

SOCIO ECONOMIC ANALYSIS OF DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES & INITIATIVES IN THE NIGER DELTA:

A FRAMEWORK, FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS AND BIODIVERSITY PROJECT (SLBP) IN NIGERIA.

A Desk Research

Submitted to



By

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BRIEF HISTORY OF NIGER DELTA

Nigeria, Africa's most populous country lies in West Africa, north of the equator in an area of three hundred and fifty-six thousand, one hundred and fourteen square miles (356,144 sq miles). Oil is the pivot on which its economy revolves. In 1958, crude oil was discovered in large commercial quantity at Oloibiri, Rivers State. This made Nigeria joined the rank of oil producing nations of the world. Estimates of Nigeria's oil reserves range from 16 billion to 22 billion barrels and almost all of these reserves are found in relatively simple geological structures along the country's coastal Niger Delta. Nigeria is currently responsible for between 6 and 8% of world crude production. Without doubt, the Niger Delta is the nerve centre of Nigeria's oil industry. Crude oil production or output is about 2 million barrels daily and accounts for over 90% of the national total export earnings and also account for some 25 percent of Gross Domestic Product (Baker, 1983; NDES, 1997). The economic benefit of crude oil exploration and production in Niger Delta, both onshore and offshore have been so overwhelming that until quite recently, the adverse socio-economic impact, ecological devastation and environmental deterioration on oil communities were overshadowed. Governments provide massive support financially and otherwise for the infrastructure necessary to facilitate and sustain the oil economy in a globalizing world.

Despite huge human and natural resources, majority of the people live in abject poverty. Seventy percent of the people depend largely on subsistence agriculture, small-scale industries and trading, and live on less than \$1 a day. The prolonged military rule weakened civil society and reduced its capacity to participate in governance. Agriculture and agro-based enterprises were the leading sectors of the Nigerian economy before the discovery of oil in the early 1960s. Agriculture provided 80% of national revenue in 1960; this dropped to 1.5% by 1995. The agricultural share of the GDP was 40.4% in 1999, while still maintaining its role as the major employer of the labour force (70%). Crops such as cocoa, rubber, palm oil, cotton and groundnut were produced in abundance, which were major sources of livelihood for millions of households. There was also emphasis on developing local manufacturing industries and rural- and micro-enterprises to enable them to produce, at least, for local market in the 1960s. The industrialization programme was implemented in phases with high level of government participation and accelerated by the increased revenue from oil. This effort was short-lived due to the fall in oil prices in the early 1980s, rampant liberalization and deregulation of the

economy and inappropriate economic policies such as high interest rates, unstable foreign exchange rate regimes and high rates of inflation. The industrial sector's contribution to the GDP has been on the decline and by 1998 it was 5.4% of GDP. Government's allocation to the industrial sector in the 2002 budget was 0.72%. The resultant effects has been high rates of unemployment especially among the youths, increasing crime wave, sharp drop in the quality of basic services such as education, health, access to food and adequate shelter.

Nigeria's mono-cultural economy that is heavily dependent on oil revenue for its services and provision of infrastructure has been described as being in a limbo. Nearly 90% of the national, state and local governments' budgets are financed through income from oil revenue. These services and provision of infrastructure are unevenly distributed - benefiting few elites and multinational oil companies. Coupled with this is the inappropriate policies and practices of government and oil companies impacting devastatingly on the environment & livelihood coping mechanism of poor communities in the Niger Delta leading to wide spread conflict and poverty.

The heavy oil extractive based Macro Policy Framework has led to declined government interest in agricultural sector, lack of incentives in traditional means of livelihoods e.g. with respect to Niger Delta is fishing, subsistence agriculture, etc, huge unemployment, increase crime wave, rural-urban migration and problems of insecurity. The oil exploration in the Niger Delta has brought unimaginable communal clashes resulting to loss of lives and properties of inestimable value. Over aged oil pipelines have been causing devastating environmental damages due to spillage to human, animal, fish and crops plunging communities into food and health crisis. Added to this is the fact that the oil pipelines were installed on the surface consuming a reasonable acreage of agricultural lands resulting to smaller land holdings per family. The burning off of associated gas known as gas flaring has been the major source of acid rain, fast corroding rooftops, persistent 24 hour lightening affecting sleep of neighbouring communities. The divide and rule tactic adopted by oil companies as a measure of dealing with resistant communities has led to serious implications on social life of communities in the Niger Delta.

Over the years the peoples of the Niger Delta region have developed resistance to the destruction and extraction of oil in their environment at their own disadvantage and therefore are activists. Government's response to their activism is repression. This has been demonstrable through arbitrary arrests/detention, judicial and extra-judicial killings, torture, and other forms of human right abuses. The oil companies invest in divide and rule and have over the years taken advantage of the youth and used them as arsonist causing untold injuries and destruction of lives and properties. These arrangements, where youths are empowered through provision of arm have for the larger part of the times contributed to the continued unrest and communal wars in the Niger Delta. There is increasing illegal fuel siphoning resulting in increasing number of pipeline explosions and vandalization in the Niger Delta due to the surface laying of the pipelines.

Activities of the oil companies in the Niger Delta has been described as irresponsible due to the manner of the oil extraction practices. Oil is mined without due regard to people and the environment. Profit is the major driving force for all oil companies. Yet the claim to be operating on the basis of approved international standards. In their drive towards maximizing profits, oil companies have no corporate and social responsibilities or obligations to the communities where oil is extracted. These have brought about continued intra and inter – communal conflicts, further disruption of oil extraction activities in the Niger Delta. Government on its own path had not been able to adequately address issues arising from the demands of peoples' of the Niger Delta. The Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC) was established in 2000 to attend to developmental needs of the communities and people's of the Niger Delta. The NDDC is a metamorphosis of the former OMPADEC (Oil Mineral Producing Commission) established since the military days. Despite the huge amount of funds made available to the development agency, development is still far fetched from the communities. This has formed part of the reasons for the persistent conflict within the Niger Delta



INSIGHT INTO Oil Exploration and Production Activities in Nigeria Phase I: Commencement of Oil Exploration Activities in Nigeria (1908 – 1956)

The history of petroleum exploration in Nigeria can be divided into three distinct phases based on the pace of exploration activity. Phase 1 began as far back as 1908 when the Nigeria Bitumen Corporation was granted a license to exploit the bitumen deposits which were traced from the occurrence of tar in cretaceous rock outcrops in areas around Araromi in the present Ondo State. Two experimental wells were drilled in this area in 1908 and traces of oil were found. Within the period of two years in (1908 – 1910), 15 wells were drilled but no commercial oil was discovered. The pioneering efforts, however ended with the outbreak of the First World War in 1914.

The effective exploration of Nigerian petroleum started again in 1937 (Abdullahi, 1994). This time, Shell D'Arcy (The fore-runner of the present Shell Petroleum Development Company of Nigeria) was given the sole concessionary rights covering the whole territory of Nigeria. The activities were suspended from 1939-1945 due to the Second World War.

Spurred by Shell-BP's pioneering effort and success in 1956, other competitors started to acquire concession in Nigeria.

Phase II: Oil Exploration Activities Continue (1961 – 1971)

This second era of petroleum exploration activities in Nigeria (1961-1971) was prompted by a number of factors. As Nigeria became independent in 1960, it allowed oil companies from other nations outside Britain and USA to participate in petroleum exploration activities in the country. Secondly, as oil had become a significant energy source.

Thirdly, by virtue of progressive Government policies and legislation which compelled oil companies with big concessions to relinquish the areas covered by their licences, more areas became available for oil companies to explore.

Phase III: Government Participating Interest in Oil Companies Operations (1971-date)

The third phase of Nigerian exploration history covers the period when she joined the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) in July 1971. OPEC embarked on a strategy expressed clearly in Resolution 16 Article 90 of June 1968 in which all members were enjoined to acquire participating interest in the operations of the oil companies in their respective countries. With the participating interest in oil companies activities, Government assumed the role of a partner in the Joint Venture and had to contribute proportionately to the cost of carrying out the oil operations of each company, as well as receive its share of production in the same proportion. Nigeria's main exploration and production areas are: Rivers state - all its 24 local governments; Delta State - 14 local governments; Akwa-Ibom - 5 local governments; Abia, Edo, Imo and Ondo States - 1 local government each (Abdullahi, 1994). The significance of the dominance of the petroleum industry by the oil companies lies in the fact that they dictate the pace and pattern of the development of the industry according to their objective of ensuring maximum production of oil and high utilization of gas in Nigeria (Aremu, 2001).

However, there are those who hold that the entire petroleum industry and NNPC in particular have performed below expectations and indeed see the sector as a failure. The industry is characterized by wastage, corruption, low productivity and unchecked dominance of foreign multinationals⁵.

By far the most cited shortcoming of upstream operation is the abysmal environmental degradation that crude extraction generates in the Niger Delta. Ken Saro Wiwa captured this grim reality, when he wrote: "an ecological war in which no blood is (apparently) spilled, no bones are (seemingly) broken, no one is (assumedly) maimed, but men, women and children die. Flora, fauna and fish perish, air and water are poisoned, and finally, the land and its inhabitants die". The environmental problems associated with oil production led to incessant confrontation between the people of Niger-Delta and Nigeria military regimes in particular, the worst fall-out was the callous execution of Ken Saro Wiwa and eight other leaders of Ogoni People by Abacha dictatorship in November, 1995.

Phase IV: The Political Economy of the Nigerian Oil industry

Oil is the pivot on which the Nigerian economy revolves. Nigeria is currently responsible for between 6 and 8% of world crude production. Oil sales currently provide over 95 percent of the country's export earnings and also account for some 25 percent of Gross Domestic Product. The price of Nigerian crude oil has always fluctuated in response to the vagaries of the international market. While prices have been erratic, what is beyond doubt is that the oil fields of the Niger Delta brought great wealth to the country, especially during the boom years of 1972-79, when production peaked at 2.3 million barrels a day. The oil boom also brought with it massive corruption, misappropriation of funds, and a craze for imported luxuries, especially among the military rulers, senior civil servants, and the urban elite. The gap between urban and rural Nigeria widened even further – at one end luxury motorcars and palatial mansions and all the other “good things” of life, and at the other, poverty, misery, and disease. 5 Erinnel N.J.D. (2000). Memo on Petroleum Supply and Distribution

In 1990, the peoples of the Niger Delta began a new phase in their demand for constitutional changes. The Ogoni issued the Ogoni Bill of Rights. This was followed by the MORETO Charter of Demands by the Ogbia people, a clan in Ijawland, in 1992. The hanging of Ken Saro Wiwa, well-known environmental activist from MOSOP, sent very urgent messages to all who believed in the struggles for justice within and outside the Niger Delta.

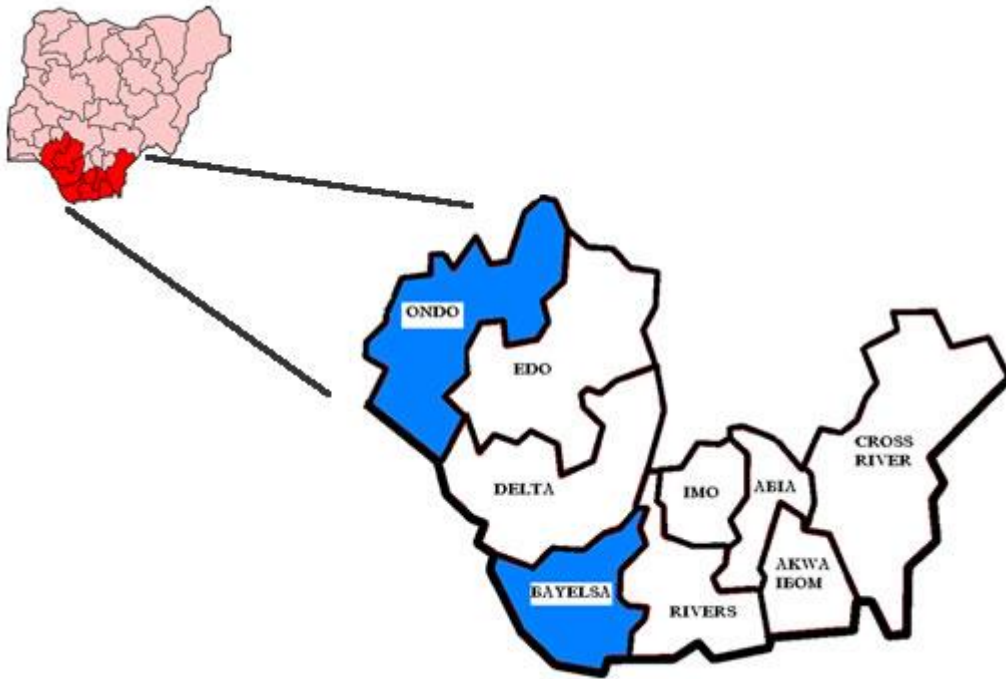


Figure 1: Map of Nigeria showing Niger Delta States

1. Introduction



The sustainable livelihood and biodiversity project (SLBP) in Niger Delta is of utmost strategies importance in the development of wetlands and wetlands based economy. This is imperative given that the region holds the 3rd largest wetland in the world. Secondly, the encroachment and pressive on wetland environment due to intense human activities and the ever increasing human population is a cause for concern. The major

culprits are oil exploration and exploitation, unsustainable agriculture and

other land use activities including human settlement, urbanization, road development and industrialization. The third reason is uncontrolled land reclamation; dredging and sand filling projects that impact negatively on wetlands and their resources. The poverty and hazards people living in wetland ecosystem have been exposed to in recent times is another reason why SLBP is a welcome development. The SLBP which has as its objectives, biodiversity restoration and livelihoods improvement of wetlands based Ecosystem and Economy is viewed by many as a beacon of hope in fighting environmental degradation of the third largest wetland while at the same time posting alternative livelihood for the teeming Niger Delta population.

