

A Report of Policy Briefing Meeting with Key stakeholders

On the Project

“Empowering women as key leaders in promoting community-based climate change adaptation and disaster risks reduction initiatives in Niger Delta region”

Date: February 18th, 2020 @ Constantial Hotel, Airport Road, Benin City

Report Prepared By

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The policy briefing meeting was organised to present to stakeholders a report of research on climate change project being implemented in Delta state by *Centre for Population and Environmental Development (CPED)* in collaboration with *Intervention Council for Women in Africa (ICWA)* and the *Delta state Ministry of Environment (DMoE)*. The overall objective of the 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. A key component of the climate change project is knowledge generation-entailing awareness, perception of climate change, and adaptation and risk reduction initiatives being practiced by community members.

The meeting was attended by different stakeholders in Delta State, especially from the various LGAs where the intervention component of the project is being implemented as well as Edo state. The meeting afforded participant to learn new knowledge of climate change impact in three ecological zones Delta state and some adaptation strategies currently being practiced and led by women in the Niger Delta communities.

Those in attendance include the commissioner for Environmental, Delta State, Honourable Chris Onogba, represented by the Director of the Department of Climate Change, Mr. Victor Efeturi, IDRC Senior Program Specialist, Dr. Melanie Robertson, Chairman, CPED board of Trustees, Professor Gideon E. D. Omuta who is also a member of the project research team, Prof. Emeritus Andrew G. Onokerhoraye, the project Principal Investigator, members of the research team, members of the project steering and management committee, members of the community project implementation committees (CPIC) of selected pilot communities and members representing local government authorities where the project is being implemented. Others include junior researchers being trained on the project, representatives of Civil Society Organisation, Media practitioners, amongst others.

The programme kicked off with an opening prayer by Prof. Mrs. Ikelegbe, while Prof. Omuta who is the Chairman of the Board gave the opening remarks. Prof. Onokerhoraye (Principal Investigator) gave the welcome address while Prof. May Nwoye gave a brief address welcoming everyone. She expressed excitement at the work done so far. She stressed that International Council for Women in Africa (ICWA) were interested in the areas which affect women because such matters equally affects the family. She mentioned the importance of women integration/participation in decisions regarding Climate Change (CC) which will go a long way in solving a lot of problems associated with climate change. She mentioned that she would be attending a conference at the United Nations in which Climate Change is one of the topical issues and that she would emphasis the project being carried out by CPED in conjunction with IDRC. She emphasized the potential impact of women in curbing Climate Change issues in the Niger Delta.



Photo: Dr. Melanie (IDRC Program Specialist, 3rd from left) making a remark During the Opening Panel

The Honorable Commissioner of Environment, Delta State ably represented by Mr. Victor Efeuture gave a brief address assuring CPED of the support of the Delta State Government and the commissioner, and that they are looking forward to more collaboration on reducing carbon emissions and reducing vulnerability to Climate Change in the State. Dr. Melanie Robertson gave a brief address on the goals of the IDRC and their eagerness to support CPED on the ongoing project and beyond this project. She mentioned that they now had a regional office in Dakar, Senegal, which will bring closer support to countries in West Africa, including Nigeria.

Mr Efeuture, Director Climate Change Department Ministry of Environment Delta State, gave a brief presentation on Climate Change. He talked about the Territorial Approach to Climate Change (TACC) programme, which was adopted to reach the grass roots using biosand filters for clean water, biogas cookers and stoves, solar powered bore holes, etc. He also mentioned some short/long term targets planned by the government in each community, one of which was to reduce gas flaring and reduce climate change impact on the state and to partner with private NGOs and agencies with the target of increasing environmental consciousness groups in secondary schools,

etc. He concluded by saying the Delta State Government look forward to a greater collaboration with CPED in reducing carbon emission and climate change effects in Niger Delta.

