

FIRST POLICY WORKSHOP ON CLIMATE CHANGE

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 @ Constantia Hotel, Airport Road, Benin City

Report Prepared By

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Member, Climate Change Project team

2. Dr. (Mrs.) Oghale John-Abebe

Mentee, CPED Climate Change Project

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 Eketuri, 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 emphasize 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 Efeure 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 Efeure, 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 Eronmhonele 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 Ebinepre Goretti	F
27	Ikpibako Victory	F
28	Elema Joy	F
Community Representatives		
29	Believe Ikoyo	F
30	Julie Edileh	F
31	Victory Obrigbene	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	Ogirisen 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

SECOND POLICY WORKSHOP ON CLIMATE CHANGE PROJECT

Policy workshop report on the project Titled “Empowering Women as Key Leaders in Promoting Community-based Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risks Reduction Initiatives in Niger Delta Region”

September 28, 2021 via Zoom

Report compiled by Osagie Aitokhuehi

Introduction

This policy workshop was organized by CPED and was the last activity of the above project which lasted for three years. It was an action research project implemented in 10 LGAs of Delta state namely *Aniocha North, Ika South, Ethiope East, Ndokwa East, Isoko South, Sapele, Warri South, Burutu, Patani & Ughelli South*. The project which was implemented by the *Centre for Population and Environmental Development (CPED)* in collaboration with *Intervention Council for Women in Africa (ICWA)* and the Delta State Government through the Ministry of Environment (DMoE) was financially supported by the *International Development Research Centre (IDRC)*, a crown corporation of the Government of Canada.

The policy workshop which took place via zoom, provided an avenue for policy experts and scholars to debate, cross-examine, and re-evaluate problems that are directly relevant to public policy, allowing government decision-makers to put their ideas to the test. Present at the workshop were directors in the ministries of environment, agriculture and natural resources, and health, representatives of some departments in 10 LGs councils, project team members, project mentees, project staff, members of the Community Project Implementation Committees (CPIC), research assistants, representatives of some media houses, representatives of some CSOs and others.

Workshop Opening

The policy workshop started with the introduction of the different categories of participants by the Deputy Executive Director (DED) of CPED, Engr. Job Eronmhonsele. He also intimated the participants on what they should expect in the workshop by giving an overview of the agenda for the day.

Welcome Remarks

The welcome remarks and project brief was given by the Chairman, Board of Trustees (BOT) of CPED, Professor Gideon E. D. Omuta. The BoT chairman welcomed invited participants to the workshop and encouraged everyone to feel relaxed and enjoy the proceedings. In his brief remarks on the climate change project, Prof. Omuta alluded to the fact that Nigeria like other Africa countries is highly vulnerable to the impact of climate change, particularly as it relates to agriculture and rural living. He further explained that the problems of coastal erosion in the Niger Delta was caused by sea-level rise, which has led to myriad of problems like floods, intrusion of sea-water into fresh water sources which had been affecting agriculture, fisheries,

settlements and general livelihoods. On while the project had to focus on the women and girls, Prof. Omuta stated that although disasters pose threats to everyone in their paths, they often have distinctly harsher impacts on women and girls due to their heavy reliance on climate-vulnerable natural resources, limited asset based and reduced access to adaptive measures. In his conclusion, Prof. Omuta encouraged the policy and decision makers virtually present to please consider how the learnings from the completed climate change project can help them to implement their policies and programmes on climate change in their various states and localities.

First Symposium: Brief Report of the Project Baseline Research

Prof. May Nwoye took over the platform to give a brief on the project methodology and climate change awareness among rural dwellers in Delta state. She depicted that the project was carried out in 3 ecological zones in Delta state and that the LGAs targeted in Mangrove Swamp ecological zone were in Delta South Senatorial District, those in Freshwater Swamp were in Delta Central Senatorial District while those in Lowland Forest zone were in Delta North Senatorial District. In regards to the baseline data collected, Prof. Nwonye said a total of 4,000 successfully completed household questionnaires were retrieved, cleaned up and used for the quantitative data analysis while a total of 107 key informants, with at least ten (10) identified in each LGA were also retrieved and used for the qualitative analysis. She further stated that findings of the survey showed that about 90 per cent of the respondents indicated that they had knowledge of the occurrence of climate change and that majority of the respondents perceived that these changes in climatic variables affect their agricultural products as well as a decline in the availability of forest products.

