

Annual Projects Report

& Audited Accounts 2011

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PEOPLE-CENTRED ACTION
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**WOMEN ENVIRONMENTAL
PROGRAMME (WEP)**

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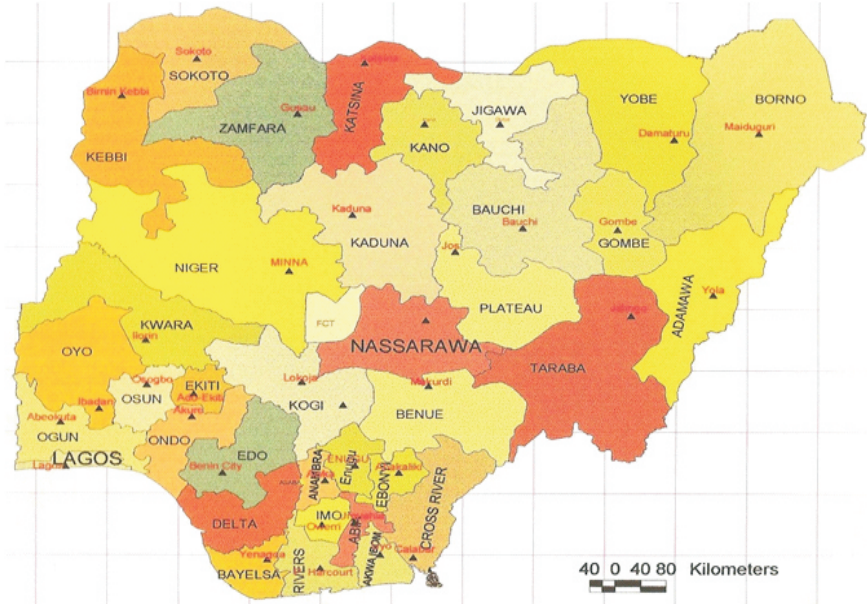
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ABBREVIATIONS/ACRONYMS

ADWF	African Women's Development Fund
CAC	Corporate Affairs Commission
CBO	Community Based Organisation
CIDA	Canadian International Development Agency
CIRDDOC	Civil Resource Development & Documentation Centre
CSD	Commission on Sustainable Development
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
ERA	Environmental Rights Action
EDWARDS	Early Warning & Response Design Support
FCT	Federal Capital Territory
FCTA	Federal Capital Territory Authority
FEDUP	Federation of Urban Poor
FMWASD	Federal Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development
GGF	Global Greengrants Fund
IAI	International Alliance for Inhabitants
IBP	International Budget Partnership
JDPC	Justice, Development and Peace Commission
LGA	Local Government Area
NGO	Non Governmental Organisation
NGP	National Gender Policy
NSF	National Strategic Framework
UN	United Nations
UN ECOSOC	United Nations Economic & Social Council
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNCSD	United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UN WOMEN	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
WHD	World Habitat Day

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WHERE WE ARE NIGERIA AND BURKINA FASO



WEP State Locations: FCT, Benue, Taraba, Gombe



WEP Location: Ouagadougou

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WHO WE ARE

Women Environmental Programme (WEP), is a non-governmental, non-profit, non-religious and voluntary organisation, was established in 1997 by a group of grassroots women in Nigeria. The major aim of the organisation is to address the gender injustices on issues relating to environment, economic and social rights of women, children and youths in the society. WEP's headquarters is situated in Abuja while its operational offices are in two geopolitical zones of Nigeria, namely: North Central and North East. WEP is operating as an NGO under the Companies and Allied Matters Act by the Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC). The organisation is administered by a Board of Directors, while the management team runs the administration. The Executive Director who is part of the management team serves as the operational head. WEP has United Nations special Economic and Social Council Status (UN ECOSOC status).

Vision Statement

To create a society where the environmental, economic, social and political rights of women and youths are protected

Mission Statement

To empower women and youths to address the environmental, economic, social and political issues that affect them

Principles and Values

- Transparency
- Popular participation
- Commitment
- Integrity

Strategic Objectives

- To sensitize and create awareness of the general public on the vulnerability and adaptation of gender impact to climate change;
- To stimulate the management of natural resources within the framework of national and international policies/convention for sustainable development in the environment;
- To advocate for the rights of the rural and urban dwellers to land, housing settlement and basic social infrastructure within the framework of The International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR);
- To build capacity of the general public on the management of environmental conflicts, renewable energy, water and sanitation and organic pollutants;
- To empower women and youths on their civic rights and responsibilities, electoral processes and democratic governance in Nigeria

WEP's CORE VALUES

Networking: WEP recognizes the value and strength of networking with our partners and other NGOs. We realize that mutually beneficial relationships with people who share our values, goals and objectives will enhance social and sustainable development.

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WHO WE ARE

Integrity, Accountability and Transparency: WEP appreciates the trust of our donors, partners and the public by striving to maintain the highest standards of accountability, integrity and transparency in the conduct of all our activities.

Excellence and Cost Effectiveness: We are committed to excellence and cost effectiveness in all our activities so as to reach a greater number of people with our services.