The Niger Delta Area (NDA) is bordered to the south by the Atlantic Ocean and to the east by Cameroon, occupies a surface area of about 112,110 square kilometres. It represents about 12% of Nigeria’s total surface area. The region comprises of nine Nigeria’s constituent states. The pattern of settlement in the Niger Delta Area is largely determined by the availability of dry land and the nature of the terrain together with navigable limits of the coastal rivers or estuaries with small and scattered hamlets.

The Niger-Delta Area consists of saline mangrove swamps which stretch through the coastal states with 504,800 hectares in the Niger Delta area and 95,000 hectares in Cross River State. The size of the mangrove forests rank it as the largest in Africa and as the third largest in the world. Typically, the ecosystem fragility makes it vulnerable to destruction by unsustainable human interventions such as oil exploration, exploitation and transportation processes. The inhabitants of historical settlements in the Niger Delta area depend on fish and other mangrove resources for their livelihood. Mangrove wood provide multi-purpose resource for fish stakes, fish traps, boat building, boat paddles, yam stakes, fencing, carvings, building timber and fuel.

Table 1: Niger Delta Area, Land Area and Population

State	Land Mass (in square kilometers)	Population
Abia	4,887	2,833,999
Akwa Ibom	6,806	3,920,208
Bayelsa	11,007	1,703,358
Cross River	21,930	2,888,960
Delta	17,163	4,098,391
Edo	19,698	3,218,332
Imo	5,165	3,934,899
Ondo	15,086	3,441,014
Rivers	19,378	5,185,420
Total	112,110	31,224,587

Sources: National Population Commission Provisional (NPC, 2006) Result based on 2005 Census

2.0 The Impact of Socio-Economic Factors on the Proposed Sustainable Livelihood and Biodiversity Project of Wetland International

The socio-economic factors that will impact on the SLBP of the WI include the following;

1. Population challenges
2. Water resources and uses
3. Sanitation issues
4. Land uses and agricultural practices
5. Fishery issues
6. The people culture, religion and governance issues
7. Urbanization

2.1. Population Challenges

The population challenges that are bound to impact positively and negatively on any SLBP in the Niger Delta include its sporadic growth, uneven distribution and uncontrolled movement. Niger Delta is one of the regions in the world (among the highest in Nigeria) with a high population growth (both natural and product of immigration) caused by oil exploration that attract non-natives and foreigners into the region and improved medical facilities and education as well as nutrition resulting in drastic reduction in death birth rate per thousand. According to experts, there is high birth rate in the country but the advantage the Niger Delta and South-West regions of Nigeria have over other geo-political zones is relatively low death rate. High birth rate and high death rate tended to promote stable or low population growth. The tendency of this scenario is high population concentration in oil bearing communities, clans and Local Government Headquarters. In the last two decades, many towns and cities that were of little importance in the past have emerged due to oil exploration and production cum administrative functions of the towns. Notable among these are Warri, Escravos, Abraka, Ughelli, Oghara and Ozoro in Delta State, Yenagoa, Odi, Amassoma and Ogbia Town in Bayelsa State, Eleme, Bonny, Omku, Bori, Ahoada, Abonnema and ... in Rivers State. In other parts of Niger Delta, many urban centres that owe their importance to oil have emerged including Eket, Oron and Ikot Abasi in Akwa Ibom State and Duke Town in Cross River and Sapele in Edo State.

Because conservation programmes thrive where there is large expanse of lands free from direct human interference or pressure, the selection of the location of the proposed SLBP become informative. This point become quite relevant considering the fact that population is not evenly distributed within the region. Many type of population concentration and distribution are found in the region ranging from sparse or low to moderate and high population concentrations with “islands” of heavily or thickly populated State Capitals and few LGA

Headquarters. Generally, SLBP is not ideal to be sited in these thickly populated areas due to possible encroachment on the project.

A typical area where high human populating may pose serious challenge to the project is Ogoni-land in Rivers State and Biseni area in Bayelsa State. The two ethnic nationalities have serious land and resource problem arising from sporadic population growth. There are similar areas where indigenous population increase is increasingly causing social tension and unrest due to struggle for resource control and use by local people. In these two communities many autonomous communities, villages and hamlets have emerged with serious development challenges and resource use.

Rural urban migration is one of the characteristics of population in Nigeria with the highest rate recorded in the Niger Delta. The influence of oil-induced wealth encourages young people some with no basic qualification and technical skills to migrate from rural area to cities. The norm become unbearable when the authorities could not extend social amenities often enjoyed in urban centres to remote and developed villages. The absent of basic social amenities such as roads, electricity, pipe-borne water and functional schools witnessed the upsurge number of young, energetic and productive population to cities for white-collar jobs that are hardly available. The impact of this on SLBP is two-sided: it can be positive or negative. This is because the movement of people from rural communities removed pressure from wetland resources and enables the few old people often left behind to impact less on wetland ecosystem and resources. For instance, in many areas the fallow periods are as long as 10-15 years. In the other way round, the exodus of young people from rural communities with expanse of wetlands deprive these areas of the human resources required for sustainable management of these resources. In these areas, wetland has lost its importance and relevance in the eyes of the natives. This form the basis of unrestraint encroachment, pollution and desecration of these important resources by oil firms, construction firms and industries. The tide can only be reversed with the provision of social infrastructures and micro financing of livelihood options of natives and this is the key to the success of any SLBP in the region.

The 2005 estimate of population of the NDR based on the 1991 census and official growth rate of 2.83% per annum is 28million. According to NDDC's NDRMP, this is about 23% of total Nigeria's population. However, the Master Plan Baseline sample survey conducted in 2003, shows the average annual rate of population growth in most communities, based on the household fertility and mortality data is about 3.1%. This translates to a population of 30 million people in the NDR in 2004. Projected to 2015, it is expected therefore that the population will increase to between 41.5 million and 48 million,

depending on the growth rate applied (that is a high growth rate of 3.1%: or a low growth rate using a declining rate of between 2.9% - 2.5%). The areas with the highest population densities in the NDR are associated with the lowland rainforests and derived savannah ecological zones. These are in turn typified by low-lying, gently undulating landforms. The more inaccessible riverine and coastal areas as well as the mountainous zone are characterized by low population densities.

Table 2: Population projections (high) for the Niger Delta States

State	2005	2010	2015	2020
Abia	3,230,000	3,763,000	4,383,000	5,106,000
Akwa ibom	3,343,000	3,895,000	4,537,000	5,285,000
Bayelsa	1,710,000	1,992,000	2,320,000	2,703,000
Cross River	2,736,000	3,187,000	3,172,000	4,325,000
Delta	3,594,000	4,186,000	4,877,000	5,681,000
Edo	3,018,000	3,516,000	4,096,000	4,871,000
Imo	3,342,000	3,894,000	4,535,000	5,283,000
Ondo	3,025,000	3,524,000	4,105,000	4,782,000
Rivers	4,858,000	5,659,000	6,592,000	7,679,000
Total	28,858,000	33,616,000	39,157,000	45,715,000

Source GTZ projections (2004 based on National Population Commission Data)

Table 3: Projected population of Niger Delta by sex

States	Land Area (Km sq)	Male	Female	Both	2015	2020
Abia	4,877	1,123,754	1,210,013	2,333,567	4,383,000	6,106,000
Akwa Ibom	6,806	1,167,829	1,241,784	2,409,613	4,537,000	6,285,000
Bayelsa	11,007	584,117	537, 576	1,121,693	2,320,000	2,703,000
Cross River	21,930	956, 136	955,159	1,911,295	3,712,000	4,325,000
Delta	17,163	1,271,932	1,318,569	2,590,491	4,877,000	5,681,000
Edo	19,698	1,086,849	2,172,005	2,457,352	4,096,000	4,871,000
Imo	5,165	1,166,448	1,319,187	2,485,636	4,535,000	5,283,000
Ondo	15,086	1,121,898	1,127,650	2,249,548	4,105,000	4,782,000
Rivers	10,378	1,655,441	1,532,423	3,187,864	6,592,000	7,679,000
Niger Delta	112,110	10,132,711	10,329,200	20,461,711	39,157,000	45,715,000

Source CEPD, 2003

Table 4: Sex Distribution of population of Niger Delta, 1991 (%)

State	Male	Female
Abia	48.2	51.8
Akwa Ibom	48.5	51.5
Bayelsa	52.1	47.9
Cross River	50.0	50.0
Delta	49.1	50.9
Edo	50.0	50.0
Imo	46.9	53.1
Ondo	49.9	48.1
Rivers	51.9	48.1
Niger Delta	49.5	50.5

Source: National Population Census 1991

Accessibility therefore is an influencing factor in the settlement patterns and population distribution in the region. It is generally understood that poor accessibility in the NDR has been responsible for the high cost of providing adequate social services and infrastructure to communities in the region.

States with the highest population sizes are Rivers, Delta, Akwa Ibom and Imo. There are probably no size difference in population sizes among the states (with the possible exemption of Bayelsa and Cross River).

Table 5: Size distribution of settlements in the Niger Delta

NDDC States	Less than 1,000 people	1,000 – 5,000 people	5,000 – 20,000 people	20,000 and above
Abia	393	494	52	11
Akwa Ibom	1,239	1,098	46	7
Bayelsa	290	317	85	4
Cross River	117	500	56	8
Delta	1,016	307	104	22
Edo	903	264	70	11
Imo	788	925	81	2
Ondo	1,463	278	57	16
Rivers	428	598	213	17
Niger Delta	7,686	4,781	764	98

Source: Centre for Population and Environment Development (CEPD) 2003

Given the preponderance of small settlements, the task of promoting sustainable livelihoods development is much harder. The distribution of settlements by size is of considerable interest. Therefore, in the articulation of livelihoods and human development agenda of Wetlands International, this should be considered.

Due to forced relocations and agglomerations of settlements, it becomes natural over time for some new settlements to emerge as ‘growth centres’.

Given the above, the predominant settlement type in the Niger Delta is small and scattered hamlets. The vast majority of settlements comprise largely rural communities in dispersed village settlements. A dominant feature of the NDR population is its significant level of young people with over 62% below the age of 30 years. Adults in the age bracket of 30 -69 years make up only 36% while those aged 70 years and above constitute just 2% of the population (NDDC NDRMP). The average household size is 6 persons but this is generally larger in the rural communities with an average of 8 persons in a household.

Table 6: Estimated population Density in the Niger Delta

S/N	State	Persons per Square Kilometer	
		1991	1996
1.	Abia	370.01	425.41
2.	Akwa Ibom	340.19	391.24
3.	Delta	146.37	168.28
4.	Edo	122.00	140.27
5.	Imo	449.48	516.78
6.	Ondo	180.61	207.65
7.	Rivers/Bayelsa	197.23	226.76
8.	Nigeria	96.33	110.73

(Source: NPC cited in NDES Report, 2010)

In most parts of Niger Delta region, the population is geometrically soaring higher partly as a result on in-migration of people to the region in search of oil and gas/allied jobs offered by the massive presence of oil and gas companies there. This is however, more pronounced in the urban areas. In fact, young people from rural communities especially riverine and coastal communities relocate in numbers to urban centres for white collar jobs. Since oil drilling began in the 1960s, migration into the region has greatly increased and there is high population density on habitable land in the riverine and coastal areas.

Land and human population density are important in relation to development pressures mounted on the Niger Delta. Rural population densities on limited islands of dry land in the freshwater eco-zone appear to be equally high. The situation is made worse because most of water eco-zone (about 20% of the

Niger Delta) is uninhabitable. The twin townships of Ogbolomabiri and Bassambiri, which make up Nembe, are a good example. They are packed onto two largely sand-filled islands surrounded by mangrove forests that virtually merge with the sea. Available agricultural land is a few tens of hectares so that, apart from local shellfish, all the required food has to be brought in from other towns. Overall population density of the Niger Delta Region based on the 1991 population is 182 persons per square kilometer. Some states have densities far above this figure. Abia has 478 per square kilometer, Akwa Ibom (354 per square kilometer, Imo (481 per square kilometer while Rivers has (307 per square kilometer).

POPULATION IN THE CONTEXT OF SLBP

- ✚ The increasing population in the REGION without commensurate increase in socio-economic development, means more basic social services such as schools, hospitals, water, housing and electricity, will be needed to cater for the teeming and increasing population.
- ✚ Structural, economic and social development is beginning to weigh down on the existing facilities in the area. It is resulting to serious health challenges, food shortage, depletion of rich biodiversity characterized by the region, serious environmental challenges as well as general poverty.
- ✚ Population distribution pattern in the coastal/wetland areas within the region will require livelihood projects and programmes to be designed in such a manner that will address the needs of the youths and women who constitutes a larger and most vulnerable part of the population as well as the women and children who remain the most vulnerable groups.

2.2 Water Resources and Uses

In the Niger Delta, wetland resources are influenced and sustained by sea or salt water, fresh and brackish water. The character of wetland ecosystem and its resources are the product of the regime of adjoining water bodies. Over 260,000 km of Niger Delta stretched over the Atlantic Ocean. The entire region is traverse by several rivers, streams, lakes and swamps making the region terrain the most complex. The rivers have seasonal characteristics in their regime, colour and size. Many are only navigable to the hand-pull canoes and boats all round the year. The water bodies play important role in the socio-economic life of the people notable in the areas of fishing, farming, transportation, recreation and cultural festivals.

