

## REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP) FOR ESHRG BASELINE STUDY IN Ogoniland (NIGERIA)

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### A. Objectives/Purpose of Assignment

**Background to the Project:** The Ogoni are an indigenous people in Rivers State in the south-south region of Nigeria, numbering about 830,000 in population and covering a landmass of about 1,000 square km. They are predominantly fishers and farmers. Administratively, Ogoniland has four local government areas (LGAs): Eleme, Gokana, Khana, and Tai. Ogoniland sits on large deposits of crude oil and natural gas; crude oil was discovered in the area in 1958. The Ogoni have been adversely affected by the impact of oil spills caused by long-term oil exploration and production activities, which have resulted in very high unemployment and hardship due to the destruction of the natural resource base in the area.



Due to a combination of poor maintenance, corrosion, faulty equipment, failed clean-up attempts, ‘bunkering’ (i.e. large-scale illegal tapping of oil from pipelines) and so-called ‘artisanal refining’ (i.e. small-scale, illegal refining of oil), oil pollution has been widespread and has turned the Niger Delta into “one of the world’s most severely petroleum-impacted ecosystems”.<sup>1</sup> Like other communities in the Niger Delta, the Ogoni have lived with chronic oil pollution for decades. According to the most comprehensive study to date by the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP), government regulation, technical and logistic capacity is limited and the control, maintenance and decommissioning of oilfield infrastructure by oil companies is inadequate. As a result, the Ogoni community continues to be exposed to extremely high levels of air, soil and (drinking) water pollution that far exceed national and international safety levels.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Nigerian Conservation Foundation, WWF UK and IUCN, Commission on Environmental, Economic and Social Policy, with Federal Ministry of Environment (2006) *Niger Delta Natural Resources Damage Assessment and Restoration Project Scoping Report*.

<sup>2</sup> UNEP (2011) *Environmental Assessment of Ogoniland* (Nairobi: UNEP), pp. 9-12.

In 2016, the Federal Government of Nigeria set a new policy priority aimed at meeting the needs and challenges of the Niger Delta region. This policy was adopted collectively by the Federal Ministry of Niger Delta Affairs, Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC), Office of the Special Adviser to the President on the Niger Delta/Presidential Amnesty Programme, and the Federal Ministry of Environment. One of the policy responses will be to implement the recommendations of the 2011 UNEP Report on pollution in Ogoniland, widely referred to as the “clean-up” process.

With that clean-up process expected to start in the second quarter of 2017, the Centre for Environment, Human Rights and Development (CEHRD) is planning to commission an integrated baseline assessment of oil-affected communities in Ogoniland to inform key stakeholders in the clean-up process of the aspirations and challenges of affected communities. The baseline will be conducted in close cooperation with the Niger Delta-based civil society organization Movement for the Survival of the Ogoni People (MOSOP). CEHRD has engaged the International Association for Impact Assessment’s (IAIA) CommunityConnect service to help identify a suitable independent Consultant to undertake the baseline study. IAIA’s CommunityConnect initiative will be assisting CEHRD with the shortlisting and selection process of the independent experts.

In preparation, CEHRD and MOSOP, together with an IAIA CommunityConnect representative, visited 5 oil-affected communities during a scoping mission between 24 January and 2 February 2017 to obtain a quick overview of community concerns and community perceptions of oil-related impacts. In addition, the scoping mission obtained the required endorsement of relevant authorities and community leaders to implement the baseline.

***Objective of the Assignment:*** CEHRD now seeks to engage a team comprising 3 consultants (“Consultant”) to conduct an integrated environmental, social, human rights and gender (ESHRG) Baseline Study (“Baseline”) that provides an overview of the current (pre-clean-up) condition of communities in Ogoniland. The aim of the proposed integrated baseline is to enable long-term monitoring of the impact and success of the clean-up program, measured against community concerns and aspirations. In addition, the baseline aims to provide actionable recommendations for conflict-sensitive stakeholder engagement and tangible community development.

Note, CEHRD is in the process of applying for external funding for this assignment. The assignment will be subject to the external funding being available.

## **B. Scope of the Baseline Study**

The study will take place in Ogoniland in the southeastern part of the Niger Delta (Nigeria), and will concentrate on 8 communities across 4 local government areas (LGAs): Eleme, Gokana, Tai and Khana.

