



CPED-*Research For Development News*

Vol. 2. No. 2 Dec. 2011

A Bi-Annual Publication of the Centre for Population and Environmental Development

“Confronting the Challenges of Development, Environmental Management and Peace Building in the Nigeria's Niger Delta: Beyond the Amnesty”



Also in this issue

- 4** Editorial Policy of Research for Development News (CRDN)
- 5** Editor's Note
- 6** Report of the International Workshop on Confronting the Challenges of Development, Environmental Management and Peace Building in the Niger Delta: Beyond the Amnesty, 27th to 30th of July, 2011
- 28** Brief Reports on CPED Activities

About CPED

2



About CPED

The Centre for Population and Environmental Development (CPED) is an independent, non-partisan, non-profit and non-governmental organization dedicated to promoting sustainable development and reducing poverty and inequality through policy oriented research and active engagement on development issues. CPED started as an action research group based in the University of Benin, Benin City, Nigeria in 1985. The action research group was concerned with applied research on sustainable development and poverty reduction challenges facing Nigeria. The research group also believed that communication, outreach and intervention programmes, which can demonstrate the relevance and effectiveness of research findings and recommendations for policy and poverty reduction, especially at the grassroots level, must be key components of its action research. In order to translate its activities more widely, the Benin Social Science Research Group was transformed into an independent research and action Centre in 1998. It was formally registered in Nigeria as such by the Corporate Affairs Commission in 1999.

The establishment of CPED is influenced by three major developments. In the first place, the economic crisis of the 1980s that affected African countries including Nigeria led to poor funding of higher education, the emigration of academics to advanced countries which affected negatively, the quality of research on national development issues emanating from the universities which are the main institutions with the structures and

capacity to carry out research and promote discourse on socio-economic development. Secondly, the critical linkage between an independent research or think tank organisation and an outreach programmes that translates the findings into policy and at the same time test the applicability and effectiveness of the recommendations emanating from research findings has been lacking. Finally, an independent institution that is focusing on a holistic approach to sustainable development and poverty reduction in terms of research, communications and outreach activities is needed in Nigeria. CPED recognises that the core functions of new knowledge creation (research) and the application of knowledge for development (communication and outreach) are key challenges facing sustainable development and poverty reduction in Nigeria where little attention has been paid to the use of knowledge generated in academic institutions. Thus, CPED was created as a way of widening national and regional policy and development debate, provide learning and research opportunities and give visibility to action programmes relating to sustainable development and poverty reduction in different parts of Nigeria and beyond.

The vision is to be a key non-state actor in the promotion of grassroots development in the areas of population and environment in Africa. The overall mission is to promote action-based research programmes, carry out communication to policy makers and undertake outreach/intervention programmes on population and environmental development in Africa.

CONTENTS

About CPED	2
Editorial Policy of Research for Development News (CRDN)	4
Editor's Note	5
Report of the International Workshop on Confronting the Challenges of Development, Environmental Management and Peace Building in the Niger Delta: Beyond the Amnesty, 27 th to 30 th of July, 2011	6
The History of Conflicts and Resistance in the Niger Delta Region	12
Brief Reports on CPED Activities	28
• CPED continues to make progress in the Implementation of its Five-Year Strategic Plan	31

EDITORIAL TEAM

- Professor Emeritus Andrew G. Onokerhoraye Editor
- Mr. Johnson Dudu Member
- Mr. Solomon Oshodin Member
- Ms. Eloho Tobrise Member
- Dr. Peter Odjugo Member
- Ms Vivian Ithemebiri Member

Editorial Policy of CPED's Research for Development News CPED-RDNews

CPED's Research for Development News (CRDN) is the official publication of the Centre for Population and Environmental Development (CPED). Through this medium, CPED seeks to reach out to relevant policy makers and other stakeholders on key issues concerning development in Nigeria in particular and other parts of Africa in general.

Vision: CRDN seeks to inform, educate and report development issues and challenges as well as the progress in the research and outreach activities of the Centre for the consumption of policy makers, other stakeholders and the reading public in its quest to promote sustainable, holistic and grassroots development.

Mission Statement: To provide a medium for drawing the attention of policy makers, other key stakeholders and the general public to the issues and challenges of development and the policy response needed to promote equitable development.

Core Values: The two core values of CRDN are derived from those of CPED. The first relates to the fact that the universal ideals of intellectual and academic freedom is promoted and respected by CRDN. In this respect CRDN will remain an independent, professional and development newsletter. Secondly, CRDN is a non-partisan newsletter which is not associated with any political party or organization. However, when the need arises, CRDN in its publication of CPED's research, advocacy and outreach activities will address key political issues that have considerable impact on development, especially at the local level.

Editorial Board: The Editorial Board of CRDN shall be made up of CPED's Executive Director, two professional staff of CPED and two other members from outside CPED comprising mainly of CPED Fellows.

Editorial Policy: While CRDN will report on any development issue and the various activities of CPED,

CRDN will, as much as possible, focus on a particular development theme in one edition. The theme to be addressed in a subsequent edition shall be announced for the benefit of contributors in advance.

Adverts: There shall be created in every issue, a space for advertisement. The cost of the advert placements shall be determined by the Editorial Board.

Manuscript submission: Persons interested in contributing to any edition of CRDN are welcomed to do so. Manuscripts should be original with a maximum length of five pages typewritten with double-line spacing and accompanied with biographical sketch of the author which must not be more than fifty words. Each article should be typed on A 4 paper with a margin of one inch round. Manuscripts already published elsewhere shall not be accepted.

Direct all correspondence and enquiries to:

The Editor,
CPED's Research for Development News;
BS-1 and SM-2, Ugbowo Shopping Complex,
P.O. Box 10085, Ugbowo Post Office
Benin City, Nigeria
Email address: enquiries@cpedng.org

Editor's Note



Professor Emeritus Andrew G. Onokerhoraye, Ph.D., OON, JP
Editor

The Centre for Population and Environmental Development (CPED) is pleased to launch its *Research for Development News*, with support from the *Think Tank Initiative* initiated and managed by the *International Development Research Centre (IDRC)*. CPED's *Research for Development News (CRDN)* series is published twice a year in June and December. The Series will report on the research, communication and intervention activities of CPED with the major aim of informing policy makers and other key stakeholders on development issues as well as informing key stakeholders on CPED's activities on research and intervention. In this respect the editorial policy of *CPED's Research for*

Development News is to focus on one major development issue in each number of CRDN.

This December 2011 edition of CRDN is focusing on reporting the key issues emanating from the International workshop on *Confronting the Challenges of Development, Environmental Management and peace building in the Niger Delta: Beyond the Amnesty held from 27th to 30th July 2011 in Benin City, Nigeria*. The workshop was organized by the Centre for Population and Environmental Development (CPED) with funding support from the Think Tank Initiative (TTI) managed by the International Development Research Centre (IDRC). This edition of the newsletter presents the communiqué of the workshop and the keynote address presented by the Chairman of CPED's Board of Trustees, Professor Gideon E.D. Omuta. Subsequent editions of the Newsletter will present some other papers and conclusions of the workshop.

Professor Andrew G. Onokerhoraye
Editor,
December, 2011

INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP ON CONFRONTING THE CHALLENGES OF DEVELOPMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT AND PEACE BUILDING IN THE NIGER DELTA: BEYOND THE AMNESTY, 27TH TO 30TH OF JULY, 2011

The workshop, which was financed by the Think Tank Initiative, was organized against the background of the current problems and efforts at redressing the Niger Delta crisis in Nigeria. The key recent strategy which focuses on the granting of amnesty to militants in the region raises several questions. What are the existing faces, manifestations and ramifications of the region's problems and challenges? What are the current policies, structures and organized efforts to address them? How do the Amnesty and post amnesty policies relate to them? What pathways can be charted to resolve specific challenges and conflict issues? Specifically, what has to be done to speedily and effectively remediate the environment, regenerate local economies, build infrastructure and destroyed communities, rehabilitate destroyed and dislocated lives, empower the youth and women, build industries and provide jobs, build stakeholder-ship and participation in the oil industry,

increase oil based revenues, improve healthcare and eliminate health hazards of the oil industry, improve social services and human rights and ultimately build stability, security and peace?

The international workshop was therefore designed as a forum for serious minded scholars, activists, development practitioners and social service providers to broadly, critically and analytically interrogate the existing issues and challenges that confront the region and the policies and efforts that have been and are being made to resolve them. The themes addressed by the workshop are as follows:

1. ***broad based issues and challenges of development and efforts at redressing them***
Population Growth, Migration and Displacement/Health Hazards, Health Care Challenges and Health Care/Community Development, Infrastructure Challenges and



Group Photograph of Participants during Workshop on "Confronting the Challenges of Development, Environmental Management and Peace Building in the Nigeria's Niger Delta: Beyond the Amnesty"



- Efforts/Agriculture, Local Economies and Poverty /Environmental Pollution and Degradation /Unemployment, Economic Disempowerment and Human Capacity Challenges/Rural Livelihoods, Rural Development and Rural-Urban Migration.
2. **critical assessments of current development efforts**
Intervention Efforts and Interventionist Agencies of the Federal and State Governments/The Development Efforts of Oil Companies and Intervention Efforts of International Development/Civil Society and Non Governmental Organization/Community Development efforts.
 3. **governance, security and peace**
Democratic Governance and Development since 1999/Oil Resources, Accountability and Transparency/Resource Control, Derivation, Equity Participation and Oil Benefits/The Joint Task Force, Human Security and Human Rights/Conflict Resolution Efforts and Peace Building/The Amnesty, and Programmes of Rehabilitation and Reintegration/The Post Amnesty Programmes and Efforts/Subsisting Conflicts, Violence, Terrorism and Crime.
 4. **charting the path of sustainable development and peace: beyond the amnesty**
Development Future and Pathways/ The pathways and Strategies for Conflict Resolution and Peace Building/Politics, Public Policy and Reforms for Sustainable Development and Peace/Revisiting the Amnesty and Post Amnesty Programmes/ Reforms of Oil Company Governance and Sustainable Development and Peace/Building Effective Systems of Management of Environment, Community Development and Development Intervention Efforts.

The Communiqué Of the International Workshop on confronting the challenges of Development, Environmental Management and Peace Building in the Niger Delta: Beyond the Amnesty 27th-30th July, 2011

The workshop was attended by scholars/researchers from several Universities and Research Institutes, Federal universities of Benin, Ife, Ibadan, Nsukka, Port Harcourt, Calabar, Uyo and Awka; State Universities at Ojo-Lagos, Ekpoma, Ado-Ekiti, Abraka, Port Harcourt and Wilberforce Island; Private universities as Redeemers and Salem; Foreign universities as Swansea and York; Research Institutes as Nigerian Institute for International Affairs; Policy makers from Edo and Delta States; and Civil Society Organizations as Environmental Rights Action, Niger Delta Professionals for Development, PEDANET, Cradle for Black Civilization Initiative, Foundation for Good Governance and Social Change/Conference of Non Governmental Organizations of Edo State.

In all, about thirty four (34) papers were presented in six (6) plenary sessions. Each session was chaired by a distinguished scholar. Other scholars/participants served as discussants of papers and rapporteurs of

sessions. A critical objective of the workshop was to provide a forum for comprehensive research and scientific data base and analysis of the Niger Delta problematic and the articulation of policy issues to address peace building in the region.

The workshop participants critically interrogated the challenges of environment and development, current development efforts, governance and security, the Amnesty programme and peace building against the objectives of sustainable development, security and peace and made policy recommendations.

The workshop noted that conflict in the region has socio-political and historical dimensions that need to be captured in clear terms. The character of the Nigerian State which is fundamental to the Niger Delta question and some of its elements such as its abnormal federal political structure and inequitable manner of resource distribution require immediate attention. Public policy

cannot afford to ignore context and overlook fundamental issues that are linked to the lack of development and conflict. Nigeria is important to all just as the issues of equity and justice. The resolution of the Niger Delta conflict is crucial to national unity. The Amnesty Programme provides a window to kick start the process.

