



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

# HYPREP HERALD

ISSN: 3115-4719

June 2026, Vol. 5, No. 6

## OGONI CLEAN-UP: 3 YEARS OF ACCELERATED IMPACT (Part 2)



**Aerial View of CEER**

**FG RALLIES SUPPORT FOR COMPLETION OF OGONI CLEAN-UP PROJECT**

**OGONI SOCIO-ECONOMIC STUDY REPORT, ROAD MAP FOR NIGER DELTA DEVELOPMENT - Prof Zabby**

**RIGHTS GROUP ADMITS PROF. ZABBEY INTO KEN SARO-WIWA HALL OF FAME**  
*- Says HYPREP Making a Difference Under Him as Project Coordinator*

**HYPREP  
HERALD  
NOT  
TO BE  
SOLD**

# THE PC'S DESK



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

In the May edition of this monthly newsletter (HYPREP Herald), we began serialising the achievements of the Project under the caption 'Ogoni Clean-up: 3 Years of Accelerated Impact (Part 1).' We provided evidence-based accounts of milestones achieved by the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP) in the thematic areas of provision of potable water, public health interventions and the Ogoni power project. This edition focuses on the construction of the Centre of Excellence for Environmental Restoration, remediation of soil and groundwater, shoreline clean-up and mangrove restoration, and provision of alternative sustainable livelihoods.

Our legacy project, the Centre of Excellence for Environmental Restoration (CEER), is 96% complete. It is a centre to behold, built to taste and specification, with top-notch buildings and a beautiful landscape. The CEER comprises two faculties: the Faculty of

Research and Development for cutting-edge postgraduate research in remediation and restoration, and the Faculty for Vocational Skill Acquisition for continuous skill development for young people. The UNEP Report on Ogoniland also recommended establishing the Integrated Contaminated Soil Management Centre (ICSMC). The ICSMC is fully built within the CEER, making the CEER a unique, integrated institution. The Project Coordination Office (PCO) established a Technical Planning Committee (TPC) to develop the framework for the sustainable operationalisation of the CEER. The TPC comprised seasoned scholars and practitioners, including four former Vice-Chancellors, and has since submitted the CEER operationalisation framework, which covers funding, staffing, governance, and related areas. HYPREP has begun implementing the TPC report's recommendations following approval by the Governing Council. In the last quarter of 2025, we convened an international colloquium on CEER.

Our environmental remediation effort in Ogoni has three components. The land remediation component addresses contaminated soil and groundwater. Currently, we are remediating soil and groundwater in 17 contaminated sites, divided into 39 Lots. These are called medium-risk complex sites. Measurable progress has been recorded across the sites, with a cumulative completion now exceeding 40%. Our data show that groundwater treatments at five (5) Lots have reduced groundwater

contamination to levels below the regulatory target of  $\leq 600 \mu\text{g/L}$  Total Petroleum Hydrocarbon (TPH). At the same time, the 18 high-risk complex sites are being investigated and scoped for remediation execution. Recall that, initially, 30 simple sites (i.e., sites where only the soil was contaminated) had been closed out and certified by the National Oil Spill Detection and Response Agency (NOSDRA). We have observed a considerable influence of TPH rebound from the smear zone on groundwater concentration dynamics. This is an interesting research topic for Ogoni students majoring in environmental science.

The phase 1 shoreline clean-up we started about two years ago has reached 78% completion rate. So far, we have evacuated 2,414 tons of hydrocarbon sludge and 2,619 tons of solid hydrocarbon waste recovered from the creek. To launch phase 2 of the shoreline cleanup in Ogoniland, we have commenced training for youth and women who will be employed by the cleanup contractors. At the end of the oil spill response training, the beneficiaries would be issued the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) Levels 1 and 2 certificates, which qualify them to work in the shoreline environment. This is in line with international best practices. Remarkably, our remediation work incorporates skill development, job creation and livelihood restoration.

For the mangrove restoration component, HYPREP has planted 1,537,885 seedlings during phase 1, including white, red, and black mangroves, in line with the natural

zonation patterns at the reference sites. We adopted a community-based approach to achieve optimal benefit for the people. We started off the restoration by publishing a user-friendly mangrove restoration manual. Used the manual to train mangrove vanguards and gave them grants to establish and manage their personal nurseries. The 160 vanguards have, in turn, trained over 300 community members to establish mangrove nurseries. The vanguards and other nursery owners sell seedlings to the restorative planting contractors. Again, another smart way of creating livelihoods for the people. Members of the community are hired to plant and monitor the planted mangroves. This means additional job creation. In sum, the planted mangroves continue to thrive, and finfish, shellfish, and other fauna are being attracted to the sites, resulting in biodiversity and livelihood recovery. In addition to monitoring mangrove growth performance and faunal recovery, we have launched marine worm monitoring and a bird survey to expand the scope of biodiversity documentation. The upcoming eDNA and carbon stock assessment projects will complement the above monitoring initiatives. The former will expand the biodiversity checklist of the restored sites, while the latter will advance the project's carbon credit goal. The thriving restored mangroves and the associated biodiversity recovery constitute research opportunities for students in the Natural and Applied Sciences.

Responsive researchers would like to compare growth performance between the two

adopted planting space regimes. Other potential research areas include assessing edge effects at the native mangrove and nipa palm interfaces, reproductive outputs and larval dispersal of some recovery shellfish (e.g., oyster, fiddler crab), nutrient dynamics in the restored and reference sites, and the ecological character of the restored heart-shaped overwash *Bookpobiramaa* mangroves and the contribution of this sacred site to biodiversity recovery. The research opportunities are countless.

Recently (6 March), the Secretariat of the Convention on Wetlands designated the Ogoniland wetland as a Ramsar Site of International Importance. The designation is a huge achievement by HYPREP because it is one of the UNEP-recommended actions. While celebrating the Ramsar recognition, we quickly reminded stakeholders of the ecotourism investment and carbon credit opportunities that come with the designation. Similarly, we also informed stakeholders, particularly the Ogoni community, of the “wise use obligation” to preserve the ecological character of the Ogoni mangrove wetland. Again, there is a dire need to establish an extensive biodiversity baseline for the wetlands, from microscopic organisms to charismatic flora and fauna. Are Ogoni students and other researchers in the region taking advantage of the research opportunities created by the Ramsar recognition?

Another key recommendation in UNEP's 2011 environmental report on Ogoni is the restoration of livelihoods for communities whose

income sources were affected by pollution. In this regard, HYPREP has, over the past three years, delivered impactful socio-economic training for Ogoni women and youths through skill acquisition, enterprise development, and inclusive empowerment, benefiting thousands of people across the four Ogoni Local Government Areas. We have created more than 7000 direct jobs. In addition, the Project has strengthened agribusiness and entrepreneurial skills, trained more than 5,000 young people and women in market-relevant skills, supported the growth of micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises, promoted inclusive development, particularly for Persons Living with Disabilities (PLWDs), and strengthened education and environmental awareness at the grassroots level. We have shifted the region's skill development towards high-demand areas such as cybersecurity, software development, rope access, commercial diving, GIS, and crowd-mapping. These efforts collectively help build a resilient local economy while reducing dependence on environmentally harmful practices such as artisanal refining.

As I always insist at every forum, we are on a transformative journey, and it will take our collective efforts to reach our desired destination. Contribute your lot and God will bless the work of your hands.

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

# In This Issue

In this June edition of the HYPREP Herald, we bring you the concluding part of achievements of HYPREP in the last three years under the current administration. A lot of work has been done in the thematic areas of soil and groundwater remediation, shoreline clean-up, mangrove restoration, sustainable livelihoods and construction of the Centre of Excellence for Environmental Restoration. We highlight the major achievements in these areas to give you a glimpse of what has been accomplished on the Project in the last three years under the “Renewed Hope Agenda” of the President Bola Ahmed Tinubu's administration.

The new Permanent Secretary in the Federal Ministry of Environment, Dr. Salihu Aminu Usman was on a working visit to HYPREP project sites in Ogoni to assess the level of work done. Dr. Usman visited the 100-bed Ogoni Specialist Hospital, in Kpите, Tai LGA, the 43-bed Cottage Hospital, Buan, the Centre of Excellence for Environmental Restoration, the Ogoni Power Project in Wiiyaakara, Khana LGA, reticulated potable water projects and mangrove restoration sites in Bomu, Gokana LGA.

As HYPREP continues to deliver on its mandate of cleaning-up polluted sites in Ogoni and other deliverables to the people, the Project needs additional funds to meet its obligation as the initial \$1 billion dollar contribution is depleting. To get the support of donors, development partners and the diplomatic community, the Honourable Minister of Environment, Balarabe Abbas Lawal, and the Chairman of the Ogoni Trust Funds Incorporated,

Hon. Emmanuel Deeyah organized a Donor Facilitation and Diplomatic Support Engagement in Abuja to solicit funding from institutions and organizations for the Ogoni clean-up Project.

The Ogoni Socio-Economic Study Group met in Port Harcourt with other professionals, strategic community leaders and representatives of civil society organizations to review the report in preparation for its release to the public. The study is sponsored by HYPREP to fast-track development in Ogoni in the areas of housing, electricity, education, and industrialization among others. As stated by the Project Coordinator, Prof. Nenibarini Zabbey, the report would serve as a template for the development of Ogoni and other parts of the Niger Delta with similar experience and situation as Ogoni.