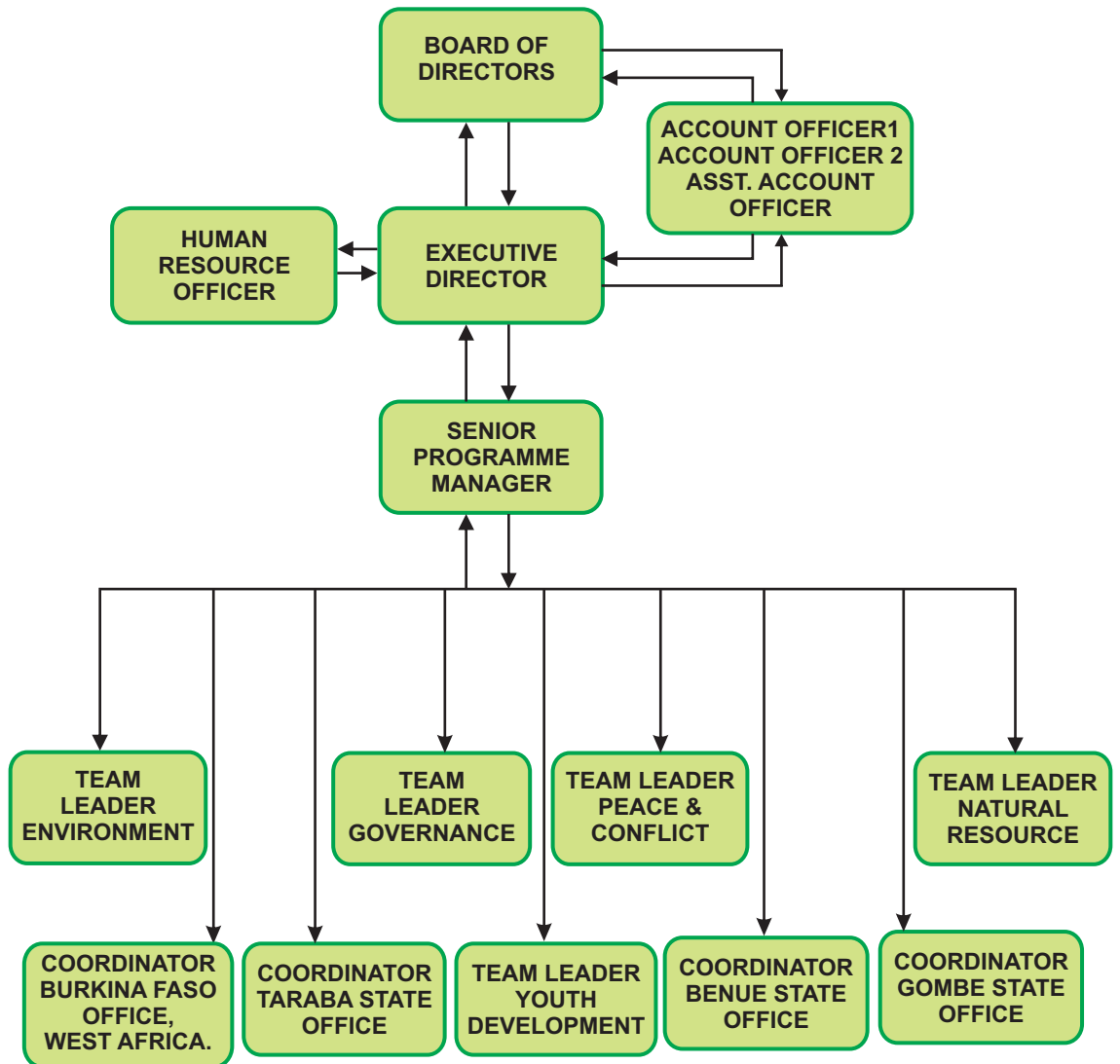
Teamwork and Self Esteem: WEP is committed to teamwork. We will promote the self-esteem of our staff and encourage collaboration on projects and encomiums for

each other for reaching our goals and targets.
Learning and Leadership: WEP is committed to being a learning organization in which all staff are continuously striving to learn to sustain and improve organizational outputs. Our leadership culture is aimed at making leaders out of our staff.

Gender Equity and Justice: To ensure the full participation of all in the development process, we support and promote gender equity and mainstream gender in all we do. Our Strategic Plan particularly seeks to empower women to maximize their potentials and gain autonomy to become agents of change.

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WEP ORGANOGRAM

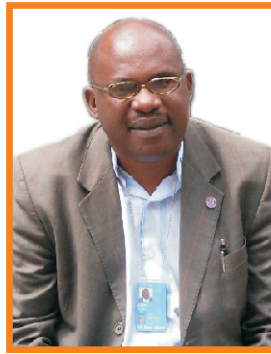


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THE TEAM



PRISCILLA M. ACHAKPA
Executive Director



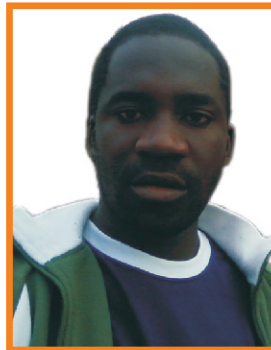
GEORGE AKOR
Programme Manager



JULIANA AGEMA
Account / Admin Officer I



DESMOND CHIESHE
Senior Programme Officer



FRANK YAWON
Programme Officer



THERESA IGBINOGHENE
Programme Officer



ANNE- MARIE ABAAGU
Youth Officer



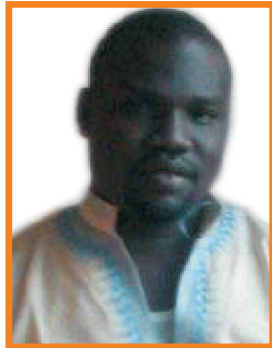
QUEENSLEY AJUYAKPE
Human Resource Officer



CHARLES ABAAGU
Youth Director

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THE TEAM



SADIQ WEALTH ABU
Account / Admin Officer II



JOSEPHINE AYAKPAM
Account / Admin Officer III



HELEN ALI OJO
Intern



JEMIMAH SAMBA
Programme Officer



ESTHER OMATA
Intern

Other Head Office Support Staff

- **Mr. Tersugh Gabriel Degarr** – *Office Assistant*
- **Mr. Patrick Okoh** – *Transport Officer*
- **Mr. Ahen Akaa** – *Transport Officer*
- **Mr. Friday Peter** - *Office Assistant*

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THE TEAM

BRANCH OFFICE - BENUE



SAMUEL TOUGH
State Coordinator



JESSICA MNENA KURUDU
Office Assistant

BRANCH OFFICE - GOMBE



DEBORAH B. MORGAN
State Coordinator

BRANCH OFFICE - TARABA



BONIFACE KOSSAN
State Coordinator

BURKINA FASO OFFICE



ZENABOU SEGDA
Directrice' WEP

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Mr. Yakubu Aliyu
Ms. Priscilla M. Achakpa
Prof. Kabiru Isyaku
Prof. David I. Ker
Ms. Anne Marie Abaagu

- Chairman
- Executive Director
- Member
- Member
- Member

Advisory Board
Mrs. Sarah Jibril
Festus Okoye Esq
Mrs. Veronica Garba

ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE

WEP is structured along 3 main organs, namely: the General Assembly (Board of Directors and Management). The General Assembly includes both individuals and organisational members and currently has a membership of over 3000 members.

WEP's Board of Directors comprises 9 members of which 4 are females and 5 males. The Board is the decision taking body of the organisation and meets annually to review performance of the organisation, approve programmes and budget for the organisation.

The Management is saddled with the responsibility of day-to-day running of the organisation and implementation of programmes and it is headed by the Executive Director. It is also made up of the Project Implementation Body and the support Staff.

PROGRAMMES

The organisational structure has two thematic areas viz; Environment and Governance. The Administrative/Finance Unit oversee these projects.

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DIRECTOR'S COMMENT



The year 2011 started with a lot of prospects for Women Environmental Programme, but became bumpy in the middle of the year and ended on a sad note with the death of one of her founding Directors, “Mr. Charles Lubem Abaagu, you shall ever be remembered”. This however, did not deter the organizations resolve to achieving her set goals in line with the strategic plan for the year as she continued to create a platform for community engagement with the Government, providing technical support, advocating for change and inclusivity on human settlement and housing, women and youth empowerment, gender and climate change research, adaptation and mitigation projects amongst others.

