



FEDERAL MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT  
 HYDROCARBON POLLUTION REMEDIATION PROJECT  
 HYPREP...Remediating the Environment and Restoring Livelihoods

# HYPREP HERALD

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## FRIENDS OF THE EARTH INT'L, CSOS HAIL HYPREP'S ACHIEVEMENTS

*-As Prof. Zabbey Assures Sustained Momentum*



HYPREP PC, PROF. ZABBEY BRIEFING MEMBERS OF CSOS ON TOUR OF HYPREP'S PROJECTS

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NIPSS HAILS HYPREP FOR ADVANCING GOVT'S  
 BLUE ECONOMY INITIATIVE

**HYPREP  
 HERALD**  
 NOT  
 TO BE  
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# THE PC'S DESK



**PROF. NENIBARINI ZABBEY  
PROJECT COORDINATOR  
(HYPREP)**

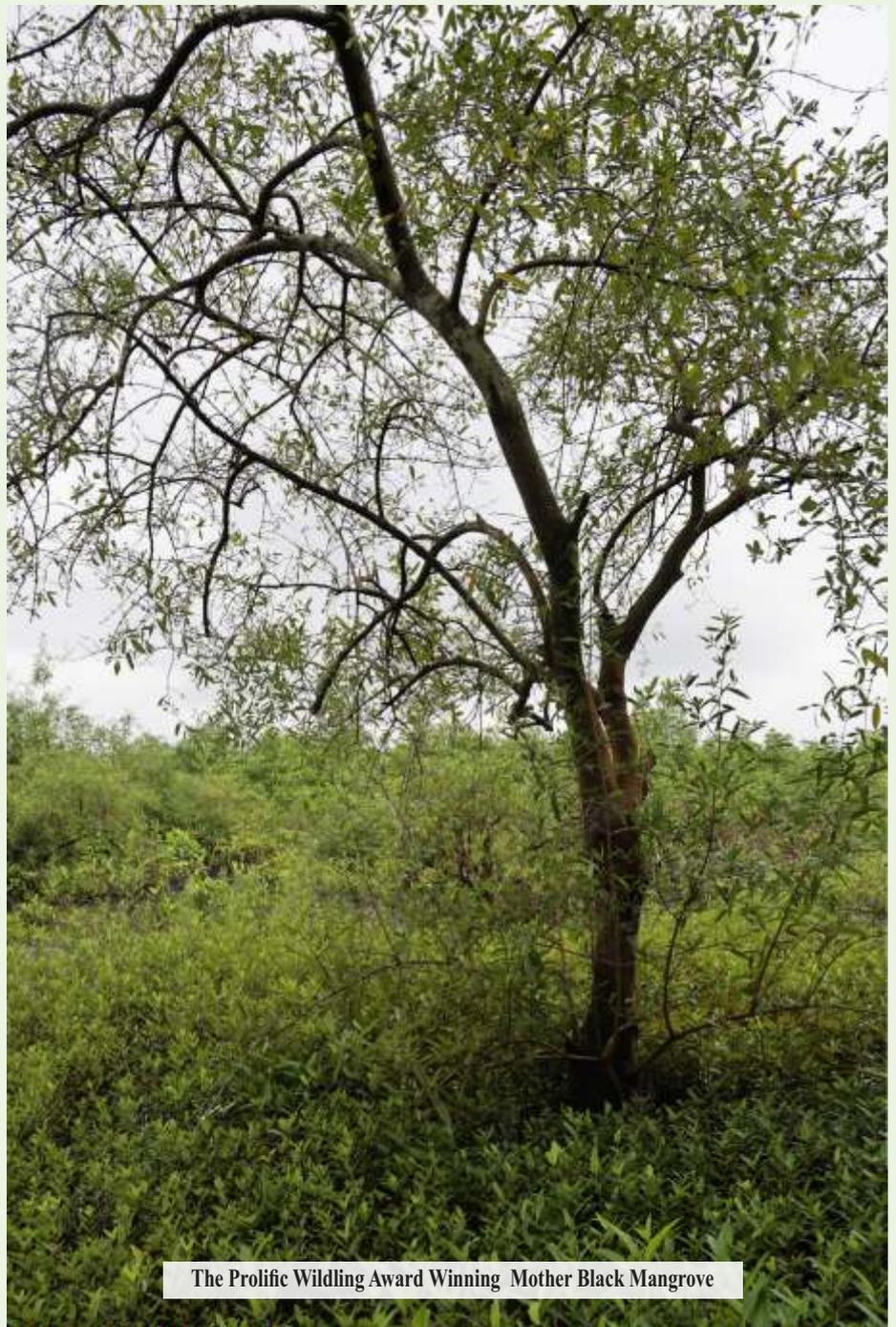
**T**he Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP), a project of the Federal Government of Nigeria, was established with Gazette No. 176, Vol. 103, 2016. HYPREP is responsible for implementing the recommendations of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) report on Ogoniland. One of the key UNEP-recommended actions is the conduct of a health study (human biomonitoring) in Ogoniland to find out the health impact of hydrocarbon exposure. HYPREP has achieved significant milestones in implementing land remediation, shoreline cleanup and mangrove restoration, provision of potable water, livelihood training and human capacity development, and construction of legacy infrastructure (Centre of Excellence for Environmental Restoration, Ogoni Power Project, Ogoni Specialist Hospital and Buan Cottage Hospital).

The achievements have been reported in the May and June editions of this monthly newsletter, HYPREP Herald.

Our approach is holistic, systematic and intentional. We took

the time to source and engage a competent organisation that would conduct a credible and internationally acceptable human biomonitoring study in Ogoni. The International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) of the World Health Organisation (WHO) will conduct the research. IARC will work collaboratively with local institutions and professionals to produce an independent fit-for-purpose report that will contribute to effective health

management in the region. It was with a deep sense of optimism and vigour that we hosted a team of experts from IARC, led by Dr. Joachim Schuz, the Head of the Section of Environment and Radiation and Acting Head of the Section of Early Detection and Prevention at the IARC. Dr. Schuz was accompanied by Dr. Ann Olsson, an epidemiologist who will lead the field surveys, and Mr. Mike Cowing. Mike led the UNEP environmental assessment of Ogoni and the UNEP



**The Prolific Wildling Award Winning Mother Black Mangrove**

team that provided technical support to HYPREP.

The IARC team had a useful inception mission. They consulted with several stakeholders, both within and outside Ogoni. Following a kick-off meeting with the HYPREP team, the IARC team met with the Honourable Minister of Environment and Chairman of the HYPREP Governing Council, Balarabe Abbas Lawal. The team visited various sites, hospitals, and consulted with Ogoni stakeholders, including the board of trustees of the Association of Ogoni Doctors.

The research will involve collecting and analysing blood samples of 4000 Ogonis and sifting through large volumes of medical records. The comprehensive public health study will be conducted independently by the IARC. However,

the Project Coordination Office (PCO) of HYPREP will assist in sensitising and mobilising the Ogoni people to participate in the study. It is a three-year study, like the environmental research conducted by UNEP. The study will create some ad-hoc jobs, enhance local capacity, and foster career networking.