The communities will be selected based on the following criteria:

- Degree of impact by oil spill (high – moderate - less polluted)
- Prevailing type of livelihood (fishing, agriculture, other)
- Occurrence of intra-community conflict (high - low)
- Accessibility, security and consent

The study will cover 2 communities in each LGA, with at least 2 of the 8 communities being less impacted and serving as a ‘control group’ to avoid selection bias.

In addition, the study should also consult other relevant stakeholder representatives from government (incl. ministries, regulatory agencies and parliamentary committees), civil society organizations and private sector companies based in the Rivers State capital of Port Harcourt as well as the federal capital of Abuja.

In total, we estimate that the baseline study will comprise *at least*:

- 240 surveys with individual community representatives, spread across the 8 communities (for this task CEHRD/MOSOP will train 2 enumerators from each of the 8 communities to collect data using instruments designed by the Consultant in consultation with CEHRD/MOSOP)
- 4 focus group discussions (across all the communities combined) in selected communities
- 16 semi-structured interviews (across all the communities combined) in selected communities
- 10 semi-structured interviews with relevant stakeholders in Port Harcourt
- 2 early findings validation meetings with relevant stakeholders
- 1 specialized training workshop on environmental, social/human rights/gender, and health impact assessment for selected government and civil society staff.

### **C. Thematic Scope of the Baseline Study - Key Issues to Address**

This ToR has been informed by a participatory scoping mission in Ogoniland by CEHRD and MOSOP, together with IAIA CommunityConnect, between 24 January and 2 February 2017. The mission team informed relevant stakeholders (incl. representatives of local government, oil companies, civil society and different communities) about the proposed baseline study and asked them for their feedback. Comments and suggestions were subsequently incorporated in this final version. All stakeholders acknowledged the importance of a systematic and independent baseline study and expressed their willingness to cooperate with requests for interview or information-sharing.

Resulting from the scoping mission (see annex 1 for summary findings), the following key issues were identified as important topics for the baseline study:

- People’s perceptions of their current state of wellbeing, across a range of factors:
  - People’s capacities, such as education, skills, individual freedoms, gender divisions and women’s empowerment, and health;
  - Livelihoods, including the natural resources (ecosystem services) that people rely on for their income and food security
  - Community, i.e. sense of community / cohesion and strength of social networks (incl. prevalence of conflict/legacy issues)
  - Culture and religion (including tangible and intangible cultural heritage)
  - Services and infrastructure (public services: education, healthcare, road infrastructure; utilities: water, energy, sanitation)
  - Housing (adequacy of family homes, informal settlements)
  - Living environment (quality of air, water, soil, ecosystem services)
  - Land and property (land rights and tenure arrangements; changes in land use / quality)

- Particular attention should be given to serious concerns raised by the communities visited by the scoping team, in relation to loss of livelihood, environmental pollution (incl. polluted drinking water sources), health problems, housing problems, social tensions and conflict;
- Specific human rights issues (e.g. impacts on vulnerable groups; labour and security, meaningful public participation) that emerge from people’s perceptions identified above;
- People’s perceptions and expectations on the operational effectiveness of the (oil spill) emergency response system;
- People’s perceptions and expectations of the efficiency and effectiveness of the clean-up exercise;
- People’s perceptions and expectations of participation in the clean-up process.
- People’s aspirations for life after the clean-up exercise;
- Community and stakeholder recommendations

**D. Safety and Logistics**

The Niger Delta is a high-risk environment; however, with appropriate (low-profile) security precautions, detailed trip planning and accompaniment by respected local partner organizations CEHRD and MOSOP, community visits for national and international visitors to communities in Ogoniland are possible. Only experts with extensive experience in conflict environments and used to working with conflict-sensitive approaches are encouraged to apply for this assignment. CEHRD will develop a detailed security and logistics plan. Consultants should have their own medical insurance (with repatriation cover) and shall assume all risks and liabilities for their security.

All logistic arrangements within Rivers State (incl. transport and accommodation) will be organized by CEHRD, who will also accompany the Consultant throughout the data collection process. The consultants are responsible for making their own flight arrangements to the Rivers State capital of Port Harcourt.

**E. Scope of Work**

The work will be broken down into several phases.

