

**Evaluation of Empowering Women as Key Leaders in Promoting
Community-Based Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risks
Reduction Initiatives in Niger Delta Region**

Final Evaluation Report

Prof. Eric Arubayi: Evaluation Team Leader

October, 2021

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
1. Introduction	3
2. Methodology	4
3. Project Achievements and Limitations	4
4. Indicators for Evaluation of the climate change Project	8
5. Summary of conclusions	19

1. INTRODUCTION

The proposed project is designed to strengthen the ability of women, girls and other stakeholders in rural communities in the Niger Delta to make informed decisions and manage likely climate change driven pressures on their livelihoods. It attempts to make the tasks of adoption and scaling-up of innovation on climate change adaptation more effective by setting up mechanisms to increase interaction between researchers on the one hand and policy makers, rural women and other stakeholders on the other so as to ensure the inclusion of an increasingly diverse range of actors at community, sub-national and national levels in the development and scaling up of innovative approaches on community-based climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction.

The overall objective of the research project is to contribute to socially-equitable development in Niger Delta region by promoting women-led, community-based initiatives on climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction. The project has five specific objectives organized into four work packages: knowledge development (objective 1); pilot activities (objective 2); capacity building (objective 3); and knowledge translation (objectives 4 & 5) as follows:

1. Increase understanding of the varied impacts of, responses to, and adaptations to climate change in rural communities to enable identification of effective and affordable community-based approaches;
2. Improve climate-change adaptation and disaster-risk reduction strategies in rural communities by testing and validating the most effective and affordable women-led, community-based initiatives;
3. Scale out validated community-based initiatives by strengthening local capacities to generate the necessary conditions to adapt these climate-change adaptation and disaster-risk reduction strategies;
4. Scale up community-based initiatives by promoting interactions between researchers, policy makers, and women leaders; and
5. Increase integration of women-led community-based adaptation strategies into policy and planning by the Delta State Executive and Legislature.

The project is therefore expected to lead to the reduction in the vulnerability and enhancement of the resilience and adaptive capacity of rural communities to the adverse impacts of climate change in the Niger Delta. It will also lead to the emergence of a governance structure to manage climate change in the Niger Delta with local climate knowledge incorporated in national and sub-national development planning. The study is focused on filling the gaps in empirical data and

information on how vulnerable rural households particularly women and girls within them are impacted by climate change and variability and how they adapt to these variations in climate

The project evaluation covered activities during the three years of the implementation. During the first year of the project the focus of the evaluation is largely on the process of the implementation of the project in line with the proposed activities planned for implementation. The second and third year evaluation focuses on the overall implementation of the project with emphasis on the outcome and impact evaluation. This evaluation report takes the initial project document as its reference point and draws on the evaluator's cumulative experience of the project to provide a summary of the climate change project from an operational perspective. The report is structured around the original project objectives of knowledge development; pilot activities, capacity building and knowledge translation into action. The report provides an overview of achievements against the project objectives as well as reflections on the extent to which the assumptions that informed the project model held or acted as a constraint.

2. METHODOLOGY

The evaluator with his team members made several visits to the ten local government areas in Delta State within the Niger Delta region where interactions were held with the key stakeholders including policymakers and community-based groups comprising women and other leaders. Furthermore, the Evaluation team also interacted with the Principal Investigator and other members of the Research Team, Mentees, members of the Project Steering Committees, members of the Project Management Committees and project staff through physical visits and virtual meetings. Finally, the interactions with the key stakeholders and key informant interviews and focus group discussions were held with them, especially policymakers, women groups, community leaders and youth groups.