The variety and depth of WEP's work confirms the commitment of the entire WEP family towards responding to the broader needs of her target groups and the society at large. The year 2011 was also a turning point at a strategic level for WEP as the organization has become more focused in its programming, featuring at both national and international events. At the international conferences, WEP organized side events to showcase her work as well share best practices during the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) New York USA, Conference of Parties (COP 17 Climate Change) Durban, South Africa on 'Illegal Mining Extraction in Local Communities in Sub-Saharan Africa; Gender, Climate Change and Agriculture Smart’ and an exhibition during the African Development Forum, Addis Ababa. At the national level, WEP implemented series of projects and workshops, amongst them are; Organizing for Infrastructural Development, Capacity Building for Women Farmers in Rural Communities for Knowledge Dissemination and Innovation Farming Practices, Research on the Assessment of Gender Knowledge and Awareness, vulnerability and Adaptation Strategies to the impacts of Climate Change, Capacity Building For Women In Electoral Process and Political Participation in the Build Up to 2011 Elections, Research on Root Causes of Gender Based Violence and Assessment of

DIRECTOR'S COMMENT

GBV Centres, Open budget survey project for transparency and accountability, Peacebuilding project through the Provision of Vocational Centre and Skills Acquisition for Women and Youths.

In the spirit of partnership, five organizations, Women Environmental Programme, Clean Energy and Safe Environment Initiative, Environmental Rights Action/Friends of the Earth, NigeriaCan and International Centre for Environment and Energy Development put their resources together to host over 70 participants to a preparatory workshop to the United Nations Conference on Environment popularly called Rio+ 20 scheduled to take place in 2012.

In the year 2012, WEP will be playing a strategic role during the international conference on drylands, deserts and desertification to be held in Israel as well as the preparation of the Nigerian Major Groups to Rio+ 20. WEP will be deeply involved in the outcomes of the Rio+ 20 implementation in the areas of women for water and sanitation, climate change, research and publication, peacebuilding and environmental conflict management, housing and urban issues in relation to the

most vulnerable group, women and children, women and land issues, building capacity of women in electoral processes, budgeting and monitoring.

Women Environmental Programme family would like to sincerely extend her appreciation to all professional and other members, donors, partners and resource persons who have supported the work and mandate of WEP to make it a success. We would like to particularly thank the following donors and partners who have continued to support us; Misereor, UNDP, European Commission, African Women Development Fund, Federal Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development, Federal Ministry of Environment, Adamawa State Government, Niger State Government, Benue State Government, Global Greengrants Fund, National Task Group on Sanitation, Shacks and Slum Dwellers International (SDI) NigeriaCan, Environmental Rights Action/Friends of the Earth, Nigeria.



Priscilla M. Achakpa
Executive Director

Thematic Focus - Environment

1. Communities Organizing for Infrastructure Improvement in City Slums, Abuja. (currently on-going):

As issues of urbanization continue to pose tremendous challenges to the city of Abuja and its environs, it has become imperative to state that it is the urban poor who are at the receiving end of this contemporary challenge facing developing countries. These urban poor in their large numbers are forced to reside at the peripheries of the city commuting from there to various parts of the city for their daily activities. These informal settlements as in most slums lack basic social and physical infrastructures with majority of the occupants being crowded in very little spaces. It is important to observe that with the advent of the demolitions and forced evictions in the city of Abuja, a good number of people who were displaced had to seek refuge in the neighboring communities adjoining the city. This no doubt has made communities of Gbagarape, Gurku, Asopanda, Tudun Wada, Kabayi and Aku very congested and overcrowded thereby inserting undue pressure on the barely existing poor infrastructures in these communities. Water, sanitation, health care facilities, road networks, etc are major challenges facing these communities. Also, due to mass poverty, the living conditions of low income slum settlements are deplorable and deleterious to health and wellbeing of the community residents.

MISEREOR is supporting Women Environmental Programme (WEP) a non-state actor who has been at the helm of affairs in advocating for the overall human settlement with the sole objective of improving the social - economic and environmental quality of human settlements alongside the living and working environment of people, especially the urban poor. The organisation has over the past years been involved in community mapping process together with the community members, advocacy and lobbying at all levels and capacity building on negotiation and advocacy skills for community members. The project is aimed at mobilising slum dwellers to address critical factors for achieving infrastructural provisions through genuine community participation, local resources mobilisation, skills acquisitions and to prevent further evictions. The objectives are: Strengthen the capacity of 60 community leaders, especially women and youth on identifying and assessing technical options for the infrastructure improvements in the settlement; Coordinate local community to define their development priorities and mobilise own resources to implement local projects; Local government authorities and other stakeholders are sensitised and in a dialogue about co-funding of projects in the communities; Raising awareness about how to participate

OUR WORK

in the project and the importance of the residents to make an affordable but significant contribution to material costs; Establish regular consultation and dialogue between and amongst the various communities on the one hand and between the governments and other levels of leadership. Activities carried out by WEP in the project communities (Gbagarape, Gurku, Asopanda, Tudun Wada, Kabayi and Aku) include training on community mapping of infrastructures, negotiation and advocacy skills.

2. Capacity Building for Women Farmers in Rural Communities of Kyado, Naka, and Yauri in Benue and Kebbi States for Knowledge Dissemination and Innovative Farming Practices (On-going).

As land pressure rises, more and more, marginal areas in the world are being used for agriculture. Much of this land is located in the arid or semi-arid belts where rain falls irregularly and much of the precious water is soon lost as surface runoff. During good years, agriculture in these areas produces satisfactory yields. However reduced rainfall or prolonged dry spells are leading immediately to crop failures.

The impacts of recent climatic changes such as droughts, desertification and soil degradation have highlighted the risks to human beings and livestock, which occur mainly when rains falter or fail. While irrigation may be the most obvious response to drought, it has proved costly and can only benefit a fortunate few. There is now increasing interest in a low cost alternative - generally referred to as "water harvesting".

The effects of agro chemical products to the already impoverish lands in these areas cannot be over emphasised. Little is known on compost manure making and as such over dependence and reliance on agro chemicals for crop production. Composted manures no doubt offers promise as beneficial soil amendments for crop growers.

It is against this background that WEP with support from Global Environmental Facility (GEF) is engaging this project Capacity Building for Women Farmers in Rural Communities of Kyado, Naka, and Yauri in Benue and Kebbi States for Knowledge Dissemination and Innovative Farming Practices with the overall aim of improving the food security and rural livelihoods of small scale farmers especially women in the three project communities of Kyado, Naka and Yauri in Benue and Kebbi States of Nigeria through knowledge Dissemination and Innovative Farming Practices. Specific objectives of the project include: Strengthen the capacity of farmers especially women on knowledge dissemination and innovative farming practices; Accelerate the adoption of sustainable farming practices among the female gender; Intensify the reach out

campaign to farmers through farmers network and sharing of information; Training them on rain water harvesting techniques to reduce the vulnerability of farmers to the climatic changes in weather thus building their resilience to adapt and cope with changes. Activities carried out by WEP in the project community included training on sustainable agricultural practices, practical training on water harvesting and practical trainings on compost manure.

3. Assessment of Gender Knowledge and Awareness, Vulnerability and Adaptation Strategies to Impacts of Climate Change in Northern Nigeria.