Phase 1: Desktop review to produce draft baseline indicator framework

Phase 2: Participatory data collection

Phase 3: Draft baseline study report

Phase 4: Multi-stakeholder dialogue

**Phase 1: Baseline Indicator Framework and Research Preparation (home-based)**

<b>Tasks</b>	<b>Deliverable</b>
1. <i>Design of baseline indicator framework:</i> Analysis of key reports on oil pollution in Ogoniland. Selection of appropriate (qualitative and quantitative) indicators that align with key environmental, social, human rights, health and gender (ESHRG) issues identified in the scoping mission (see section C above and annex 1). The indicators need to allow for monitoring over the life of the clean-up and comparison against the pre-clean-up state. Ideally, some of the (less technically complex) indicators	Draft baseline indicator framework in table format: indicator, source of data for indicator, benchmark value and source, , and existing baseline measure for the indicator if data already exists

<p>would also allow for easy monitoring by civil society organizations and/or community-based groups.</p> <p><i>Set appropriate benchmark:</i> the benchmark value can refer to an external point of comparison, for example a WHO or FAO standard), national (oil &amp; gas) sector regulations and targets, or industry norms. A target value will also need to be set (in a later phase, after the data collection) for what is hoped to be achieved, and should reflect what is realistic and practical given the context.</p>	
2. <i>Review and finalization of baseline indicator framework:</i> incorporation of CEHRD comments on draft framework	Final baseline indicator framework
3. <i>Survey design:</i> development of draft survey, focus group and interview questions and system/approach for survey implementation	Draft survey questionnaire
4. <i>Baseline research plan:</i> development of detailed plan for baseline fieldwork, indicating steps and methods, list of stakeholders to be engaged, community entry protocol, community visit schedule, survey, guidance questions for focus group discussions and semi-structured interviews	Field research plan (for phase 2)
5. <i>Security &amp; logistics plan:</i> review draft security & logistics plan prepared by CEHRD	Security & logistics plan (for phase 2)

### **Phase 2: Participatory Data Collection and Training (field-based)**

<b>Tasks</b>	<b>Deliverable</b>
6. <i>Baseline study briefing + research methods training:</i> for all baseline study core staff (excl. community enumerators, who will be trained earlier)	Security and logistics briefing Training workshop
7. <i>Data collection:</i> obtain a baseline measure for each indicator. Data will be sourced via survey, focus group discussions and semi-structured interviews from various primary and secondary sources: community perceptions, photographic evidence, indicators already collected by service providers, companies, various government departments and census, NGOs, etc. Data will be recorded in data collection forms, which will have to be transcribed and/or summarized for later data analysis; After data collection is completed, an outline for the baseline study report will be developed	Draft indicator table with baseline values  Summary notes / transcripts of focus group discussions and semi-structured interviews  Baseline report outline
8. <i>Feedback workshops:</i> two separate meetings at the end of the fieldwork to obtain feedback on initial findings from government/private sector and civil society	2 feedback workshops
9. <i>Specialized training</i> on environmental, social/human rights/gender, and health impact assessment for selected government and civil society staff	Training workshop
10. <i>Field visit reporting:</i> brief report with key outcomes and lessons learnt from all activities (7-11) in phase 2	Field visit report

**Phase 3: Baseline Study report (home-based)**

Tasks	Deliverable
11. <i>Draft baseline report</i> : first full version of reporting on survey data, including completed indicator table with baseline and target values, visual evidence (photos), and Ogoni community perceptions of key issues/impacts (see section C), what has and has not worked in the past to engage with government and companies and to mitigate impacts; identification of strengths/weaknesses in knowledge, capacity and institutional mechanisms of stakeholders that enable or hinder the clean-up process and achieving aspirational targets; and recommendations for the clean-up process and achievement of aspirations laid out in the indicator framework;	Draft baseline report
12. <i>Peer review and finalization of baseline study report</i> : incorporation of comments from independent experts (sourced via IAIA CommunityConnect), CEHRD and other civil society partners as well as other relevant stakeholders into a final baseline study report	Final baseline study report

**Phase 4: Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue (home-based)**

Tasks	Deliverable
13. <i>Review of communication plan</i> : review the plan by CEHRD on how the baseline findings are to be shared at community level as well as among institutional stakeholders, including proposed mechanisms for follow-up dialogue	Communication plan for baseline findings

Deliverables should be prepared and submitted electronically in English, in Word (or where relevant Excel) format.