3. PROJECT ACHIEVEMENTS AND LIMITATIONS

Achievements

Research/Knowledge Development

The climate adaptation project team successfully completed the research activities. The key research activities carried out include field data collection which was successfully completed despite some constraints associated with security challenges and the covid-19 pandemic; the data collected were successfully analysed; and the literature on the climate change adaptation and disaster risks reduction was extensively reviewed and some of it published. Despite some minor amendments to the research plans and delays in data cleaning and analysis, the research design was carried out as planned, data collected in all sites, both quantitative and qualitative data analyzed and results reported. Given the challenges associated with working in the Niger Delta region which is prone to violence and against the background of the ravaging covid-19 pandemic remarkable achievements were made in the implementation of the research. Some of

the results of the research component have been published by Team members and junior researchers in peer reviewed papers while others are in the review process for publication in peer reviewed journals.

Capacity Building

Despite some challenges, the climate change adaptation project managed to deliver all the research training and mentoring outlined in the project document. This is largely due to the extensive experience and commitment of the project team members, who were able to deliver the training within the budget of this component of the project. Meetings of management and steering committee members were physically held before the outbreak of the covid-19 pandemic during which members were empowered on the policy issues emanating from the outcomes of the project. With the constraints imposed by covid-19 some of the meetings were held virtually. However the virtual meetings were negatively affected by the poor electronic communication network in most parts of the Niger Delta region and indeed Nigeria as a whole.

Empowerment of the Community Project Implementation Committees (CBIC) was a major capacity building activity carried out during the project implementation period. The project team supported by Gender at Work officials, Nkechi Odinukwe, developed a guide for the training of CBIC. The training guide presents a mix of interactive activities and presentations used to improving the individual-level knowledge, skills and behaviours needed of local women and men based in these communities to foster gender-responsive agriculture adaptation activities. The training sessions provided an opportunity for participants to reflect on, discuss and challenge their own perceptions, values, beliefs and behaviours through sharing ideas with other participants.

Considerable success was attained in the mentorship of Junior Researchers and senior project staff in the implementation of the project. Many of the junior academics took part field activities and worked with project team members in developing policy briefs. Many of the junior researchers have identified areas of interest to publish research articles in reputable journals and are working on their papers with guidance of team members. Junior researchers being mentored also took part in the various project team meetings to review progress of project implementation as well as other policy briefing meetings held with key stakeholders as part of knowledge translation activities of the project.

Furthermore, the junior researchers and project team members have benefited immensely from the various engagement events organised by IDRC through **Gender at Work** to strengthen the project team's capacity to implement the climate change project in a gender responsive and transformative manner. Finally, two postgraduate students completed their Masters' degree programmes.

Interventions on the promotion of climate adaptation and disaster reduction activities

The main focus of this component of the research programme is the testing and validating the most effective and affordable women-led community-based Initiatives on climate adaptation and disaster risks reduction. The implementation of this component of the project is the most innovative and fruitful aspect as testified by the various stakeholders and beneficiaries comprising women and men. A key component of the interventions was gender analysis and training in which both women and men were empowered on the need to promote and support women empowerment.

During the period of project implementation, the project team in collaboration with the established Community-based Implementation Committees (CBIC) in each pilot community worked jointly with the leadership of the women groups and other community-based groups to identify relevant climate change adaptation approaches which are appropriate to the prevailing circumstances in their various communities considering the nature of the climate change and disaster challenges facing the different target communities. Efforts were made to ensure that most of the participants present in the meetings to discuss and identify intervention activities to be implemented were women and girls.

A greater percentage of key intervention approaches identified by the various communities are geared towards agricultural practices as most of the rural inhabitants are farmers. These include; capacity building on flood control strategies-Construction of gutters and flood reception pits; modern livestock rearing techniques; provision of improved seedlings; provision of drought resistant crops; training on how to respond to climate events; construction of artificial lakes; support for the fencing of ponds & fish traps; provision and support for the of planting of flood tolerant crops; provision of fertilizers, etc.

Knowledge Translation into Action

An evidence-based approach was followed throughout the life of the project. Baseline data using surveys, focus groups, interviews and brief ethnographies were collected and these provided the basis for knowledge translation to key policy makers and other stakeholders. Baseline findings were reported back to the communities and stakeholders in an effective and timely manner. The knowledge gained during this process was used to develop intervention activities and an extensive programme of communication and dissemination.