The Project Coordination Office of HYPREP, in appreciation of the support of the media in the balanced reportage of the clean-up, organized a dinner for journalists covering the Project and other media professionals. At the event, the Project Coordinator, Prof. Nenibarini Zabbey urged the media to always ensure objective reportage of the activities and

programmes of the Project. To ensure effective delivery of project goals, the Environmental Remediation Unit organized on-the-job training to sharpen the skills of its staff. On-the-job training in HYPREP is not limited to staff, as community workers - a total of one thousand four hundred and twenty of them engaged for the phase 2 shoreline clean-up and mangrove restoration project, were trained for the International Maritime Organization (IMO) Levels 1 and 2 certification to enable them to work on the Project.

The Centre for Environment, Human Rights and Development (CEHRD) was at the Project Coordination Office of HYPREP on a courtesy call on their former Executive Director, Prof. Nenibarini Zabbey. In recognition and appreciation of the achievements of the HYPREP Coordinator, the Non-Governmental Organization conferred an award of excellence on him and also admitted him into the Ken Saro-Wiwa Hall of Fame.

We have maintained our poetry corner and do hope that you will find this edition as interesting as ever. Do reach us with your feedback on how to improve our service to you.



**Minister of Environment, Balarabe Abbas Lawal Addressing the Donor Facilitation and Diplomatic Conference for Ogoni Clean-up at Transcorp Hilton, Abuja**

# News

## OGONI CLEAN-UP: 3 YEARS OF ACCELERATED IMPACT (Part 2)

### CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION (CEER)

*Summary of Performance: 96%*

#### Introduction

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) 2011 report recommended the establishment of a Centre of Excellence for Environmental Restoration (CEER), and an Integrated Contaminated Soil Management Centre (ICSMC).

In implementing the recommendations of UNEP, HYPREP is currently developing the blueprint and physical infrastructure for the Centre of Excellence for Environmental Restoration and the Integrated Contaminated Soil Management Centre.

Considerable progress has been made with the development of the physical infrastructure and institutional framework for the CEER - a research, training and development institute that would bring together a cohort of experts in diverse fields to promote practices that safeguard the environment and the socio-economic, physical health and wellbeing of the people.

From 2023 when the construction of the Centre started to 2026, the Centre of Excellence for Environmental Restoration has progressed to 96% completion. To operationalize the Centre, the Project Coordination Office set up a Technical Planning Committee to draw up the curriculum and administrative

structure for the running of the Centre of Excellence for Environmental Restoration. The Committee has

completed its assignment and submitted the report to the Project Coordinator, Prof. Nenibarini Zabbey.

CEER CONSTRUCTION PERFORMANCE				
S/N	Activities	Target	Actual Performance	Remarks
1.	Faculty Of Vocational Skill Acquisition	100	93	
2.	Library	100	93	
3.	Faculty Of Environmental Research and Development	100	93	
4.	Classroom	100	93	
5.	Students Dormitory (Female)	100	95	
6.	Students Dormitory (Male)	100	95	
7.	Soldiers Quarters Building	100	97	
8.	3-Bedroom Duplex	100	93	
9.	2 Bedroom Flat 1	100	93	
10.	2 Bedroom Flat 2	100	93	
11.	1 Bedroom	100	93	
12.	Canteen	100	93	
13.	Shopping Plaza	100	93	
14.	Clinic	100	93	
15.	Fencing/ External Work	100	93	
16.	Road Work	100	93	
17.	Drainage Work	100	93	
18.	Admin Block	100	93	
19.	Auditorium	100	92	
20.	Club House	100	93	



**Tartan Track/Football Pitch**

CEER CONSTRUCTION PERFORMANCE				
S/N	Activities	Target	Actual Performance	Remarks
21.	Gate House	100	70	
22.	Power House	100	90	
23.	Water Board	100	92	
24.	Elevated Water Tank	100	97	
25.	Fire Fighting Water Pool/Raw Water Tank Foundation	100	90	
26.	Parking Lot	100	98	
27.	External Work	100	96	
28.	Football Pitch	100	100	
29.	ICSMC	100	70	


**Internal Road Works**

**Landscaping, Grass and Tree Planting**

**Aerial View of the Centre of Excellence for Environmental Restoration**



**Administrative Building**



**Auditorium**



**Classroom Block**

## SOIL AND GROUNDWATER REMEDIATION

### 1.0 Introduction

The soil and groundwater remediation programme of HYPREP is focused on restoring hydrocarbon-impacted soil and groundwater systems, reducing environmental and public health risks, and supporting long-term ecological recovery in impacted communities.

We highlight the major milestones recorded in HYPREP's soil and groundwater remediation efforts, covering the successful completion of Phase 1 and the ongoing implementation of Phase 2 remediation works. Progress is made in regulatory compliance, soil and groundwater treatment, environmental management, and broader socio-economic impact.

### 2.0 Phase 1 Remediation: Milestones and Achievements

Phase 1 remediation marked the first major operational stage of HYPREP's remediation programme and focused on twenty (20) simple (low-risk) hydrocarbon-impacted sites across Ogoniland.

### 2.1 Phase 1 Completion and Close-Out Status

Phase 1 remediation works were implemented across 20 simple sites, comprising 50 lots under Batches 1 and 2. Of these, 18 sites (48 lots) have been successfully remediated, certified, and officially closed out.

The remaining 2 sites were not closed out under Phase 1, as site investigations and remediation activities confirmed that contamination conditions were more complex than originally classified. These sites were therefore re-categorised as High Complex Sites and transitioned into subsequent

remediation phases for more advanced technical intervention.

This outcome reflects both the success of Phase 1 implementation and the programme's adaptive approach to site classification and remediation planning.

### Phase 1 Remediation Close-Out Summary

INDICATOR	ACHIEVEMENT
Total Phase 1 Sites	20
Total Phase 1 Lots	50
Sites Closed Out	18
Lots Certified	48
Sites Re-categorised	2
Regulatory Status	18 Sites Certified/2 Reclassified
Phase Status	Substantially Completed

### 2.2 Key Achievements of Phase 1

The successful implementation of Phase 1 delivered several foundational achievements:

- Completion of remediation across 18 simple (low risk) sites
- Regulatory certification and close-out of 48 lots
- Restoration of impacted sites to acceptable environmental standards
- Identification and reclassification of 2 sites requiring more advanced remediation intervention
- Establishment of operational and regulatory frameworks for remediation execution
- Development of baseline technical, QA/QC, and contractor management systems

These outcomes established the technical and institutional foundation for the more complex remediation activities undertaken in Phase 2 and subsequent high-complexity interventions.

### 3.0 Phase 2 Remediation: Milestones and Achievements

Following the successful completion of Phase 1, HYPREP commenced Phase 2 remediation, targeting seventeen (17) medium-risk complex sites comprising thirty-nine (39) lots.

Phase 2 represents a more technically demanding stage of the remediation programme due to greater contamination complexity, hydrogeological variability, and broader operational challenges.

### 3.1 Overall Project Progress

Phase 2 remediation has continued to record measurable progress across active lots, with overall project completion now exceeding **40%**.

This reflects sustained implementation across multiple sites despite operational, logistical, and environmental constraints. The progress recorded demonstrates that Phase 2 has successfully transitioned from mobilisation and planning into active remediation and treatment.

**Table 3.1: Overall Phase 2 Progress Status**

INDICATOR	STATUS
Total SMR Lots	39
Active Remediation Lots	36
Overall Completion	>40%

### 3.2 Full Mobilisation and Site Characterisation

A major milestone in Phase 2 is the successful mobilisation of all contractors and completion of site characterisation activities across all lots.

All **39 contractors were mobilised**, and site characterisation

and assessment activities were completed for all lots. These activities generated the technical data required to define contamination profiles, understand hydrogeological conditions, and develop site-specific remediation strategies.

### Phase 2 Mobilisation and Site Characterisation Status

INDICATOR	STATUS
Contractors Mobilised	39
Site Characterisation Completed	39
Completion Status	100%

### 3.3 Regulatory Approvals for Phase 2 Remediation

Following site characterisation, regulatory approvals were secured for all SMR Lots to commence remediation works.

This milestone confirmed that all site characterisation reports, risk assessments, and remedial action plans met the required technical and regulatory standards, allowing Phase 2 to progress into full implementation under approved regulatory frameworks.