Women Environmental Programme (WEP) was selected by NEST/BNRCC with the support of CIDA to implement a series of activities under the BNRCC research component in six communities across the Northern Region of Nigeria. The project aimed at highlighting the detailed assessment of the vulnerability and impacts of climate variability and climate change as well as the options for adapting to it. Since vulnerability to the impact of climate change varies with social and economic groups, understanding the gender dimensions to climate change vulnerability, impacts and adaptation becomes crucial. The objectives of the study were to identify the major climate change hazards, characterize such climate hazards and analyse the processes by which they impact on human livelihoods and welfare in the study area; determine the gender differences in awareness and perception of climate variability and climate change and the impacts of associated hazards; evaluate gender differences in vulnerability to the impacts of identified hazards of climate change and variability with respect to the following indicators – economic wellbeing, dependence on agriculture, water resources, education, health and nutrition, physical infrastructure, food security, poverty, and access to resources like firewood etc; to evaluate the measures taken by communities in adaptation to impacts of major climate change hazards and assess differences between males and females in terms of responses and adaptation needs; and finally, to determine economic, social, cultural, technological and institutional constraints to and opportunities for enhancing adaptive capacities of males and females to climate change impacts.

Given that Scientists across the globe have continue to warn that burning of fuels and land use changes such as deforestation are causing traumatic global climate changes. Most experts agree that the average global temperature could arise by 1 to 3.5 degrees Celsius over the next century. This climate change will have far reaching and unpredictable consequences, including a rise in the sea level, drought, flooding, severe storms, epidemics, food shortages, water scarcity, heat waves, drying of surface and

OUR WORK

ground water bodies, migration and conflicts, encroaching deserts, erosions, soil degradations etc. as evident in the study. Recognising that combating the impacts of climate change as stated above demands the commitment and engagement of both state and non-state actors, Women Environmental Programme (WEP) partnered with the Nigerian Environmental Study/ Action Team (NEST) on the research component of the Building Nigeria's Response to Climate Change (BNRCC) on Assessment of Gender Knowledge and Awareness, Vulnerability and Adaptation Strategies to the Impacts of Climate Change in Northern Nigeria.

WEP's intervention was research and study based focused in Northern Nigeria in the states of Benue (North Central), Borno (North East) and Kebbi (North West). In each of the project states, two (2) local government areas were selected for the research. Primary and Secondary data were utilised in this study as information was sourced from the States ministry of environment, the local council secretariats, the internet, available literatures in forms of books, magazines, newsletters etc. Primary data on the other hand, was obtained from the field through the administration of questionnaires, focus group discussions and in-depth interviews alongside site visitations and subsequently the report has been published as a reference tool.

4. World Environment Day

WEP celebrated World Environment Day 2011 on the 7th of June, 2011 with the theme as Forest; Nature at Your Service, it focuses on the importance of the world's forests towards sustaining life on earth. It is in view of this, that WEP organised a workshop which brought together members of civil society groups, government representatives, community dwellers, media personnel gender experts, climate change experts alongside environmentalist. The workshop focused on an overview of the Nigerian forest resources as expert facilitators brought to bear the current state of the Nigerian forest resources vis-à-vis gender perspective. A communiqué was adopted at the end of the workshop with the following recommendation:

A recognition and development of strategies for mainstreaming gender in REDD+ and forest management;

- REDD+ standards should support the inclusion of gender mainstreaming based on recognition of the rights of women in the role in sustainable forest and forest carbon management;
- Gender consideration should be incorporated into REDD and REDD plus frameworks to bring about increased efficiency and sustainability as it contributes to

- women involvement and commitment;
- Laws and policies should be enforced with partnership of the local communities towards forest protection and preservation;
- Provision of alternatives for fuel wood users, encourage sustainable and beneficiaries forest resources;
- Increase awareness about simple and practical ways to use renewable natural resources and campaign against deforestation;
- Incorporate forest education into the school curricular involving youth, children and people from the grassroots.

5. World Desertification Day

WEP in her work towards combating desertification observed the World Desertification Day 2011 which focuses attention on Dry Lands and Forests with the theme: Forests Keep Dry Lands Working. The effect of desertification in Nigeria cannot be over emphasized as it is the most pressing environmental challenge facing the Northern part of the country. To mark this day, WEP organised a discussion forum to chat a way forward for the ravaging desert encroaching at a pervasive rate. The forum recognised the fact that no fewer than 40 million people within the northern part of the country are faced with the threats of hunger and extreme weather conditions due to desert encroachment on arable lands and grazing lands, it was also observed that the Sahara desert is moving southwards at a rate of 0.6 kilometers per annum and the rate of deforestation been at 350,000 hectares per annum. The forum thus recommended that the following measures be taken:

- More researches to optimize yields in dry areas be conducted;
- Afforestation programs be implemented across the 11 front line states and beyond so as to curb desertification and its concurrent effects;
- There should be an improvement of early warning systems to predict the occurrence and security of drought;
- Shared information and access to new knowledge;



Group Picture of participants at the celebration of the 2011 World Desertification Day organized by WEP

OUR WORK

- Innovation financing schemes for women to expand their access to energy;
- Technical training for women;
- Increase access to land.

6. Nigerian Major Groups on Rio +20

The United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (UNCSD) is being organized in pursuance of General Assembly Resolution 64/236 (A/RES/64/236). The Conference which will take place in Brazil on 4-6 June 2012 to mark the 20th anniversary of the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), in Rio de Janeiro, and the 10th anniversary of the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) in Johannesburg. In order to ensure high quality inputs to the Conference, the Second Committee of the General Assembly called for

efficient and effective preparations at the local, national, regional and international levels by Governments and the United Nations system and encouraged the active participation of all major groups at all stages of the preparatory process.



Group Picture of Participants at the Nigeria Major Groups Preparatory Workshop towards RIO + 20 organized by WEP.

It is against this background that Women Environmental Programme in Partnership with Clean Energy and Safe Environment Initiative, International Center for Energy, Environment and Development, Friends of the Earth, Nigeria/Environmental Rights Action and the Nigerian Climate Action Network organized a One Day National Consultative Workshop of the Nigeria Major Groups in Abuja on the 6th of September, 2011. The consultative workshop aimed at creating awareness and soliciting inputs and contributions for inclusion in a compilation document of the Nigerian government serving as basis for the preparation of zero draft of the conference outcome document. The workshop drew over 70 participants from across the major groups which consisted of business and industry, children and youth, farmers, civil society organizations, farmers, local authorities, indigenous people, women, the scientific and technological community and trade unions, government representatives, international non-governmental organizations, donor agencies and

the diplomatic missions in Nigeria.