One key platform which has worked for CPED in reaching out and disseminating findings of policy research to policy makers and other government officials who make decisions and implement them is through policy workshops. To this end, the project team organised two policy briefing meeting on February 2020 and October 2021. The meetings brought together, physically and virtually policy actors from Delta State Ministry of Environment, practitioners, members of the Project Steering and Project Management Committees, representatives of the various Community Project Implementation Committees, media representatives, project team members, junior researchers and students, amongst others. The policy issues emanating from the various components of the project were discussed and the conclusions disseminated to key stakeholders.

Some observed limitations of the implementation of the programme

Research/Knowledge Development

Some features of the research design remained problematic throughout the project. For example, the issue of data collection relating to the gender equality is very sensitive as some of the key stakeholders, particularly women groups were afraid to respond freely to the questions asked. Thus it took considerable time to convince them to participate. In addition, poorly-resourced, rural communities of the Niger Delta remained a challenging environment in which to administer questionnaires because of the generally poor transport facilities coupled with security challenges coupled with the challenge imposed by the covid-19 pandemic.

Capacity Building

Despite the delivery of all planned research training elements, the areas of capacity that remained weak among the mentees at the end of the project were: decision-making and problem-solving related to the implementation of a complex research design and field work; responsible use and management of research technologies; data management and cleaning; quantitative and qualitative data analysis, interpretation and writing up. This is due to the fact that many of the mentees have not got opportunities of this nature in participating in research projects of this scale. There is need for continuous mentoring of the junior researchers who benefitted from the project.

Knowledge Translation into Action

Although the knowledge gathered at baseline was fed back to the relevant partner institutions and incorporated in all training and mobilization activities, culturally challenging messages still met with resistance, which the project was not able to overcome. These messages related mainly to information associated with gender equality issues.

4. INDICATORS FOR EVALUATION OF CLIMATE CHANGE PROJECT

The table below summarizes the status of the key indicators at October, 2021

Research / Knowledge Development Objective

Increase understanding of the varied impacts of, responses to, and adaptations to climate change in rural communities to enable identification of effective and affordable community-based approaches;

Process

Objectively Verifiable Indicators	Means of Verification	Persons Responsible	Status
(i) Research Team Members confirm participation and formal letters of appointment issued (ii) Inaugural Meeting of Team members take place and minutes and attendance taken; (iii) Inception workshop carried out; (iv) Appointment and training of Project and Field Staff (v) Design and piloting of survey instruments proceeding on schedule;	Number of Project Team Members participating in the project implementation; List of Survey instruments and field manuals finalized for use	Professor Andrew G. Onokerhoraye, Principal Investigator Professor May Nwoye, Professor Dicta Ogisi, Professor Gideon E.D. Omuta, Professor Felicia Okoro, Professor Onovughe Ikelegbe Professor Peter Odjugo Dr. Johnson Dudu Engr. Job Eronmhonsele Dr. Francis Onojeta Dr. Godwin Atedhor Dr. Eddy Akpomera	List and names of Project Team Members available to Evaluator; List of Project Team Members and other participants at the inception workshop available to Evaluator; List of free survey instruments used in data collection made available to Evaluator.

Outcome

Objectively Verifiable Indicators	Means of Verification	Persons Responsible	Status
Data collection and analysis was on schedule	quarterly progress reports against schedule	Professor Andrew G. Onokerhoraye, Principal Investigator Professor May Nwoye, Professor Dicta Ogisi, Professor Gideon E.D. Omuta, Professor Felicia Okoro, Professor Onovughe Ikelegbe Professor Peter Odjugo Dr. Johnson Dudu Engr. Job Eronmhonsele Dr. Francis Onojeta Dr. Godwin Atedhor Dr. Eddy Akpomera	Field reports on data collection were provided to the evaluator. Questionnaire Survey, focus groups and interviews in the ten local government areas conducted. Data analysis undertaken and compiled into presentations. Eight quarterly progress reports seen. A range of reports on field research activities were made also available to Evaluator