Despite the abundance of water in the region, most communities do not have potable water supply. They rely totally on well water, rain harvest and in some cases rivers and streams for their water needs. Streams, rivers and harvested rain water remain the principal sources of water throughout the region. The last two are contaminated by human wastes and domestic washing. In some communities, pipe-borne water exists but the quality of the water is extremely poor. Due to high rate of consumption of bad water, water-borne diseases are high in the region's communities. The Niger Delta is also afflicted with general problems associated with poor and inadequate water supply throughout the region. These include;

- ✓ Inadequate supply and distribution network
- ✓ Low water quality
- ✓ Shortage of funds resulting from inadequate budgetary allocations, and
- ✓ Incessant breakdown of the system, attributable to poor maintenance.

The authorities have tried to bring succor to the people and communities of the region by addressing the water problems because as government has already noted that “the supply of potable water in adequate quantity and quality was a vital factor in ensuring the health, welfare and productivity of the population” (Third National Development Plan quoted in NDES).

However in pursuit of this noble objectives, undue attention and preference are given to urban and semi-urban areas to the detriment of small and remote settlements of the Niger Delta.

In most riverine (especially coastal) communities, their water supply come from same creeks and rivulets that are heavily burdened by oil and gas pollutants as well as other anthropogenic activities and products (e.g. open defecation into water bodies, discharge of both biodegradable and non-biodegradable wastes, oil spills, flared gases, industrial effluents and sewage disposal among others). Some of these unhealthy practices by the local people over some time now has become their way of life as even the young ones are naturally socialized into it. This is the same water that the people use for domestic demands.

The use of polluted water resources in the Niger Delta region has gotten a cross-cutting effects on the people ranging from diseases, loss of water-based food resources and livelihoods systems, climate change to increased deaths.

Part of the contributory factors accounting for water problems in the region include problems in the operation of the state water system, lack of effective urban planning, inadequate attention from the government to the sector and

limited involvement of the private sector in water resources management and service provision. On the part of the state agencies, there is limited coverage and priority attached to effective management and expansion of the water works, inadequate funding, poor revenue generation such as ineffective mechanisms for the collection of water rates, low political will to effect significant expansion of the scope and reach of existing water services and establish innovative schemes to boost water supply.

The challenges of addressing water supply in the rural areas are made even worse by the people's limited knowledge of the characteristics of safe water as well as the relationship between water and health.

Because more than 95% of livelihood activities of the people living in the coastal and riverine communities is dependent on water (harvesting of fishes, periwinkles, crabs, prawns and other aquatic food), proper (sustainable) water utilization and management becomes very necessary in the proposed Wetland Initiatives. For instance, cases where chemical additives are still being used for fishing as is the case with some fishing communities in the area, need to be discouraged and better alternatives provided. Livelihoods diversification seems to be a very reliable mechanism in actualizing this.

Most water bodies in the Niger Delta region have lost their domestic and aesthetic values and so stands the risk of further degradation if appropriate interventions are not designed and implemented. In addition to livelihood diversification mechanism, a strong case should be made in building capacities of the people in proper (sustainable) waste management practices. It should be noted that in the riverine communities of the region, some people are now forced to spending their menial incomes in buying sachet water for drinking, at exorbitant costs – a situation that tells negatively on household incomes.

If the trend of water resources pollution and depletion is continued in the Niger Delta region, especially in the riverine and coastal communities, the people's livelihoods and economic well being stands in the thresholds of rapid decline and possible extinction.

Water Resources and SLBP

- ✚ Most SLBP communities are likely to be lacking in adequate water quality and quantity
- ✚ Provision of High budgeting requirement is needed to provide water and water infrastructure within the Niger Delta. This often requires treatment plants.
- ✚ High incidence of water related diseases and infusions are likely to be noticeable in communities where people depend on streams for both domestic use and sewage control.
- ✚ Large body of waters polluted by a combination of human activities such as defecation and industrial related population such as discharge of biodegradable and non biodegradable wastes, oil spills, flared gases, effluents and sewage disposal.
- ✚ Polluted water with restaurant depletion of biodiversity resources (plant and animal species), increase incidence of diseased population, loss of wetland based livelihoods systems are likely to be predominant.
- ✚ SLBP will be required to implement a holistic solution that integrate water provision (Solar Power with treatment plant) and a complete sanitation package to address the twin evil of high incidence of polluted water and complete lack of sanitation infrastructure.

2.3 Urbanization

The population explosion experienced in the Niger Delta is accompanied by rapid growth of human settlements to the extent that the third largest city in Nigeria, Port Harcourt, is located in the region; several urban centres with over 50,000 people have emerged in many parts of the region. Unlike other geopolitical zones in Nigeria whose city growths are politically and administratively induced but that of the Niger Delta is a three-pronged affair where natural population increase and migration combined with administrative functions to account for the sporadic and at times explosive growth of the towns and cities. The megacity problem is really an issue in Rivers State because apart from Port Harcourt the State Capital other urban centres are several distance apart in terms of importance, size and status. Urbanization is taking root in the region because many settlements have outgrown their sizes over the years. In the region, it is not only State and Local Government Headquarters that are

assuming city status over time but others that have major oil facilities located in their domains.

Over time, the built-up areas have increased many folds obviously with rapid growth in the rate of urbanization. The increase in the built-up areas has been achieved at the expense of arable cultivation, secondary forests, high forests, rubber plantations, and mangrove swamps. In other words, mangrove swamps have been drained, and rubber, oil palm and raffia plantations, forests and secondary forests cleared to make way for buildings and other man-made structures. Although arable cultivation lost out to built-up areas in many areas, it made up for the loss by taking over land from high forests, mangrove swamps, fresh water swamps and marshlands, secondary forests and palm bush. Another subtle evidence of land degradation in the Niger Delta is the increased in the extent of the land use category tagged beach, mudflat and river bed sand. This is evidence of a high rate of sedimentation in this wet environment arising probably from increased erosion of the land and river banks.

Urbanization in the region has only resulted in poor environmental quality, emergence of slums and makeshift structures cum astronomical rise in crime, social vices and insecurity. In many instances, urbanization were not accompanied by increase in social infrastructures and services including electricity, piped-water, good road network, schools, hospital and housing. Overcrowding, congestion, pressure and overused of amenities and services are typical situation of urban centres in the Niger Delta. In most cases, the rapid urbanization processes have increased levels of air, water and land pollutions in the communities. This is not without it's attendant problems on the people. Communities have been displaced and resettled at one time or the other, means of livelihoods are destroyed, serious health challenges are cropping up, there is food production decline, reduction in household income and poverty.

Most of interior rural communities in the region especially in the riverine communities are hardly under the direct effect of urbanization but are indirectly impacted especially by the dynamics of in-migration and out-migration of people in search of greener pastures. Most predictably, wetlands located in urban areas of the region tend to have the most impacts of urbanization in form of high-level pollution and waste accumulation, population explosion and its attendant problems, infrastructural decay, depletion of wetland resources / biodiversity reduction, deforestation, water stress, sand-filling/land reclamation, increasing poverty, criminality and other social vices inimical to sustainable community development. The challenges

posed by urban wetlands to Wetland conservation and sustainable livelihoods initiatives outweigh those anticipated from the rural wetlands. However, wetland conservation education and livelihoods diversification programmes will be easily understood in urban centers due to literacy/awareness level of the people, but will be easily implemented in terms of resource-inputs in rural communities due to low urbanization interference here.

Urbanization and SLBP

- + Urbanization has resulted in increased built-up areas usually at the expense of community mangroves, plantation and forest, in these wise SLBP must ensure that areas earmarked for conservation are adequately secured from community owners to avoid been built-up.
- + Site selection for biodiversity and livelihoods systems implementation for SLBP will be more appropriate in rural communities as against urban towns and communities with high tendencies of becoming built-up areas.
- + High rural-urban migration which is also a characteristics of urbanization could mean increasing decrease in population of Youths in remote communities who are willing to be involved in wetland based livelihoods which are traditionally laborious and subsistent.
- + SLBP project design and implementation that encourages participation with strong community awareness creation and mobilizations component will help in striking a balance.

2.4 Sanitation Issues

Improper management of generated wastes of all classes is increasingly becoming an environmental and health problems in the Niger Delta region. Before now, the trend has been more of municipal and industrial wastes generated in urban cities and domestic (biodegradable) wastes dominant in rural areas. But the gap between this trend is becoming slimmer and slimmer every day. In the rural communities, the volume of recalcitrant materials is in the increase and these end up in the water bodies causing more harm than good.

While there are few waste collectors in some urban cities (though inadequate and inefficient), there is none in the rural communities. Even in the urban cities only few of the generated wastes are collected and disposed on safe sites, the rest, including toxic and hazardous materials are indiscriminately dumped in the open and unprotected sites, in public drainage systems, streams and creeks. Only a few is incinerated openly.

According to NDDC NDRMP, the inadequate provision of proper sanitation facilities reportedly accounts for 7% of all deaths and diseases worldwide, with children and women being more at risk. This situation is not different in the communities of Niger Delta region. This is because of dearth of facilities and capacity for waste management as well as rapid population growth with the attendant accelerated pace of urbanization. The region is faced with ample waste management related problems. The truth remains that this problems are magnified in the urban cities compared to the rural communities.

The people and the environment suffer most from this poor sanitary condition in the region. The situation is neither helped by ignorance of the people especially those in the rural communities on simple things they could do on their own to improve the sanitary and hygienic conditions of their communities. Along this direction, strategic awareness creation, environmental education and capacity building programmes should be designed and implemented for the people in the communities. A step can be taken further to providing resource centers and creating sustainable institutions from among the people to drive the process.

Sanitation Challenge and SLBP

- ✚ Niger Delta wetland is a different terrain for the construction of toilet systems- flush, V.I.P (ventilated improved pit latrine) and pit toilets due to the high water table which makes the construction of septic tanks difficult. This has resulted in high incidence of open defecation by rural people in water ways, rivers, streams and creeks.

The Implications for SLBP are:

- ✚ High budgetary provision for the construction of adequate sanitary facilities in project sites.
- ✚ Sustained campaign on Environmental Education, WASH (Water and Sanitation and Hygiene and Civic Responsibility)
- ✚ Encourage PPP (Public-Private partnership) in the design and construction of sewage dispose system to mitigate sanitation needs of adjoining communities.
- ✚ Promote simple hygiene such as hand washing, placement of litter bins, Environmental/sanitation days through club activities in schools and among youths.

2.5 Land Uses and Agricultural Practices

The nature of land distribution in the area is significant along the divide between the two extremes of major livelihood occupations of the people. Most people dwelling in the upland area are dominantly into land farming because of availability of arable land for this, while most communities in the riverine area are noted for fishing. This is not to say that there are no minor livelihood



activities and even occupation overlaps in between farming and fishing in both areas.

The major occupations practiced in the Niger Delta region are fishing, farming, gathering, trading, local crafts, logging and hunting. Depending on the ecological zone, the intensity of these activities varies.

Activities like fishing and gathering (of periwinkles, oysters, etc) are done extensively in the riverine and coastal communities although seriously impacted by oil pollution and population explosion in the last two decades. Cases of low catches and poor crop yields are widespread. Land is being stretched beyond its limit for food production due to population pressure and massive land acquisition for industrial uses including oil exploration and production. The rural economy is generally in a poor state, as output in fishing and farming is on a continuous decline

The farming system in the region is largely subsistence crop farming characterized by small-sized farm holdings of less than one hectare per household. Cassava and yam are the common crops in the region.

The common farming methods are slash and burn, shifting cultivation, land rotation and animal husbandry. The common farm implements are diggers, hoes, machetes, baskets and axes. In the high forest zone, axes and machetes are used for bush clearing. Bush burning has many advantages such as the control of pests and crop diseases, among others. Commercial farming is not common because of heavy capital outlay required to set up commercial farms. Effective agricultural practices (farming and fishing) in the region are hampered by factors ranging from poor access to credit, fertilizers, agro-chemicals and improved seeds. Manual and time-consuming harvesting methods are still being used as a result of gross inadequacy of processing/storage facilities leading to significant losses from post harvest spoilage.

The number of families in the region involved in livestock farming especially in commercial scale at the present is very minimal. The fishery sector in the Niger Delta region is very active. According to NDDC NDRMP, the region offers the largest shrimp grounds in West Africa. Though inshore demersal fish remains an important resource, there has been a progressive decline in in-shore industrial trawls. Coastal fishermen also explore pelagic fishes in the region in addition to demersal resources. Using canoes and a variety of passive gear, coastal artisanal fishes generate a substantial supply of fish on account of the sheer numbers of fishermen involved and man hours invested.

Fishing elsewhere is traditionally divided between riverine and floodplain fisheries. Floodplain ponds are owned by individuals, families or communities. Fishing rights are in some cases sold for seasons or years, sometimes to other ethnic groups practiced in special techniques. Riverine fishing is more open but often subjected to communal regulations on a seasonal basis. In recent years,

illegal fishing practices, using explosives (in creeks or rivers) have become common in some areas and this thrive in the face of weakened local regulatory institutions in the area.

Characteristically in the riverine/coastal communities of the Niger Delta region, the men and women and even the children are engaged in fishing. However, deep sea fishing is almost exclusive for the men while the women and children do the shore fishing a lot. In upland communities where land farming is done, the women and children play more roles than the men irrespective of the fact that the men own the land in most cases.

Critical factors affecting fish production in the region include water pollution that is inimical to the survival and abundance of the aquatic products, inadequate fishing gear and other equipment, dearth of external support (like extension services), little or no technology, unexplored markets for products and transport challenges among others.