7. United Nations Conference on Climate Change (COP 17)

Almost two decades ago precisely in 1992, countries joined an international treaty, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, to cooperatively consider what they could do to limit average global temperature increases and the resulting climate change, and to cope with whatever impacts were, by then, inevitable. By 1995, countries had realized that emission reductions provisions in the Convention were inadequate. They further launched negotiations to strengthen the global response to climate change, and, two years later, adopted the Kyoto Protocol. The Kyoto Protocol legally binds developed countries to emission reduction targets, the Protocol's first commitment period started in 2008 and ends in 2012. The Kyoto protocol allows for a period of a year to year and a half scoping out so as to examine the extent to which efforts of reducing carbon emissions were achieve. With the Kyoto protocol coming to an end in 2012, it becomes very imperative that a concurrent binding document be drawn up. This happens to be one of the key issues governments of the 195 Parties to the Convention negotiated about during the COP 17 in Durban.



Priscilla Achakpa making a presentation on Climate Smart Agriculture during the United Nations Conference on Climate Change (COP 17) at Durban, South Africa.

Women Environmental Programme (WEP) actively participated at the conference organizing two side events and leading other discussions under the African pavilion at the Conference. WEP side event focused on Gender and Climate Change in Agriculture: Challenges and Issues for African Women with the second one focusing on Increasing Awareness on Redd+ Governance in Africa. The side events were attended by various dignitaries representing various countries. The outcome of the events positions:

- The side event expanded the knowledge base and brought about an increased awareness on issues of REDD and its implementation in Africa;

OUR WORK

- The event contributed in no small measure towards addressing the key challenges for developing and implementing REDD + mechanisms in Africa;
- Participants at the event called upon the African governments and relevant stakeholders to take a holistic approach towards developing and implementation of REDD in Africa;
- The event brought about shared experiences and best practices among and between countries towards the implementation of REDD;
- Participants at the event seek for the protection of the rights of the indigenous people most especially women in the implementation of REDD; Alternative sources of livelihoods and palliatives must be put in place to guarantee and ensure the economic activities of the local people.

The second side event held at the Desert Hall of Africa Pavilion, Durban South Africa focuses on Gender and Climate Change in Agriculture: Challenges and Issues for African Women was chaired by Comrade Nnimmo Bassey, the International Chair, Friends of the Earth (FoE) International and Executive Director of Environmental Rights Action (ERA), Assisted by Princess Caroline Usipedo, Africa Rep, Feminist Taskforce and President, Niger Delta Women for Peace and Development (NDWPD) while Surveyor Efik moderated the session.

The turn-out of participants was very encouraging with diverse representations from across African region and beyond. During the plenary session, Nnimmo Bassey made a presentation on Climate Change and Food Security in Africa by first defining the concept of climate change and explained its impacts as poverty reducing tool and alternative livelihoods provider. It further explained the need for urgent pro-active actions such as awareness creation, provision of alternative livelihoods and capacity building on adaptation to be carried out in most African Communities where climate change impacts and environmental pollution have eroded away their livelihoods and subject them to access only contaminated means of food preservation that are injurious to their health. Nnimmo site the case of the Niger Delta environment where gas flaring is used to dry and preserve food stuff such as “popo garri” (Starch) in several communities.

Priscilla M. Achakpa represented by Surveyor Efik made a presentation on Gender and Climate Change in Agriculture: Key Challenges and Issues for Nigerian Women, she highlighted the impacts of climate change on agriculture and the salient challenges faced by women over adaptation. She further stated that agriculture in Nigeria is the

OUR WORK

predominant economic activity employing over 70% of the population and that women constitute the larger percentage of farmers living in the rural areas and rely on unpredictable weather patterns to grow and harvest their food crops and other related livelihood activities.

She asserted that Nigerian women are more vulnerable to climate change than men, particularly in rural areas where agricultural activities predominate. Secondly, Nigerian women in most parts of the country lack power to own and control land, water, livestock and trees; hence they usually have fewer assets than men to recover from natural disasters. She recommended the inclusion of gender in agricultural design, planning, and implementation in policies and decision making.

A third presentation was made at the side event by Mrs. Caroline Usikpedo on The Impacts of Climate Change on the Grassroots Women in Nigeria (Extempore). She spoke on the peculiar circumstances of the Niger Delta women in the communities, saying the Government, especially at the Local level do not respond towards the plight of the women who lost their farmlands, schools and streams to floods and unpredictable precipitation as well as increased temperature.

She narrated the experiences of the Niger Delta community women at the Niger Delta Women Jury, which her organization organized on 5th October 2011, preparatory to the COP17. She explained how the women recounted their pathetic experiences of losing their farmlands to floods and in some uplands, the harsh temperature would destroy their crops; all in the face of lack of coping strategies, lack of alternative means of livelihoods and lack of financial support towards the rehabilitation of their socio-economic infrastructure such as schools, school furniture for their children, healthcare centres and jetties.

In conclusion after a series of questions and answers the outcome of the side event was the fact that countries that operate rain fed agriculture could have decline in agricultural yield of up to 50% between 2000 – 2020 due to increasing impact of climate change and that by 2100, Nigeria and West African countries are likely to have agricultural losses of up to 4% of GDP due to climate change. Secondly, there is the need for urgent intervention particularly in the area of institutional framework and funding for climate change adaptation targeting specifically women.

OUR WORK

Sub-Thematic Focus: Natural Resources Development

1. Enhancing the Capacities of Abuja HoCoN

The kernel of this Enhancing the Capacities of the Host Community Network Abuja Chapter project under the support of Global Greengrants Fund (GGF) has been to emphasize the need for close monitoring of the environment most particularly natural

resources within target communities by accounting for the impact of the associated activities of legal and illegal mining on the environment, health and well-being of the inhabitants of the location, and raising the consciousness of the residents to take proactive steps along action plans towards environmental protection. Developing plans for ecosystem protection can be very effective because they take into account local social, economic, and environmental conditions as well as



HoCon Environmental Monitoring in Warri, Delta State

community values. They also create a sense of local ownership of issues and solutions and encourage long-term community support and accountability. This for WEP is germane in assisting poor urban communities tackle the menace of environmental abuse.

Facilitating local learning and knowledge exchange remain a key factor in achieving proactive community engagement in environmental protection. WEP's projects with the support of GGF have developed unique capacities for community residents to have critical knowledge and expertise, and have demonstrated a good application of this knowledge in sustainable resource management and environmental conservation. However, local residents often lack the resources to effectively share their



HoCon Environmental Monitoring in Warri, Delta State on Gas Flaring

expertise and stories, or may need incentives to begin sharing. Local best practice in isolation is opportunity lost. Facilitating the peer-to-peer sharing of best practice between local residents is a powerful tool of local empowerment and a highly effective means of scaling up best practice to meet the goal of environmental protection. WEP's experience shows that uptake time of a best practice can be reduced by half or more when shared peer-to-peer or community-to-community.

Based on the foregoing, WEP has responded to the demand by facilitating visits by communities for knowledge exchange and the systematic analysis and communication of lessons learned, to draw upon experiences and extract best practices.

In the project under review, WEP facilitated a working exchange visit to Nigeria's Niger Delta for the benefiting communities of the GGF project. The visit provided the opportunity for networking with other host community members, developing national action plans for the Network and visiting the scene of an oil spill. These have been documented and published in a newsletter and distributed to relevant stakeholders.