Comments and Discussion: Prof. Odjugo commented that he was pleased with the presentation and mentioned some ways in which the Federal government plans to and is in fact already supporting this goal in various states. That the Delta State Government can take advantage of this collaboration like other states in the country especially on the farm development project. He reiterated that Nimet is setting up weather stations at universities/ institutions by donating free meteorological instruments in order to have a closer monitoring of climatic conditions.



Photo: A group Photograph of the Policy Briefing Meeting Participants

Prof. Dicta Ogisi also commented that CPED is happy that there is more awareness on the importance of both short/long term intervention programmes and encouraged sustainability and she also suggest that to add value to the State, there is need to know who the State partners with in each of these intervention programmes. Dr. Dudu aligned with what Prof. Dicta said and encouraged partnerships with other sub-sectors like CPED, the education sector, agricultural sector, etc. Prof Nwoye says there is need for strategic plan on intervention/implementation to ensure program continuity even if future Administrators is not involved. Prof. Oladipupo asked a question on the response from the people on some of the adaptation strategies to Climate Change challenges. The commissioner replied that the response has been positive from the pilot programmes and that the Ministry is trying to replicate the short/long term strategies in all the Local Government Areas. The ministry is also in partnership with the Ministry of Education, NGOs on Schools Climate Club.

Prof. Mrs. Okoro expressed her fears of the use of the stove which depends on few firewood and asked if that doesn't end up displacing the real aim of the project through deforestation. Ministry of Environment staff Mr. Dibia, responded that fire wood cutting cannot be completely eradicated

in the rural areas but that the special stoves use fewer fire wood sticks compared to the conventional tripod fire wood stand, and that they have trained personnel in planting of a special kind of tree which grows rapidly for firewood usage and that most of the wood used are old dead wood.

After tea-break, a short documentary of CPED in partnership with IDRC was played showing the various impacts CPED has made at community level through various projects e.g. maternal and child health programme, which took research to policy makers to implement the action plan in Delta State.

Comments and Discussion: One of the participants from Isoko South commented that what impressed her after seeing the video was that development plan cannot be carried out without research, and that CPED is doing just that. While Dr. Odudu said intervention programmes cannot be carried out without the needed financial support from IDRC which has made CPED to aim higher.

Prof. Emeritus Onokerhoraye gave a presentation on the **Climate Change Project Report**, which he broke down into Background of the Study, Role of Women in Climate Change, Study Area, Findings and Conclusion. The analysis of the report was according to ecological zones and based on the Focus Group Discussions. The findings span from respondents demographic characteristics, marital status, educational level, employment characteristics, and housing characteristics. Awareness of climate change, effect of climate change on communities, vulnerability of household to climate change, impact of climate change, adaptation practices and strategies, and implication for promotion of women led adaptation strategies.

Comments and Discussion: Mr Emmanuel, a participant from Patani L.G.A. commented that an expert in the agricultural sector ought to be involved to curb the impact of climate change on farmers' crops. Prof. Odjugo mentioned that for intervention purposes to climate vulnerability, buildings can be fortified through the use of bricks since mud housing materials may not be aesthetic enough although it serves psychological comfort of houses. Bricks according to him is more durable. He also said there is need to create 100 percent awareness on climate change impact and that there should be a downscaling of weather information so as to reach farmers who are more affected. He also encouraged the use of hybrid yam and maize seedlings and early yield of cassava which has already been put into the plan at the Federal level as a way of reducing climate change impact.

Flora Ose, a Journalist from Edo Broadcasting Service (EBS) who anchors a radio programme called climate change for peace mentioned that the media will be interested in reaching out to CPED in order to discuss issues on climate change in their radio presentation. Through social media, climate change information can be disseminated. Prof. Ikelegbe also commended Prof. Onokorhoraye (Principal investigator) on his presentation.