The Workshop specifically recommended as follows;

- 1) **The current Amnesty neglects vital dimensions such as the role of gender, the militant but unarmed youth that actually constitutes the majority of the frustrated, alienated, marginalized and unemployed youth; the terrible toll of the militant agitation and violent conflicts on the rural and home economies, and the regeneration and growth of the economy into which the products of the Amnesty's rehabilitation and reintegration programme would return to.**
- 2) **The Amnesty itself stands alone, rather than being part of an integrated and overall programme of conflict resolution and transformation. The Amnesty has been hijacked, corrupted and misconceived as an end to peace rather than a path to peace. Making the Amnesty programme work depends on a multidimensional approach that captures all concerns as gender, children, youth, environment, infrastructure, resource control, human rights, reconstruction and equity participation in the petroleum business.**
- 3) **The search for sustainable peace would be futile and elusive without addressing the very issues of resource deprivation, inequity and injustice, environmental devastation, state and corporate mis-governance, human insecurity, developmental neglect, extensive poverty, mass youth unemployment, human rights abuses which among others are at the root of grievances and claims in the region. There is need for a more balanced, equitable and fair treatment of the minority groups in the region, an immediate step by step mark up of derivation funds and a system that grants clear equities in the oil economy to the communities in the region. The Petroleum Industry Bill (PIB) should be considered and passed into law. The level and nature of oil company responses to the challenges of the region and contributions to sustainable development need to be strengthened and made transparent and effective.**
- 4) **Except the foregoing issues are substantively addressed, the Amnesty as it is, is merely a conspiratorial and diversionary stop gap meant to buy time. But time is running out and except the core issues are substantively addressed, a greater calamity and even a worse militancy may await the region and nation.**
- 5) **Adopting Amnesty as undertaken in the Niger Delta as a national solution to violent religious fundamentalism is to say the least, a trivialization of the Niger Delta struggle for resource equity and environmental justice and the deep problematic that generated violent resistance.**
- 6) **The public budget and public expenditures are rather accentuating poverty and under-development, because of the little outcomes and dividends that make very little meaning to ordinary people and even overall development. These budgetary patterns reinforce poverty outcomes that have created conditions for violence. More attention needs to be paid to pro-people and pro-poor public resource deployment and use.**
- 7) **Governance deficit is central to the conflict and the quality of governance in the region and nation needs to be placed in focus. Those who rule should do what is right and in a transparent way. The cost of governance and particularly the high recurrent expenditure in national and state budgets and pervasive massive corruption are major obstacles to development. Very little public funds are being devoted to capital receipts and development and therefore development would take a long time to come.**
- 8) **The quality of leadership that has emerged as elected representatives are not putting the regions' problems in the front burner and broad spectrum of national politics and are rather frittering away resources in the region.**
- 9) **The psyche of the Niger Delta people has been brutalized by the way the Joint Task Force (JTF) went about managing security. This remains a crucial source of pent up anger and frustration that creates conditions for violence. The JTF needs to be withdrawn and a more civilized, humane, humanitarian and human security sensitive approach to security management instituted.**
- 10) **Human security and poverty continue to be aggravated by anti-people oil based laws such as the Land Use Act. The amendment or abrogation of these laws cannot be ignored if the conflict is to be resolved.**

- 11) **The issues to be addressed in the short term include employment generation, economic empowerment of the youth and women, a clear programme of immediate and extensive development efforts, the regeneration of the economy of the region, reconstruction of devastated properties and communities, the provision of a clear voice for the people and their mobilization and participation in development efforts.** Civil society, non governmental and community based organizations need to play more active roles. **The conflict entrepreneurs, for whom and in whose interests some dimensions of the conflict, conflict actions, conflict related opportunism and underground economies were perpetrated need to be identified and contained.** Further, given the dominant rural nature of the region, there is need to create urban centres to serve as growth centres to aid the development process.
- 12) **The physical environment of the region should not be further degraded through the continued use of obsolete technology and methods and insensitivity to global concerns about the environmental sustainability of development.** Environmental remediation is an essential requirement for peace building. **The depletion of the resources of the region should be curtailed through a drastic reduction of oil and gas production.**
- 13) There are knowledge driven issues concerning the region such as governance, environmental management, conflict resolution and transformation, revenue and budget monitoring and transparency, the effectiveness of state and non state agencies of development and citizen participation in development that need to be adequately placed in the public domain.

Poverty in Plenty: the Paradox of Governance Failure in the Niger Delta Region; Keynote Address by Professor Gideon E.D. Omuta, Chairman Board of Trustees, CPED at the International Workshop on Confronting the Challenges of Development, Environmental Management and peace building in the Niger Delta: Beyond the Amnesty 27th-30th July, 2011

The framework which governed the presentations and discussions during the workshop was provided by the keynote address delivered by Professor Gideon E.D. Omuta, Chairman Board of Trustees of CPED. The paper which is presented in full in this edition reflects the key challenges *of development, environmental management and peace building in the Niger Delta as discussed in the workshop.*

Preamble

Ladies and gentlemen, I am very delighted and grateful that the Centre for Population and Environmental Development (CPED) and the International Development and Research Centre (IDRC) deemed it fit to invite me to present the Keynote Address at this august Workshop. I have titled this address "Poverty in Plenty: The Paradox of Governance Failure in the Niger Delta Region"

Introduction

The history of attempts to tackle the peculiar challenges of the Niger Delta Region (NDR) is as long as the history of sovereign Nigeria. Soon after independence, the Niger Delta Development Board (NDDDB) was established in 1961, by government to manage and address the peculiar developmental needs and challenges of Yenegoa

Province, Degema Province, Ogoni Division of Port Harcourt Province and the Western Ijaw Division of Delta Province (in present-day Bayelsa, Rivers and Delta States). In its six-year life span, the NDDDB achieved little before the outbreak of the Nigerian civil war in 1967. It was not revived after the war.

Following renewed agitation for attention to the persisting peculiar challenges of the region, a Presidential Task Force, popularly known as the 1.5% Committee, was set up in 1980. Its mandate was to use the 1.5 per cent of the Federation Account, allocated to it to tackle the developmental needs and environmental challenges of the NDR. The failure of the Task Force is confirmed by the woefully few projects it executed and the correspondingly insignificant impact it had on the people and the environment of the area.

Though not exclusively targeted at the Niger Delta Region, the Niger Delta Basin Development Authority (NDBDA) was one of the eleven such agencies established in 1976. The NDBDA was bedevilled by organizational problems from its inception. For instance, none of the Board members appointed by the Federal Government to run the Authority came from the area. In addition, several Authorities had the mandate and jurisdiction to operate

within the region. These included the Niger River Basin Development Authority, the Anambra-Imo River Basin Development Authority, the Benin-Owena River Basin Development Authority, the Niger Delta Basin Development Authority and the Cross River Basin Development Authority. This overlapping duplicity created obvious administrative and management bottlenecks that constrained and limited their contribution to dealing with the unique developmental challenges of the region. In spite of their numbers, these Authorities have had very little impact in terms of addressing the challenges of the region. For one thing, their Boards often comprise politicians who regarded their tenures as opportunities to reap the so-called 'dividends of governance/democracy'. The River Basin Development Authorities (RBDAs) were, therefore, generally viewed as drains on the nation's finances, rather instruments for redressing peculiar regional problems like those of the NDR (UNDP, 2006).

Apparently in order to address the discontent and restiveness that arose from the ineffectiveness and failure of the Presidential (1.5%) Task Force, and to resuscitate its spirit, the Oil Mineral Producing Areas Development Commission (OMPADEC) was set up in 1992. To prosecute its mandate, three per cent of the Federation Account was allocated to the Commission (which was later allegedly raised to six per cent) although the Commission claimed that what it actually got was three per cent of *net revenues* from the Federation Account. Although it initially raised the hopes and expectations of the people, OMPADEC could not and did not impact the people and the region. Most of its projects were not pro-poor and so did not benefit the people. OMPADEC ended up another huge failure as a result of inadequate and irregular funding, inefficiency, official profligacy, scandalously high overhead costs and *the Nigerian factor*, which is the euphemism for corruption. The Commission bequeathed numerous abandoned or unfinished projects and very huge debts.

The Niger Delta Environmental Survey (NDES) was set up in 1995, as a private initiative by Shell Petroleum Development Company (SPDC), on behalf of its joint venture partners; namely: Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC), ELF, and AGIP. Its primary goal was to reconcile industry, community and environment in the Niger Delta Region. Its mandate was to undertake an environmental study of the NDR and provide a data base for its informed and controlled development. Its objectives were to:

- describe and quantify the renewable and non-renewable resources of the NDR;
- identify and assess the positive and negative factors of resource use in the area and the manner in which they serve and affect local, regional and national

interest;

- stimulate proactively and encourage relevant stakeholders to address and solve specific current social and environmental challenges identified during the survey;
- appraise how the present state of the region has evolved over time and assess the present condition of social and economic under-development; and
- generate data and information, including the formulation of strategies and plans for effective management towards the sustainable use of resources in order to protect the environment.

Although, a valuable data bank came out of the NDES, funding constraints have prevented their publication and official release.

More recently, the Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC) was officially inaugurated on December 21, 2001. Its vision and mission are to:

- offer lasting solution to the socio-economic challenges of the Niger Delta Region; improve the quality of life of the Niger Delta people; and
- facilitate the rapid, even and sustainable development of the Niger Delta into a region that is economically prosperous, socially stable, ecologically regenerative and politically peaceful (NDDC, 2005; 8).

To achieve its mandate, the NDDC Board identified areas of focus including:

- development of social and physical infrastructure;
- technology;
- economic and environmental remediation and stability;
- human development;
- pursuit of a peaceful environment that allows tourism to thrive and support a buoyant culture.

As an intervention development agency, the NDDC identified the need for a master plan as part of its overall strategy, which was completed in 2005. In the interim, the NDDC Board drew an elaborate plan involving the construction of roads, shoreline protection, rural and urban water supply schemes, and the rehabilitation of schools and health centres. This was in addition to human capacity development in centres that help people acquire skills and build sustainable livelihoods.

In order to guarantee its funding (and through it ensure its success) an explicit provision was made in the NDDC Act 2000, detailing the sources and outlining the management procedures, as follows:

- The Commission shall establish and maintain a fund from which shall be defrayed all expenditure incurred by the Commission,
- There shall be paid and credited to the fund



established pursuant to subsection (1) of this section:

- ▶ From the Federal Government, the equivalent of 15 per cent of the total monthly statutory allocations due to member States of the Commission from the Federation Account; this being the contribution of the Federal Government to the Commission;
 - ▶ 3 per cent of the total annual budget of any oil-producing company operating, on shore and off shore, in the Niger-Delta area; including gas-processing companies;
 - ▶ 50 per cent of monies due to member States of the Commission from the ecological Fund;
 - ▶ Such monies as may, from time to time, be granted or lent to or deposited with the Commission by the Federal or a State Government, any other body or institution whether local or foreign;
 - ▶ All moneys raised for the purposes of the Commission by way of gifts, loans, grants-in-aid, testamentary disposition or otherwise; and
 - ▶ Proceeds from all other assets that may, from time to time, accrue to the Commission.
- The fund shall be managed in accordance with the rules made by the Board, and without prejudice to the generality of the power to make rules under this subsection, the rules shall in particular contain provisions:
 - ▶ Specifying the manner in which the assets or the funds of the Commission are to be held, and regulating the making of payments into and out of the fund; and
 - ▶ Requiring the keeping of proper accounts and records for the purpose of the fund in such form as may be specified in the rules.

Finally and most recently the Ministry of Niger Delta Affairs was established in December, 2008, at the height of the violence, insecurity and environmental crises in the region. The mandate of the Ministry is to coordinate a holistic development of the Niger Delta Region. Several programmes have been initiated by the Federal Government of Nigeria since then. These include the now much talked about amnesty programme, as well as many infrastructural and environmental development programmes.

Although some have argued that it may be too early to pronounce judgment on the performance of the latest intervention policies and agencies, especially the Ministry of Niger Delta Affairs, some are, however, of the opinion that in the face of intermittent youth activism, especially the occasional threats from the Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta (MEND) even with

the amnesty programme recently established, it may not yet be celebration time for the Niger Delta Region. Some will even say that the celebrated amnesty programme may only be targeting the symptoms of a more chronic and deepening challenge.

The point is that in spite of the seemingly long history of attempted interventions at addressing the challenges of the Niger Delta, the region has remained the least developed in Nigeria, the environment continues to be relentlessly assaulted and traumatized, and enduring peace continues to be either elusive or very fragile, as discontent and frustration continue to grow. As the UNDP puts it, the NDR scenario supports the new global thinking that an income-cantered development paradigm cannot capture the multifaceted development challenges of any country, region or peoples, including the Niger Delta (UNDP, 2006;16). Some have attributed the persistence of underdevelopment, environmental degradation and conflicts in the region to the failure of governance to be pro-people.

