wetlands. All respondents were in agreement that their environment /wetlands have been degraded. The causes of degradation range from deforestation, oil spillage, gas flaring, dredging, population explosion, Nypa Palm invasion, intensive logging and continuous cropping. All participants were unanimous that the provision of alternative livelihood will assist in the overall reduction of wetlands misuse and degradation. Some of the alternative livelihoods listed include; fish farming, periwinkle farming, petty trading, micro credit, vocational skills and empowerment programs, scholarship programs which allow school drop outs to return to school etc.

To answer the first of the 4 questions of (CEDS) Community Economic Development Strategy which is ***"where are we now"***?. The community diagnostic tool complemented with a SWOT Analysis was deployed. The results show 4 levels of problems in the community namely: Community levels problems, challenges faced by men, challenges faced by women and challenges faced by youths. These outcomes were requisite building block for the planning stage.

To answer the second CEDS question of ***'where do we want to be?'*** Community planning groups were facilitated through a brainstorming and community visioning sessions. The process starts with

community stating their values ( a list of what is considered important in the community). Next, individual participants stated where they would want the community to be in the next 20years and after a brainstorming session agreed to a shared community vision. The operational plan derives largely from the community shared vision which state where they would like to be in 20years. The operational plans as presented in this report are a summary of statements by stakeholders of the first action steps community intend to take within a 2-3 year time frame to achieve the 20 years shared vision.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> CEDS question of *'how do we get there'* relate to the actual community operational plan. To come up with the plan, community planning stakeholders were facilitated to arrange on flip chart stated values and vision under the following headings.




Economy (livelihood),Environmental (Wetlands),Leadership (Governance), and Culture

These were reviewed and the summary used as basis for deciding goals of what to do in the next 3 years to move closer to the 20 year vision. Although, communities were facilitated to produce broad based goals that relate to every segment of the community, most of the final plans covered only economy (livelihood) and environment (wetlands) components.

The final community plans consist of template which include project, activities, resources, technical support, cost, benefit to community, responsible parties and time schedule. The plans are divided broadly into livelihoods (economy) and environment (wetland) projects. The livelihoods projects, though, vary from community to community include project activities such as farming (crops, fish and livestock), scholarship provisions, microcredit, small scale processing (oil and wood mills), vocational skills, provision of classroom blocks, adult literacy etc. The project activities in the areas of Environment and wetlands from the communities include: Mangrove regrowth and conservation, conservation of creeks/ponds (Akata/Odoko-Abobiri), Nypa palm mitigation (Asarama), opening of water ways(Obi-Ayagha) conservation of water resources, planting of economic trees, construction of concrete walk ways /shoreline line protection (Opume, Asarama, Abobiri)land reclamation and planting of economic trees.

The recurrent and high incidence of teenage pregnancy and its attendant implication in virtually all the communities visited strengthened the demand for scholarship/youth development programs. A discernible poverty driver and cycle was observed in all the communities as follows: A young girl usually aged between 11 and 13 gets pregnant, drops out of school due to shame, never returns to school, gets pregnant again within 2 to 3 years most probably to another young man and virtually settles down a young mother without a discernible future. On the male side, a young boy who becomes an early father unable to take care of the kids and his education drops out of school and becomes a liability to the community. This problem is capable of undermining any meaningful development programs in the community as these young ones today becomes the men and women (adults/ elders)of tomorrow, poorly educated and ill equipped with the challenges of leadership.

While all listed environment/wetlands projects are welcomed within the framework of participatory approach, the following remain outstanding in the view of the facilitating team. They are:

-  Conservation of Alaka Creek/Odoko ponds (Abobiri)
-  Nypa palm Mitigation (Asarama)
-  Opening of water way conservation of water reserves (Obi- Ayagha)

- 🌳 Planting of Economic tree (Opume)
- 🌳 Mangrove re-growth, restoration and conservation (All communities)

The project costs as contained in the final plan of the communities are mere estimate to guide decision making. We suggest actual pricing be done for selected projects for implementation.

The final section of the report addresses the issue of plan management and sustainability. An in depth analysis of *'why project fail'* in the communities ranked poor leadership/project management as a key factor. The report recommend the constitution of a Project Implementation Committee (PIC) in each of the communities to be saddled with the responsibility of overseeing the day to day management of selected project and report internally to the community executive council and externally to WIA. The team has gone ahead to actually recommend team composition for each community of people adjudged by the community to be credible, trustworthy and passionate about community development.

It will be worthwhile to say the team encountered some challenges in the field work. We observed *"facilitation fatigue"* among community members who complained of *"too many Wetlands teams visiting too frequently asking almost the same questions"*. Dwindling level of participation and enthusiasm was also noticeable across the sites. In some instances meetings could not commence for a long time as efforts have to be made to convene members. We think some level of compensation for community members' time and contribution maybe the needed tonic to increase participation tempo and most importantly the required enthusiasm to see project through. A few community members across the sites reminded us that stakeholders' participation in community processes is a cost which WIA/SLBP should be willing to bear.

Finally, following the scouting visits to numerous candidate sites for an additional SLBP site in Delta State, the Team is recommending OMADINO community as a promising site which meets the pre-determined criteria for SLBP site.



## 2.0 INTRODUCTION

**W**etlands International is currently implementing the Sustainable Livelihood and Biodiversity Project (SLBP) in the Niger Delta with support from Shell International. The general objective of the project is to “sustain and restore Niger Delta Wetlands, their values and services for people and biodiversity: demonstrate good practice, empowering civil society, creating and facilitating policy environment.

As part of the efforts geared towards achieving the set objectives of the project using ecosystem based approach and participatory methodologies, Wetlands International Africa (WIA) commissioned a partner team in May, 2014 to facilitate the design and development of operational plans for the candidate communities of the project.

The specific terms of reference for the team include:

- Development of Operational plan for each project site/ community
- Conduct scouting missions in the project sites / communities (one per sites / communities) with three aims
  - a) become familiar with the project sites /communities
  - b) build a common understanding of the operative plan under the SLBP among target communities and
  - c) Identify potential groups who want to play a positive role in implementing the project.
- Provide background information for the development of operative plans
- Hold validation sessions with community groups
- Submit report.

To achieve set objectives as contained in the TOR, the field exercise was divided into two segments. The first segment was aimed essentially at gathering relevant background information on the communities to aid planning process and also to participatorily facilitate community group through the visioning, goal setting and development action planning processes.

The second segment (phase) of the field exercise was aimed at participatorily designing a plan based on the outcome of detailed community diagnosis, SWOT Analysis, community visioning, trend analysis and community resource mapping sessions.



**Plate 1: Operational Plan Team during Pre-field Meeting**

Following the difficulty encountered in one of the sites in Aja-etan community in Delta State, there was a slight modification of the original terms of reference to include the immediate search of at least one new site in Delta State to serve as a replacement for the Aja-etan community which opted out of the project at an open and properly constituted community forum involving a cross section of community members, leaders, youths and women.

This expansion of the original terms of reference led to the discovery of Obi- Ayagha community in Ughelli South Local Government Area of Delta State. As a replacement community for Aja-etan, Obi- Ajagha community members and groups were facilitated on the various stages of community planning resulting in the development of Obi- Ajagha community operational plan along with those of Asarama community in Rivers State, Opume in Bayelsa State and Abobiri community also in Bayelsa State.

Although, the broad facilitation process had aimed to achieve operational plans covering environment, livelihood, leadership (governance) and cultural segment of each participating communities, most of the final community plans covered only the livelihood and environmental components of the community.

The final operational plan template which contained *project types, activities, resources, technical support, costs, benefit to community, responsible party and time schedule* was participatorily developed and agreed on with participating community members.

This report presents the final outcomes of the exercise.

The report has been divided into 4 sections to facilitate comprehension as follows.

Section 1 Community Background Information

Section 2 Community Diagnosis and Analysis/ Operational Planning Process

Section 3 The Community Plan

Section 4 Plan Management and Sustainability Issues

Section 5 Field Constraints and General Recommendation



Map of Niger Delta -Nigeria



### 3. METHODOLOGY

To achieve the objectives of the exercise, various survey methodologies and participatory approaches were adopted to elicit information from participating communities and group.

Some of these methods include:

- **Key informant interview**

A total of 5-15 key informants knowledge about the community were interviewed using a combination of open and closed ended survey instrument. Those selected included community leaders, women, youths and members of council of elders.



Plate 2: Operational Team Member Interviewing a Key Informant

- **Focus Group Discussion**

A cross section of the community including the men, youths and women were also interviewed using semi-intensive interview guide question to get their general perceptions on various community issues.



**Plate 3: Community members in Focus Group Discussion session**

- **Trend Analysis**

To understand the changes that have occurred in the community in the last 10-20 years in the community were taken through basic trend analysis of identifying what the community was 10 years ago compared to the present state of the community. This was particularly helpful in looking at the dependence of community on Wetlands for livelihood over time.



**Plate 4: A Trend Analysis session in one of the project communities**

- **Venn Diagram**

To understand the key stakeholders in the community who play positive role in the development of the community, community groups were taken through a Venn diagramming sections. The process was very helpful in selecting community members involved in the final operational planning process.



**Plate 5: Process of Drawing out Venn Diagram by community members**

- **Community Diagnosis / Swot Analysis.**

A community diagnosis session was held in each community so as to outline positive and negative community characteristics which can enhance or constraint plan formulation, implementation in those communities. This was done in two forms. First, a SWOT (Strength, Weakness, Opportunity and Threat) analysis of the communities was done and secondly specific community problems were fully analysis to know the root causes and possible solutions. Some issues which were considered here include issues of land tenure system, logging, implication early fatherhood/teenage pregnancy etc.



**Plate 6: Operation Plan Team Members Engaged In Community Diagnosis/SWOT Analysis**

- **Community Analysis / Development Process**

This was the main approach used to systematically and participatorily develop the community plan. Community members and groups were facilitated to provide answers to the following 4 community development strategy questions.



1. Where are we now?
2. Where do we want to be?
3. How do we get there?
4. If we get there, how do we sustain it?



**Plate 7: Member Of Operational Plan Team Engaged In Community Analysis/Development Process**

These were the main thrust of the planning process as the communities provided needed background information, sketched community map and outlined community values, community vision for the next 3-5 years as steps toward achieving the shared vision of the community. The final community plans were developed as the question of ‘how do we get there?’ was answered through action planning and prioritisation.

**The fourth question provided answers on plans management and sustainability and the need to have project implementation committee (PIC)** as a community group to be entrusted with the day to day management of the community plans but responsible to community leadership/ council of elders as a strong governance structure.

Finally, we wish to acknowledge that a few information relating to the background information of the affected communities particularly Asarama, Opume and Abobiri communities were adapted from past reports of WIA on SLBP especially the Ecological Sustainable Livelihood Assessment 2012. This was to avoid unnecessarily duplication of time and resources.

## 4.

### Community Operational Plan Outcome (Individual Community Report)

- 4.1 ABOBIRI COMMUNITY, OGBIA LGA, BAYELSA STATE
- 4.2 SARAMA COMMUNITY, ANDONI LGA, RIVERS STATE
- 4.3 OBI-AYAGHA COMMUNITY, UGHELLII SOUTH LGA, DELTA STATE
- 4.4 OPUME COMMUNITY, OGBIA LGA, BAYELSA STATE





# ABOBIRI COMMUNITY

## SECTION 1

### COMMUNITY BACKGROUND INFORMATION

#### 4.1.1 Brief Historical Background

Abobiri community is located in Ogbia Local Government Area of Bayelsa State, Nigeria with GPS/Grid Reference of 04.68156° N and 006.30940°E .The size of Abobiri community is about 1 square kilometre (in-dwelling) and comprises of nine (9) compounds namely Obu-Osain, Ada, Apu, Ikogi, Omare, Erewari, Adare, Oku and Akisi. Abobiri community shares common boundaries with Otubula 1 & 2, Oloibiri, Ogbia and Eminama communities in the North, East, West and South axis respectively. Abobiri community is about 29 kilometers by road to Yenagoa, the capital of Bayelsa State.

Abobiri has an estimated population of about 5,000 inhabitants comprising 2,000 male and 3,000 female, that is, male and female ratio of 2:3 (community sources). The youth (18-45 years) population accounts for 2500 or 50% compared to population of children ( $\leq 17$  years) with 1500 or 30% and adults (46 years and above) which accounts for 1000 or 20% of the population.

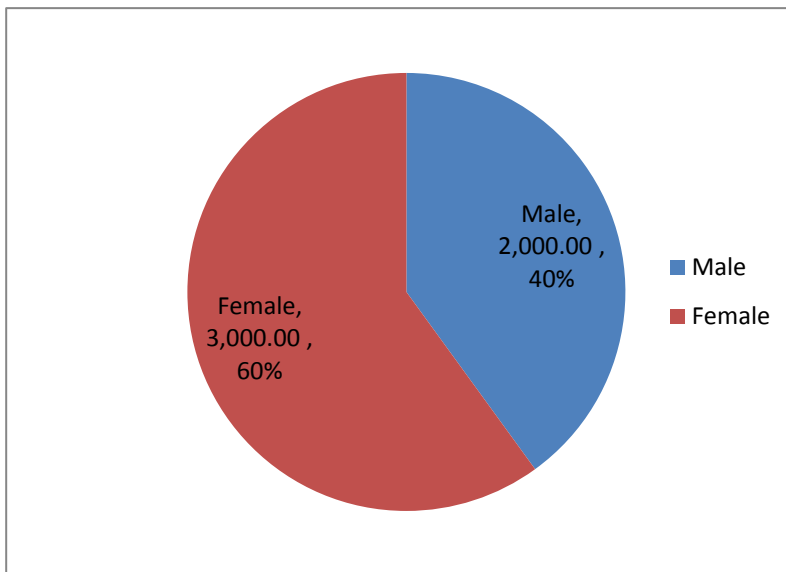


Fig. 1: Pie Chart showing the percentage of female/male population in Abobiri Community

There are more natives (85%) compared to non-natives (15%) in Abobiri (ratio of in-migration to out-migration standing at 2:1)with predominant number of in-migrants being of Ogbia clan origin. Household responsibilities are shared by both men and women in the community. There are 40% male headed households compared to female headed households of 55% largely owing to circumstances of deaths. Incident of single parenting is about 5% of household demography.



**Plate 8: Handrawn Map of Abobiri by members of the community**

A predominant population of 70% is Christian and approximately 30% of the population practise African Traditional Religions (ATRs). Abobiri community is also known as Otu-Abo and it is believed to have derived its name from Abo, one of the sons of Okoroma, who first settled in the community. From historic documentation, Abobiri was withered by wars which led to the movement of a number of original inhabitants and eventual relocation to the present place. Ijaw dialect is commonly spoken by its inhabitants who demonstrate a good command of pidgin while a number of natives also communicate fairly well in English language. Community governance structure in Abobiri is superintended by a High Chief with the Royal Highness as the paramount ruler. Community governance is harmonised by the Council of Chiefs that work in harmony with the Community Development Community (CDC) with the participation of youth and women associations.

#### **4.1.2 Wetland Ecosystem**

The wetland found in the community is the intertidal forested wetlands. It includes mangrove swamps, and a noticeably tidal expanse of fresh water swamp forest. The wetland is nourished by the tidal River Abobiri and there is considerable exploitation of the flora and fauna. Acid sulphate, silt-clay, clay loam and peat locally called “chikoko” soils predominate the wetland areas of the project site, particularly the mangroves. The water of the wetland is brackish in nature and the water source feeding the wetlands is from River Abobiri which is an inter-tidal river emptying into the Atlantic Ocean.

Aquifers are very shallow. River Abobiri is navigable by speed boats and large boats as far as the Atlantic Ocean to the South. The community wetland is drained by the Abobiri River systems and numerous associated creeks and streams. It receives freshwater inflow during the rainy season but is also influenced by tidal variations. Tidal systems are confined to the eastern and southern parts of the project site and comprise of brackish mangrove swamps with meandering tidal creeks. The water of the wetland is brackish in nature. The River Abobiri is an inter-tidal river emptying into the Atlantic Ocean.

The vegetation composition of the mangrove is made up of *Rhizophora racemosa* (the red mangroves), with few stands of *Avicennia africana* (the white mangroves) growing in the creeks’ brackish water environment; while large patches of Ornamental Screw Pine *Pandanus candelabrum* intermingle with mangrove species along the river banks and creeks. Other plants include the invasive species Nypa Palm (*Nypa fruticans*) gradually overtaking some part of the mangrove. The mangrove ecosystem is said to support a range of aquatic species including Tilapia (*Tilapia spp*), common fish such as Lung fish

(*Protopterus annectens*), Cat fish (*Clarias spp*), Electric fish (*Malapterurus electricus*), Periwinkles (*Pachymelania aurita* and *Tympanotonus fuscatus*).



**Plate 9: Cross Section of Mangrove Forest in Abobiri community**

There also exist vast hectares of swamp forest which have been highly exploited for timber and used for subsistence agriculture. The area of wetlands in Abobiri is about five (5) square kilometers on both sides of the river. There is prevalence of Water Hyacinth (*Eichhornia crassipes*) on the waterway. Presence of solid waste pollution on the river is one of the environmental challenges of the community. In addition, riverbank erosion and flooding of most low lying areas have also affected the community.

Cooking is mostly by the use of firewood with limited use of the kerosene stoves. The effect of wetlands degradation on livelihoods, social developments and food security indicates a decrease in the reproductive success of fish and shrimp due to loss of mangrove habitat, change in seasonal water availability and modified water quality. Also, the deforestation of the swamp forests has led to a decrease in biodiversity, particularly the loss of various composition of timber species.

The mangrove is said to support a range of wildlife fauna including reptiles such as the Royal Python (*Python sebae*), the Nile Monitor (*Varanus niloticus*), and birds such as the Cattle egret (*Bubulcus ibis*), Grey Heron (*Ardea cineria*), Grey Parrot (*Psittacus erithacus*), Grey Plantain Eater (*Crinifer piscator*), African Palm Swift (*Cypsiurus parvus*), African Pied Hornbill (*Tochus fasciatus*), Forest Robin (*Stiphornis erythrothorax*), Village Weaver (*Ploceus cucullatus*), Red Bishop (*Euplectes franciscanus*) and monkeys Putty Nose Monkey (*Cercopithecus nictitans*) and Red capped Mangabey (*Cercocebus torquatus*). Many animals find shelter either in the roots or branches of mangroves. Mangroves equally serve as rookeries, or nesting areas for birds and spawning areas for fishes and other aquatic insect larvae.

#### **4.1.2 CAUSES OF WETLAND DEGRADATION**

Community members listed several reasons for wetlands degradation in Abobiri. They include:

- ✘ Massive logging
- ✘ Oil pollution from nearby flow stations brought into the community rivers and wetlands by adjoining stream/rivers.
- ✘ High dependence on wetlands ecosystem due to increased populations

- ✘ Flooding.-since the 2011 flooding some of the places
- ✘ where dry season farming were done have remained flooded.
- ✘ The wetlands used to be seasonally salty but now are permanently fresh water.
- ✘ Noise pollution from sawing machines, pipe laying, sand miners, loggers, dynamite etc.
- ✘ Changes in climate as evidenced by heat waves, erosion, sea level rise, changes in rainfall patterns.
- ✘ Waves take away propagules and prevent mangrove self-generation.
- ✘ Water is now manly fresh water as opposed to when it used to be seasonally salty. This has led to the death of mangroves and other plants and animals.

#### **4.1.2.1 Uses of the wetlands by Abobiri Community**

- ✚ The wetlands are used for several purposes, which include:
- ✚ Firewood
- ✚ Houses
- ✚ Dye (using the bark of the mangrove)
- ✚ Charcoal
- ✚ The ash form burnt wood is used in place of potash for cooking
- ✚ Medicinal uses-leaves for diarrhea
- ✚ It has edible fruits
- ✚ Used for stakes on which fish are roasted
- ✚ It is habitat for fish young
- ✚ Used for furniture, roofing ad planks (estimated that one medium sized mangrove will yield one log form which 20 2 X 4 planks can be obtained.

#### **4.1.3 LIVELIHOODS SYSTEMS**

The major occupations found in Abobiri community are farming, fishing and trading. Others include hunting, palm wine tapping, lumbering, artisans, boat operators, transportation and civil service jobs. Farming and agricultural activities are rain fed and on subsistence level due to the swampy terrain of the community.

The rainy season (March/April to September/October) is associated with peak cropping seasons especially crop cultivation whilst the dry season is used for harvesting, marketing and land preparation for the next farming season.

There are three land use types: (i) arable land, (ii) land for permanent crops and (iii) other land. Arable land is cultivated for crops such as plantain and banana, pineapple, cassava, vegetables, yam that are replanted after some series of harvests. Land for permanent crops is cultivated for crops like citrus, cocoa, oil palm and coconut palm that are not replanted after each harvest. It includes land under flowering shrubs, fruit trees, and nut trees, but excludes land under trees grown for wood or timber. Other land - any land not arable or under permanent crops - which includes permanent pastures, and established swamp forests covering vast hectares. However, production is both for domestic consumption and commercial sales, although it is skewed towards domestic consumption rather than commercial sales, hence relative low income accrues to farmers.



**Plate 10: Members of Abobiri Community engaged in fishing as a livelihood**

Logging for timber is also practiced, although timber resources are currently experiencing rapid decline due to over-exploitation and non-replacement of trees that have been cut down. The community had a large scale rice farm established in the early 60's, with a rice mill managed by expatriate officers. However, poor management, Quella bird infestation and lack of improved variety of rice at the time, killed the project. Today, the former rice field lies fallow and the rice milling machine has been removed to an unknown location, leaving behind, the dilapidated mill house and residential quarters.

