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HYDROCARBON POLLUTION REMEDIATION PROJECT
HYPREP...Remediating the Environment and Restoring Livelihoods

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



HYPREP Coordinator, Prof. Zabbey with a Physically Challenged Trainee under HYPREP Livelihood Programme

**GLOBAL ATTENTION, INTERESTS RISE,
AS HYPREP SUCCESSES SOAR**

**HYPREP COORDINATOR EXPRESSES SATISFACTION
WITH HUMAN BIOMONITORING PROCESS IN OGONI**
- As Researchers Commence Collection of Samples From Volunteers

**PROF. ZABBEY REITERATES HYPREP'S COMMITMENT TO
HUMAN CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT IN OGONI**

**HYPREP
HERALD
NOT
TO BE
SOLD**

THE PC'S DESK



PROF. NENIBARINI ZABBEY
PROJECT COORDINATOR
(HYPREP)

The Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP) was established to achieve many objectives. Its mandate is to implement the recommendations of the UNEP report (2011) on the environmental assessment of Ogoniland, as outlined in the HYPREP Establishment Gazette 2016. Remediation of oil-contaminated land and restoration of livelihoods is the core mandate of HYPREP. Other objectives of HYPREP include the provision of potable water, strengthening the public health system, building capacity in environmental management, promoting security, peacebuilding, transparency and accountability. In the most recent editions (May and June) of the HYPREP Herald, we reported on development results from the Ogoni cleanup under the current administration. Specifically, we highlighted progress made in the construction of the Ogoni Power Project, the provision of potable

water, alternative livelihoods, land remediation, shoreline cleanup, mangrove restoration, and the recent designation of the Ogoni mangrove wetlands as a Ramsar Site of International Importance by the Secretariat of the Convention on Wetlands.

In this July edition of the newsletter (HYPREP Herald), we bring you Part 3 of the series – 'Ogoni Clean-up: 3 Years of Accelerated Impact', which highlights the achievements of the Project within the period under review in the areas of peacebuilding, promoting security, transparency and accountability, innovative research, and building partnerships and linkages. We are using the Ogoni Clean-up Project to create a knowledge-driven economy through innovative research and capacity building in sustainable environmental management. In addition to continuous training for thousands of Ogoni youth and women working across more than 100 sites, we have established a robust internship programme for students at tertiary institutions to support industrial work experience. To ensure restoration of mangrove in the region is community-driven and ecologically sound, we have published a user-friendly mangrove restoration manual and a sustainable mangrove management report titled: "Ogoniland and the Niger Delta: Mangrove Restoration and Conservation Strategy." We distributed the restoration manual globally and used it in training Ogoni youth and women.

In one of the remediated and

closed-out simple sites, we have experimented with bio-fertilisers produced with native microbes isolated from soils in Ogoni. The bio-fertiliser enhances soil fertility and improves crop yields. On the HYPREP demonstration farm in Nkeleoken, Eleme Local Government Area, crops such as tomato, cassava, maize, fluted pumpkin, and cucumber were planted and supplemented with the bio-fertiliser, resulting in bumper harvests. To reduce the plastic burden, HYPREP has successfully experimented with Growcon in a mangrove nursery. Our novel research in bloody cockle restoration and data generated from our fish stock assessment would contribute to knowledge. To advance knowledge in remediation and restoration, we have begun writing and submitting scientific articles to relevant mainstream journals.

In the area of human capacity development, we have hosted more than four hundred (400) tertiary students for industrial attachment and exposed them to hands-on experience. Similarly, over 100 corps members under the National Youth Service Corps Scheme have gained practical experience from the cleanup project. In addition, we have established a sabbatical leave programme, linking town and gown to improve learning and knowledge productivity, and opening our sites to undergraduate and postgraduate students and their lecturers for excursions to promote academic engagement. To optimize the development outcomes of establishing the Centre of Excellence for

Environmental Restoration (CEER), we created a special internship programme for 90 young graduates of Engineering and Environmental Science from Ogoni at the CEER. These young graduate trainees gained practical experience across all aspects of the centre's construction.

One of the objectives of HYPREP is to promote peacebuilding and security in Ogoni so that socio-economic activities can thrive for national development. In this regard, with the immense support of the Office of the National Security Adviser, we have engaged ex-artisanal oil refiners of Ogoni origin to prevent oil contamination and re-contamination of remediated sites. Some of the ex-artisanal refiners have been employed either as civil security guards or as part of the over 7000 direct jobs created on our various project sites. We are currently training 200 ex-artisanal refiners in commercial diving and underwater welding. Character reformation starts in the mind; therefore, we conduct quarterly sensitisation sessions with Ogoni youths to provide civic education and deepen their ownership of the project. These measures have improved the safety of oil facilities and installations in the area, reduced the threat of re-pollution, and reinforced the Federal Government's ongoing anti-repollution campaigns.

In conflict prevention, the HYPREP Project Coordination Office has trained traditional rulers and other community leaders in Alternative Dispute Resolution to ensure uninterrupted community

operations and foster an atmosphere of peace and security. With improved mediation skills, land and inter-communal disputes have been nipped in the bud or resolved without escalating into violence. To ensure seamless operations, we have developed, through multi-stakeholder consultations, a simple, fit-for-purpose and user-friendly handbook for community engagement, contract administration and conflict prevention. The handbook is widely distributed and has recently been updated.

Environmental remediation is a highly technical field that requires knowledge exchange and technology transfer. It also requires training and partnerships with reputable institutions renowned in the field. To this end, we have established a research and training partnership with the UK-based Lancaster University Environment Centre and the Cooperative Research Centre for Contamination Assessment and Remediation of the Environment (CRC-CARE) at the University of Newcastle, New South Wales, Australia. Both the Lancaster University Environment Centre and the CRC-CARE at the University of Newcastle are assisting HYPREP in developing frameworks for the sustainable operationalisation of the CEER. Similarly, these partnerships are expected to snowball into joint short courses and postgraduate programmes.

HYPREP's growing achievements have increased the global visibility of the Ogoni

Clean-up Project. Thus, we have hosted high-profile visitors at the Project Coordination Office and have received invitations to speak at national and international conferences on HYPREP operations and development results. Some of the national and international speaking engagements are reported in this edition of the HYPREP Herald.

The Project Coordination Office secured its first external grant from the Commonwealth Blue Charter for a project titled "Rapid Assessment of Policy Gaps for Sustainable Mangrove Management in the Niger Delta." The project was co-created and co-implemented with the Rivers State University and international partners, including the Mangrove Action Project (MAP). At the end of the project, the funders were impressed and introduced HYPREP key institutions to their network, which will ultimately lead to access to more grants.

We continue to broaden our stakeholder engagement and integration through strategic communication, including town halls, radio programmes, publications such as the HYPREP Herald, and social media.

Our commitment to the holistic and simultaneous implementation of the UNEP-recommended actions remains unwavering, despite the challenges we face from time to time. With the sustained support of all stakeholders, we are confident of success across all thematic fronts of the Ogoni cleanup.

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

In This Issue

We intended to conclude the serialisation of the "Ogoni Clean-up: 3 Years of Accelerated Impact," that we started in our May edition, in June, but the volume of the achievements has informed the extension to the July edition.