### Regulatory Approval Status

INDICATOR	STATUS
SMR Lots Approved	39
Regulatory Compliance	Achieved

### 3.4 Progress in Soil Remediation

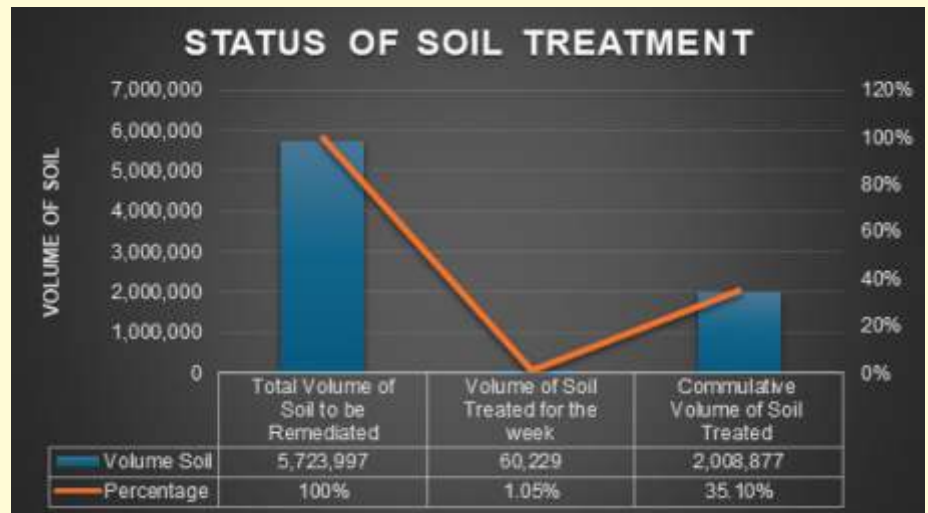
Soil remediation remains the strongest-performing component of Phase 2 remediation works and has delivered the most consistent progress to date.

To date, over 2.0 million cubic metres (m<sup>3</sup>) of hydrocarbon-impacted soil have been treated, representing approximately 35% of the total soil remediation target. Soil treatment activities have been implemented primarily through ex-situ bioremediation in engineered biocells, supported by continuous monitoring and quality assurance processes.

Importantly, treated soils have consistently met the regulatory clean-up threshold of ≤1,000 mg/kg Total Petroleum Hydrocarbons (TPH), confirming the effectiveness and reliability of the adopted treatment approach.

### Soil Remediation Performance

PARAMETER	VALUE
Total Soil Remediation Target	5,723,997 m <sup>3</sup>
Soil Treated to Date	2,008,877 m <sup>3</sup>
Progress Achieved	35.10%
Regulatory Threshold	≤1,000 mg/kg TPH
Compliance Status	Achieved



### Soil Remediation Progress

Overall, soil remediation has shown strong, stable, and predictable performance and continues to drive overall project progress.



**Excavation of Impacted Soil**



### Application of Nutrients to Impacted Soil

#### 3.5 Progress in Groundwater Remediation

Groundwater remediation has also advanced across multiple sites, although progress has been comparatively slower due to greater technical complexities and subsurface uncertainties.

Groundwater treatment has been implemented using multiple technologies, including biosparging, pump-and-treat systems, electrokinetic oxidation, and hybrid treatment systems combining biosparging and pump-and-treat methods. These systems have recorded measurable improvements in groundwater quality across several sites.

To date, five (5) Lots have achieved the regulatory target of  $\leq 600 \mu\text{g/L}$  TPH, while several

others have demonstrated significant reductions in contamination levels ranging from 50 - 70% and above.

#### Groundwater Remediation Performance

PARAMETER	STATUS
Lots at Installation Stage	8
Lots in Active Treatment	20
Lots Achieving $\leq 600 \mu\text{g/L}$ TPH	5
Performance Trend	Improving

Although, groundwater remediation remains more technically demanding, the observed improvements confirm that the deployed systems are effective and continue to deliver measurable results.

#### 3.6 Waste Evacuation and Environmental Management

Effective waste management remains a critical part of the remediation process. As part of environmental management and secondary contamination control measures, HYPREP has successfully evacuated **476,700 litres** of sludge and removed **577,930 kg** of petrified carbonised materials from impacted sites.

These interventions have reduced environmental hazards, improved site safety, and supported overall remediation efficiency.

#### Waste Evacuation Summary

WASTE STREAM	QUANTITY
Sludge Evacuated	476,700 litres
Carbonised Materials Removed	577,930 kg



**Evacuation of Free Phase Oil**

**3.7 Capacity Building and Community Impact**

Beyond technical remediation, HYPREP has continued to strengthen local capacity and community participation. A total of 1,453 community workers have been engaged across remediation Lots in Ogoni while 1,219 of them trained in remediation techniques, health and safety practices, and environmental compliance.

These efforts have enhanced local technical capacity, improved safety awareness, supported community ownership, and strengthened the project's socio-economic impact.

**3.8 Academic and Knowledge Sharing**

INDICATOR	ACHIEVEMENT
Personnel Trained	1,219
Community Workers Engaged	1,453

**3.8 Academic and Knowledge Sharing**

As part of its commitment to knowledge transfer, professional development, and stakeholder engagement, HYPREP has continued to promote academic and technical knowledge sharing through structured field-based learning and institutional collaboration.

This has included the hosting of academic and professional field visits to active remediation sites for postgraduate

students, lecturers, researchers, and technical trainees from relevant institutions. These visits provided practical exposure to real-world remediation processes and strengthened collaboration among the academia, regulators, and field practitioners.

Some of the institutions that have visited our remediation sites for research purposes include:

- University of Port Harcourt
- Rivers State University
- Nigerian Maritime University
- Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board (NCDMB)

These engagements have:

- Enhanced practical understanding of remediation

- systems and field operations
- Promoted knowledge exchange between academia and industry
- Supported research, innovation, and professional development in environmental remediation
- Increased public awareness and technical appreciation of HYPREP's remediation efforts

**Academic and Knowledge Sharing Engagements**

ENGAGEMENT AREA	ACHIEVEMENT
Academic Institutions Engaged	4
Field Excursions Hosted	Multiple
Knowledge Exchange	Ongoing

**4.0 Conclusion**

HYPREP has recorded substantial milestones across both Phase 1 and Phase 2 remediation works.

Phase 1 is substantially completed, with 18 of 20 sites (48 Lots) successfully remediated and certified, while the remaining 2 sites were re-categorised as High Complex Sites based on field conditions and contamination complexity. This demonstrates both successful remediation delivery and adaptive site management.

Phase 2 has advanced into full implementation, achieving full mobilisation, regulatory readiness, and measurable progress in both soil and groundwater remediation. Together, these outcomes reflect HYPREP's growing technical capacity to manage increasingly



**Trainees from Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board (NCDMB) at Ajeokpori Site**

complex hydrocarbon remediation challenges on a large scale.

**SHORELINE CLEAN-UP**

**Key Achievements as of April 2026:**

- 1263.91 hectares of oil-impacted mangrove wetland have been cleaned across five communities in Ogoni
- 659.38 hectares of oil-impacted wetland have been cleaned in readiness for regulatory closeout sampling ahead of mangrove planting.
- 2,414 tons of hydrocarbon sludge and 2,619 tons of solid hydrocarbon waste have been recovered from the Ogoni oil-impacted wetland from cleanup activities.
- Award of contracts for cleanup of 220 hectares of oil-impacted mangrove wetland

in Tai and Gokana communities, employing 580 youths in direct labour.

**Summary of Key Impacts of Shoreline Cleanup:**

- Over 2,500 Ogoni youths trained and certified in IMO Levels 1 and 2 oil spill response. These youths have been deployed in cleanup activities, gaining hands-on technical experience.
- The training and deployment have provided jobs and stable income, improved household economies and reducing youth restiveness.
- Visible return of indigenous flora and fauna species in several cleaned areas, signaling early stages of ecological regeneration.
- Reappearance of species such

as volunteer juvenile mangroves, crabs, fishes, and wetland birds are helping revive traditional livelihoods of fishing.

- Noticeable improvement in water quality and sediment conditions in cleaned areas. This has led to the resurgence of massive periwinkle colonies, a key source of food and income in Ogoni communities.
- As the environment heals, fishing and shellfish gathering activities have resumed, improving food security and local trade.
- Active involvement of local stakeholders in project implementation thus building trust between HYPREP and host communities.
- Women and youth groups have been engaged in awareness campaigns and environmental monitoring and thereby strengthening local ownership of the remediation process.
- Reduction in oil spill-related contaminants has likely led to lower risk of waterborne and exposure-related illnesses.
- The project has fostered stronger partnerships with local institutions and regulatory agencies and thus enhancing local disaster response capabilities.
- It has also improved data collection and environmental monitoring frameworks.



**Sediment Flushing, Goi**



**Sediment Flushing, B-Dere**



**Sediment Flushing, K-Dere**



**Booming and Recovery of Sludge, Goi**



**Nipa Palm Removal, Bomu**

**MANGROVE RESTORATION PROJECT (MRP)**


**1.0 Summary**

All contractors in phase 1 Mangrove Restoration Project (MRP) have completed planting, with a total of 1,537,885 seedlings planted. One hundred and eight (108) grids have been established for long-term monitoring out of which 104 grids have been monitored for six months. Ninety-five (95) grids have been monitored at nine months, seventy-five (75) at twelve

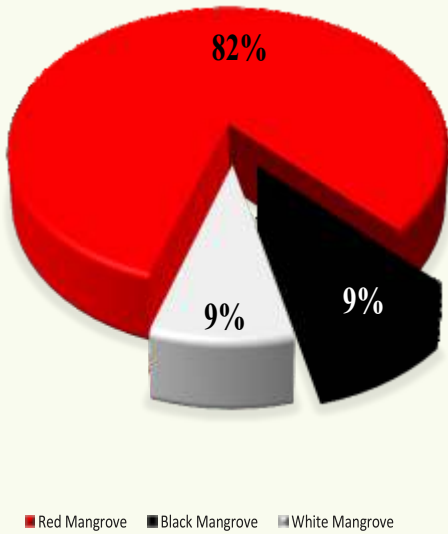
months, and fifteen (15) grids at 18 months. Eight lots have been closed out and awaiting regulatory certification for MRP phase 1. HYPREP MRP team has commenced a bird watching survey in the Ogoni mangrove wetland to identify bird species found in the wetland. The survey will be held bi-monthly for the next year.