Artisanal fishing is one of the major traditional occupations of the Abobiri people. It is a unisex occupation and very much overlaps with farming, thereby accounting for about 30 percent of the community's workforce.

Although fishing is an all year round occupation, artisanal fish capture is relatively low when compared with deep sea fishing because these are mostly done at subsistence level targeted at meeting household requirements hence high consumption rate and low income.



**Plate 11: Cross section of Abobiri Community members during the development of Operational Plan**





Trading is also an important livelihood due to the proximity of the community to Ogbia town which is the local government headquarters. Apart from agro related items (fish inclusive) which are sold on market days in individual shops and hawked on boats/canoes (especially on non-market days), items such as clothing, woven products and beverages are equally sold locally. Traders are quite mobile in their activities principally to source for some items in the major cities for subsequent sale in the communities and vice versa. About 10 percent of the work force in Abobiri community are into trading. There are overlaps with other economic activities such as farming and fishing. Activities in other livelihoods tend to affect trading as festivals and other celebrations also determine sale revenue and income.

However, petty trading accounts for a high percentage of trading and this is associated with low income patterns. Members of the community also practise part time hunting of small mammals in the forest such as the grass cutter, pangolin and giant rat. Reptiles such as the monitor lizard and the royal python are also caught.

#### **4.1.3.1 Current sources of Livelihoods in Abobiri ranked in order of importance**

- ✚ Farming- cassava, plantain, sugar cane, pepper
- ✚ Civil servants
- ✚ Brick laying/sand mining/mason
- ✚ Fishing
- ✚ Swamp/inland/lobster
- ✚ Petty trading (provison/foodstuff)
- ✚ Clearing of farmland
- ✚ Snail trapping
- ✚ Hair dressing
- ✚ Others
- ✚ Boat carving/boat driving
- ✚ Sewing
- ✚ Carpentry
- ✚ Native doctors and traditional Birth attendants
- ✚ Palmwine tappers
- ✚ Sand miners



-  Mat weaving
-  Electricians
-  Mechanic
-  Footballers

#### 4.1.4 Trend Analysis

Some species of farm produce are difficult to cultivate now, e.g, white and red cocoyam. Bush mango is almost totally gone because of intensive logging. Mushrooms also used to be abundant but are now hard to find. This has affected the population of fresh water tortoise that used to be abundant in the area. Manatees used to be present in the river but are no longer found there.

Lobsters are no longer present in the river. Women, who are mostly involved in lobster fishing, have lost their source of income. There is an increase in the population of grass cutters and monkeys, which disturb the few existing farms and lead to low produce.

There is a noticeable rise in sea level with salt water incursion into the wetlands. This affects farm produce.

The river used to be covered by water lettuce, which favoured fish growth but has now been invaded by water hyacinth which is detrimental to fish health and population. There is rapid erosion of the shore line. This may not be unconnected with the increase in the numbers of speed boats that now ply the river bringing strong waves to the shores. While oil exploration does not take place in Abobiri itself, there is oil pollution of the river and swamps brought by inflow from other rivers, such as Oloibiri and Okoroma rivers.

Rain water used to be clean and drinkable but now is polluted by particles and chemicals that make it have a black colouration after some time. The wetlands used to be seasonally salty but now are permanently fresh water. Fishing and farming used to be the traditional works of the community but now a lot of people prefer white collar jobs because fishing and farming are not as productive as they used to be.

#### 4.1.5 Community Governance Structure and Stakeholders Relationship

The stakeholders' analysis showed the community governance structure and stakeholders relationship in relation to Abobiri community development. Mention was also made of individual with sterling qualities and reputation within the community who could play roles in project implementation, general governance and sustainability. 2-3 members of all the stakeholder groups were invited for the operational planning process.

- a) **Abobiri Council of Elders**– *The overall leadership Group. Occupy the highest hierarchy of governance and leadership in Abobiri. Remain the highest authority for legislation, conflict resolution, protection of cultural values of the community.* The Community Chief – is a member of the Council of Chiefs

- b) **Community Development Committee**– *The Community Development Council (CDC) has its Executive Council headed by a Chairman. The CDC is responsible for the day to day administration of the Community. The CDC represents the Community in public engagements and have overall responsibility of community development projects and finance management. The CDC relates and reports to the Council of Chiefs .*
- c) **United stars of Abobiri** – *A social organisation of Abobiri indigenes .*
- d) **Aruwara Committee of friends**- *Another social organisation in Abobiri*
- e) **Abobiri Progressive Union**- *Social organisation in Abobiri*
- f) **Women Cooperative** – *Women group with focus on cooperatives and micro-credit finance management aimed at women empowerment in the community*



**Plate 12 : Venn Diagram of Abobiri Community**

- g) **Abobiri Women Association** – *Women Association, recognised by the CDC and the Council of Chiefs as representing the interests and welfare of the female folk in the community*
- h) **Abobiri Youth Federation**– *The Youth of Abobiri, also recognised as a major stakeholder group by the CDC and the Community Chief Council. The Youth Federation has its own Executive Council and is also well represented in the CDC*
- i) **Supreme Boys of Abobiri** – *A social organisation of youth in Abobiri*

#### **4.1.5.1 Individual stakeholders in the community**

- a) Chief Mitema Obordor
- b) Chief Trust Apu
- c) Deputy Chief Igobi Akisi



#### 4.1.6 Table 1: Past development interventions

S/N	Project	Year of intervention /Status	Sponsor/donor
1	Agric settlement (rice production/processing)	1970	Regional Government
2	Water project	2005/completed, non-functional	SPDC
3	Health Centre	2005/uncompleted	Ogbai LGA
4	Teachers' Quarters	2006/completed	LEAMP
5	Headmaster's quarters	2012/completed	State Government
6	Solar Water project	2013/ completed, non-functional	Federal Government (MDG's)
7	School building	2013/on-going	State Government
8	Road construction	2013/on-going	State Government

##### 4.1.6.1 CAUSE OF PROJECT FAILURE IN ABOBIRI

1. Mismanage of resources
2. Lack of supervision
3. Lack of security
4. Funding issues
5. No record keeping
6. Lack of Transparency
7. Demand for development and security fees by youths and CDC and Council of Chiefs

## SECTION 2

### COMMUNITY DIAGNOSIS AND ANALYSIS/ OPERATIONAL PLANNING PROCESS

The aim of the community diagnosis was to understand problems and development challenges being faced by different groups in the community and how these knowledge can be transformed into development action planning steps. SWOT analysis was also deployed as a tool to outline community members perception of the **Strength, Weaknesses, Opportunity and Threat** inherent in their community and can be done to strengthen community development processes.

#### 4.1.7 ABOBIRI SWOT ANALYSIS OUTCOME

**Table 2: SWOT Analysis Table for Abobiri Community**

STRENGTH	WEAKNESS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agriculture</li> <li>• Access to market</li> <li>• Ease of transportation</li> <li>• Proximity to LGA office</li> <li>• Availability of land</li> <li>• Ancient community</li> <li>• Resources-income, salary</li> <li>• Availability of manpower</li> <li>• Peaceful community</li> <li>• Hospitable people</li> <li>• Predominance of youths</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lack of financial capacity</li> <li>• Poor educational completion rate among youths</li> <li>• Poverty</li> <li>• Lack of social amenities, e’g health care and good roads</li> <li>• Lack of portable water</li> <li>• Lack of sanitary facilities</li> <li>• Poor road networks</li> <li>• Lack of linkage to the mainland</li> <li>• High incidence of erosion along the river bank</li> <li>• Poor leadership</li> <li>• Absence of health care centres (nearest healthcare centre is about 2.5km)</li> <li>• Incidence of sicknesses and diseases</li> <li>• Pollution</li> <li>• Reduced agricultural productivity</li> <li>• No secondary school</li> <li>• Rapid deforestation of forests and wetlands</li> <li>• Abandoned swamp rice farm</li> </ul>
OPPORTUNITIES	THREATS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agricultural production</li> <li>• Palm oil production</li> <li>• Arable land for swamp rice production</li> <li>• Experience in technical and mechanical application to agriculture</li> <li>• Experience in commercial agriculture</li> <li>• Forest resources, especially timber</li> <li>• Access to Ogbia market</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Erosion</li> <li>• Pollution (oil/noise)</li> <li>• Heat waves</li> <li>• Ocean rise</li> <li>• Flooding</li> <li>• Chemical fishing</li> <li>• Invasion of rivers by water hyacinth</li> <li>• Population increase by strangers</li> </ul>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wood industry/sawmill</li> <li>• SME processing industries for cassava, palm oil, rice</li> <li>• Fish storage/preservation</li> <li>• Poultry/piggery and snail farming</li> <li>• Abundance of bush meat, e.g. grass cutter, porcupines, monitor lizard</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Incessant logging</li> <li>• Increasing Poor educational background</li> <li>• High dependence of population on environment</li> <li>• Increase in criminal activities</li> <li>• Increase in youth restiveness</li> <li>• Unwanted pregnancies among girls</li> <li>• Poor girl-boy educational ratio</li> <li>• Hazardous means of transportation across the river (by locally constructed canoes)</li> </ul>

#### 4.1.8 ABOBIRI PROBLEM DIAGNOSIS OUTCOME

**Table 3: Problem Diagnosis Outcome for Abobiri Community**

<b>A</b>	<b>COMMUNITY LEVEL</b>
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Poverty-</li> <li>2. Growing Unemployed youths population</li> <li>3. High literacy rate among youths, men and women in the community</li> <li>4. Lack of social infrastructure- no secondary school, no hospital, no light etc</li> <li>5. Fast changing cultural and traditional values and laws due to modernisation</li> <li>6. Increasing level of environmental degradation due to incessant logging.</li> </ol> <p>Logging is a thriving business, which brings income to the community. 30% of loggers are from the community while 70% are from outside the community. Loggers from outside pay more to the community. The community uses left-over wood as firewood. This well organised source of livelihood involves a large number of community members who serve as boat riders, saw providers, wood carriers, and land renters, community levies collector</p>
<b>B</b>	<b>PROBLEMS FACED BY YOUTHS</b>
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Lack of competitiveness due to poor academic background</li> <li>2. Inability to progress to tertiary institution either due to poverty, teenage pregnancy or early fatherhood</li> <li>3. Joblessness</li> <li>4. Lack of basic education- high dropout rate among young boys and girls</li> <li>5. Lack of creative ideas</li> <li>6. Lack of self-motivation</li> <li>7. Early fatherhood</li> <li>8. Teenage pregnancy</li> <li>9. Poverty</li> <li>10. Negative influence by political class who use youths as political thugs and aides</li> <li>11. Drug addiction</li> </ol>
<b>C</b>	<b>PROBLEMS FACED BY WOMEN</b>
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Teenage pregnancy</li> </ol>

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. Lack of education</li> <li>3. Early motherhood</li> <li>4. Early marriage</li> <li>5. Poverty</li> <li>6. Cultural limitations- eg cannot become a chief or elder no matter how educated</li> </ol>
<b>D</b>	<b>PROBLEMS FACED BY MEN</b>
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Poverty</li> <li>2. Early Fatherhood</li> <li>3. Joblessness</li> <li>4. Lack of education</li> <li>5. Inability to train children</li> <li>6. Large family size</li> <li>7. "I go pay later"- improper marital relationship</li> </ol>

#### 4.1.9 OPERATION PLANNING SESSIONS(Community Values, Vision and Goals)

This was a 3 step process which resulted in immediate action plan- which is the community plan.



**Plate 13: Operational Team Member in discussion with community members**

The first step (**Community Value**) was for each stakeholder to state their **values** as a community by describing what they cherish most about their community – the things that make them want to stay. At the end stakeholders agreed on the following as their core values:

- Peaceful co-existence as a community
- Education
- Culture
- Unity

The next step (**Community Vision**) was for each stakeholder to describe what he/she will like the community to be in the next 20 years in a card. Submissions were refined by listing common elements to create the Abobiri shared vision which states:

*“A city of highly educated youths with abundance of opportunities, social infrastructure, good leadership and safe environment”*

The third step (**Goal Setting**)— here all inputs on the value and vision from stakeholders were arranged in a flip chart under the following headings.

- ✓ Economy/Livelihoods
- ✓ Land and Environment (Wetlands)
- ✓ Community and Culture
- ✓ Leadership

### **Economy/Livelihoods**

- ✓ Community sensitization on importance of education
- ✓ Provision of scholarship
- ✓ Create employment opportunities
- ✓ Improved varieties of cassava and plantain
- ✓ Rice production
- ✓ Fish production (catfish)
- ✓ Lobster farming
- ✓ Snail farming

### **Land and Environment**

- ✓ Local laws for protection of the environment
- ✓ Environmental education and awareness creation

### **Community/Culture**

- ✓ Increased population
- ✓ Re-enforced traditional values
- ✓ Restore traditional environmental laws/control

### **Leadership**

- ✓ Good leadership
- ✓ Community to respect leadership

With the above core values, the Community embarked upon the process of development of an action plan for operations of environmental and sustainable livelihood options for today and the future.

### 4.3 ACTION STEPS TO REACH COMMUNITY VISION.

Prior to actual deliberations on the Community Operational Plan, Abobiri people examined the community governance issues relevant to various livelihood and environmental issues. The analysis carried out by the community were enough to provide priority options for community development. The necessary community tools for project success were highlighted and potential capacity building elements that are capable of enhancing community development were listed.

In terms of priority setting for social integration and economic development, the following items were listed based on experience and long term internal assessment of community human and natural resource conditions.

- ✓ Community sensitization on importance of education – *This was reflected due to acceptance of high level illiteracy among the rank and file of community people including youth and women. It was widely accepted that community is lagging behind in academic development. Reference were made to social implication of this which includes early parenthood, and lack of youth employment.*
- ✓ Provision of scholarship – This was seen by community members as a way of encouraging the few Abobiri youth who are ready to go to higher institutions. Community members also agreed that Adult Education programme will go a long way in upgrading the level of knowledge in the community. Women deliberately ask for Adult Literacy classes as a way of breaking the jinx of high illiteracy in the community.
- ✓ Create employment opportunities – *Job creation can come in through project implementation activities. It was also discussed that exposure to education can boost the employment opportunity for the youth*
- ✓ Improved varieties of cassava and plantain – *Being staple food requirements, Abobiri people see great strength in cassava and plantain production.*
- ✓ Rice production – *Technical knowledge on rice production is not new in the community. Abobiri has benefited from rice production project in the past and have strong belief that rice production and processing can still thrive in the community if given an opportunity of financial support and further training.*
- ✓ Fish production (catfish) – *This is a major economic activity know to be common in the Niger Delta and can also be well embraced and developed by Abobiri.*
- ✓ Lobster farming – *Women have been involved in Lobster collection from the wild. The opinion of the Abobiri people that lobster farming is one of the possible business that can thrive and empower the women folk in the community.*
- ✓ Snail farming – *same with lobster farming above.*

**Environment conservation:** Drafting and enforcement of local by-laws on environmental management and the promotion of environmental education and awareness in the community are seen as the two major approaches that can strengthen the implementation of any environmental project in the community. Majority of Abobiri indigenes agreed that there is sufficient capacity on governance in the community to support environmental management.

Similarly the need for tree planting and regeneration of mangroves were seen as major intervention on environmental rehabilitation that is possible.

Land Tenure in the community allows community ownership and family land ownership. It was confirmed that community do have a jointly owned land where community based environmental project can be sited.

### **Leadership and Cultural Values**

The general acceptance of the need for transparency and accountability by Elders and men of the community was commended by the Youth. There was also the identification of the need for value re-orientation mostly on cultural issues and need for respect for elders Abobiri people agreed that the above factors are very critical and central to community cohesion and development and are necessary as instruments that can support sustainable project implementation.

After a detailed analysis of the above goals by stakeholders the following immediate action steps where agreed as the first steps to be taken in both the areas of livelihoods and environment if the shared vision of the community is to be achieved.

#### **1. Livelihood Component.**

##### **The recommended actions:**

- A. General improvement in educational standard in Abobiri. This can be achieved through provision of scholarship for both youths and adult.
- B. Employment/income generating opportunities through the establishment of Plantations (Rice, Rubber and plantain) and integrated commercial farming (Fish, poultry and piggery). A Guest House service was also recommended by a cross section of the community as a means of generating revenue.

**Table 4: Showing Priority rating of the livelihoods projects recommended by the community**

<b>S/N</b>	<b>Project</b>	<b>% priority</b>
1	Scholarship Programme	40%
2	Plantation (Rice, Rubber and plantain)	30%
3	Farming (Fish, poultry and piggery)	20%
4	Guest House	10%

## **2. ENVIRONMENT COMPONENT**

Recommended actions:

- A. Community Mangrove improvement programme involving mangrove restoration, conservation and re planting.
- B. Conservation of the Akata Creek and Odoko Pond
- C. Assistance for embankment of shoreline



## SECTION 3

### ABOBIRICOMMUNITY OPERATIONAL PLAN

#### 4.1.11 ABOBIRI COMMUNITY PLAN

**Table 5: Abobiri Community Operational Plan**

S/N	PROJECT	ACTIVITIES	RESOURCES	TECHNICAL SUPPORT	COST (N)	BENEFIT TO COMMUNITY	RESPONSIBLE PARTIES	TIME SCHEDULE
1	Mangrove tree planting (2 acres)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Collection of names of volunteers</li> <li>-Capacity of planting skills among community volunteers</li> <li>-Marking out of planting areas</li> <li>-Tilling &amp; soil preparation</li> <li>-Actual planting of seedlings</li> </ul>	Land, seedlings, labour, bags for seedlings, boats.	Capacity building in mangrove tree planting techniques, nursery management and maintenance	N2,500,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Local skills on mangrove planting techniques built</li> <li>-Mangrove areas regenerated</li> <li>-Household and individual incomes of locals improve.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Community</li> <li>-WIA</li> </ul>	2 years
2	Embankment and shoreline protection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Marking out of shoreline</li> <li>-Procurement and mobilization of shoreline</li> </ul>	Rods Cement Gravel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-BOQ development</li> <li>- Interpretation of</li> </ul>	N4,000,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Erosion encroachment controlled</li> <li>-Employment of skilled, semi-skilled and unskilled labour</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Community, WIA/NDDC/FG/LGA/State Government</li> </ul>	3 years

S/N	PROJECT	ACTIVITIES	RESOURCES	TECHNICAL SUPPORT	COST (N)	BENEFIT TO COMMUNITY	RESPONSIBLE PARTIES	TIME SCHEDULE
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>protection materials to site</li> <li>-Actual piling/block work</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>project drawings and specifications.</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Improved household incomes</li> <li>-Additional shoreline protection skills built</li> </ul>		
3	Restoration and conservation of mangroves	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Awareness creation</li> <li>-Creation of barriers (e.g. fence) around areas to conserve</li> <li>-Development of local laws to aid conservation</li> <li>-Build law enforcement and monitoring institution</li> <li>-Periodic replanting</li> <li>-Progress</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bamboo &amp; sticks for fencing</li> <li>Seedlings/nursery, human resources, conservation resource materials, PPE, boats.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Capacity building in mangrove management &amp; EbA</li> <li>-Resource materials including IEC documents</li> </ul>	N4,700,000	Regeneration of wetland areas	Community/WIA & other relevant support institutions.	3 yrs

S/N	PROJECT	ACTIVITIES	RESOURCES	TECHNICAL SUPPORT	COST (N)	BENEFIT TO COMMUNITY	RESPONSIBLE PARTIES	TIME SCHEDULE
		review meetings						
4	Conservation of Akata Creek and Odoko Pond	-Survey creek and pond -Facilitate stakeholder planning meetings for conservation activities  -Actual conservation activities	Fund, manpower, education and awareness creation resource materials etc.	Technical skills capacity building	3,000,000	Creek and pond restored and their environment as well as socio-economic values restored,	Community institutions and WIA as well as other support CSOs/institutions.	3 yrs.
5	Rubber plantation	-Nursery management -land/soil preparation -Actual planting -Commissioning of project -Harvesting -Marketing	Land, seedlings, men, materials, market etc.	Capacity building in nursery management and planting Market linkage Linkage to relevant support	2,500,000	-More economic window opened in the community -Employment of locals improved	Community & WIA	3 yrs.

S/N	PROJECT	ACTIVITIES	RESOURCES	TECHNICAL SUPPORT	COST (N)	BENEFIT TO COMMUNITY	RESPONSIBLE PARTIES	TIME SCHEDULE
				institutions.				
6	Rice plantation	-land/soil preparation -Actual planting -Commissioning of project -Harvesting -Marketing	Land, seedlings, men, materials, farm implements, market etc.	Capacity building in nursery management and planting Market linkage Linkage to relevant support institutions.	2,500,000	-More economic window opened in the community -Employment of locals improved	Community & WIA	3 yrs.
7	Rice processing	-Building of a mill -Commissioning of project -Paddy collection -Cleaning -Drying -Storing -De-stoning -Polishing -Grading	-Mill equipment -Land -Manpower -Fund -Storage bags	-Technical training on rice processing -Hi-tech machines/equipment where required. Market linkage Linkage to	6,000,000	-Technical expertise increase among locals -Additional employment created -More household incomes. -Increased food production -Increased commerce & local economy.	Community, WIA and other agro-support institutions like IITA	2 yrs.