Impact

Objectively Verifiable Indicators	Means of Verification	Persons Responsible	Status
The publications emanating from the research project referenced in other research proposals, project design and research publications of others	This is a long term indicator and is unlikely to reflect impact significantly before 2022 and 2023.	Professor Andrew G. Onokerhoraye, Principal Investigator Professor May Nwoye, Professor Dicta Ogisi, Professor Gideon E.D. Omuta, Professor Felicia Okoro,	Three peer reviewed articles, five policy briefs and two monographs have been published and made available to the Evaluator.

		Professor Onovughe Ikelegbe Professor Peter Odjugo Dr. Johnson Dudu Engr. Job Eronmhonele Dr. Francis Onojeta Dr. Godwin Atedhor Dr. Eddy Akpomera	
--	--	---	--

Capacity Building Objectives

Scale out validated community-based initiatives by strengthening local capacities to generate the necessary conditions to adapt these climate-change adaptation and disaster-risk reduction strategies;

Process

Objectively Verifiable Indicators	Means of Verification	Persons Responsible	Status
Project staff and junior researchers empowered	Number of junior researchers recruited and trained on project implementation;	Professor Andrew G. Onokhomaye, Principal Investigator	Names of project staff recruited and trained available to the Evaluator;
Policy makers and community-based women and men leaders empowered on gender equality;	Number of policy makers that benefited from capacity building;	Professor May Nwoye, Professor Dicia Ojisi, Professor Gideon E.D. Onuda, Professor Felicia Ojoro, Professor Onovughe Ikelegbe,	Names of two M.Sc. students selected for the project made available to Evaluator;
Community-based women and men leaders empowered on climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction;	Number of community-based women and men that benefited from the empowerment;	Professor Peter Odjugo Dr. Johnson Dudu Engr. Job Eronmhonele, Dr. Francis Onojeta, Dr. Godwin Atedhor, Dr. Eddy Akpomera	Names of beneficiaries of women and men in the community-based empowerment available to Evaluator;
Two M.Sc. students trained on awareness programme	Number of M.Sc. students that completed their programmes		Names of the ten junior researchers selected for mentoring in the project made available to Evaluator Names of the two M.Sc. students and copies of their theses available

Outcome

Objectively Verifiable Indicator	Means of Verification	Persons Responsible	Status
<p>Project staff and junior researchers empowered on peace building with special reference to climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction;</p> <p>Policy makers and community-based women and men leaders empowered on gender equality;</p> <p>Community-based women and men leaders empowered on climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction;</p> <p>Two M.Sc. students trained on amnesty programme</p>	<p>Names of project staff recruited and trained;</p> <p>Names of two M.Sc. students selected for the project;</p> <p>Names of beneficiaries of women and men in the community-based empowered;</p> <p>Names of the ten junior researchers selected for mentoring in the project</p> <p>Names of the two M.Sc. students and copies of their theses</p>	<p>Professor Andrew G. Onokerhoraye, Principal Investigator</p> <p>Professor May Nwoye, Professor Dicta Ogisi, Professor Gideon E.D. Omuta, Professor Felicia Okoro, Professor Onovughe Ikelegbe, Professor Peter Odjugo</p> <p>Dr. Johnson Dudu</p> <p>Engr. Job Eronmhonsele, Dr. Francis Onojeta, Dr. Godwin Atedhor, Dr. Eddy Akpomera</p>	<p>Names of project staff recruited and trained available to the Evaluator;</p> <p>Names of two M.Sc. students selected for the project made available to Evaluator;</p> <p>Names of beneficiaries of women and men in the community-based empowerment available to Evaluator;</p> <p>Names of the ten junior researchers selected for mentoring in the project made available to Evaluator</p> <p>Names of the two M.Sc. students and copies of their theses available</p>