So, in this edition, we lead with the 'Part 3' of the accelerated impact of the Ogoni Clean-up in the last three years, covering the areas of Research and Development, Security and Anti-pollution Measures, Peacebuilding and Conflict Prevention, Linkages and Partnerships, Engagement of a post UNEP team for Technical Support, Project Visibility, External Funding, Wetland Conservation, Public Communication and Transparency, and Stakeholder Engagement.

The Minister of Environment and Chairman, Governing Council of HYPREP, Balarabe Abbas Lawal, and the Project Coordinator of HYPREP, Prof. Nenibarini Zabbey, were at the 8th Assembly of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) that held in Samarkan, Uzbekistan, where they addressed the world body on Nigeria's effort in mitigating climate change and progress made on the Ogoni Clean-up Project. And following the global visibility that the Ogoni Clean-up Project has attracted in the last three years, members of the International Working Group on Petroleum Pollution and Just Energy Transition were at the Project Coordination Office of HYPREP to have first-hand information on the progress recorded

on the Project. They were taken to HYPREP sites in Ogoni, where they expressed admiration and satisfaction with the achievements of the Project.

The Human Bio-monitoring Study of Ogoni, as recommended by the United Nations Environment Programme, has commenced with the collection of samples from the first batch of volunteers from Ogoni. Project Coordinator of HYPREP, Prof. Nenibarini Zabbey was at the Research Centre at the Rivers State University, venue of the study being carried out by the International Agency for Research on Cancer of the World Health Organization (IARC-WHO) to monitor the exercise.

Members of the Ogoni Nurses Association were also at the Project Coordination Office to identify with the Ogoni Clean-up Project and to seek areas of possible collaboration to give the health programme of HYPREP the support needed to make it succeed.

The livelihood training programme for Persons Living with Disabilities is on-going. Prof. Zabbey paid a working visit to one of the venues of the training at the Ken Saro-Wiwa Polytechnics, Bori, to see how the trainees are faring with their training. Prof. Zabbey used the opportunity to pay a courtesy call on

the newly appointed Rector of the Polytechnic, Dr. George Chile Wadike.

The Project Coordination Office of HYPREP joined in the celebration of this year's world environment day. Prof. Nenibarini Zabbey used the event to showcase the progress made in the effort to remediate polluted sites in Ogoni.

The Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP) is ten. We have reproduced the speech of the Project Coordinator, Prof. Zabbey to mark a decade of HYPREP operations in Ogoni.

On June 26, the Project Coordinator of HYPREP, Prof. Zabbey turned 52. The management and staff of the Project celebrated a man they described as a master strategist and having great abilities in turning the Project around for good in the last three years of being in the saddle as the Coordinator.

We have continued to buttress our reports with evidence in photos in the respective pages, and have also maintained the 'Poetry Corner' for your reading pleasure and we encourage you to go through the pages for update on the Ogoni Clean-up Project.

Your feedback is valuable to us.



Training session for Ogoni Traditional Rulers on ADR and Certificate Presentation to the Participants by Prof. Zabbey

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

RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

- HYPREP, in line with its mandate to build local capacity for environmental management, has published a user-friendly manual for mangrove restoration aimed at promoting ecologically sound, multi-species mangrove restoration in Nigeria and, more broadly, throughout the Gulf of Guinea. The manual ensures that both the art and science of mangrove restoration are adhered to in the Ogoni mangrove restoration project and similar initiatives, and the knowledge documented for easy access and application at any time and place.
- In addition, HYPREP released a comprehensive framework entitled “Ogoniland and the Niger Delta: Mangrove Restoration and Conservation Strategy”, which guides mangrove restoration and conservation efforts across Nigeria.
- To support the fisheries enhancement aspect of the mangrove restoration project, HYPREP conducted fish stock assessment research to establish a baseline for measuring progress.
- To prevent plastic pollution in nursery practices, HYPREP introduced the use of Growcoon, a biodegradable nursery bag which is environmentally friendly, aligning with national

efforts to combat plastic pollution.

- Post-remediation care research has also been intensified to remove residual oil and enhance soil fertility. Notably, impressive removal of residual oil has been recorded. On a demonstration farm in Nkeleoken, Eleme Local Government Area, various crops such as tomato, cassava, maize, fluted pumpkin, and cucumber have been successfully planted, yielding good harvest.

REGIONAL CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

- About 400 students have gained hands-on experience during their industrial placements on the project. The HYPREP office also serves as the primary assignment location for young graduates

participating in the National Youth Service Corps Programme, with 65 corpsers having so far completed their service at HYPREP.

- The project has also established and continuously supported environmental clubs, known as the Green Frontiers, in secondary schools in Ogoniland to develop the environmental management capacity of young people through in-class training and field exhibitions, thereby broadening the impact of citizen awareness and action for sustainability.
- HYPREP has established a sabbatical leave programme, linking town and gown to improve learning and knowledge productivity. The collaboration



Inset Picture Showing Cultured Bloody Cockles that HYPREP PC, Prof. Zabbey is Admiring in the Container Before Him During His Visit to The Nigerian Institute For Oceanography and Marine Research, Buguma Rivers State



HYPREP Demonstration Farm on Remediated/Closed-out Site at Nkeleoken, Eleme, Showing Good Crop Performance

has thus linked up universities across the country with the Ogoni Cleanup Project, allowing distinguished professors to spend a year on sabbatical at the Project Coordination Office (PCO).

- Additionally, HYPREP has created a specialized internship programme at the construction site of the Centre of Excellence for Environmental Restoration (CEER), offering practical experience to 90 Ogoni young graduates in engineering and the sciences.
- To further develop capacity in key thematic areas, HYPREP initiated a robust industrial training programme for undergraduate and postgraduate students in tertiary institutions across the country.
- HYPREP actively promotes academic engagement through

excursion visits to remediation sites. Postgraduate students and lecturers from universities such as the University of Port Harcourt, Rivers State University, and the Nigerian Maritime University have visited our phase 2 remediation sites, gaining valuable exposure to real world environmental remediation practices. These visits foster institutional collaboration and dialogue between researchers, students, and field professionals.

SECURITY AND ANTI-POLLUTION MEASURES

- Facilitated by the support of the Office of the National Security Adviser, the security and anti-repollution measures include deployment of civil security, prevention of re-pollution and partnership with ex-artisanal

refiners.

- To ensure a safe working environment, HYPREP has enhanced security in Ogoniland by integrating a non-kinetic approach alongside kinetic operations, thereby creating safer project sites for staff, contractors, project partners and the wider public.
- A platform has been created by the Project Coordination Office for quarterly engagement with over 1,000 Ogoni youths to foster peacebuilding and encourage buy-in for the project. The project recruited, trained, and deployed 500 civil security guards who provide site protection and relay intelligence.
- Efforts to eliminate illegal oil bunkering and artisanal refining along the Ogoni shoreline have been largely successful through

security patrols, partnerships with former artisanal refiners through their umbrella body, the Ogoni Ex-Artisanal Refiners Forum, and sustained youth sensitization.

- These measures have improved the safety of oil facilities and installations in the area, reduced the threat of re-pollution, and reinforced ongoing anti-repollution campaigns through continuous engagement with local communities.