S/N	PROJECT	ACTIVITIES	RESOURCES	TECHNICAL SUPPORT	COST (N)	BENEFIT TO COMMUNITY	RESPONSIBLE PARTIES	TIME SCHEDULE
		-Husk separation -Sifting -Bagging		relevant support institutions.				
8	Piggery	-Land acquisition -Land preparation -Construction of shelter (Pig pen) -Purchasing and stocking with piglets -Commissioning of project. -Management of pen (sanitation, feeding of pigs etc) -Marketing	Land, Piglets, manpower, fund, feed, BOQ.	Technical skills training Market linkage Linkage to relevant support institutions.	2,000,000	-Technical expertise increase among locals -Additional employment created -More household incomes. -Increased food production -Increased commerce & local economy.	Community, WIA and other relevant agro-support institutions.	1 yr.
9	Fish farming	-Land acquisition -Site clearing -Site mapping -Pond construction -Purchase & stocking of fingerlings/sorti	Land, labour, fingerlings, pond materials, water, feed, medicines, fund etc	-Technical training on fish farm management Market linkage Linkage to relevant	8,000,000	-Technical expertise increase among locals -Additional employment created -More household incomes. -Increased food production -Increased commerce	Community, WIA, support CSOs and other relevant agro-support institutions.	1 yr.

S/N	PROJECT	ACTIVITIES	RESOURCES	TECHNICAL SUPPORT	COST (N)	BENEFIT TO COMMUNITY	RESPONSIBLE PARTIES	TIME SCHEDULE
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ng</li> <li>-Commissioning of project</li> <li>-Pond management (water management, feeding of fish, administration of medications, safeguarding of fish stock etc)</li> <li>-Harvesting</li> <li>-Processing</li> <li>-Marketing</li> </ul>		support institutions.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&amp;local economy.</li> <li>-Wetland-exploitation activities reduce and conservation/restoration encouraged.</li> </ul>		
10	Plantain plantation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-land acquisition</li> <li>-Site clearing &amp; preparation</li> <li>-Site mapping</li> <li>-Purchasing of plantain suckers</li> <li>-Actual planting</li> <li>-Commissioning of project</li> <li>-Plantation management (weeding, watering, pruning etc)</li> <li>-Harvesting</li> </ul>	Land, labour, fertilizer, suckers, fund, manpower etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Training on management</li> <li>Market linkage</li> <li>Linkage to relevant support institutions.</li> </ul>	1,500,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Technical expertise increase among locals</li> <li>-Additional employment created</li> <li>-More household incomes.</li> <li>-Increased food production</li> <li>-Increased commerce &amp; local economy.</li> <li>-Wetland-exploitation activities reduce and conservation/restoration encouraged.</li> </ul>	Community, WIA, support CSOs and other relevant agro-support institutions.	1 yr

S/N	PROJECT	ACTIVITIES	RESOURCES	TECHNICAL SUPPORT	COST (N)	BENEFIT TO COMMUNITY	RESPONSIBLE PARTIES	TIME SCHEDULE
		-Processing -Marketing						
11	Community guest house (20 rooms)	-Land acquisition -Site clearing -Site mapping -Preparation of building drawings -Procurement of building materials -Recruitment of community labour (masons, builders, plumbers etc) -Actual construction works (Foundation, Block work, roofing, electrical, plumbing, painting and other finishing activities) -Supervision of on-going work -Commissioning	Land, building materials, fund, skilled, semi-skilled and unskilled labour etc)	BOQ development, building design and entrepreneurial advice.	13,000,000	-Technical expertise increase among locals -Additional employment created -Increase generated income for community development projects. -Improved housing availability in the community	Community, WIA & support CSOs.	1 yr

S/N	PROJECT	ACTIVITIES	RESOURCES	TECHNICAL SUPPORT	COST (N)	BENEFIT TO COMMUNITY	RESPONSIBLE PARTIES	TIME SCHEDULE
		-Renting						
12	Poultry	-Land acquisition -Land clearing and preparation -Site mapping -Construction of poultry pen -Purchasing and stocking with birds -Commissioning of project. -Management of pen (sanitation, feeding, administration of drugs etc) -Processing -Marketing	Land, birds, manpower, fund, feed, drugs, BOQ.	Technical skills training Market linkage Linkage to relevant support institutions.	7,000,000	-Technical expertise increase among locals -Additional employment created -More household incomes. -Increased food production -Increased commerce & local economy.	Community, WIA and other relevant agro-support institutions.	1 yr.
13	Scholarship programme	-Awareness creation -Placement and collation of application forms -Processing of application forms and short-listing (to						



S/N	PROJECT	ACTIVITIES	RESOURCES	TECHNICAL SUPPORT	COST (N)	BENEFIT TO COMMUNITY	RESPONSIBLE PARTIES	TIME SCHEDULE
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>be published and displayed in town halls)</li> <li>-Conduction of selection tests (exams)</li> <li>-Assessment of applicants' performances and selection of successful ones</li> <li>-Publication and invitation of successful candidates</li> <li>-Fund account opening</li> <li>-Commissioning of project</li> <li>-Disbursement of scholarship funds</li> <li>-Monitoring of beneficiaries.</li> <li>-Review of progress</li> </ul>						

## 4.1.12

## PROPOSED PROJECT BENEFICIARIES AND IMPACT

Table 6: Shows proposed project beneficiaries and impact

SECTOR	PROJECT	BENEFICIARIES	IMPACT			
			ENVIRONMENT	ECONOMY	SOCIAL	CULTURAL
Environment	Conservation of Akata Creek and Odoko Pond	Community especially youths and women who cannot go to high sea for fishing	Improved breeding ground for fish and water resources	Improved fish population Conservation of endangered species	Better well being of community	Restoration of age long conservation practices
	Tree planting (Timber, oil palm, Avingia)	Community	- Preservation of environment	- Income generation	- Attract loggers	
	Embankment and shore line protection	Community	- Prevent erosion	- Attract industrialization - Drive local economy	- Attract foreigners - Eco tourism	Revival of cultural displays and festivals
	Restoration and Conservation of mangrove	- Youths & women	- Preserve environment - Prevents erosion and flooding - Improves biodiversity	- Improve local economy - Source of fuel wood	-	

SECTOR	PROJECT	BENEFICIARIES	IMPACT			
			ENVIRONMENT	ECONOMY	SOCIAL	CULTURAL
Livelihoods	Plantation (rubber, rice, and plantain)	Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Cause health hazard of not maintained</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Improve economy of community</li> <li>- Creates employment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Youths may not go to school due to income that comes from money</li> <li>- Influx of foreigners</li> </ul>	
	Farming (piggery, fishery & poultry)	Community (Youth, women and men)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- If not controlled, can cause health hazard</li> <li>- Damage to farms if not controlled</li> <li>- Carries disease (vector)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Create jobs</li> <li>- Improve economy</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Influx of foreigners</li> </ul>	
	Community Guest House	Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Noise and air pollution from generator</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Generate income for community</li> <li>- Creates employment for youths</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Community prestige</li> </ul>	
	Scholarship programme	Youths	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Better knowledge to manage the environment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Increased skilled labour</li> <li>- Improve employment rate</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Provide literate population</li> <li>- Increase rural-urban migration</li> </ul>	

## SECTION 4

### PLAN MANAGEMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY

#### 4.1.13 Operational Plan Management and SUSTAINABILITY.

Management of Sustainability was a major issue that was discussed by the Abobiri community people. It was a consensus that bad planning, poor monitoring and lack of supervision were among the reasons why the past development projects failed in the community. Abobiri people identified the need for building sustainability factors as part of project planning. The following elements were identified as important to ensure long term impacts and action of the project.

- ✓ Formation of a Project Implementation Committee/ cooperatives
- ✓ Selection of community members that are transparent and accountable into the committee
- ✓ Members who are available at community at all times as against mobile community members
- ✓ Sitting allowance needed for Committee members
- ✓ Training of Committee members on key management areas of leadership, book keeping, budgeting, funds management etc.

In order to facilitate effective community project implementation and to set up a responsible team for project activities, the Abobiri Community Project Implementation team were nominated by the generality of the people as follows

#### 4.1.14 SUGGESTED NAMES FOR PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE

**Table 7: Shows suggested names for PIC members in Abobiri**

S/N	NAMES	CURRENT ROLE IN COMMUNITY	POSSIBLE ROLE IN PIC
1	Elder Markson Tekena		
2	Mr Christian David	CDC Chairman	Chairman
3	Mr Ogoniba Health	Youth PRO	
4	Mrs Elizabeth Trust		
5	Mrs Veronica Aroh	Civil servant	Secretary
6	Sister Faith Idighotu		Treasurer
7	Deputy Chief Igobi Blessing Victor	Council of chiefs	
8	Elder Saturday Goodness	CDC	
9	Pastor Simeon D. Simeon		
10	Hon. Chief Dr. Mitema Obordor		Adviser

As a Board of Trustees for Abobiri regarding relationship and leadership, the following members of the community were appointed to sign the Project documents with the Wetlands International

- HRH Joshua Alagoa
- CDC Chairman- Mr Christian David
- Chairman Council of Chiefs
- Chief Trust Apu

#### **4.1.15**

#### **PERFORMANCE EVALUATION**

In Abobiri, an analysis of project failure in the past provided a platform for analysis of need for monitoring of project process and evaluation of project activities. The perception of the Abobiri community is that by-laws should be in place to ensure control and guidance for project implementation. It was also agreed that vigilante group shall be functional, there should be periodic reporting and sanctioning of defaulting community members when necessary. It was discussed that measures such as control fencing, red flagging will be adopted to mark areas of conservation importance and the signs used will be recognised and respected by all community members.

Three levels of evaluation are envisaged as follows:

1. Beneficiary Group – Project beneficiary groups shall provide regular and periodic update on group activities both to SLBP project Team and the Project Implementation Committee for scrutiny and evaluation.
2. Community Members – Entire community will be sensitized to demand for good governance, transparency and accountability from both beneficiary groups and PIC. And to present their perception on project implementation status at periodic community forum to be held at the instance of the PIC and SLBP.
3. Project Implementation Committee- will provide monthly update to SLBP Team on all activities in the community.

#### **4.1.16**

#### **MANAGING COMMUNITY BENEFITS FROM SLBP PROJECTS**

As part of sustainability planning, community were asked how benefits (profits ) will be managed. This was important giving the long history of how supposed community intervention projects became source of conflict among members because of poor management of accruing benefits.

Members agreed on the following steps in managing accruing benefits.

1. Keep detailed records of all aspect of project cycle.
2. Plough back funds first for sustainability of project
3. Beneficiary groups and PIC must be transparent and accountable
4. Beneficiary groups, PIC and Community Executive should work together and contribute to community needs and development from time to time.

# ASARAMACOMMUNITY

## SECTION 1

### BACKGROUND INFORMATION

#### 4.2.1 Brief Historical Background

Asarama is a kingdom in Andoni Local Government area of River State comprising of over one hundred (100) communities. Among these communities are Ataijong and Amaubong which were selected as pilot project sites from Asarama Kingdom. Ataijong and Amaubong Communities are with GPS/Grid Reference of 04.52916<sup>0</sup> N and 007.45567<sup>0</sup> E and 04.51589<sup>0</sup> N and 007.46637<sup>0</sup> E respectively (Figure 3).

The communities are about 2 square kilometres in size (in-dwelling) and made up of eighty (80) compounds that is, 40 compounds each in Ataijong and Amaubong respectively.

Both communities have common boundaries at the eastern fringe which links the Andoni coastal communities with Ogoni hinterland region.

Specifically, Ataijong shares boundaries with Amaubong, Asalakiri, Okama and Okoloile communities in the North, South, East and West respectively while Amaubong shares boundaries with Dimama, Ataibong, Nkoro and Ebukuma in the North, South, East and West respectively.

Estimated population of the two communities is about 6,000 persons made up of 2,400 male and 3,600 female, that is, 40% male and 60% female. There are more youth (18-45 years) accounting for 2,700 or 45% of the population than the children ( $\leq 17$  years) and the adults (46 years and above) who constitute 1,800 (30%) and 1,500 (25%) respectively.

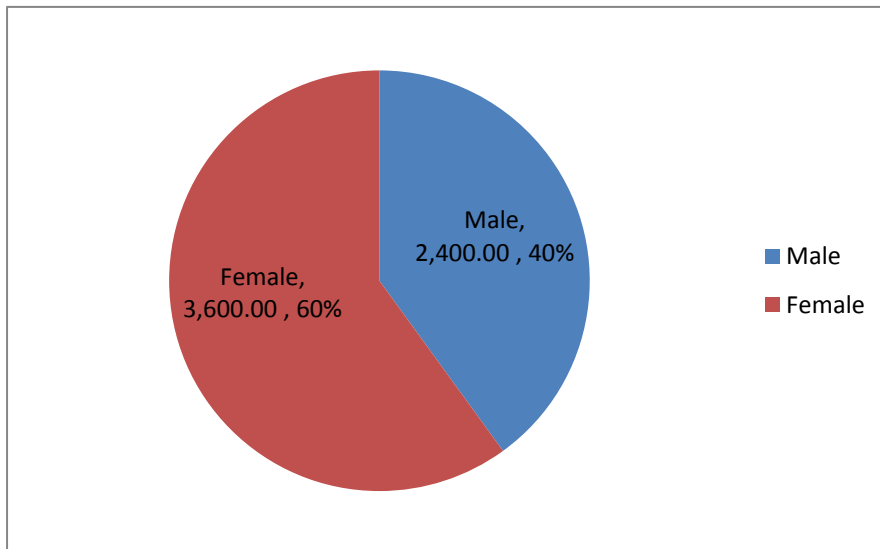


Fig. 2: Pie Chart showing the percentage of female/male population in Asarama Community



**Plate 13 : Handrawn Map of Asarama community**

The inhabitants of the communities are predominantly Christians (98% Christians) and about 2% practitioners of African Traditional Religion (ATRs)).

Both oral and documented histories have it that the Asarama people had lived in this part of the world (Nigerian Niger Delta) before the 13th Century. Thus, when the Portuguese traders came in the 15th century, they first came in contact with Asarama people at Ayama (now Peterside in Bonny LGA of Rivers State). Their population then was about 2000 persons. The big River (Andoni River) was the largest in the Eastern Delta and the Portuguese called it “Rio Real”.

The two communities, Ataijong and Amaubong have common boundaries on the eastern fringe along the Unity Road which links the Andoni coastal communities with the Ogoni hinterland region. The communities also share a common shoreline boundary at the southern part, with Asarama – Ebukuma River which links the Atlantic Ocean.

#### **4.2.2 WETLANDS ECOSYSTEM**

The intertidal forested wetland which includes mangrove swamps describes the type of wetland found in the communities. The wetland is nourished by three (3) inter-tidal rivers namely: Asarama-Inyorong-Nkro River, Asarama-Egnengem River and Asarama-Ebukuma River which all empty into the Atlantic Ocean. The wetland is composed of *Rhizophora racemosa* (Red mangrove) and few *Avicennia africana* (White mangrove) with other species, mostly *Mitragyna ciliata*. The soils of the mangroves are composed of acidic sulphate, silt, clay loam and peat locally called “chikoko” soil. Water is brackish.

There is a massive invasion of Nypa palm (*Nypa Fruiticans*) which has ravaged the mangrove swamp. The wetland is covered by about 60% of Nypa palm (*Nypa fruiticans*) and 35% of Red mangrove (*Rhizophora racemosa*) and White mangrove (*Avicennia africana*) with 5% of other species, mostly *Mitragyna ciliata*.





**Plate 14: Cross Section of Wetland Ecosystem in Asarama Community**

The wetland has undergone heavy exploitation of its fauna and is therefore currently of no value for a lot of wildlife. However, few aquatic fauna such as fishes; Tilapia (*Tilapia spp*), common fish such as Lung fish (*Protopterus annectens*), Cat fish (*Clarias spp*), Electric fish (*Malapterurus electricus*), and Periwinkles (*Pachymelania aurita* and *Tympanotonus fuscatus*) are available. Also, some bird species still visit the mangrove. They include: Hooded Vulture (*Necrocyrtes monachus*), Long tailed cormorant (*Phalacrocorax africanus*), Cattle egret (*Bubulcus ibis*), Little egret (*Egretta garzetta*), Purple Heron (*Ardea purpurea*, Grey Heron (*Ardea cineria*), African Green Pigeon (*Treron calva*) and Tambourine Dove (*Turtur tympanistra*).

The wetland does not have any national or regional importance, although it has local significance as it provides the local communities with their sources of livelihood. The rivers and creeks supply the two communities with their fish and other aquatic resources. Some of the community members engage in aquaculture and special periwinkle farming that is nourished by the rivers and creeks. The people also use the rivers and creeks for transportation and also for cultural as well recreational purposes.

The mangrove is said to support a range of wildlife fauna mostly birds such as the Cattle egret (*Bubulcus ibis*), Little egret (*Egretta garzetta*), Purple Heron (*Ardea purpurea*), Grey Heron (*Ardea cineria*), White faced tree duck (*Dendrocygna viduata*), African Harrier hawk (*Polyboroides typus*), Black kite (*Milvus migrans*), Marsh Sand Piper (*Tringa stagnatilis*), Grey Parrot (*Psittacus erithacus*), African Green Pigeon (*Treron calva*), Senegal Coucal (*Centropus senegalensis*), African Pied Hornbill (*Tochus fasciatus*), Pied Kingfisher (*Ceryle rudis*) and Village Weaver (*Ploceus cucullatus*). Also, present are wildlife such as the Marsh Mongoose (*Atilax palidunosus*), Pangolin (white-bellied) (*Manis tricuspis*) and Giant forest squirrel (*Protoxerus stangeri*). The key species of fauna are listed in Tables 10-11 (Annexure 7).

There have been reports of reduction of the sizes of prawns and periwinkles caught in the mangrove swamp due to excessive over picking of periwinkles and migration of nutrients from the mangroves to other ecosystems.

The area of wetland is about 3 square kilometers on both Ataijong and Amaubong sides respectively.

#### **4.2.2.2 Uses of Wetlands Asarama**

- ❖ Women pick periwinkles.
- ❖ Women also cut the mangrove for firewood
- ❖ It is a habitat for fishes/oysters/periwinkles
- ❖ Building of houses (roofs)
- ❖ Medicinal Uses
- ❖ Cure for Malaria
- ❖ Bark stops bleeding

Bark used for dyeing of nets

#### **4.2.2.1 Stakeholders' perception of Causes of Wetlands degradation**

- ✘ Human factors
  - ❖ Logging
  - ❖ Non-replanting of trees
- ✘ Oils spillages
  - From Bonny River
  - From Asarama-Toco Rivers
  - From Agbakwan-Asarama River
- ✘ Sedimentation and siltation of rivers leading to a reduction in depth.
- ✘ External factors
  - ❖ Foreigners come to lumber mangrove
  - ❖ Used for road construction (Unity road)
  - ❖ Used for electrification

#### **4.2.3 Livelihoods Systems**

Fishing (artisanal), farming and trading and periwinkle, crab and lobster picking are the major livelihoods of members of Ataijong and Amaubong communities in Asarama in Andoni LGA in Rivers State

Artisanal fishing is the main traditional occupation of Ataijong and Amaubong people. It is overwhelmingly done by the men and women folk who account for about 50 percent and 30 percent respectively of the approximately 60 percent of the community workforce engaged in this livelihood.

Fishing is an all year round occupation. Fish production is relatively low when compared to deep sea fishing because it is mostly done at subsistence level targeted at meeting household requirements hence high consumption rate and low income. Due to reduced catch, fishermen and women now need to go into deeper waters (almost into the Atlantic Ocean) to make a reasonable catch.

Farming and agricultural activities in these communities are on a subsistence level and are also rain fed. Women are more into farming (usually with the assistance of children/youth) than men. A wide range of crops are cultivated especially plantain and banana, cassava, vegetables and root/stem crops. Apart from food crops, palm oil production is a major livelihood among the men folk especially non-natives from Akwa-Ibom state due to the abundance of wild grooves.

The people employ traditional farming skills such as: land management, bush fallow rotation, cultivation of crops and livestock rearing, traditional palm oil processing with the ability to climb tall palm trees without phobia for heights.

The rainy season (March/April to September/October) is associated with peak cropping seasons especially crop cultivation while the dry season is used for harvesting/processing, marketing and land preparation for the next farming season. Some of the palm tree plantation owners have palm oil processing mills where palm and other varieties of oils are produced. There is a low level of social cooperation due to subsistence level of farming practice as well as poverty.



**Plate 15: Cross section of Asarama community members engaged in various livelihoods**

About 10 percent of the work force in Ataijong and Amaubong communities is into trading. There are overlaps with other economic activities such as farming and fishing. Petty trading accounts for a high percentage of trading activities and this are associated with low income patterns. Periwinkle, crab and lobster picking are sets of livelihoods which are female dominated with some level of youth participation especially during vacations. Periwinkle, crab and lobster picking has continued to gain prominence as between 2 – 5 percent of workforce can be found to be engaged in it. Less than 50 percent of periwinkles picked are consumed locally while the remaining is sold for cash.

A migratory pattern is observable in periwinkle picking. Pickers who live far away from the picking grounds may leave home to sleep in neighbouring communities closer to the picking grounds. This is to allow them arrive at the picking grounds earlier than other pickers. Early arrival at the picking grounds leads to increased volume of periwinkles harvested. The ability to swim, dive and paddle canoes expertly for fairly long distance is a needed skill. Perfect knowledge of tidal movements is also required as it determines the abundance of catch. The reproduction cycle of periwinkles dictates the pattern of activities in this livelihood. The peak period is during the first six months of the year, that is, January to June.