Thereafter, Dr. Johnson Dudu took the stage to present on ‘Impact of Climate Change on Community Health and Food Security in Delta State, Nigeria’. In his presentation, Dr. Johnson highlighted the drivers of climate change and their indicators in Delta state. He stated that his research showed that the impact of climate change on health in the rural areas in Delta state includes: increased incidences of malaria and diarrhea particularly on children, excessive heat, extended transmission seasons of vector - borne diseases and variation on their geographic range. On the area of food security, Dr. Johnson affirmed that the climate change is having its negative toll on food security in the Niger Delta region. Some of these impacts according to him included but not limited to agricultural losses, annual ritual of financial losses, increased infertility of soil, wastage of farm inputs, increased in price of food items, e.t.c.

Second Symposium: Brief Report of the Capacity Building and Intervention Strategies and Outcomes

The Executive Director of CPED and the climate change project principal investigator, Prof. A.G. Onokerhoraye took the centre stage to give a presentation on ‘Mentorship and Capacity Building of Project Team’. The P.I. revealed that team members’ knowledge were enhanced on the challenges of climate change in Niger Delta with special reference to women groups in rural communities. He said the team members were also empowered on how to engage with the policymakers to implement action research projects which would lead to adopting policy recommendations. For the junior academics, the P.I. stated that they were mentored on the design of survey instruments and collection of primary and secondary data on the impact of climate

change on rural communities in Niger Delta and also on how to write good publications in peer reviewed journals. The P.I. also stated that four (4) project staff capacity were also built on working with community-based women groups and other stakeholders to implement interventions on adaptation to climate change and disaster risks reduction. In concluding his presentation, the P.I. revealed that two (2) M.Sc. students were mentored on publications in peer reviewed journals and had also finished their postgraduate studies.

The next presenter, a member of the project staff and a gender officer in CPED, Ms. Mercy Edejeghwro, presented on 'Working with Women and Girls'. In her presentation, she explained that CPED engaged the women and girls in the implementation of the project. To achieve this, she said that CPED mobilized existing social groups in the communities and the various groups were brought together to form a coalition for social change referred to Community Project Implementation Committee (CPIC). According to her, about 2-3 members who are leaders of the functional social groups were nominated to form the various CPICs which consist of 25 members in each community with about 65-70 percent of women representation. Ms. Mercy stated that upon establishment of the CPIC and consequent identification of climate change adaptation measures appropriate for each community, the CPIC members in each target community were trained. This she said was to assist the farming population to practice climate-smart agriculture. Concluding her presentation, Ms. Mercy highlighted some of the immediate results of engaging with the CPICs which included the following;

- that women farmers have now been empowered in the target communities to understand the basic issues involved in climate change adaptation and that they have also acquired skills needed to participate in the adoption of various adaptation approaches;
- that the climate change adaptation training has fostered interactive dialogues between women leaders and the community members to create a collective vision of desired future conditions with respect to responding to climate change and disaster reduction with appropriate activities;
- that women and other stakeholders are already applying the skills acquired which have led to increased farm yields and;
- that the gender training received by members of the CPICs have encouraged and sustained active participation and cooperation of both men and women in the communities.

The presentation that followed was 'Working with Men and Community Leaders' and was presented by Engr. Osagie Aitokhuehi, a mentee and a member of the Project staff. In his presentation, he highlighted some of the society norms in the rural communities that tend to put the women at the disadvantage. On why the men had to be included in the project, Engr. Osagie said finds show that the men are very powerful in the rural communities, and therefore to ensure that women play key roles in promoting community-based climate change adaptation and DRRI, the men had to be carried along. He said the men were included in the formation of Community Project Implementation Committee (CPIC). According to him, the men in the CPICs were trained on gender equality, equity and mainstreaming as it concerns climate change adaptation. He stated that the trainings provided opportunities for the men to reflect on, discuss and challenge their own perceptions, values, beliefs and behaviours through sharing ideas with others. Also as part of the training, the presenter explained that the men were also trained to

become change agents and peer-educators. He further stated that the training and mentorship, was to help them become a recognized advocacy group that would address some of the gender biased practices and behaviours in their fellowmen and to support the women in the climate change project. Thereafter, a video interview of some CPIC men in some target communities was shown. In the interview, the men were seen responding to some questions which included:

- How the men in their respective community have been supporting their women and girls;
- If there is inclusiveness in the decision making process in their communities and;
- And how have they been working as peer-educators in their respective community.