At the present, there is a wide gap between the demand for fish and its local supply regardless of the fact that the region has an area of about 75,000 hectares patently suitable for fish farming

Due to poor access to modern farm inputs and ignorance of modern farming practices, rural farmers depended on natural regeneration of their soil. More people means more demand for cultivable lands, hence in the last three decades, fallow period has reduced drastically through the Niger Delta region. Fallowing period ranges from 3 to 5 years. In many communities, the length is determined by the community and the level of sophistication of indigenous farming technology. Various methods are adapted to control pests and diseases, and storage practices in farms including fencing and trapping, mimicry or scarce crowing, application of animal dung, use of oil skin and palm nut fibers, and use of plant extracts and plantain leaves. Other methods include the use of pepper, for the control of pests and diseases, mostly in grains and cereals, ash for the preservation of tubers, and the use of mud to prevent tubers from rotting as well as smoke and heat for preservation of grains.

The traditional-use conservation areas in the Niger Delta include numerous areas of lands used traditionally for hunting or gathering for pastoralism and agropastoralism, or for religious, sacred or cultural purposes. In the NDR, such areas are usually in the form of sacred groves which represent a significant incentive for community participation in biodiversity conservation and a link with local heritage. Sacred groves are small clumps of forests (typically less than 2ha) standing as relics of former pristine situations often as isolated cases of vegetation surrounded by urbanization and other land use forms.

In summary, the major problems associated with agriculture in the region include shortage of qualified manpower in key areas, use of crude implements and inputs, inadequate extension services, poor transport system and feeder roads, poor access to credit facilities and poor land tenure systems. Others are prevalence of pests and diseases, shortage of farm labour, poor storage and processing facilities and rejection of agriculture by youth as a means of livelihood.

Land use and Agricultural Practices and SLBP

Land use and agricultural practices are central issues for the proposed SLBP in Niger Delta. The implication of the above analysis is that:

- ✚ SLBP implementation team take into cognizance understand the variety land use and Land ownership pattern of project communities.
- ✚ Efforts should be made to revive and strengthen agricultural extension services among participating communities to ensure access to credit, improve seed, improve technology etc.
- ✚ A combination of poor transportation, lack of feeder roads and absence of market account primarily for subsistence level of production within the region. An SLBP initiatives that produce PPP in proffering solution to these problems would help in putting agricultural production in the region in a higher pedestal.
- ✚ Ensuring sustainable use available resources remains a major deliverable of SLBP. Thus should revive, promote and strengthen activities of regulatory agencies and MDA's in natural resources use especially in the areas of fisheries and aqua culture.
- ✚ Land use and agricultural practices have gender dimensions in Niger Delta. This must be recognized and incorporated in the designs of livelihoods activities and options. Disaggregated livelihoods activities which promote women, youths and



Disadvantaged groups participation should be strongly encouraged and promoted.

- + SLBP should facilitate the integration of post harvested technology which add value to the production chain and so increase overall income with a resultant improved living standard especially in situations where markets and market access have been created.
- + Finally, SLBP design and implementation should be such that recognise farming and fishing as the main livelihood sources for wetland based systems and economy while biodiversity intervention should be within the framework of promoting restoration and sustainable use of natural resources.

2.6 Fishery issues

In the Niger Delta, fishing is the second major occupation of the people after farming. Fishing is mostly done in the open sea, rivers, creeks, streams and lakes and few individual ponds. Apart from this, fishing is still a seasonal artisanal occupation in the Niger Delta where both men, women and children are involved. Indigenous fishing gear still consists of simple technologies usually prepared from natural fibres obtained from abundantly available plant and animal resources. The range of indigenous fishing gear and methods in the Niger Delta include bagnet, basket trap, leaf trap, canoe screen, fish screen, siene net and wounding gear. Others are cast nets, fences, barriers, artificial fish shelters, indigenous fish nets, fishing stakes, fish poisons, and deoxygenation fishing technique. The common fishing problems are dwindling low catches due to over population and used of crude implements, high cost of fishing inputs and widespread water pollution caused by frequent oil spills and discharge of untreated industrial effluents into water bodies.

There is no gainsaying that fishing activities has been seriously impacted by oil pollution throughout the Niger Delta region. Cases of over-fishing occasioned by fish trawlers have also had negative impact on local fishing activity. The greatest threat to local fishing industry is poor storage and preservation facilities and invasion of the coastlines and shorelines of the region by alien species (water weeds) notably *Nypa Frutican* and Water Hyacinth. The two water plants has become fishermen nightmares because do not only drive away fish but make fishing difficult and hazardous. Many marine accidents involving fishing parties have been attributed to the clogging boat propellers and blocking of waterways by water weeds. Also the disappearance of mangrove vegetation and her rich resources in many localities have been traced to the door step of the invasive plants.

It has become crystal clear that creek and swamp fishing alone will not meet the protein demands of the region. Improved fishing inputs, storage and preservation facilities and development of modern aqua farms has become imperative in the region.

Fishery and SLBP challenge

✚ A major feature of climate change which is sea rise has affected traditionally fishing ports and ponds. This has reduced drastically the involvement of women folk in fishing activities as only the men venture into open sea to do this fishing.

Therefore, a fishery/ aquaculture which restores the involvement of women in traditional fishing activities again will be a livelihood development

✚ Over fishing occasioned by fish trawlers is having a great toll on fishing output. SLBP initiatives should promote regulatory activities to mitigate excessive fishing and use of chemicals and poisons.

✚ Evasive species are on the rise in the region. This includes NYPA frutican, water hyacinth etc. SLBP conservation initiatives should include efforts to mitigate against this challenge which has become a source of nightmare to fishermen and users of water ways.

✚ SLBP livelihood component should integrate good storage/ preservation facilities and small scale processing of harvested fishes.

2.7 The People Culture, Religion and Governance Issues

Historically, the NDR has a rich cultural heritage that has been influenced by early contacts with Christianity and early education. However, the longstanding cultural value system and traditional kingship is now being eroded by the corroding influence of oil, money, politics, youth militancy and widespread poverty. There are about 250 ethnic groups in the Niger Delta with diverse culture, language, religion and history. Most communities are the products of migration into the region at various times. The population of the ethnic groups varied and some cut across states of the region. Others are confined to one or few LGAs. The communities have rich history and culture which they are proud of. The history of most communities is still relayed by oral tradition.

Before oil became the issue in Nigeria and unwholesome politics influenced the true definition of the Niger Delta, it was less contiguous with the old Ahoada, Degema, Opobo, Ogoni, Brass, Western Ijaw and Warri Divisions. The agitation during and after the colonial era had always been for the creation of a district or political region in this area in order to allay the fears of ethnic domination by more populous ethnic groups.

Linguistically, ethnographically and culturally, the Niger Delta of the pre-crude oil and gas era comprised a bewildering mix of ethnic groups. Among these, the communities of the Ijaw (in Eastern, Western and Central Niger Delta), the Ogoni, Itsekiri, Urhobo, Isoko, Ikwerre and Delta Igbo hit more headlines than others did.

The Niger Delta region possesses a wide variety of places whose history, culture, landscape and ecology have the potential for generating a vibrant tourism industry. These places portend great potentials for sustainable tourism that could further drive the economy of the region. This is most pronounced in Cross River state.

Most communities in the Niger Delta region have organized and formidable governance system always headed by a paramount ruler known with different traditional titles in distinct communities. The paramount ruler assumes the topmost position in the hierarchy of leadership in the community. His activities in the day-to-day governance of the community are supported by a council of chiefs, family heads, elders, opinion leaders, the Community Development Committees (CDC), the youth, the women and in some cases, age grades. These governance entities play distinct roles harmonized into effective administration of the communities. However, in some communities within the region, the struggle for incentives from the oil and gas companies have weakened the traditional governance fabric who either pursue selfish interests rather than their collective destiny. Monetary inducements have factionalized these structures beclouding their sense of transparency, accountability and good representation of their people. Wetland initiative's success in these communities where such exists will depend on good community entry and identification of right leaders.

In most communities, the men, women and youths contribute in varying degrees to the overall system of administration. Many hitherto, sacrosanct traditional values and customs are being eroded as a result of the influence of education, oil operations and Christian religion. Respect for elders among youths has waned. The role and status of women are gradually being unfolded in many communities. Hierarchies and functions remain fairly intact but in some cases they have become less defined, as youths now constitute an increasingly influential social force. Material wealth has virtually moved to the fore as the major criterion for social ranking. But the sharp distinction of the social status in communities is their educational attainment.

Complementing the governance structures highlighted above in most communities in the Niger Delta region are organized social/economic groups as well as other community-based organizations that have been proven to be very effective in terms of community mobilization. Majority of these institutions that

play key roles in the administration of governance in the communities of the NDR are influential to reaching the people and in terms policy making and enforcement.

In most communities in the Niger Delta region, it is almost like a way of life that women are often excluded in critical processes of decision-making. It is very difficult to identify a Community Development Committee (CDC) that has a woman as a member. In some communities, women are barred from entering some places exclusively reserved for the men, and in most cases, the women speak through the men. However, due to critical roles the women have to play in community development issues, they are beginning to be incorporated into Project Management Committees (PMCs) in their various communities. This latest framework in development seeks to emphasize gender- inclusion which is key not only to attaining sustainable development but speedily in the region.

The cultural disposition of most communities in the Niger Delta especially during burial ceremonies, festivals and traditional marriages eat into household incomes, as much is often spent by the people at this time. Therefore design, planning and implementation of targeted livelihoods development projects of Wetlands International in communities of the Niger Delta region of Nigeria should follow a comprehensive seasonal calendar analysis as to know when such interventions would produce the best impacts.

NIGER DELTA CULTURE AND SLBP CULTURE

Communities in Niger Delta have different cultural inclinations a knowledge of which is helpful in project design and implementation. The challenge of people, culture, religion and governance to SLBP will imply that:

- ✚ Appropriate community entry strategies are used at project inception
- ✚ Project implementation are not carried out in community saved grouped for either livelihoods promotion or biodiversity restoration activities.
- ✚ A gendoized activities profile of men, women and youths are carried out to know the different roles allowed culturally for men, youths and especially women and to reflect these in the design of community projects.
- ✚ Project management committees (PMC) and project implementation committees should reflect existing community governance structure in setting it up and gender equality should be encourage in its composition.
- ✚ SLBP implementations timelines and work plan should reflect an understanding of the seasonal calendar.

2.8 Economy & Livelihood

The major human occupations in the Niger Delta may be considered under three main headings, namely primary, secondary and tertiary occupations. The major traditional primary occupation includes farming and fishing, while secondary occupations include industries like gin distillation, textile weaving, boat carving etc. Tertiary occupation includes trade and commerce, transportation etc. Even so, oil exploration by multinational companies has since become the major production activity in the region.

Table 7: Distribution of sampled rural men and women by income-generating activities in Ogoloma community in Rivers State

Type of activity	Men engaged (in %)	Women engaged (in %)
Livestock rearing	26.7	12.9
Trading	33.3	64.5
Civil servants/Teachers	26.7	9.7
Fishing/Hunting	93.3	16.1
Gathering/selling NTFPs*	20.0	22.6
Processing of farm and other related products	13.3	16.1
Work as hired labourer	20.0	3.2
Carpenter/Bricklayer	20.0	-
Selling food/snacks	20.0	22.6
Tailor	26.7	22.6
Others	20.0	22.6
Mean of income-generating activities	3.2	2.1

NTFP stands for non-timber forest products such as snails, fruits, nuts, fuel etc
Source: Olawoye 2002

In rural communities especially the riverine/coastal areas, the livelihood system of the people is centred on wetland resources. They depend largely on available wetlands for their fishing activities and harvest of numerous aquatic food. Also, the wetlands in these communities are used as sinks for different kinds of wastes (biodegradables and non-biodegradables) generated by the people. Therefore, these intense anthropogenic activities linked to traditional

occupations of the local people burdens the wetlands and depletes its biodiversity.

In urban wetlands, even though the people engage in fishing for livelihood support, many find options in other livelihood sources available including trading, welding, tailoring, furniture making and plumbing among others. Therefore, environmental burdens experienced in the wetlands often comes from wanton disposal of wastes.

Gender, Economic Activity and Equality

In every society, there are socially assigned tasks, obligations, privileges and benefits that are reserved either for males or females or for both. Gender relationships are important determiners of the activities that could or would be engaged in by men or women. Gender goes beyond 'women's studies' because it is impossible to fully understand the roles and level of involvement of women in different activities without considering them in relation to those of men. Russo et. al. (1989), stated that gender is a socio-economic variable analyzing roles, responsibilities, constraints and opportunities of the people, both man and women. Because these gender relationships are socially determined, there is great diversity from one place to another.

Despite these differences, one characteristic is quite common. Nearly all women, as well as men, engage in more than one livelihood activity. Fishing, crop farming, livestock rearing, petty trading, crafts, processing and selling of snacks or cooked food are common livelihood activities of women. Numerous research findings have found that the average woman particularly from the rural areas, regardless of which part of the country they originate or reside or whether in seclusion or not, engages in 3, 4 or 5 activities that are for the most part small-scale with little capital investment.

The burden of meeting the household livelihood needs is increasing with the current economic and social changes. Much of this burden is falling on women. Meagher (1999), however, found that with more economic pressure upon the men, *"there has been a tendency for man to transfer a growing share of the burden of household needs onto their wives"*.

Women are taking on more and more of the responsibilities including the purchase of food ingredients, children's needs and so on.

Gender equality is a multi-faceted concept which implies equality of opportunities in the legal, political, social and economic dimensions as well as equality in personal relationships between men and women. Men and women can only have equal chances for achieving the same standard of living if they have the same distribution of opportunity and outcomes throughout their life (Folbre, 1985). More precisely, economic equality will exist only when employment opportunities and outcomes, earnings and returns to labour are equal by gender, whether in formal or informal sector and all across types of

economic activity. Gender equality in an economic sense requires equal access to resources (credit, market opportunities, education etc). and equal engagement in all aspects of the economic activity. It is only when the conditions and terms of the economic activity are the same for both men and women that the returns generated are equal. Moreover, whatever exist in market and transaction costs as between the gender must not bias net returns. The economic dimension is central to achieving gender equality overall. Without economic equality women will always have an incentive to buy into the 'patriarchal bargain'. (Masika & Joeke, 1996).