#### **4.2.3.1 Livelihood Sources in Asarama ranked in order of viability**

- ❖ Fishing (men & women)
- ❖ Lumbering
- ❖ Palm oil processing (women)
- ❖ Carpentry
- ❖ Farming
- ❖ TBA's (women)
- ❖ Construction (welders, masons)
- ❖ Periwinkle farming

### Other livelihood sources

- ❖ Civil servants
- ❖ Motorcycle riders
- ❖ Sand miners
- ❖ Restaurant owners
- ❖ Speed boat drivers
- ❖ Hairdressing/barbing salon
- ❖ Animal trapping
- ❖ Firewood sellers
- ❖ Farm labourers

### 4.2.3,2 Women livelihood (ranked in order of viability)

- ✓ Fishing (crayfish/periwinkle)-considered to be the foundation source for income for all other livelihoods
- ✓ Farming
- ✓ Cassava
- ✓ Plantain
- ✓ Beans (cowpea)
- ✓ Pepper
- ✓ Petty trading ( has a high patronage because of high consumption rate)
- ✓ Tailoring
- ✓ Palm Oil processing (mill)
- ✓ Restaurant ownership
- ✓ TBA's

### 4.1.3 Community Structure and Stakeholders Relationship

Table 8: Shows Community structure and stakeholder relationship in Asarama

Institutes	Roles
Council of Chiefs (CoC) (They are ≤7 in number)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Settle disputes</li> <li>• See to development of community</li> <li>• General administration of community</li> </ul>
CDC (they are 14 in number)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Answerable to CoC</li> <li>• Settle disputes</li> <li>• Saddle with land issues</li> <li>• See to development of community</li> <li>• Collect revenue for logger, lumbering and others forest or land utilization.</li> <li>•</li> </ul>
Youths	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assists with community development work</li> <li>• Settle disputes among themselves</li> <li>• Defend community from external aggression</li> <li>• Assist with clean up during sanitation.</li> </ul>

Women	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pray for community 1<sup>st</sup> day of every month</li> <li>• Ensure peace in community</li> <li>• Assist religious groups</li> <li>• Assist in community development</li> </ul>
Men	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fathers of the community</li> <li>• Contributes to community development</li> <li>• Assist in decision makings</li> <li>• Settle disputes</li> <li>• They constitute chiefs of the community</li> </ul>

**Table 9 :Stakeholder (Groups)-ranked in order of importance in the community**

<b>Ataijon/Amaubong</b>	<b>Responsibility/Role</b>
CDC	General community development
Age Group	Culturalization Cultural display Cut grass
Churches	Strong religious convictions in the community
NURTW & Motorbike riders	
National Union of Maritime Workers	
Utoama	Built corpers 'lodge
Decent Ladies	Installation of sign post Generate income through rentals
Buoyant friends (men & women)	Sign post
Student Union	

#### 4.2.4.1 Individual Stake holders in Asarama

- ❖ Chief U.G. Ugboloku
- ❖ Ndendeng Ndendeng
- ❖ Andrew Owoh
- ❖ Chief E. S. Owoh
- ❖ Hon. Pastor Monwan
- ❖ Emmanuel Power
- ❖ Evang. Agnes Egop
- ❖ Uriah Alafonye
- ❖ Chief Awoh
- ❖ Victoria Nathaniel



Plate 16: Hand Drawn Venn Diagram by community members in Asarama

#### 4.2.4 PAST DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS IN ASARAMA

Table 10: shows past developmental projects in Asarama

Project	Who	Year	status
Electricity	State government	2012	Incomplete
Borehole /portable water	State government	1990's	Incomplete
Embarkment	State government	1980's	Partly incomplete
Agriculture (cassava) / fisheries	State government	1980's	No longer in existence
Residential housing estate	State government	1990's	10 numbers, 2- bedroom flat uncompleted

#### **4.2.6 Causes of project failures in community**

- Credibility of the contractor
- Poor management
- Poor funding
- Poor road network
- Corruption and fraud
- Difficult terrain
- Lack of transparency
- Demand for homage and development fee.(This can be controlled the community)

## SECTION 2

### COMMUNITY DIAGNOSIS AND ANALYSIS/ OPERATIONAL PLANNING PROCESS

The aim of the community diagnosis was to understand problems and development challenges being faced by different groups in the community and how these knowledge can be transformed into development action planning steps. SWOT analysis was also deployed as a tool to outline community members perception of the **Strength, Weaknesses, Opportunity and Threat** inherent in their community and can be done to strengthen community development processes.

#### 4.2.7 ASARAMA SWOT ANALYSIS OUTCOME

Table 11: Shows SWOT analysis outcome for Asarama community

STRENGTH	WEAKNESS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Known fishermen</li> <li>▪ Business minded and oriented</li> <li>▪ Politically strong</li> <li>▪ Accommodating and hospitality</li> <li>▪ Cultural inclusiveness</li> <li>▪ Strong micro-credit / cooperatives</li> <li>▪ Presence of mangrove</li> <li>▪ Strong unions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lack of nearby market</li> <li>• Teenage pregnancy</li> <li>• Unemployment</li> <li>• High rate of secondary school dropouts</li> <li>• Low level of educational background</li> <li>• Lack of primary school</li> <li>• Lack of portable water</li> <li>• Lack of electricity</li> </ul>
OPPORTUNITIES	THREATS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presence of oil well deposits</li> <li>• Fertile land for agriculture</li> <li>• Large scale oil palm processor</li> <li>• Commercial fishing opportunity</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Erosion</li> <li>• Nypa palm invasion</li> <li>• Logging of timbers outsiders</li> <li>• continuous oil exploration</li> </ul>

#### 4.2.8 ASARAMA PROBLEM DIAGNOSIS OUTCOME

Table 12: Shows problem diagnosis outcome for Asarama

A	ASARAMA COMMUNITY LEVEL PROBLEMS AND RANKING
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Bad road network 1</li> <li>▪ Lack of portable water 4</li> <li>▪ Lack of regular electricity 7</li> <li>▪ Lack of hospital 4</li> <li>▪ High nypa infestation 5</li> <li>▪ Disappearing mangrove 8</li> <li>▪ Low level of education 6</li> <li>▪ Erosion</li> <li>▪ Poor leadership problem</li> <li>▪ High unemployment 2</li> <li>▪ Presence of cult group/militancy/ youth restiveness</li> <li>▪ High teenage pregnancy leading to high female dropout rate 3</li> </ul>
B	PROBLEMS FACED BY YOUTHS



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No job opportunities</li> <li>• High level of Secondary drop outs as a result of financial problems</li> <li>• Easily distracted by income yielding activities</li> <li>• Lack future ambition</li> <li>• Some join militant groups due to idleness</li> <li>• Early marriage, fatherhood and high teenage pregnancy</li> <li>• Work as labourers</li> </ul> <p>They are territorial</p>
<b>C</b>	<b>PROBLEMS FACED BY WOMEN</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Early marriage (14years above)</li> <li>• High dropout rates</li> <li>• No inheritance for women</li> <li>• Insecurity of farm produce</li> <li>• They cannot be members of council of chief</li> <li>• Some experience educational denial by parents</li> <li>• High illiteracy rate among women</li> <li>• Cannot fish in high sea</li> </ul>
<b>D</b>	<b>PROBLEMS FACED BY MEN</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High level of illiteracy as a result of early fatherhood</li> <li>• Maintaining large family from multiple wives</li> <li>• High joblessness</li> <li>• Premature death as a result of illegal means of livelihood</li> </ul>

#### 4.2.9 OPERATION PLANNING SESSIONS

##### Community Values, Vision and Goals

This was a 3 step process which resulted in immediate action plan- which is the community plan.

The first step (**Community Value**) was for each stakeholder to state their **values** as a community by describing what they cherish most about their community – the things that make them want to stay. At the end stakeholders agreed on the following as their core values:

- ✚ Friendly to strangers
- ✚ Do community burial
- ✚ Accommodating
- ✚ No prohibition on mangrove



Plate 17: Community members during operation planning sessions

The next step (**Community Vision**) was for each stakeholder to describe what he/she will like the community to be in the next 20 years in a card. A summary of the submission included the following vision statements:

- ✚ Community of well-educated people
- ✚ Prosperous people
- ✚ Community with Social infrastructural ( Portable water, light, road, hospital)
- ✚ Community with Presence of industries
- ✚ Employment opportunities
- ✚ Sustainable livelihoods from wetlands
- ✚ Want Asarama to become a place called “Asa city”

Submissions were refined by listing common elements to create the Asarama shared vision which states:

**“A prosperous city with well-educated people, adequate social infrastructure and environment that sustainably support their livelihood.”**

The third step (**Goal Setting**) – here all inputs on the value and vision from stakeholders were arranged in a flip chart under the following headings with outline of steps to take to achieve the vision statement under each heading.

- ✓ Environment and Wetlands
- ✓ Livelihoods and Economy
- ✓ Community and Culture
- ✓ Leadership

#### **Environment and Wetlands**

- ✓ Awareness and enlightenment on wetlands opportunities.
- ✓ Awareness on what to do to maximize and ensure sustainable wetlands and environment.
- ✓ Establishment of local bye laws and regulations on use of wetlands.
- ✓ Planting of trees and replacement

#### **Livelihoods/ Economy (vision Statements)**

- ✓ Well educated people
- ✓ Prosperous
- ✓ Social infrastructure

#### **Well educated (Vision statement and goals)**

- ✓ Scholarship programmes for youth
- ✓ Skill acquisition for youth
- ✓ Empowerment programmes for youth and women

#### **Prosperous/ employment/ industrialization ((Vision statement and goals)**

- ✓ Oil processing
- ✓ Commercial fish farming
- ✓ Commercial periwinkle farming
- ✓ Nypa palm utilization and mitigation
- ✓ Commercial agriculture/ farming

#### **Social infrastructure ((Vision statement and goals)**

- ✓ Road network
- ✓ Hospital
- ✓ Schools
- ✓ Portable water
- ✓ Electricity

#### **Community/Culture**

- ✓ Restore traditional environmental control
- ✓ Cultural groups
- ✓ Increased population

## Leadership

- ✓ Good leadership
- ✓ Diversified security and leadership

### 4.2.10 ACTION STEPS/RECOMMENDED PROJECTS

After a detailed analysis of the above goals by stakeholders the following immediate action steps were agreed as the first steps to be taken in both the areas of livelihoods and environment if the shared vision of the community is to be achieved.

#### Livelihood Component.

The recommended actions:

General improvement in educational standard in Asarama which can be achieved through provision of **scholarship** for both youths and adult.

The vision of a prosperous Asarama in the next 20 years with employment opportunities and some form of industrialization can be realized if the through

- ✚ Palm Oil processing
- ✚ Commercial fish farming
- ✚ Commercial periwinkle farming
- ✚ Nypa palm utilization and mitigation
- ✚ Commercial agriculture/ farming

#### ENVIRONMENT COMPONENT

Recommended actions:

- ✚ Mangrove regrowth and conservation using community scouts.
- ✚ Nypa palm utilization programme
- ✚ Nypa Palm mitigation using community scouts.
- ✚ Concrete walkway with drainage
- ✚ Assistance for embankment of shoreline

### SECTION 3

#### ASARAMA COMMUNITY OPERATIONAL PLAN

##### 4.2.11 Asarama (Ataijong & Amaubong) Community Plan

Table 13: Shows Community Operational Plan for Asarama community

S/N	Project	Beneficiaries	Activities	Required Resources	Cost	Source of Funding	Period	Benefit to Community	Responsible Parties
1	Periwinkle farming	Women in the community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Acquisition of land</li> <li>• Purchase of boat</li> <li>• Fencing</li> <li>• Purchase or picking of small periwinkles</li> <li>• Processing of periwinkles</li> <li>• Marketing</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Water body</li> <li>• Boat</li> <li>• Nets</li> <li>• Periwinkles</li> <li>• Fund</li> </ul>	1,000,000	Community & Wetland International and interested partners.	8 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Improved skill and capacity in periwinkle farming</li> <li>-Additional employments</li> <li>-Increased food production</li> <li>-Increased household incomes and by extension local economy</li> </ul>	Community women farmers, other community-based stakeholders , WIA and other support CSOs.
2	Fish farming	Men and women in the community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Land acquisition</li> <li>-Site clearing</li> <li>-Site mapping</li> <li>-Pond construction</li> <li>-Purchase &amp; stocking of fingerlings/sorting</li> <li>-Commissioning of project</li> <li>-Pond management (water management, feeding of fish, administration of</li> </ul>	Land, labour, fingerlings, pond materials, water, feed, medicines, fund etc	8,000,000	Community & Wetland International/other interested partners	1 yr & 6 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Technical expertise increase among locals</li> <li>-Additional employment created</li> <li>-More household incomes.</li> <li>-Increased food production</li> <li>-Increased commerce &amp; local economy.</li> <li>-Wetland-exploitation activities reduce and</li> </ul>	Community farmers and other community-based stakeholders , WIA and other support CSOs.

S/N	Project	Beneficiaries	Activities	Required Resources	Cost	Source of Funding	Period	Benefit to Community	Responsible Parties
			medications, safeguarding of fish stock etc) -Harvesting -Processing -Marketing					conservation/restoration encouraged.	
3	Farming • plantain plantation	Farmers in the community (Men & women)	-land acquisition -Site clearing & preparation -Site mapping -Purchasing of plantain suckers -Actual planting -Commissioning of project -Plantation management (weeding, watering, pruning etc) -Harvesting -Processing -Marketing	Land, labour, fertilizer, suckers, fund, manpower etc.	1,500,000	Community & Wetland International/other interested partners	1yr	-Technical expertise increase among locals -Additional employment created -More household incomes. -Increased food production -Increased commerce & local economy. -Wetland-exploitation activities reduce and conservation/restoration encouraged.	Community farmers and other community-based stakeholders, WIA and other support CSOs.
	• Palm plantation.	Farmers in the community (Men & women)	-land acquisition -Site clearing & preparation -Site mapping -Purchasing of palm seedlings -Actual planting -Commissioning of project	Land, labour, fertilizer, palm seedlings, fund, manpower etc.	3,000,000	Community & Wetland International/other interested partners	3yrs	-Technical expertise increase among locals -Additional employment created -More household incomes. -Increased food production -Increased commerce	Community farmers and other community-based stakeholders, WIA and other support

S/N	Project	Beneficiaries	Activities	Required Resources	Cost	Source of Funding	Period	Benefit to Community	Responsible Parties
			-Plantation management (weeding, watering, pruning etc) -Harvesting -Marketing					&local economy. -Wetland-exploitation activities reduce and conservation/restoration encouraged.	CSOs.
	• Palm oil Processing	Farmers in the community (Men & women)	-Land acquisition -Land clearing/preparation -Site Mapping -Preparation of BOQ & mill drawing -Building of a mill -Commissioning of project -Palm fronds collection -Cleaning -Actual milling -Storing - Marketing	-Mill equipment -Land -Manpower -Fund	4,000,000	Community & Wetland International/other interested partners	3 months	-Technical expertise increase among locals -Additional employment created -More household incomes. -Increased food production -Increased commerce & local economy. -Wetland-exploitation activities reduce and conservation/restoration encouraged.	Community farmers and other community-based stakeholders , WIA and other support CSOs.
4	Scholarship	Youths in the community	-Awareness creation -Placement and collation of application forms -Processing of application forms and short-listing (to be published and displayed in town halls)	Fund, stationeries etc.	4,900,000	Community & Wetland International/other interested partners	3 months	-Improved literacy -The poor in the community have opportunities of achieving education.	Community farmers and other community-based stakeholders , WIA and other support CSOs.

S/N	Project	Beneficiaries	Activities	Required Resources	Cost	Source of Funding	Period	Benefit to Community	Responsible Parties
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Conduction of selection tests (exams)</li> <li>-Assessment of applicants' performances and selection of successful ones</li> <li>-Publication and invitation of successful candidates</li> <li>-Fund account opening</li> <li>-Commissioning of project</li> <li>-Disbursement of scholarship funds</li> <li>-Monitoring of beneficiaries.</li> <li>-Review of progress</li> </ul>						
5	Mangrove regrowth conservation using community scouts	Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Mobilize community labor</li> <li>-Marking out of area first</li> <li>-Planting mangrove trees</li> <li>-Fencing round the area</li> <li>-Supervising re-growth activities and effect intermittent re-</li> </ul>	Fund, labor ,fencing materials (including wood), PPEs, mangrove seedlings etc.	2,500,000	Community, WIA and other interested partners.	Sept. 2014-2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Restored biodiversity</li> <li>-Socio-economic values of mangrove ecosystem restored</li> <li>-Employment opportunities created for the locals</li> </ul>	



S/N	Project	Beneficiaries	Activities	Required Resources	Cost	Source of Funding	Period	Benefit to Community	Responsible Parties
			planting						
6	Nypa palm utilization training.	Community	-Creation of awareness of usage among community people  -Practical skills training to community groups on use of Nypa palm	Facilitators, volunteer trainees, fund, training and awareness creation resource materials, PPEs etc.	1,500,000	Community, WIA and other interested partners.	August 2014	-Local awareness on use of Nypa palm increased -Indigenous skills on utilization of the plant species increased among the people	
7	Nypa palm mitigation using community efforts	Community	-Technical capacity building training  -Actual clearing (cutting) of Nypa palm species.	PPEs like rain boots, rain coats and hand gloves. Cutting materials including cutlass et. manpower, fund, boats etc.	7,000,000	Community, WIA and other interested partners.	Sept 2014-2015	-Nypa palm population reduce significantly in the community -Mangrove ecosystem and its biodiversity restored with its environmental and socio-economic values. -Jobs created for youths in the community and household incomes improved	Community, WIA, support CSOs and other relevant support institutions.
8	Concrete work way with drainage	Community	-Production of project drawing -Development of BOQ -Procurement of work materials -Mobilization of materials & equipment	Heavy duty equipment, skilled, semi-skilled & unskilled personnel, fund, land	10,000,000	Community, WIA and other interested partners.	Oct 2014-Mar 2015	-Improved infrastructure for enhanced commerce and livelihood activities in the community  -Jobs created for skilled,	Community, WIA, support CSOs and other relevant support

S/N	Project	Beneficiaries	Activities	Required Resources	Cost	Source of Funding	Period	Benefit to Community	Responsible Parties
			to site -Land clearing -Site mapping -Actual construction works -Supervision and monitoring of works -Commissioning of project	etc.				semi-skilled and unskilled in the community.	institutions.
9	Embankment (concrete).	Community	-Marking out of shoreline -Procurement and mobilization of shoreline protection materials to site -Actual piling/block work	Heavy duty equipment, construction materials including rods Cement and gravel, manpower, fund etc.	10,000,000	Community, WIA and other interested partners.	Dec 2014- May 2015	-Improved infrastructure that will check shore erosion in the community  -Jobs created for skilled, semi-skilled and unskilled in the community.	Community, WIA, support CSOs and other relevant support institutions.
10	Foot bridge (concrete) (7 foot bridge)	Community	-Production of project drawing -Development of BOQ -Procurement of work materials -Mobilization of materials & equipment to site -Land clearing -Site mapping -Actual construction works	Heavy duty equipment, skilled, semi-skilled & unskilled personnel, fund, land etc.	15,000,000	Community, WIA and other interested partners.	Oct 2014- Mar 2015	-Improved infrastructure for enhanced commerce and livelihood activities in the community  -Jobs created for skilled, semi-skilled and unskilled in the community.	Community, WIA, support CSOs and other relevant support institutions.

S/N	Project	Beneficiaries	Activities	Required Resources	Cost	Source of Funding	Period	Benefit to Community	Responsible Parties
			-Supervision and monitoring of works -Commissioning of project						
11	Planting of mangrove	Community	-Mobilize community labor -Marking out of area first -Planting mangrove trees -Fencing round the area -Supervising re-growth activities and effect intermittent re-planting	Fund, labor ,fencing materials (including wood), PPEs, mangrove seedlings etc.	2,500,000	Community, WIA and other interested partners.	October 2014-2015	-Restored biodiversity -Socio-economic values of mangrove ecosystem restored -Employment opportunities created for the locals	Community, WIA, support CSOs and other relevant support institutions.