**F. Specific Inputs to be provided by the Client (i.e. CEHRD)**

In order to facilitate the baseline research process, CEHRD will make available the following resources to the selected Consultant:

- Draft bibliography and soft copies of key reports
- Draft security and logistics plan
- Accommodation: reservation at a secure, modern hotel near the CEHRD office in Port Harcourt (costs to be covered by CEHRD)
- Transport: CEHRD will provide 2 cars and 2 drivers for the duration of the baseline field research
- Research support: CEHRD and MOSOP will make available 3 research staff who will accompany the independent experts during the baseline data collection (all of whom speak English, pidgin English and some of them Ogoni language). In addition, and prior to the survey, CEHRD/MOSOP will train 2 enumerators from each of the 8 communities.

**G. Profile of the Selected Consultant**

CEHRD seek the services of a team of 3 qualified and experienced consultants to undertake this assignment:

1. A social impact assessment expert, focusing specifically on socio-economic, cultural and human rights impacts as well as stakeholder engagement;
2. An environmental impact assessment expert, focusing specifically on water and soil sampling as well as ecosystems services and bio-physical remediation;
3. A health impact assessment expert, focusing specifically on collection of epidemiological data.

The desired profile for each of the experts:

- Advanced academic degree in relevant field;
- At least 10 – 15 years practical work experience with either social, environmental or health impact assessments in extractive industry projects (preferably oil & gas);
- Prior experience in working in rural communities (under basic conditions) in a high-risk/conflict setting is a must;
- Knowledge and experience working with civil society or community-based organizations both directly implementing and working through partnership;
- Prior experience in Niger Delta/Nigeria is an asset;
- Strong research and analytical skills;
- Excellent English writing and presentation skills, with demonstrated experience and skill in drafting high quality research reports;
- Demonstrated training and group facilitation experience as well as skill in mentoring junior colleagues;
- Outstanding interpersonal skills, teamwork, diplomatic and conflict-sensitive approach and competency to operate in a multi-cultural and diverse environment;
- Evidence of having done similar work in the recent past;
- Availability for the period indicated.

One of the experts should be capable of functioning as the overall team leader, with supervisory (and coaching) responsibility for all baseline team members. Consortiums or collaborations are encouraged if not all the team competencies are found within the contracting firm.

**H. Ethical Standards and Intellectual Property**

The Consultant should take all reasonable steps to ensure that the study is designed and conducted to respect and protect the rights and welfare of the people and communities involved and to ensure that the baseline study report is technically accurate and reliable. The Consultant will also commit to adhering to IAIA’s Code of Conduct. All products arising from this assignment will remain property of CEHRD. Publication, presentation or other forms of use of any of the analytical results or other material collected during the course of this assignment is only allowed after prior authorization in writing by CEHRD.

**I. Criteria for Assessment of the Proposal**

<i>Proposal Component</i>	<i>Maximum Score</i>
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1. Technical Proposal	40
a. Methodology: appropriateness to context and ToR	30
b. Timeliness of the work plan	10
2. Financial Proposal	30
3. Consultants' profile and capability statement	30
a. Qualifications of proposed personnel	10
b. Relevant experience of proposed personnel	15
c. Complementarity of skills / team approach	5
Total maximum score	100

## **J. Proposal Submission Requirements**

CEHRD invites interested parties to express their interest by providing the following information to IAIA CommunityConnect:

1. A technical proposal (in Word or PDF format), which includes a) an interpretation of this ToR detailing the research approach, methods, and a detailed work plan specifying proposed tasks per week;
2. A financial proposal, with a detailed budget (in Excel, costs in USD) and relevant explanatory notes for proposed cost items. As local transport and hotel accommodation will be provided by CEHRD, these items do not need to be included in the financial proposal.
3. Consultants' profile and capability statement describing the technical capacity and experience of the individual, firm or group of individuals, including detailed CVs
4. 3 referees from previous clients.

As the baseline study report project is funded by public sector / development aid funds, we particularly welcome financial proposals with discounted and/or pro-bono fee structures. Note, CEHRD is in the process of applying for external funding for this assignment. The assignment will be subject to the external funding being available.