PEACE BUILDING AND CONFLICT PREVENTION

- In line with its peacebuilding mandate, HYPREP has published a comprehensive Handbook on Community Engagement and Conflict Prevention, which has been distributed widely to

stakeholders. This resource facilitates conflict prevention and resolution on project sites through Alternative Dispute Resolution and Peacebuilding Techniques through Ogoni Traditional Rulers and Other Key Stakeholders, which was conducted by the Centre for Peace and Security Studies, University of Port Harcourt. The training had in attendance Government-Recognised traditional rulers, paramount rulers and various stakeholders across the four Local Government Areas of Ogoni. In addition, frequent engagements are held with women and persons living with special needs to ensure inclusivity and sustained community support.

- The Central Representative

Advisory Committee (CRAC) and the Zonal Representative Committee (ZRC) are organs of HYPREP saddled with the responsibility of conflict management between HYPREP and host communities.

- The HYPREP Governing Council approved the Civic Education and Constructive Engagement (CECE) campaign as recommended by the HYPREP Project Coordination Office to foster understanding, define community roles and enhance cooperation to ensure that the objectives of the Federal Government of Nigeria through HYPREP are achieved in an atmosphere of peace and security.



Visit of the CEO and Managing Director of the Cooperative Research Centre for Contamination Assessment and Remediation of the Environment (crcCARE) of the University of Newcastle, Australia, Laureate Prof. Ravi Naidu, to the HYPREP Centre of Excellence for Environmental Restoration under Construction

LINKAGES AND PARTNERSHIPS

- Established research and training partnership with UK-based Lancaster University Environment Centre.
- Established research and training partnership with the world-renowned CRC-CARE Remediation Center, University of Newcastle, New South Wales, Australia. Both Lancaster University Environment Centre and the CRC-CARE Remediation Center, University of Newcastle, New South Wales, Australia will through the partnership assist HYPREP run its Centre of Excellence for Environmental Restoration that it is building.
- Trained 13 remediation staff in groundwater assessment, remediation, and monitoring at CRC-CARE Remediation Center in Australia.
- Established a biotechnology partnership with Contec Group to isolate hydrocarbon-degrading microbes and use the isolates to produce biofertilizers for post-remediation aftercare to enhance fertility and remove residual oil on the sites that HYPREP has remediated.
- Established a partnership with the Nigerian Information Technology Development Agency (NITDA) on ICT training support and developing Artificial Intelligence (AI) devices to monitor restored mangrove areas.
- Established a partnership with the Small and Medium Enterprises Development Agency of Nigeria (SMEDAN). This partnership will grow and nurture entrepreneurship in Ogoni, especially among the youths.

- Established a partnership with the Drosophila Institute, University of Ibadan. We are co-researching exposure to hydrocarbon and its impact on human health using Drosophila as the simulator.

RENEWED UN COMMITMENT AND SUPPORT

- The United Nations System continues to play a key role in the implementation of the Ogoni Clean-up Project.
- The Project secured the endorsement and renewed support of the UN Resident Coordinator and support of the UN agencies under him including the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the World Health Organization (WHO), and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Nigeria.
- These agencies have committed to partnering with HYPREP by providing technical support and collaborating on initiatives related to alternative livelihoods, alternative energy sources, climate change mitigation, blue carbon, food security, potable water, public health, and more. It is a technology enhancement and technical support for HYPREP.
- The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) provided technical support at various stages in the project evolution process to ensure the success of the Ogoni clean-up initiative. As part of the project's livelihood restoration effort, UNITAR had also provided livelihood training to Ogoni women.



HYPREP PC, Presents a Copy of HYPREP Herald Newsletter to the Indian Deputy High Commissioner, Vartika Rawat in Abuja

TECHNICAL SUPPORT

- HYPREP continues to expand its

network of partnerships and collaborations with national and international institutions to optimize development results. From the inception of HYPREP to the end of June 2024, UNEP supported the Ogoni cleanup operations in building systems, staff training, and the development of standard operating procedures.

- Similarly, Renaissance Africa Energy Limited (formerly operated as Shell Petroleum Development Company, SPDC JV) has been providing significant technical support to HYPREP to enhance its capacity to deliver on its mandate. This support has included expertise in environmental remediation, research, and project management, enabling HYPREP to develop effective strategies for addressing hydrocarbon pollution.
- When UNEP exited the project in June 2025, HYPREP hired a team of UNEP consultants (now referred to as post-UNEP consultants), who have been supporting the Ogoni cleanup, including Mike Cowing, who led the UNEP study of Ogoni environment. HYPREP continues to benefit from the post-UNEP team expertise and experience. More so, the collaborative and adaptive approach has helped the Ogoni cleanup in many areas, including strengthening institutional capacity, enhancing operational efficiency, and improving the project's ability to engage with stakeholders. Both the post-UNEP team and Renaissance are



UN Resident/Humanitarian Coordinator, Mr Mohamed Malick Fall (R), Mr Dominique Kouacou of FAO (L), HYPREP Coordinator, Prof. Nenibarini Zabbey (Background) During the Duo's Visit to HYPREP

members of the HYPREP Technical Coordination Committee (TCC) and the Remediation Document Review Committee (RDRC), among others.

PROJECT VISIBILITY

We have raised the visibility of the project nationally and internationally. This has attracted national and international recognition of the project through invitations to speak as a guest speaker at international fora and high-profile visits to the project sites by key stakeholders.

PAPERS PRESENTED AT INTERNATIONAL FORA:

- Assessment of impact levels for effective rehabilitation of the oil-contaminated mangrove shoreline of Ogoniland, Nigeria. Paper delivered at the Cleanup 2024 Conference, Adelaide, Australia, 17 September 2024.
- Multi-species mangrove restoration of crude oil impacted shoreline in Ogoniland, Nigeria. Paper delivered at the 1st International Conference on Mangrove Restoration, 10–12

December 2024, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates.

- The largest restoration of oil-degraded mangrove programme in the world: The restoration of mangrove forests in the Niger Delta: theory and practice. Paper delivered at the Swedish Academy of Agriculture & Forestry Seminar on Ecosystem Restoration for a sustainable Development, 5th February 2025.

PAPERS PRESENTED AT NATIONAL FORA:

- Sustainable Fisheries Development: Promoting Blue Economy and Climate Change Mitigation. Paper presented at the University of Port Harcourt Fisheries Day 2023. October 10, 2023.
- Hydrocarbon Contaminants and Human Health Risks. A talk presented at the 11th International Conference of the West African Society of Toxicology (WASOT), held 23–25 November 2023 at the Rivers State University, Port Harcourt.

- **Freshwater Resource Management in a Digital World.** A keynote address delivered at the 5th Annual Conference of the Freshwater Biological Association (FBAN), held 16–19 July 2024 at Benson Idahosa University, Benin City, Edo State, Nigeria.
- **Wetland Ecosystems: Hotspots for biodiversity.** A keynote address delivered at the 2024 Hybrid Conference of the Ecological Society of Nigeria (ECOSON), held 5–9 May 2024 at Delta State University, Abraka, Delta State, Nigeria.
- **Society for Ecological Restoration (SER) Conference 2025.** Multi-Stakeholder Restoration of Degraded Mangrove Shorelines Impacted by Petroleum Hydrocarbon Using Multiple Mangrove Species in Ogoniland, Nigeria.
- **Water for all: Bridging Gender Gaps in Access, Safety, and Water Stewardship in HYPREP Projects** World Water Day Event Organized by CeWASS, Rivers

State University, held at the Amphitheatre, 23 March 2026.