**2.0 Summary of Mangrove Planting at Bomu**

All 123 grids have been completed. A completed mangrove grid is one in which all nipa palms have been removed, the algal mat broken, trash removed, and all areas within the grid boundary have been planted with mangrove seedlings. HYPREP staff, federal and state regulators, civil society organizations, and representatives of the community verified and confirmed the completion of the grid 30 days after planting. A summary of the planting activities is presented below:

 <b>FEDERAL MINISTRY OF ENVIROMENT HYDROCARBON POLLUTION REMEDIATION PROJECT MANGROVE RESTORATION PROJECT BOMU PLANTING SUMMARY</b>					
LOT	CONTRACTORS NAME	RED MANGROVE	BLACK MANGROVE	WHITE MANGROVE	TOTAL PLANTS
LOT 001	PANDA GIANT DEVELOPERS LTD	100408	20890	25561	146859
LOT 002	2C'S Project Limited	164145	8602	6233	178980
LOT 003	Fabseg Resources Nigeria Limited	173122	36858	28377	238357
LOT 004	Basic Nigeria Technology Limited	118790	3439	3244	125473
LOT 005	A&T HDPE Liner Containment Ltd	91204	16420	12924	119926
LOT 006	Goldstream Investment Limited	185463	5540	17481	208484
LOT 007	Nielson Nigeria Limited	97333	12998	13945	124337
LOT 008	Tedcorp Limited	176392	21370	19218	217070
LOT 009	Abduganas Limited	149706	14720	13912	178399
<b>TOTALS</b>		<b>1256563</b>	<b>140837</b>	<b>140895</b>	<b>1537885</b>

**Summary of Planting Status**

**PERCENTAGE OF MANGROVE SPECIES PLANTED**

**3.0 100% Completion of Mangrove Restoration Project Phase 1**

- HYPREP has achieved a 100% completion of its phase 1 mangrove planting project (560 ha)
- Out of a total of 123 grids in its phase 1 project, 114 grids have been established for long-term monitoring.
- Survivability of plants after 12 months is 90%
- 8 contractor lots from phase 1 have been closed out and are awaiting regulatory certification.
- Visible return of biodiversity can be seen in the planting area.
- Successful implementation of the mangrove vanguard scheme.
- Robust mangrove monitoring programme via ground truthing.

**1.0 Commencement of MRP Phase 2 project**

- Documentation of MRP phase 2 mangrove planting contractors has commenced (438 Hectares)
- 4 Mangrove monitoring contractors have commenced monitoring
- Baseline Biodiversity Assessment survey in 7 communities where mangrove restoration phase 2 has

occurred.

**1.0 Distribution of 200 Clean Cook Stoves**

- 200 clean cook stoves were successfully distributed to local community women living in shoreline communities who depend on mangrove wood for cooking.

**6.0 Designation of Ogoni Wetland as Ramsar Site**

- HYPREP commenced the process of designating Ogoni wetland a Ramsar site. Documentation and upload of data collected from the Ogoni wetland have been uploaded to the Ramsar platform. Ogoni wetland has now been officially designated a Ramsar site

**1.0 Restoration of Bloody Cockle**

- HYPREP MRP commenced bloody cockle restoration by artificially cultivating it in the laboratory and culturing the cockles in the wild. Significant success has been recorded from both methods. Three culture beds have been set up in Bomu waterfront.

**1.0 Sustainability**

HYPREP is working to use biodegradable nursery bags, known as Growcoon, to grow mangroves in the future.

**1.0 Fish Stock Assessment Survey**

HYPREP has been carrying out fish stock assessment surveys to determine the impact of restored mangroves on fish species diversity.

**2. Research**

HYPREP has carried out several studies on mangrove restoration. One such study examines the impact of restored mangroves on tidal flat elevation. The study examines how restored mangroves contribute to soil accretion and prevent erosion by

monitoring tidal flat elevation before and after restoration.

**3. Mangrove Vanguard Training**

HYPREP has trained 160 community members across Gokana LGA on management strategies and skills for nursing mangrove seedlings and in turn these seedlings have been given grants to set up mangrove nurseries. The seedlings were purchased compulsorily by contractors and used on the restoration project.

**4. Bird survey**

As part of biodiversity monitoring the project is set to commence monitoring of bird species in Ogoni Ramsar site.

**5. Long-Term Mangrove Monitoring**

Monitoring plots have been set up on 108 grids for long-term monitoring. Long-term monitoring is done periodically at 3, 6, 9, 12, 18, and 24 months. Three to five plots are set up at 3 months on confirmed grids, depending on the number of seedlings. Follow-up monitoring is repeated on same plots and tagged plants in subsequent months. Plots are systematically chosen in each grid, and each plot is 7 x 7m; a centre plant is marked on each plot, and the centre plant coordinates are taken. Random plants are also tagged from the centre plant's north, south, east, and western points. Each of the five tagged plants is assigned a unique ID, and data such as height, leaf count, girth, leaf condition, primary branching, overall plant condition, and the type of sediment (soil) on the plot are collected. Each plant will be monitored quarterly in the first year and semiannually in the second year. Seventeen grids for a six-month monitoring period have been completed, while eight grids have been monitored for nine months.



## Grey Heron

With the recent designation of the Ogoni mangrove wetland as a Ramsar site, HYPREP has commenced identifying key bird species in the wetland. In collaboration with the Sustainable Action for Nature Bird Club, HYPREP has commenced a bird-watch survey, which will be conducted bi-monthly for the next year. The pictures above show the return of Grey Heron and thriving Mangroves Planted by HYPREP.

## SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS

### 1. EXECUTIVE OVERVIEW

Over the past three years (2023 – 2026), the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP) has made significant strides in restoring and transforming the socio-economic landscape of Ogoniland by way of giving impacted communities in Ogoni sustainable livelihoods.

Guided by the recommendations of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Report, HYPREP has implemented targeted interventions focused on skill acquisition, job creation, enterprise development, and inclusive empowerment, directly impacting thousands of beneficiaries across the four Local Government Areas of Ogoni.

Through these strategic initiatives, HYPREP has:

- Strengthened agribusiness and entrepreneurial skills
- Trained over 5,000 youths and women in market-relevant and high-demand skills
- Supported the growth of micro,

S/N	FIRST CHOICE FROM ALL LGAs	Count	Percentage
1	Crane Operations/ Loder	783	15.66
2	Computer Basics (MS Package)	573	11.46
3	Fashion and Designing	566	11.32
4	Fish Farming	444	8.88
5	Catering	399	7.98
6	Argon Welding and Metal Fabrication	393	7.86
7	Web Devt. Digital Marketing, Data Analytics	372	7.44
8	Hair Dressing, Make-up, Skin Care	160	3.2
9	Photography and Video editing	122	2.44
10	Solar Power and CCTV, Electrician	252	5.04
11	Industrial Fire Fighting	119	2.38
12	Paint Production	104	2.08
13	Driving	127	2.54
14	Industrial Process	87	1.74
15	Onshore/ Offshoring Skill Set	79	1.58
16	Auto Mobile	78	1.56
17	Poultry	109	2.18
18	Aviation	36	0.72
19	Tiling, POP, Plumbing	88	1.76
20	Scaffolding	109	2.18
		<b>5000</b>	<b>100</b>

*\*Distribution of Skills and Number of Beneficiaries*

small, and medium-scale enterprises

- Promoted inclusive development, particularly for Persons Living with Disabilities (PLWDs)
- Strengthened education and

environmental awareness at the grassroots level

These efforts collectively contribute to building a resilient local economy while reducing dependence on environmentally harmful practices like artisanal refining.



**Prof. Zabbey Presents Starter Packs to HYPREP Sustainable Livelihood Trainees**

**b) Aviation (Cabin Crew) Training Programme:** HYPREP successfully delivered three batches of Cabin Crew trainings, benefiting 48 Ogoni youths. The participants also received:

- Industry Certification (NCAA)
- Industry-Standard Training
- Exposure to Global Aviation Practices

On Friday 19<sup>th</sup> April 2024, the Project Coordination Office in collaboration with CTI, Dana Air and Bellagio Air, organized a special cabin crew recruitment contest/job fair for the licensed trainees. Five (5) contestants were immediately employed. Four (4) by Dana air and one (1) by Bellagio Air.

**c) Creative Arts Training:** In 2025, HYPREP trained 100 youths in Creative Arts, equipping them with skills in film production, scriptwriting, and make-up. The programme culminated in the production of four short films viz Dirty festival, Open

Pain, Bomu and Green War, showcasing the creative potential of Ogoni youths and opening pathways into the entertainment industry. This initiative reflects HYPREP's shift towards diversifying livelihoods into emerging sectors beyond traditional trades.