Impact

Objectively Verifiable Indicators	Means of Verification	Persons Responsible	Status
<p>Two M.Sc. students complete their training through the project</p> <p>Five junior researchers mentored on research methodology and publications</p>	<p>Names of two M.Sc. students that completed their programme</p> <p>Names of the five junior researchers mentored</p>	<p>Professor Andrew G. Onokerhoraye, Principal Investigator</p> <p>Professor May Nwoye, Professor Dicta Ogisi, Professor Gideon E.D. Omuta, Professor Felicia Okoro, Professor Onovughe Ikelegbe, Professor Peter Odjugo</p> <p>Dr. Johnson Dudu</p> <p>Engr. Job Eronmhonele, Dr. Francis Onojeta, Dr. Godwin Atedhor, Dr. Eddy Akpomera</p>	<p>Completed</p>

Intervention activities

Improve climate-change adaptation and disaster-risk reduction strategies in rural communities by testing and validating the most effective and affordable women-led, community-based initiatives;

Process

Objectively Verifiable Indicators	Means of Verification	Persons Responsible	Status
<p>Number of women, girls, boys and men reached and mobilized</p> <p>Number of community-based implementation committees with women as key leaders constituted and trained on their roles and responsibilities in the implementation</p> <p>Number of beneficiaries empowered to coordinate the implementation of the intervention activities</p> <p>Number of workshops organized to train women leaders with the participation of men in the ten target communities</p>	<p>CPE D Project reports</p> <p>CPE D Project reports</p>	<p>Professor Andrew G. Orokhoraze, Principal Investigator</p> <p>Professor May Nwoye, Professor Dicka Ogié, Professor Gideon E.D. Omata, Professor Felicia Okoro, Professor Oronughe Ikelegbe, Professor Peter Odsugo</p> <p>Dr. Johnson Dudu Engr. Ib Eronmhonele, Dr. Francis Orojeta, Dr. Godwin Aedhor, Dr. Eddy Akpometa</p>	<p>Training and mobilization successfully completed</p> <p>Community-based implementation committees constituted in the ten pilot communities</p> <p>Beneficiaries successfully empowered to coordinate intervention activities</p> <p>Workshops successfully organized to train women leaders</p>

Outcome

Objectively Verifiable Indicator	Means of Verification	Persons Responsible	Status
<p>Number of women, girls, boys and men reached and mobilized</p> <p>Number of community based implementation committees with women as key leaders constituted and trained on their roles and responsibilities in the implementation</p> <p>Number of beneficiaries empowered to coordinate the implementation of the intervention activities</p> <p>Number of workshops organized to train women leaders with the participation of men in the ten target communities</p>	<p>CPE D Project reports</p> <p>CPE D Project reports</p> <p>CPE D Project reports</p>	<p>Professor Andrew G. Orokemorage, Principal Investigator</p> <p>Professor May Nwonye, Professor Dicka Ogié, Professor Gideon E.D. Omata, Professor Felicia Okoro, Professor Oronghe Ikelegbe, Professor Peter Odjugo</p> <p>Dr. Johnson Dudu</p> <p>Engr. Job Eronmhonele, Dr. Francis Orojé, Dr. Godwin Aledhor, Dr. Eddy Akpomera</p>	<p>1,250 beneficiaries of the Training and mobilisation</p> <p>10 community implementation committees constituted in the ten pilot communities</p> <p>250 Beneficiaries successfully empowered to coordinate intervention activities</p> <p>20 Workshops successfully organized to train women leaders</p>