It is, therefore, very reassuring that this Workshop is being organized by the Centre for Population and Environmental Development (CPED) in collaboration with the International Development and Research Centre (IDRC) to continue to engage key stakeholders on these issues that have stubbornly persisted. In this keynote address, we shall:

- look at the main features of the region called the Niger Delta;
- take a brief historical excursion of some major conflicts and resistances in the region;
- briefly outline some of the challenges to:
 - ▶ its development,
 - ▶ its environmental management, and
 - ▶ its persisting culture of conflicts,
- make some concluding remarks.



CPED Board of Trustees Chairman, Prof. G. E. D. Omuta registering for the CPED/HP4RY Workshop

The History of Conflicts and Resistance in the Niger Delta Region

What should have become clear from our introduction is the fact that the development of the Niger Delta Region has been the concern of, and challenge to the government even before independence and particularly since oil was discovered in commercial quantity at Oloibiri in 1956 and the first export was made in 1958.

However, after over half a century of unbroken harvest of oil and gas, and corresponding noticeable evidence of their (even if not optimal) proceeds in all aspects of national development (even in places very remote from the sources), the people of the region itself are yet to be convinced that petroleum is not a curse to them. Consequently, the people of the region, as individuals, groups, communities, sub-national governments, have used every available opportunity to try and communicate (sometimes in unconventional manner) to the appropriate level(s) of government their perceived marginalization, and that they have not benefited enough (if at all) from oil and gas, as they should have. The manifest grievance, discontent and frustration have been expressed in diverse ways, including; oil theft, youth restiveness, vandalization, resource control agitation, militancy, hostage-taking, kidnapping, among others.

Just as being a major source of the global energy (oil and gas) supply has thrust the Niger Delta into prominence within the wider context of the international economic and political system, so also have conflicts and resistances become notoriously synonymous with the region. Since the 19th century, a complex interplay of factors has provoked sometimes volatile responses to the pressures for the control and distribution of the region's resources (UNDP, 2006). Behind this age-long volatility has been the hard-to-remove feeling among the peoples of the region, of injustice and inequity. Some would dare say oppression. The following six instances have been cited to illustrate this position.

- From 1894 to 1895, King William Koko of Nembe resisted the Royal Niger Company's (RNC) attempts to shut out the Nembe people from the lucrative trade in palm oil.
- In 1897, King Nana of Itsekiri coordinated similar struggles, also in connection with palm oil trade.
- In 1897 Oba Ovonramwen of Benin (1897), resisted the interference and incursion of European merchants into the trade (including palm oil) of his kingdom, which included trade in palm oil.
- In 1966, Isaac Jasper Adaka Boro, leading the *Niger Delta People's Volunteer Force* (NDPVF), rebelled against the exclusion of host communities from the exploitation of the oil and gas resources of the Niger Delta Region.
- Between 1993 and 1998, Ken Saro-Wiwa, standing on the scenario in Ogoni land, put up similar, but non-violent resistance, drawing the attention of the international community to the economic oppression and environmental injustice perpetrated by the Nigerian state, in collaboration with multinational oil and gas operators.
- Finally, were the series of violent events that eventually culminated in the famous Kiama Declaration of 1998 (UNDP, 2006).

It can be seen from this short excursion that oil politics, whether palm oil or petroleum oil, on the one hand, and conflicts, on the other, have long become defining features of the Niger Delta Region.

Of course, to this catalogue must be added the other innumerable rebellions or militancy, hostage-taking, sabotage and massive vandalization of oil operations and infrastructure, large scale theft of oil and abuses of human rights, including kidnappings by youths in the last fifteen years or so. Also well known is the fact that these activities have frequently disrupted oil and gas exploration and even threatened national peace; thereby traumatizing the polity and economy; while also attracting negative international attention and contributing to the rise of crude oil prices (UNDP, 2006).

Events in the Niger Delta should, therefore, be of concern and interest to all Nigerians. This is because its hydro carbonaceous minerals have become the mainstay of the Nigerian economy and indeed the linchpin of the nation's economic life, especially since the early 1970s. By virtue of its oil and gas, the Niger Delta Region contributes over 90 per cent of the Nigeria's foreign exchange earning; 80 per cent of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP); and 95 per cent of the

national budget (Emuedo, Anoliefo and Emuedo, 2007; 206). These statistics clearly show that the developmental challenges and needs of the region must be considered very relevant by, and to, other regions and communities, because enough has happened in recent times to indicate and indeed confirm that fallouts of the continued feeling of lack or inadequate response, due to failure of governance, can produce destabilizing effects on the national economy. This is because, as Saro-Wiwa has been quoted as saying, the NDR is the 'heart and lungs of Nigeria' (Emuedo, Anoliefo and Emuedo, 2007; 198).

Challenges of Development

The challenges of the development of the Niger Delta Region are many and complex. Because they all tend to be cross-cutting issues, they are also invariably interrelated and often overlapping. In this address the following challenges are highlighted:

- governance failure;
- pervading poverty;
- insecurity;
- a mono-economy,
- gender marginalization;
- unemployment; and
- inadequate and fragile infrastructure.

We cannot pretend that these exhaust the challenges of the region. Furthermore, it will be noted that some of the challenges encompass some pertinent issues that could in fact be considered in their rights. It must also be stated at the outset, however, that there is a dearth of reliable data bases for a properly guided discussion of the challenges of development and environmental management in the Niger Delta.

Governance Failure

Critical to the developmental process of the Niger Delta is the quantum of the public sector oil-derived revenue that is ploughed back and utilized for the development of the region (Adele Jinadu and Abutudu, 2007). In this regard, Adele Jinadu and Abutudu (*ibid*) have asked a number of pointed questions:

- How well managed have the resource flows been?
- Is their utilization by the respective recipient governments and public agencies transparent?
- To what extent have the projects embarked upon

with these projects benefited the mass of the respective constituents of the recipient governments and agencies?

In investigating these questions in three Niger Delta states, namely: Abia, Akwa Ibom and Cross River, the survey by Adele Jinadu and Abutudu (2007) revealed that there is little respect for transparency and accountability in the management of the resources accruing to the respective states, local government areas and even the Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC). Particularly noteworthy is the perception by the public that politicians do not spend the resources that they receive to enhance the welfare of the people. Rather, "politicians are viewed by respondents as essentially concerned with diverting public funds for buying personal property, paying their political godfathers and supporters and generally living a life of comfort and luxury" (Adele Jinadu and Abutudu, *ibid*; 35). The picture at the grassroots is presented by **Iledare and Suberu (2010; 16) as follows**: "Nigerian local governments, even more than federal and state administrations, have acquired a reputation for being run like private instruments of their chairmen". This is another way of saying that governments and their agencies are failing in their social contract with the people, because those who run the affairs of governance are corrupt.

Another aspect of governance failure is the seeming systematic oppression of lower tiers of government by the higher tiers. This has been expressed in the incessant complaints by state and local governments that the extant revenue sharing formula is unfair and unjust. Consequently, the opinion has been formed in some quarters that state and local governments are not getting what should be due to them from the oil and gas-derived revenue, considering their constitutional responsibilities. Again, this has been put forward as one of the planks on which the well-known 'resource control movement' is leveraged. It has been called the politics of marginalization of minority groups and Nigeria's perverted federalism (Ibaba and Ikelegbe, 2010; 235). This conclusion is supported by the historical data which show that there has been indeed been a systematic reduction in the revenue dedicated to the producing states (Table 1).

Table 1: Historical Data on the Share of Derivation

Period	Producing State (%)	Distributable Pool Amount or Federal Account
1960-1967	50	50
1967-1969	50	50
1969-1971	45	55
1971-1975	45 minus offshore proceeds	55 plus offshore proceeds
1975-1979	20 minus offshore proceeds	80 plus offshore proceeds
1979-1981	-	100
1982-1992	1.5	98.5
1992-1999	3	97
1999-date	13	87

Source: UNDP, 2006; 37 (Adapted from Alapiki and Allen, 2007; 248).

At the lower level, local governments have complained of the unjustifiable, and arguably unconstitutional, deductions from their allocations by the state government. Consequently, most state and local government institutions charged with the responsibility for environmental resources management lack the wherewithal to recruit the required number and calibre of staff, procure the required equipment, and source relevant information and the competences for the formulation and execution of development-driven policies and programmers.

Thus far, the management of petroleum-derived resources is shrouded in unnecessary secrecy. Before the present attempts to reform the electioneering process, politicians never saw themselves as accountable to the people and as such, the people have had little or no access to their elected officials at all levels of government.

Another indicator of governance failure is the challenge of institutional weakness and multiplicity of agencies operating in the region. The institutions targeting the developmental and environmental challenges of the NDR include the several River Basin Development Authorities (RBDAs), the Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC) and the Ministry of Niger Delta Affairs. In many ways and several areas, the mandates of these institutions overlap.

Flowing from the above is the confusing overlaps and inconsistencies in the jurisdictions of some regulatory agencies of government, such as between the National Environmental Standards and Regulation Enforcement Agency (NESREA) Act of 2007 and the Department of Petroleum Resources. This is how Amnesty International (2009; 6) summarized it "The regulatory system in the Niger Delta is deeply flawed. Nigeria has laws and regulations that require companies to comply with internationally recognized standards of "good oil field practice", and laws and regulations to protect the environment but these laws and regulations are poorly enforced. The government agencies responsible for enforcement are ineffective and, in some cases, compromised by conflicts of interest". For instance, there is the mutual feeling by the economists that the ecologists are anti-development, while the ecologists feel that the economists are anti-environment.

Such lacunae are capitalized upon and maximally exploited by operators to violate and contravene them, often with impunity, with the regulators covering their inherent oversight weakness by 'looking the other way'. Institutional weakness and governance failure is also reflected in what NDES (1997) has called 'the very feeble penalties stipulated for offenders'. A couple of examples will suffice. First, section 27 of the NESREA Act, 2007, prohibits without lawful authority, the discharge of

hazardous substances into the environment. This offence is punishable with a fine not exceeding N1, 000,000.00 (One million naira only) and an imprisonment term of five years. In the case of a company, there is an additional fine of N50, 000.00 (Fifty thousand naira only) for every day the offence persists. Second and probably more 'feeble' are sections 43 (3) and 45 of the petroleum reefing regional section of the Petroleum Act, CAP P10 LFN, 2004, which requires the manager of a refinery to take measures to prevent and control pollution of the environment and makes any contravention punishable with a fine of N100.00 (One hundred naira, only)! There is an unpardonable lack of seriousness on the side of government, regarding their oversight responsibilities in the area of environmental management. That is why, after shifting the deadline for gas flare-out, government seems to have become very uncomfortably silent.

All said and done, more than anything else, the challenges of development and environmental management and resultant conflicts in the Niger Delta Region are a clear testimony to the failure (may be unwillingness) of governance; and the intrinsic limitation of state institutions to satisfactorily and effectively tackle and resolve social issues.

Pervading Poverty

The concept of poverty is well discussed in the literature. It is also well known that poverty can both be the cause, as well as the effect of development and environmental degradation. Initially, the definition and application of poverty were limited to the economic domain, with income as the main indicator. However, at present, it is seen as a multi-dimensional phenomenon which can better be dealt with from a dynamic and comprehensive and holistic perspective (Malthus, 1798; Townsend, 1979; Sen, 1981; Ringen, 1987; Putnam, Leoradi and Nanelli, 1986; Downson, 1982; Norgerd and Policansky, 1999; Joseph and Sumption, 1999; Nolan and Whelan, 1996; Dowler, 2000; Buknall, Kraus and Pillai, 2000; Dowler and Leather, 2001; Padrigu, 2002; Holden, Bakele and Pender, 2004; Emuedo, Anoliefo and Emuedo, 2007; Aggrey, Wambugu, Karuga and Wanga, 2010; Omuta, 2011).

Generally, poverty is the lack of security in the physical elements of good living; manifested in the total lack of, or inadequate access to the means of generating and sustaining those elements (NDES, 1997). The application of the concept shows that poverty is pervading in all its ramifications in the NDR. Whether it is defined in *absolute* terms, as lacking the means to access basic human needs; or in *relative* terms from the societal comparative point of view; or in *administrative* terms of the failure of the state to provide for those who are even temporarily vulnerable; or *consensually*, in terms of public perception; or *contextually* in terms of relating it to

different socio-cultural and economic levels, poverty finds its very eloquent expression in the Niger Delta Region.