#### 4.2.12 PROPOSED PROJECT BENEFICIARIES AND IMPACT

Table 14: Shows proposed project beneficiaries and impact in Asarama

SECTOR	PROJECT	BENEFICIARIES	IMPACT			
			ENVIRONMENT	ECONOMY	SOCIAL	CULTURAL
Environment	Mangrove regrowth conservation using community scout / planting of mangrove	Community especially youths and women who can not go to high sea for fishing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Improved mangrove regeneration</li> <li>▪ Repel nypa palm growth</li> <li>▪ Impact positively on livelihood</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Improvement in economy through improved fisheries, periwinkle, crayfish and oyster.</li> <li>▪ Encourage market for products</li> </ul>	Better wellbeing of community	Restoration of age long conservation practices
	Nypa palm utilization / mitigation	Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Reduction in nypa</li> <li>- Improvement in periwinkle and fisheries population</li> <li>- Improved general mangrove ecosystem health</li> <li>-</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Improved economy</li> <li>- Improved fish and periwinkle sales</li> <li>- Create job opportunity</li> <li>-</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Cause influx of foreigners to the community</li> </ul>	
Livelihoods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Plantain, palm oil and</li> </ul>	Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Health hazard if not well managed</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Create job opportunities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Market creation</li> </ul>	

SECTOR	PROJECT	BENEFICIARIES	IMPACT			
			ENVIRONMENT	ECONOMY	SOCIAL	CULTURAL
	cassava plantation		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Conversion of land for agricultural purpose</li> <li>-</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Market creation</li> <li>- Reduce local cost of food stuff</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Increased population</li> <li>- Risk of insecurity due to influx of people</li> </ul>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Periwinkle and fish farming</li> </ul>	Community (Youth, women and men)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Serves land conservation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Create job opportunity</li> <li>- Create markets</li> <li>- Reduction in price</li> <li>-</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Better nutrition for children</li> <li>- It may lead to reduction in school enrolment.</li> <li>-</li> </ul>	
	Micro Credit Scheme	Women and youth groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Alternative livelihoods reduce stress on environment and wetlands</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Reduced financial stress</li> <li>- Increase financial strength</li> <li>- Grows local business</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Overall social well being</li> <li>- Wrong investment</li> </ul>	
	Scholarship programme	Youths	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Better knowledge to manage the</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Increased skilled labour</li> <li>- Improve</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Improved enrolment in school</li> </ul>	








SECTOR	PROJECT	BENEFICIARIES	IMPACT			
			ENVIRONMENT	ECONOMY	SOCIAL	CULTURAL
			environment	employment rate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Improved education standard</li> <li>- A better informed society</li> <li>- May lead to crisis if not properly managed</li> </ul>	

## SECTION 4

### OPERATIONAL PLAN MANAGEMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY

#### 4.2.13 Operational Plan Management and Sustainability

Management of Sustainability was a major issue that was discussed by the Asarama community people. It was a consensus that bad planning, poor monitoring and lack of supervision were among the reasons why the past development projects failed in the community. Asarama people identified the need for building sustainability factors as part of project planning. The following elements were identified as important to ensure long term impacts and action of the project.

-  Formation of a Project Implementation Committee/ cooperatives
-  Keep records
-  Regularly keep some savings/ proceeds in bank
-  Regularly decide on what to do with funds
-  Decide who will be signatories or/ and treasurers
-  Announce profit at the end of every project cycle
-  Ensure equity and transparency in distribution community benefits/profits

In order to facilitate effective community project implementation and to set up a responsible team for project activities, the Asarama Community Project Implementation team were nominated by the generality of the people as follows




#### 4.2.14 RECOMMENDED PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Table 15: Shows recommended PIC members in Asarama community

S/N	NAMES	CURRENT ROLE IN COMMUNITY	POSSIBLE ROLE IN PIC
1	Andrew Owoh (AT)	CDC chairman Ataijong	Chairman
2	Victoria Nathaniel (AT)	Civil servant	
3	Daniel Julius (AM)	Youth PRO	
4	Gabriel Romokere (AT)	Chairman Buoyant Friends	
5	Ndengden Ndengden (AT)	General CDC	Secretary
6	Inye Gabriel (AT)	Chairman Age Group	Treasurer
7	Agness Egop (AM)	Chairlady women society	

#### **4.2.15 COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES TO SIGN MOU**

As a Board of Trustees for Abobiri regarding relationship and leadership, the following members of the community were appointed to sign the Project documents with the Wetlands International

-  Chief U.G.Ogbolokun
-  Ndengden Ndengden
-  Andrew Owoh

#### **4.2.16 PERFORMANCE EVALUATION**

In Asarama, an analysis of project failure in the past provided a platform for analysis of need for monitoring of project process and evaluation of project activities. The perception of the Asarama community is that by-laws should be in place to ensure control and guidance for project implementation. It was also agreed that vigilante group shall be functional, there should be periodic reporting and sanctioning of defaulting community members when necessary. It was discussed that measures such as control fencing, red flagging will be adopted to mark areas of conservation importance and the signs used will be recognised and respected by all community members.

Three levels of evaluation are envisaged as follows:

- Beneficiary Group – Project beneficiary groups shall provide regular and periodic update on group activities both to SLBP project Team and the Project Implementation Committee for scrutiny and evaluation.
- Community Members – Entire community will be sensitized to demand for good governance, transparency and accountability from both beneficiary groups and PIC. And to present their perception on project implementation status at periodic community forum to be held at the instance of the PIC and SLBP.
- Project Implementation Committee- will provide monthly update to SLBP Team on all activities in the community.

#### **4.2.17 MANAGING COMMUNITY BENEFITS FROM SLBP PROJECTS**

As part of sustainability planning, community were asked how benefits (profits ) will be managed. This was important giving the long history of how supposed community intervention projects became source of conflict among members because of poor management of accruing benefits.

Members agreed that benefits from project will be used for:

- Project expansion
- Plough back for purchase of inputs
- Key development in the community



# OBI-AYAGHA COMMUNITY

## Section 1

### COMMUNITY BACKGROUND INFORMATION

#### 4.3.1 Brief Historical Background

Obi-Ayagha community is located in Ughelli South Local Government Area of Delta State. The council headquarter is at Otu-Jeremi community (an approximate distance of 8 kilometres). The community lies at an approximate distance of 163km from Asaba (the state capital). It is bounded in the East by Erhuwaren communities, in the West by Oginibo, North by Imode and in the South by Bikogha community. In terms of land mass, Obi-Ayagha community is approximately 8sq km in size.

Obi-Ayagha community which is one of the communities in the Ughievwen Clan was founded by a man called Obi. This man married a woman called Ayagha and both of them founded the community that is why the community is called Obi-Ayagha. The man called Obi was a strong man who acquired great feats for his descendants. The community is made up of over 20 compounds and nine quarters, the quarters are namely Puke, Uduvwovie, Ekregbegor, Uduvwudhie, Riakpomu, Akpogi, Ekoko, Ekwoebe, Vweroho, quarters. The people are of Urhobo tribe and speak urhobo as the major language. They are mainly farmers and fishermen. The community has SPDC only Oil pipelines in the community. The people are hospitable, generous and peaceful.



Plate 18 : Hand drawn map of Obi-Ayagha Community

Obi-Ayagha people are dominantly Christians. Statistically, ardent Christian worshippers is estimated at 90% of the entire populace, the traditional worshippers is estimated at 10%.

The people of Obi-Ayagha community observe the Christmas, Easter and New year festive and every other festive pertaining to all Ughievwen Clan. The community taboos is in accordance with existing taboos for all Ughievwen Clan (especially for those that are into traditional religion).

Even though modernism has taken strong grip on the dressing culture of the people like the dressing outfit for men ;Egbru (wrapper), Ewu (shirt), Erhy (cap), Ubiokpor (walking stick), Isabator (Shoe/sandal) for women; Osiba-gbotehu (double wrapper), Ewu (Blouse), Olesor (Hair tie), Isabator (shoe.), tying of wrapper still remains a traditional dressing mode for a typical Otor-Edo indigene. The popular traditional greeting among the people is 'Migwo'(which means my knees are on the ground) it is used to greet an elder, which can be used in any time of the day. However, 'Wokobiruoh' (meaning 'thank you') is used to show appreciation while 'Doh' (meaning 'welcome') is used to welcome visitors or guests , Doo-wovrere (morning),Doo-Omagare.(afternoon/evening). Ukodo- Plantain/yam, fish, meat pepper soup, starch/garri, oghwo and banga soups constitute staple food of the people.

#### 4.3.2 Demography & Geography

Obi-Ayagha community population estimate can approximated to 5000+. Out of this figure, the males were put at 2400, females at 2600 and the adults above 46 (including males and females) between 1000 and 1,500. Also, the number of the youths (males and females inclusive) is put about 1000. The total population estimated for school age children is 1,500.

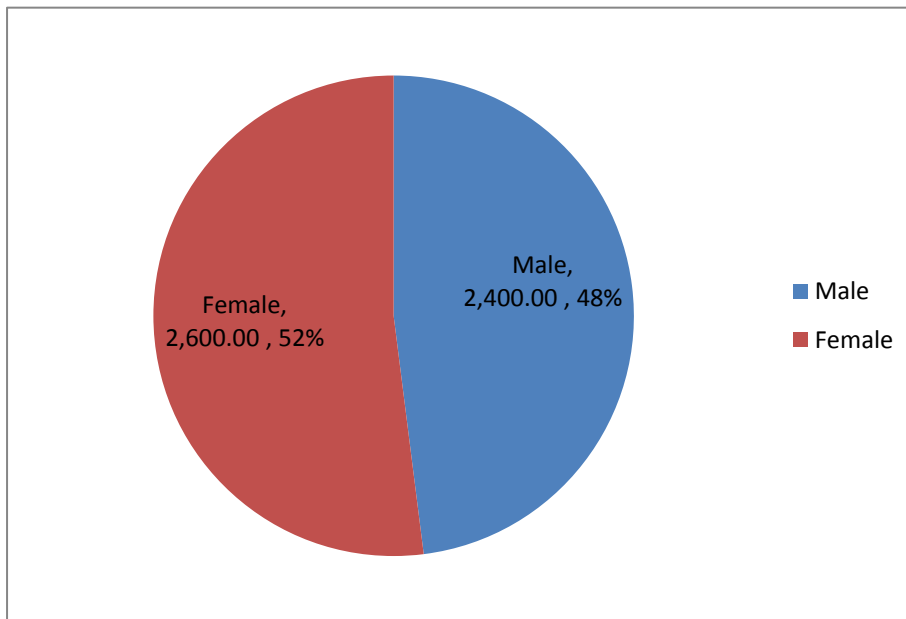


Fig. 3: Pie Chart showing the percentage of female/male population in Obi-Ayagha Community

Ecologically, Obi-Ayagha community is blessed with fresh water swamp forest vegetation. The soil type is clay and loamy soil. This supports crop farming in the community. Most houses standing in the community are mixture of block types and mud houses with iron roof. The people settle in clusters and share communal bonds. Majority and a few of households in the community hold onto nuclear family system – a system common in the community. Polygamous families in the community are rated high (60%) while, monogamous families stand at 40%.

Domestic wastes dominate types of wastes generated on daily basis in the community. However, a few of non-degradable wastes obtains. There are no defined system of waste disposal in the community.



**Plate 19: A cross section of freshwater swamp in Obi-Ayagha Community**

#### **4.3.3 Uses of Wetlands in Obi-Ayagha**

1. Fishing
  - a. Subsistence fishing using hooks and nets
  - b. Use of local fish ponds
  
2. Farming: crops include:
  - a. Water
  - b. Vegetables
  - c. Plantain
  - d. Sweet potatoes
  - e. Cassava
  - f. Rubber plantation
  - g. Sugar cane
  
3. Fire wood picking
4. Hunting
5. Canoe carving
6. Making of furniture, roofing and walking sticks
7. Okpare Creek act as source of water for bathing, washing, domestic use and sometimes drinkable.
- The community has no mangrove but freshwater swamp forest.



Plate 20: Fishing as a livelihood in Obi-Ayagha Community

#### 4.3.3.1 General Livelihoods in the community (list in terms of priority)

1. Farming
  - Cassava
  - Plantain
  - Yam
  - Water yam
  - Sweet potatoes
  - Vegetables
  - Sugar cane
  - Coconut
  - Oil palm plantation
  - Pine apple
  - Fruits: pawpaw, orange, mangoes, limes, lemon
2. Fishing
  - Fish pond
  - Swamp fishing
  - Day and night fishing along the creeks
3. Masonry/bricklaying
4. Commercial motorcycle riding
5. Petty trading
6. Rubber tapping
7. Logging
8. Carpentry
9. Tailoring
10. Civil Servant
11. Herbalist
12. Electrician

13. Welding/iron bending
14. Painting/artist
15. Hairdressing/barbing
16. Traditional Birth Attendants
17. Plumbers
18. Hunting

#### 4.3.4 Governance Structure and Stakeholders Relationship

Obi-Ayagha community has an organized traditional governance system outside influence of the local, state and federal government presence. The traditional political system is headed by a traditional ruler popularly titled 'Okobaro'. Legitimately, he is the king or Ovie of the Ughievwen Kingdom. He is followed closely in the ladder by the Council of Chiefs popularly referred to as 'the Ilorogun' (plural) and Olorogun (singular) these are titled chiefs respected and they assist the traditional ruler in governance as they are instrumental in maintaining peace in the community and are custodians of the community's traditional heritage.



Plate 21: Venn Diagram of Obi-Ayagha Community drawn by community members

The 'Ekpako,' (the elders) are next in the rung. They are community heads /chiefs in their capacities. They are also custodians of the peoples' tradition and culture , and are well respected. The Community Development Committee (CDC)/Community Executives/Community Trust (CT) these are elected every 2 years to helps in planning/administration of development activities in the community . The youth group popularly referred to as 'Ighele' (Uvwie) are made up of youth of are in charge of security and environmental sanitation exercise in the community, while the women popularly referred to as 'Eweya' which are the wives and daughters help in domestic issues, farming and traditional activities in the community.

**Table 16 : Stakeholders to work with in Obi – Ayagha Community**

S/N	GROUP NAME	ROLE PLAYED IN COMMUNITY
1.	Elders-in-Council (EIC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Highest decision making body in the community</li> <li>• Settle disputes</li> <li>• Composed of all males from 70yrs and above</li> <li>• Headed by Okpako Orere</li> </ul>
2.	Board of Trustee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Finance development projects</li> <li>• Settle disputes</li> <li>• Oversee community development</li> <li>• Reports to EIC</li> <li>• Makes laws and regulations</li> <li>• Composed of all males from 45yrs</li> </ul>
3.	Executive committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Runs the day-to-day affairs of the community</li> <li>• Settle dispute with elders</li> <li>• Manage community accounts.</li> <li>• Keep proper community documentations and records</li> <li>• Engage in public image making of the community</li> <li>• Correspondence with external bodies on behalf of the community</li> <li>• All male composition</li> <li>• Administers other community groups (e.g. youths, middle youth , Egweya and Emete)</li> <li>• Qualification determined by election</li> </ul>
4.	Middle Youth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Age (45 – 69yrs)</li> <li>• Constitute the middle youth</li> <li>• Have their own executive</li> <li>• Assist Exec. Committee (e.g assets management)</li> </ul>
5.	Major Youth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Age (18- 44yrs) determine membership</li> <li>• Have their own executive</li> <li>• Involved in sanitation exercise of the community such as clearing etc.</li> <li>• Involve in task force and enforcing community laws</li> </ul>
6.	Egweya Group (Women)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Have their own executives</li> </ul>
7.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Act in support of members affairs such as burial, marriage etc</li> <li>• Manage its own finance</li> <li>• Relate occasionally with exec.</li> </ul>

S/N	GROUP NAME	ROLE PLAYED IN COMMUNITY
		Committee. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Membership determined by marriage</li> </ul>
8.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Female indigene women (widowed and divorced)</li> <li>Settle conflict among members</li> <li>Contribute to community finance</li> </ul>
9.	Community groups and CBOs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support community in social affairs e.g annual anniversary.</li> </ul>

**4.3.4.1 Table 17 : Individual stakeholders in Obi-Ayagha Community**

S/N	INDIVIDUAL NAME	ROLE PLAYED IN COMMUNITY
10.	Mr. Samson Ikarika	Renovation of community hall
11.	Chief Austine Akponome	Contribution to the building of the town hall
12.	Chief Matthew Sharie	Advocacy for unity among the youths and inauguration of the board of trustees
13.	Chief Grace Oriuwe Ruvwe	Influence the NDDC project to community
14.	Rev. Ejiroghene Waive	Active BOT member

#### 4.3.5 TREND ANALYSIS

In order to describe the changes that have taken place in Obi-Ayagha in the last 10- 20years, stakeholders listed the following:

- Presence of scanty and degraded forest when compared to 10 years ago.
- Depletion of fishes due to oil spillage
- Massive siltation of Okpare Creek.
- Destruction of fisheries brood sites
- Reduction of wild life such as monkeys, manatees, grasss-cutter, parrots, bush pig and crocodile.
- Reduction in farm produce due to poor soil quality
- Presence of destroyed illegal refineries which has contaminated the soil with crude oil there rending the soil also unusable.
- Presence of flash flooding.



**Plate 22: Operational Team member engaged with community on trend analysis**

#### 4.3.6 PAST PROJECT AND INTERVENTIONS IN OBI-AYAGHA COMMUNITY

**Table 18 : List of past projects and interventions in Obi – Ayagha Community**

S/N	PROJECTS	YEAR	STATUS	DONOR
1.	Road construction	2006	On-going	State Govt.
2.	Street light	2013	completed	NDDC
3.	Water Project (1 borehole)	2014	completed	SPDC
4.	Water Project (2 boreholes)	2012	completed	SPDC
5.	Solar Water project	2006	Not completed but commissioned	NDDC
6.	Road project	2006	Completed	NDDC
7.	UBE – 3 classroom block	2006	Completed but not commissioned	UBE
8.	Mini water Project	2012	Completed but not functional	Urhobo Progressive Union (UPU)-America
9.	Renovation of community town hall	2012	completed	Mr. Samson Ikarika
10.	Rural electrification	2004	completed	State Govt.
11.	Health Centre	2010	Not completed	LGA
12.	Bus park	1993	Completed but not in use	LGA



## SECTION 2

### COMMUNITY DIAGNOSIS AND ANALYSIS/ OPERATIONAL PLANNING PROCESS

The aim of the community diagnosis was to understand problems and development challenges being faced by different groups in the community and how these knowledge can be transformed into development action planning steps. SWOT analysis was also deployed as a tool to outline community members perception of the ***Strength, Weaknesses, Opportunity and Threat*** inherent in their community and can be done to strengthen community development processes.

#### 4.3.7 OBI-AYAGHA SWOT ANALYSIS OUTCOME

**Table 19: Showing SWOT Analysis of Obi-Ayagha Community**

STRENGTH	WEAKNESS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rich in timber resources</li> <li>• Rich in fish</li> <li>• Engage in farming</li> <li>• Have vast rubber plantations</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No jobs</li> <li>• High population</li> <li>• No secondary school</li> <li>• No market</li> <li>• No health centre (nearest 6km away)</li> <li>• High teenage pregnancy</li> <li>• Most youths stop education after primary school</li> <li>• Lack of education</li> <li>• Early Fatherhood</li> <li>• Most pregnant girls never return to school</li> <li>• Lack of competitiveness among the youths</li> <li>• Parents have difficulties in controlling their wards</li> </ul>
OPPORTUNITIES	THREATS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rich wetlands resources</li> <li>• Multiple access to community (land &amp; water)</li> <li>• Saw mill</li> <li>• Presence of electricity</li> <li>• Presence of communication (GSM)</li> <li>• Availability of pipe borne water</li> <li>• Good road network</li> <li>• Good governance and organisational structure</li> <li>• Presence of a jetty</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Teenage pregnancy</li> <li>• Presence of invasive weeds closing the waterway</li> <li>• Oil spillage</li> <li>• Lack of gender inclusiveness</li> <li>• Logging</li> <li>• Growing rate of illiteracy</li> </ul>

#### 4.3.8 OBI-AYAGHA PROBLEM DIAGNOSIS OUTCOME

**Table 20: Showing Problem Diagnosis Outcome for Obi-Ayagha**

<b>A</b>	<b>COMMUNITY LEVEL</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Poverty</li> <li>• High literacy rate among youths, men and women in the community</li> <li>• Fast changing cultural and traditional values and laws due to modernisation</li> <li>• High literacy rate among youths, men and women in the community</li> <li>• Presence of cult group/ militancy/youth restiveness</li> </ul>
<b>B</b>	<b>PROBLEMS FACED BY YOUTHS</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Early fatherhood</li> <li>• Lack of basic education- high level of secondary dropout rate as a result of financial constraints</li> <li>• Lack of self motivation</li> <li>• Teenage pregnancy</li> <li>• Lack of parental guidance</li> <li>• Serve as political thugs and aides</li> <li>• Drug addiction</li> </ul>
<b>C</b>	<b>PROBLEMS FACED BY WOMEN</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Early Marriage</li> <li>• High dropout rate from school due to early pregnancy</li> <li>• No skilled work</li> <li>• Poverty</li> <li>• Cultural limitations- eg cannot become a chief or elder no matter how educated</li> </ul>
<b>D</b>	<b>PROBLEMS FACED BY MEN</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Poor educational background</li> <li>• High level of illiteracy as a result of early fatherhood</li> <li>• Inability to train children</li> <li>• Poor financial background</li> <li>• Lack of jobs</li> <li>• Maintaining large family size</li> </ul>

#### 4.3.9 OPERATION PLANNING SESSIONS (Community Values, Vision and Goals)

This was a 3 step process which resulted in immediate action plan- which is the community plan.



Plate 23: Cross Section of Obi-Ayagha community members engaged in Operational planning session

The first step (**Community Value**) was for each stakeholder to state their **values** as a community by describing what they cherish most about their community – the things that make them want to stay. At the end stakeholders agreed on the following as their core values:

- Living in Harmony
- Peace
- Individual development
- Unity
- Good education
- Respect for culture

The next step (**Community Vision**) was for each stakeholder to describe what he/she will like the community to be in the next 20 years in a card. The next step (**Community Vision**) was for each stakeholder to describe what he/she will like the community to be in the next 20 years in a card. A summary of the submission included the following vision statements

- Citadel of learning
- Community of highly educated people
- Level of industrialisation
- Tourist centre
- Skilled youth/adults
- Dredged and open waterways for commercialisation
- Lots of infrastructural facilities
- SMEs – Processing mills

Submissions were refined by listing common elements to create the Obi-Ayagha shared vision which states:

**“A community of highly educated and skilled people with lots of Infrastructural facilities and open waterways for commercial activities and tourist attraction for all”**

The third step (**Goal Setting**) – here all inputs on the value and vision from stakeholders were arranged in a flip chart under the following headings.