Impact

Objectively Verifiable Indicators	Means of Verification	Persons Responsible	Status
<p>Number of women, girls, boys and men reached and mobilized</p> <p>Number of community based implementation committees with women as key leaders constituted and trained on their roles and responsibilities in the implementation</p> <p>Number of beneficiaries empowered to coordinate the implementation of the intervention activities</p> <p>Number of workshops organized to train women leaders with the participation of men in the ten target communities</p> <p>Number of climate adaptation and disaster risk reduction interventions carried out in the target communities</p>	<p>CPE D Project reports</p> <p>CPE D Project reports</p> <p>CPE D Project reports</p> <p>CPE D Project reports</p> <p>CPE D Project reports</p>	<p>Professor Andrew G. Orokhoraye, Principal Investigator</p> <p>Professor May Nwoye, Professor Dick Ogié, Professor Gideon E.D. Omida, Professor Felicia Okoro, Professor Oronyhe Ikegbe, Professor Peter Odsugo</p> <p>Dr. Johnson Didi, Engr. Ib Eronmhonele, Dr. Francis Oriele, Dr. Godwin Aledhor, Dr. Eddy Akpomera</p>	<p>Women, girls, boys and men mobilized and participated in the implementation</p> <p>10 community based implementation committees with women as key leaders in charge of the delivery of services</p> <p>500 empowered beneficiaries coordinated the implementation of the intervention activities</p> <p>An average of five types of climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction were implemented in each of the ten target communities</p>

Knowledge Translation to Action Objectives

- Scale up community-based initiatives by promoting interactions between researchers, policy makers, and women leaders, and
- Increase integration of women-led community-based adaptation strategies into policy and planning by the Delta State Executive and Legislature.

Process

Objectively Verifiable Indicators	Means of Verification	Persons Responsible	Status
Key policy makers and stakeholders appreciate the importance of the research project in the context of the Amnesty programme and agree to participate.	<p>Report of project team meetings with stakeholders in Delta State;</p> <p>Number of policy briefs incorporating evidence from this study developed and produced</p>	<p>Professor Andrew G. Orokhorozie, Principal Investigator</p> <p>Professor My Nwoye,</p> <p>Professor Dick Ogié,</p> <p>Professor Gideon E.D. Omata,</p> <p>Professor Felicia Okoro,</p> <p>Professor Oronghe Ikelegbe,</p> <p>Professor Peter Odsugo</p> <p>Dr. Johnson Dudu</p> <p>Engr. Ib Eromhosele,</p> <p>Dr. Francis Orojeta,</p> <p>Dr. Godwin Akshor,</p> <p>Dr. Eddy Arpometa</p>	<p>Steering committee meetings held and evidence of these meetings made available to the Evaluator</p> <p>Five policy briefs were published and made available to the Evaluator.</p>

Outcome

Objectively Verifiable Indicators	Means of Verification	Persons Responsible	Status
<p>Meetings with stakeholders held to provide feedback from the research;</p> <p>Stakeholders make input into the findings and recommendations of the research project;</p>	<p>Number of policy briefs incorporating evidence from this study developed collaboratively by researchers, and policy makers</p> <p>Report of meetings held by project team and policy makers/stakeholders</p>	<p>Professor Andrew G. Orokemoye, Principal Investigator</p> <p>Professor May Nwoye, Professor Dicka Ogié, Professor Gideon E.D. Omata, Professor Felicia Okoro, Professor Oronughe Ikelegbe, Professor Peter Odjugo, Dr. Johnson Dudu, Engr. Ib Eromkhonsele, Dr. Francis Orojeta, Dr. Godwin Akedhor, Dr. Eddy Apomera</p>	<p>20 formal and informal meetings were held with key stakeholders and evidence of these meetings made available to the Evaluator</p> <p>Five policy briefs were published and were made available to the Evaluator.</p>

Impact

Objectively Verifiable Indicators	Means of Verification	Persons Responsible	Status
<p>Improved knowledge of the effect of climate change on rural economies in Niger Delta and Nigeria as a whole;</p> <p>Future climate adaptation policy and programmes to adopt the recommendations of the project</p>	<p>Number of policy briefs incorporating evidence from this study developed and disseminated</p>	<p>Professor Andrew G. Orokemoye, Principal Investigator</p> <p>Professor May Nwoye, Professor Dicka Ogié, Professor Gideon E.D. Omata, Professor Felicia Okoro, Professor Oronughe Ikelegbe,</p>	<p>Policy makers and other stakeholders accepted the findings and recommendations presented during the policy workshops and in steering committee meetings</p>