During the past month, we observed two commemorative days: the World Polychaete Day on July 1 and the World Mangrove Day on July 26. Polychaetes, also known as marine worms, are the marine relatives of the terrestrial earthworms. They dominate the composition of animals greater than 5mm that live in saltwater sediments – also known as macrozoobenthos. In polluted saltwater environment, marine worms may constitute 65% to 100% of the macrozoobenthos. Thus, they are

among the best indicator species. The species richness of marine worms indicates the health status of the environment. Thus, we launched our benthic monitoring programme, which involves using marine worms and other sediment-dwelling animals to track the improvement of rehabilitated shorelines in Ogoni. On the World Mangrove Day, we presented the HYPREP Polific Wildling Award to a mother black mangrove at the Bomu waterfront. Remarkably, the mother black mangrove has produced over 15,000 seedlings in support of the ongoing mangrove restoration in Ogoni.

As always, we are very grateful to the Ogoni people and other stakeholders for their sustained support of the Ogoni cleanup.

“Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth.”

## In This Issue

This August edition of the HYPREP Herald leads with the cheering news of commendation by Friends of the Earth International and other civil society organizations who were on a fact-finding mission to the Project Office of the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP). Their visit ended with a field trip to some HYPREP project sites in Ogoni where they were pleased with the pace and quality of work done. From shoreline clean-up and mangrove restoration project to construction of the Centre of Excellence for Environmental Restoration, the Ogoni Specialist Hospital and

provision of potable water, the visiting activists were thrilled with the commitment of Prof. Nenibarini Zabbey's led management to the implementation of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) report on Ogoniland.

A key recommendation of the UNEP report is the conduct of health study to ascertain the level of impact of hydrocarbon on humans. The team to carry out the study has been assembled, and the members had visited specific areas of impact (oil host communities) and public hospitals where medical records of Ogoni people can be accessed to determine level of exposure and its possible consequences. The International Agency for Research on Cancer of the World Health Organization (IARC-WHO) is leading a team of both foreign and

local scientists and medical practitioners to conduct the study that is to last for three years.

To draw up a blueprint that will chart the way for the economic development of Ogoni, HYPREP has kick-started a socio-economic study of the area to catalyze industrialization and entrepreneurial development. The study team has visited the four Local Government Areas of Ogoni to get feedback from the people who are the ultimate beneficiaries of the study.

The Project Coordination Office in keeping to its promise of sustaining the career enhancement and employability workshop for Ogoni youths started last year, had organized the second edition to further equip beneficiaries with the necessary skills and applications to give them the edge in today's labour

market. The workshop was facilitated by renowned entrepreneurship mentors and coaches.

The positive impact that the environment clubs in select secondary schools in Ogoni have had on students in terms of environmental awareness and stewardship has spurred HYPREP to begin the second phase of the establishment of an additional nineteen to the existing thirteen across the four Local Government Areas. The second phase began with the setting up of the club in Community Secondary School B-Dere where the students were educated on advocacy and community driven actions to protect the environment.

Prof. Zabbey was at the 2025 graduation ceremony of the famous

Marian High School, Bane where he was presented with an award of excellence for his contributions to the development of the school. Prof. Zabbey was also at the Nigerian Socio-Ecological Alternative Convergence held in Abuja. He used the occasion to highlight the efforts of HYPREP towards climate change mitigation.

HYPREP held its 2025 second quarter regulators and asset owners meeting. The Project Coordination Office briefed the industry stakeholders on the latest achievements of the Project. They were pleased with the effort of HYPREP in the implementation of the Ogoni clean-up project and they all commended the management of the Project on sustained momentum in the delivery of the project.

The success story of HYPREP

has continued to attract visitors from far and wide. The latest group to visit the Project are participants of Study Group Seven, Senior Executive Course 47, 2025 of the National Institute of Policy and Strategic Studies, Kuru, Plateau State. They, like all the other visitors to the project, were impressed with the level of work done. As mangrove restoration work continues, the Project Coordinator, Prof. Zabbey led a delegation comprising a Professor of Political Science at the Indiana University, Indianapolis, Scott Pegg to mark this year's World Polychaete Day at the Bomu waterfront.

Our regular poetry corner is maintained for your reading pleasure. We look forward to your feedback to enable us to serve you better.



**HYPREP PC, Prof. Zabbey Leads Members of CSOs to Inspect Ogoni Specialist Hospital under Construction**

## News

# FRIENDS OF THE EARTH INT'L, CSOS HAIL HYPREP'S ACHIEVEMENTS

*-As Prof. Zabbey Assures Sustained Momentum*

Pleased with the pace, quality and estimated value of the various projects taken by the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP) in the implementation of the United Nations Environment Project (UNEP) report on Ogoniland, especially, within the past two years, some globally renowned human and environment rights campaigners have applauded the Project Coordinator, Prof. Nenibarini Zabbey and his team for their commitment to the implementation of the UNEP recommendations and other new projects that add values to the Ogoni clean-up project.

In their separate speeches during a field trip by members of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) to some project sites of the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project, the Chair of Friends of the Earth International, Hemantha Withanage, and Founder of African Centre for Leadership, Strategy and Development, Dr. Otive Igbuzor, lauded the HYPREP Project Coordinator, Prof. Zabbey for the visible landmark achievements under his watch.

The duo in company of other CSOs who were on an advocacy visit to HYPREP were led by Prof. Zabbey as part of HYPREP's engagement with CSOs on a field trip to HYPREP water station at Kporghor, Tai Local Government Area, mangrove restoration site in Bomu, Gokana Local Government Area, Centre of Excellence for Environmental



HYPREP PC, Prof. Zabbey Flanked by Dr. Igbuzor (L), Comr. Akpobari (R) During Visit of CSOs to Centre of Excellence for Environmental Restoration, Wiiyaakara

Restoration, Wiiyaakara, Ken Saro-Wiwa Memorial Park, Bane, Khana Local Government Area, and the Ogoni Specialist Hospital at Kpitem, Tai Local Government Area.

The CSO members said they were satisfied with the ingenuity and dedication demonstrated by Prof. Zabbey, even though they never doubted his capacity, as someone with a sound civil society background, adding that mangrove restoration, the water project, and the Ogoni Specialist Hospital are additional positive initiatives taken by HYPREP that will impact on the socio-economic life of the people.

The group further described the land and shoreline remediation work as a great success with the potential of

rejuvenating the Ogoni and Niger Delta environment and boosting aquatic life and livelihood activities of the people, stressing that community participation should be given priority in all facets of the Project.

The Civil Society Organizations passionately appealed to the Project Coordinator and his team to sustain the tempo and ensure that the project's sustainability plan is meticulously implemented and pledged their continued support and sustained advocacy for the funding and sustainability of the clean-up project.

To demonstrate their support and validation of the successes of the HYPREP mangrove restoration project, the CSO leaders took turns to



**HYPREP Staff Briefing Founder, Centre-LSD, Dr. Otiye Igbuzor, Other CSO Members at Kporghor Water Station**

plant mangrove seedlings at the Bomu mangrove restoration site.