**Winners of the Cabin Crew Contest 2024 with the Project Coordinator, Prof. Zabbey**

**KEY ACHIEVEMENTS**

*Commencement and Completion of Varied Trainings*

**Vocational Training for 5000 Ogoni People:** The training for 5000 Ogoni youths, men and women in twenty (20) different skill sets commenced in October 2023. Upon completion of training, startup packs were provided for skills requiring individual start up.

**d) Seafaring Training:** HYPREP commenced training of one hundred Ogoni (100) youths in Seafaring on April 7<sup>th</sup>, 2025. The training of 100 Ogoni youths in seafaring (2025–2026) provided participants with specialised maritime skills aligned with Nigeria's Blue Economy Agenda.

Beyond employment, this programme contributes to:

- Reducing illegal and environmentally harmful activities
- Promoting sustainable income alternatives
- Enhancing regional economic participation.

**c)Mechatronics Trainings:** The year 2026 commenced on a high note with the orientation programme for Mechatronics trainees which was held at the Offshore Technology Institute, Faculty of Engineering, University of Port Harcourt. The training programme positioned beneficiaries for opportunities within:

- Automation and robotics
- Oil and gas digital systems
- Modern engineering industries

Additional high-demand training areas have also been introduced, reflecting a forward-looking livelihood strategy.

**f). Under water welding/commercial diving training:** On Thursday 23rd April 2026, the Project Coordination Office organized an orientation programme for the first batch of 44 trainees for the Underwater Welding/Commercial Diving Training. The six (6) month



**Seafaring Trainees with HYPREP Officials**

training focused on welding techniques, professional diving, maintenance, repair, and construction for underwater infrastructure like oil platforms, ships, and pipelines. It is a demanding career, often requiring certifications in both welding and commercial diving from specialized institutions.

**TRAINING FOR PERSONS LIVING WITH DISABILITIES**

The training is tailored solely for people living with disability to strengthen the project's unwavering stance on inclusivity. The training covers five (5) skill areas, namely:

- Fashion and Design
- Shoe Making
- Computer Training
- Fish Farming
- Photography

These skill areas were selected by the trainees themselves, and each skill accommodates 60 trainees, bringing the total number of beneficiaries to 300. It has both practical and theoretical sessions aimed at equipping them with marketable skills for sustainable self-reliance.

**The Ogoni Socio Economic Survey**

The socio-economic survey is to firm up Ogoni's readiness for positive transformation. It is carried out in the following four (4) thematic areas:

- Ten (10) year regional development outlook of Ogoniland 2023-2033
- Environment, and public health analysis of Ogoniland
- Education and future employment in Ogoniland



**Cross section of HYPREP Mechatronics Trainees During their Orientation at UNIPORT**



**HYPREP Mechatronics Trainees During their Orientation at UNIPORT**



**People Living with Disability as Beneficiaries of HYPREP Livelihood Training**

- Housing and infrastructure analysis of Ogoniland

A draft copy of the final report of the study had been submitted to the Project Coordination office for review.

**ENVIRONMENTAL CLUBS**

The Project Coordination Office established environmental clubs in thirty-two (32) schools across Ogoniland. Eight (8) schools per LGA. The objective of the club is to provide students with the opportunity to learn more about HYPREP activities and the environment generally. The club is also to help the students develop social skills that will help them make informed decisions concerning their environment. On Monday 9<sup>th</sup> December 2024, a mentorship programme with the theme, 'Career Coaching: Developing the Young Minds' was held for all environmental club members. The programme held in collaboration with the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency and the National Orientation Agency had sessions for soap making, petroleum jelly making and behavioural re-orientation, etc.

Schools Playing Host to HYPREP Environment Clubs:

**Khana LGA**

- Community Secondary School, Bori
- Comprehensive Secondary School, Ken-Poly Bori
- Birabi Memorial Grammar School, Bori

- Government Secondary School, Sogho
- Government Secondary School, Taabaa
- Community Secondary School, Baen
- Community Secondary School, Kono
- Community Secondary School, Kaa

**Gokana LGA**

- Bodo City Girl Secondary School, Bodo
- Community Secondary School, Mogho
- Community Secondary School, Barako
- Community Secondary School, Bomu
- Community Secondary School, B. Dere
- Community Secondary School, Yeghe
- Community Secondary School, Nweol
- Community Secondary School, Bera

**Tai LGA**

- Community Secondary School, Koroma
- Government Secondary School, Kpite
- Community Secondary School, Kira
- Community Secondary School, Botem
- Community Secondary School, Nonwa
- Community Secondary School, Kporgor
- Community Secondary School, Sime
- Community Secondary School, Bunu

**Eleme LGA**

- Government Secondary School, Onne

- Community Secondary School, Ogale
- Community Secondary School, Ebubu
- Community Secondary School, Akpago
- Community Secondary School, Alesa
- Community Secondary School, Eteo
- Community Secondary School, Aleto
- Community Secondary School, Agbonchia

**BUSINESS INTERVENTION SUPPORT FUND**

The Business Intervention Support Fund for Small and Medium Scale Enterprises is designed to promote the growth of small businesses in the local communities and kick start the process of economic growth.

Market women running nano businesses were trained and supported with funds.

- a. Two hundred (200) nano businesses supported with two hundred thousand naira N200,000 each (fifty (50) businesses per LGA)
- b. Four hundred (400) small and medium scale businesses supported with five hundred thousand naira N500,000 each (one hundred (100) businesses per LGA)
- c. Forty Cooperatives supported with one million naira (N1,000,000) each. Ten (10) Cooperatives per LGA)



**Beneficiaries of HYPREP Business Support Programme**

## FG PLEASED WITH HYPREP'S ACHIEVEMENTS - *Perm. Sec., FMOE*

The Federal Government has again commended the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP) on its commitment to the implementation of the Ogoni clean-up Project, especially with the achievement of significant milestones in remediation, livelihood restoration, and community infrastructure development in the area.

The Federal Government therefore reiterated its commitment to accelerating the Ogoni Clean-up project by ensuring timely completion of ongoing projects.

Permanent Secretary, Federal Ministry of Environment, Dr. Salihu Aminu Usman gave the assurance during a working visit to some HYPREP project sites, which include, the 100-bed Ogoni Specialist Hospital, 43-bed Cottage Hospital, Buan, Centre of Excellence for Environmental Restoration (CEER), the Ogoni Power Project, Wiiyaakara Transmission Substation, the Eteo Water Station and the Mangrove Restoration site in Bomu.

Dr. Usman, while acknowledging the advanced stages of completion and quality of the projects, particularly commended the Project Coordinator, Prof. Nenibarini Zabbey, for the articulation, proper monitoring, and demonstration of fiscal prudence and responsibility in project implementation.

"I'm delighted seeing the various projects on ground. I'm glad the President has given his approval to this Project. The President will be happy seeing all these achieved under this Project. Keep the tempo, and we will continue to do our best to support



**Perm. Sec., Federal Ministry of Environment, Dr. Salihu Usman in Company of HYPREP Coordinator, Prof. Nenibarini Zabbey at CEER, Wiiyaakara**

the Project.

"We saw solid structures, and I believe they will go a long way in benefiting the people of Ogoniland and beyond. It is not a misplaced priority that so much has been invested in the Project. I believe the HYPREP Project is on track. I want to commend Prof. Zabbey for his doggedness in ensuring that the resources are applied judiciously" he stated.

Prof. Zabbey noted that the Project is complying with the Presidential Directive for the acceleration of the Ogoni Clean-up Project, adding that the various projects and programmes being carried out across thematic areas attest to this commitment.

The HYPREP Coordinator expressed delight at the visit, explaining that it afforded the new Permanent Secretary and Chairman of the Ministerial Tenders Board to be abreast of project status and briefed

the Permanent Secretary on the various projects and alternative livelihood programmes, including the high demand skills and scholarship that are increasing the employability of Ogoni youths.

He stressed that HYPREP is adopting a wholistic approach in its project implementation and prioritising all the thematic areas.

Prof. Zabbey gave an update on the various projects and alternative livelihood programmes, including the high demand skills and scholarship that are increasing the employability of the youths, stressing that HYPREP is adopting a holistic approach in its project implementation, and prioritizing all the thematic areas.

"On every front we are pushing in line with the charge given to the Project. We are ticking the boxes seriously. We are now using wholistic approach to implement all the recommendations of the UNEP Report and also going beyond.

"We are also ensuring that the Project is community driven. The local people are trained before the commencement of mangrove restoration project as Mangrove Vanguard. They are empowered to set up mangrove nurseries. They are the ones that will sell the seedlings to contractors. They are the ones that will plant the mangroves. They are part of our mangrove monitoring team - they monitor the mangroves, and that creates ownership which will lead to environmental sustainability" Prof. Zabbey maintained.

There has been an acceleration in the pace of project implementation by HYPREP in the last three years.



**Dr. Usman, Prof. Zabbey and HYPREP Staff at CEER, Wiiyaakara**

## **FG RALLIES SUPPORT FOR COMPLETION OF OGONI CLEAN-UP PROJECT**

**T**he Federal Government has called on the international community and development partners to pull resources together in terms of funding, technical and diplomatic support for the accelerated implementation of the Ogoni Clean-up Project.