		Professor Peter Odsugo Dr. Johnson Dudu Engr. Ib Eronmhonele, Dr. Francis Orojebi, Dr. Godwin Akebor, Dr. Eddy Apomera	
--	--	---	--

5. Summary of conclusions

Relevance

The overall objectives of the project are supportive of the government policies on promoting climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction in rural communities in Nigeria in general and the Niger Delta region in particular. The Delta State where the programme was mainly implemented is committed to implementing its climate change policy which the implementation of the project has enhanced as it provided examples of strategies to promote women leadership in climate change adaptation. The issues of gender and human rights were mainstreamed into the project. The mainstreamed issues were also seen in the composition of the project team and the selection of respondents in key communities where detailed interaction with key stakeholders took place. The project was designed based on both a needs and demand assessment. The consultation of with key stakeholders at the conceptualization phase of the project provided the platform for incorporating a sustainability plan from inception. The Centre for Population and Development (CPD) was responsible for mobilizing, mapping of the community based organizations.

Efficiency of implementation

The project is well managed and there were timely availability of resources. The project management system included the staff of the three participating institutions which enhanced the principle of partnership and collaboration in the implementation of the project. Meetings of the project team and steering committee as well as management committees were regularly called and key decisions were collectively arrived at during the meetings. The constant flow of information between the project team and other stakeholders helped the implementation of activities and also contributed to communication of findings to policy makers and other stakeholders. Gender was considered in identifying and selecting participants that participated in the various project activities. The monitoring and evaluation plan prepared as part of the proposal has been used to guide the implementation of activities. An internal monitoring of activities took place regularly and this helped in taking decisions in the implementation of activities throughout the project period.

Effectiveness

There is no doubt that the key objectives of the four components of the project have been achieved. The outcomes are impressive. Key findings on the characteristics and impact of climate change in Niger Delta have been generated and made available to policy makers and other stakeholders. A unique engagement of policy makers through the steering and management committees took place which made it possible for the research team to interact with policy makers frequently. Communities where climate change and disaster impacts took place over the years were also integrated into the implementation of the project and were able to make their input in the findings and recommendations on climate change adaptation and disaster risk amelioration. Furthermore, junior researchers that have not got any opportunity for participation in a project of this nature were selected from

the four Nigerian institutions for mentoring and many of them have been empowered to write their own papers on some of the key findings of the project

Impact

Impact prospect is good. This is because the objectives of the project have been largely achieved. Accountability mechanisms have been set up by the selected community members to demand better services and representation in a non-violent manner as part of the implementation of the Delta State climate change policy. Some of the communities in Delta State now have women being part of the Community Development Committees. The risk assessment was accurate. The three tiers of government have policies that created an enabling environment to sustain these changes. The project addressed the immediate needs of the key stakeholders in government and in the target communities. In some ways this project has contributed to the implementation of aspects of the Delta State climate change policy by providing the framework for the active participation of women in rural areas.

Sustainability

At the grassroots level, the project has proved to be self-sustaining because ownership and commitment by target beneficiaries is high. They have shown the capacity to take over the sensitization programmes for climate change adaptation to reach their communities. Women and youths will keep being included in the decision making process. The beneficiaries will still have a continuous role to play after the project winds up as change agents and claim holders, serving as sensitization advocates in the communities. They will be responsible for trainings, networking with other communities, representing their communities at related forums/meetings as the need arises. The mentored junior researchers are in positions to participate in future research programmes with enhanced capacities. Finally the recommendations for the improvement of the implementation of the Delta State climate change policy have reached appropriate policy makers for incorporation into the implementation strategies. CFE D and its partners will continue to support climate change and disaster risk reduction programmes by generating financial support from different donors and its internal resources.