- **Science Re-imagined: the Ogoni Cleanup Experience.** Keynote Address Presented at the Annual Scientific Conference of the Faculty of Natural & Applied Sciences, Ignatius Ajuru University of Education, Rivers State, 11 February 2026.

HIGH-PROFILE VISITS TO THE PROJECT:

- Visit of the British High Commissioner to Nigeria
- Visit of the Irish Ambassador to Nigeria
- Visit of the Belgian Ambassador to Nigeria
- Visit of the UN Resident/Humanitarian Coordinator alongside other UN agencies (UNOHR, UNFPA, WHO, UNDP and UNICEF)
- Visit of the Honourable Minister of the Federal Ministry of Environment
- Visit of the CEO and Managing Director of the Cooperative Research Centre for Contamination Assessment and Remediation of the Environment

(crcCARE) of the University of Newcastle, Australia

- Visit and endorsement of the Senate Committee on Oil and Gas Host Communities
- Visit and endorsement of the House of Representative Committee on Host Communities.
- Nigeria Environmental Society (NES)
- Rev. Nnimmo Bassey of the Health of Mother Earth Foundation (HOMEF)
- Niger Delta Conference
- K e b e t k a c h e W o m e n Development & Resource Centre
- Ford Foundation
- Serendib Capital and Eight Versa
- FAO Country Chair for Nigeria and Ecowas
- Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC)
- UNEP Representatives
- Rivers State Commissioner for Health
- Visit by Members of the International Working Group on Petroleum Pollution and Just Energy Transition.



British High Commissioner to Nigeria, His Excellency Richard Montgomery and Team During a Working Visit to HYPREP

EXTERNAL FUNDING/FUND MOBILIZATION

- HYPREP secured its first external grant of £28,550 from the Commonwealth Blue Charter for a project entitled “Rapid Assessment of Policy Gaps for Sustainable Mangrove Management in the Niger Delta.” Collaborators include the Mangrove Action Project, Portsmouth University, Commonwealth Blue Charter, University of Colorado Boulder, and Rivers State University.
- A Proposal Writing Committee has been established to equip staff with the skills necessary to secure additional funding for emerging projects. Furthermore, HYPREP co-applied for the UNDP-GEF-Government Project, “Accelerating Nature and Climate Action to Advance Nigeria's Net Zero and '30x30' Targets,” (NZNP Nigeria Child Project) under the Net Zero Nature Positive Accelerator Integrated Programme (\$10M), which aims to advance national environmental goals.

WETLAND CONSERVATION

- Ogoni Wetlands have been Designated RAMSAR Site of International Importance by the Secretariat of the Convention on Wetlands.
- The mangrove restoration project has partnered with global bodies such as the Mangrove Action Project (MAP), contributing articles to international newsletters to strengthen global cooperation and knowledge sharing.
- HYPREP's restoration efforts are rooted in ecological principles,

integrating local and Indigenous knowledge to ensure sustainable and culturally respectful outcomes.

- Several town hall meetings have been held with key indigenous mangrove stakeholders, including fishermen, wood harvesters, and periwinkle collectors, to involve them in the restoration process. HYPREP continues to welcome visitors, researchers, and potential partners to its restoration project sites, while actively engaging with organisations on mangrove conservation, carbon financing, and biomass assessment to achieve long-term impact.

PUBLIC COMMUNICATION AND TRANSPARENCY

- Launched HYPREP Herald on Radio to deepen communication to local Ogoni communities on activities and programmes of the project. Ogoni communities who are the direct beneficiaries of the project would appreciate the operations of the project more and avail themselves of every opportunity that HYPREP has to offer if they are properly informed about the programmes and activities of the clean-up. The radio enlightenment programme is therefore a necessity to convey such information to members of the public.
- HYPREP publishes a monthly newsletter called HYPREP Herald to update stakeholders, including Ogoni people in diaspora, on the status of the cleanup.
- To ensure transparency and accountability throughout

project implementation, HYPREP established the Milestone Evaluation Committee, which rigorously reviews and verifies contractor payment requests to guarantee value for money. Additional support for monitoring and evaluation was secured through the recruitment of a Project Planner, a Project Cost Engineer, and Senior Monitoring and Evaluation Officers.

- A Technical Coordination Committee was formed, comprising HYPREP, Renaissance Africa Energy Company Limited (formerly SPDC), and the post-UNEP team, to oversee technical aspects and guide project execution.
- Similarly, there is the Remediation Documentation Review Committee, made up of HYPREP, Renaissance Africa Energy Company Limited, civil society organizations, the Rivers State Ministry of Environment, and post-UNEP consultants to review standards, site characterization Reports and Remedial Action Plans before submission to NOSDRA.
- Regular quarterly project updates are provided to Ogoni critical stakeholders, and interactive sessions organized for government regulatory agencies and civil society organizations.
- The Shoreline Cleanup Assessment Techniques (SCAT) Team was expanded, and a mangrove monitoring team established as a multi-stakeholder approach to site assessments.



Mike Cowing and Olof Linden (Post-UNEP Consultants) with the HYPREP Coordinator, Prof. Zabbey in the field

- Through periodic town hall meetings, sensitization campaigns, focus group discussions, and community dialogues, peacebuilding activities, HYPREP has deliberately ensured that stakeholders are not only heard but actively involved in decision-making processes.
- To date, HYPREP has engaged a wide array of stakeholders, including community-based organizations, Local Government Councils, security agencies, traditional rulers, international development partners and technical experts.
- These engagements have strengthened stability and ownership of the Project, shaped policy and decision making, guided project implementation and promoted public participation and peacebuilding.
- More importantly, they have fostered a renewed sense of inclusion and belonging among the Ogoni people, reinforcing the idea that the Ogoni Cleanup is a collective journey that thrives on collaboration, trust, and the collective responsibility of all stakeholders, which is critical to the project's long-term sustainability.

LOOKING AHEAD

- HYPREP is focused on sustaining its progress and expanding its impact. The project's leadership, led by the Honourable Minister of Environment as Chairman of the Governing Council, is committed to ensuring that the gains made so far are consolidated and that the project

- The Project website was also upgraded with specific updates on project activities to allow stakeholders to track progress in real time.
- Similarly, HYPREP's social media platform has continued to attract traffic and followership. For instance, our Facebook engagement has led to a followership of over 5600 followers, which indicates high penetration and public interest in the project's contents, information and programmes. It has also been a robust platform for feedback from critical stakeholders, especially the youth.

STRATEGIC STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

- As a multi-stakeholder project, HYPREP recognizes that the success of its mandate in Ogoniland is deeply rooted in inclusive and sustained stakeholder engagement. Thus, a

comprehensive approach to stakeholder engagement is at the core of our strategy, recognizing that the Project's success depends on the active participation, ownership, and support of all relevant stakeholders.

- Therefore, the Project has adopted a strategic stakeholder engagement framework that prioritizes broad-based consultations with all segments of Ogoni society, including traditional institutions, community leadership, women and youth groups, people with special needs, the civil society, and religious leaders.
- Beyond the local communities, the project has consistently engaged critical stakeholders such as regulators, funders, asset owners, and implementation partners to ensure alignment, transparency of the process, and coordinated action towards the achievement of project goals.



Irish Ambassador to Nigeria, H.E Peter Ryan and Team During a Working Visit to HYPREP

remains on track to meet its objectives as well as the expectations of all project stakeholders, including the United Nations.