2. WEP at the United Nations - Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) REPORT

A Side Event jointly organised by Women Environmental Programme (WEP) and Community Emergency Response Initiative (CERI) – both non-governmental organisations headquartered in Nigeria – was held on Monday 9 May 2011 at the 19th Session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) at the United Nations headquarters in New York. The CSD meets annually in New York, in two-year cycles, with each cycle focusing on clusters of specific thematic and cross-sectoral issues. In line with its Special ECOSOC consultative status that WEP participates in the CSD and has organised and held side events to enrich the discussions at the CSD.



Participants at a Side Event organized by WEP & CERI at the UN in New York, USA.

OUR WORK

The 2011 CSD continued to focus on the thematic issues of Transport, Chemicals, Waste Management and Mining. The side event jointly organised focused on Mining and was under the title: *Illegal Mining Extraction in Local Communities in Sub-Saharan Africa: Environmental, Economic and Social Impacts*. The topic of the side event's discussion was based on work done by the organisers by way of environmental monitoring and engagement in Nigeria. The Objectives of the Side Event were to highlight the effects of illegal mining activities on local community people, and to make critical recommendations that would add value to the discussions of CSD-19.



WEP Programme Manager making a presentation at the Side Event.

In the opening remarks by Mr. George Akor, representative of the Executive Director of Women Environmental Programme (WEP), he stated that the organization in collaboration with its partners both within and outside the country have been involved in environmental monitoring and in a constructive engagement in highlighting issues and concerns on both environment and the ecology especially as it concerns the impact of human activity on women, men and children and the surrounding ecosystem. The main thrust of this engagement is that sustainable development in all sectors may not be attained in the country and other parts of Africa without appropriate mechanisms to deal with the mirage of environmental challenges that bedevils much of Sub-Saharan Africa. He stated that environmental degradation was not limited to the Niger Delta as portrayed in media reports and developmental circles but that these occurs in varying degrees across much of Nigeria with damning impacts especially on women and children. The presentation focused on the tragic events in Zamfara State in northwestern Nigeria – *A Field Assessment of Mass Lead Poisoning from Mining Activities Zamfara State*. A major outbreak of lead poisoning in children occurred in Zamfara State, Nigeria since March 2010, related to the processing of lead-rich ore for the extraction of gold. WEP, CERI and ERA/Friends of the Earth, Nigeria conducted a field assessment on the root causes of the outbreak of the lead poisoning. It turned out that 163 lives were lost out of which 111 of them were children between the ages of five to ten years old.

Open plenary discussions, observations, inputs and recommendations were made by

the cross section of participants who took part in the side event. The possibility of the lead contaminating ground water in the locations mentioned during the presentation – it was pointed that there is strong evidence of this possibility given the bio-accumulation and propagation of lead in the ecosystem. Much of the gold ash was intermingled with deposits of lead which were unknowingly washed off in water bodies (rivers, ponds and streams) thus making continuation rates very high. Concern was raised on the abandoned mining sites in Zamfara and elsewhere, and the effects that this could cause on people living within the vicinity. There is need for state environmental agencies to step up to the task of ensuring that these are properly sealed off and reclaimed. On property rights to land and ownership – It was pointed out that ownership of land in Nigeria can be held separately from ownership of rights over that land, including mineral/ mining rights. The Land Use Act which is the legal framework set by the government to ensure this. This sets the limits on the extent to which the state may interfere with property rights. This sets the tone for government granting mining rights and licenses and what the original inhabitants/ host communities get in return are social services through the rights' grantees sense of corporate social responsibility. The need for enlightenment and awareness of early warning signs was stressed: this should include monitoring system and building capacities of women.

Sub Thematic Focus – Housing Settlement

1. World Habitat Day

The United Nations designated the first Monday of October every year as World Habitat Day. World Habitat Day was celebrated on 3rd October 2011 and the Global Celebration was hosted by the Government of Mexico. The initiative is to reflect on the state of our towns and cities and the basic right of all, to adequate shelter. It is also intended to remind the world of its collective responsibility for the future of the human habitat. The United Nations chose the theme 'Cities and Climate Change' because climate change is fast becoming the pre-eminent development challenge of the 21st century.

Women Environmental Programme (WEP) in partnership with Community Emergency Response Initiative (CERI) and Federation of Urban Poor (FEDUP) organized a discussion forum to mark the World Habitat Day. The forum was attended by relevant stakeholders and highlighted the challenges of housing to the urban poor while also focusing on the theme of the celebration.

OUR WORK

Thematic Focus: Governance

1. Women Political Empowerment Project

This project is being anchored by Women Environmental Programme with the support from the Federal Ministry of Women Affairs & Social Development to coordinate activities of the North-East Zonal Office on the Political Empowerment of Women in the six states of the zone, collaborating with the States Ministries of Women Affairs, CSOs, and other stakeholders such as INEC, SIEC, Political Party leaders, Women groups and other leaders in the zone. The aim is to enhance grassroots' participation of women in the electoral governance process from local to the federal level to increase and promote participation of women and youth towards election period. To further create awareness especially in the rural areas, mobilization and education of the market women in matters relating to political participation rights.

2. Capacity Building for Women in Electoral Processes and Political Participation in the Build Up to 2011 Elections in North West Nigeria Zamfara State

African Women Development Fund (AWDF) supported WEP in implementing and building the capacities of women in Zamfara State towards the build-up of the 2011 Elections in North West Nigeria, to participate in Politics. WEP built the capacities of 56 women selected from three senatorial zones of the State in other to promote gender mainstreaming in governance through civic education and the electoral process for the sustainable democracy and development of Nigeria. The project further increased women's access to information sharing, advocacy skills and their ability to use them for their own daily needs and decision making.



Participants during the capacity building workshop on gender mainstreaming in electoral processes

3. Open Budget Survey Project in Benue State sponsored by CIRDDOC Nigeria in partnership with UNICEF and IBP (International Budget Partnership)

WEP implemented a project on Open Budget Survey in Benue State which was sponsored by Civil Resource Development and Documentation Centre (CIRDDOC) Nigeria in partnership with United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and International Budget Partnership (IBP), the overarching aim of the project is to make budget systems more responsive to the needs of the society and accordingly, to make these systems more transparent and accountable to public. It seek ways to strengthen the monitoring and openness of budget and of public finance through better management of information and the development of innovative ways of ensuring peoples participation in accountability in governance in the selected states. Gwer East Local Government Area of Benue State was use as pilot to monitor the budgeting processes at the state level in order to enhance accountability, transparency and efficiency in the planning, award and implementation of the budget in the state, this is to strengthen public support for government programmes and policies in Benue state.