The HYPREP Project Coordinator commended the environment rights advocates on their fact-finding mission to HYPREP, noting that the visit was most appropriate as they will be better informed of the operations of the project. This, he said, has been possible because of community support and acceptance of the Project, adding that HYPREP, under his watch, will not disappoint the Ogoni people, the Niger Delta and Nigeria at large, but will sustain and even increase the momentum.

The CSO members also visited the Ken Saro-Wiwa Memorial Park, Bane where the Project Coordinator has a project on preservation of turtles. According to Prof. Zabbey, the project is his contribution to HYPREP's ongoing environmental

and biodiversity restoration efforts in Ogoniland.

After narrating his encounter with a hunter who harvests turtles in an Ogoni community, Prof. Zabbey thereafter released four turtles into a secured vivarium for preservation and procreation, which he had taken from the hunter and nursed. He appealed to the community people not to unduly harvest them.

Other members of the Civil Society Organizations on the field trip include Maruska Marija Mileta of Friends of the Earth International, Lawal Amodu and Akaroese Mukoro of Centre-LSD, Abuja, Comrade Celestine Akpobari, Emem Okon of Kabetkache Women Development Centre, Chief Constance Meju, Kentebe Ebirador of Environmental Rights Action (ERA), Nelly Umoren, Chief Magnus Edooh, and Tammy Cookey from the Centre for

Environment and Human Rights Development, CEHRD.

Earlier, Prof. Zabbey and Heads of Unit had an interactive session with the CSO members at the HYPREP Project Coordination Office in Port Harcourt, where the visitors were shown a slide presentation on the progress of work done on the project. These include, the planting of over 1.3 million mangrove seedlings at the Bomu restoration site, construction of the Centre of Excellence for Environmental Restoration, training of Ogoni women and youths in different skill sets, scholarship and grant to post graduate students of Ogoni extraction, collaboration with ex-artisanal refiners to stop re-pollution of the environment, construction of the Ogoni Specialist Hospital in Kpite and Cottage Hospital in Buan community, the ongoing Ogoni Power project, land and

shoreline remediation, as well as the provision of potable water to Ogoni communities.

The Project Coordinator also disclosed that women will form 45 per cent, instead of the previous 5 per cent, of community workforce in the next round of project in Ogoni. The aim, he said, was to bridge the gap for women, the underserved communities and persons living with disabilities on the project, adding that civil society engagement is key to HYPREP operations.

The Founder and former Executive Director of Centre-LSD, Dr. Otive Igbuzor, had informed Prof. Zabbey of their project, “Advocacy for the Clean Up of Niger Delta and the Revamp of the Ecosystem,” which focuses on the cleanup of the region, given the realities of decades of crude oil exploration and exploitation and the consequent negative impact on the communities and the inhabitants of the area.

The forum also had in attendance the former MOSOP President and

Executive Director of African Indigenous Foundation and Sustainable Development, AIFES, Legborsi Pyagbara, representative of Renaissance African Energy Company Limited, Ekiyokenegha Clark, and Head, Legal Services, HYPREP, Gowon Ichibor, who, in his vote of thanks, reiterated the need and benefits of continued collaboration between Civil Society Organizations and HYPREP.

## MANGROVE RESTORATION: HYPREP PLANTS OVER 1.3M SEEDLINGS IN PHASE 1

The Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP) has stated that it is gearing up to phase 2 of its mangrove restoration project having planted a total of one million, three hundred and ninety-three thousand, two hundred and twenty-three (1,393,223) multiple species of mangrove seedlings in phase 1 of the restoration project.

Prof. Zabbey who disclosed as the world marked the 2025 international mangrove day, noted that mangroves play a crucial role in coastal ecosystems, providing habitat for a diverse array of species, protecting shorelines from erosion, maintaining water quality, sequestering carbon and rendering cultural and spiritual services.

He said the theme of this year's World Mangrove Day, “Protecting Wetlands for our Common Future,” resonates and reflects the role of mangroves in maintaining environmental integrity, regulating the climate, providing socio-economic support, and conserving biodiversity.

The HYPREP Coordinator stated that in Nigeria, human activities such



HYPREP PC, Prof. Nenibarini Zabbey, CSO Members Celebrate World Mangrove Day

as pollution from oil spills, plastics, industrial effluents, urbanisation, dredging, and deforestation contribute significantly to mangrove loss, adding that between 2010 and 2020, approximately 20 percent of mangroves in the Niger Delta were lost.

To remedy the situation, he disclosed that HYPREP has undertaken the world's most extensive restoration of oil-degraded mangroves in Ogoniland, saying, the Project has completed 93 percent of the phase 1 mangrove restoration project in the Bomu Creek, covering 560 hectares.

Zabbey said HYPREP has also planted 1,393,223 multi-species mangrove seedlings, mimicking the natural zonation and relative proportion of the five species of mangrove planted, contending that “our ecologically sound mangrove restoration efforts have also led to the removal of the invasive nipa palm in the rehabilitated areas.”

He further noted that after over a year of restorative planting, signs of environmental and biodiversity recovery are becoming evident, as some of the planted black mangrove saplings are beginning to flower and produce propagules, stressing that the gradual recovery of crabs, shrimps, oysters, dogwhelks, periwinkles and mudskipper, among other indicative species has been recorded.

According to him, the HYPREP mangrove restoration project has created over 600 direct jobs for Ogoni youths and women, who are involved in planting and monitoring mangrove seedlings/saplings.

He revealed that mangrove vanguards, trained by HYPREP and supported with grants, nursed and supplied the mangrove seedlings to

the restoration planting contractors, a gesture which he noted has amplified the livelihood contribution of the Ogoni mangrove restoration project.

Prof. Zabbey further hinted that HYPREP would expand the mangrove restoration to other communities in Ogoniland as part of its phase 2 mangrove restoration project, scheduled to commence in the fourth quarter of 2025, saying, as HYPREP continues to monitor planted mangroves through its robust monitoring programme, it has also embarked on sensitizing local communities on the need to protect mangroves.

He also disclosed that HYPREP has distributed some clean cookstoves as part of a pilot project aimed at reducing dependence on mangrove wood for cooking, adding that the clean cookstove intervention would be scaled up in the coming weeks.

Zabbey noted that the sustainability of planted mangroves is crucial, as the Project is exploring the possibility of partnering civil society organisations and development agencies to ensure the sustainability of the rehabilitated

mangroves in Ogoniland through sustained sensitisation and creating alternative livelihood opportunities.

“We are also seeking a declaration of the restored mangroves in Ogoniland as a Ramsar site, which is one of the UNEP report's recommended actions,” he stated.

The Project Coordinator noted that protecting wetlands is not just about conservation but about survival and building community resilience, saying, “it is about securing a future where our children and our children's children can fish, farm and thrive in balance with nature.”

He emphasized that every mangrove restored is a step towards climate stability, economic security and ecological health, saying, “the Niger Delta, with its people, culture and courage, can lead the world in wetland recovery” and called on Nigerians to support nature-based solutions that integrate science and indigenous knowledge, invest in women's and youth education, and promote sustainable livelihoods tied to a healthy ecosystem.