- HYPREP's priorities will include intensifying its environmental remediation efforts, enhancing livelihood restoration, and fostering greater community engagement and ownership.
- HYPREP will also continue to

work closely with its stakeholders, including government agencies, the UN System, civil society organizations, and Ogoni communities, to ensure that its activities are responsive to their needs and expectations of the public, by maintaining its focus on delivering tangible results and building strong collaborations and partnerships.

- HYPREP is also confident that it will achieve its vision of a restored and thriving Ogoniland, where there is a rebirth of economic activities for national peace and prosperity.



LAWAL, ZABBEY BRIEF UNEP ON OGONI CLEANUP PROGRESS AT GEF 8TH ASSEMBLY IN UZBEKISTAN

The Minister of Environment, Balarabe Abass Lawal has briefed participants at the 8th Assembly of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) held at the Congress Centre in Samarkand, Uzbekistan of efforts made by the Nigerian Government to address issues of climate change, biodiversity loss, land degradation and pollution.

Lawal, who led the Nigerian delegation to the 8th Assembly of the GEF, was accompanied by the Project Coordinator of HYPREP, Prof. Nenibarini Zabbey and other officials of the Ministry of Environment.

The Minister described GEF as a trusted partner with Nigeria in strengthening national efforts to address pressing environmental challenges through critical financial and technical assistance, and called for an inclusive and equitable approach to

resource allocation under GEF-9. He assured the assembly of the country's commitment to implementing the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework through the newly adopted National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP), with a focus on expanding protected areas, restoring degraded ecosystems, and strengthening the role of local communities as custodians of biodiversity.

Lawal also briefed the Executive Director of UNEP, Inger Anderson during a high-level bilateral meeting on the milestones achieved in the cleanup of Ogoniland, emphasising the unwavering commitment of Federal Government of Nigeria to the cleanup and requested UNEP's sustained support for HYPREP.

The Minister, who is also the Chairman of the Governing Council of

HYPREP, informed the UNEP boss that she would be invited later in the year to the commissioning of the Centre of Excellence for Environmental Restoration and the Ogoni Specialist Hospital by the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, His Excellency, Bola Ahmed Tinubu (GCFR).

The Project Coordinator of HYPREP, Prof. Nenibarini Zabbey participated in various GEF Council meetings that reviewed the GEF 9 frameworks, networking and partnership meetings, and presented copies of the HYPREP mangrove restoration manual to the Gambian delegation to provide an insightful technical guide to mangrove restoration in the Gambia.

GEF is the world's largest environmental financing platform, established in 1987. Its Assembly is held every four years to determine the next phase of the facility's funding framework. Consequently, the 8th Assembly reviewed the GEF 9 whole-society framework, which seeks to give local communities and indigenous peoples a greater role in co-creating and co-leading environmental projects. The Assembly also created opportunities for multilateral and bilateral negotiations to promote environmental sustainability.

HYPREP continues to leverage international platforms such as the GEF Assembly to increase global visibility of the Ogoni cleanup and build partnerships that add value to the ongoing remediation efforts and contribute to the long-term environmental sustainability and economic prosperity of the Ogoni people.



Environment Minister, Balarabe Abbas Lawal, HYPREP PC, Prof. Nenibarini Zabbey at the 8th GEF Assembly, Uzbekistan

GLOBAL ATTENTION, INTERESTS RISE, AS HYPREP SUCCESSES SOAR

The International Working Group on Petroleum Pollution and Just Energy Transition is pleased with the ongoing remediation of oil polluted sites and other restorative and civil works in Ogoni by the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP), stating that the achievements of the Project form the foundation for a possible collaboration with HYPREP for the clean-up of other impacted parts of the Niger Delta.

Members of the International Working Group on Petroleum Pollution and Just Energy Transition were on a working visit to HYPREP project sites in Ogoni to ascertain the level of work done in pursuant to the implementation of the recommendations by the United Nations Environment Programme UNEP on Ogoni environment.

Leader of the team, Dr. Isaac Osuoka said they were captivated with what they saw on ground at the various remediation sites, water stations, the Centre of Excellence for Environmental Restoration, power and water facilities visited, and commended the Project Coordinator, Prof. Nenibarini Zabbey and the entire HYPREP team for doing so well in the implementation of the UNEP report.

Dr. Osuoka particularly mentioned the achievements in some thematic areas like the construction of the Centre of Excellence for Environmental Restoration, the Ogoni Specialist Hospital, mangrove restoration, provision of potable water and soil remediation, saying these are strategic achievements that should be sustained and replicated in other areas



Prof. Zabbey with Visiting Members of the Int'l Working Group on Petroleum Pollution and Just Energy Transition to HYPREP Office

of the Niger Delta.

“We are really impressed with what you've done, and believe there could be possibilities for collaboration, seen what is on ground,” Osuoka said.

Responding, the Project Coordinator, Prof. Nenibarini Zabbey expressed delight with the visit and tour of project sites, stating that HYPREP is implementing concurrently all the recommendations of UNEP on Ogoni, highlighting the different stages of the various projects being carried out by HYPREP.

Prof. Zabbey said in addition to the completed water projects in 49 communities so far, most of the other projects are at 90 to 96% completion, while the rest are advancing steadily.

The Project Coordinator explained that HYPREP is not just for Ogoni but was established by the Federal Government of Nigeria to remediate other oil impacted areas in the Niger Delta and beyond, noting that what HYPREP is doing is basically developing a template for further works.

He stated that the mangrove restoration project is community-

centred, and that a friendly manual for mangrove restoration has been developed and published which would be useful globally, adding that HYPREP is not just doing mangrove planting but restoration, and that baselines are ascertained before restoration.

Prof. Zabbey further said HYPREP is combining remediation and cutting-edge research, explaining its efforts in the introduction of growcoon (a biodegradable nursery bag) for mangrove nursery and planting, instead of using plastic materials that are harmful to the same environment to be restored. According to him, HYPREP is in talks with some Universities on research on Nippa palm to produce growcoon.

On sustainable livelihoods, the HYPREP Coordinator said the programmes have been community-driven, and that over 7000 community workers have been trained, even IMO certified, and others have graduated from training in high demand skills.

He informed the group of the recognition and certification of Ogoni wetlands as Ramsar Site of International Importance by the



Members of the International Working Group on Petroleum Pollution and Just Energy Transition at CEER, Wiiyaakara

International Convention on Ramsar Sites.

Prof. Zabbey urged them to subscribe to the HYPREP newsletter (HYPREP Herald) to be well informed of the activities of the Project, saying there is need for them to work closely with the Project.

Earlier, during the field visit, members of the International Working Group on Petroleum Pollution and Just Energy Transition described the Ogoni environmental intervention as a drop in the ocean, considering the vast polluted sites in other parts of the Niger Delta and called on the Government, the International Oil Companies and other extractive industry operators to consider extending the cleanup project to cover all impacted sites in the Niger Delta.

As the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP) continues to break new grounds in the implementation of its mandate to clean polluted environment and

provide sustainable livelihoods in Ogoni, its achievements have continued to attract global attention and interests in the Project.