- Economy/Livelihoods
- Land and Environment (Wetlands)
- Community and Culture
- Leadership

Some of the goals listed as possible steps towards the achievement of the 20 year vision of Obi – Ayagha includes:

1. Provision of Scholarships programme
2. Commencement of Adult literacy class
3. Creation of a youth friendly Centre
4. Presence of secondary school
5. Recreational centre
6. Skill acquisition centre
7. Commercial farm and agriculture
8. Open water way and agricultural
9. Conserve wetland resources by regulating logging
10. Commercial fishing

#### **4.3.9 ACTION STEPS / RECOMMENDED PROJECTS**

After a detailed analysis of the above goals by stakeholders the following immediate action steps were agreed as the first steps to be taken in both the areas of livelihoods and environment if the shared vision of the community is to be achieved.

##### **Livelihood Component.**

Recommended Action/Projects

1. Scholarship Programme
2. Micro credit Programme
3. Adult Literacy Programme
4. Skill Acquisition Programme
5. Secondary School (Provision of blocks of classrooms)
6. Integrated Commercial Farming
7. Youths programme

## **Environment Component**

### Recommended Action/Projects

1. Opening of waterways
2. Conservation of wetland resources
3. Small scale Saw mill.

### SECTION 3

#### OBI-AYAGHA COMMUNITY OPERATIONAL PLAN

##### 4.3.9 OBI-AYAGHA PLAN (ENVIRONMENT AND LIVELIHOODS)

**Table 21 : Showing Operational Plan for Obi – Ayagha Community**

S/N	PROJECT	ACTIVITIES	REQUIRED RESOURCE	COST	SOURCE OF FUNDING	TIME FRAME	BENEFIT TO COMMUNITY	RESPONSIBLE PARTIES	BENEFICIARIES
1	Opening of water way	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Site mapping</li> <li>-Mobilization of heavy duty equipment (including swamp boogie) and other working materials to site</li> <li>-Recruitment of community labour</li> <li>-Actual clearing works</li> <li>-Supervision of on-going work</li> </ul>	Skilled, semi-skilled and unskilled personnel, heavy duty equipment and clearing materials, canoes and engine boats, cutlasses, marine ropes, Safety boots, hand gloves, pooling roles, files, and sharpen engine	3,000,000	Community, WIA and other interested development partners.	3 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve navigation</li> <li>• Opportunity for fishing improved</li> <li>• Opening-up commercial routes for enhanced economic activities</li> </ul>	Community institutions including PIC, WIA, supporting CSOs and other relevant development institutions	Entire community
2	Conserve Wetlands resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Acquiring and demarcation of the conserved area</li> <li>• Setting community conservation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conservation scouts</li> <li>• PPEs</li> <li>• Patrol post Within the conservation area</li> <li>• Cutlasses</li> </ul>	2,500,000	Community, WIA and other interested development partners.	1 yr	-Wetland biodiversity in the community restored with its potential environment as well as socio-economic values.	Community institutions including PIC, WIA, supporting CSOs and other relevant development institutions	Entire community

S/N	PROJECT	ACTIVITIES	REQUIRED RESOURCE	COST	SOURCE OF FUNDING	TIME FRAME	BENEFIT TO COMMUNITY	RESPONSIBLE PARTIES	BENEFICIARIES
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>plan and bye laws</li> <li>Setting up tasks force to enforce compliance</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cameras</li> <li>Fund</li> <li>Manpower</li> <li>Boats</li> </ul>						
3	Small and Medium Scale Processing Mill (Saw mill)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Land acquisition</li> <li>Preparation of BOQ and mill drawing</li> <li>Land clearing and preparation</li> <li>Site mapping</li> <li>Purchase &amp; installation of the mill equipment</li> <li>Actual mill construction works</li> <li>Set up of management team</li> <li>Training of management team</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Motor saw</li> <li>Saw mill</li> <li>Human resources</li> <li>Fund</li> <li>Personnel</li> </ul>	18,000,000	Community, WIA and other interested development partners	1 yr	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provision of job opportunity</li> <li>Improve on furniture, carpentry</li> </ul>	Community, WIA, support CSOs and other development institutions.	Entire community

S/N	PROJECT	ACTIVITIES	REQUIRED RESOURCE	COST	SOURCE OF FUNDING	TIME FRAME	BENEFIT TO COMMUNITY	RESPONSIBLE PARTIES	BENEFICIARIES
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Set up of community bye-law and mechanisms for the operations</li> <li>Test-run of mill</li> <li>Commissioning of project</li> </ul>							
4	Integrated Commercial farming: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Poultry</li> <li>Cat Fish farming</li> <li>Ram &amp; Sheep farm</li> <li>Plantain farm</li> <li>Cassava</li> <li>Pineapple</li> <li>Vegetables</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Signing of MoU</li> <li>Setting up of project management committee</li> <li>Land acquisition and survey</li> <li>Clearing of project site and soil assessment</li> <li>Setting up of various farm sectors in phases</li> <li>Recruitment of local labours and farm managers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Human resources</li> <li>Land acquisition</li> <li>Agricultural tools and equipment</li> <li>Fund</li> </ul>	15,000,000	Community, WIA and other interested development partners.	1-3 yrs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>More job opportunities created</li> <li>Increased food production</li> <li>Improve land use</li> </ul>	Community, WIA, support CSOs and other development institutions.	Entire community



S/N	PROJECT	ACTIVITIES	REQUIRED RESOURCE	COST	SOURCE OF FUNDING	TIME FRAME	BENEFIT TO COMMUNITY	RESPONSIBLE PARTIES	BENEFICIARIES
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Harvesting of products and marketing</li> </ul>							
5	Scholarship Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Awareness creation</li> <li>-Placement and collation of application forms</li> <li>-Processing of application forms and short-listing (to be published and displayed in town halls)</li> <li>-Conduction of selection tests (exams)</li> <li>-Assessment of applicants' performances and selection of successful ones</li> <li>-Publication and invitation of successful candidates</li> <li>-Fund account opening</li> <li>-Commissioning of project</li> <li>-Disbursement of</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fund, stationeries etc.</li> </ul>	6,000,000	WIA and other interested development partners	Yearly for 3 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Rise in literacy</li> <li>-Opportunity for the poor to achieve education</li> </ul>	Community institutions including PICs, WIA, support CSOs and other relevant development institutions.	Youths from the community.

S/N	PROJECT	ACTIVITIES	REQUIRED RESOURCE	COST	SOURCE OF FUNDING	TIME FRAME	BENEFIT TO COMMUNITY	RESPONSIBLE PARTIES	BENEFICIARIES
		scholarship funds -Monitoring of beneficiaries. -Review of progress (No. 30 beneficiaries) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 10 from primary School</li> <li>• 10 from the University</li> </ul>							
6	Micro-Credit Programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create awareness</li> <li>• Form Scheme Management Committee (SMC)</li> <li>• Prepare loan management documents</li> <li>• Train SMC members</li> <li>• Distribute, collate and assess application forms</li> <li>• Select beneficiaries and build peer pressure</li> </ul>	Seed fund, stationeries, personnel etc	5,000,000	WIA and other interested development partners	Yearly (to be revolved for 3 years)	-Micro and small businesses supported -Improved livelihoods of the people -Enhanced household income Improve local economy of community	Community institutions including PICs, WIA, support CSOs and other relevant development institutions.	Entire community.

S/N	PROJECT	ACTIVITIES	REQUIRED RESOURCE	COST	SOURCE OF FUNDING	TIME FRAME	BENEFIT TO COMMUNITY	RESPONSIBLE PARTIES	BENEFICIARIES
		mechanism <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Train beneficiaries on entrepreneurship</li> <li>• Disburse loans to beneficiaries</li> <li>• monitor loan utilization</li> <li>• Facilitate repayment and revolve loan</li> </ul>							
7	Adult literacy Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Form Project management committee</li> <li>• Identify learning centres</li> <li>• Distribute, collate and assess application forms</li> <li>• Select beneficiaries</li> <li>• Enrol beneficiaries</li> <li>• Recruit tutors</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Acquired space</li> <li>• Books</li> <li>• Fund</li> <li>• Personnel</li> </ul>	₦1,500,000 yearly for the next 5 years = <b>₦7.5Million</b>	Community, WIA and other interested development partners.	5 yrs	-Literacy rate improves	Community institutions including PICs, WIA, support CSOs and other relevant development institutions.	Entire community (especially adults).

S/N	PROJECT	ACTIVITIES	REQUIRED RESOURCE	COST	SOURCE OF FUNDING	TIME FRAME	BENEFIT TO COMMUNITY	RESPONSIBLE PARTIES	BENEFICIARIES
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Actual teaching and learning activities</li> </ul>							
8	Skill Acquisition Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Land acquisition</li> <li>-Site clearing</li> <li>-Site mapping</li> <li>-Preparation of building drawings</li> <li>-Procurement of building materials</li> <li>-Recruitment of community labour (masons, builders, plumbers etc)</li> <li>-Actual construction works (Foundation, Block work, roofing, electrical, plumbing, painting and other finishing activities)</li> <li>-Supervision of on-going work</li> <li>Purchase and installation of craft-learning equipment at the centre</li> <li>-Test-running of</li> </ul>	Fund, personnel, equipment and machines etc	10,000,000	WIA, LG and SG, community and other interested development partners	1 yr	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More vocational skills handed over to more youths in the community</li> <li>• Additional job opportunities created for youths</li> <li>• Youth-based social vices checked to a reasonable extent in the community.</li> </ul>	Community institutions including PICs, WIA, support CSOs and other relevant development institutions.	Entire community (especially youths and women).

S/N	PROJECT	ACTIVITIES	REQUIRED RESOURCE	COST	SOURCE OF FUNDING	TIME FRAME	BENEFIT TO COMMUNITY	RESPONSIBLE PARTIES	BENEFICIARIES
		installed equipment and machines in the centre -Commissioning							
9	Secondary School (8 block classroom)	-Land acquisition -Site clearing -Site mapping -Preparation of building drawings -Procurement of building materials -Recruitment of community labour (masons, builders, plumbers etc) -Actual construction works (Foundation, Block work, roofing, electrical, plumbing, painting and other finishing activities) -Supervision of on-going work -Purchase of furniture and materials -Commissioning	Fund, personnel, materials and equipment etc.	18,000,000	Community, WIA and other interested partner institutions including SG & LG	1 yr	-Improved literacy rate	Community institutions including PICs, WIA, support CSOs and other relevant development institutions.	Entire community (especially youths).

## SECTION 4

### PLAN MANAGEMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY

#### 4.3.11 OBI –AYAGHA OPERATIONAL PLAN AND SUSTAINABILITY

Management of Sustainability was a major issue that was discussed by the Obi-Ayagha community people. It was a consensus that bad planning, poor monitoring and lack of supervision were among the reasons why the past development projects failed in the community. Obi-Ayagha people identified the need for building sustainability factors as part of project planning. The following elements were identified as important to ensure long term impacts and action of the project.

- ✚ Set-up Community Development Committee (CDC)/Project Implementation Committee(PIC)
- ✚ Select persons with integrity, accountability, and reliability as CDC/PIC members.
- ✚ Enlighten the community on the benefits of the project
- ✚ Organise regular meeting between the donor and the CDC/PIC.
- ✚ Let there be transparency in running the project.
- ✚ The CDC/PIC members should not take the project as personal property/project
- ✚ There should be proper monitoring and record keeping.
- ✚ The CDC/PIC should not keep project money/properties for long.
- ✚ There should be a legal backup document/agreement between community and donor.



**Plate 24: Cross Section of Obi-Ayagha Community members during focus group discussions**

In order to facilitate effective community project implementation and to set up a responsible team for project activities, the Obi-Ayagha Community Project Implementation team were nominated by the generality of the people as follows

#### 4.3.12 SUGGESTED NAMES OF INDIVIDUALS FOR PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE IN OBI-AYAGHA COMMUNITY

Table 22: Shows Suggested PIC members in Obi-Ayagha Community

S/N	NAME	Position in PIC	PAST ROLE
1.	Mr. Jaman Philip	Chairman	Current Sec. of Executive committee
2.	Mrs Roseline Ofigo	Secretary	Egweya Secretary
3.	Mr. Gabriel Laba	Treasurer	
4.	Mr. Benjamin Diamond	Financial Secretary	Ex. Assistant Sec. Youth (major)
5.	Mr. Job Eyesio	PRO	Vice Chairma
6.	Mr. Alex Komeme	Member	Rep. of community chair
7.	Austin Akponome	Member	Member BOT
8.	Mrs Felicia Moju	Member	Sec. Emete Women group
9.	Mr. Thomas Kribo	Member	Treasurer – Middle Youth

#### 4.3.13 COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES TO SIGN MOU

As a Board of Trustees for Obi-Ayagha regarding relationship and leadership, the following members of the community were appointed to sign the Project documents with the Wetlands International

- Pa Matthew Eyesio (The Okpako Orere)
- Mr. Wings Meshach (President General – Obiayagha community)
- Pa Roji Mukoro ( Community Spokesman)

#### 4.3.14 PERFORMANCE EVALUATION

In Obi-Ayagha an analysis of project failure in the past provided a platform for analysis of need for monitoring of project process and evaluation of project activities. The perception of the Obi-Ayagha community is that by-laws should be in place to ensure control and guidance for project implementation. It was also agreed that vigilante group shall be functional, there should be periodic reporting and sanctioning of defaulting community members when necessary. It was discussed that measure s such as control fencing, red flagging will be adopted to mark areas of conservation importance and the signs used will be recognised and respected by all community members.





Three levels of evaluation are envisaged as follows:

- Beneficiary Group – Project beneficiary groups shall provide regular and periodic update on group activities both to SLBP project Team and the Project Implementation Committee for scrutiny and evaluation.
- Community Members – Entire community will be sensitized to demand for good governance, transparency and accountability from both beneficiary groups and PIC. And to present their perception on project implementation status at periodic community forum to be held at the instance of the PIC and SLBP.
- Project Implementation Committee- will provide monthly update to SLBP Team on all activities in the community.

#### **4.3.14            MANAGING COMMUNITY BENEFITS FROM SLBP PROJECTS**

As part of sustainability planning, community were asked how benefits (profits ) will be managed. This was important giving the long history of how supposed community intervention projects became source of conflict among members because of poor management of accruing benefits.

Members agreed on the following steps in managing accruing benefits.

-  Keep detailed records of all aspect of project cycle.
-  Plough back funds first for sustainability of project
-  Beneficiary groups and PIC must be transparent and accountable
-  Beneficiary groups, PIC and Community Executive should work together and contribute to community needs and development from time to time.



# OPUME COMMUNITY

## SESSION 1

### BACKGROUND INFORMATION

#### 4.4.1 BRIEF HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Opume Community is in Ogbia Local Government Area of Bayelsa State, Nigeria.

The community is about 2 square kilometres in size (in-dwelling) and comprises three (3) compounds namely Otu-Ekon, Omarsen and Osmaokueri. It is about 41km by road from Yenagoa, the capital of Bayelsa State. Opume is a host community to Shell Petroleum Development Company of Nigeria's (SPDC) oil wells and Nigeria Agip Oil Company (NAOC) pipelines. The community shares boundaries with Otuabage Communities (1) & (2), Emakalaka Community, Okoroba Community and Oloibiri Community in the North, South, East and West respectively.

Estimated population of Opume (from community sources) is about 10,000 persons made up of 4,000 male and 6,000 female, that is, male and female ratio of 4:6. There are more youth (18-45 years) accounting for 4,500 or 45% of the population than the children ( $\leq 17$  years) and the adults (46 years and above) who constitute 3,500 (35%) and 2,000 (20%) respectively.

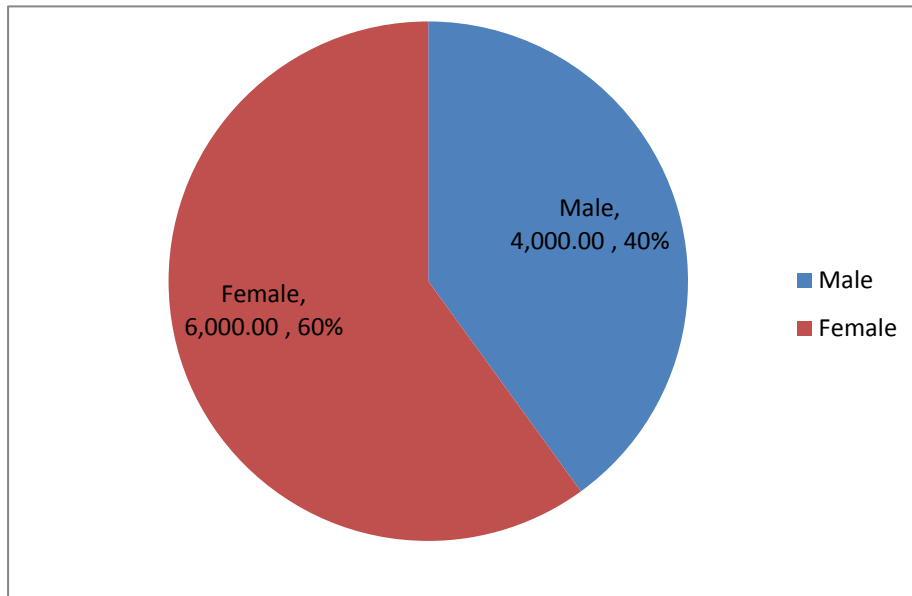


Fig. 4: Pie Chart showing the percentage of female/male population in Opume Community



**Plate 25: Hand drawn map of Opume Community**

Opume community is composed of approximately 20% practitioners of African Traditional Religions (ATRs) and 80% Christians. Opume is one of the ancient and most populous communities in Ogbia Kingdom. The ancestral father of the Opume people called Igbo was said to have migrated from the ancient Benin Kingdom, in the 12<sup>th</sup> century AD, to Ebela, in the present Ogbia Local Government Area (LGA) of Bayelsa State. Igbo had two sons, Ogbo and Opu. Ogbo the first son, begat Emeni and Ogidi, while Opu his brother, begat Esan and Okwer.

The three satellite communities (Okwer, Esan and Ekon) later integrated and formed one community 'Opume' in the 15<sup>th</sup> century. Opume continued to develop and expand in area and population. Three other satellite communities Obozu, Akoroko and Paradise later developed and contributed to what is known today as Opume community.

#### **4.4.2 Wetlands Ecosystem**

The wetland found in the community is an intertidal river mangrove swamp and inland forest nourished by River Opume and several creeks that have undergone considerable exploitation of the flora and fauna;

The mangrove consists of stands of *Rhizophora racemosa* (red mangrove) and *Avicennia africana* (white mangrove) growing in the brackish water environment; the red mangrove appears much more abundant than the white mangrove with a few patches of Ornamental Screw Pine *Pandanus candelabrum*. Other frequent plant species include Nypa Palm (*Nypa fruticans*). The mangrove habitat is highly exploited for fuel wood by those living close by.

Further inland from the river and creeks, the vegetation consists of species that are typical of swamp and lowland rainforests such as *Terminalia ivorensis*, *Lophira alata*, *Funtumia elastica* and *Elaeis guineensis*, with *Uapaca togoensis* and *Musanga cecropioides* in secondary and fallow vegetation.



**Plate 26: Cross section of mangrove swamp in Opume Community**

The soil types found in the mangrove of Opume community are composed of acidic sulphate, silt, clay loam and peat locally called “chikoko” soil. The soil is acidic when dry and neutral when wet. The water of the wetland is brackish in nature and the water source feeding the wetlands is from River Opume which is an inter-tidal river emptying into the Atlantic Ocean. The quantity and level of water in River Opume is regulated by the tidal flow of sea water from the Atlantic Ocean at high tide and also fresh water from the inland into the river and creeks when it rains.

The mangrove swamp covers less than 6% of the project area but is more extensive towards the banks of the Opume River and along the creeks. It is located mainly on the northern and southern part of the Opume River with a few additional scattered patches in the central and western parts.

Mangroves in Opume community are nourished by the water source from the Opume River and several creeks and creeklets.

The mangrove swamps are only found along the inter-tidal Opume River banks, adjoining creeks and creeklets. The distribution of dominant species runs parallel to the edges of River Opume, each zone consisting of almost pure stands of one species (Red Mangrove), except the transition areas. This zonation is related to the physiological characteristics of the different species, corresponding to the frequency and duration of tidal immersion, soil compaction, the extent of accumulation or erosion of soil and the salinity of the ground water. The vegetation of the mangrove consists of almost pure stands of Red mangrove (*Rhizophora racemosa*) and White mangrove (*Avicennia africana*) growing abundantly in the brackish water environment. The red mangrove appears much more abundant than the white mangrove with a few patches of Ornamental Screw Pine *Pandanus candelabrum*. Other frequent plant species include Nypa Palm (*Nypa fruticans*) and covering most creeklets waterways is the invasive species Water Hyacinth (*Eichhornia crassipes*).

The mangrove system is said to support a range of wildlife species including the Nile Monitor Lizard (*Veranus niloticus*), Royal Python (*Python sebae*), Common African Toad (*Amietophrynus regularis*), Common fish such as Lung fish (*Protopterus annectens*), Cat fish (*Clarias spp*), Electric fish (*Malapterurus electricus*), Periwinkles (*Pachymelania aurita* and *Tympanotonus fuscatus*), Tilapia (*Tilapia spp*) and birds such as Grey Parrot (*Psittacus erythacus*) and monkeys such as Putty Nose Monkey (*Cercopithecus nictitans*) and Red capped Mangabey (*Cercocebus torquatus*).