A number of studies are pointing to increasing poverty levels in many parts of the developing world (Baden with Milward, 1995). The incidence, severity and distribution of poverty has not been uniform over time and space, but it is becoming increasingly clear that the vulnerability (to shocks) of the poor is increasing in many parts of the developing world especially in countries that are marginalized in the world economic system or affected by conflict and civil disorder. A number of studies have illustrated the increasing reliance of the poor on diverse forms of coping and survival strategies (Moser, 1996; Davies, 1996b).

In the context of increasing poverty in many developing countries, the emerging trend is that women's capabilities are being eroded much more quickly than men's. Gender inequality in terms of access to resources seems to be increasing and more and more people are having to resort to unsustainable forms of livelihoods. The increase volume of world trade has been criticized by many environmentalists as accelerating environmental degradation in some regions. These environmental consequences have had particular implications for women, affecting women in their capabilities as hewers of wood and drawers of waters (Joeke and Weston, 1994).

In times of environmental stress, women's lesser ability than men to migrate is particularly constraining. This study notes that more men (especially the youths) are migrating from the area to areas of higher potential in terms of labour and agricultural productivity.

The realities of women's lives, their history, experience and the challenges posed to them in living in the Nigerian socio-cultural and political environment only became the object of investigation, research and general intellectual discourse in the 1980s, (Awe, 1996). Thus, it would seem that economic adjustment policy design in Nigeria was 'gender blind' in the sense that the knowledge of how women's lives and men's lives are structured by the socio-economic and political conditions in which they live was still rather scanty. Thus, there is little evidence that government structures for women had become effective vehicles for the articulation and defence of women's collective concerns and interests by the economic adjustment policies were designed and implemented in Nigeria.

However, economic reforms have drastically changed the lives of women and men in Nigeria. For, reform policies and programs designed and implemented by the World Bank, International Monetary Fund and national governments have tended to ignore the differential impacts on women. This is because significant gender imbalances in access to economic decision-making persist. According to Afonja (1988), “the structures, processes and actors which precipitate and reinforce the operation of gender stratification in Nigeria exist at the macro and the micro levels, each with a feedback on the other”. Thus, there is doubt that gender divisions within society have significant economic repercussions, not only for women themselves, but for their families, communities, and, ultimately for the economy as a whole.

WOMEN LIVELIHOOD IN NIGER DELTA

Women play critical roles in the region’s economy in rural communities where they are producers of food. They have the responsibility not only for food production but also for processing, fuel, water, health, childcare, sanitation and the entire range of survival needs of the country. Women also participate in the commercial sectors, and local enterprise to generate income to meet the needs of their families. They are strong, resourceful, but lacking in the opportunity to take full share in society and in development. In the context of Niger Delta, women constitute majority of the poor, the uneducated, the marginalized, ignorant, and diseased. They are the most affected by the pollution of communal ponds and rivers that supply drinking water. The health hazards from toxic waste and the pollution of drinking water are borne more by women and their children, while young girls have been lured and deceived to respond to the lust of thousands of oil workers. The result includes rising incidence of female prostitution, teenage pregnancies and mothers, and broken homes.

Women have also been victims of state security force harassment and repression. They have played active roles in the conflict between the oil producing communities and the state and oil companies and also intervened to mediate the conflict. (Sofiri, Joab-Peterside 2009).

The result of a recent study by Sofiri, Peterside (2009), shows that although there is high percentage of educational attainment of the women in the region not understanding economic realities of the study area and families require young girls to drop out of school early in order to help their mother while some were forced to leave when they are pregnant.

TABLE 8: RESPONDANTS LIVELIHOOD DISTRIBUTION IS AS FOLLOWS;

PETTY TRADING	35.4%
UNEMPLOYED	17%
FISHING	13.4%
FARMING	13.4%
STUDENT	3.7%
SKILLED WORKERS	8.5%

The finding revealed lack of employment opportunities for women. Participants in the Focus Group Discussion(FGDS) argued that lack of employment opportunities and low wages offered in the formal sector, forced them to resort to the informal sector for employment. In the informal sector, these women apart from fishing and farming engage in hawking, vendoring, sewing and cooking (Mama-put or small restaurants).

Although as high as 35% of the respondents started that their predominant economic activity was petty trading, they ranked fishing highest(79) as their main economic activity followed by farming which was ranked 52, trading and white collar job were ranked 47 and 6,while work in the oil industry was ranked 6.

Both males and females take part in fishing but women folk dominate swamp and creek fisheries. Operating singly in paddle-propelled canoes, women harvest shrimps using woven traps and basket .In Akakumama community in Bayelsa State, shrimping in the creek waters is essentially a preserve of women.

TABLE 9: RANKING ODER OF MAJOR NEGATIVE IMPACTS OF OIL AND GAS ACTIVITIES.

NEGATIVE IMPACT	RESPONSES
Destruction of farming and fishing implements.	72
Low productivity	69
Degradation of fishing and farming	66
Abandonment of farming and fishing for other activities	27
Destruction of house and properties	2

TABLE 10: RANK ORDERING OF RECOMMENDED INCOME REGENERATION ACTIVITIES FOR WOMEN.

Conséquences	Réponses
Micro-credit for development of alternative livelihood	65
Employment in oil companies and public	12
Peaceful environment for promotion of petty business	16
Stop of environmental degradation activities by oil companies	11
Withdrawal of government security forces	10
Withdrawal of government security forces	10
Cessation of militant activities	9

1. Women, more than men are responsible for food crops, which are affected negatively by agricultural imports from countries of the North. Women are more likely to be engaged in small-scale farming, which are more at risk from agricultural imports. Further, where environment or land is severely degraded in the course of the activities of the MNCs, as is the case in the Niger Delta of Nigeria, women are usually the primary victims because of their dependence on land.

2. Discrimination regarding land ownership and control and inheritance laws often exposes women to forced removals from land and the right to farm.

3. Women are also subject to other systemic forms of discrimination. A programme, for instance to enhance agricultural productivity through the introduction of new technology may be open to “all rural farmers”, but women are often not considered farmers. Furthermore, agricultural extension workers are mostly men and do not usually address women, while new technology is often capital intensive and displaces labour-intensive activities which are normally carried out by women (Lim, 1996).

4. Women are often less organised than men. This decreases their ability to participate in the negotiation process for projects or benefits coming into their locality or to fight for better working conditions (Nyman, 2001).

SPDC SOCIAL INVESTMENT IN THE NIGER DELTA

PREMISE

The Shell Petroleum Development Company of Nigeria Limited (SPDC) is the pioneer and largest oil and gas exploration and production company in Nigeria.

Its operation cover 30,000 square kilometers of the Niger Delta. Its infrastructures includes

over 6,000 kilometers of flow lines and pipelines, 90 oil fields, 73 flow stations and 2 major oil export terminals at Forcators and Bonny (SPDC 2008)



SPDC has several hundred community neighbours spread across seven States of the Niger Delta.

SPDC SOCIAL INVESTMENT HISTORY

- Started Social Investment Programmes in 1960 with the launch of an agricultural initiative in Ogoni Land.
- The Initiative which later was replicated throughout the Niger Delta was aimed at improving farming techniques as well as crop yield and varieties.
- In the 1980s, the Community Assistance (CA) Programme was introduced through which basic infrastructure such as roads, jetties, water and electricity were provided to Communities
- In the 1990s, assistance in healthcare was added to the Community Assistance package
- The characteristic short-term benefits which the CA offered rather than long-term community needs necessitated a change from Community Assistance to the Community Development (CD) concept.
- The CD approach is hinged on two pillars. One is the use of participatory approaches and the other is a focus on building community capacity to manage their own development.

- In 2003, there was yet another policy shift in its Social Investment Approach. This resulted from the realization that issue of project ownership and sustainability were not sufficiently addressed in the CD approach- This gave birth to the Sustainable Community Development (SCD) approach
- As part of effort to increase social investment resources in the region, SPDC is developing partnership with other development partners, NGOs, CBOs, UNDP, USAID, Africare, and private sector companies like Globacom
- In 2006, SPDC started establishing the Global memorandum of Understanding (GMOU) mechanism. The aim is to give more control to communities to determine how to bring about their own development. Communities in Rivers, Bayelsa and Delta are encouraged to form Cluster to manage the development funds available for each cluster
- Outside of the direct benefit enjoyed by GMOU Cluster communities, the GMOU also provide a platform for communities to attract more funds for the development of their communities.
- Other Social Investment of SPDC apart from GMOU include regional Social Investment Programmes in the areas of economic empowerment, human capital development and provision of healthcare and infrastructure (SPDC 2008)

(A) HUMAN CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT

There is a dearth of local skilled manpower required for participation in the technology-driven oil and gas industry. To address this need SPDC has established a human capital development programme on which more than 2.4 billion (\$18 million) as at 2008.

The programme promotes knowledge acquisition, and the development of skills and problem-solving abilities to enable individuals to function in a rapidly changing economy

Examples of these Human Capital Development Initiatives include:

- i) Annual Awards of Scholarship for Secondary and University Education, Beneficiaries include physically challenged persons
- ii) Periodic Capacity Building activities for teachers in subjects like English Language, Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, Biology and Agricultural Science.
- iii) Construction and donation of Classroom blocks to Communities

- iv) Youth Training and Enterprise Program (YTEP). This covers skill areas like Computer Maintenance, Carpentry, Welding and Fabrication, Enterprise Management, Plumbing and Pipe-Fitting, Pipe and Structural Welding, fashion Designing and Hair Dressing. Youth who receive training under this programme are assisted to set up their own businesses.
- v) Workforce Training Programme. This is to help address the shortage of local manpower for the oil and gas industry

(B) COMMUNITY HEALTH CARE

Many of the Niger Delta Communities, lack basic modern medical care, including first aid facilities. Available statistics shows there is one facility for every 9,805 people, with one facility serving 43 settlements over an estimated area of 44 square kilometers (SPDC 2008). Consequently, many people in these Communities still rely on traditional remedies for their healthcare needs.

Lack of access to proper healthcare services in Communities, reduces the quality of people's lives and exacerbates their level of poverty.

In line with this reality, SPDC healthcare delivery services includes:

- i) Construction and Donation of Healthcare Centres. All the health centers are equipped with modern facilities as well as adequate medical supplies and well-trained staff to meet the primary healthcare needs of the communities.
- ii) Provision of Drug Revolving Funds Schemes: This ensures availability of drugs in health centers as well as promote accountability.
- iii) Technical Skills and Knowledge Transfer: This support healthcare workers to update their knowledge and skills in areas such as Malaria Control, Health Management Information System, Vaccine Cold chain System management, Basic Life Support, Defensive Driving, Use and Management of CD-4 Machine, and Kangaroo Mother Neo-Natal Care.
- iv) HIV-AIDS PROGRAMME: this includes Voluntary training, support to State Government efforts to combat the disease, sponsorship of

secondary schools' debate on HIV/AIDS and the setting up of facility based comprehensive HIV-AIDS community service.

- v) Training and Capacity Building Programs: This is done regularly for Traditional Birth Attendants (TBAs) and Voluntary Village Health Workers (VVHWs).
- vi) Procurement and distribution of Insecticide-Treated Nets (ITNs) and WHO- approved anti-malarias.
- vii) Provision of logistical and technical supports to government agencies and communities during periodic immunization exercises against communicable diseases.

(C) ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

It is estimated that about 70% of the population in the Niger Delta live at Subsistence level, with some 66% earning less than N9,750 (\$ 75) per month.

The poverty level is accentuated by the lack of access to basic infrastructure and services, which in turn, significantly impact the ability of most communities in the Niger Delta to produce and market goods and services of value

Against the background, SPDC has structured its economic development programme to enable communities and individual increase their income and improve their standard of living.

A list of specific economic empowerment projects includes:

- i) Land and Marine Transport Support Scheme.
- ii) Agricultural Support Programme: This has helped farmers and farmers group to set up more than 50 viable agricultural enterprises. These include Fish, Poultry farms as well as Oil Palm nurseries and plantations.

The Agricultural Support programme also includes the distribution of improved agricultural inputs (seedlings, pesticides, etc) and support for the establishment of farming cooperatives, through the four Agricultural Resources and Training Centers (ARTC) established across the Niger Delta.

- iii) Entrepreneurship Support Programme: The SPDC Economic Empowerment has also facilitated the growth of entrepreneurship by helping indigenes of the Niger Delta to establish multi-business complexes, business support centers/ cyber cafes, pottery and ceramics cottage industries as well as hair dressing saloons etc.
- iv) LIVE WIRE Nigerian Youth Business Development Programme: The programme provide business training and start-off capital to youths across the Niger Delta. This has enable youths to establish or expand their small and medium size businesses. This promote self employment and job creation.
- v) Micro-Credit Scheme: Under this scheme funds and access to credit are provided to entrepreneurial groups (Predominantly Women) to operate revolving Loan Schemes, which would enable beneficiaries to either start up new businesses or expand existing ones.