Chair, FOEI, Hemantha Withanage Plants Mangrove at Bomu Creek while HYPREP PC, Prof. Nenibarini Zabbey, Maruska Marija Mileta Watch on

# IARC-WHO, HYPREP BEGIN OGONI HEALTH STUDY

In keeping with the recommendation of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) report to conduct a health study in Ogoni in response to oil pollution in the area, the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP) the body saddled with the responsibility of implementing the UNEP report has held a kick-off meeting with the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) of the World Health Organization to signal the commencement of the study.

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) had alongside the recommendation for the clean-up of Ogoni also called for a health study into disease patterns and exposure to hydrocarbons in Ogoni.

HYPREP and the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC), an agency under the World Health Organisation (WHO) held a kick-off meeting for the

commencement of a three-year Ogoni Human Biomonitoring Study to investigate the health impacts of hydrocarbon pollution in Ogoni, Rivers State, Nigeria.

Project Coordinator of HYPREP, Professor Nenibarini Zabbey noted that the initiative is in line with the key recommendations of the 2011 United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) report on Ogoniland, which highlighted the need for a long-term, focused medical study to track health impacts across the Ogoni population.

“The health implications of hydrocarbon pollution have long been a concern in Ogoniland and remain a core focus of HYPREP’s mandate. The UNEP Report on Environmental Assessment of Ogoniland recommends a long-term, focused medical study to track health impacts across the Ogoni population. This highlights the urgent need for the work we are initiating today.”

He noted that the study aimed to

conduct a comprehensive health risk assessment linked to hydrocarbon pollution, build capacity for local health professionals, and provide clear recommendations for public health responses based on findings.

According to Prof. Zabbey community involvement is a cornerstone of the Project. “Community leaders, civil society groups, and health institutions must be brought into this process from the outset to ensure trust, ownership, and relevance,” he emphasized.

He added that the project will prioritise transparency, continuous stakeholder engagement, and ethical compliance throughout the study.

“HYPREP will provide necessary technical, logistical, and institutional support to facilitate smooth project implementation. The project schedule will be jointly reviewed and finalised, and a steering and technical coordination team will be established to oversee the study.”

“The study is expected to drive



HYPREP PC, Prof. Nenibarini Zabbey, with IARC-WHO Team, HYPREP Staff at the Kick off of the Ogoni Health Impact Study

policy interventions, public health planning, and long-term monitoring of the Ogoni population's well-being. The outcomes of the project will be credible, actionable, and globally recognised, thanks to IARC's international expertise and scientific rigour. The project is expected to bring healing, hope, and progress to Ogoni land and beyond."

"In addition to the public health study, HYPREP is constructing the Ogoni Specialist Hospital, which will feature state-of-the-art diagnostic equipment, including cutting-edge MRI machines. This facility will significantly improve healthcare services in the region."

Dr. Joachim Schuz of IARC and leader of the team stated that the study aims to provide concrete evidence of the impact of environmental pollution on the health of the people. "We do not want to be speculating, we need to show it, we need to prove what is going on beneath."

He explained that the study will collect blood samples from approximately 4,000 people to measure the levels of hydrocarbon exposure and assess the damage that has already been caused.

"It is one of our mandates at International Agency for Research on Cancer IARC, which is part of the World Health Organization (WHO) to see where environmental living conditions of people are so concerning that they may actually increase the risk of cancer or other disease. And the long-term work of HYPREP and also of the United Nations Environment Programme has shown that we find environmental levels of chemicals, substances, especially the hydrocarbons that are so concerning that this is an area where this research

is well needed. But you know, how it is affecting the people, we don't want this to be speculation. You know? We need to show it, we need to prove what's going on. We need to see which are the chemicals that are causing which damage, which are the more affected people, where do they live, how do they live their daily lives so that we can give recommendations to prevent the disease in people. And this is what we understand under public health. We want to first detect disease; we want to treat it adequately."

He added that they will also gather information on the living conditions of the people, including their exposure to pollutants and other health risks and encouraged the people of Ogoniland to participate in the study, which is expected to provide valuable information for public health planning and disease prevention.

Dr. Schuz emphasized that the study is an investment in the health of the people and that it will provide critical information for developing effective public health programmes. "Without this study, we do not have the information to do proper planning for good public health planning for the benefit of the people in the long run," he said.

A member of the team, Mike Cowing who was the Project Coordinator of the UNEP team that assessed Ogoniland in 2009 said the samples will be taken from areas where groundwater and crops are contaminated with hydrocarbons.

"The study will include men, women, and children, and will aim to capture the different ways in which hydrocarbon pollution affects various segments of the population. I'm here simply to support my colleagues in IARC, support in terms of logistics

and helping to identify the pollution hotspots, working alongside HYPREP in terms of community liaisons, stakeholders' engagement. And as my two colleagues have said, we have to identify appropriate individuals within those communities that we can work with, fill in detailed questionnaire, collect bio samples. And that's going to take a lot of work, but we know that HYPREP is very capable and very experienced in terms of mobilizing communities and community participation."

"This is really the initial fact-finding mission. We will be engaging with, talking to stakeholders. We will also for the purpose of IARC, it's their first visit here. We will be looking at some of the typical medical facilities in and around the Ogoni land, going to hospitals, health care centres, meeting the healthcare specialists. And all this helping IARC and the team to develop what we are calling the study protocols."

Another member of the medical team, Ann Olsson noted that children can be affected differently from adults due to their smaller body size and higher exposure levels and stated the itinerary of their field visit.

"We will spend a few days here to meet the people, and we will also visit the fields to see what the facilities are to store the samples and transport the samples. And we hope to find solutions to all the technique challenges that arise in such a project."

She said the team is working to ensure that the study is representative of the entire Ogoni population, with a focus on finding solutions to sample representatives from the four Local Government Areas.

# HYPREP COMMENCES SOCIO-ECONOMIC STUDY OF OGONI

**T**he Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP) has kick-started its Socio-Economic Study of Ogoni with the aim of getting accurate and up-to-date information for effective planning and response to the Ogoni socio-economic issues or situation.

The study is a demonstration of HYPREP's commitment to ensuring that its operations comprehensively align with its mandate and meet the expectations and yearnings of the people.

Speaking at the introduction of the study at Mogho community in Gokana Local Government Area, the Project Coordinator, Prof. Nenibarini Zabbey said, in implementing the Project activities, HYPREP, under his watch, will commit itself to every detail in the recommendations by the United

Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), and also carry out other activities, within its capacity, that will better the lot of the people of Ogoni.

The Project Coordinator, who was represented by the Head, Stakeholders Unit, Richard Mkpsee acknowledged the fact that there have been livelihood losses, health challenges and other social security issues in the area which need to be documented to enable HYPREP and concerned institutions to address, using the available accurate data.

He told the forum, which comprises two representatives from each community, that qualified academics have been engaged to conduct the research in Ogoni, starting with Gokana Kingdom, and called on the people to cooperate with the research team that will administer

questionnaire as a research method in the various communities.