The assignment should ideally start by 1<sup>st</sup> June 2017 and be completed before 30<sup>th</sup> September 2017.

Interested candidates should submit their proposal –mentioning ‘Ogoni Baseline Study’ as the subject– to: [kathy@iaia.org](mailto:kathy@iaia.org)

Deadline for submission is 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2017.

## **Annex 1 – Summary Findings from the Scoping Mission Report – Towards An Integrated ESHRG Baseline in Ogoniland, Nigeria, 19 January – 2 February 2017**

### **1. Methodology**

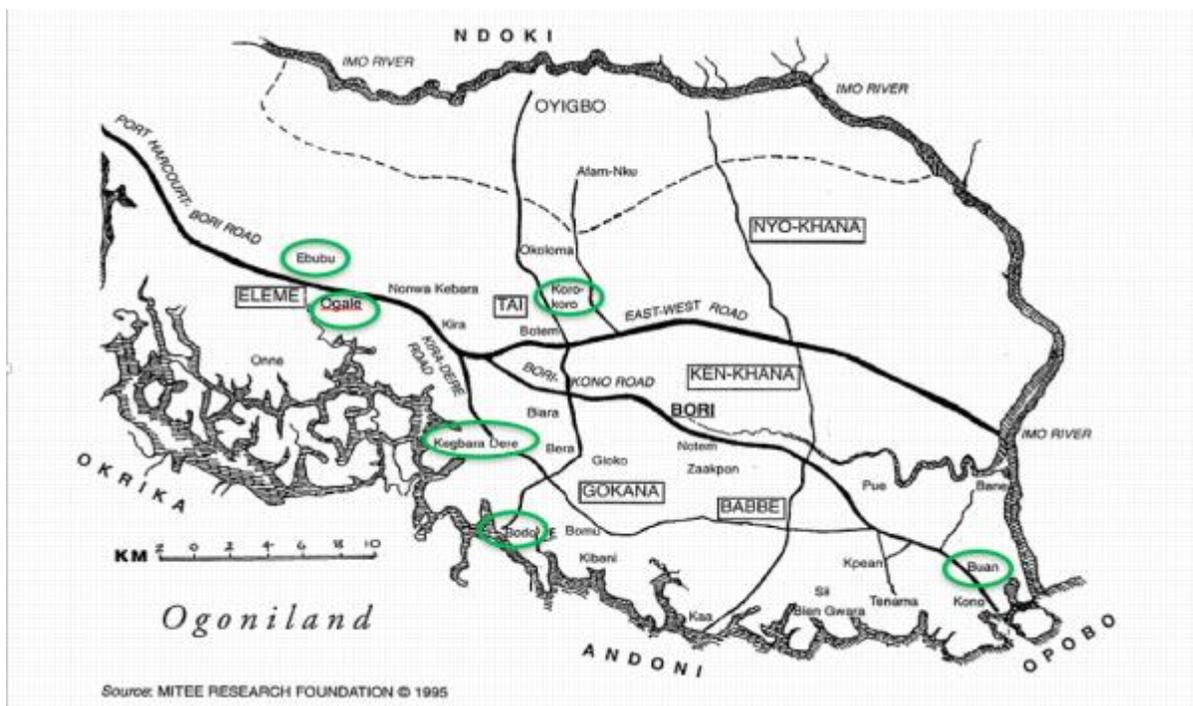
In order to structure the research process, we developed a detailed *scoping research guide* with guidance notes and questions for the various research methods used. During the kick-off meeting on 24 January 2017, the scoping team received useful input on the research guide and community entry approach from other civil society organizations working for a more transparent and responsible oil sector in Nigeria, incl. Publish What You Pay (PWYP), Stakeholder Democracy Network (SDN), KebetKache Women Development and Resource Centre, FACE Initiative, MacJim Foundation, National Coalition on Gas Flaring and Oil Spills in the Niger Delta (NACGOND), Cordaid, Movement for the Survival of the Ogoni People (MOSOP) and the Centre for Environment, Human Rights and Development (CEHRD).

Focus group discussions (FGD) were selected as the most time-efficient tool to get a quick overview of key community concerns and perceptions. We received some additional data from a focus group discussion conducted by KebetKache Women Development and Resource Centre on 25 January 2017 with women representatives in K-Dere.