SPDC GMoU Programmes

Before the introduction of GMoU development model by SPDC in her CSR, the company was implementing series of direct and indirect livelihoods support projects (under project-specific MoUs). Some of these include;

- Micro-credit/Business development schemes
- Agro-based demonstration farms and extension services
- Skills Acquisition programmes (master-trainee model in some and vocational school type in others)
- Scholarship schemes
- Agro-business exchange visits for rural farmers to Songhai centre Porto Novo.
- Live wire projects (functional skills development for youths)
- Land transport schemes (community owned buses managed by a committee)
- Marine transport schemes (community owned boats managed by a committee)
- Support of group-managed fish farms
- Training of economic groups (co-operative societies) in communities
- Provision of cold room facilities for fish storage

- Providing cash incentives to outstanding rural farmers during ‘farmers day’ designed by the company. This is to encourage other farmers in their efforts.
- Establishment and support of Viewing centres managed by community youths.
- Building of ICT centres in communities owned and managed by the community people.
- Building and equipping of oil-palm processing mill in communities
- Building and equipping cassava processing mills for local farmers in host communities
- Supply of improved agricultural seedlings to local farmers
- Opening of feeder roads for linking farm products to markets.
- Provision of water bore-hole facilities in communities
- Building of new markets and rehabilitation of old ones
- Defensive Driving trainings (DDT) for local vehicle and boat drivers.
- Construction of jetties
- Sand filling/land reclamation
- Provision of power generating sets for rural communities

The SPDC GMoU programme frame work was initiated by the organization to address lapses identified in its former project-MoU frameworks with its host communities. In other words, the GMoU is an improved version of community development and relations framework used by SPDC presently in the Niger Delta region.

Some of the livelihoods projects run under the SPDC GMoU framework in the Niger Delta include;

- Micro-credit/enterprise development schemes
- Transport scheme (community managed but individual beneficiaries)
- Scholarship schemes (for human capital development)
- Solar water bore-hole facilities
- And most of the project types done under project-specific MoUs

The GMoU is a comprehensive agreement between SPDC and any group of communities (cluster) within a geographical area. It specifies SPDC’s activities,

benefits to the communities in terms of development and other basis for relationship between the two parties over a 5-year period (SPDC GMoU fact sheet).

A cluster in this context is a group of communities that are united either on historical (clan) or Local Government basis as approved by the relevant state government. The framework is part of the organization's Sustainable Community Development (SCD) with a vision of a safe, healthy and self-reliant Niger Delta.

The Model has the following advantages in its operations;

- It provides funding for community development on annual basis for 5-years
- It improves community ownership of projects (since the community people are directly involved in identification, planning and implementation of projects under this model).
- It adopts a Bottom-Top approach.
- It offers an opportunity for completion of outstanding or stalled projects in the communities
- It provides business opportunities for communities in terms of employment, contracts, sub-contracts in SPDC activities within the area
- Works with local institutions (CBOs & CTs(Community Trusts)) who relate with SPDC on issues of oil spills and surveillance
- Adopts a multi-stakeholder participation (community (interest groups, CBOs & leaders), SPDC, other industry players, donor agencies, Government (FG,SG & LG), NDDC, CSOs (NGOs) etc). Therefore, a good measure of transparency is ensured in the process.
- A detailed and participatory process (including sensitization & awareness creation, negotiation, signing of GMoU, funding, setting up of governance structures, capacity and peace building programmes and activities, project implementation and audit review).
- Participatory Monitoring and Evaluation (PME) framework by the stakeholders.
- A whole community concept (a deviant from concentrating only on the communities hosting the organization's assets & facilities).

However, in the midst of achievements of the model so far (increased community ownership of projects, employment & local skill building, reduction

in face-offs between the company and communities etc), there are some gaps identified. Some of these include;

- Limited openness and transparency in the process (There is still possible hijack of the process at the community level by influential persons in the community)
- Cluster politics and conflicts of interests
- Most times, delays in negotiation stage of the process
- Sometimes, delay in project delivery
- Elements of favoritism by some community leaders to their relatives in some social projects like scholarship schemes and micro-credits. Most times, the actual targeted beneficiaries are not reached and the cycle of poverty continues.
- The process is generally slow and elitist in nature.

NDDC Livelihood programmes

The Niger Delta Development Commission has been implementing some livelihoods projects in the Niger Delta. Some of these projects among others include;

- Commercial transport scheme
- Building of feeder roads
- Skills Acquisition schemes (mostly master-trainee model)-*Boat building, welding, plumbing, furniture and wood works, automobile works, bakery, confectionery making etc.*
- Provision of Agric loan
- Provision of water bore-hole facilities
- Support of fish farms
- Shore protection (to prevent coastal erosion & loss of agricultural lands) (indirect)
- Provision of tractors and other modern agricultural equipments to local farming groups.
- Capacity building for local farmers and co-operative groups
- Provision of storage facilities like cold rooms
- Rural electrification (indirect)
- Building of market facilities
- Construction of jetties
- Land reclamation

The Niger Delta Development Commission works with a developed Regional Master Plan (NDRMP) facilitated by a German-owned GTZ with assistance from some local consultants. The master plan is a long-term one covering a period of 15 years. However, there are provisions for Quick Impact Projects (QIPs) supposedly included to address the immediate needs of the communities in this region.

The master plan which is very broad, covers all communities in the 9 Niger Delta states of the country (Abia, Cross River, Imo, Rivers, Akwa-Ibom, Delta, Bayelsa, Edo and Ondo). Though the process that generated this document is acclaimed to be participatory with satisfactory grass roots consultations, it does not appear to have these characteristics. This is because the level of consultation is elitist in nature and the PRA/PLA sessions were segmented to include the following;

- PRAs at community level (not thorough – feelers from the communities in the Niger Delta region)
- Local Government level workshops
- Senatorial District Workshops
- Executive Briefing session and
- Public presentation.

According to NDDC report (2006), the model of the commission in carrying out its community development interventions is anchored on;

- Economic vitality
- Ecologic integrity and
- Social equity

Despite the contents of this beautiful master plan and its acclaimed model of implementation, the commission's achievements have been widely criticized by the people because of the following identified weaknesses;

- Half-participatory process used in evolving the needs of the communities (Projects implementation have some elements of Top-Down approach in practice)
- Corruption in the system/lack of transparency
- Poor Monitoring and Evaluation plan and institutions
- Bureaucratic bottlenecks

- Haphazard and unprofessional implementation of community development projects

NLNG VSL approach of implementing livelihood programme in the Niger Delta (A case study of Rivers state (implemented by local NGOs)

Some livelihoods projects implemented by NLNG in the Niger Delta include;

- Micro-credit/enterprise development scheme (VSL & Co-operative lending models)
- N-Agenda (Rural agribusiness supports) – Extension services, provision of improved seedlings, micro-loans, exchange visits, capacity building trainings etc.
- Rural ICT projects
- Rural electrification etc.

The Nigerian Liquefied Natural Gas (NLNG) Limited implemented a micro-credit and enterprise development scheme for its host communities in Rivers state of the Niger Delta region. The project was implemented for more than 300 Accumulated Savings and Credit Associations (ASCAs) spread across more than 67 communities in the state. The model of implementation adopted by the organization in this livelihood intervention project is known as the VSL (Village Savings and Credit). The organization piloted this model in Nigeria as a replication of its success in Tanzania (Implementation reports from Development Initiatives (DEVIN) and Growing Businesses Foundation (GBF) – partnering NGOs in the project).

The model is an improvement on what used to obtain in the Niger Delta with many oil and gas companies as it relates to Micro-credit and Enterprise Development schemes implementation, in which most community beneficiaries had misused and refused to pay back loans collected under this scheme. They perceive these seed money as compensations to them from the oil firms, and unfortunately, this mentality is extended to programmes of other development agencies who are not oil and gas-based along this line. High loan-repayment defaults characterized this previous model which is still being used by some oil companies and government agencies.

The VSL model was a success to a level of implementation because of the following;

- Established a sort of ‘village micro-banks’ from mobilized savings from the group members
- Taught the poor that they can save even in their conditions
- Provided group members ready access to small loans from their groups without undergoing rigorous processes involved in borrowing from other lending institutions.
- Encouraged investment savings
- Built group liability and social collateral for accessing loans from other institutions.
- Encouraged group meetings that offered platforms for idea/experience sharing amongst local entrepreneurs regarding business development.
- It is not costly to run
- Accommodates the literate and illiterate in the community
- Identified active entrepreneurial poor in the community, and so actual targets to support loans.
- Series of enterprise development capacity building programmes by mentoring NGOs.

But the model’s limitation is hinged on the fact that the company replicated it exactly as it were in Tanzania without factoring in the livelihood challenges peculiar to rural entrepreneurs in the Niger Delta region of Nigeria, especially those dwelling in the riverine and coastal regions. ASCAs in Tanzania thrived independently to financial success through self-help initiatives (members savings and loans activities) because their livelihood sources were intact and never tampered with, unlike that of the riverine Niger Delta communities whose primary livelihood sources have been severely battered by activities of oil and gas companies as well as other anthropogenic activities.

Some of these pioneer ASCAs formed and animated by NLNG in communities of Rivers State would have been economically buoyant by now to feed others in a spillover effect. But this is not so because the firm did not support them with micro-credit facilities when required to boost their capital bases for financial consolidation. This is important because some of these groups started with little or nothing and were cohered as functional and trusted groups in the Niger Delta for more than 1 year. Loan disbursement to these groups would have been free from the traditional hijackers that characterized groups that accessed credits from oil and gas companies in the past but did not pass this process.

This limitation therefore slowed down the process of optimizing anticipated positive impacts of the project on the household incomes of the beneficiaries. NLNG ought to have adopted a hybrid model of VSL and external support loans in sustaining the groups and their future positive impacts in the communities.

1. UNDP Niger Delta Local Development Programme

Project

Description

The Niger Delta Local Development Programme (LDP) uses decentralization and local governance approach as the entry point for poverty reduction and sustainable development. The LDP is a local/community development and capacity building programme intended to contribute to the achievement of the following outcomes:

1. UNDAF Theme 1 - Promoting good governance and human rights and Goal 2 - Contribute to strengthening capacities for good governance.
2. UNDAF Theme 2 - Reducing Poverty and Goal 1 - Contribute to the reduction of poverty level and improve the quality of life of Nigerians.

Key

Objectives

The principal objective of the programme is to support the development of effective, responsive and accountable local governance institutions capable of delivering public infrastructure and services using participatory, transparent and gender sensitive planning, monitoring and evaluation procedures. The project's outputs are:

1. Enhanced dialogue and cooperation between local communities, State Governments and LGAs as well as effective collaboration between local institutions, civil society and the private sector.
2. Technical and advisory notes on policy and legislative constraints to local development.
3. Participatory planning developed and tested.
4. Local Development Fund (LDF) established and investment schemes utilizing LDF planned through a participatory process, within the agreed procedure and implemented.
5. Capacity of LGAs and communities in planning, financial management, procurement, operation and maintenance developed.
6. Participatory monitoring and evaluation procedures established and in operation at State, LGA and community levels.

The LDP was approved in August 2007 and the first phase was implemented over a period of 2 ½ years (2007 – 2009) in four pilot LGAs - Ogbia and Sagbama in Bayelsa State and Okitipupa and Ilaje in Ondo State. The pilot LGAs were selected through an assessment of conditions (conducted in June-July 2007 and January 2008) intended to ensure compliance with planning, staffing, financial management and accountability capacities required to be in place under Nigeria's laws and regulations.

2. RSSDA

RSSDA is a multi-sector intervention agency, a fact which enables it, unlike other agencies and line ministries of the State, to undertake projects in a wide variety of areas, including youth development and re-orientation, SMEs, education, health, skills acquisition, employment, local government, etc.

The **Rivers State Sustainable Development Agency** (RSSDA) is a strategic intervention initiative of the Rivers State government set up under an autonomous legal framework by the State Government to re-focus development effort in the areas of poverty alleviation, rural grassroots and youth empowerment in the State. To execute our mandate, we deploy partnership to tap into the wealth of experience and support of organisations such as The World Bank, USAID, DFID, ADP, NNPC, SPDC, NDDC and other agencies of the Federal and Rivers State Government.

3. Chevron Nigeria

Chevron takes seriously its role as a member of the community in Nigeria and is active in many projects promoting health, economic and educational programs.

Chevron Nigeria Ltd. (CNL) provides communities near its operations with power and drinking water — in many cases, directly from company facilities. In several communities, we have purchased and installed electricity generators as well as provided for fuel and servicing.

Responding to Needs of the Niger Delta

Since 2005, Chevron also has provided more than \$160 million to the Niger Delta Development Commission, a government agency tasked with the responsibility of developing the Niger Delta.

In 2005, CNL adopted a new approach to our community engagement in the Niger Delta designed to create participatory development processes to better address the needs of the communities in our areas of operation. This model, called the Global Memorandum of Understanding (GMOU), gives the communities greater roles in the management of their development through newly created regional development councils. CNL signed GMOUs with eight Regional Development Councils (RDCs) in the Niger Delta.

The objective is to bring peace, stability and reduced conflict to areas where Chevron operates. Together, the GMOUs reach more than 400 communities, villages and chiefdoms and involve some 600,000 community members. CNL supports the process by providing funding for governance, administration, project and partner costs.

Local Nigerian-based nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) are essential to the process. NGOs are providing technical assistance and are helping to resolve conflicts that arise from time to time in the communities.

2009 milestones include the following:

Renegotiation of expired GMOUs was completed.

Recognition of the GMOUs increased.

Accounts of financial transactions were produced by most of the RDCs.

Projects and programs aimed at improving the quality of life were carried out by most of the RDCs.

Participatory Partnerships for Community Development (PPCD) initiatives were established in 2009. PPCD is a Chevron-driven partnership program that leverages the strengths of CNL, the New Nigeria Foundation — a development NGO — and other organizations to help increase the capabilities and level of activities of the RDCs.

In 2009, the company signed a memorandum of understanding with the U.S. Agency for International Development. USAID agreed to provide support for the GMOUs through its Advocacy, Awareness and Civic Empowerment program.

With many projects in the Niger Delta vying for support, an ongoing challenge of the GMOU process is balancing the communities' desire for quick results with the goals of promoting sustainable initiatives that have transparent and accountable processes. A second challenge is nurturing the partnerships needed to resolve multiple development issues that exist in this complex and difficult socioeconomic environment.