The Project Coordinator also said HYPREP has engaged in related studies with foreign partners, including the World Health Organization, to carry out health audits in the entire Ogoni area, following decades of oil exploration in Ogoni.

Also speaking, the Head, Livelihoods Unit, Josephine Nzidee informed the representatives of Gokana communities that the study became necessary to enable HYPREP obtain latest data about the people's socio-economic status, including their health and occupational standing.

Mrs. Nzidee further expressed confidence in the researchers to do a thorough work, saying HYPREP cannot afford to work with wrong data



Khana LGA Participants at the Ogoni Socio-Economic Study

in carrying out its livelihood programmes in the communities.

In his speech, the Team Lead for the socio-economic study of Ogoni, Prof. Alubabari Desmond Nbeta commended HYPREP on embarking on such initiative, and assured the management of HYPREP and the people of his team's preparedness to conduct the research based on best and acceptable professional standards.

While appealing to potential respondents in the various communities

to provide accurate and verifiable information while filling in the questionnaires, Prof. Nbeta said inaccurate information will impede proper planning.

He emphasized that the essence of the research is to help in achieving appropriate planning for the people, explaining that the research team is conducting the study in collaboration with a firm contracted by HYPREP to carry out the research.

On research methodology, Prof.

Nbeta disclosed that 400 copies of questionnaires will be distributed in Gokana, after the Focus Group Discussion held with representatives of the communities during the kickoff session of the study.

Other members of the Research team at the Forum include Prof. Allwell Nteegah from University of Port Harcourt, Dr. Nwizor Nkadam and Visigah Kpobari Peter both of the Rivers State University.

# HYPREP HOLDS 2ND CAREER ENHANCEMENT WORKSHOP FOR OGONI YOUTHS

**A**s follow-up to last year's maiden edition of the career enhancement and employability workshop to give Ogoni young graduates an edge in job search and entrepreneurial development, the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP) has held the 2025 workshop given the success stories coming from the first edition.

Project Coordinator of HYPREP, Prof. Nenibarini Zabbey who declared the workshop open assured Ogoni youths of HYPREP's commitment to continually initiate programmes that support their visions and aspirations.

He stated that the workshop is in keeping with HYPREP's goal of inclusivity and continuous skills development as strategic pillars in its efforts to restore and improve the livelihoods of Ogoni people.

“This workshop reaffirms our commitment to inclusiveness and continuous skills development as strategic pillars in HYPREP's efforts to restore and improve livelihoods in Ogoniland. Equipping you with relevant career skills and empowering you with



HYPREP PC, Prof. Zabbey

employability tools is our way of ensuring that the gains of HYPREP extend beyond remediation into long-term transformation.”

Prof. Zabbey further stated that the workshop was organized to also create long-term socio-economic transformation and peacebuilding.

“At HYPREP, we are committed to supporting your dreams through targeted initiatives, such as this

workshop, and we will continue to explore ways to empower you with the skills and knowledge necessary to succeed.

I want to emphasize that this workshop is not just about enhancing your career prospects; it is also about building a community of young people and equipping you to make a positive impact in your communities. As you benefit from HYPREP's



**HYPREP PC, Prof. Nenibarini Zabbey with Participants at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition of Career Enhancement and Employability Workshop**

interventions and the experiences of the facilitators, I charge you to take the message of peace and constructive engagement to your communities and live accordingly.

As you know, peace and constructive engagement are essential for building trust, understanding, and cooperation, and I urge you to prioritise these values in all your interactions.

The HYPREP Project Coordinator maintained that the

Project would continue to stand with Ogoni youths by supporting their aspirations through targeted workshops and broader livelihood initiatives that prioritise their development, noting that the Project believes in them and remains committed to creating platforms where their potentials can be nurtured to fruition.

The second edition of the career enhancement and employability workshop has as facilitators, Dr.

Akanimo Odon and Dr. Chioma Okonkwo.

Participants at the two-day workshop were provided with tips on ways to explore opportunities in seemingly challenging situations, discover themselves, convert hobbies and interests into passion and profits through three career e-routes and understand the power of networks and partnerships.

The participants were also given useful nuggets, career resources on time management, skill development, and funding, especially how to access foreign scholarships.

The benefiting undergraduates expressed their gratitude to HYPREP for organising the workshop, which they described as impactful and transformative.

HYPREP has organized several other youth development programmes in the past and some on-going to empower the youths of Ogoni.



**Cross Section of Participants at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition of Career Enhancement and Employability Workshop**

# HYPREP ESTABLISHES ENVIRONMENT CLUB IN CSS B-DERE

The Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP) has commenced the second phase of the establishment of its environment club (the Green Frontiers) in secondary schools in Ogoni with the kick-off at Community Secondary School, B-Dere in Gokana Local Government Area.

The environment club is an initiative of HYPREP to promote environmental education, advocacy and community-driven action to address local environmental challenges in line with HYPREP mandate.

The Project Coordinator of HYPREP, Prof. Nenibarini Zabbey who was represented at the event by the Director, Technical Services of HYPREP, Prof. Damian-Paul Aguiyi congratulated the thirty students on their selection as members of the environment club and urged them to desist from acts capable of harming the environment.

He explained to them that going forward part of their responsibility will be to educate their colleagues and family members at home on how to protect the environment to always keep it clean and green.

Prof. Aguiyi expressed his admiration for the choice of Community Secondary School B-Dere, saying he sees the community as his second home having worked and spent time in the area. "If I am asked to come from any community in Ogoni, I will choose B-Dere."

Head, Livelihood Unit, HYPREP, Mrs. Josephine Nzidee took time to explain to the students



HYPREP Staff with Members of Newly Established Environment Club in CSS B-Dere

the purpose of the club, their functions as members and the expectations of HYPREP from them and urged them to be good ambassadors of the club. She also informed them about their weekly club meetings and other events and activities of the club, adding that towards the end of the year there would be quiz competition with other secondary schools where there is HYPREP environment club and the winners will go home with prizes and rewards.

Mrs. Nzidee also mentioned the last event of HYPREP that its environment clubs participated which is the World Environmental Day in June with theme 'ending plastic pollution' and how students were able to make things out of plastics that were picked from the Bomu creek. Currently there are thirteen (13) environmental clubs in Secondary Schools across the four Local Government Areas of Ogoni with nineteen (19) more to be established to make a total of thirty-two (32)

clubs.

The Principal of the senior arm of Community Secondary School B-Dere, Mr. Peter Mikor expressed his appreciation to HYPREP for considering his school for the environment club and promised to do all in his powers to make it a thriving club.

An election was conducted to choose officials for the club and Master Jeremiah James Okainkigi was elected President, Master Fred Bel-leebari Piori - Secretary and Master Norlaabebari Sunday - Public Relations Officer.

In his acceptance speech, Master Jeremiah James Okainkigi thanked HYPREP for establishing the Green Frontiers Club in CSS B-Dere and his colleagues for electing him to serve, adding that it is his desire to lead the club to a great height.