The UNDP (2006) concretizes this conclusion. Although the region's Human Development Index (HDI) of 0.564 is higher than the Nigerian HDI of 0.448, the Niger Delta rates far below regions or countries with similar gas and oil reserves. For instance, in Venezuela, the index is significantly higher at 0.772, while in Indonesia it is also very impressive, at 0.697 (UNDP, 2006: 15). Perhaps more interesting is the observation that when disaggregated at the local government level, the UNDP shows that state and regional HDI scores mask inequalities in human development among oil producing communities. Thus, paradoxically, and rather intriguingly, local government areas without oil facilities appear to have fewer poor people than those with oil facilities (UNDP, 2006: 15). The report also concludes, also paradoxically, that decline in the HDI has been steeper for the Niger Delta states than the rest of Nigeria (UNDP, 2006: 137).

In addition, and to further complicate the poverty syndrome of the region, the oil and gas industry has created class-biased and class-based divisions in the region, with conspicuously high, sharp and widening disparities in income, between oil and gas workers on the one hand, and the workers in the other sectors, on the other (Emuedo, Anoliefo and Emuedo, 2007; 218). This class division leads to localized major distortions, not only in the prices of goods and services, but also in the social and economic fabric of the local society. Emuedo, Anoliefo and Emuedo (*ibid*: 219) have also argued that the oil and gas sector has economically displaced the largely unskilled local labour force, constraining the people to either take up low-skilled, low-wage jobs or migrate to urban centres to swell the ranks of the urban poor, thereby further accentuating their poverty.

The expression of these distortions is that they drive up prices, thereby further constraining the purchasing power of ordinary people and making it increasingly difficult for many to meet the costs of basic needs, such as housing, healthcare, environmentally friendly and clean energy, transportation, education and making poverty more pervasive than conventional measures reveal (UNDP, 2006: 57). Indeed, as Higgins (2009) has concluded, the analysis of poverty and human development indicators paints a dismal picture for the Niger Delta. In this regard, the National Population Commission's household survey of 1999 confirmed that half of the region's population was not just poor but were destitute, while 70 per cent of them were living in poverty in the rural areas (NPC, 2000). NDES (1997) conclusion that: 'The numbers of the poor are unacceptably high in the Niger Delta today and are increasing, especially since the

natural capita such as fisheries, tropical forest and diversity, are fast decreasing' is even more true today than when it was first made.

We reiterate that the more critical issue in the Niger Delta Region is not just the increasing incidence of poverty, but perhaps the intense feeling among the people of the region that they ought to be doing far better. This is based on the considerable level of resources they see in their midst, and the unmitigated display and celebration of wealth, especially by the political elite in Nigeria; most of which derives from the crude oil and gas in their local communities. This largely explains much of the frustration, indignation, grievance and sometimes open defiance in the region (UNDP, 2006). The frustration derives from the fact that most of the forces creating poverty in the region are essentially man-made and social. To the extent that this argument is true, to that extent, therefore, can the forces that create poverty be reversed and surmounted; because they merely reflect systems of resource allocation that are instituted and perpetuated by some strategically placed individuals, especially the political class. The fact that the poverty-perpetuating systems and structures have been allowed to operate unabated can only be one of the indicators of governance failure in the region.

The point must be emphasized that those who think that allocating copious resources to poverty-reduction will mean less resources for development are not only myopic but also selfish. The fact must be appreciated that the poor have growth- and wealth-creating ideas too. They have remained poor because they have been institutionally denied access to the same resources that are available to the rich, namely; land, credit, infrastructure, appropriate technology and education, among others. Pro-poor structures and policies, therefore, ultimately mean more people empowered to build on their wealth-creating initiatives and thereby contribute to the overall development of the region.

Insecurity and Conflicts

One of the expressions of poverty is frustration. And frustration leads to aggression, which is usually expressed violently. The combination of frustration and aggression has given rise to what Dollard, Doob, Miller, Mowerer and Sears (1939) have called the frustration-aggression hypothesis, which argues that "the occurrence of aggressive behaviour always presupposes the existence of frustration, and contrariwise, that the existence of frustration always leads to some form of aggression" (Emuedo, Anoliefo and Emuedo, 2007; 217). A parallel of the frustration-aggression thesis is what Ibaba and Ikelegbe (2011; 220) have called the 'greed and grievance' perspectives of Collier and Hoeffler. However, in Collier's (1999) opinion, it is not the loud discourse of grievance

that causes conflict; rather it is the silent voice of greed and avarice.

Frustration is said to exist when the fulfilment of a goal is prevented. The frustration of the people of the Niger Delta Region can be put in an historical perspective. In 1954 Nigeria adopted the federal system of government, with a three-region structure: the West, the East and the North. At independence, in 1960, the West was ruled by the Yoruba, the East by the Ibo and the North by the Hausa-Fulani. There were only three years between the creation of the Midwest Region in 1963 and the first military coup of 1966 and the subsequent civil war. The major ethnic groups were, therefore, the perceived main contributors to the nation's wealth and the allocation of revenue to the regions was based on the principle of derivation, which was on the average 50 per cent (Emuedo, Anoliefo and Emuedo, 2007; 207).

However, since Decree No. 51 of 1969 was promulgated to alter the derivation principle enshrined in the 1960 and 1963 constitutions, the changes have known only one direction; down ward and against the producing states in favour of the federal government. The reason for the first alteration was for the federal government to have resources to prosecute the Nigerian civil war. However, this happens to coincide with when oil and gas were becoming the undisputed main source of national revenue. Strangely and rather clandestinely, oil and gas became seen as God-sent gifts, and therefore, *free goods*, while the cotton and grounds of the north, the palm oil of the east and the cocoa of the west were *owned* by the regions. Consequently, the Niger Delta Region has always felt cheated and consequently frustrated because the powers that be have presented the region from getting from oil and gas, the equivalent of Ahmadu Bello University and the Arewa conglomerates which cotton and ground nuts gave the north; the Obafemi Awolowo University and Cocoa House that cocoa gave to the west; and the University of Nigeria and Presidential Hotel that palm oil gave to the east. The frustration of the Niger Delta is, therefore, because the region's goal of getting what other regions got from their resources has been prevented (Emuedo, Anoliefo and Emuedo, 2007).

The balkanization of the region through several state-creation exercises has also further systematically weakened and disadvantaged the minorities that own the oil and gas resources, in terms of voice and negotiating power. This is how Alapiki and Allen (2007; 249) put it: "Many citizen of the Niger Delta may be forgiven for believing that, if the mineral oil was found in the areas of the major groups than in the minority areas, the derivation story may have been different". It is against this background that Emuedo, Anoliefo and Emuedo (2007; 226) have asserted that: "The violent protests in the Niger

Delta are, therefore, essentially part of opposition to economic marginalization and political domination by the state". Consequently, (Alapiki and Allen, 2007: 257) correctly concluded that: "in the context of ethnic politics in Nigeria, where the major ethnic groups have dominated the politics and economy of the country, the Niger Delta peoples describe their fate as that of internal colonialism". This is in consonance with the assertion by El-Kenz (1996: 51, 52) that "almost everywhere, violence is the mode of response to the problems that inadequate political institutions and outdated codes of behaviour have proved incapable of solving.....they are using the only means left to them violence". Unresponsive governance fuels violence and conflicts.

A mono-economy

The economy of the Niger Delta Region is presently very narrow and vulnerable. It is based virtually only on oil and gas. However, with its stock of natural and human resources, the region offers immense opportunities for developing a diversified and growing broad-based economy. A diversified economy would not only reduce its present, unsustainable dependence on non-renewable oil and gas, but more importantly jumpstart new industries and provide sustainable livelihoods (UNDP, 2007). An alternative economic structure based on the region's sustainable resource base must be sought to leverage on its abundant natural resource endowment.

Over fifty years ago, a French economist (Perroux, 1955) coined the concept of the '*growth pole*' to describe the juxtaposition of propellant industries, which through their forward and backward linkages are able to attract other growth-generating activities, thereby multiplying and amplifying the developmental impetus of an area, through agglomeration economies. Such industries and activities are classified as '*propulsive*' because their rates of growth are higher than the overall national average and therefore have the capacity to propel the economy. Perroux (1955) called such propulsive activities and industries, 'growth poles' because, they, like a 'field of magnet', attract to their localities, activities that depend on their outputs as inputs, as well as those whose outputs they need as inputs; besides the indirect requisite labour, social facilities and services. Growth poles, therefore, tend to have cumulative or even multiplier effects on the growth and development of their regions.

The agricultural sector is a comfortable home for 'growth poles' in the NDR. In fact until the 1970s when oil and gas became the mainstay of the national and regional economies, it was the agricultural sector that sustained growth and development of the NDR, as elsewhere in the country, through the commercial production of various cash crops. Fortunately, and in spite of the massive degradation due to pollution from oil spillages and gas flaring, the ecological resources of the Niger Delta Region

can still have the capacity and potential to support the production of rice, sugar, cocoa, roots and tubers, citrus fruits, plantains, rubber and rubber products and oil palm. In addition the area is also blessed with huge resources for aquaculture and forestry.

Therefore, governments at all levels, the oil and gas sector, multi-national donor agencies and other stakeholders must be persuaded, encouraged and assisted to actively support the resuscitation of the commercial cultivation of these crops, for which the region has reasonable prospect, as well as the establishment of bankable agro-based industries related to them. Moreover, they can provide the justification for the speedy development of badly needed infrastructure. Other benefits of a resuscitated agricultural sector will include capacity building, training and skills acquisition, especially tied to modern technology; establishment of seed multiplication centres; access to credit and affordable modern storage facilities. It must be pointed out, however, that access to land must be liberalized if the full potentials of a robust and sustainable agriculture-driven economy is to be established in the NDR. This implies that the problematic Land Use Act of 1979 must be reviewed forthwith.

Gender Marginalization

Women in the Niger Delta Region play very strategic and key roles in the traditional economy, especially in the agricultural sector, where they are not only the producers but also the marketers. If as we have argued above, agriculture holds the key to the diversification of the economy of the NDR, and women are key players in that sector, then women must be empowered to fully integrate into it. They must be enabled to have access to all the productive resources to operate maximally in the agricultural sector. This means access to land and credit, among others. Another sector dominated by women is trading.

However, in spite of their obvious significance, men have continued to monopolize decision-making even in matters that pertain to women. The obvious implication of their alienation is the expected failure or sub-optimal results in the execution of policies and programmes. Hence, Sen and Grown (1987) are of the opinion that empowerment cannot be achieved without granting 'personal autonomy' to women. Personal autonomy for women meant that they should be able to make their own choices and take their own decisions in the realms of politics, economics and society.

Women empowerment has been conceived as the answer to this gender challenge. Women empowerment became a topical issue in the 1980s. It was in response to the realization that women's needs are intricately bound up with the priority needs and aspirations of the nation, and must necessarily, therefore, be viewed as critical elements

of the overall national development and the advancement of the total society.

The women empowerment approach was championed by Third World women's group called Development Alternatives with Women for a New Era (DAWN). Its view of society was from the vantage point of poor and oppressed women. Its emphasis was mobilization and consciousness-raising with particularly grassroots women groups and organizations as the source of empowerment. DAWN also stressed access to productive resources such as land, credit, education and training (Snyder and Tadesse, 1995).

Unemployment

One of the arguments for youth restiveness, militancy and general criminality in the NDR is the unacceptable level of unemployment. Indeed, the NDR has been described as having the worst unemployment rates in the country (Emuedo, Anoliefo and Emuedo, 2007; 220). The major reason often given for this situation is that the oil and gas sector activities are highly specialized and require equally specialized skills. Since the vast majority of the population of the Niger Delta Region is rural and local unskilled village dwellers, they are often very easily and conveniently dislocated and displaced in favour of their urban-based and skilled counterparts. Consequently, the issue of employment and participation in the oil and gas sector generates bitter feeling of alienation which has resulted in conflicts between and among communities and ethnic groups, on the one hand, and between them and government and oil and gas operators, on the other, in the Niger Delta Region.

Opinion is held that redressing the capacity disadvantage of the local people requires empowering socially marginalized groups and individuals, strengthening social and infrastructural institutions, and developing the capacity of existing local groups. Furthermore, fully participatory approaches to the planning and implementation of development interventions are essential; partnerships can go far in removing the barriers to social inclusion. Interventions tailored to localities or groups will meet their unique needs. Such interventions must include vocational training for the restive youths of the region.

Inadequate and Fragile Infrastructure and Social Services

Being multi-dimensional, the levels of basic social and economic infrastructure have also been accepted as indicators of poverty. In this regard, the infrastructure in the Niger Delta Region can at best be described as parlous. They are generally either completely lacking, or where they are available, they are inadequate, unsafe and archaic

(UNDP, 2006; 27). It could be said regarding social infrastructure, that the Niger Delta Region is the least developed in the country. Below, we have outlined the challenges in only four areas, namely: transportation, water supply, energy supply, health care and education.