In order to get an overview of the key problems, the original plan was to visit 7 communities spread across the four local government areas (LGAs) of Ogoniland (see table 1.1).

Table 1.1. Communities Selected for the Scoping Mission

<b>LGA</b>	<b>Community</b>
Eleme	Agbi-Ogale; Ebubu
Gokana	Bodo; K-Dere
Tai	Korokoro
Khana	Buan; Wiiyaakara ('control')



The main criteria used for the selection of these communities included 1) intensity of oil-related impact (most impacted); 2) population density (most densely populated); 3) natural resource type affected: water, farmland / crops, soil, swamp; 4) high incidence of conflict (cult rivalry, chieftaincy, boundary disputes over land, division of compensation money). To off-set the (almost unavoidable) selection bias, we decided to include one ‘control’ community (Wiiyaakara) which ostensibly had less oil-related impact, is less densely populated and has had less conflict incidents. Unfortunately, however, due to lack of time (and the unavailability of the main MOSOP contact person) it proved impossible to visit Wiiyaakara. Another community we could not visit was Ehubu, because of violent conflict over chieftaincy.

We eventually conducted 8 focus group discussions (4 with youth and 4 with women representatives) in 4 different communities: Agbi-Ogale, K-Dere, Korokoro and Buan. Moreover, we had separate meetings with the traditional leaders (i.e. paramount rulers / king and councils of chiefs) in 5 different communities: Agbi-Ogale, K-Dere, Korokoro, Buan and Bodo. In addition, we conducted 5 semi-structured interviews with representatives from government institutions and regulatory agencies and had 3 informal discussions with key civil society representatives, all in Port Harcourt.

## 2. Main Impacts / Challenges of Oil Pollution

The community representatives we spoke with (incl. traditional leaders, youth and women) highlighted a broad range of impacts, which in their view result from oil pollution. The quotes mentioned below are generally representative of what different community members told the scoping team and provide a real-life impression of a specific (perceived) impact:<sup>3</sup>

<sup>3</sup> The community perceptions and quotes were all documented during the scoping mission visits to six communities in Ogoniland between 25 and 31 January 2017.

### **A. Loss of Livelihoods**

- *Fishing*: fishing used to be one of the main sources of livelihood: “we used to catch cat fish, tilapia, mud fish and even frogs”. However, “since the pollution started, we no longer go fishing. Even if you go deeper in the water, the fish we catch is contaminated with oil and no longer safe for consumption”;
- *Farming*: farming is the other main source of livelihood for most communities in Ogoniland: “we used to grow good cassava, yam, pumpkin leave and maize. Nowadays, our yields from these crops are very poor, the tubers are stunted and we cannot take it to the market to sell”. And “what we produce from the soil has virtually no taste”. Most of those who farm report using large amounts of fertilizer (“the only way to grow our crops”), which is expensive and further damages the environment. Moreover, different types of trees that provided fruits, leaves and other economically valuable products have slowly disappeared since the oil pollution started;
- *Loss of land*: “most of the lands [used by women farmers] were taken over by the oil company as ‘right of way’ for the oil pipelines. Those lands have since been depleted immensely due to oil spills and can no longer be cultivated”.
- *Loss of livestock* (due to premature deaths, e.g. among goats) and domestic birds. Domestic livestock are usually left to roam around and fend for themselves. Plants usually serve as a good source of fodder for the goats and puddles are usually good source of water for the birds. However, these have all been polluted and so when consumed by livestock it leads to premature death.
- *Unemployment and Poverty*: “As a result of the loss of our fishing waters and farmlands, poverty has been the order of the day. Our youths are jobless because we were brought up with fishing and farming as our occupation. Even if we decide to divert today [i.e. turn to a different livelihood], we don’t have any skills that can empower us to use as an alternative source of livelihood”.

