

## GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT UNEP

UNEP's project in Ogoniland falls under UNEP's Disasters and Conflict programme, which is coordinated in Geneva Switzerland.

UNEP seeks to minimize environmental threats to human well-being from the environmental causes and consequences of conflicts and disasters.

In response to increased global awareness of the environmental dimensions of crises, and the growing demand for services that address them, UNEP has identified "disasters and conflicts" as one of six priority areas of work.

Through the Disasters and Conflicts programme, UNEP provides four core services to member states:

- Post-crisis environmental assessments
- Post-crisis environmental recovery
- Environmental cooperation for peace building
- Disaster risk reduction



*Discussing with youths at the community level*

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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Efforts are on going to establish project offices in each of the four LGAs. Details will be made available in due course.

### Communications:

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For more information on the project visit: <http://www.unep.org/conflictsanddisasters/UNEPintheRegions/CurrentActivities/Nigeria/FurtherInformation/tabid/1556/language/en-US/Default.aspx>

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THE UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

# THE OGONI PROJECT

*Environmental Assessment of Oil Impacted Sites*

**UNEP's mandate is to provide leadership and encourage partnership in caring for the environment by inspiring, informing, and enabling nations and peoples to improve their quality of life without compromising that of future generations.**

## BACKGROUND

Oil exploration and production in the oil-rich Niger Delta region started during the 1950s, but operations were suspended in Ogoniland in the early 1990s due to local agitation for a better environment resulting in public unrest arising from oil spills which had much impact on the lives, flora and fauna of the people.

In July 2006, UNEP received a formal request from the Federal Government of Nigeria to carry out a comprehensive environmental assessment on about 300 oil spill sites in Ogoniland.



The assessment in Ogoniland will cover possible areas of oil-impacted sites, including soil/water contamination, public health, agriculture and fisheries”.

The assessment is the first step towards a comprehensive clean up of the environment in Ogoniland.

## METHODOLOGY

UNEP teams of International and national experts will conduct field based assessments in the oil-impacted sites to identify the impacts of oil on environmental systems such as land, water, agriculture, fisheries and air– as well as the indirect effects on biodiversity and human health. The findings of the environmental assessment will be used to make recommendations on the designs and appropriate levels of the remediation needed to rehabilitate the land to a condition that is environmentally acceptable, on the basis of the international standards and in compliance with local expectations.

The results of the environmental assessment will be collated and published in a comprehensive report and will also be available on UNEP's website. This report will present the findings of the different technical teams and offer recommendations for remediation. This scientific data will serve as a key vehicle for stakeholder discussions on how to proceed with remediation and activities for sustainable development.

## PROJECT INFORMATION

To ensure the people are aware of the progress on the project, Community Liaison Assistants (CLAs) will be present in the four Local Government Areas to communicate with the local population through consultation and discussion groups which will be implemented in the various communities.

The project will be widely reported in the press, with regular interviews scheduled with local television and radio stations to adequately inform the people and giving detail information in order to encourage the participation of stakeholders in the process.

The project will be carried out in a manner that maximizes benefits to local communities through enhanced educational awareness, environmental quality and job opportunities during the clean up phase.



*Community consultation in Eleme LGA*