Transportation: In the area of transportation, and with particular reference to roads, the major explanation for their poor state is the terrain. Being low lying, the provision of infrastructure is more costly than in higher or upland areas. For instance, if the provision of roads were to be determined by cost per kilometre only, the construction of roads will always be unattractive in the region. This is because while the process requires only earth work in upland areas, in the NDR, the processes are more complex and include pilling, filling, stabilization, construction of numerous bridges would be necessary, in addition. These mean extra costs. Consequently, good networks of roads are non-existent. Indeed the region has the lowest road density in the country (NDES, 1997; 42).

The intricate network of streams and rivers in the region has not been to rescue even the people who dwell in the riverine areas from the problem of inadequate transportation infrastructure. This is because the water ways are occluded by oil and gas activities or silted are or invaded by exotic plants such as water hyacinth.

Water Supply: Although water is a ubiquitous element in most of the Niger Delta Region, access to safe, potable water is grossly inadequate. It has been estimated that only about 20 per cent of rural dwellers in the region (which is where the vast majority of the people live) have access to potable water. The figures increase to only between 40 and 45 per cent in the urban areas (NDES, 2000). The vast majority of the population, therefore, depends on supplies from streams, rivers, lakes, ponds, and shallow hand-dug wells. Considering that these streams also receive human wastes and untreated industrial discharges, including spilled crude oil, and also considering that the water level is very high, water from these sources are invariably polluted. The result is the high incidence of water-borne diseases in the region.

Energy Supply: Although one of the major features on the landscape of the Niger Delta Region is the rather ubiquitous gas flare stack, the vast majority of the communities live in darkness, under un-energized and un-powered conditions. The paradox is this. Because of the gas flares, for the people living near the stacks, night never comes. Although Amnesty International (2009) has concluded that outside the homes the people "live with continuous light", they have no energy to light their rooms and or power their appliances, because there is no electricity supply. The UNDP (2006; 29) claims that only 34 per cent of people of the region use electrical lighting,

while the vast majority of 61 per cent use kerosene or a lantern. Surveys by the Centre for Population and Environmental Development (CPED), (2003), Wokocha (2010) and Inoni (2009) have confirmed that the vast majority of over 74 per cent of the households in the region depend on biomass sources of fuel for their cooking and kerosene for lighting.

Health Care: In the area of human health, the poverty of the Niger Delta Region is manifested in what the UNDP (2006; 32) has called a *dismal health and health care service delivery characterized by poor hygiene; little or no health information and education; a grossly inadequate capacity for service delivery; inadequate provision of hospitals, clinics and primary health centres; and a lack of effective operational plans for holistic health management.*

The precarious state of the available facilities is vividly presented in an NDES (2000) survey which showed that there was an average of only one primary health care facility for every 9,805 people. Furthermore, the survey showed that an average facility serves an oversized area of 44 square kilometres. Also alarming is the finding that there is one facility for an average of 43 settlements. The situation is worse for higher-order secondary health care; with respect to which there is only one facility for every

131,174 people. The average secondary health care facility serves an area of 583 square kilometres and an average of 48 settlements. The reality of the challenges that these statistics pose will be better appreciated against the background of the poor state of the transportation facilities presented above.

Education: Although the Niger Delta Region is not classified as an educationally disadvantaged area, and although the school enrolment figures put the region significantly above the national average, nonetheless, its educational facilities are inadequate for its land mass, number of communities and population. For instance, an NDES (2000) survey showed that the core Niger Delta states which cover about 30,000 square kilometres and have over 3,800 settlements and an estimated population of eight million, had only 2,169 primary schools and 545 secondary schools. This meant that there was one primary school to every 3,700 people, serving an average area of 14 square kilometres. Furthermore, one primary school served an average of two settlements. With regard to secondary schools, there was one to every 14,679 people, serving an area of 55 square kilometres, and meeting the needs of an average of seven settlements. The results are the expected overcrowded classrooms, inadequate and overstretched furniture.



A Cross Section of participants during the TTI/CPED Workshop on "Confronting the Challenges of Development, Environmental Management and Peace Building in the Nigeria's Niger Delta: Beyond the Amnesty"

Challenges of Environmental Management

Challenges discussed in this paper are: general environmental degradation, climate change and the depletion of common pool resources.

Environmental Degradation

Environmental quality and the sustainability of environmental resources are fundamental to the overall wellbeing and development of the people of the Niger Delta Region. This is because over 70 per cent of the people in the region depend on the natural environment for their livelihood. For many, the environmental resource base, which they use for agriculture, fishing and the collection of forest products, is their principal or sole source of food, as well as a veritable source of supplementary income. The rivers and creeks are widely used for bathing and other domestic purposes, such as washing of clothes. They are also the sole or major sources of drinking water in many areas, as seen in the section under infrastructure. Consequently, Amnesty International (2009; 2) has argued that any pollution of, and or damage to, the environmental resources of the region constitutes a significant risk to, and indeed an infringement of, the fundamental human rights of the people to decent and healthy living.

Long before the issues were brought into the public domain, Saro Wiwa was quoted to have perceptibly portrayed the implications on the environment, environmental resources and eventually on the people of the region, of the relentless assault of oil and gas operators as:

“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, soil and water are poisoned, and finally, the land and its inhabitants die” (Onosode, 2003; 112).

Apart from his apprehension being confirmed, and far beyond his perception, the issues associated with oil and gas operations and their environment-related challenges have spilled a lot of blood, crushed many bones and prematurely terminated the lives of tens of thousands of promising youths.

The most commonly known form of environmental degradation in the NDR is the pollution caused by oil spillages and gas flaring. It is curious that, while the level of societal awareness, sensitivity and concern has been raised to quite appreciable heights in many parts of the developed world, this is not yet so in the less developed countries, especially, those of Africa and indeed Nigeria and the Niger Delta. In the NDR, the people are so overwhelmed by poverty that all their energies are channelled into the struggle for survival. They, therefore, do not seem to be aware that a problem exists. In other words, they do not seem to be conscious of, and concerned with, the numerous ways in which their actions or inactions and those of other parties have contributed, and are contributing, to monumental infringements on the environment, such as global warming and climate change. They also do not seem to be concerned about the effects which such infringements may be having on the quality of their lives.

An example of this wide disparity in the level of consciousness and awareness can be seen from hue and cry which greeted the recent Deepwater Horizon oil rig accident which occurred in the Gulf of Mexico, leading to the spilling of four million of crude oil. You will recall that the attention of the whole world was aroused by this incident and British Petroleum (BP) was made to bear the enormous cost of remediating the neighbouring sea shores and to compensate all those whose means of livelihood were affected. It is on record that this cost the company well over \$26 billion.

Now, among the questions which this scenario raises are: What about the enormous devastation and destitution from the over 68,000 reported oil spills involving over 56 million barrels (Banfield, 1998; 30, 31), which have been going on in the Niger Delta in Nigeria, since oil was first drilled in commercial quantity on June 5, 1956 in Oloibiri, and the first barrels of oil were exported from that well in 1958? How much have these incidents cost the multinational oil companies in compensation? (Omuta, 2010)

It must bother all of us why the age-long Niger Delta oil and gas-related environmental disasters have not raised anything compared by the level of concern raised in response to the Gulf of Mexico oil spill! For instance, on September 29, 2010, BP and the Gulf of Mexico Alliance announced a \$500 million (or N75 billion) independent research initiative to study the effects of the Deepwater Horizon incident and potential associated impact on the environment and public health. Again, the question is: How much have Shell Petroleum Development Company (SPDC), Chevron Nigeria Limited (CNL) and Total (formerly Elf Petroleum Nigeria Limited or EPNL), which together

accounted for almost 85 per cent of Nigeria's total petroleum production in 2008 (Iledare and Suberu, 2010; 2) and the other operators in the sector committed to the study of the impact of the spills that their operations have caused over the years, in the Niger Delta region? The difference in the nature of response generated by the single Gulf of Mexico incident, on the one hand, and the scores of thousands of the incidents in Nigeria, on the other, is clearly attributable to the pervading poverty among the people of the region, the level of awareness and governance failure (Omuta, 2010).

Climate Change

Climate change and global warming are becoming potential threats to the socio-economic activities of nations around the world, mainly due to human activities which have led to atmospheric changes. These threats are expected to continue for decades irrespective of how rigorous mitigation efforts might be. Though climate change affects everyone, it expectedly has a disproportionate effect on the poor living in developing countries of the world. In this regard, the Niger Delta Region must be singled out because it is the lowest lying region of Nigeria, and therefore, most susceptible to coastal erosion, flooding, submergence and subsidence, caused by increasing rainfall fall and rising sea waters.

More particularly, since a large percentage of the population of the region survive on agriculture, the increasing threat of climate change and global warming indirectly constitute a threat to food security, by encumbering agricultural production. In addition, several settlements have been displaced as a result of sea level rise and incursions along the 540km coastline of the Niger Delta Region out of Nigeria's 850km coastline, resulting

in resettlement and rehabilitation challenges, in addition to general environmental crises. Furthermore, as the oil and gas producing region in the country, emission of green house gases (GHGs) from gas flaring and other industrial activities has direct effect on global warming. The climate change-induced challenges have further aggravated the persisting problems of poverty levels and lack of development. (Abubakar, 2010, and Orubebe, 2010).

Depletion of Common Pool Resources

From our discussion of the infrastructural challenges, it became clear that another aspect of poverty that has direct implications for the natural environment of the NDR is energy poverty. Energy poverty has been defined as the lack of adequate modern energy for the basic needs of cooking, warmth and lighting, ([practicalaction.org.com /.../energy_poverty_hidden_crisis.pdf](http://practicalaction.org.com/.../energy_poverty_hidden_crisis.pdf)). It is **the basic lack of access to modern energy services necessary for human development** (IEF, 2009); the inability to cook with modern cooking fuels and the lack of bare minimum of electric lighting to read, or for other household and productive activities after sunset (Modi, McDade, Lallement and Saghir, 2005; 9). Indeed, one of the indicators that could be, and has been, used to measure poverty in developing countries is the household's affordability, or otherwise, of environmentally-friendly sources or types of energy (or what has also been called 'clean' or 'modern' energy) for domestic use.

In this regard, a recent report on the energy consumption of the poor in the NDR (Omuta, 2011) has confirmed that there is an inverse relationship between levels of poverty and exploitation of *Common Pool Resources* (CPRs). Common pool resources are resources whose

characteristics make them costly, but not impossible, to exclude potential beneficiaries from obtaining and exploiting the benefits from their use. In the cases of extreme pressure, common pool resources have been converted to *Open Access Resources* (OARs). An open access resource is one where it is impossible to control the access of individuals who want to use it. Common examples are a fishery, or (in the classic example of the tragedy of the commons) a common pasture. Consequently, CPRs often face the challenges of congestion and overuse or overexploitation. From the point of view of the poverty-energy relationship, forest resources fall into the category of CPRs in the Niger Delta Region. This is because the poor depend overwhelmingly on biomass fuels (sourced from forests) as sources of household energy, as well as a source of supplementary income, more than the rich. And, although it is possible to control the exploitation of forest resources for energy use, it is very challenging.

Among the specific environmental implications of the use fuel wood as the source of cooking energy are: deforestation; removal of a wide range of organisms; lower soil fertility, by removing natural fertilizers; poor agricultural yield; and consequent threat to food security. Among the health implications of the use of biomass fuels are: the soot and smoke that cause respiratory complications such as asthma, cough, pneumonia and chronic bronchitis; while suspended particulate matter (SPM) cause pulmonary diseases, and eye-related problems, such as cataracts. Finally, the use of fuel wood is associated with fire outbreaks with their high collateral damages, especially considering the low quality of building materials used by the poor.

Challenges of Peace Building

The amnesty programme and the imperative of peace in the Niger Delta Region are briefly outlined below as aspects of peace building.

The Amnesty Issue

When it became clear that the use of force would not resolve the security challenges in the Niger Delta Region, and that the deployment of heavy-handed state security forces was only exacerbating insecurity and escalating violence in the Niger Delta, the government decided to apply the carrot-and-the-stick approach. The result is what we now know as the amnesty programme. In a nut shell the amnesty programme is designed to grant unconditional pardon to those who had been involved in the crime of militancy against the Nigerian state, in return for complete and unconditional disarmament. Two features of the programme are particularly noteworthy. First, is the vocational training of its participants or enrollees, in carefully selected areas of interest, within Nigeria and outside. The hope is that such vocations would sustain the beneficiaries; keep them out of crime and criminal acts; and permanently embrace peace. Second, is the payment of a stipend of N65, 000.00 (Sixty-five thousand naira only), made up of a daily food allowance of \$10 and monthly stipend of \$133, to ex-militants. Twenty-six thousand (26,000) ex-militants are said to be enrolled in the programme (Amaechi, 2011, and **Iledare and Suberu, 2010; 18**).