Table 11: Information from NGOs / CBOs Visits on Livelihoods / Related Projects

Org	ANPEZ Centre for Environment & Development		
	Project Title / State (Location)	Date(s) / Status / Sponsor	Remarks
1	Community Interface Project / Delta State	2009 / Infrastructure / SPDC	Addresses livelihoods issues
2	Secondary School Scholarship / Delta State		
3	Project GMOU PAC 2 / Bayelsa State	2009 / Infrastructure projects at Ukobie and Azuzuama	
4	GMOU – Secondary School Scholarship	Ongoing / All SPDC Clusters in the Niger Delta / SPDC	Beneficiaries – JS1 – SS3
6	Nembe Ogbolomabiri Baseline	2006 / SPDC	
7	Palm Processing Mill – Equipment supply / Personnel in Abavo, Delta State	2009 / 2010 - SPDC	
8	N-Agenda Project	2008 – 2013 / NLNG	Outputs of Project include: Manage farmers / train them in modern farming techniques Participants taken to Songhai Port Novo 300 farmers 5 yrs
Org	Pro-Natura International Nigeria		
	Project Title / State (Location)	Date(s) / Status / Sponsor	Remarks
1	Esit Eket & Eket Community	2007 – Date / Skills	

	Development Foundations – Akwa Ibom State /	Acquisition – ICT & Tailoring / Frontier Oil Ltd	
2	Andoni GMOU	2008 – May 2011 / SPDC	Projects undertaken – 1) Piers Latrines 2) Schools Teachers Quarters; 3)
3	“EUIP” – European Union INSIDE Project	Aug 2010 – 2011 / Bayelsa, Akwa Ibom, Rivers States and FCT Abuja	Capacity Building for Non-State Actors including States Ministries of Health, Water Resources and LG Personnel
4	Ondo State TAPP 1 & 2	2009 – 2011 / Phase 1 2009 / Phase 2 – 2010 – 2011 / Ondo State Government	Key Output – Needs Assessment / CDPs across selected communities in Ondo State LGAs
5	5 yrs CDF in Epe, Lagos State / Marco Polo	2010 – 2015 / Marco Polo	Key Outputs – 1) Baseline; 2) Needs Assessment; 3) CDP and 4) Institutional Development
Org	Empowerment Support Initiative (ESI)		
	Project Title / State (Location)	Date(s) / Status / Sponsor	Remarks
1	Taxi Scheme	Ongoing / 113 Women have benefitted so far with vehicles given / 350 women to benefit in 2 years / Rivers State Government	
2	Skill Acquisition / Fashion Project	Training areas – 1) Simple Book Keeping; 2) Service Modelling; 3) Bead Making; 4) Hat Making; 5) Soap Making	Expert fashion designer – Ade Bakare was the Resource Person Certification support is at City & Giles
3	Advocacy	Ongoing / Maternal mortality issues	
4	Agric Development (Proposed)	Demonstration Farm on 100 Hectares of land at	Focus would be women. Hopes to harmonise with the

		Etche	RSSDA
Org	Self Help and Rural Development Organisation		
	Project Title / State (Location)	Date(s) / Status / Sponsor	Remarks
1	GMOU Residential Area & Etche 1	Etche 1 - Guesthouse / mini housing estate (almost completed) / SPDC	Livelihoods and income generating projects
2	Micro-credit Scheme	GMOU Residential Area & Etche 1	There are issues with the commencement of the micro-credit scheme because of the proscription of the Microfinance bank by the FGN
Org	Community Resources Development Organisation		
	Project Title / State (Location)	Date(s) / Status / Sponsor	Remarks
1	Ondo State TAPP 1 & 2	2009 – 2011 / Phase 1 2009 / Phase 2 – 2010 – 2011 / Ondo State Government	Key Output – Needs Assessment / CDPs across selected communities in Ondo State LGAs
2	Micro-credit Scheme for women	Bayelsa State / Ongoing	
Org	Development Initiatives DEVIN		
	Project Title / State (Location)	Date(s) / Status / Sponsor	Remarks
1	Micro-credit / Business development schemes for SPDC in several communities (2003 – 2009)	2003 – 2009 / Closed out / SPDC	
2	ICT training for women for Ikwerre LGA	2007	
3	Micro-credit / enterprise development scheme (VSL model) for NLNG in Rivers State	2008 – 2010 / NLNG	
4	Providing solar powered water borehole facility for Mbala, Isuochi in Munneochi LGA, Abia State	2011	
5	Micro-credit scheme for NDDC Skills Acquisition Trainees in the Niger Delta	Proposed / 2011	

TABLE 12: A LIST OF TRADITIONAL AND MODERN LIVELIHOODS OPTIONS FOUND WITHIN THE NIGER DELTA REGION

Traditional Livelihood Options	Modern Livelihood Options
Crop cultivation	Vegetable gardening (dry season farming)
Fishing	Fruit cultivation
Hunting	Commercial cassava mill
Petty trading	Commercial oil palm and kernel mill
Lumbering	Motor cycle transport
Palm wine taping	Motor transport
Fish	Boat transport
Brewing Local wine	Restaurant and hotel business
Tents Making	Food processing and packaging
Harvesting of shrimps. Periwinkles and oysters, etc	Food preservation and storage (refrigeration and drying business)
Carving	Bakery
Weaving	Catering services
Pot making	Brick and block making/ moulding
Frying of garri	Fashion design
Palm fruits cutting and processing	Hotel
Basket and broom making	Barbing
Bicycle transport	Hairdressing
Canoe transport	Carpentry
Tailoring	Plantation agriculture (plantain, oil palm, pineapples, etc)
Dry cleaning	Poultry keeping
Carpentry	Livestock farming
Plantation agriculture (rubber and oil palm)	Commercial fish ponds/ aqua culture
Traditional birth attendant (TBA)	Furniture making (wood work)
Net and tent making	Block moulding industry
Fire wood business	Trading
Soap making	Food vendor
Fish smoking	Catering services
Local snacks making	Security services
Canoe carving	Horticulture
	Thrift and credits
	Secretarial services
	Information and communication technology
	Bush meat trade
	Cloth weaving and dyeing
	Candle making
	Chalk making
	Black smelting



3.0 Analysis of Existing Livelihood Programmes in Niger Delta

Existing livelihood programmes are those sponsored and funded by State and Federal Government, United Nations Development Programmes (UNDP), World Bank, DFID, CIDA, NNDC and Multi-National oil companies like SPDC, NAOC, Chevron, ExxonMobil and Statoil. Projects-funded by these bodies were both commercial and small holding capacities and they are found in many parts of the region. Prominent among programmes aimed at developing the region are Niger Delta Development Board (NDDDB) in 1961; Niger Delta River Basin Development Authority (NDBDA) in 1976; Oil Mineral Producing Areas Development Commission (OMPADEC) in 1992; and the very current Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC) in 2000. Others are Operation Feed the Nation, Green Revolution, School-to-Land Programme, and community development of the multi-nationals operating in the region.

3.1 Achievements and Strengths of Existing Livelihood Programmes

These include the following;

- 1) The programmes remain the only practical means of uplifting agriculture and other primary means of livelihoods from primitive and subsistent levels to mechanize and semi-mechanized
- 2) The programmes remain the only way of attracting funds and investments to rural communities and resourcing regions from both government and multi-nationals
- 3) The programmes have helped few privileged individuals, cooperatives and communities to benefit and share from the resources exploited from their lands through sponsorship of the programmes by oil firms
- 4) The programmes helped in opening up the region for further development especially through the ancillary or secondary services that used to come with them including roads, processing industries and professionals that supervised these programmes
- 5) The programmes were able to open up other resources and potentials of communities of the Niger Delta region to the outside world for more investors and sponsors to come in
- 6) Other sectors of the Nigerian economy benefited from the services rendered by professionals trained under the programmes notably university and research institutes, banks and development agencies
- 7) The programmes were able to produce raw materials of many processing and manufacturing industries and foods consumed in urban centres and five star hotels nationwide
- 8) The programmes were able to address specific local problems or needs required by indigenous populations to boost their production through the

provision of anti-flood and erosion projects, commercial transport system, electricity, tarred roads, commercial refrigeration and drying systems, improved farm and fishing inputs, etc

- 9) The programmes have generated employment and provided food for sizeable proportion of the region's population both directly and indirectly
- 10) These programmes laid the foundation and have remained the catalyst to commercial or large scale production of food and other primary products in the region
- 11) The programmes made significant contribution to the population explosion recorded in the region in the last three decades due to a change in living condition, secured food supply, improved medical care and few social amenities afforded by the programmes.

3.2 Weaknesses and Shortcomings of Existing Livelihood Programmes

The weaknesses of the programmes are outlined below;

- 1) The programmes were discriminatory to some communities, clans and LGAs especially when the leading criterion to benefit was location of oil facility like oil well, flow station and oil pipeline routes. Hence it was only communities considered to be host to oil prospecting firms that could benefit or their indigenes considered for support under the scheme
- 2) The programmes were poorly funded and lacked continuation of succeeding governments
- 3) There were no real interface and combination of scientific and technological knowledge of the implementers with the skills and knowledge of local people. The contribution and involvement of local people and their age-old skills and knowledge of the area were very minimal
- 4) The programmes were not backed by massive provision of social amenities including roads, electricity, pipe-borne water, etc hence they were not able to stem rural-urban migration. For this purpose, rural and remote communities were deprived of human resources needed for the development of the region. The products of this rural-urban migration came to swell up urban population to cause congestion, overcrowding and pressure on urban facilities and services notably housing, schools, hospitals and rise in crime and social vices, etc
- 5) In many instances, integrated approaches were not adopted in the implementation of the programmes. A notable example is Paddy Rice Cultivation project in three LGAs in Bayelsa State without establishing rice processing mills in the region. SPDC also established a Fish Factory in Iko Town in Akwa Ibom State without providing improved fishing implements to encourage deep sea fishing. There are other cases of reckless implementation of livelihoods programmes without consideration to related, linkage and integrated services
- 6) The programmes were not established based on felt needs of the people or beneficiaries but were "White Elephant" projects meant to boast the ego of the donors and sponsors. In many instances, beneficiaries were

not involved at any stage of the programmes development (identification, implementation and management). It was in rare cases where powerful traditional rulers and politicians were consulted

- 7) The programmes failed to address cross-cutting issues affecting development in the region notably gender, ethnic, minority and religious discriminations, women and youth empowerment
- 8) The programmes tended to promote rivalry, undue competition and hatred among groups, communities and tribes instead of social integration due to the manner beneficiaries were selected
- 9) Monitoring and evaluation mechanisms were non-existent and where they existed they were left in the hands of inexperienced and gullible professionals and politicians
- 10) There were natural factors that worked against the programmes especially where the implementers failed to combine scientific knowledge and innovations with local skills especially the excessive rainfall and humidity, difficult terrain, invasion of foreign species, multi-ethnic and multi-lingua problems and remoteness of many communities from the State Capitals
- 11) The managements of the programmes were over centralized to the detriment of both the implementers and beneficiaries due to slow in decision making and implementation as well as high operational cost.

4.0 Analysis of Most Promising Mechanism for Promoting Wetlands Livelihood Initiatives in Niger Delta

1. The most promising strategy for promoting wetland livelihood initiatives in the Niger Delta should be needs driven, people-centred and participatory.
2. Livelihood programmes should be introduced and implemented after careful conduct of need assessment to ascertain priority areas for intervention to meet the need of the indigenous populations.
3. Project should be sited in areas with clear environmental degradations in the wetland ecosystem.
4. Also, there should be willingness on the part of community members to surrender their lands for the programmes.
5. As in many development programmes in Nigeria, political consideration should not be used as basis for choice of project beneficiaries.
6. The interest of beneficiary community should be uppermost in the mind of the funders and implementers.
7. People-centred development programmes entail that the aspirations, expectations, skills and knowledge of grassroots people are deliberately sought and incorporated. I
8. Through training and empowerment community driven development should be encouraged.
9. In the case of participation, the programmes should promote inclusive development where everyone is given the right to participate and benefit.

Participatory development identifies the stakeholders of a programme and also set out to meet their specific needs. To this end, the programmes should be designed to meet the specific needs of men, women, youths, and other vulnerable groups. Based on this, it may not be possible to relate with individuals but registered cooperatives and autonomous communities for the implementation of the programmes.

10. Organise regular capacity building programmes for the transfer of technical /management skills.

11. Provide Micro-credit and Enterprise Development scheme for alternative livelihoods development.
12. Encourage group formation and cooperatives societies within participating communities.
13. Promote market establishment for wetland-based products (External market linkage)
14. Promote the establishment of cottage industries for secondary production of wetlands-based resources (extracting and processing among others)
15. Mainstream capacity building programmes on HIV/AIDS and Nutrition, safe management of water, sanitation & hygiene practices to support livelihoods security and economic well being of the local people.
16. Encourage gender inclusion in decision making in the communities (Institutional capacity strengthening & advocacy)

Analysis of Most Promising Mechanism for Promoting Wetlands Conservation Initiatives in Niger Delta

1. Conduct Participatory Poverty Assessment (PPA)/Vulnerability Assessment (PVA)(covering socio-economic and health status/profile of communities)
2. Strengthen capacities of relevant community institutions (e.g. LG health agencies, CDCs, village health groups, traditional healers and birth attendants, Resource-User Groups) on assessment, planning and management of wetland resource base.
3. Conduct conservation education in the communities (active in land use planning, natural resource management, deforestation monitoring, clean water protection, polluted areas reclamation, coastal protection, monitoring and management; forest/wildlife management, endangered species management, disaster planning and recovery and conservation).
4. Set up and mentor local conservation clubs (for sustainability of conservation practices).