Dr. Odudu took over as the master of ceremony from Dr. Akpomera. A project brief by the management project committee representative agrees that CPED with IDRC is efficient and effective in action research. He remarked that from the briefing and results of the report, it is clear that the set targets for the project were met. A member of the community project implementation committee (CPIC) from Warri South appreciated CPED and Partners. She assured all present that

the knowledge gained from the report of the project will be passed on to other CPIC members and her community. The media representative, Flora Ose from EBS also gave her commendation and promised to transmit the knowledge gained to the public through the media and said she had already sent a brief report to the newsroom while the session was on going to her colleagues to already broadcast.

Victoria Igbako from Isoko South, representing Head of Department of Environment in L.G.A expressed her appreciation for all she has learnt. Comrade Abiola was invited to speak on behalf of NGOs and she asked for the project to be extended to Edo State, and that they were ready to partner with CPED if the opportunity arose. Engr. Job Eronmhonsele thanked all participants on the project briefing meeting. He stated that Thursday 20th February, 2020 was scheduled for the Gender at Work training programme for team members and mentees which will hold in CPED office.

The closing remark was said by Prof. Felicia Okoro. She described the programme as rich, learning as a continuous process and encouraged everyone to continue to ponder on climate change because it is very evident it affects everyone. She expressed hope that health and safety education would form a part of the training required by women in the rural areas. Closing prayer was led by Prof. Omuta and the program ended at 2.10 p.m.

The meeting was indeed interactive and provided opportunity for networking and to strengthen collaboration.

Table: A list of Participants of the Policy Briefing Meeting

S/N	Names of Participants	Sex
Research Team Members		
1	Prof. Andrew. G. Onokerhoraye	M
2	Prof. Dicta Ogisi	F
3	Prof. Gideon E. D. Omuta	M
4	Prof. May Nwoye	F
5	Prof. Onovughe Ikelegbe	F
6	Prof. Peter Odjugo	M
7	Dr. Johnson Dudu	M
8	Engr. Job Eronmhonsele	M
9	Prof. Felicia Okoro	F
10	Dr. Francis Onojeta	M
11	Dr. Godwin Atedhor	M
12	Dr. Eddy Akpomera	M
Mentees		
13	Edith Oseghale	F
14	Egberase Chukwuemeka	M
15	Sido Verere Balogun	F
16	Patience Aika	F
17	Becky John-Abebe	F
18	Denyinye Hitler	M

19	Boris Odalonu	M
20	Osagie Aitokhuehi	M
21	Ernest Imongan	M
22	Andrew Momoh	M
Local Government Area Representatives		
23	Emmanuel Agiddi	M
24	Julie Idiegbe	F
25	Stella Omosibo Mode	F
26	Akwei Ebinpre Goretti	F
27	Ikpibako Victory	F
28	Elema Joy	F
Community Representatives		
29	Believe Ikoyo	F
30	Julie Edileh	F
31	Victory Oribene	F
32	Vivian Umukoro	F
33	Engo-Ere Niyaita	F
34	Akpodeh Julie	F
35	Odili Maria	F
36	Ibeaji Blessing	F
37	Emamozo Agbanye	F
38	Egwuelu Elizabeth	F
Management Committee		
39	Ejuvwekpoko E. Oghorodi	M
40	Santin Mode Augustine	M
Scholarship students		
41	Obi Sandra	F
42	Odafe E. Faith	F
IDRC		
43	Melanie Robertson	F
Ministry of Environment, Delta State		
44	Ogrisen Felix	M
45	Efeturi Victor (Director, Department of Climate Change) and Representative of the Commissioner for Environment	M
46	Briggs Vivian	F
CPED Data Analyst		
47	Prof. A.O. Oladipupo	M
CPED Staff		
48	Ogbidikhe Dennis	M
49	Nkechi Melohe	F
50	Iroroturi Iyamba	F
51	Edejeghwro Mercy	F
52	Abriku Jones	M
53	Jonathan Itua	M

54	Princewill Ovie	M
CSO Representatives		
55	Chioma Chibuko (WHARC)	F
56	Abiola Daisy (CONGOS)	F
57	Itua Osasumhen (WJF)	M
Media		
58	Segun Odole (Speed FM)	M
59	Flora Bossey (EBS)	F