Although the programme is less than two years in operation, its prospects are already manifesting. Among the early visible positive results of the programme are the verifiable relative calm in the region (the intermittent threats by the Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta (MEND), notwithstanding); less interruption in oil and gas operations; the corresponding steady increase in national crude production; as well as increases in the revenue earnings.

These early gains, notwithstanding, some strong issues are already being raised about the transparency of its management. Among these are

the allegations that some powerful people in the region seem to have hijacked the programme and turned themselves into 'militancy contractors', 'amnesty merchants' and 'benefit captors' who pay only pittance to the ex-militants, from the huge sums they claim from the government on their behalf. Indeed, Amaechi (2011) has claimed that only between N2, 500.00 (Two thousand five hundred naira only) and N10, 000.00 (Ten thousand naira only) is paid by the 'militancy contractors' to the 'boys' participating in the programme. This is between a miserable 3.8 per cent and 15.4 per cent! Consequently the programme has been severally called a scam. All so soon we are already beginning to see the familiar finger prints of those elephant projects, like OMPADEC that failed woefully.

The amnesty programme is now being perceived as the latest outlet for profiteering and racketeering. The so-called Nigerian factor, which is the shorthand for corruption, has crept in. Indeed the opinion is held in some quarters that the agitation for amnesty for some mindless murderers operating in the northern part of the country is actually an attempt to 'deregulate' the programme so that more people can benefit the largesse that government is doling out.

Another issue about the amnesty programme is the argument that the 26,000 who reportedly surrendered their arms and ammunition were not fighting for themselves alone. They are also representing the deep feelings grievance, frustration, discontent and anger of other disadvantaged people in the (NDR), many of whom, for various reasons, are not able to carry weapons now. Therefore, rehabilitating only 26,000, though commendable, is tantamount to treating the symptoms rather than the root cause of the militancy challenge. It would seem, therefore, that beyond amnesty, government should focus on how to comprehensively address the challenges that have hampered development in the region. These include governance failure, which is expressed in the pervading poverty, ignorance, unemployment, and

non-existent or weak infrastructure, among many others, in the region. To do otherwise is to play the ostrich. Some are of the opinion that unless and until these fundamental issues are addressed, the amnesty programme may just be a phase in tackling the challenges of the Niger Delta Region. This opinion is supported by the argument that the grievances, frustration and aggression of the people of the region will always seek expression in ways that are usually not peaceful. In spite of the amnesty, many people in the region still feel marginalized and ignored. And, this is not good for peace because as Olawale (1999) has been quoted to have argued, the more a people is ignored, avoided and denied merited attention, the more likely that they will be persuaded to adopt non-peaceful ways to attract attention (Alapiki and Allen, 2007; 256).

The Imperative of Peace

Regardless of the reservations that have been expressed about the capability of the amnesty programme to produce and sustain peace in the region, one thing is clear and incontrovertible, namely: without peace, there will be no human development in the Niger Delta. The lingering doubts about the sincerity of the programme notwithstanding, the amnesty must be embraced by all and the necessary encouragement given to it. The

adoption of core democratic principles such as the rule of law, fundamental human rights, rule by consent and public interest-based political participation will enhance accountability and transparency, which are not only fundamental to, but are the starting blocks of peace building in the region (UNDP, 1997; 4, and Ibaba and Ikelegbe, 2011; 248). Transparency and accountability must include the practice of fiscal federalism. Consequently, the issue of derivation must be revisited. The region should be in a position to control the use of its resources and the revenues that flow or are derived from them. *A peace agenda must include education, easier access to justice and a more equitable distribution of resources. Accountability, transparency and integrity must guide the use of developmental resources at all levels. (UNDP, 2006)*

It is believed that the continued alienation of the people from the mainstream of the political process could induce and sustain poverty, just as self-interested participation promotes corruption, which, in turn, deepens the inequalities that trigger conflicts. We contend, therefore, that the deepening of the democratic content of governance is the best option for securing peace in the Niger Delta. The inclusive and participatory democracy envisaged would require the revisiting and preferably



A Cross Section of Participants Listening Attentively as Lead Presenter Makes Presentation During the TTI/CPED Workshop on "Confronting the Challenges of Development, Environmental Management and Peace Building in the Nigeria's Niger Delta: Beyond the Amnesty"



immediate review and possible abrogation of some laws that are perceived to be oppressive and obnoxious, concerning the ownership and jurisdiction of oil and gas resources. These include the Petroleum Act, 2004; Petroleum Profits Act, 1959; Nigeria Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) Act, 1990, 1993; Land Use Act, 1976; Oil Pipelines Act, 1978; and the Oil in Navigable Waters Act, 1979. It is also hoped that the proposed Petroleum Improvement Bill, when passed into law, might redress some of the grievances of the people of the NDR.

Conclusion

In concluding this address, I wish to insist that if governance failure is the root cause of the developmental, environmental and security challenges of the Niger Delta Region, then the first logical prescription for dealing with them is good governance. Good governance is the pivot on which all other challenges of the region hinge. Good governance, among other things, means giving expression to the spirit of fiscal federalism upon which the building blocks of Nigeria were laid as far back as 1946, when it was recommended by the Phillipson Fiscal Commission. Based on the spirit of fiscal federalism, the derivation principle not only guided revenue allocation in the 1948-1940 as well as the 1951-1952 fiscal years, it was inherited at independence in 1960. Furthermore, it guided federal revenue allocation up to the start of the Nigerian civil war, in 1967, when it was rather dubiously jettisoned. Although attempts during the Political Reform Conference of 2005, to raise the state share of oil-derived revenue from 13 per cent to 25 per cent, in a phased attempt to restore the original, pre-war 50 per cent failed, it is still widely believed that resource control is a fair and justified struggle that should not be allowed to die.

However, fiscal federalism in an undemocratic environment, polluted with greed and avarice, will only mean more resources for corrupt leaders to steal and loot. Indeed, this was one of the grounds on which the agitation for raising the derivation share of states was opposed at the Political Reform Conference. Nigerian local governments, even more than federal and state administrations, have

acquired a reputation for being run like private instruments of their chairmen. In order for good governance to grow and thrive, therefore, there must be the institutionalization of the democratic principles of persuasion, freedom, equality, equity, negotiation, and consensus building (Alapiki and Allen, 2007; 258). Good governance based on institutionalized democracy must be expressed in accessible, accountable, responsible, responsive and transparent leadership. Good governance must be problem-solving and determined to deliver such public goods as employment opportunities and quality social amenities and infrastructural facilities. It must be inclusive, based on participatory partnership and guarantee peace. Good governance must be characterized by openness. In the Niger Delta Region, as in the rest of Nigeria, the affairs of government are run clandestinely and in secrecy. This is an aberration and should not be allowed to continue. A situation where even the pay of elected political public office holders is not known to the tax payers who both elected and pay them, cannot be said to be good governance. It is hoped and expected that with the recent passage of the Freedom of Information (FoI) Act, 2011, governance would become more transparent and accountable. Governance should be run as public, rather than private enterprise at all levels.

Ladies and gentlemen, considering the array and calibre of experts that have been assembled for this august Workshop, the least that we can expect is a robust, comprehensive, deep and holistic assessment and consideration of the issues that we have highlighted in this address and more. We also expect that courageous proposals will be thrown up for addressing the challenge of governance failure that has suffocated the socio-economic development of the NDR, frustrated the effective management of its fragile and sensitive environment and environmental resources, fuelled conflicts and robbed it, and indeed the whole nation, of the peace needed for sustainable overall development. I am confident that the Workshop can deliver on these expectations.

Ladies and gentlemen, I wish you very fruitful deliberations and thank you for listening.

REFERENCES

- Abubakar, M.K. (2010) "Keynote Address by the Honourable Minister of Science and Technology, Professor Mohammed K. Abubakar, at an International Conference on Climate Change, Organized by Benson Idahosa University (Nigeria) and Envirofy (UK)" in Odon, A. and Guobadia, S. (eds.), *African Environmental Perspectives*, Vol. 1. (An Academia for Green Africa (AGGA) Publication), Bloomington Indiana: Author House, pp. 7-13.
- Aggrey, N., Wambugu, S., Karugia, J and Wang, E. (2010), "An Investigation of the Poverty-Environment Degradation Nexus: A Case Study of Katonga Basin in Uganda" *Research Journal of Environmental and Earth Sciences*, Vol. 2, No. 3, pp. 82-88.
- Alapiki, H. and Allen, F. (2007), "Oil and Democracy in Nigeria: Oiling the Friction" in Chokor, B.A. and Ozo, A.O. (eds.), *Environment and Society in Nigeria*, Lagos: A Publication of Environment and Behaviour Association of Nigeria (EBAN), Chapter 12, pp. 235-260.
- Amaechi, I. (2011), "Niger Delta Is Amnesty Really Working?" *Daily Independent*, Lagos, Monday, June 27.
- Amnesty International (AI), (2009), *Nigeria: Petroleum, Pollution and Poverty in the Niger Delta*, (June) Index: AFR 44/021/2009, London: Amnesty International Secretariat Peter Benenson House.
- Banfield, J. (1998), "The Corporate Responsibility Debate", *African Business*, (November Edition), pp. 30, 31.
- Bucknall, J., Kraus, C. and Pillai, P. (2000), *Poverty and the Environment*, The World Bank, (April).
- Centre for Population and Environmental Development (CPED), (2003), *Demographic and Baseline Studies for the Niger Delta Regional Master Plan*.
- Collier, P. (1999), "Doing Well out of War: An Economic Perspective", in Berdal, M. R. and Malone, D.M. (eds.) *Greed and Grievance: Economic Agendas in Civil Wars*, Cairo: Lynne Rienner Publishers, International Peace Academy, Chapter 5, pp. 91-112.
- Dollard, J., Doob, L.W., Miller, N.E., Mower, O.H. and Sears, R.R. (1939), *Frustration and Aggression*, New Haven: Yale University Press.
- Donnison, D. (1982), *Poverty and the State: An Historical Sociology*, London: The Open University Press.
- Dowler, E. and Leather, S. (2000), "Spare some change for a bite; From Primary Poverty to Social Exclusion: The Role of Nutrition and Food" in Bradshaw J. and Sainsbury, R. (eds.), *Experiencing Poverty 2000*, Canada: Ashgate Aldershot, pp. 200-218.
- El-Kenz, A. (1996), "Youth and Violence" in Ellis, S. (ed.), *African Now: People, Politics and Institutions*, The Hague: Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Association with James Curry Publishers.
- Emuedo, C.O., Anoliefo, G.O. and Emuedo, O.A. (2007), "The Environment, Poverty and Conflict Nexus: A Perspective on the Niger Delta", in Chokor, B.A. and Ozo, A.O. (eds.), *Environment and Society in Nigeria*, Lagos: A Publication of Environment and Behaviour Association of Nigeria (EBAN), Chapter 11, pp. 195-234.
- Environmental Resources Management Limited (ERML), (1997), *Environmental and Socioeconomic Characteristics of the Niger Delta*.
- Higgins, K. (2009). *Regional Inequality and the Niger Delta*. Overseas Development Institute (ODI) Policy Brief No. 5.
- Holden, S., Bekele, S. and Pender, J. (2004), "Non-farm Income, Household Welfare and Sustainable Land Management in less-favoured Areas in Ethiopia", *Food Policy*, Vol. 29, No. 4, pp. 369-392.
- Ibaba, I. S. and Ikelegbe, A. (2010) "Militias, Pirates and Oil in the Niger Delta", in Okumu, W. and A. Ikelegbe, (eds.), *Militias, Rebels and Islamist Militants: Human Insecurity and State Crises in Africa*, South Africa: Institute for Security Studies, Chapter 8, pp. 219-253.
- Iledare, W. and Suberu, R. (2010), "Oil and Gas Resources in the Federal Republic of Nigeria" *A Paper presented at the Workshop on The Management of Oil and Gas in Federal Systems, Organized by the World Bank and the Forum of Federations, with Sponsorship from Norad, Black Auditorium: World Bank, Washington, D.C. (March 3 and 4)*
- Inoni, O. E. (2009), "Effects of Forest Resources Exploitation on the Economic Well-being of Rural Households in Delta State, Nigeria", *Agricultura Tropica et Subtropica* Vol. 42, No. 1, pp. 20-27.
- International Energy Forum (IEF), (2009), "Reducing Energy Poverty through Cooperation and Partnership", *Background Paper for IEF Symposium on Energy Poverty*, Symposium on Energy Poverty, 8-9 December 2009 8-9, Johannesburg, South Africa.
- Jinadu, L. A. and Abutudu, M. (2007), "Comparative Thematic Overview", in L. A. Jinadu, et al, (Editors),