Sub-Thematic Focus - Conflict, Gender & Peace-building

1. Research on Root Causes of Gender Based Violence (GBV) and Assessment of Repertory Centres in Borno and Adamawa State

WEP conducted a research into the root causes of GBV and assessed Repertory Centres in Borno and Adamawa States with support from UNFPA. The research included secondary and primary data collection and the methodology used for this exercise involved the designing of research instrument, training of volunteers, pre-testing, realignment of the questionnaire to include issues raised during the pre-testing, printing of the questionnaires, administering of 400 questioners, 100 per LGA covering 4 LGAs (urban and rural) of



Participants during a workshop on Gender Based Violence (GBV)

OUR WORK

Maiduguri, Bama, Yola, and Numan. The questionnaires were administered by the volunteers that had been trained in each of the community with WEP team leader leading the process, focus group discussions were held, in-depth interviews and interactive sessions with victims of gender based violence and all the identified stakeholders. The administered questionnaires were collated and analyzed using the Statistical Package Social Sciences (SPSS) qualitative and quantitative method of analysis. The research brought into limelight findings, challenges and recommendations to reduce the GBV.

1. European Union Peace-Building Project

The project on Connecting the Disconnect through Women and Youth for Peace Building in the Middle Belt Region was rounded off in the period under review. The project's was implemented in the locations of Apa and Kwande (in Benue State) and Takum (in Taraba State) and was supported by the European Union in Nigeria.



Participants pose for photograph after a workshop

The action was aimed at building a structure and platform for 'connecting the disconnect' for peace building and Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) in Nigeria's Middle Belt Region. The 'disconnect' in this sense are women and youth. Experience in conflict management and peace-building initiatives in Nigeria have shown that this group largely remain in the background and are not involved in peace processes and negotiations. This action was thus aimed at developing and promoting lasting and sustainable peace through their engagement in peace-building in the project locations.

Specific tasks and activities carried out included conducting thorough research and validating information gathered, building competencies and capacities of benefiting community people, engaging main stakeholders and factions in the conflict divide, and the formation of peace advocacy networks in each of the project locations and within the entire Middle Belt region of Nigeria. The network, called PAN-MIDDLEBELT, linked up

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all community based groups and beneficiaries in locations where WEP had similar projects for the purpose of peace-building, strengthening early warning systems and mediation.



Affected houses from the crisis

The project had at its core the desire to mobilise positive organizing to invigorate the potentials in particularly women and young people to be at the vanguard of active participation for peaceful co-existence through the formation of peace advocacy networks and the monitoring of early warning signs. Given the movement towards gender mainstreaming and women empowerment, initiatives in peace-building activities have led to the commendation of

women for their effort to contribute to making Nigeria a more peaceful country. Thus promoting effective networking and strategies to sustain community peace and conflict resolution among women and youth groups remains a bedrock principle of WEP's work in peace-building. One fact-recognition is that women cannot be effective participants in peace processes unless they possess relevant skills.

Key recommendations made at the end of the action dwelt on the need for local communities' de-emphasizing the use of violence to achieve group objectives, respect for the constitutional rights of all to settle in any part of Nigeria, on governments to support peace-building efforts through various proactive means, on donors to support training programmes for emergency preparedness and response, and on the need for donor partners to support capacity building programmes for the central network formed as a result of this intervention, as well as for other similar groups in Nigeria. The network is seen as way to promote the inclusion of women in formal peace processes and activities within the Middle Belt region of the country.

1. Provision of Vocational Centre and Skills Acquisition for Women and Youths in Agila Community of Ado LGA, Benue State.

WEP's involvement in Agila in time past revealed that the nature of conflict there is multifaceted and had a dual dimension: a protracted inter-ethnic conflict and bitter land dispute with Ngbo, a neighbouring community in Ebonyi which shares boundary with

OUR WORK

Agila in Beune State and an intra-ethnic conflict among the community members classified as the Royals versus the non-Royals (chieftaincy) dispute. This disputes which has been on for decade, has crippled economic activities in Agila till date, sidelined vulnerable groups (women, youths, etc) in the area of peace discussions even though they are the victims of such conflicts. With support from UNDP, WEP implemented a project in Agila community which comprises of conflict mapping, training for early warning and monitoring of conflict and mediation which has today brought about peaceful co-existence among the Agila people. However, despite the reunion, the community lacks basic amenities and the high rate of unemployment amongst the youths is alarming thus portending an avenue of conflicts in future.



WEP/IPCR/UNDP Peace building Project - Some equipment at one of the Skill Acquisition Centres in Agila.

It is based on this backdrop that WEP with support from Institute for Peace and Conflict Resolution (IPCR) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) implemented a project for the establishment of Skills Acquisition Centres on Tailoring and Carpentry in Apa-Agila and Agila for the communities in other to build cohesion amongst them, provide women and youths with skills, increase their economic well being, reduce poverty and contributing to sustainable peace.

4. UNDP/Adamawa State Government Conflict Mapping

Although said to be one of the most peaceful states in the country, Adamawa State in recent years has been experiencing violent conflicts, largely resulting from competition over use of natural resources such as farm lands, fish ponds, water points, and cattle routes and so on. Conflict in the state also results from struggle over chieftaincy or differences in religion. Cattle rustling and armed banditry are also other forms of violent conflict in the state. These intermittent and isolated violent conflicts have affected many communities in Demsa, Song, Ganye, Toungo and of recent Lamurde LGAs. Almost all other Local Governments Areas (LGAs) across the state have experienced isolated

OUR WORK

cases of clashes between sedentary farmers and nomadic pastoralists especially during harvesting period.

As a result, Women Environmental Programme (WEP) was contracted in the year under review by the Adamawa State Government in partnership with UNDP under its Capacity for Good Governance Programme, to conduct a conflict mapping of two post-conflict affected communities in the State and test a pilot conflict early warning system as well as a rapid-response mechanism in these communities/LGAs, thus contributing to the development and promotion of lasting and sustainable peace in the target communities. The aim of the action was to gather relevant background information on the conflict situation in Ganye and Lamurde LGAs; review past and current government efforts in mitigating conflicts in these areas; gather data on best practices by other NGOs or actors who might have done some peace work in the area, and make critical recommendations in setting up an Early Warning System. Apart from the goal of promoting sustainable peace in the communities and the State thus enhancing suitable environment for the entrenchment of the ideals of good governance, the aim of the action was also to ensure that the finding made would be documented and be used as a reference material, suggesting best ways of intervention.



Some women during Conflict Mapping waiting for assistance.

The mapping involved critical assessment of the conflict areas using primary and secondary data. Going further, there were sessions where community members in the target locations had their capacities built on rudiments of monitoring of early signs, advocacy, negotiation and Alternative Dispute Resolution skills as well as training of CSOs/ CBOs on Peace Networks and Coalition Building.

In spite of State intervention, there has been no comprehensive security, conflict management/resolution or peace-building policy as the response has been reactive, heavy-handed and uninformed by peace building principles. It was within this context the UNDP sought the consultancy of WEP to: support the communities in the two LGAs

OUR WORK

to effectively utilize skills and tools to track, monitor and rapidly respond to conflict in their locality; ensure the effective implementation of the conflict early warning and response system in the communities; enhance effective partnership between CBOs in these communities and officials at the state and local government levels in responding to conflict in the pilot communities; facilitate processes that allow communities affected by conflict to play a prominent role in resolution.