The Honourable Minister of Environment, Balarabe Abbas Lawal made the call in Abuja at a High-level Donor Facilitation and Diplomatic Support Engagement for the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP), organised by the Board of Trustees of the Ogoni Trust Fund Incorporated.

Lawal, who is leading the fund drive for the Ogoni Clean-up Project, explained that beyond environmental justice, the Project is setting sustainable framework for the cleanup of the rest of Nigeria and other countries and thus requires a global collaborative effort and support for its success.

"The restoration of Ogoniland is not

merely a Nigerian undertaking; it is a global model for environmental recovery, climate resilience, and international cooperation, its success will demonstrate what can be achieved when governments, communities, development partners, and the private sector unite around a shared vision of environmental stewardship and human development." the Minister stressed.

He therefore called for support for the Ogoni Cleanup Project, urging development partners, donor agencies, international financial institutions, philanthropic foundations, private-sector organizations, and members of the diplomatic community to deepen their engagements with HYPREP and render whatever assistance there is.

"Whether financial, technical, scientific, technological, or strategic, such support will be crucial to ensuring the successful completion and sustainability of the Ogoni Cleanup Programme, and to realizing

the full promise of environmental restoration, improved livelihoods, public health, and sustainable development in Ogoniland."

In the same vein, the Chairman, Board of Trustees of the Ogoni Trust Funds, Incorporated, Hon. Emmanuel Deeyah while reiterating the call on funding partners to fulfil their commitment to the Ogoni Cleanup Project, also emphasised that the Project is seeking both technical and funding support from the diplomatic community and development partners in running the Centre of Excellence for Environmental Restoration (CEER), among other projects of HYPREP.

The Project Coordinator of HYPREP, Professor Nenibarini Zabbey disclosed that significant achievements have been made across thematic areas of the Ogoni Clean-up Project, stating that HYPREP has created over 7000 direct jobs, trained 5000 Ogoni women and youths in 21 skill areas, with an additional 1000

youths to benefit from the alternative livelihood programme for high-demand skills, as well as another 500 post-graduate beneficiaries selected for the second batch of the HYPREP scholarship grant.

He further stated that the Ogoni Socio-Economic Study has been completed and will be launched as part of events to commemorate the 10th Anniversary of the Ogoni Cleanup Project, explaining that the Project targets to reach additional 69 communities with potable water, following the completion of 15 integrated solar water schemes in 50 communities.

Prof. Zabbey announced that the 43-bed Cottage Hospital in Buan is ready for commissioning, while the 100-bed Ogoni Special Hospital is at 80% completion, and the 3-year UNEP recommended Human Biomonitoring Study is being carried out by the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) of the World Health Organization (WHO).

Other milestone achievements, the HYPREP Coordinator listed are the CEER which is at 96.33% completion, 100% completion of the Phase 1 Mangrove Restoration Project, the designation of Ogoni Wetlands as Ramsar Site of International Importance by the Convention on Wetlands, the Ogoni Power Project - a 132 KVA power capacity with 62km of power lines under construction, and the Ogoni Power Distribution Study which is ongoing to optimise load management, network efficiency and the long-term sustainability of the system.

Similarly, Prof Zabbey noted that significant progress has been made in the soil and groundwater remediation of Medium Risk Sites which stands at

42.44%, and shoreline cleanup at 79.5% and stated that the Project has initiated innovative researches in partnership with local institutions like the University of Port Harcourt and the Rivers State University in its Bloody Cockle Culture Experiment, a foreign firm, Contec Global Agro Limited in developing biofertiliser from indigenous microbes to boost soil fertility and crop yield in remediated sites and the launch of Growcoon, a biodegradable bag to replace plastic bags in mangrove nursing and transplant.

Prof. Zabbey therefore appealed for more support in the following priority areas:

1. Funding the Outstanding Priorities

A. Remediation of 18 High-Risk Sites with both soil and groundwater contamination in populated sites

B. Remediation of 120 post-UNEP assessment sites (undocumented sites)

C. Extension of potable water to all yet-to-be-covered Ogoni Communities

-22 water schemes

D. Distribution & Step-down of power from the Ogoni Power Project (OPP)

E. Off-grid photovoltaic solar solution for HYPREP flagship projects

F. Training of 3,000 Ogoni youths in high-demand upskilling

2. Technical Support for Effective Delivery

A. Visiting scientists and scholars (support in attracting high-calibre environmentalists as visiting scientists/scholars to support the CEER)

B. Experts in residence (sponsorship and hosting of reputable scientists/engineers/soil & groundwater remediation experts, structural/water engineers, and others-in residence to support High-Risk Complex sites remediation and our

water schemes)

3. Partnership, Collaboration & Diplomatic Facilitation

A. Partnership & Collaboration (research and training with renowned environmental institutes across the world)

-Combine strengths

-Expand reach

-Create innovative solutions

B. Diplomatic Facilitation (required to facilitate exchange programmes for environmental scientists)

-Visa assistance

-Administrative support

-Experts sourcing & encouragement.

Meanwhile, stakeholders at the event agreed with the need to support the Ogoni Clean-up Project, noting that the Project is midwifing environmental sustainability, and called on managers of the Project to continue to mainstream its gains and prioritise the Ogoni people in the scheme of things.

Team Member, IARC-WHO Ogoni Human Biomonitoring Study, Mike Cowing; Deputy Head of Delegation of the European Union, Zissimos Vergos; and Emmanuel Koyole of Ford Foundation gave goodwill messages at the event.

In attendance were representatives of the diplomatic community and financial institutions, Ogoni traditional rulers, officials of WHO-IARC and Federal Ministry of Environment, representatives of Renaissance Africa Energy, members of the Board of Trustees of the Ogoni Trust Funds Incorporated, among others.

# OGONI SOCIO-ECONOMIC STUDY REPORT, ROAD MAP FOR NIGER DELTA DEVELOPMENT - *Prof Zabbey*

The Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP) funded Socio-Economic Study in Ogoni has been described as a process of producing a template for the development of not only the Ogoni area but the entire Niger Delta and other areas with similar experience and physiognomies.

Speaking at the end of a two-day review session of the Ogoni Socio-Economic Study Report held in Port Harcourt, the Project Coordinator of the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project, Prof. Nenibarini Zabbey said, by conducting the study and the review, the Project is establishing the essential framework for Ogoni's sustainable socio-economic growth through the development of critical infrastructure.

Prof. Zabbey explained that in anticipation of the report, HYPREP has been actively initiating frameworks to promote socio-

economic progress in the region, and that this effort is reflected in several development-driven projects HYPREP has undertaken. These, he said, include the construction of the 100-bed Ogoni Specialist Hospital, the 43-bed Cottage Hospital in Buan, the Ogoni Power Project, the Centre of Excellence for Environmental Restoration (CEER), the provision of potable water for 49 communities, the remediation projects covering land, groundwater, shoreline, and mangrove restoration, as well as the various sustainable livelihoods and capacity-building programmes of HYPREP.

He noted that the Federal Government is changing the landscape of the region with the development of critical infrastructure like the Bodo-Bonny Road, establishment of the Federal University of Environment and Technology (FUET), and a proposed industrial park in Ogoni.

The high capacity and engaging review sessions, attended by distinguished professors, experienced administrators, community leaders, and civil society organizations representatives, was coordinated by the Study Team, headed by Prof. Alubabari Desmond Nbeta is a major step in validating the Socio-Economic Study commissioned by HYPREP, which aims to provide a blueprint for Governments and development partners towards sustainable development of Ogoni.

Prof. Zabbey further said the review seeks to produce a 'People's Report' – a document that will be inter-generational, considering the diverse socio-economic dynamics of Ogoni, and reflecting the aspirations of small-scale farmers, fisher folks, youth, women, and underserved communities in the region. He expressed optimism that the report's actionable recommendations would lead to tangible, sustainable



**HYPREP Coordinator, Prof. Zabbey, Members of the Socio-Economic Study Group and HYPREP Staff at the End of a Two Day Report Review Session**

development.

He also indicated that the Ogoni Socio-Economic Study Report is scheduled for launch this year, as part of the activities to mark the 10th Anniversary of HYPREP, and commended the Study and Review Teams on their dedication to the task.

Prof. Zabbey particularly commended the research team for the extensive data gathering, and thanked participants for painstakingly going through the report, making their comments and filling the gaps.

He charged the review groups to frame their recommendations in a way that will be actionable and implementable, saying the essence is not to develop a blueprint for HYPREP but to produce the people's report for the small-holder farmers and all categories of persons. "Let us frame the recommendations with the mindset that it is for everyone," he

said.

"We are gathered here to enable us produce a report that will be acceptable and reflect our collective desires. The report has to capture the Ramsar site, and state what it means for the Ogoni people to maintain ecological character of the site; how to preserve the site for the benefit of the people through sustainable harvesting.

"The report should look into the future for it to be relevant, knowing that we are on a transformative journey. We have a destination, we know where we are headed, and we will get there. We have full confidence in the team, we trust a good report will be made, with the support we are ready to continue to give," Prof. Zabbey expounded.