- Democracy, Oil and Politics in the Niger Delta: Linking Citizens' Perception and Policy Reform*, Port Harcourt: Centre for Advanced Social Science.
- Joseph, K. and Sumption, S. (1979), *Equity*, London: J. Murray Publications.
- Malthus, T. R. (1798), *An Essay on the Principle of Population*, Penguin Classics (Reprinted 1985).
- Modi, V., McDade, S., Lallement, D. and Saghir (2005), "Energy Services for the Millennium Development Goals", New York: UNDP: *Achieving the Millennium Development Goals*.
- National Population Commission (NPC), (2000), *Nigerian Demographic and Household Survey, 1999*, Calverton, MD, ORC/Macro
- NDES (1997), *Abridged Version of Findings and Recommendation of Phase I Report*, Phase I Report, Volume IV.
- NDES (2000), *Niger Delta Development Priorities and Action Plan*, Phase II Report,
- Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC), (2005), *Niger Delta Regional Development Master Plan: Our Challenge Their Future*, (January).
- Nolan, B. and Whelan, C. T. (1996), *Resources Deprivation and Poverty*, Oxford: The Clarendon Press.
- Omuta, G.E.D. (2010), "Welcome Address by Chief Host, Professor G.E.D. Omuta, Vice Chancellor Benson Idahosa University at an International Conference on Climate Change, Organized by Benson Idahosa University (Nigeria) and Envtirofy (UK)" in Odon, A. and Guobadia, S. (eds.), ***African Environmental Perspectives***, Vol. 1. (An Academia for Green Africa (AGGA) Publication), Bloomington Indiana: Author House, pp. 3-6.
- Omuta, G.E.D. (2011), "Poverty, and Environmental Quality in the Niger Delta Region: Dependence on Biomass Fuels as the Source of Household Energy", A commissioned Paper for the Centre for Population and Environmental Development (CPED), Benin City, Nigeria.
- Onosode, G.O. (2003), "Towards Environmental Management and Sustainable Development in the Niger Delta", in Chokor, B.A. (ed.), *Environmental Issues and Challenges of the Niger Delta: Perspectives from the Niger Delta Environmental Survey Process (Selected Speeches and Presentations (1995-2001) by Gamaliel O. Onosode)*, Chapter 9, pp. 111-122.
- Orubebe, G., (2010), "Keynote Address by the Honourable Minister of Niger Delta Affairs, Elder Godsdoy Orubebe at an International Conference on Climate Change, Organized by Benson Idahosa University (Nigeria) and Envtirofy (UK)" in Odon, A. and Guobadia, S. (eds.), ***African Environmental Perspectives***, Vol. 1. (An Academia for Green Africa (AGGA) Publication), Bloomington Indiana: Author House, pp. 13-17.
- Padrigu, B.H. (2002), "Poverty and Conflict: The Methodology of a Complex Relationship", A Paper Presented at a Seminar on Democratization and Conflict Management in Eastern Africa, Goteborg, (February 28 March 3).
- Perroux, F., (1955), "Notes sur la Notion de la Croissance", *Economic Allique*, Vol. 1, No. 2, pp. 307-320.
- Putnam, R. D., Leonardi, R. and Nanetti, R. Y. (1993), *Making Democracy Work: Civic Traditions in Modern Italy*, Princeton: Princeton University Press.
- Rathberger, E. (1991), *Operational zing Gender and Development*, Washington, DC: Association on Women and Development (AWID).
- Riby-Williams, J. (1971), *Opening Address*, at the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) Session on Human Development, Rabat, Morocco, by the Chief of the Human Resources Development Division.
- Ringen, S. (1987), *The Possibility of Politics*, Oxford: The Clarendon Press.
- Sen, A. K. (1981), *Poverty and Famines: An Essay on Entitlement and Deprivation*. New Delhi: Oxford University Press.
- Sen, G. and Grown, C. (1987), *Development, Crises and Alternative Visions*, New York: Monthly Review Press.
- Snyder, M.C. and Tadesse, M., (1995), *African Women and Development: A History*, Johannesburg: Witwatersrand University Press.
- Townsend, P. (1979) *Poverty in the UK: A Survey of Household Resources and Standards of Living*. Berkeley and Los Angeles: University of California Press.
- United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) (1997) *Human Development Report 1997*, New York: Oxford University Press.
- United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) (2006) *Niger Delta Human Development Report*. Volume 2.
- Wokocho, G.A.** (2010), "Impact of Biomass Fuel Utilization in Rivers State", *European Journal of Scientific Research* Vol. 48, No. 1, pp. 29-34.



Brief Reports on CPED Activities

CPED formally concludes its human rights project titled “Enhancing the Capacity of Local Civil Society Groups to Claim Civil and Political Rights in Nigeria's Niger Delta Region”

The project titled “Enhancing the Capacity of Local Civil Society Groups to Claim Civil and Political Rights in Nigeria's Niger Delta Region” financially supported by the European Commission for the period of two years, 2009-2010, to help build the capacity of CSOs to claim their rights in target LGAs of three Niger Delta States was formally and successfully concluded in December 2010. The overall aim of the Project is to improve the civil and political rights situation in Nigeria's volatile Niger Delta region through interventions designed to strengthen the capacity of local civil society organisations and groups to play important roles as civil and political rights claim-holders in their

localities. The programme was targeted at fifteen local Government Areas across Bayelsa, Delta and Rivers States. The main activities and achievements are summarised as follows:

Project Team Composition and Briefing Workshop: The inauguration and capacity building of the Project Team members was carried out during the period Monday 29th to Wednesday 31st December, 2009 during which team members were trained and informed on the implementation of the project as the various issues and challenges which they could face during implementation process were discussed and agreed upon.



A group photographs of the Community Project Implementation Committee (CPIC) in Sampou Community, Bayelsa State, during EC Result Oriented Monitoring (ROM) officer's visit to CPED project sites on the project “Enhancing the Capacity of Local Civil Society Groups to Claim Civil and Political Rights in Nigeria's Niger Delta Region”



Mobilisation of key stakeholders in the target communities and other collaborating institutions for participation in the action: The mobilisation of key stakeholders including State and Local Government officials in the three target states and 15 LGAs designed to solicit their support for the project was successfully carried out in the months of January and February, 2009. During the same period the 75 target communities were selected and the target groups, beneficiaries and other stakeholders were successfully mobilised for the action. Finally the identification of 501 civil society organisations and groups that were targeted for capacity building on human rights was carried out.

Constitution and Training of Local Government Project Implementation Committees (LGAPIC) and Community Project Implementation Committees (CAPIC): The constitution and training of *Local Government Project Implementation Committees (LGAPIC) and Community Project Implementation Committees (CAPIC)* was carried out in February 2009 during which 750 members were trained on their responsibilities in the implementation of the project activities in their communities.

Baseline surveys of local CSOs and the situation of civil and political rights in the target LGA/communities: The baseline surveys designed to provide background information on the socio-economic background of the target communities, the local civil society structure and the prevailing situation of civil and political rights them were carried out during the months of February, March and April, 2009. The surveys collected data on the challenges and problems of local civil society structure and their capability as well as the nature of the civil and political rights situation in each of the target LGAs/communities. The information collected focused on three major components i.e. socio-economic information, the structure of local CSOs and their needs assessment; and the situation analysis of the civil and political rights.

Holding of stakeholders' workshops on the implementation of the action: The workshops brought together key stakeholders from the various target communities to discuss problems and challenges following the findings of the baseline and needs assessment surveys. The workshop informed and motivated over 1,200 stakeholders in the fifteen LGAs for contributions to the strategies for the implementation of the project.

Civil society capacity building on organisational management: Training Programme: The training of the participating civil society organizations and groups which was designed to strengthen their organisational management capacities was successfully carried out during the months of June to August, 2009 in the 15 target LGAs. This has enabled 750 leaders and representatives of 501 local civil society organisations to acquire the skills to effectively manage their organisations.

Civil society capacity building on civil and political rights: This training of representatives of the participating local organisations on civil and political rights which was designed to enlighten on the key challenges facing civil and political rights in their communities in particular and the Niger Delta region in general was carried out in August to October, 2009. Some 750 leaders and representatives of 501 local civil society organisations trained.

Organising community group meetings to raise awareness on civil and political rights: The organisation of community group meetings to raise awareness on civil and political rights which started on November 2009 led to the training of 7,500 members of the executive of local organizations and the enlightenment of over 998,000 members of the target communities on civil and political rights.

Mobilising and supporting communities and groups to claim their rights: The volunteers mobilized the members of the target communities



Ogbia Local Government Area Project Implementation Committee Chairman addressing CPED Staff and EC Result Oriented Monitoring (ROM) Officer, Kemi Okenyodo during her monitoring visit to CPED project sites on the project "Enhancing the Capacity of Local Civil Society Groups to Claim Civil and Political Rights in Nigeria's Niger Delta Region"

and support them in claiming their rights whenever such rights are violated. Target community members became conscious of their civil and political rights. Public officials especially the police became careful in handling cases involving individuals in these communities. There was drastic reduction in cases of arbitrary arrests. Youth leaders who call themselves militants reduced their violation of the civil and political rights of the people in the target communities. Cases of the abuse of civil and political rights were taken up by community volunteers and other leaders to prevent reoccurrence. Some serious civil and political rights violations were taken to the law courts.

Monitoring and reporting human rights violations and responses: The volunteers and

members of the *LGAPICs and CAPICs* were trained to work with the CPED/ICWA working in the LGAs to regularly write reports about the human rights situation in their communities. They reported specific violations which occurred in their communities and found ways of handling them. These reports provided information for handling cases of civil and political rights abuses in the target communities.

Sustainability activities: CPED has continued to work with the empowered community-based groups and organisations to promote human rights activities in the target states, Local Government Areas and communities. These empowered groups have become effective agents for the claiming of human rights in the rural communities of the Niger Delta region.

CPED continues to make progress in the implementation of its five-year strategic plan

The *Centre for Population and Environmental Development (CPED)* was selected in 2009 as one of the African Think Tanks under the Canada's *International Development Research Centre (IDRC)* Institutions *Global Think Tank Grant Initiative*. IDRC is one of the world's leading institutions in the generation and application of new knowledge to meet the challenges of international development. It is well known that IDRC has worked during the past forty years in close association with researchers in developing countries to build healthier, more equitable and prosperous societies in different countries with considerable success. The institutional grant facility to CPED is a major breakthrough in that it will provide core funding for the research, communications, intervention and capacity building of CPED and its partners.

One major output of the support for CPED under the *Think Tank Initiative* is the formulation of the five-year strategic plan. CPED's Five-Year Strategic Plan seeks to consolidate and build on its modest achievements of the past ten years to make the organisation one of the most unique independent policy research institutions in Nigeria which combines policy-oriented research with communication, outreach and intervention programmes. Under the five-year programme of work, CPED activities will focus on four broad areas reflecting the objectives set for the five-year period i.e. Research; Communications and outreach; Intervention programmes; and Capacity Building of CPED and partners.

Research Activities

In the last eighteen months of 2011 which is the second year of the implementation of the strategic plan, CPED core research staff and associates have

undertaken research activities and published papers on each of the four research themes being addressed during the period i.e. Growth and equity in Nigeria; Conflict and Development in Nigeria's Niger Delta region; Education and Development in Nigeria; and Health including HIV/AIDS and development in Nigeria. The targets set on the research component of the strategic plan for the first year are being achieved.

Research communications and policy linkage

In the last eighteen months, CPED has intensified disseminating its policy research results through multiple channels and formats including reports, policy briefs for policy makers, a revamped website, and an improved biannually newsletter largely for policy makers. CPED has also organised policy workshops and dialogues on socio-economic development issues, especially in the context of meeting the challenges of achieving MDGs relating to health and education. CPED has also built the capacity of local partners so as to enhance their participation in promoting policy linkage with relevant public and private agencies.