Special highlight of the event was the presentation of the club's handbook to the Exco, and banners, school bags, notebooks, T-shirts with fez caps to members of the club.

# HYPREP PLEDGES COMMITMENT TO YOUTH DEVELOPMENT



Editor, HYPREP Herald, Kpoobari Nafo with Principal and Graduating Students of Marian High School, Bane

**T**he Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP) says its investment in the education of Ogoni youths is a deliberate effort to equip them with the requisite knowledge that will guarantee them a secured future.

Project Coordinator of HYPREP, Professor Nenibarini Zabbey stated this at the graduation and launch of the 2025 yearbook of the Marian High School, Bane in Khana Local Government Area.

Prof. Zabbey was represented at the event by the Editor of HYPREP Herald, Kpoobari Nafo who explained that a youth population that is given a functional education will eschew social vices and focus on their personal advancement and the development of society.

Mr. Nafo stated that to build a peaceful and progressive society is the reason HYPREP has rolled out several educational and career development programmes for the youths of Ogoni.

“HYPREP has taken deliberate steps to support educational

advancement in Ogoni. We have awarded research grants of ₦250,000 each to 200 final year undergraduates to assist in their research work and completion of their degree programmes.”

“Additionally, HYPREP has awarded three hundred (300) postgraduate scholarships - one hundred (100) for Ph.D students who were given one million naira (₦1,000,000) each and two hundred (200) for master's students who got five hundred thousand naira (₦500,000) each.”

He emphasized that these initiatives are aimed at stimulating the interest of the youths in education, asserting that an uneducated mind is more likely to be a liability to society and noted that the school's motto, “Learning Illuminates the Mind,” is a key value that HYPREP is passing on to the youths to dissuade them from acts capable of destroying the environment like illegal oil bunkering and refining.

Mr. Nafo appreciated the principal and students of Marian High School,

Bane for the warm reception accorded him, adding that the Project Coordinator of HYPREP, Prof. Nenibarini Zabbey is pleased with the effort of staff to sustain the quality of education in the school.

“Professor Zabbey acknowledges and deeply appreciates the dedication of the principal and teachers in grooming the next generation. Education is the bedrock of any society, and the values instilled in these young minds are crucial for a brighter future.”

Nafo used the opportunity to brief his audience on some of the completed and on-going projects of HYPREP which include the Centre of Excellence for Environmental Restoration at Wiiyaakara that is currently over 80% completed, stating that upon completion it will be a hub for research in environmental remediation and restoration, vocational and entrepreneurial training that will give international visibility to Ogoniland.

He furthermore informed the students that HYPREP has established environment clubs in thirteen (13) secondary schools in Ogoni in the phase 1 of the programme with nineteen (19) more to be established in the phase 2 which has started and that these clubs are aimed at inculcating in them the value of good environmental stewardship. He also mentioned that HYPREP has begun setting up digital classrooms and plans to distribute textbooks to schools which Marian High School, Bane is a potential beneficiary.

To ensure that graduates coming out of the universities are employable and self reliant, Mr. Nafo stated that

for the second time running, HYPREP has organized a Career Enhancement and Employability Workshop - a skill-based initiative designed to provide practical, job-ready training to Ogoni youths to make them fit for the industry.

He reaffirmed HYPREP's commitment to improving the standard of living in Ogoni through the provision of potable water and the construction of the Ogoni Specialist Hospital and the Buan Cottage Hospital to enhance access to affordable quality healthcare.

In her address at the graduation

ceremony, the principal of Marian High School, Bane, Dr. (Mrs.) Blessing Barida Asaah expressed her profound gratitude to HYPREP for its support to the school and commitment to community development.

“By the special grace of God, the school is blessed with a solar borehole water. From January 2025, the issue of water is surmounted. Prof. Nenibarini Zabbey, one of today's awardees, picked our dear school as a pilot school in Ogoni. He, through HYPREP, donated four projectors and four laptops for teaching and learning.

Thank you, Prof. This was

commissioned on June 11th, 2025. In addition, teachers in the school are to benefit from a three-month training on how to use the projectors for teaching and learning.”

Special highlight of the event was the presentation of a meritorious award of excellence to Prof. Zabbey in recognition of his numerous assistance to the school and education in general. Also recognised and honoured among other awardees was the late environment rights activist and an illustrious son of Bane community, Ken Saro-Wiwa (CON).

## **WE'RE CONTRIBUTING TO CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION THROUGH MANGROVE RESTORATION**

*– HYPREP PC, Prof. Zabbey*

**T**he Project Coordinator of the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP), Prof. Nenibarini Zabbey has said that HYPREP's mangrove restoration project in Ogoni is contributing significantly to climate change mitigation and adaptation.

Prof. Zabbey stated this in a goodwill message he delivered at the Nigeria Socio-Ecological Alternatives Convergence (NSAC), which was held at the Yar'Adua Centre in Abuja.

Zabbey gave an update on the status of the Ogoni clean-up project, stressing that the HYPREP mangrove restoration project in Ogoniland is a significant contribution to global efforts to mitigate climate change, as mangroves are among the best sequestrators of carbon, which is the leading cause of climate change and urged participants at the forum to support the Ogoni clean-up project. The objective of the NSAC is to create



HYPREP PC, Prof. Zabbey

a platform for stakeholders from government, civil society, the academia, the private sector, and communities to share knowledge and engage in meaningful dialogue and partnerships to achieve environmental sustainability.

This year's national convergence, organised by the Health of Mother Earth Foundation (HOMEF), focused on topical themes such as climate change, desertification, deforestation, biodiversity, and ecosystem restoration.

# **HYPREP HAS MADE GREAT IMPROVEMENTS - Stakeholders - As DTS Assures Community Workers Better Deal**

**R**egulators and asset owners having oversight of the operations of the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP) have extolled the giant strides made on the Project as recommended in the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) report on Ogoniland.

The stakeholders gave the commendation at the 2025 Second Quarter Regulators and Asset Owners Meeting of the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project held in Port Harcourt.

The meeting which had vastly resourceful representatives of the various organizations in attendance, featured goodwill messages from the Regulators, reviews and Asset Owners, and also reviewed and adopted previous deliberations adoption of resolutions reached.

Dr. Bealo Brownson who represented the Rivers State Ministry of Water Resources and Rural

Development commended HYPREP on the successes recorded, noting that gaps have been closed and that great improvements have been made on the Project.

He observed that partnerships have been strengthened through the holding of regular stakeholders' meetings by HYPREP.

Similarly, Comrade Meshach Uyi of the Center of Environment, Human Rights and Development (CEHRD) appreciated HYPREP for its mangrove restoration efforts and called for adherence to the planting zonation of the diverse species of mangrove dominant in Ogoni.

On his part, an Assistant Director at the National Oil Spill Detection and Response Agency (NOSDRA), Engr. Sylvester Agoh, stated that from field works monitored there is great progress made on the project.

The NOSDRA representative lauded HYPREP on the impressive feat, saying, "HYPREP is working,

the Project is working."