### **B. Environmental Pollution**

- *Farmland*: “our farmlands are so polluted by the spills that we can no longer use them for farming; when you dig in some areas you will find oil sediments; in other areas where we still manage to farm, we are exposed to this contamination by using our hands to weed and inhaling the [petrol-like] odour in the process”. Even those areas “that are not directly affected by the spills have also been contaminated by the spread from other impacted sites in the community”.
- *Soil erosion*: “The land is now more prone to erosion since the oil spill [in combination with the sun] tears open the ground”.
- *Surface water / marine life*: “our rivers are no longer conducive for fishing: either the fish is dead or when you still find some alive and cut it open, you will find oil in their belly, which is harmful. These days you need to paddle far from the shore into the larger (ocean) waters to get good fish that is not contaminated”.
- *Wetland ecosystem*: We visited one of the waterfront areas in Kegbara-Dere community and observed that most of the mangroves had been destroyed and the river beds were completely black. In the past (before the oil pollution), the Niger Delta wetlands and mangroves in particular comprised a unique ecosystem that provided a range of ecosystem services: biodiversity, food and important sources of livelihood. After decades of oil pollution “the rivers are dry and mangroves destroyed; we can no longer go fishing, there are no more periwinkles to pick, and we lost most of our firewood”. Because of the

ebb and flow of the tide oil contaminants from one spill area quickly disseminate into surrounding and neighboring water as well as land.

- *Drinking water*: “since the oil spills we can no longer use river water for anything like drinking, washing of clothes, bathing, etc. Right now, we depend on individual boreholes, but [even this water] smells of crude oil. However, we don’t have another alternative; we boil the water and drink it, which is very harmful. Some of us have tried purchasing sachet water [i.e. purified water in small plastic bags] but due to cost we cannot regularly depend on that”. “Even the water from the rain is polluted [acidic] and unfit to drink”. In two communities we heard similar stories that oil companies and government had started providing drinking water but after a while stopped; in one community (Agbi-Ogale) the water delivery company used old, rusty trucks and eventually stopped coming. In another community (Buan) the oil company ostensibly claimed they were no longer pumping oil from that area and for that reason would no longer supply the community with drinking water.

### **C. Health Problems**

- *Asthma / chest pain*: “our community members suffer from asthma and find it difficult to breathe due to the regular inhalation of polluted air”;
- *Cough*: “we are constantly experiencing an incurable cough that everyone in the community is affected with”;
- *Tuberculosis*: “tuberculosis is now common here [in Buan], our old people suffer from this disease more”;
- *Cholera and dysentery*: “our little children suffer from dysentery and cholera (with vomiting and severe diarrhea) from drinking contaminated water because they don’t have an alternative”;
- *Skin rash*: “our people are experiencing different types of skin rashes: dry scaling, boils, dark spots and so on. All this is due to our exposure to (air) pollution”;
- Women in K-Dere reported incidences of infertility, early menopause, miscarriages, breast cancer, fibroids, early blindness (all higher than before the oil pollution);
- *Poor / affected eye sight*: “we suffer from eye problems in this community. Now our youths also have bad eye sight [some report cataract], which was not the case before. We cannot afford to visit a doctor for medical checks”;
- *Cancer*: “we have experienced some deaths in the community caused by cancer. We have been told that this is caused by long-term inhalation of contaminated air”;
- *Death*: The pollution has led to untimely deaths in our community [Buan, Agbi-Ogbale and K-Dere]. You now see people, even youths, dying after brief illness, they have all manner of lung diseases”.

### **D. Housing Problems**

- *Building wall cracks*: “due to the contaminated air and rain water our building structures don’t last. Both the air and water is filled with strong chemicals that have impacted the walls, which causes cracks, making them dangerous for habitation. Many people have been rendered homeless due to this and new building structures have a very short lifespan”;
- *Roof deterioration*: “If you replace a roof with new zinc sheets, after a while it turns reddish brown due to the air pollution”;
- *No proper sewage / sanitation facilities*.

### **E. Loss of Culture**

- ‘Erosion’ of cultural values: “the oil spill has made the waters toxic such that the ‘masquerades’ [traditional spirits] are unable to come out of the water during the harvest season; moreover, because of pollution there are no items to be taken from the land for worship [while using items taken from another community is an abomination].”