Intervention programmes on key development challenges at the local level

In the last eighteen months, CPED has carried out intervention programmes with local partners on promoting grassroots stakeholders participation on development and poverty reduction, promoting good governance at the grassroots level to hold elected representatives accountable to the people that elect them, promoting human rights-based approach to development, and projects on control of the spread of HIV/AIDS, especially for rural communities.

Strengthening the institutional capacity of CPED

In the last eighteen months, considerable

attention was paid to consolidate the capacity building of CPED by improving the equipment and facilities in CPED offices; Improving the governance and management structure of CPED; putting in place clear systems for managing and appointing staff performance and dealing with promotion, progression and remuneration; revamping CPED's website with the aim of making it a key instrument in communications and outreach activities; recruiting Senior research staff to enhance the research capacity of CPED; and establishing CPED branch offices in specific parts of the country.

Empowerment of CPED partners to participate in research, policy linkage and outreach/intervention activities

CPED has continued with its programme of identifying and build the capacity of local partners in intervention project areas in different parts of the country; continuing to build network links with the empowered local partners and other stakeholders; building a contact base that allows CPED to manage its relationships with local partners efficiently and effectively; and sourcing for funds from key donors for the core activities of CPED.

CPED continues to make progress on its project on building civil society capacity for advocacy on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights in Nigeria

After about seventeen months of the implementation of the project entitled “*Building civil society capacity for advocacy on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights in Nigeria*” steady progress is being made in the execution of some of its key activities. The overall purpose of the project is to improve the reproductive and sexual health situation in Nigeria, which has the worst indicators of sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) in Africa and the second to the worst in the world, through interventions designed to strengthen the capacity of local civil society organisations to play key roles in policy dialogues on sexual and reproductive health and rights while at the same time participating in the delivery of RH care services to underserved groups and localities. The project is expected to help the target civil society organisations (NGOs) to clarify their vision, improve their organisational efficiency, increase their knowledge of SRHR, improve their knowledge of or access to policy and planning processes, improve their advocacy skills, increase their ability to deliver SRHR services and develop networks to work with key stakeholders on SRHR. The project seeks to contribute to securing the rights of women, men and adolescents in different parts of Nigeria to good

reproductive and sexual health. The project has a research, intervention and policy linkage components. The three-year project initiative is funded by *European Commission*.

In the last seventeen months, the following research, intervention and policy linkage activities have been carried out.

The empowerment of the project team and other key staff/associates

- (a) A 46-member Project Team composed of experts on socio-economic surveys, finance, stakeholders mobilization, NGO management, sexual and reproductive health issues and advocacy strategies have been put in place. Our interactions with some of them show that they have relevant skills and experience to handle the schedule assigned to them in the project.
- (b) A three-day workshop organized for the 46 Project team members to keep them abreast of the issues and challenges of implementing the Project was held on Monday 1st to Wednesday 3rd of February, 2010.
- (c) The workshop also empowered 15 other staff

- of CPED, ICWA and CPAP on the issues and strategies of the Project in case there is need to make changes in the project personnel.
- (d) The workshop empowered the project team members on issues such as NGO mobilization strategies in different target states; Strategies for the identification of relevant NGOs for empowerment on advocacy on reproductive health; Stakeholder mobilization strategies for State and Local Government Officials and Local Leaders at the community level; Community mobilization strategies especially for youths in the context of the target LGAs in the different states; Preparation and discussion of survey instruments for the baseline surveys; and Methodologies for the administration of baseline survey instruments;
 - (e) The workshop also discussed the general principles and issues to be focused on in the preparation of the training manuals, especially Manual for the training of NGOs on organizational development and management; Manual for the training of NGOs on reproductive health challenges and issues in Nigeria; Manual for the training of NGOs on Advocacy on Reproductive Health; and Manual on Adolescents Reproductive Health and service delivery
 - (f) The 46 Project team members have remained part of the project implementation for the past one year which is a reflection of their continuing commitment to the implementation of the Project.
 - (g) Draft survey instruments and training manuals were prepared during the workshop.
- (iii) Mobilisation of Media Houses for participation in the project
 - (iv) Mobilisation of Local Government and Health Officials
 - (v) Mobilisation of target groups, beneficiaries and out-of-school youths in the target LGAs
 - (vi) Mobilisation of target schools and in-school youths
 - (vii) Selection of Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) that will participate in the implementation of the action.
 - (viii) Selection of Journalists and media houses that will participate in the implementation of the action.

The successful mobilisation led to the targeting of 100 State Government Officials in the ten target states to support the action; 150 Local Government and Health Officials in the ten target LGAs mobilised to support and participate in the project; 400 NGOs were initially mobilised for participation in the project; 150 journalists in media houses and agencies were mobilised for participation in the project; 500 community leaders, target groups, beneficiaries and other stakeholders mobilised in the target LGAs for participation in the project; 300 NGOs were finally selected from the initial list compiled for participation in the project and 100 journalists were finally selected from the initial list compiled for participation in the project

Constitution and training of State and LGA Implementation committees

- (a) 10 Local Government Project Implementation Committees with an average membership of between 5 and 10 people were constituted.
- (b) 10 Local Implementation committees with an average membership of between 10 and 15 people were constituted.
- (c) Training of the constituted state and local implementation committee members was successfully carried out.
- (d) The State and LGA Implementation Committees have been empowered to participate in the implementation of the Action.

Mobilisation of target groups and other stakeholders for participation in the project

From the records documented on project activities and interactions with stakeholders and target groups including beneficiaries it can be stated that mobilisation of stakeholders, target groups and beneficiaries was successfully carried out with respect to the following:

- (i) Mobilisation of State Government Officials
- (ii) Mobilisation of NGOs in the ten target states

Collection of baseline information on SRHR and capacity building needs of target NGOs

- (a) Baseline survey instruments were finalized after pre-testing in pilot NGOs and communities.
- (b) Baseline surveys of target NGOs carried out and the results analysed.
- (c) Baselines surveys of SRHR carried out and the results analysed.
- (d) The results of the analysis of the baseline surveys were fed into the training programmes of the NGOs and Journalists

Capacity building of NGOs on management, SRHR and advocacy skills

- (a) The manuals for the training activities finalised and used in the training.
- (b) The management capacity building of the NGOs focused on issues such as Establishing and registering a CSO; Mission and planning; Organisational structure and management; Human resources management and supervision skills; Leadership and communications; Programme design and management; Searching for funds; Financial management; Developing public relations; Networking with other organisations; Organisational sustainability; and Monitoring and evaluation.
- (c) Sexual and reproductive capacity building of the NGOs focused on issues such as The context of reproductive health challenges in Nigeria; Trends in pregnancies and child bearing; Family planning; Maternal health; HIV/AIDS; Abortion; Harmful practices, reproductive rights and gender issues; The National Reproductive Health Policy and Framework; and Advocacy issues on reproductive health
- (d) Advocacy issues on reproductive health capacity building of the NGOs focused on The framework for advocacy on reproductive health; Building a constituency for support; Target audiences and goals; Going public with advocacy issues on reproductive health; Enhancing your public information efforts; Dealing with the opposition

- (e) Policy linkage with the relevant state and local governments.

Capacity building of Youth Organisations on SRHR and peer education activities

- (a) The manual for the training activities on adolescent reproductive health and peer education activities were finalised and used in the training.
- (b) The topics covered in the training workshops focused on key reproductive health issues with particular reference to adolescent reproductive health as well as peer education skills. These include; the context of reproductive health challenges in Nigeria; Trends in pregnancies and child bearing; Family planning; Maternal health; HIV/AIDS; Abortion; Harmful practices, reproductive rights and gender issues; The National Reproductive Health Policy and Framework; Advocacy issues on reproductive health, peer education, and youth-friendly health centres.

Capacity building of Journalists on SRHR and advocacy

- (a) The manuals for the training activities finalised and used in the training;
- (b) Sexual and reproductive capacity building of the NGOs focused on issues such as The context of reproductive health challenges in Nigeria; Trends in pregnancies and child bearing; Family planning; Maternal health; HIV/AIDS; Abortion; Harmful practices, reproductive rights and gender issues; The National Reproductive Health Policy and Framework; and Advocacy issues on reproductive health;
- (c) Advocacy issues on reproductive health capacity building of the NGOs focused on The framework for advocacy on reproductive health; Building a constituency for support; Target audiences and goals; Going public with advocacy issues on reproductive health; Enhancing your public information efforts; Dealing with the opposition.

Working with the empowered CSOs to carry out advocacy activities on SRHR

CPED has been working with the empowerment of the CSOs to advocate for increased attention by the three levels of government to SRHR service delivery by making appropriate resource allocations to SRHR. The objective of the advocacy activities being carried out by the empowered CSOs is to influence policy, programmes and resource allocation to SRHR services. High level meetings are being held with the specific target audiences. CSOs are also organising public events such as debates, radio and TV programmes, peaceful protests, and other events that draw attention to the challenges facing SRHR. Advocacy meetings with community leaders, elders, men and women are carried out on harmful traditional practices.

Working with the empowered journalists to carry out advocacy activities on SRHR

CPED is also working with the empowerment of journalists to carry out advocacy activities as well as public enlightenment campaigns. These advocacy and public enlightenment activities are focusing on informing the public and also lobby policy makers to respond to the challenges facing SRHR. As in the case with CSOs, meetings are being held with specific target audiences. Mass media campaign is a major strategy which some of the empowered media houses are using to promote improved SRHR policy and services in Nigeria.

Working with youth organisations to implement peer education on SRHR activities

In each target LGA the peer educators are working with CPED to carry out *promotional activities* such as discussion groups, music concerts, radio programmes, distributing flyers and hanging posters; *informational/educational activities* such as giving information to individuals or small groups in a workshop setting with the purpose of educating them on specific SRHR issues; *counselling/orientation* such as direct, private contact with youth to learn extensively about and address their needs including negotiating skills so that adolescent women can say no to unprotected sex and reinforce

their self-esteem; *community distribution of services and referrals* such as distribution of condoms, and other contraceptives, as well as referring youth to clinics or other services; and *advocacy* to youth and other stakeholders to build support for the recognition and improvement of SRHR.

Working with the empowered youth organisations to carry out “youth-friendly” reproductive health services

In view of the fact that peer education generates demands for services in the intended audience, peer education is being linked to services that provide access to condoms, medical care, and voluntary counselling and STI management. This is due to the fact that it is generally agreed that “youth-friendly” services are needed if adolescents are to be adequately provided with reproductive health care. Given that young people tend not to use existing reproductive health services, specialized approaches must be established to attract, serve, and retain young clients. Basic components include specially trained providers, privacy, confidentiality, and accessibility.

Supporting civil society coalitions building and networking activities to promote collaboration with the executive, legislature, the media and other CSOs on reproductive health advocacy activities

It is expected that CSOs' impact on advocacy for improved SRHR policies and the increase of resources allocation to RH in budgets will be enhanced if they collaborate with other organisations. This requires building networks and coalitions. Facilitation of coalitions and networking of empowered CSOs advocating for improved SRHR is being carried out by CPED in each state. This is being carried out by the regular meetings and reviews of the activities of the empowered CSOs during the project period starting from the time they were trained collectively in each state. This has formed the basis of their collaboration in advocacy activities on SRHR which is expected to continue even when the project formally ends.



CENTRE FOR POPULATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL DEVELOPMENT (CPED)

Under the current five-year programme of work, CPED activities focus on four broad areas reflecting the objectives set for the five-year strategic plan period as follows:

- (i) Research;
- (ii) Communications and outreach;
- (iii) Intervention programmes; and
- (iv) Capacity Building of CPED and partners.

RESEARCH

Four research thematic areas will be targeted by CPED during the five year period as follows:

1. *Growth with Equity in Nigeria*
2. *Conflict and Development in Nigeria 's Niger Delta Region*
3. *Education and Development in Nigeria*
4. *Health including HIV/AIDS and Development in Nigeria.*

COMMUNICATIONS AND OUTREACH

Partnership development with public and private sector/civil society organisations

INTERVENTION PROGRAMMES ON SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Beyond action and policy oriented research and its communications activities, our mandate entails implementing intervention activities in our identified areas of policy research during the five-year strategic plan period. In this context intervention programmes that benefit largely deprived grassroots communities and other disadvantaged people are being carried out.

CAPACITY BUILDING OF CPED AND PARTNERS

CPED believes that the strengthening partner organisations including community based organisations must be a key mechanism for the achievement of its mandate during the next five years. This also includes the strengthening of CPED to be able to fulfil its mandate during the strategic plan period.