In like manner, the Society for Women and Youth Affairs (SWAYA), through its representative, Dr. Lucky Kpormon, said HYPREP has impressively implemented the Project with desired commitment and expertise, concurring with the Federal Ministry of Environment's submission that there is increased commitment to social planning and livelihood engagements.

The Stakeholders Democracy Network (SDN), also commended HYPREP on efforts at addressing environmental and health challenges in Ogoni, affirming that they have seen appreciable level of progress on the Project.

Dr. Jude Samuelson, who represented SDN at the meeting, explained that they have independently carried out several activities, including technical monitoring of the Project, and are always in the field as part of their



**Stakeholders at the 2025 2nd Quarter Regulators and Asset Owners Meeting**



**Stakeholders at the 2025 2nd Quarter Regulators and Asset Owners Meeting**

participatory monitoring and evaluation of HYPREP activities.

While applauding HYPREP's efforts in the shoreline clean-up and mangrove restoration, the construction of the Center of Excellence for Environmental Restoration, amongst others, Dr. Samuelson appealed for sustainability of the successes made on the Project.

Meanwhile, in his remarks, the

Director, Technical Services, HYPREP, Prof. Damian-Paul Aguiyi, who represented the Project Director, Prof. Nenibarini Zabbey, thanked participants for their encouraging feedback on the activities of HYPREP, saying without their collaboration, such successes would have been difficult.

He noted that the quarterly meetings afford HYPREP and key

regulators/asset owners the avenue to appraise, strategize and make progress on the Project.

While responding to a call for more community engagement, Prof. Damian-Paul Aguiyi assured the stakeholders that HYPREP would present more success stories at the next meeting, stating that HYPREP is committed to the welfare of community workers. "We are committed to ensuring that community workers have it well on the project", he said.

Other participants at the meeting include representatives of the Rivers State Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Power, National Upstream Petroleum Regulatory Commission (NUPRC), Renaissance Africa Energy Company Limited, the Nigerian Pipelines and Storage Company (NPSC), media professionals, amongst others.

## NIPSS HAILS HYPREP FOR ADVANCING GOVT'S BLUE ECONOMY INITIATIVE

The Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project has played host to another set of high-profile visitors - the participants of Study Group Seven, Senior Executive Course 47, 2025, of the National Institute of Policy and Strategic Studies, NIPSS, Kuru, Plateau State.

The NIPSS Participants of Study Group 7 of the Senior Executive Course 47, who were in Rivers State as part of their field study, also visited some star projects of the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project, HYPREP.

The visitors were joined by some top officials of the Rivers State Government, led by the Permanent



**Participants of Study Group 7, Senior Executive Course 47, 2025, NIPSS**

Secretary, Ministry of Information and Communications, Dr. Honour Sirawo, who were received by Head Communications, HYPREP, Dr. Enuolare Mba-Nwigho on behalf of the Project Coordinator, Prof. Nenibarini Zabbey. The group visited

the HYPREP mangrove remediation site in Bomu community in Gokana Local Government Area and the Centre of Excellence for Environmental Restoration (CEER), Wiiyaakara, Khana Local Government Area.



**Participants of Study Group 7, Senior Executive Course 47, 2025, NIPSS**

While at the mangrove restoration site, some members of the Executive Course 47 planted mangrove seedlings and said they were pleased with HYPREP's efforts so far in mangrove restoration with the aim of bringing back aquatic life that would enhance the livelihoods of the people and ensure sustainability of marine resources, which is the essence of the Government Blue Economy Programme.

Speaking on behalf of the group, the Team Lead, Rear Admiral A. A. Mustapha, particularly commended the tenacity and sundry efforts by HYPREP to ensure that the Blue Economy Programme succeeds through its mangrove restoration project.

He urged HYPREP to continue to explore new partnerships that will add value to the clean-up project, stating that their visit was to validate information received and to access actual data of the operations and success story of the Project.

Before presenting a plaque to the HYPREP Project Coordinator, Prof.

Zabbey, one of the participants, Ukel, Geraldine (Mrs.), thanked HYPREP for the warm reception and opportunity to share experiences with them on the progress of the Ogoni clean-up, explaining that the visit focused on the theme, "Blue Economy and Sustainable Development in Nigeria: Issues, Challenges and Opportunities."

Ukel, who serves as the Welfare Officer of the Study Group Seven, Senior Executive Course 47, 2025, again applauded the successes recorded on the Project, and extended the compliments and appreciation of the leadership and participants of the group of the National Institute of Policy and Strategic Studies to the Project Coordinator, Prof. Zabbey and the entire project team.

Head, Communications, HYPREP, Dr. Enuorale Mba-Nwigoh who represented the Project Coordinator, Prof. Zabbey, took time to brief the visitors on the strategic plans and projects under Prof. Nenibarini Zabbey as Project Coordinator and they include land

remediation, shoreline clean-up, water supply, human capacity development and livelihoods programmes, the Ogoni Specialist Hospital, Centre of Excellence for Environmental Restoration, and the Ogoni Power Project.

He explained that phase 1 of the mangrove restoration project has reached 93% completion with more than 1.3 million mangrove seedlings planted in the area, adding that the Centre of Excellence for Environmental Restoration has also exceeded 90% completion, and will soon be commissioned.

The blue economy refers to the sustainable use of ocean resources for economic growth, improved livelihoods and jobs, while preserving the health of the ocean ecosystem. It encompasses all economic activities related to oceans, seas, and coasts, including both marine-based and land-based industries. A key aspect of the blue economy is balancing economic development with environmental sustainability and social inclusion.

# WORLD POLYCHAETE DAY: HYPREP CANVASSES ENHANCED LIVELIHOOD OPPORTUNITIES FOR WOMEN, LOCAL FOLKS

## - Unveils Benthic Monitoring Programme

The Project Coordinator of the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP), Prof. Nenibarini Zabbey has called on Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and other stakeholders to create livelihood programmes and form Cooperatives for women and youths around the restoration efforts of HYPREP.

Prof. Zabbey who made the appeal during this year's celebration of World Polychaete Day in the creek of Bomu community in Gokana Local Government Area, also used the opportunity to launch Benthic Monitoring Programme and Biodiversity Recovery in Ogoni.

The monitoring exercise is part of HYPREP's programme to ascertain the level of biodiversity recovery following the ongoing shoreline clean-up and mangrove restoration

efforts in the area.

The International Polychaete Day is celebrated on July 1st, and it is a dedication to the study of polychaetes also known as bristle worms, and in honour of the birthday of Dr. Kristian Fauchald, a renowned polychaete scientist. They are a diverse group of marine worms found in various marine environments.

Expressing delight that sea foods are coming back to live in the restored creeks of Ogoni, Prof. Zabbey said there was need to sustain the effort, build on the success story and improve the livelihoods of women and the youths, disclosing that he is in talks with some CSOs to form cooperatives, and should commit themselves to sensitizing and mobilizing the locals, particularly the women and young people, on the recovery process,

preservation and benefits derivation.