The swamp forests are said to support a range of wildlife species including the Black Cobra (*Naja melanoleuca*), Royal Python (*Python sebae*), Tree squirrel (*Funisciurus anerythrus*), Giant forest squirrel (*Protoxerus stangeri*) and Red river hog/Bush Pig (*Potamochoerus porcus*), Grass cutter (*Thryonomys swinderianus*), and also Nile Monitor Lizard (*Veranus niloticus*).



**Plate 27: Cross section of swamp forest in Opume Community**

However, the population of these animals in the mangrove and swamp forests of Opume has drastically reduced due to the following:

- Over hunting of game;
- Land conversion to residential land use;
- Land conversion to agriculture;
- Timber harvesting practices;
- Sand Mining practices;
- Channelization of the creeks for transportation of timber, thereby destroying spawning grounds of fish; and
- Harvesting of juvenile fish stock from the river.

The peculiarities of the mangrove swamps in Opume community are that they are only found along the inter-tidal Opume River banks, adjoining creeks and creeklets in the community. The distribution of dominant species runs parallel to the edges of River Opume, each zone consisting of almost pure stands of one species (Red mangrove - *Rhizophora racemosa*), except the transition areas

Threats to species and their habitat are identified as petroleum and gas exploration and production, deforestation, urban development, improper disposal of solid domestic wastes, establishment of plantations (oil palm and rice) sand mining and drainage of the inland forest through the digging of canals.

The people have identified oil pollution through oil spillage into River Opume as one of the major environmental and socio-economic problems facing them. This is a sensitive issue because the people of Opume depend on the river for their fish resources as well as for other uses, including navigation. Oil pollution kills off fish, especially fingerlings and many other aquatic fauna, including the common flora.

The effects of gas flaring from outside Opume have caused acid rain, damage to crops and posed a health hazard to the people. Those involved in logging usually create channels in the forest to

transport the timber to the creeks and river for onward transportation by boat. This has led to the migration of mud fish and cat fish as well as crabs to the river and creeks. The forest is also drained, thereby reducing its wetland characteristics. Logging of species such as *Mitragyna ciliata* and *Terminalia ivorensis* for timber and cutting of mangroves for fuel wood is having a toll on the wetland as well as swamp forest ecosystems around Opume.

Water Hyacinth (*Eichhornia crassipes*) has also become a major challenge on the river system, restricting navigation, reducing the oxygen content of the water and interfering with fishing activities in the river. Nypa palm (*Nypa fruticans*) infestation is gradually taking hold of the mangrove ecosystem and this is an unwelcome development. The community acknowledges that their fish catch had reduced significantly and also due to the infestation by Nypa palm there are now fewer crabs in the mangroves and worst of all, they have little or no use for the Nypa palm.

#### **4.4.2.1 CAUSES OF DEGRADATION**

- Increase in population due to
  - Foreign influx
  - High female fertility
- Use of chemicals (dynamites) by fishermen
- Gas flaring, oil exploration
- Indiscriminate felling of trees
- Hunting
- Pest infestation on plantain from millipedes and worms

#### **4.4.3 LIVELIHOODS SYSTEMS**

Opume community has various livelihoods but the prominent livelihoods in the order of priority are: artisanal fishing, farming, trading and periwinkle picking.

Artisanal fishing is the main long-established occupation of Opume people. It is done by the women folk who account for about 70 percent of the approximately 60 percent of the community workforce engaged in this livelihood.

Most fishing activities are at subsistence level, however, on a commercial scale, fishing folks have to move to far waters to make a reasonable catch. The output generated from fishing activities include income generated from sale of fresh or processed fish, employment and payment of assistants who joined in the business and income through repairs of fishing equipment.

Farming and other agricultural activities, apart from being one of the traditional occupations of the people, are also practised mostly by the natives due to the community land ownership structures obtainable in the community. The farming system is rain fed and on subsistence level due to the swampy terrain of the community. Women are more into farming (usually with the assistance of children / youth) than men. A wide range of crops are cultivated especially plantain and banana, cassava, vegetables and root/stem crops.

Production is both for domestic consumption and commercial sales, although most are skewed towards domestic consumption than commercial sales, hence relative low income accruing to farmers. However, appreciable income is earned from the sale of farm produce.

The rainy season (March/ April to September/October) is associated with peak cropping seasons especially crop cultivation whilst the dry season is used for harvesting, marketing and land preparation for the next farming season.

Trading is female dominated, apart from the agro related items (fish inclusive) which are sold on market days. About 10 percent of the work force in Opume takes to trading and 75 percent of these are women.

Production, income and consumption vary from low to high. However, petty trading accounts for a high percentage of trading activities and this are associated with low income pattern.

Periwinkle picking as a livelihood in Opume community is female dominated with some level of participation by youths especially during vacations. It is estimated that between 2 – 5 percent of the workforce is engaged in it. The tools needed for the trade include canoes, paddles, baskets, sacks, anchors, water scooping equipment and ropes.

Although periwinkles are a delicacy in the community, the poor harvest due to the degradation of the mangroves in the communities now requires intensive labour of hours of paddling to distant communities with appreciable undegraded mangroves in order to achieve reasonable harvests. Less than 50 percent of the periwinkles harvested are consumed locally while the remaining is sold for cash. The quantity harvested depends entirely on the size of the labour force involved and this is also directly proportional to the income to be generated.

#### **4.4.3.1 CURRENT LIVELIHOOD TYPOLOGY AND RANKING IN OPUME**

1. Farming
  - a. Plantain (farmed by mostly women)
  - b. Cassava
  - c. Sugar cane
  - d. Oil palm plantation
  - e. Rice (scarce)
2. Civil Servant/Pensioners
3. Petty trading
4. Fishing – Subsistence farming, absence of periwinkles
5. Mason/bricklayers
6. Restaurants
7. Logging/lumbering
8. Snail trapping
9. Tapping from Raphia palm
10. Canoe & mortar and pistle making
11. Weaving – mat and basket
12. Sand mining
13. Farm labour – weeding, clearing and tilling
14. Footballers
15. Carpentry
16. Hunting
17. Barbing

18. Tailoring
19. Traditional dancers
20. Patient medicine store
21. Native doctors
22. Traditional Birth Attendance

#### 4.4.4 TREND ANALYSIS

In order to understand the changes that have occurred in Opume in the last 10 years, Stakeholders presented the following comparison.



Plate 28: Cross Section of operational team member in session with Opume Community on Trend Analysis

Table 23: Shows Past developmental projects in Opume Community

S/N	TEN (10) YEARS AGO	PRESENT DAY
1	Absence of Water Hyacinth on River Opume	Presence of massive invasion of Water Hyacinth on River Opume
2	Presence of Red Cocoyam ( <i>Colocasia esculenta</i> )	Absence of red Cocoyam ( <i>Colocasia esculenta</i> )
3	Presence of white cocoyam ( <i>Colocasia antiquorum</i> )	Absence of white cocoyam ( <i>Colocasia antiquorum</i> )
4	Presence of cotton ( <i>Gossypium sp</i> )	Absence of cotton
5	High agricultural productivity	Low agricultural productivity
6	Absence of gas flaring affecting crop production	Presence of gas flare affecting crop production
7	Growth of mangrove not affected by gas flare	Growth of mangrove not affected by mangrove
8	Absence of oil spillage	Presence of oil spillage
9	Absence of gastro-intestinal diseases	Presence of gastro-intestinal diseases
10	Presence of wildlife such as Bush pig, monkeys, chimpanzees, crocodiles, periwinkles, crabs in swamp and mangrove forests	Absence of wildlife such as Bush pig, monkeys, chimpanzees, crocodiles, periwinkles, crabs in swamp and mangrove forests
11	Abundance of fish in River Opume	Scarcity of fish in River Opume
12	Abundance of snails	Deteriorating abundance of snail

#### 4.4.5 COMMUNITY STRUCTURE AND STAKEHOLDERS RELATIONSHIP

**Table 24 : Showing Community structure and stakeholder relationship in Opume**

S/N	GROUP	ROLE
1.	COUNCIL OF CHIEFS	Smooth day to day running of community
2.	CDC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Implementation and enforcement of community laws</li> <li>- Security</li> <li>- Sustainable development</li> </ul>
3.	LENF – CMC	
4.	20 <sup>th</sup> Century club	Communication & public address system
5.	Opume Monitoring Union	Thrift and cooperative
6.	Igum –Akawo Club	Thrift and cooperative
7.	Opume Development Club	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Micro-Credit,</li> <li>- Thrift and cooperative</li> <li>- Rental</li> </ul>
8.	Sekiapu Social Club	Promote community culture
9.	Money Sweet love one another	Thrift and cooperative
10.	Ogbo – Eluan	Rental, Chair, tables

#### 4.4.5 INDIVIDUAL STAKEHOLDERS

1. HRM KING A.J. TURNER (MFR)Obigbo mikimiki 1
2. Obanema of Opume Kingdom
3. Hon. Nadu Karibor -
4. Chief C.A. Okoloba
5. Chief Adolphus Ekpe
6. Madam Nami
7. Engr. E. Akpanah

#### 4.4.6 PAST PROJECT INTERVENTIONS IN OPUME

**Table 25: Showing past developmental projects in Opume**

S/N	PROJECT AND TYPE	YEAR OF IMPLEMENTATION	DONOR	STATUS
1.	Micro Credit	2000 & 2010	LENF	On-going
2.	Fadama III (Cold room)	2010	FGN, ADP and World Bank	Not yet completed
3.	Concrete Walkway	2005/2006	NDDC	1 <sup>st</sup> Phase completed
4.	Solar street light	2013	NDDC	Completed
5.	Potable Water	2013	MDG	Completed
6.	Bridge (wooden)	1987	community	completed
7.	Bridge (concrete)	2013	NDDC (setraco)	On-going
8.	Bridge (concrete)	2007	State Govt	Abandoned
9.	Dredging	1982	Old Rivers State	Completed
10.	School Library	2013	FGN	Completed
11.	Blocks of classroom	2005/2013	SUBEB	Completed
12.	Teacher's Quarters	2009	World Bank	Completed



#### **4.4.6.1 CAUSES OF PROJECT FAILURE**

1. Funding
2. Poor management
3. Poor monitoring by awardees
4. Non –involvement of community in development process
5. Use of poor materials
6. Corruption
7. Demand by youths (development fees)
8. Poor leadership
9. Stealing
10. Land ownership/tenure system
11. Quota system in area of unskilled labour.

## SECTION 2

### COMMUNITY DIAGNOSIS AND ANALYSIS/ OPERATIONAL PLANNING PROCESS

The aim of the community diagnosis was to understand problems and development challenges being faced by different groups in the community and how these knowledge can be transformed into development action planning steps. SWOT analysis was also deployed as a tool to outline community members perception of the **Strength, Weaknesses, Opportunity and Threat** inherent in their community and can be done to strengthen community development processes.

#### 4.4.7 OPUME SWOT ANALYSIS OUTCOME















**Table 26: Showing SWOT Analysis outcome for Opume Community**


WEAKNESS	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unity</li> <li>• Love</li> <li>• Socialisation</li> <li>• Land mass</li> <li>• Stable economy</li> <li>• River (Wetlands)</li> <li>• Human capital</li> <li>• Faith in God</li> <li>• Good governance</li> <li>• Cordial relationship</li> <li>• Light and water</li> <li>• Hospitality</li> <li>• Secured environment</li> <li>• Health centre</li> <li>• Responsible youth</li> <li>• Standard library</li> <li>• Good network for communication</li> </ul> <p>High female fertility</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High incidence of stealing</li> <li>• High dispute on land and other issues</li> <li>• Poor health facilities including man-power</li> <li>• Raping</li> <li>• Unstable electric supply</li> <li>• Inadequate water supply</li> <li>• Uncompleted concrete walkway</li> <li>•</li> </ul>
OPPORTUNITIES	THREATS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tourism (eco-tourism)               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Festival</li> <li>○ Emuipu forest</li> <li>○ Mascurades</li> <li>○ Cultural display</li> <li>○ Fishing ports</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Abundant labour</li> <li>• Arable land</li> <li>• Commercial cat/tillpia fish farm</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deforesting (government policies)</li> <li>• Water pollution</li> <li>• Water hyacinth invasion</li> <li>• Dredging</li> <li>• Gas flaring</li> <li>• Low farm productivity (plantain &amp; cocoyam)</li> <li>• Worm infestation on plantain (millipedes and worm)</li> </ul>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oil palm industry</li> <li>• Distilling gin from Raphia palm</li> <li>• Best clay soil around Ogbia used in ceramic industry</li> <li>• Forest development / wood industry for saw mills</li> <li>• Abundant industry (piggery, grasscutter, porcupine – bush meat)</li> <li>• Abundant mango</li> <li>• Land for rice cultivation and processing</li> <li>• Production of artefacts</li> <li>•</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Arthritis (mostly infected by women)</li> <li>• Increase population</li> <li>• Dwindling residential area</li> <li>• High cost of land reclamation</li> </ul>

#### 4.4.8 OPUME PROBLEM DIAGNOSIS OUTCOME

**Table 27: Shows Problem Diagnosis outcome for Opume**

<b>A</b>	<b>COMMUNITY LEVEL</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Poverty-</li> <li>• Growing Unemployed youths population</li> <li>• High literacy rate among youths, men and women in the community</li> <li>• Lack of social infrastructure- no secondary school, no hospital, no light etc</li> <li>• Fast changing cultural and traditional values and laws due to modernisation</li> <li>• Increasing level of environmental degradation due to incessant logging.</li> </ul>
<b>B</b>	<b>PROBLEMS FACED BY YOUTHS</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> Early Fatherhood</li> <li> Drug addiction</li> <li> Serve as political thugs and aides</li> <li> Poor educational background</li> <li> Poor parental background</li> <li> High population do not proceed to tertiary institutions</li> <li> Lack of self-motivation</li> <li> Lack of family support</li> <li> Weak parental control</li> <li> Lack of sense of belonging</li> <li> Isolated from day to day administration of community (No recognised Youth body in the community)</li> <li> Break down of family ties resulting in high level of deviance</li> <li> Poor relationship with elders</li> <li> Initiated early cultism</li> </ul>

	 High lawlessness.
<b>C</b>	<b>PROBLEMS FACED BY WOMEN</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ No employment</li> <li>▪ No skilled work</li> <li>▪ High rate of divorce</li> <li>▪ Low educational background</li> <li>▪ High dropout rate from school due to early pregnancy</li> <li>▪ No inheritance</li> <li>▪ High number of women-headed family</li> <li>▪ Problem of alcoholism</li> </ul>
<b>D</b>	<b>PROBLEMS FACED BY MEN</b>
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Maintaining multiple spouses of women</li> <li>2. Inability to train children from many wives</li> <li>3. Poor educational background</li> <li>4. Early fatherhood</li> <li>5. Poor parental control</li> <li>6. Poor financial background</li> <li>7. Lack of jobs</li> <li>8. Receiving less respect from community members</li> <li>9. Laziness is common</li> <li>10. Giving to drugs and alcoholism</li> </ol>

#### 4.4.9 OPUME Land Tenure Challenge

- ❖ Individuals/family holdings is predominant.
- ❖ There are no community land
- ❖ There is great difficulty in getting land for development projects.

Recently A proposed water treatment plant for Opume Community requiring 100 X 50ft (A plot) was re-assigned to another community due to the current land tenure system and problems associated with it.

#### Community Suggestion on how to deal with the problem

- Request for use of land should be passed through the PIC
- Any given land by individual/family should be indemnify in the name of WIA to ensure sustainability
- Non skilled and semi-skilled labour slots can be given to land lord family.as a motivation/compensation
- All land agreements should be counter signed by His Royal Majesty.

**NB.** Only an MoU for a temporary lease/sale of the individual /family land backed with monetary commitment is acceptable in Opume Community.

\* **Note:** Cost of land ranges from ₦50,000 – ₦1.5 million depending on location and individual.

Compensation for individual owning land in exchange for lease

#### **4.4.10 OPERATION PLANNING SESSIONS (Community Values, Vision and Goals)**

This was a 3 step process which resulted in immediate action plan- which is the community plan.



**Plate 29: Cross Section of Opume Community members during operational planning sessions**

The first step (**Community Value**) was for each stakeholder to state their **values** as a community by describing what they cherish most about their community – the things that make them want to stay. At the end stakeholders agreed on the following as their core values:

- Peace
- Relative Justice
- Unity
- Rich Wetlands
- Proximity to State and LGA headquarters
- Leadership and good governance
- Ease of communication
- Means of transportation
- Rich cultural heritage
- Electricity
- Potential human resources
- Respect for elders

The next step (**Community Vision**) was for each stakeholder to describe what he/she will like the community to be in the next 20 years in a card. The next step (**Community Vision**) was for each

stakeholder to describe what he/she will like the community to be in the next 20 years in a card. A summary of the submission included the following vision statements

- Citadel of learning
- Community of highly educated people
- Level of industrialisation
- Tourist centre
- Skilled youth/adults
- Dredged and open waterways for commercialisation
- Lots of infrastructural facilities
- SMEs – Processing mills

Submissions were refined by listing common elements to create the OPUME shared vision which states:

**“A modern and industrialized city with opportunity for all ruled by a first class king in a peaceful environment”**

The third step (**Goal Setting**) – here all inputs on the value and vision from stakeholders were arranged in a flip chart under the following headings.

- Economy/Livelihoods
- Land and Environment (Wetlands)
- Community and Culture
- Leadership

Some of the goals listed as possible steps towards the achievement of the 20 year vision of OPUME includes:

#### **Economy/Livelihoods (income)**

- Mechanised farming
- Water
- Light
- Higher institution/scholarship
- Help for widows
- Improved productivity
- Theatre/stadium
- Vocational centre
- Employment opportunities
- Increase population
- Commercial fish farm
- Factories
- Modern housing, bridges, road

#### **Land and Environment (wetlands)**

- Reclamation/expansion of land
- Sustainable use of natural resources

- River resuscitation
- Wetland regeneration

### **Community and Culture**

- Cultural groups
- Tourism
- love

### **Leadership**




- Upgrade of king stool
- Good governance
- Diversified security and leadership

#### **4.4.11 ACTION STEPS AND RECOMMENDED PROJECTS**

After a detailed analysis of the above goals by stakeholders the following immediate action steps were agreed as the first steps to be taken in both the areas of livelihoods and environment if the shared vision of the community is to be achieved.




#### **ENVIRONMENT Component.**

Recommended Action/Projects

-  **Land Reclamation Project**
-  **Concrete walkway and drainage**
-  **Planting of Economic Tree**

#### **LIVELIHOOD Component**

Recommended Action/Projects

-  **Craft Centre**
-  **Fish Farming**
-  **Soap Factory**

### SECTION 3

#### OPUME COMMUNITY OPERATIONAL PLAN

##### 4.4.12 OPUME OPERATIONAL PLAN (Environment and Livelihoods Component)

**Table 28: Shows Operational Plan for Opume Community**

S/N	PROJECT	ACTIVITIES	RESOURCES	COST	FUNDING	TIME TABLE	BENEFITS TO COMMUNITY	RESPONSIBLE PARTIES	BENEFICIARIES/GROUPS
1	Land reclamation	-Development of BOQ -Procurement of work materials -Mobilization of materials & equipment to site (including dredgers) -Site mapping -Actual sand-filling -Supervision and monitoring of works -Commissioning of project	Dredgers, skilled personnel, fund, sand etc.	18,000,000	Community, WIA, NDDC and other interested development partners.	2014 - 2016	-More land spaces available for community and livelihoods development projects  -Job opportunities created for local persons to improve household incomes	Community stakeholders, WIA, support CSOs and other relevant support institutions.	Entire community groups.
2	Concrete Walkway and drainages	-Production of project drawing -Development of BOQ -Procurement of work materials -Mobilization of materials & equipment to site	Heavy duty equipment, skilled, semi-skilled & unskilled personnel, fund, land etc	10,000,000	Community, WIA, NDDC and other interested development partners.	2014 - 2016	-Improved infrastructure for enhanced commerce and livelihood activities in the community  -Jobs created for skilled, semi-skilled	Community stakeholders, WIA, support CSOs and other relevant support institutions.	Entire community groups.