The Ogoni Socio-Economic Study was initiated in July 2025, with respondents randomly selected from

the four Local Government Areas of Ogoni. Focus group discussions were also conducted with community representatives. Professor Alubabari Desmond Nbeta, a Professor of Social and Political Philosophy at the University of Port Harcourt, is leading the Study alongside other distinguished members of the research team.

This Study is a key recommendation of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) report on Ogoni's environment and its implementation is a demonstration of HYPREP's commitment to the full implementation of its findings, in line with the "Renewed Hope Agenda" of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, which includes Deliverable 3, Priority 3 Presidential Directive, aimed at accelerating the Ogoni Clean-up Project.

## **PROF. ZABBEY SUES FOR OBJECTIVE REPORTAGE OF HYPREP ACTIVITIES**

**T**he Project Coordinator of the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP), Prof. Nenibarini Zabbey has commended journalists covering activities of the Project for demonstrating professionalism in their reportage.

Prof. Zabbey stated this in Port Harcourt at an interactive forum with members of the Fourth Estate of the Realm on environment beat drawn from leading local and national media organizations. He expressed contentment with the level of professionalism and cooperation demonstrated by the reporters and appealed for sustained mutual relationship as the project implementation continues.

The HYPREP helmsman, who was

visibly delighted to meet with the Journalists, described the event as divinely arranged as it coincided with his third anniversary in office as Coordinator of the Project.

Expressing gratitude to God for the success recorded within the period under his watch, he described the Journalists as partners in progress, explaining that he decided to wine and dine with them to show appreciation for the tremendous contributions they have made as key stakeholders on the Project.

"The success of the Project has been largely driven by the cooperation of the media. The collaboration has contributed to advancing the realization of objectives of the Project in Ogoni, and I appeal to you to keep it coming. We hope that as we continue to improve in getting things done right on the Project,

you also will not fail to do your best in giving us your objective coverage of our activities and programmes," he said.

Emphasizing the need for hard work, factual and timely reporting, Prof. Zabbey particularly paid tribute to an investigative journalist, Comrade Patrick Naagbantou, of blessed memory, who he said was his mentor, saying he learnt a lot from his journalistic prowess and always being on top of events and reporting accurately without twisting the facts; a trait he admonished everyone to imbibe. In his speech, the Chairman, Rivers State Council of the Nigeria Union of Journalists, Comrade Paul Bazia, thanked the Project Coordinator for deeming it necessary to sit with Journalists in such a special forum.

Bazia commended Prof. Zabbey for

achieving much within three years of being on the Project as Coordinator, particularly in mangrove restoration, potable water supply, construction of the Centre of Excellence for Environmental Restoration and land remediation.

He congratulated the Project Coordinator on his three years of positive impact and appealed for his sustained openness and availability to the media, which he believes will ensure better collaboration and successful implementation of the Project.

He reassured HYPREP of the support of the Union and requested for regular facility tours of project sites in Ogoniland.

Also speaking, a renowned Broadcast Journalist, Segun Owolabi congratulated the Project Coordinator on his third anniversary in office, saying he has been a blessing to the Project and the Ogoni people and re-emphasized the need for a cordial relationship with the media, which he said is indispensable in achieving success.

In their separate speeches, the Chairman, Ogoni Journalists Platform, Elder B. B. Nwikabari, and Elder Christian Lekia, congratulated Prof. Zabbey on his achievements, and charged him to continue the good works, particularly his disposition to including all segments of stakeholders.

They acknowledged that the forum was a significant step towards strengthening media relations and deepening public awareness about the Project.

In his vote of thanks, the Head of Communications, Dr. Enuolare Mbanwigoh, expressed gratitude to the media practitioners for honouring the invitation, and commended the Project Coordinator for approving the event.

He reiterated HYPREP's commitment to a robust relationship with the media, appealing to the journalists to maintain professionalism in their reportage of the Project.

## REMEDIATION: PROF. ZABBEY TASKS STAFF ON PROPER DOCUMENTATION, COLLABORATION

The three-day extensive training for staff of the Environmental Remediation Unit of the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP) has ended with a charge on them to ensure accurate documentation and collaboration in the discharge of their responsibilities.

The Project Coordinator, Prof. Nenibarini Zabbey who was represented by the Director of Technical Services, Prof. Damian-Paul Aguiyi made the appeal at a training for staff of the Environmental Remediation Unit held in Port Harcourt, and called on the staff to focus on achieving result and be mindful of safety protocols in the office and in the field.

Prof. Zabbey commended the staff on their dedication to duty, which he said has significantly contributed to the success story of the Project, urging them to ensure proper handling and documentation of work done on sites.

While appealing to them to take the training and their work seriously, he



**HYPREP Remediation Staff at Bomu Mangrove Restoration Site**

reassured them of management's commitment to their welfare and provision of conducive work environment.

The training, which had staff of all the Sub-units of Remediation in attendance, featured presentations on Introduction to HYPREP Organogram, Governance Structures, Thematic Mandate and Job Ethics, Use of Project Tools and Detailed Site Risk Assessment and Characterization, and Linking Field Assurance/Quality Control with Laboratory Analysis for Reliable Environmental Data, and optimizing Appropriate Remediation

Approaches/Techniques in the Remediation of Soil and Groundwater.

Day 2 had presentations on Overview of Shoreline Clean Up efforts in the Niger Delta, An Overview of Mangrove Restoration Efforts, Biodiversity and Carbon Credit, Certification and Close Out of Remediated Sites: Frameworks, Standards and Challenges in Ensuring Environmentally Safe and Sustainable Land.

Day 3 featured Safety and Security Briefing, and Fieldwork and a field trip to soil and groundwater remediation sites in Eleme, shoreline and mangrove project sites in Gokana.

# HYPREP TRAINS ANOTHER SET OF 1420 YOUTHS FOR IMO CERTIFICATION

The Project Coordinator of the Hydrocarbon Pollution remediation Project, Prof. Nenibarini Zabbey has said the training of about one thousand four hundred and twenty (1420) Ogoni youths to acquire the International Maritime Organization (IMO) certification is part of HYPREP's efforts to transform lives and provide sustainable means of livelihoods for families in Ogoniland.

Prof. Zabbey stated this at the flag-off of the phase 2 of the Shoreline Clean-up and Mangrove Restoration IMO training of community workers held at Government Secondary School, Kpor, Gokana Local Government Area.

The Training, which is segmented into three batches, comprised young men and women who had gone through professional recruitment protocols, including medical/health checks and swimming test.

The Project Coordinator, Prof. Zabbey said the training is in line with HYPREP's objective to build local capacity in environmental management, and that the Faculty of Vocational Studies, one of the faculties in the Centre of Excellence for Environmental Restoration (CEER), when operational will further continue the training of Ogoni youths and Nigerians in various vocational skills.

“We are on a transformative journey, which calls for collective efforts towards maintaining the gains of the Ogoni Cleanup Project. I came to encourage and remind you of the importance of restoring biodiversity. The Project is collaborating with the Green Frontiers (the 32 Environment

Clubs set up by HYPREP in Secondary Schools in Ogoni) to set up nurseries for some economic trees to encourage tree planting in the region. This will help in providing quality air, green and clean environment for human habitation, he said.”

He added that the training will consolidate ongoing and concluded high demand skills the Project provides for the teeming youths and women of Ogoni, some of which are Commercial Diving/Underwater Welding, Mud logging, GIS, Rope Access, Cyber Security, Full-Stack Development, Mechatronics, Seafaring, Creative Arts, Aviation, among others.

The HYPREP Coordinator maintained that the skills acquired will help provide opportunity to work on various HYPREP projects, and significantly contribute to capacity development, create jobs, and boost local economy, and encouraged them to remain focused, build solid foundation, and to change the narrative by contributing to the development of Ogoni with the utilization of the acquired skills.

“We all have a role to play in sustaining the Project. If we all play it well, it will better our lives and develop our communities. I urge you

to match against oil theft and artisanal refining. Pay attention to the teachers and go out to put your skill into practice so that the environment will be better,” he charged.

The Project Coordinator, who participated in the training session in each of the classes, expressed delight at the number of females participating in the training, which he noted, speaks to the Project's policy of inclusivity, noting that the policy is also extended to persons living with disabilities, and are benefiting from Project programmes, including the ongoing training of 300 of them in 5 skill sets.

He urged the trainees to prioritize safety, while taking the training seriously, given its prospects beyond the Ogoni Cleanup Project, adding that they would be contributing to increasing the Project's record of over 9 million man-hours without fatalities.

The Project Coordinator had earlier visited the K-Dere Water Station and later inspected ongoing work at the Transmission Sub-station of the Ogoni Power Project in Bodo City in Gokana. The visit was to assess the level of work on the projects. The K-Dere Water Project is ready for commissioning, while gantries are being erected at the Bodo Transmission Sub-station.



**Community Workers in Training for IMO Levels 1 & 2**

# CONVENTION ON WETLANDS PRESENTS OGO NI RAMSAR CERTIFICATE TO PROF. ZABBEY

The RAMSAR Certificate designating Ogoni wetlands as RAMSAR Site of International Importance has been formally presented to the Project Coordinator of the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP), Prof. Nenibarini Zabbey.