“Another thing we are also looking at, is picking periwinkles from the waterfront. Is it because they (the locals) cannot go further on foot or is it because they do not have boats? Can we bring them to form Cooperatives and provide boats for them? So, I am in talks with civil society organizations, because they have a major role to play, to see how they can create livelihood programmes around this restoration effort we are making, so that they can do the campaign and sustain it, and can as well, mobilize the women and young persons, who are picking periwinkles for their livelihood to form cooperatives and see how we can create alternative opportunity.”

“Some of the opportunities we will create or civil associations will



HYPREP PC, Prof. Nenibarini Zabbey, Prof. Scott Pegg, HYPREP Staff Celebrating World Polychaete Day at Bomu Waterfront

create for the people will also be tied to mangrove. It could be bee farming or farming of oysters that will further result in recovery of the environment. So, we are looking at different options. It's work in progress at this point. You cannot say, don't pick. They have to pick. But as we continue to create more jobs on our different sites, more of the young people and women will have more opportunities," he stressed.

On communal harvesting of periwinkles, the Project Coordinator said "it is a bit tricky for us to restrict the people from doing that, because in this region, environments like this are considered communal, and so, the resources are also communally owned. So, it's difficult to restrict the people from harvesting, even if the species are beginning to recover."

"Our programme is robust because we are thinking about how to create alternative livelihood opportunities for those who are picking periwinkles now. The reality is that, if the rate of harvesting is more than the carrying capacity of the stock, it will naturally go extinct. So, we don't want a situation whereby the species that are coming in, like periwinkles, will be over harvested to the point that they will be locally extinct. We also need to sensitize them about the need to be selective with their picking; they should pick only bigger ones and allow the smaller ones to grow."

Prof. Zabbey explained that, so far, HYPREP has created over 7000 jobs on various project sites, and is planning to start the phase 2 mangrove restoration project that is more extensive than the pilot of 560 hectares, adding that HYPREP is also expanding its shoreline clean-up to create more jobs that will overlap the

7000 that had already been created, and most of the young people that come to pick periwinkles will be out there working, and that would also contribute to conserving the stock.

On the Benthic Monitoring Programme, Prof. Zabbey said HYPREP will be sampling every quarter and that it will provide a platform for students to broaden their knowledge in ecosystem restoration.

"We would do that one time of course, because the Project has very expansive internship programme for undergraduates and for those who have graduated and are doing their National Youth Service Corps. Students of Environmental Science that are currently interning in HYPREP will have the opportunity to learn how we study the Macrozoobenthos and the Polychaete or marine worms, and that could form part of their research endeavours.

"So, it is hoped that over time, we would have lots of researchers that would pick interest in this very interesting aspect of environmental science or environmental monitoring, who will continue to do the sampling and study the environment," he noted.

The HYPREP Project Coordinator noted that the monitoring will be done quarterly and holds some prospects for undergraduate and graduate interns on the Project to build a career in environmental science research. He disclosed that HYPREP is partnering local institutions to further advance environmental research, and it is in talks with the University of Port Harcourt to establish a Chair in Wetland Research, with focus on restored mangrove areas to continue monitoring post restoration, describing it as an intergenerational monitoring

programme.

On the benefits of polychaetes, he said, they serve as food to the fishes that humans consume, and also serve as indicator species, because they tell us about the health of the ecosystem, adding that in monitoring the improvement in the shoreline environment of Ogoni, it is important to begin to look at the benthic organisms, especially the marine worms.

"As the environment improves with the reduction in the concentration of hydrocarbon, then most species of the polychaetes or marine worms would come in, so it would tell us how the environment is improving. So, they are the best indicators, and we are using them to monitor improvement in the environment; we are also using them to see how food nutrition for the fishes or food species for the fishes would be abundant," he explained.

In the company of the Project Coordinator was Scott Pegg – a Professor of Political Science at the Indiana University, Indianapolis who planted a mangrove seedling at the Bomu creek and commended HYPREP on its efforts at restoring oil-degraded mangroves in Ogoni. Over the years, Professor Pegg has carried out some humanitarian and community interventionist programmes in Ogoni.

Last month, HYPREP commenced the second phase of fish stock assessment to track improvement of biodiversity in rehabilitated mangrove areas in the Bomu creek. This is to correlate the relationship between mangrove restoration and fish stock improvement.

# PICTURES OF THE MONTH



Head Communications, HYPREP, Dr. Enuolare Mba-Nwigoh Presenting an Award He Received on Behalf of HYPREP PC, Prof. Nenibarini Zabbey to Him



Head Livelihood Unit, Mrs. Josephine Presenting an Award She Received on Behalf of HYPREP PC, Prof. Nenibarini Zabbey to Him



Editor, HYPREP Herald, Mr. Kpoobari Nafo Presenting an Award He Received on Behalf of HYPREP PC, Prof. Nenibarini Zabbey to Him



Founder, Centre-LSD, Dr. Otive Igbuzor Plants Mangrove at Bomu Creek with HYPREP PC, Prof. Nenibarini Zabbey Supporting



Chief Constance Meju Plants Mangrove at Bomu Flanked by Emem Okon (L), Prof. Nenibarini Zabbey (R)



HYPREP PC, Prof. Nenibarini Zabbey Digs for Marine Worms on World Polychaete Day at Bomu Creek



L-R: Mr. Mike Cowing, Dr. Ann Olsson, Prof. Nenibarini Zabbey, Dr. Joachim Schuz Prof. Damian-Paul Aguiyi at HYPREP Project Coordination Office



HYPREP PC, Prof. Nenibarini Zabbey at UNIPORT Convocation where He was Honoured Distinguished Alumnus

# OGONI CLEAN-UP ...HYPREP SPEARHEADING MANGROVE RESTORATION

## POETRY CORNER

### A LAND ONCE STAINED

The land once wept in inky dread,  
Dark poison where sea and mud bled,  
The skies grew dim, the shore grew still  
And land running splashy crude spill.

But time, with gentle hands, began  
To heal the wounds left by man.  
The grass greened, spot seabirds once cried,  
And dolphins danced where before they died.

Small coral buds now boldly bloom,  
Bright colors shining through the gloom.  
The tide brings life with every swell  
A whispered hope where sorrow fell.

Though scars remain beneath the blue,  
The sea forgives and starts anew.  
May we, who watched her nearly fall,  
Now guard her beauty, one and all.

### Editorial Crew

Prof. Nenibarini Zabbey	Publisher-in-Chief
Kpoobari Nafo	Editor
Enuolare Mba-Nwigoh	Head Reportorial
Sunday Zorva	Senior Correspondent
Faith Deekor	Reporter
Imeh Ofem	Reporter
Clara Azubuike	Reporter
Erezi Lawrence	Reporter (NYSC)
Confidence Boms	Reporter (Intern)
Tombari Naadue	Camera
Godwin Norbana	Camera
Lekue Akpo	Camera

Photo:HYPREP



### **THE ENVIRONMENT ON MARBLE**

**“God has cared for these trees, saved them from drought, disease, avalanches, and a thousand tempests and floods. But he cannot save them from fools.”**

**– John Muir**

**Photo:HYPREP**

## **... for a cleaner and greener Ogoniland**

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