The sites visit, which was coordinated by HYPREP Officials, led by Head of Environmental Remediation, Raphael Friday Saue, representing the Project Coordinator, Prof. Nenibarini Zabbey, also had foremost Human rights defenders, which, Prof. Anna Zalik from the York University, Toronto, Canada, Dr. Asume Isaac Osuoka, Comrade Morris Alagoa, and Dr. Celestine Akpobari of the Peoples Centre. Others are Botti Isaac and some members of Civil Society Organizations from Niger Delta States.

HYPREP facilities and project sites visited include the reticulated potable water facility in Kporghor, Tai LGA, mangrove restoration site in Bomu, Gokana LGA, the Centre of Excellence for Environmental

Restoration and the Ogoni Power Project in Wiiyaakara, Khana LGA, the Ogoni Specialist Hospital in Kpife, Tai LGA, and soil and groundwater remediation sites in Eleme LGA.

Other members on the team of the International Working Group on Petroleum Pollution and Just Energy Transition were Prof. Michael Watts, from University of California; Dr. Abisoye Oyeyemi, Niger Delta University, Bayelsa State; Prof. Engobo Emeseh, Aberystwyth University, UK; Dr. Emem Okon, Executive Director, Ketbatkache; Kathryn Nwajiaku-Dahou, Director, Odi Global; and Caltlin Stronge, Odi Global.

On the HYPREP side were the Director of Technical Services, Prof. Damian-Paul Aguiyi and other management and staff of the Project.

HYPREP COORDINATOR EXPRESSES SATISFACTION WITH HUMAN BIOMONITORING PROCESS IN OGONI

-As Researchers Commence Collection of Samples From Volunteers

The Project Coordinator of the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project, Prof. Nenibarini Zabbey, has visited the Research Centre at the Rivers State University, Port Harcourt, where the International Agency for Research on Cancer of the World Health Organization (IARC-WHO) is carrying out the Human Biomonitoring Study of Ogoni, expressing satisfaction with the process leading to the commencement of the collection of samples from the first batch of volunteers from Ogoni communities for the ongoing health study.

Prof. Zabbey, who was represented by the Director of Technical Services, Prof. Damian-Paul Aguiyi, also assured the team, led by Ann Olsson, of HYPREP's continuous support for the success of the Study.

IARC is carrying out the Human Biomonitoring Study of Ogoni in



HYPREP DTS, Prof. Damian-Paul Aguiyi Being Shown the Research Centre of IARC-WHO at RSU

collaboration with researchers from the Rivers State University, where samples are being collected.

The IARC Team reiterated their commitment to carrying out the study in compliance with all existing international protocols, without any external interference, and commended the people for their cooperation and

willingness to provide samples required for laboratory tests for the success of the Study.

The Human Biomonitoring Study of Ogoni is a recommendation in the report of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) on Ogoni, and it is being funded by HYPREP.

HYPREP IS ADOPTING MULTI-THEMATIC APPROACH TO IMPROVING PUBLIC HEALTH IN OGONI – Prof. Zabbey

The Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP) is adopting a multi-thematic approach to addressing public health concerns in Ogoni using environmental remediation, provision of potable water, public health interventions and sustainable livelihoods.

Project Coordinator of HYPREP, Professor Nenibarini Zabbey stated this during the visit of Ogoni Nurses Association (ONA) to the Project

Coordination Office (PCO) in Port Harcourt.

Prof. Zabbey explained that decontamination of polluted environment, provision of potable water to communities, access to quality healthcare services, and improved livelihoods are improving public health in the area.

The HYPREP Coordinator emphasized that while the UNEP Report on Ogoni Environment had recommended a health inventory,

HYPREP is moving beyond that to carrying out other public health intervention programmes and projects to further strengthen healthcare delivery for the Ogoni people.

He listed the public health interventions to include the construction of a 100-bed Ogoni Specialist Hospital, 43-bed Cottage Hospital in Buan, medical outreach programmes benefiting over 8,000 people, donation of 5 state of the art ambulances to public health centres,



Mrs. Edith Baridi Nuate Presents an Award to Prof. Zabbey on Behalf of Ogoni Nurses Association (ONA)

strengthened 4 public health facilities - General Hospitals in Bori and Nchia, and Health Centres in Taabaa and Kpite, with an additional 4 public health centres at Onne, Nonwa, Bodo, Taabaa to be strengthened this year, among others.

The 3-year Human Biomonitoring

Study is underway, while the Cottage Hospital in Buan is ready for commissioning, and fittings being installed in the Ogoni Specialist Hospital. Prof. Zabbey maintained that HYPREP has done very well in terms of public health interventions, hinting that the Project is in talks with

the Rivers State Ministry of Health for posting of health personnel to the cottage hospital, and stressed that the Project is committed to providing the best for Ogoni people.

He thanked the group for the award and assured them of inclusion in the Project's public health activities, while urging them to increase public health awareness in Ogoni communities against drug abuse and related vices, adding that collaborating with organizations like the Ogoni Nurses Association will yield positive results in creating a sustainable environment for posterity.

The group, led by Mrs. Edith Baridi Nuate, was at the Project Coordination Office to discuss inclusion of its members in HYPREP's public health intervention programmes and projects and passed a vote of confidence in the Project Coordinator for the milestone achievements in the Ogoni Cleanup Project and also presented him with an award of excellence.



HYPREP Coordinator, Prof. Nenibarini Zabbey with Members of Ogoni Nurses Association (ONA)

PROF. ZABBEY REITERATES HYPREP'S COMMITMENT TO HUMAN CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT IN OGONI

Following the commencement of the livelihood training for Persons Living with Disabilities by the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project, the Project Coordinator, Professor Nenibarini Zabbey has paid a working visit to the Kenule Beeson Saro-Wiwa Polytechnic Skills Development Centre, Bori, one of the venues for the programme.

Trainees at the Centre are undergoing training in Shoe Making, Fashion and Designing, and Computer Basics.

In February, HYPREP commenced training in 5 skill sets for 300 Ogoni Persons Living with Disabilities. The other two skill sets are Fish Farming and Photography. The training is in keeping with HYPREP's commitment to fostering inclusivity on the Ogoni Cleanup Project.

Prof. Zabbey used the occasion of



Prof. Zabbey (R) with Rector, Kenpoly, Dr. George Wadike

the visit to pay a courtesy call on Dr. George Chile Wadike, the newly appointed Rector of the Kenule Beeson Saro-Wiwa Polytechnic. He informed the Rector of earlier talks with his predecessor on strengthening collaboration between HYPREP and the institution. The HYPREP

Coordinator reiterated the Project's commitment to partner the school in building human capacity in the region, as it opens all its project sites for hands on training for students.

Senior management staff of the Polytechnic and HYPREP witnessed the brief meeting.



Prof. Zabbey Monitors Livelihood Training of Persons Living with Disabilities

HYPREP SHOWCASES ACHIEVEMENTS AS THE WORLD MARKS ENVIRONMENT DAY

The Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP) has said it is reviving the world's largest devastated ecosystems and spearheading the largest mangrove restoration initiative in the Niger Delta, by planting millions of native seedlings and clearing aggressive alien plant species (nipa palms) to allow native mangrove species to naturally regenerate.

Project Coordinator of HYPREP, Prof. Nenibarini Zabbey made this known on the occasion of the 2026 world environment day celebration.