### **F. Crime**

- “The oil spill has made many of our youths to be idle, so they have taken to crime [incl. stealing] to survive”

### **G. Social Tensions and Conflict**

- *Lack of cohesion / community fragmentation*: in several of the communities we visited respondents indicated a deterioration of relationships if not a breakdown between *and among* elders (traditional rulers and council of chiefs) and the youth. In some locations we observed that youth are wary of allowing their leaders speak on their behalf as they have no confidence in their leaders protecting their rights. There leaders are distrusted and accused of “using the crisis for self-aggrandizement”;
- This *internal leadership crisis* seemingly has a lot do with the sharing of (oil-related) money originally intended for community development but ending up in private pockets. Moreover, in cases where people have received money as compensation for land access or oil spills, there are a lot of misgivings about the distribution of those funds;
- There are also perceptions that the out-of-court settlement money paid by Shell to members of the Bodo community has exacerbated the situation in other oil-affected communities by “turning youth and other community representatives against their leaders as they felt [i.e. suspected] SPDC also paid their leaders money, which they then hoarded and kept to themselves”;
- *Conflicts between neighboring communities*: the oil pollution forces people to cross traditional community boundaries to be able to fish and farm. Moreover, communities blame each other for allowing the oil companies to have come in with devastating effects on the environment. In one community it was put as follows: “[name of community] was greedy to allow the white man to exploit them and during the time of great abundance enjoy the dividends alone; now that things are dire through no fault of our own, we are expected to suffer along with them.”
- *Aggressive behavior*: overall, many community representatives are angry and impatient with the outside world. In their view: “except for paper promises, we have not had any reprieve since the spills occurred.” Apparently, they are now more aggressive and often react violently to any issue that comes up.

## **3. Views and Expectations of the Clean-Up Process**

Everyone we spoke with welcomed the idea of cleaning-up the oil pollution and considered it a prerequisite for re-starting ‘normal life’ in the Niger Delta. Nevertheless, it is clear that most communities have not received any detailed information about the clean-up process. As a result, there are different views on the scope of the clean-up activities as well as doubts about the ‘seriousness’ with which these activities will be implemented. In the words of one youth representative: “We are skeptical about the process since our government is ‘talk no do’. Until we have seen [the arrival of] their machineries we can now say [it has started].”

In the eyes of affected communities, the clean-up process should above all provide “adequate compensation” for the decades of “suffering and lost livelihoods” due to oil pollution. Moreover, the clean-up should be done according to international standards to avoid the failures from the past.

It is clear that communities have (very) high expectations of the clean-up process, which according to them should involve a broad range of activities that can be clustered as follows (in order of priority indicated):

1. *Infrastructure & Services* (1): provision of clean, piped drinking water (top priority!)
2. *Living environment*: clean air, clean surface water, clean and fertile soil
3. *Employment / ‘local content’*: community members (especially youth) should be involved as laborers, contractors or security staff in the clean-up process. Some people indicated that community representatives should be employed “as managers and office workers since our people have the necessary skill, knowledge and education”. Others went even further and stated: “we believe that [our community as a whole] should be the contracting agent for the clean-up”.
4. *Infrastructure & Services* (2): construction/improvement of health centers and schools; better sewage and sanitation systems; upgrading of roads for better access to markets; electrification;
5. *Capacity-building and ‘soft loans’*: vocational/skills training of women and youth; scholarships for primary and secondary education; access to micro-finance (small-scale credit for business);
  - *Financial compensation*: personal monetary compensation for damaged land and water resources in a certain community area. This idea seems to be ‘modelled on’ the out-of-court settlement between Shell and Bodo community in 2015 (which resulted in a GBP 55 million / USD 83 million payout to 15,601 beneficiaries). In the words of one community representative: “we would like the government to use 500 million dollar out of the one billion dollar [ostensibly allocated for the clean-up] to compensate those who are directly affected by the spills”.
6. *Representation*: “we are not represented in any of the committees set up and we want to be represented. At the moment we are not being informed when decisions are taken on issues and so have no knowledge on the decisions concerning us”.
7. *Alternative livelihood / relocation assistance*: there is a perception among some community members that they will have to be relocated during the clean-up process, or at least that their farm land or fishing waters might not be accessible during the remediation period. “Most of our houses are situated on or very close to the oil wells. We need to know what the government plans are, whether they will resettle people living close to the oil wells as there is no way they can do a thorough job if they don’t remove these persons.” (...) “We also expect them to provide an alternative source of livelihood since our people are mainly farmers and fishers”. The cleanup will happen both on land and in water and so our people will not be able to work during the period.”

In sum, there are very high expectations among community representatives regarding the clean-up process. Apart from a few civil society organizations such as MOSOP, CEHRD and NACGOND, we did not observe much effort from government to actively manage these expectations.