5. Provide access to safe water (preferably Borehole water facilities)
6. Management of capture fisheries through rehabilitation and protection of important breeding and spawning grounds in the wetlands.
7. Rehabilitate wetland forest resources by establishing community nurseries (add incentives)
8. Promote sustainable harvesting and marketing of aquatic resources and Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFPs).

5.0 Promising Strategies for the Promotion of Wetlands Livelihood Initiatives in Niger Delta

1. Adopt Bottom-Up Participatory (holistic approach) in needs Identification and assessments
2. Develop Action Plans for the restoration of households multiple livelihoods sources
3. Design Integrated Livelihoods systems approach across the sector
4. Ensure thematic capacity building of local skills
5. Strengthen governance and institutions at the community/local government and state levels to facilitate project sustainability and ownership
6. Build capacity of NGOs/CBOs/FBOs to facilitate programmes implementation and monitoring
7. Integrate counterpart funding / cost sharing element in programme design and implementation to promote commitment and ownership of projects by communities
8. Ensure gender balance in resource allocation and project beneficiaries
9. Resource inventorying (wetland biodiversity)
10. Promote access to credit through grants or micro credits facilities
11. Link community products resulting from alternative livelihoods systems to local, regional and urban markets for improved income and for sustainability
12. Forge partnership with other stakeholders and existing programmes within the region (PPP framework)
13. Build in Mid-Term Review (MTR) into programme implementation
14. Undertake Awareness creation and enlightenment programmes for communities on the importance and benefits of wetland ecosystems
15. Design reclamation and restoration of wetlands polluted by oil spills, industrial effluents and illegal blockage.
16. Form and empower cooperatives to play leading roles in providing solutions to identified livelihoods related problems
17. Provide social infrastructures in the communities that will boost

sustainable exploitation of wetland resources including good access roads, electricity, potable water, improved healthcare facilities, etc

18. Fund cooperatives to establish commercial aqua farms, community fish ponds, commercial refrigeration and drying systems, commercial transport systems and the alike to boost productivity in communities
19. Educate and empower rural populace on modern farming and fishing methods through the provision of improved inputs and extension services
20. Introduce horticulture, gardening, environmental education and conservation clubs in schools located in communities and areas that still have expanse of wetlands
21. Enact and enforce bye-laws in communities that encourage sustainable exploitation and use of wetland resources
22. Build a synergy between development stakeholders operating in the region especially those in the wetland environment and those depending on the resources of wetlands for their operation
23. Give incentives to communities that are able to manage the wetlands sustainably. This may not come as cash but development projects, scholarships and technical training for indigenes
24. Establish marketing network and security to promote accessibility of communities to cities, and marketing agents.

6.0 Promising Strategies for the Promotion of Wetlands Conservation Initiatives in Niger Delta

1. Undertake Participatory Poverty & Vulnerability Assessment (PPA/PVA)
2. Develop Biodiversity Action Plan
3. Mapping, Identification and Inventories of wetland biodiversity
4. Skill building/strengthening of resource users and managers (use IEC materials, community theatre, exchange visits etc)
5. Institutional linkages (Multi-partnership framework – community, LG and SG)
6. Establishment of alternative livelihoods sources through the provision of incentives and livelihoods diversification mechanism
7. Establishment of conservation local institutions, mentoring and provision of aid resource materials and linkage to external support institutions.
8. Adopt Public Private Partnership (PPP) framework especially with oil and gas companies.
9. Build on available indigenous technology
10. Ensure gender balance in the selection of project beneficiaries
11. Adopt adaptive management (ie learning while implementing)- leading to research and case study development
12. Awareness creation and education of communities and existing business

- on the conservation potentials of the area.
13. Enact and enforce bye-laws that will boost conservation in local Communities
 14. Provide infrastructures and amenities in communities based on their commitment and support to conservation programmes
 15. Facilitate multi-nationals and their allies to convert their wetland polluted sites to conservation programme sites
 16. Fund research institutes and universities to research into conservation programmes relevant to the communities and also make public the results of these studies
 17. Establish amusement parks, tourism sites and cultural sites in communities to deliberately create the importance of wetlands in communities especially where communities will share in the revenues to be generated
 18. Empower communities to establish conservation programmes and these should be managed and sustained through community efforts
 19. Enforce existing laws and enact new ones to boost conservation programmes nationally with the aim of making such project sustainable.

Some existing wetland conservation projects in the Niger Delta

- Establishment of Biodiversity conservation centres in rural communities
- Establishment and support of school conservation clubs
- Community-based environment/conservation education and awareness creation
- Building of Turtle house in Akassa (No longer standing)
- Shore protection and embankment
- Tree-planting projects
- Fish farming in designed ponds
- Establishment and support of rural plant nurseries

Some Identified Sites of Conservation Interest in Niger Delta

1. Taylor Creek Reserve
2. Upper Orashi River Reserve
3. Apoi Creek Reserve
4. Egdedi Creek Forest
5. Andoni Game Sanctuary
6. Penington River Mangrove and Forest
7. Sombreiro River Mangrove Forest
8. Brass River Mangrove Forests

9. Nun River Forest
10. Lower Orashi River Reserve
11. Edumanon
(Etiema/Okoroba) Forest
12. Ikibiri Creek Forest
13. Ikodi Bird Sanctuary
14. Buan Forests
15. Uzere Forests
16. Ibeno Forests reserve



7.0 Expected Outcomes, Potentials and Challenges of Planned Livelihood Programmes in Niger Delta

Many development stakeholders have planned livelihood programmes in the region of both short, medium and long term basis. In Rivers State, for instance, planned livelihood programmes are found in such Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDA) as River State Sustainable Development Agency (RSSDA), School-To- Land, Ministries of Women Affairs, Environment, Employment and Productivity, and others. Currently, there are moves to revive the Moribund School-To-Land Project across the State, establish fruit and food processing industries in three LGAs (Abua/Odual, Oyigbo and Etche), cassava and palm fruits processing mills in Khana, Eleme and Ahoada LGAs. In littoral LGAs authorities are planning the establishment of community refrigeration and drying systems to boost the fishery industry. In Bayelsa State, there is invigorated interest by development agencies for the development of aqua farms across the 11 LGAs. But the greatest promotion of livelihood programmes in the three core Niger Delta States is the provision of improved farming and fishing inputs to local people, formation and empowerment of cooperatives in local communities. The on-going Post Amnesty Programme of the Federal Government (with funding support and direct involvement of multi-nationals) are equally going to support livelihood activities and enterprise development.

7.1 Expected Outcomes and Potentials of Planned Livelihood Programmes in Niger Delta

The expected outcomes of various livelihood programmes being planned in the region including the ones stated above have the potentials to address the following problems thereby contributing to the development and peace of the Niger Delta;

- 1) The programmes will support and provide jobs to the teeming youth population and this is the sure panacea to the unemployment and youth unrest in the region
- 2) The programmes will guarantee food security in the region and throughout the West African sub-region
- 3) The programmes will stem rural-urban migration and this will have many multiplier effects throughout the region. It will ensure the availability of human resources needed for the development of many communities, check pressure on social amenities in urban centres, reduced crime rate, congestion and overcrowding in public places and continuous deterioration in the quality of the environment and aesthetic values of urban centres
- 4) The programmes is fundamental to the sustainable peace and security that have eluded the region since the turn of this century
- 5) The programmes are equally fundamental in the diversification of the Nigerian economy from oil-based to other important resources
- 6) The programmes hold key to the enabling environment required by oil firms and other business establishments to carry out their business in the region. This is because by promoting investments in the communities the widespread cry of neglect, marginalization and impoverishment attributed to oil will become history and this will remarkably foster cordial and mutual relationship between communities and multi-nationals and their allies
- 7) The programmes will revamp rural economy.

7.2 Expected Challenges of Planned Livelihood Programmes in Niger Delta

The expected challenges of most planned livelihood programmes will include the under listed;

- 1) Poor infrastructural base to support the programmes is bound to hinder livelihood programmes in many areas. This is because many communities have no access roads and are not connected to National Grid; the absence of these facilities caused migration of young and energetic people from the communities. Many will only return home if they are sure of enjoying the same facilities they are used to in cities
- 2) Social tension and unrest in the communities arising from land and boundary disputes, chieftaincy tussles, struggle for resource control and ownership. There are many intra and inter communal crises in the region that pose serious challenge to development for many years to come. This is the reason development programmes meant for Niger Delta region should incorporate peace building and conflict mitigation

- 3) The changing waves of landholding system and ownership in the region as a result explosive demand for land caused by population explosion experienced in the communities. Individual land and resource ownership or holding are fast becoming popular in the place of communal land tenure system. This means family and community heads and chiefs councils are fast losing their power and control over lands. Individual ownership of land promote scarcity and fragmentation of lands which is a serious impediment to commercial and large scale livelihood programmes
- 4) Discrimination of women and physically challenged persons on ownership, entitlement and control of natural resources in the region has over the years hindered women from participating and benefitting from many development programmes which the expected livelihood programmes will not be exempted. Land reforms that will ensure accessibility and availability of landed resources to enterprising entrepreneurs irrespective of sex, religion and other social status will go a long way to address the problem
- 5) The tempo of the programme and actual implementation may not be sustained for a longtime due to undue political interference and lack of continuity in the policy thrusts of succeeding government. The reason for this is obvious; policy thrust and priority of government changes with time and personalities involved
- 6) Poor funding support and misappropriation of funds by corrupt programme officers and administrators
- 7) Faulty conception, design, planning and implementation of the programmes at various levels due to many reasons including inexperience, paucity of information, use of quack professionals and neglect of local skills and knowledge
- 8) Inability of the authorities to withstand pressure and maneuvering by communities, groups and individuals who might want to participate and benefit from the programme all at the same time despite the available lean resources.

Table 13: Potential Partners for the Implementation of Sustainable Livelihoods and Biodiversity Project in Niger Delta

Identified local Partner	Relevant role
Paramount heads of communities	Community mobilization, security of facilitators and stakeholders in the community, decision-making and policy development, participation in PRA/PLA sessions.
Council of chiefs	Community mobilization, security of facilitators and stakeholders in the community, decision-making and policy development, participation in PRA/PLA sessions.
Community Development Committees (CDCs)	Community mobilization, security and safety of external stakeholders in the community, project monitoring, policy influencing, participation in PRA/PLA sessions etc.
Leaders of economic/co-operative groups	Mobilization of groups, beneficiaries, policy influencing/advocacy, participation in PRA/PLA sessions etc.
Women group	Mobilization of women, beneficiaries, women inclusion, policy influencing, advocacy, participation in PRA/PLA sessions etc
Youth group	Mobilization of community youths, beneficiaries, bulk of conservation club members, youth inclusion, policy influencing, policy enforcement, advocacy, participation in PRA/PLA sessions, safety and security of external stakeholders in the community etc

Local Health groups/ Health workers	Technical support, participation in PRA/PLA sessions, policy influencing, capacity building.
Politicians in the community	Policy influencing, linkage to government institutions
Opinion leaders	Participation in PRA/PLA sessions, policy influencing, information sources, decision making process.
SME groups	Participation in PRA/PLA sessions, policy influencing, information sources, decision making process.

Others include:

- 1) Local communities
- 2) Cooperative societies
- 3) Traditional Rulers Councils
- 4) The Chiefs Councils
- 5) Youth Associations
- 6) Women Associations
- 7) Widows Associations
- 8) Micro Credit Groups
- 9) Micro Finance Institutions
- 10) Commercial banks
- 11) Markets Unions
- 12) Traders Unions
- 13) Boat Transport Owners and Drivers Unions
- 14) Commercial Bus Owners and Drivers Unions
- 15) National Unions of Road Transport Workers
- 16) Maritime Workers Unions of Nigeria
- 17) CSO/NGO/CBO

- ✚ Community Development Foundations (Akassa, Eastern Obolo, Opobo/Nkoro, Egi, etc)
- ✚ Cluster Development Boards of GMoU Programme and other similar bodies
- ✚ Community Trusts (Oron, etc)
- ✚ River Ethiopie Trust Foundation



- ✚ ANPEZ
- ✚ Lulu Briggs Foundation
- ✚ AAPW
- ✚ Living Earth Nigeria Foundation
- ✚ Nigeria Conservation Foundation
- ✚ Accord for Development
- ✚
- 18) Pentecostal Fellowship of Nigeria (LGA-based)
- 19) LGAs
- 20) Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC)
- 21) MDA (Ministries, Departments and Agencies) of States and Federal Government
 - ✚ Ministry of Niger Delta Affairs
 - ✚ Federal and States Ministry of Environment
 - ✚ Federal and States Ministry of Agriculture
 - ✚ Federal and States Ministry of Commerce and Industry
 - ✚ Federal and States Ministry of Tourism
 - ✚ Federal and States Ministry of Labour, Employment and Productivity
 - ✚ Rivers State Sustainable Development Agency (RSSDA)
 - ✚ NAPIMS
 - ✚ States Ministries of Women Affairs
 - ✚ States Ministries of Lands and Housing
- 22) National Agency for Poverty Eradication Programme (NAPEP)
- 23) Research Institutes
- 24) Multi-national Corporations and their allies
 - ✚ Shell Petroleum Development Company of Nigeria
 - ✚ Shell International
 - ✚ Total Exploration and Production Nigeria
 - ✚ Nigerian Agip Oil Company
 - ✚ ExxonMobil
 - ✚ Chevron
 - ✚ ALSCON
 - ✚ SAIPEM
 - ✚ NNPC subsidiaries (Petrochemical and Refinery Corporations)
 - ✚ Construction giants (Julius Berger, etc)
 - ✚ Hotels
 - ✚ Indigenous oil companies
- 25) Foreign Missions and Embassies
- 26) European Union and DFID
- 27) Local and international donor agencies
- 28) Etc.



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