Prof. Zabbey noted that HYPREP Mangrove Project has restored vital marine breeding grounds, as renewed mangrove canopies have successfully triggered the return of local fish, crabs,

bloody cockles and periwinkle populations, adding that the Project has completed a baseline study measuring the massive carbon storage capacity of restored Ogoni mangroves being carbon assets positioned to secure global green grants and ensuring long-term funding for community projects.

The theme of this year's world environment day's celebration is, "Inspired by Nature. For Climate. For our Future."

He remarked that this year's global campaign highlights the urgent signals our Earth is sending and called for immediate and accelerated action to address climate change and environmental degradation, which he reaffirmed that HYPREP is doing

through best practice and the full implementation of the Ogoni Cleanup Project as recommended by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), and pledged to push its ambition for sustainable Climate actions on the Niger Delta.

"For HYPREP, this day holds profound significance as we continue our mandate to restore the integrity and ecological landscape of Ogoniland, and to revitalize communities impacted by decades of hydrocarbon pollution. Our ongoing shoreline and mangrove restoration, and remediation of other polluted sites, provision of potable water, livelihood support initiatives, health interventions and the Ogoni Power Project are direct responses to the call for environmental healing and sustainable development," Prof.



Shoreline Cleanup

Zabbey assured.

The HYPREP Coordinator noted that thousands of Ogoni youth are directly employed as mangrove planters, nursery operators, and environmental shoreline monitors, referred to as Mangrove Vanguard, who are helping to protect restored zones from re-pollution and eliminating artisanal refining threat.

He highlighted other actions that HYPREP is taking to secure the environment and make life easier for communities in Ogoni.

“We would also continue the empowerment of Communities with the robust investment in sustainable

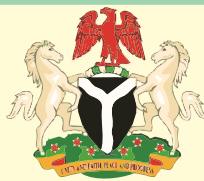
livelihood programmes, including agricultural support and vocational trainings, to ensure the economic resilience of the Niger Delta peoples. This is in addition to our Environmental Advocacy, where we keep engaging the youth and local populations through established environmental clubs in schools and grassroots sensitization campaigns to foster a culture of conservation, even as Ogoni wetlands have been designated as Ramsar Sites of International Importance by the Secretariat of the Convention on Wetlands. We believe the environmental restoration is not just a

regulatory obligation; it is a fundamental duty to our current and future generations, and we would ensure the Project achieves this.”

The HYPREP Coordinator stated that the Project remains resolute in its mission to bring lasting environmental restoration to Ogoniland and its environs, and called on stakeholders, community leaders, the good people of the Niger Delta, and the International Community to partner HYPREP in restoring and safeguarding a healthy and economically vibrant environment.



Prof. Zabbey Inspects Thriving HYPREP Planted Mangroves



FEDERAL MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT
HYDROCARBON POLLUTION REMEDIATION PROJECT
(HYPREP)

**OGONI CLEAN-UP 10TH ANNIVERSARY: OUR TRANSFORMATIVE EFFORTS
YIELDING POSITIVE RESULTS WITH COMMUNITY OWNERSHIP**

Today (2nd June 2026) marks another milestone in the implementation of the Ogoni Cleanup by the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP). The Ogoni Cleanup was launched at the Bodo waterfront by the Federal Government of Nigeria on 2nd June 2016, while the HYPREP Project Coordination Office (PCO) was established in February 2017 to coordinate the cleanup. On this anniversary, HYPREP celebrates the ongoing progress in restoring the environmental integrity and socio-economic well-being of Ogoniland, in line with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) recommendations.

Over the intervening years, the Project has transitioned from its foundational phases to high-impact delivery across its core mandate areas. The Project's impact and implementation successes are achieved through deliberate and sustained involvement of the Ogoni community and other stakeholders, including regulators, Government agencies, the International Oil Companies, and Civil Society Organisations.

We therefore appreciate the support from various local and international stakeholders and reiterate our avowed commitment to the comprehensive remediation of the hydrocarbon-impacted environment and restoration of livelihoods in affected communities.

The Project's transformative actions are evident in key milestones across the thematic areas highlighted thus:

Environmental Remediation & Mangrove Restoration: Significant progress has been made in remediating hydrocarbon-impacted sites. We have closed out 30 out of the 65 sites that UNEP investigated and recommended for remediation. Currently, 17 medium-risk complex sites are being remediated, while detailed site characterization of the remaining 18 high-risk complex sites is progressing towards scoping for remediation execution. Mangrove restoration efforts continue to advance, ensuring the revival of fragile coastal ecosystems. The Project is leading the world's largest restoration of oil-degraded mangroves. As of today, a total of 1,537,885 mangrove seedlings of different species (red, white and black) have been planted. The successful cleanup of over 1000 ha of shoreline and the restoration of 560 ha with thriving, multi-species mangroves is stimulating biodiversity recovery and enhancing local fisheries. Phase 2 of the shoreline cleanup and mangrove restoration is underway.

Potable Water Supply: We are moving closer to our goal of achieving total water supply coverage in the Ogoni communities. Forty-nine (49) communities have so far been reticulated through multiple water schemes and booster stations designed to deliver safe drinking water across Ogoni, as well as through the construction of wind-powered water facilities in sparsely populated communities to foster inclusivity.

Public Health & Infrastructure: The Ogoni Specialist Hospital and the 43-bed cottage hospital are nearing completion, significantly enhancing local healthcare delivery. We have strengthened 3 hospitals and a health centre, while an additional four health facilities in Ogoni are currently being strengthened through renovation and supply of state-of-the-art medical equipment.

To enhance emergency and referral services, HYPREP has donated 5 ambulances to four General Hospitals and one Health Centre in Ogoni, even as the Project conducts periodic medical outreaches in the area. We have launched a 3-year comprehensive human health biomonitoring in Ogoniland. The study is carried out by the World Health Organization's International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC).

Livelihood & Economic Empowerment: In line with the 'Renewed Hope' Agenda of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu's administration, HYPREP continues to integrate environmental cleanup with human capacity building. Thousands of Ogoni youths and women have been trained and given start-up kits for specialised vocational, climate-smart agricultural, and technical skills.

Under the current administration, HYPREP has transformed the socio-ecological landscape of Ogoniland with the Ogoni cleanup. The Project has been brought closer to the people through the initiation of people-centric programmes. Prominent among them are the creation of over 7,000 direct jobs and the training of Ogoni youth and women in high-demand skills in Creative Arts, Air Cabin Crew, Seafaring, and Mechatronics.

Other high-demand skill training programmes initiated for Ogoni youth and women include Commercial Diving and Underwater Welding, Mud Logging, Full Stack Development, Cybersecurity, GIS and Cloud Mapping, Rigging, among others. HYPREP has also trained 5,000 Ogoni youth and women in 21 skill sets, including Argon Welding and Metal Fabrication, Offshore/Onshore Operations, Crane Operation, Solar Panel and CCTV Installation, and Data Analytics, and has provided beneficiaries with start-up kits. To build local capacity in environmental management, the project has established 31 environmental clubs in secondary schools, initiated a robust internship programme for undergraduates, and trained over 2500 Ogoni youths with International Maritime Organization (IMO) certification, who are community workers at various HYPREP shoreline cleanup and mangrove restoration sites. The socio-economic study of Ogoni has been completed, and the study report will be launched in the coming weeks.