The fourth presenter in the second symposium was Mrs. Ireroturi Iyamba who is a research staff of CPED and also a member of the project staff. She presented on ‘Working with Network/Coalition of Women and policy makers at local levels’. She talked about the establishment of a network known as Coalition of Niger Delta Women on Climate Change Adaptation with the acronym (CONDWOCCA), a network formed in-line with one of the project objectives of the project. In forming the network, Mrs. Iroro made it clear that the network was formed by selecting two women from each of the 10 project communities as well as one female policy actor at the local Government level for each of the community represented, making it a total number of 30 members. Regarding the purpose of the network, she stated unequivocally that the network is to contribute to equitable development in the Niger Delta region by promoting women coalition to lead climate change adaptation. She further stated that members of the network are to work with Policy/decision makers to support formulation and implementation of policies on climate change adaptation. As a major outcome emanating from the network, the presenter said that it has become the voice for women in their various communities, as they have been engaging community leaders, elders and local authority by advocating for women’s inclusion in matters concerning climate change issues as well as improving the exchange of information among women on adaptation. In her conclusion, Mrs. Iroro by way of recommendation, implore the various Governments both at the state and local level to collaborate with the already established climate change network in order to achieve climate resilient communities.

The last but not the least presentation was from a member of the project team and a permanent secretary in Delta state, Dr. Francis Onojeta who presented on ‘Working with Policy/Decision Makers for Sustainability-the Way Forward’. In his introduction, Dr. Francis stated that climate change is the greatest environmental challenge that the world has ever faced. He said that so many of the world's biggest challenges, from poverty to wildlife extinction, are made more difficult by climate change, and things will get worse if we do nothing. He applauded CPED and the IDRC for the work they have done in the area of climate change in Delta state. On working with the policy/decision makers, Dr. Francis stated that series of meetings were held with the commissioners of Environment and his Permanent secretary, Local government chairmen of 10 target LGAs and heads of environment, health and agricultures in the 10 target LGAs at different stages of the project. He said that the meetings held at different fora helped to intimate them of the findings from the field and also to let them know the interventions on ground by CPED. He said the Delta state government through the ministry of environment is aware of some of these

solution-based interventions and has promised to look at them and scale-up these interventions in all LGAs in the state. On the network i.e. Coalition of Niger Delta Women on Climate Change Adaptation with the acronym (CONDWOCCA), Dr. Francis applauded CPED and stated that the network formed on climate change is the first of its kind in Delta state and even in Nigeria at large. He said machineries are already in place by the Delta government through the ministry of environment to ensure its sustainability and also ensure that it is scaled-up to include the remaining 15 LGAs in Delta state.

After the last presentation of the second symposium, it was followed by discussion and comments section as seen below.

Commenter 1: A participant advised CPED to also come to the aid of other LGAs and communities that were not captured in the project. In response to the comment, a team member made it clear that the project was just a pilot study and that if there are more funding it will be scaled-up to other communities and LGAs in Delta state.

Commenter 2: A participant asked of what the women are doing differently in leading community-based climate change in their respective communities? In a quick response to the question, a project staff answered by saying that most of the target communities now have improved crop varieties and crop diversification is now been practiced in these communities.

Commenter 3: A question was asked if the challenges posed by climate change in rural areas are same as those in urban areas. A project team member responded that the effects of climate change in the rural and urban communities differs and also the challenges they pose to gender such as lack of information and many others are different. Also responding to the question, a member of the mentees in the project responded by saying that the project is skewed towards the rural areas because most of the climate change challenges are mostly on rural areas and these areas are majorly involved in agriculture and farming.

Closing Remark

The closing remark was given by a member of the project team Prof. Mrs. Dicta Ogisi who commended the presenters and thanked all the various levels of participants for their time and patience.

 <p>Prof. Dicta Ogiel...</p>	 <p>Prof. Dicta Ogiel...</p>	 <p>Dr. Johnson Eghiemada Dada</p>	 <p>V. S. Babajide</p>	 <p>Tinasola</p>
 <p>Elizabeth Mary</p>	 <p>Ezechielle</p>	 <p>Ekechukwu Dighvato</p>	 <p>Emmanuel Agborke</p>	 <p>Osagie ARIANURE</p>
 <p>Fina</p>	 <p>Irotan (CRO)</p>	 <p>Prof. Emmanuel Owole</p>	 <p>Prof. A.O. Olatunji</p>	 <p>Fata</p>
 <p>Okeke BOT</p>	 <p>Okeke Rachel Okeke</p>	 <p>TECHO SPAIN CRO</p>	 <p>Purky Orokale</p>	 <p>Mary Ighare</p>
 <p>Briggs Vian</p>	 <p>Ita Oluwafemi WAF</p>	 <p>Procewell</p>	 <p>Eddy Alphonse</p>	 <p>Sandra DSI</p>

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