		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Land clearing</li> <li>-Site mapping</li> <li>-Actual construction works</li> <li>-Supervision and monitoring of works</li> <li>-Commissioning of project</li> </ul>					<p>and unskilled in the community</p> <p>-Aesthetic status of the community improved.</p>		
3	Planting of economic trees e.g palm trees, plantain	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Mobilize community labor</li> <li>-Marking out of planting areas</li> <li>-Purchase of seedlings</li> <li>-Planting</li> <li>-Fencing round planted areas</li> <li>-Supervising planting and post-planting activities</li> </ul>	Fund, labour, seedlings etc	2,000,000	Community groups including Cooperative organizations. NDDC and WIA	6 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Local economy boosted</li> <li>-Environmental aesthetics of the community sustained</li> <li>-Land erosion reduced</li> </ul>	Community stakeholders, WIA, support CSOs and other relevant support institutions.	Entire community groups.
4	Craft Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Land acquisition</li> <li>-Site clearing</li> <li>-Site mapping</li> <li>-Preparation of building drawings</li> <li>-Procurement of building materials</li> <li>-Recruitment of community labour (masons, builders, plumbers etc)</li> <li>-Actual construction</li> </ul>	Land, building materials, fund, skilled, semi-skilled and unskilled labour etc)	15,000,000	Community, WIA, NDDC and other interested development partners.	6 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Vocational skills handed down to more community youths (in areas of catering, carpentry, tailoring, welding, hair dressing etc).</li> <li>-More job opportunities created for community youths</li> </ul>	Community stakeholders, WIA, support CSOs and other relevant support institutions	

		works (Foundation, Block work, roofing, electrical, plumbing, painting and other finishing activities) -Supervision of on-going work Purchase and installation of craft-learning equipment in the centre -Test-running of installed equipment and machines in the centre -Commissioning					-Livelihoods activities of the people improve		
5	Fish farming	-Land acquisition -Site clearing -Site mapping -Pond construction -Purchase & stocking of fingerlings/sorting -Commissioning of project -Pond management (water management, feeding of fish, administration of medications, safeguarding of fish stock etc) -Harvesting -Processing	Land, labour, fingerlings, pond materials, water, feed, medicines, fund etc	8,000,000	Community institutions including Cooperative groups, NDDC and WIA as well as other interested development partners	2014 - 2016	-Technical expertise increase among locals -Additional employment created -More household incomes. -Increased food production -Increased commerce & local economy. -Wetland-exploitation activities reduce and conservation/restor	Community stakeholders, WIA, support CSOs and other relevant support institutions	

		-Marketing					ation encouraged.		
6	Soap factory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Land acquisition</li> <li>-Site clearing</li> <li>-Site mapping</li> <li>-Preparation of building drawings</li> <li>-Procurement of building materials</li> <li>-Recruitment of community labour (masons, builders, plumbers etc)</li> <li>-Actual construction works (Foundation, Block work, roofing, electrical, plumbing, painting and other finishing activities)</li> <li>-Supervision of on-going work</li> <li>Purchase and installation of soap-making machine</li> <li>-Test-running of installed equipment and machines in the factory</li> <li>-Commissioning</li> <li>-Registration of factory with NAFDAC.</li> </ul>	Land, building materials, fund, skilled, semi-skilled and unskilled labour etc)	10,000,000	Community institutions including Cooperative groups, NDDC and WIA as well as other interested development partners	1 month	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Employment opportunities provided for the locals</li> <li>-Local economy boost</li> <li>-Household income boost.</li> </ul>	Community stakeholders, WIA, support CSOs and other relevant support institutions	

#### 4.4.13 PROPOSED PROJECT BENEFICIARIES AND IMPACT

Table 29: Shows proposed project beneficiaries and impact in Opume Community

SECTOR	PROJECT	BENEFICIARIES	IMPACT			
			ENVIRONMENT	ECONOMY	SOCIAL	CULTURAL
ENVIRONMENT	Land reclamation	community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Reduction in wetlands</li> <li>- Reduction in wetlands biodiversity</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- More money to community coffers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- More houses</li> <li>- Increase population</li> </ul>	
	Planting of Economic trees (palm trees, rubber, cocoa, Avingia-bush mango, shea butter)	Land owners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- More biodiversity</li> <li>- Serve as climate regulator</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Will reduce individual/family land holdings</li> <li>- May reduce subsistence farming</li> <li>- Create job opportunities</li> <li>- Improve financial power</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Influx of outsiders</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- May Improve some cultural practices</li> </ul>
	Conservation of existing mangrove and swamp forest.	Land owners		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-</li> </ul>	
LIVELIHOODS	Craft Centre (carpentry, tailoring, welding, hairdressing)	Youths, women		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Job creation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Skills acquisition</li> <li>- Influx of outsiders</li> <li>- Reduce youth idleness/restiveness</li> <li>- May result in domestic conflicts (hairdressing)</li> </ul>	

SECTOR	PROJECT	BENEFICIARIES	IMPACT			
			ENVIRONMENT	ECONOMY	SOCIAL	CULTURAL
	Fish farm	Land owners	-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Create job opportunities</li> <li>- Improve economy of community</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Skills acquisition</li> <li>- Influx of outsiders</li> <li>- Reduce youth idleness/restiveness</li> </ul>	
	Micro- credit	Community		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Create job opportunities</li> <li>- Improve economy of community</li> </ul>		

## SECTION 4

### OPERATIONAL PLAN MANAGEMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY

#### 4.4.14 OPUME OPERATIONAL PLAN MANAGEMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY

Management of Sustainability was a major issue that was discussed by the Opume community people. It was a consensus that bad planning, poor monitoring and lack of supervision were among the reasons why the past development projects failed in the community. Opume people identified the need for building sustainability factors as part of project planning. The following elements were identified as important to ensure long term impacts and action of the project.

- ✚ Formation of a Project Implementation Committee/ cooperatives
- ✚ Keep records
- ✚ Regularly keep some savings/ proceeds in bank
- ✚ Regularly decide on what to do with funds
- ✚ Decide who will be signatories or/ and treasurers
- ✚ Announce profit at the end of every project cycle
- ✚ Ensure equity and transparency in distribution community benefits/profits
- ✚ CDC should play an effective role of projects monitoring
- ✚ Only people with commitment, integrity and transparency should be entrusted with projects management
- ✚ The PIC should report to Community Executive and in the case of dispute the Council of elders should be recognised as the final decision making body

In order to facilitate effective community project implementation and to set up a responsible team for project activities, the Opume Community Project Implementation team were nominated by the generality of the people as follows

#### 4.4.15 Suggested Names for OPUME Project Implementation Committee (PIC)

**Table 30: Shows Suggested names for PIC members in Opume Community**

S/N	NAME OF MEMBER	ROLE IN COMMUNITY	POSITION IN PIC
1	CHIEF J.E AGBODO	LENF Micro-credit Chairman	Chairman
2	Mrs. Purane Ikusa	Otu-Ekon compound Women Secretary	P.R.O
3	Mr. Sunday Jonathan	CDC member	Member
4	Mr. Paul Eneni	Youth	Member
5	Mr. Easter Okoloba	Former Youth Secretary	Member
6	Mrs. Mercy Obiene	Woman Leader	Treasurer
7	Mr. David Dakolo	CDC chairman	Secretary
8	Mrs. Eluana Asieri	CDC member	Women Leader
9	Mr. Israel Olali	CDC member	Financial Secretary

#### 4.4.16 COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES TO SIGN MOU

Those Suggested to sign Memorandum of Understanding between Opume and SLBP are:

1. HRM – KING A.J. TURNER
2. CHAIRMAN - COUNCIL OF CHIEFS
3. CHAIRMAN – CDC



Plate 30: Cross Section of Chief, Elders and Community Members that attended Operation Planning Session

#### 4.4.17 PERFORMANCE EVALUATION

In Opume, an analysis of project failure in the past provided a platform for analysis of need for monitoring of project process and evaluation of project activities. The perception of the Opume community is that by-laws should be in place to ensure control and guidance for project implementation. It was also agreed that vigilante group shall be functional, there should be periodic reporting and sanctioning of defaulting community members when necessary. It was discussed that measures such as control fencing, red flagging will be adopted to mark areas of conservation importance and the signs used will be recognised and respected by all community members.

Three levels of evaluation are envisaged as follows:

- Beneficiary Group – Project beneficiary groups shall provide regular and periodic update on group activities both to SLBP project Team and the Project Implementation Committee for scrutiny and evaluation.
- Community Members – Entire community will be sensitized to demand for good governance, transparency and accountability from both beneficiary groups and PIC. And to present their perception on project implementation status at periodic community forum to be held at the instance of the PIC and SLBP.

- Project Implementation Committee- will provide monthly update to SLBP Team on all activities in the community.

#### **4.4.18 MANAGING COMMUNITY BENEFITS FROM SLBP PROJECTS**

As part of sustainability planning, community were asked how benefits (profits ) will be managed. This was important giving the long history of how supposed community intervention projects became source of conflict among members because of poor management of accruing benefits.

Members agreed that benefits from project will be used for:

- Project expansion
- Plough back for purchase of inputs
- Key development in the community



## 5. FIELD CONSTRAINTS AND CHALLENGES

### 1. Postponed Exercise

The exercise was postponed after commencement on the 2<sup>nd</sup> day in asarama as community insisted on participating in certain community programmes including burial.. team perceived this is a communication problem between SLBP team and community representative and another ..... to cover a PIC setup in each project site instead of individuals.

### 2. Meeting Commencement Difficulty

In almost all the communities but particularly in Asarama, getting a sizeable number of members and stakeholder was a herculean task. Instances were meeting scheduled for 10am commenced about 12noon and with just a handful

### 3. Facilitation Fatigue

A measure of "facilitation fatigue" was observable in virtually all communities visited with complaints of too frequent visits by different teams of SLBP asking about the same question.

### 4. Compensation for Stakeholders Time

Allowance should be made to compensate community members/stakeholders who participate in facilitation process lasting up to 6 – 8 hours. A nominal amount like ₦1,000 per day for selected members/stakeholders excluding entertainment would serve as a great motivation for community members who have to abandon their farms, classrooms, shops etc. during facilitation process.

### 5. Overall SLBP Objective And Aim

Most community members have very little understanding of overall objective of the project. There is need for a .....

## 6. GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Adopt one of the communities surrounding the Ngo Delta Swamp Elephants about 30km from Asarama and explore the possibility of conservation of this Swamp Forest given its high biodiversity value and the global attraction SLBP can get for this.
2. Study the Asarama Mangrove Island to outline the biological values and to state lesson learnt as case study for local conservation practices in Africa.
3. Rivers Improvement Project Obi-Ayagha.
4. Swamp Forest Conservation.
5. Akata Pond in Abobiri community should be encouraged as community protected area and recommended to UNESCO for recognition as a positive outcome of SLBP.
6. Form Project Implementation Committees for each of the sites. PIC TOR should recognize a governance and a quality assurance structure requires the committee to send request to Community Executives and SLBP Team (WIA)
7. Pay PIC monthly allowance to cover for sitting and Projects Monitoring Evaluation.
8. Make adequate allowance and consultations for field work and consultation on SLBP. That requires meeting with Community Stakeholders for more than one day (8 hours)
9. Land is critical for project implementation. Land for projects should be recognized as community-in-kind contribution and as such land should be indemnified in the name of the project to safeguard it from future agitations and claims by individual and community members.
10. To prevent too much cash flow within the community, each PIC should be facilitated to open Bank Accounts in nearby communities. Explore the possibility of an SLBP staff being a signatory.
11. To ensure project sustainability, key officers of each of the Local Governments Councils e.g Director of Personnel Management (equivalent of Permanent Secretary of the Local Government Area), Director of Works and Community Development Officers etc should be officially and formally integrated to promote State and Local Government ownership of projects and possible buy-in for sustainability.
12. A Wholistic Youth Improvement and Development Programme is a “sine qua none” for all the Project Communities. This package may include scholarship programme, youth friendly centers, guidance and counseling, entrepreneurial development organizers, media classes, schools, literary and sport competitions, etc.
13. Contract SLA and Ecological studies for Obi-Ayagha and Ominado Communities as new SLBP sites
14. Engage the activity of a Consultant/Firm/NGO to train PIC on basic Project Management Techniques to cover topics like Leadership, Book Keeping, Project Cycle, Monitoring And Evaluation, Conflict Management, Ethical Issues, Corruption etc.
15. Engage the activities of Consultants knowledgeable about the project to revalidate and define the scope and costing of projects pre-selected by WIA from the operational plan for implementation in the SLBP sites.
16. Design and develop a framework to link all SLBP projects to the Local economic and empowerment development strategy of each participating state and local government.

## 7. APPENDIX

### APPENDIX 1 - KEY INFORMANT INTERVIEW GUIDE

- How long have you been in the community \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- What role do you play in the community \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- What was the community like ten years ago: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Are things better now or worse \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- If worse, why \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Have you ever made a living from your community wetlands (explain term) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- If yes, what was it \_\_\_\_\_
- And for how long \_\_\_\_\_
- Are you still dependent on your wetlands for income / livelihoods Yes  or
- If No, Why? \_\_\_\_\_
- What is your primary source of income today \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- What do you think is the problem with your wetlands today \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Do you agree that your wetlands are degraded Yes  No
- If yes what are the major causes of the degradation \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- What can be done to restore the wetlands in your community \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- How can we discourage mis-use / degradation of your community wetlands \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Will people stop wetlands mis-use / degradation if they have alternative means of livelihood \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- If yes, what alternative means of livelihood would you support \_\_\_\_\_
- List 5 most viable livelihoods in your community and give reasons

S/NO	VIABLE LIVELIHOODS	REASONS FOR VIABILITY
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		

- How do you think your community can work with Wetlands to implement its new project for the benefit of all \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- What are the causes of the failure of different interventions / projects \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- If you are to nominate people from your community to be part of the project management committee, who would you nominate and why?

S/N	List of Nominees	Role in Community	Contact (Phone No)	Reason for Nomination
1				
2				
3				
4				
5				
6				
7				

- What technical support will you need as a community to participate effectively in implementing the project

\_\_\_\_\_

- List names of CBO's, NGO's and FBO's in your community

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

- How do you think the project will impact on the community in the following areas

AREAS	IMPACT
Environment	
Economy	
Social	

- How can this project be sustainable

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**APPENDIX II - COMMUNITY DIAGNOSIS  
SWOT ANALYSIS**

**FOUR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY QUESTIONS**

1. Where are we now?
  - Community background information
  - Community map
  
2. Where do we WANT TO BE?
  - Community values
  - Community vision
  - Goals – Top priorities for the next three years
  
3. How do we GET THERE?
  - Action plan and resolves
  
4. Have we MADE IT?
  - Performance

## APPENDIX III - COMMUNITY VALUES AND VISION PROCESSING

**VALUES** :tells you what is most important

**VISION**: tells you your final destination

**GOALS**: tells you the steps to take to your destination

### VALUES

Value tells you what is most important

What do you treasure about your community?

What do you love best?

Each stakeholder describe what they cherish most about their community – the things that make you want to stay.

### COMMUNITY VISION

What progress do you want for your community?

Describe what you will like your community to be in the next 20 years?

What do you want the next generation to inherit from you?

Refine submissions by listing common elements to create a shared vision for the community.

### GOAL SETTING

Arrange on flip chat input from stakeholders on the value and vision under the following four headings:

- Economy/Livelihoods
- Land and Environment (Wetlands)
- Community and Culture
- Leadership

e.g of a value/vision statement like

“ To have a community that continues to practice subsistence”

You put it under land and environment.

### STEPS TO REACH A VISION

Review community input, vision and values – add or delete till stakeholders are satisfied.

Use the summary as the basis for deciding goals. What can we do in the next 3 years to move us closer to our 20 year vision.

### LIST GOALS

#### ❖ ECONOMY / LIVELIHOODS

- 1.
- 2.

#### ❖ COMMUNITY AND CULTURE

- 1.
- 2.

#### ❖ LAND AND ENVIRONMENT

- 1.
- 2.

#### ❖ LEADERSHIP

- 1.
- 2.

### BREAK INTO GROUPS

Using the goals set by the larger group, define challenges, resources and priority actions for each category.

❖ **ECONOMY / LIVELIHOODS**

- 1.
- 2.

S/N	CHALLENGES	RESOURCES

List 5 immediate action steps.

**ACTION STEPS**

- 1.
- 2.

❖ **LAND AND ENVIRONMENT**

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

S/N	CHALLENGES	RESOURCES

List 5 immediate action steps.

**ACTION STEPS**

- 1.
- 2.

❖ **COMMUNITY AND CULTURE**

- 1.
- 2.

S/N	CHALLENGES	RESOURCES

List 5 immediate action steps

**ACTION STEPS**

- 1.
- 2.

❖ **LEADERSHIP**

- 1.
- 2.

3.

S/N	CHALLENGES	RESOURCES

List 5 immediate action steps

**ACTION STEPS**

- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.



**IV - PLANNING SESSION ATTENDANCE**

**1. ASARAMA COMMUNITY**

<b>S/N</b>	<b>NAMES</b>	<b>PHONE NO.</b>
1	John M. Johnson	08038400572
2	Esau Festus	07030214009
3	Ogbologwung Romokere Gabriel	08069709810
4	Christaina Isaiah	0816150071
5	Fester Festus	08134154405
6	Andrew Owoh	08064787410
7	Gideon Hart Hart	
8	Victoria Nathaniel Okoro	08068227704
9	Oruru Awajis	08160507089
10	Festus Hannah J.	07037246900
11	Awajis	08132596217
12	Gabriel Aliena Inye	0816220659
13	Nicodemus Nathaniel	08160151325
14	Hannah Hezekiah	07068306455
15	Chief H.P Ayagwung	08069225686
16	Gabriel Ogbulu	08036175429
17	Inye Gabriel	08038008992
18	Chief U. G Ogbologwung	08039370361
19	Aliena Inye	08161220569
20	Rosaline Esau	09038665602
21	Erasmus O. Manory	08167046949
22	James William	08062227704
23	Peter Hezekiah	08064953291
24	Mercy Ndendeng	08034227385
25	Ndendeng Ndendeng	08037901056
26	Dickson Andrew	07069751735
27	Timothy Etete	08062705616

## 2. OPUME COMMUNITY

S/N	NAME	GROUP	POSITION	PHONE NO:
1	David A. Dakolo	CDC	Chairman	08080739333
2	Obebi J. Mondebo	20 <sup>th</sup> Century Club	Vice Chairman	008055704762
3	Chief R.M.B Ereinasi	Pensioner		08064358313
4	Clinton Apribo	L.E.F		08161371173
5	Victory A. Egbo	Youth	Member	081375825598
6	Ebirega Rufus	Civil Servant		008161371101
7	Elizabeth Ide	Women	Member	
8	Ebiriga Solomon	Ekine Seiapu Club	Member	07061143524
9	Ikusa Mark Purane	Money Sweet	Member	
10	Abgedo Inemo	Lone One Another	Chairman	
11	Chf. Geoffrey Temerigha	Council of Chiefs	Member	08062072559
12	Chf. Akpana Idiki-Erekereso	Council of Chiefs	Dep. Chairman	08151448101
13	Chf. Dressman Akekere Okuer	Council of Chiefs	Head Okuer Clan	08062764147
14	Aseri Blessing	CDC	Member	08068764718
15	Solomon Kurobogha	Women Group	Member	
16	Bokolo Alabomo	Women Group	Member	
17	Mrs. Obiene Mercy			08061539238
18	Mrs Eluana Asieri	CDC		
19	Mrs Purane Ikusa			
20	Mrs. Solomon Kurubogha			
21	Chief S.A.B Agadaga-Ekon	Council of Chiefs		08037707985
22	Madam Alabomor Gbokolo			

### 3. ABOBORI COMMUNITY

S/N	NAME	GROUP	POSITION	PHONE NO
1	Ogombah Health	Youth	President	08167340501
2	Tekena Markson			08065891035
3	Chief Igbobi Blessing Victor	Council Of Chiefs	Member	08134820230
4	Saturday Goodnews	CDC		08130672269
5	Christain David Dumoye	CDC	Chairman	08065819396
6	Bonnke Igoniwari	Youth	V.P	08160325241
7	Endurance Jeremiah	CDC	P.R.O	08167029493
8	Famous Naruarua	Youth		08135727505
9	Abioroi Okola	Youth		08109721713
10	Veronica Anah	Youth		08068687444
11	Trust Elizabeth	Aruwara Group	Leader	07038150531
12	Edighotu Faith	Youth		08132096809
13	Gbalam O. Appah	Council Of Chiefs	Member	08062728005
14	Chief T.E Obo-Osain	Council Of Chiefs	Member	08101544376
16	Bank Yuku			07064214635
17	Bob Arch	Youth	Member	0811055902
18	Markson Tekenah			08065891035
19	Simeon Idigieneni	Youth	Member	08064617579
20	Ofiri Isaminaguo			08104020328
21	Chriatain Godknows			07089220072
22	Okirinya Stephen	Youth	Member	08034748163
23	Promise	Youth	Member	08148843322
24	Nathan Menidin	Youth	Member	
25	Nalaguo Famous	Youth	Member	08161325294
26	Pekene Alumco	Youth	Member	08141792047
27	Jeremiah Endurance	Youth	Member	08167029493
28	Otonye A. Isaiah	Youth	Member	
29	Nabai Obah			08034166730
30	Esther Daniel			08062412476
31	Ebinabo Edum			
32	Gold Amangala			08038270799
33	Mary Amangala			
34	Rita Ikisa			07062961712
35	Rosemary Egele	Youth	Member	08134763094
36	Egbolom Paul			08100779870

#### 4. OBI-AYAGHA COMMUNITY

S/N	NAMES	PHONE NO
1	Jaman Philip	08084256555
2	Oghi Super	08074209426
3	Ghene Emmanuel	07069625793
4	Jenat Ovon	08112811438
5	Thomas Kribo	08154204762
6	Mr. Alec Komeme	08138650036
7	Gabriel Laba	08073953685
8	Eyesio Job	07037429508
9	Mr Roji Mukoro	07135578853
10	Mr. Augustine Aro	08059207935
11	Mr. Moses Mukoro	08135817650
12	A.O Akpolome	08054331621
13	Pa Sanjini Abunu	07067219723
14	Diamond Emmanuel	07067591092
15	Moses Rhovwughu	08071402788
16	Dueni Christopher	07055797751
17	Godswill Diamond	08123468562
18	Komada Ogba	08161108803
19	Royal Agabagda	08074717936
20	Madam Lady Ghene	08105987701
21	Madam Felicia Moju	
22	Sarah Wipi	
23	Missi Omosohoofa	
24	Madam Rose Akplchabor	
25	Lucky Ogedebge	
26	Moses Tunumievie	07059754525
27	Diamond Benjamin	07067591092
28	Wings Meshach	07067123176
29	Mrs. Ofigo Roseline	08160700718
30	Mrs. Alice Victor	08161102758
31	Mrs. Utuden Ighorweapkore	
32	Peter Enyophrure	08085777679
33	Eve. Sunny B.	08164387961