The Director 2, Forestry, Christopher Aiwuyo; Assistant Director, Forestry in the Federal Ministry of Environment and Ramsar Nigerian Focal Person, Labaran Ahmed jointly presented the certificate to Prof. Zabbey at the Project Coordination Office in Port Harcourt.

Excited by the certificate presentation, Prof. Zabbey said the designation of Ogoni as a RAMSAR

Site of International Importance is a call to greater responsibility and one that will further strengthen the Project's efforts to biodiversity recovery and environmental sustainability in Ogoni.

Prof. Zabbey is optimistic that the Ogoni RAMSAR Site will be more pronounced, given HYPREP's sustained efforts to conserve the wetlands through its shoreline clean-up and mangrove restoration project and disclosed that HYPREP has set up a RAMSAR Desk to monitor biodiversity recovery and associated gains from shoreline clean-up and mangrove restoration in Ogoni.

The HYPREP Coordinator further disclosed that the Project is partnering with the World Maritime University to

determine the biodiversity of Ogoni wetlands using eDNA (genetic material left by organisms in the environment) and expressed optimism that the Ogoni wetlands will be well researched and published.

Prof. Zabbey stated that adopting a multi-stakeholder approach to managing the wetlands, will require HYPREP to work closely with communities and civil society organisations (CSOs) to put in place a sustainable management framework that will preserve the Ogoni ecosystem.

"We are keen on ensuring that the benefits of the designation of Ogoni as a RAMSAR Site of International Importance and the restoration efforts will be felt by communities."

He explained that HYPREP is partnering with the GEF Project on carbon sequestration for carbon credits, which will contribute to preserving the ecosystem, improving the local economy, and providing community benefits, and stated that the partnership is aimed at mobilising funds for environmental sustainability in Ogoni and Nigeria.

On 6th March 2026, the Convention on Wetlands designated Ogoni Wetlands as RAMSAR Site of International Importance. The global recognition highlights the ecological value of Ogoni mangrove wetlands and affirms the importance of HYPREP's ongoing, extensive restoration of oil-degraded mangroves in Ogoni. The mangrove wetlands are vital for maintaining biodiversity, safeguarding the environment, and supporting sustainable livelihoods.



Assistant Director, Federal Ministry of Environment, Christopher Aiwuyo Presents RAMSAR Certificate for Ogoni Wetlands to HYPREP Coordinator, Prof. Nenibarini Zabbey

# RIGHTS GROUP ADMITS PROF. ZABBEY INTO KEN SARO-WIWA HALL OF FAME

## - Says HYPREP Making a Difference Under Him as Project Coordinator

In recognition of his towering achievements in piloting the Ogoni Cleanup Project being carried out by the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP), a prominent civil society organization in the Niger Delta, Center for Environment, Human Rights and Development (CEHRD), has admitted the Project Coordinator of HYPREP, Prof. Nenibarini Zabbey into the Ken Saro-Wiwa Hall of Fame.

The non-governmental organization based in Port Harcourt also stated that HYPREP, under Prof. Zabbey, as Project Coordinator, within three years has made significant difference, meeting expectations and delivering on its mandate.

Speaking during the rights group's visit to the HYPREP head office in Port Harcourt, the Chairman, Board of Trustees, CEHRD, Chief Constance Meju, said they were in the Project's office to thank the Management of HYPREP for giving their former Executive Director, Prof. Zabbey the opportunity to serve the people, and to demonstrate what he knows how best to do.

Chief Meju noted that CEHRD is confident in Prof. Zabbey's ability to deliver as someone who understands the Niger Delta environmental problems and how to address them, adding that he was released to serve on the Cleanup Project as an ambassador, and they have come to say they are satisfied with his management of the Project.

"We have come to also encourage and strengthen him, and to say we are



**Chairman, CEHRD BoT, Chief Constance Meju Presents a Portrait to Prof. Zabbey**

proud of him. With HYPREP, there is hope, and Prof. Zabbey represents that hope. So, we say well-done, and wish him greater success.

"Please, continue to keep HYPREP on the right path, so that the dream of the Niger Delta peoples will be fully realized, because we believe if you get it right, the Niger Delta will get it right," the CEHRD BOT Chairman stated.

While urging the Project Coordinator to keep the light shining, Chief Meju, on behalf of CEHRD, presented an award for distinguished service and a gigantic portrait to the Project Coordinator, and also said that Prof. Zabbey has been inducted into the Ken Saro-Wiwa Hall of Fame located at Legacy House, D-Line, in Port Harcourt.

Responding, the Project Coordinator of the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project, Prof. Nenibarini Zabbey expressed delight at the visit and the honour done him by

the management and staff of the Centre for Environment and Human Rights Development (CEHRD), describing the visit as a family meeting.

Prof. Zabbey, while commending CEHRD's mangrove restoration initiative in Kono community, used the opportunity to enumerate the achievements of HYPREP in the implementation of UNEP recommendations on Ogoni land.

He said among other achievements, the construction of the Centre of Excellence for Environmental restoration has reached 96% completion; the Ogoni Power Project, which is one of the key sustainability initiatives of HYPREP, is advancing significantly; the Ogoni Specialist Hospital is 78% completed; and assured that the Shoreline Cleanup Project is ongoing with CEHRD and other Civil Society Organizations fully involved.

He added that the recent



**HYPREP Coordinator, Prof. Zabbey, Staff of HYPREP and CEHRD During their Visit to HYPREP Office**

declaration and certification of Ogoni wetlands as Ramsar site of international importance is a great achievement that should be celebrated.

The Project Coordinator explained that HYPREP is resetting the environment for biodiversity to thrive, and that he understands the gravity of the Project's responsibility. "We owe our forebears the duty to ensure that Ogoni is fully remediated and the livelihoods of the people are restored. We are mindful of the fact that the work in Ogoni is basically developing a template for other areas, and HYPREP will continue to do its best to achieve that," he said.

While acknowledging the support of the civil society organizations, Prof. Zabbey reassured that HYPREP will deliver sustainable development and build a template that everybody will be proud of, describing his admission into the Ken Saro-Wiwa Hall of Fame

as a mark of honour that he will not take for granted.

On his part, the Director of Technical Services, Prof. Damian-Paul Aguiyi thanked the management and staff of CEHRD for the honour done the Project Coordinator and HYPREP, saying Prof. Zabbey still has a lot to offer on the Project as he has demonstrated competence in the discharge of his duties.

He said Prof. Zabbey has turned around HYPREP in the last three years, and that the success recorded is an eloquent testimony to that fact.

The Saro-Wiwa Hall of Fame has notable personalities like, Karl Marx, Charles Darwin, Mother Teresa, Martin Luther King Jr., Ken Saro-Wiwa, Mahatma Ghandi, Dele Giwa, Gani Fawehinmi, and Patrick Naagbanton and Prof. Nenibarini Zabbey as the latest inductee.

Similarly, the Project Coordinator of the Hydrocarbon Pollution

Remediation Project, Prof. Nenibarini Zabbey who was recently awarded the Social Impact Man of the Year by the Daily Independent Newspapers, received the Grow African Prize for Excellence award as an Icon of Nation Building.

The award affirms Prof. Zabbey's hard work and contributions to societal development through grassroots human empowerment.

The Pentecostal Fellowship of Nigeria in conjunction with all the churches in Gokana also gave an award to Prof. Zabbey in view of his enthusiasm and generosity towards the advancement of Christianity. In like manner, the Senior Staff Club of the University of Port Harcourt recently gave an award to Prof. Nenibarini Zabbey, as special recognition for his outstanding leadership and contributions to the growth and development of the Senior Staff Club and the society at large.

# Birthday Felicitations



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



**HAPPY  
BIRTHDAY**  
PROF. NENIBARINI ZABBEY (26th June)

*Thank you for the Milestone  
Achievements and the  
Acceleration of the Pace of Project  
Implementation!  
Wishing you good health and long life.*

*From:  
Management & Staff  
of*  
**HYPREP**

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

## PEACE IS THE FIRST SEED WE MUST SOW

**By: Charles Gininwa**

Peace is the first seed we must sow,  
In quiet hearts where kind winds of community blow,  
Roots in soil of trust and grace,  
And blooms in every embrace and site,  
A gentle strength all souls should know.

Peace is the first seed we must sow,  
For fields of hope to rise and grow,  
Where Ogoni wetlands wear their crown,  
A Ramsar honour of great renown,  
Even the shores dance wet and mangroves row.

Peace is the first seed we must sow,  
So brothers mend what they once tore,  
For when hands unite, the works will stand,  
And blessings spread across the land,  
Rewarding all forevermore.

Peace is the first seed we must sow,  
To build a nation strong and whole,  
Where unity writes Ogoni's song,  
And every heart can still belong,  
In harmony that feeds the land.

## Editorial Crew

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Clara Azubuike	Reporter
Imgbi Ebimoboere	Reporter (NYSC)
Mercy Buola	Reporter (NYSC)
Tombari Naadue	Camera
Godwin Norbana	Camera
Lekue Akpo	Camera

Photo:HYPREP



## **THE ENVIRONMENT ON MARBLE**

**“The best friend on earth of man is the tree. When we use the tree respectfully and economically, we have one of the greatest resources on earth.”**

**– Frank Lloyd Wright**

**Photo:HYPREP**

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

A Publication of the Communications Unit of HYPREP

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