Other social impact initiatives include the award of educational support grants and scholarships to over 1,000 Ogoni undergraduate and postgraduate students, business support grants to 60 SMEs, and training for 300 people living with special needs across 5 skill sets. HYPREP's engagement of 1,000 youths in civil security, as a non-kinetic security approach and the proactiveness of the Central Representative Advisory Committee (CRAC) in land dispute mediation and conflict resolution have enhanced peacebuilding and security in Ogoniland. Equally, the robust engagement with ex-artisanal refiners in Ogoni is yielding social, economic and environmental dividends.

HYPREP has prioritised the construction of legacy and socially transformative projects, such as the Ogoni Power Project and the Centre of Excellence for Environmental Restoration (CEER). The CEER is now at 96% completion. However, we are already building sustainable research partnerships and collaborations to advance knowledge of environmental remediation and restoration.

Recently, the Secretariat of the Convention on Wetlands designated Ogoni Wetland as a Ramsar Site of International Importance. HYPREP has since received the Ramsar designation certificate, and we have commenced implementing a five-year interim management plan for the Ogoni mangrove wetland. We celebrate this feat with the Ogoni people and commit to establishing biodiversity baselines, promoting the wise use of wetland resources, and monitoring and conserving the sites for the benefit of the locals, ultimately maintaining the ecological character of the wetland. For example, we recently launched a bird survey of the Ogoni creeks.

As we look to the future, HYPREP remains committed to accelerating the implementation of all UNEP-recommended actions with value addition. We are actively building international, diplomatic, and private-sector partnerships to ensure the timely completion of the Project and the long-term sustainable development of Ogoniland. These achievements would not have been possible without the unwavering support of the Federal Government, the Federal Ministry of Environment, the IOCs, traditional rulers, and civil society, as well as the Ogoni people's enduring support and ownership of the cleanup. On this anniversary of the launch of the Ogoni cleanup, we call on all stakeholders to continue fostering peace, harmony, and cooperation as we work together to restore the land, health, and dignity of the Ogoni people and the peoples of the Niger Delta.

Being an address delivered by HYPREP Coordinator, Prof. Nenibarini Zabbey on the 10th anniversary celebration of the launch of Ogoni Clean-up.

HYPREP MANAGEMENT, STAFF CONGRATULATE PROF. ZABBEY ON 52ND BIRTHDAY

Management and staff of the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP) have described the Project Coordinator, Prof. Nenibarini Zabbey as a man of great ability and master strategist whose expertise and commitment have led to the massive achievements recorded on the Ogoni Clean-up Project.

The commendation was given on the 52nd birthday celebration of Prof. Zabbey held at the Project Coordination Office in Port Harcourt.

Management and staff praised Prof. Zabbey's character, especially his outstanding contributions that have led to the significant milestones in the implementation of the ongoing Clean-up Project, making it to gain international recognition, and foster community ownership of the Project, noting that he has been focused, calm, and approachable by staff, management, and everyone involved in the cleanup effort.



Prof. Nenibarini Zabbey at 52

They stated, “excellence and celebrating excellence do not happen by chance. The Project Coordinator is a man with vision and talent, a gift from God to the project. He knows his direction and has managed the project skillfully, achieving much through his talent and skills.”

Head, Stakeholders Unit, Richard Mkpee specifically said that Prof. Zabbey engages stakeholders effectively, describing him as a well-organised planner who is courageous, dedicated, and capable of coordinating all teams to meet objectives.



HYPREP Staff at Prof. Zabbey's 52nd Birthday Celebration



HYPREP Staff at Prof. Zabbey's 52nd Birthday Celebration

“He is a team player, unperturbed, and passionate about the project's success to the extent that Ogoni stakeholders are willing to stand firm because of his efforts,” Mkpee elaborated.

Head, Sustainable Livelihoods, Mrs. Josephine Nzidee, mentioned that Prof. Zabbey is a man who energises people and that such individuals are rare, describing him as a master strategist. She noted that he works tirelessly for humanity, consistently guiding other project drivers.

Mrs. Nzidee also praised the support of the Project Coordinator's wife, Dr Fashion Zabbey, for strengthening him to stay focused on the demands of the office.

Representative of Renaissance Africa Energy Company on the Project, Engr. Ehioze Igbinomwanhia stated that Prof. Zabbey has fostered a

positive outlook and confidence in the Ogoni Clean-up Project and described HYPREP, under Prof. Zabbey, as a high-performing Project.

“The Project Coordinator listens to advice wisely, relates well with everyone, and embodies inclusivity. There is no resorting to conflict but rather cooperation within HYPREP. Prof. Zabbey's birthday is an excellent occasion to celebrate his numerous achievements as head of the project,” he said.

Likewise, Director, Technical Services, HYPREP, Prof. Damian-Paul Aguiyi; Head, Security, HYPREP, AIG Emmanuel Effiom; and the Officer Overseeing Potable Water, Prof. B.T.L Alawa, congratulated Prof. Zabbey on his 52nd birthday, describing him as a blessing to the Ogoni Clean-up Project and the development of the host region, worthy of greater celebration

for his service to humanity.

Prof. Zabbey expressed gratitude to the management, staff, and all who attended the celebration, acknowledging the display of love through goodwill messages and support. He reminisced about a period when he had some challenges while on the field collecting samples for a study, but was spared by God's grace, which he sees as a sign of faithfulness.

He also thanked his family, including his wife, children, friends, colleagues, and everyone who contributed to his journey to where he is today and reaffirmed his unwavering resolve to do what is necessary for the project's success with the support of all.

The celebration included the traditional cake-cutting formalities, with management and staff joining in the festivities.

PICTURES OF THE MONTH



Environment Minister, Balarabe Abbas Lawal, HYPREP PC, Prof. Nenibarini Zabbey with Other Participants at the 8th GEF Assembly, Uzbekistan



HYPREP DTS, Prof. Damian-Paul Aguiyi with IARC-WHO Team



HYPREP DTS, Prof. Damian-Paul Aguiyi, HYPREP Officials and Trainees in Batch 2 Commercial Diving/Under Water Welding



Prof. Zabbey Presents Souvenir to a Member of the Int'l Working Group on Petroleum Pollution and Just Energy Transition



Prof. Zabbey with Members of the Int'l Working Group on Petroleum Pollution and Just Energy Transition



Prof. Zabbey Inspects a Dress Made by a Physically Challenged Trainee



HYPREP Staff at Prof. Zabbey's 52nd Birthday Celebration



HYPREP Staff at Prof. Zabbey's 52nd Birthday Celebration

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

MAN AFTER US

By: Kpoobari Nafo

“These days,” tree accuses axe, “the threats are more”
The chainsaw that at every trunk roars and breaks
The bird nods, showing home in wreckage more
And from the nest, yoke of procreation breaks
The fish swims forward, its complaint to lodge
“The water, no longer habitable.”
“My citizens in different worlds they lodge -”
The animal states in tone most terrible
“One half in water and the other on land,
Spills in both spheres kill in perpetuity”
The animals their accusations on man, land
“Dangerous creature of greater cruelty”
And in counter threat, warn, he leaves them alone
Or decides to live in hunger and alone.

Editorial Crew

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Godwin Norbana	Camera
Lekue Akpo	Camera

Photo:HYPREP



THE ENVIRONMENT ON MARBLE

**“If you wish to be happy for a year,
plant a garden. If you wish to be
happy for a lifetime, plant a tree.”**

– Jim Morris

Photo:HYPREP

... for a cleaner and greener Ogoniland

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