Key recommendations made at the end of the process include the need to go beyond conflict mapping and analysis. Findings indicate that critical stakeholders in the peace and development process should see that women and the youth are moved to higher levels for meaningful contribution for societal development through various empowerment strategies. The report also recommends that the Adamawa State Government should, through various programmes, provide the enabling environment for socio-economic development, as well as putting in place confidence building measures among fractioned communities. Other recommendations include the need for sustained capacity development programmes on peace-building mechanisms for stakeholders, improvement on information gathering and dissemination, and adequate equipping of security agencies as well as strengthening their capacities.

5. UNDP/Niger State Government Conflict Mapping

Like a number of states within Nigeria's north central region, Niger State has been experienced violent conflicts, largely resulting from competition over use of natural resources such as farm lands, fish ponds, water points, grazing routes and boundary issues. These violent conflicts have affected some communities in Mokwa, Lapai, Emegi, Kuchita and Kagara. One of the latest cases was a violent clash between the Gbogifu and the Lenfa Kuso communities in Mokwa LGA over land and fish ponds. Several attempts at reconciling the warring communities did not yield any meaningful results.



Burnt houses over grown with weed during the conflict mapping.

In the similar manner of the Adamawa State intervention, WEP was once

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more contracted by the Niger State Government in partnership with UNDP to conduct a conflict mapping of these two post-conflict affected communities of Gbogifu and LemfaKuso, and test a pilot conflict early warning system as well as a rapid-response mechanism in these communities/LGAs. The aim of the action – similar to the process adopted in Adamawa - was to gather relevant background information on the conflict situation; review past and current government efforts in mitigating conflicts; gather data on best practices by other NGOs or actors who might have done some peace work in the area, and make critical recommendations in setting up an Early Warning System.

Aside the conflict mapping processes conducted, WEP was able to facilitate dialogue, reconciliation and other peace-building initiatives among the affected communities. This was germane in the intervention as the Project Team discovered that mutual suspicion and tension still persists between the communities even though there was relative peace.

Recommendations at the end of the intervention hinged on the need to put peace-building measures in place to instill confidence and trust amongst the people, promote peaceful coexistence and productive utilization of the resources in the area. Other recommendations included the need for the provision of infrastructure and basic social amenities and the strengthening of the capacities of security agencies and other peace actors within the area.

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RECOGNITION

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BUILDING NIGERIA'S RESPONSE TO CLIMATE CHANGE

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**Building Nigeria's Response to Climate Change
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CHIEFTAINCY AWARD

In recognition of WEP's strive to promote peaceful co-existence in Nigeria and the resolve to intervene in conflict affected areas in the Country, the people of Apa-Agila and Agila Community in Ado LGA of Benue State, Nigeria bestowed on the Executive Director of WEP a double chieftaincy title as the Ene Ebo (Mother of Peace) of Apa-Agila and Ochenya Eneh Eboh I (Queen Mother of Peace I) of Agila Land.

These titles were bestowed upon her in recognition of WEP's intervention in restoring peace among the two warring communities (Apa-Agila and Agila) for decades before WEP's intervention since 2009 with the support of UNDP and the provision of Skills Acquisition Centres for the communities with support from IPCR and UNDP in 2011 respectively in other to build cohesion amongst them, provide women and youths with skills to empower them and increase their economic well being thus reducing poverty and contributing to sustainable peace in the communities.



WEP/IPCR/UNDP Peace building Project - Some equipment at one of the Skill Acquisition Centre in Agila.



Installation/dressing of the Ene Ebo by the Women in Apa-Agila.



Process of installation as the Chiefs look on in Apa-Agila

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CHIEFTAINCY AWARD



Paying homage to the Deputy Speaker, Benue State House of Assembly, Hon. Dr. Stephen Omenje and others.



Cultural display at the commissioning of the Skills Acquisition in Apa- Agila



Cultural display at the commissioning of the Skills Acquisition in Agila Community



Installation/dressing of the Ochenya Ene Eboh 1 by the Women in Agila



Elders look on in Agila Community as the process of commissioning and installation of the chieftaincy title take place.



Group of women accompanying the Ochenya Ene Eboh 1 to the seated chiefs

MEDIA REPORTS

1. ENVIRONMENT STAKEHOLDERS MEET ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT – *Daily Trust newspaper, September 15, 2011*

The Environmental groups meet in Abuja to deliberate on issues relating to Nigeria's preparation for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) and the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (UNCSD) in Rio de Janeiro tagged Rio +20.

The conference is expected to secure renewed political commitment for sustainable development, assess the progress made, gaps in the implementation of the outcomes of major summits on sustainable development as well as address new and emerging challenges. The meeting was geared towards achieving an outcome that will make notable contributions in advancing the goal of sustainable development which brought together representatives from Women Environmental Programme (WEP), International Center for Energy, Environment and Development (ICEED), Federal Ministry of Environment and the Nigeria Climate Action Network (NigeriaCan) among others.

2. CLEANING UP AND REMEDIATION OF OIL SPILLS IN NIGERIA - *Thursday, 01 September 2011, <http://www.allafrica.com/stories>*

Almost a month after the official presentation of the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP) report on oil spills in the Niger Delta region of Nigeria especially in Ogoni land, affected communities are still waiting for succor in the area of cleanup and remediation exercise. Perhaps tired of waiting for the Federal Government to lay out its elaborate plan of how it plans to carry out the exercise, elders from Ogoni land could no longer hold their peace and watch, so they had to come to the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) to press home their demands before the National Oil Spills Detection and Response Agency (NOSDRA).

The elders made it clear that the cleanup of oil spills must be carried out without delay to protect generations of its sons and daughters from the devastating impact of oil spill. According to Mene Sunday Kotex Williams, one of the visiting elders to NOSDRA, the Ogoni people are watching to see what efforts the federal government would make to restore and protect the land from oil spills. The Ogoni elders also warned that as long as their land remains unclean and unremediated, they would not want any form of oil exploration activity to take place there because of the many hardship the people have undergone in the past. Over a year ago when the Gulf of Mexico spill occurred, the

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United States (US) President, Barack Obama immediately swung into action and demanded that the company offers compensation to the locals situated along the banks of the gulf. It held series of meetings, seminars and forums to create awareness among the five Gulf States to promote participation and coordination of programs among the local residents and health organizations. In Nigeria however, the government is still thinking about the best course of action for close to a month. After the UNEP report went public, President Goodluck Jonathan is said to have constituted a committee to look into the report and suggest the best course of action. Nigerians are still waiting for the report of the committee to come to light weeks after the government has been told of the danger caused by 50 years of poorly supervised oil exploration in the country. Cleaning up and remediation of oil spills in Nigeria.

According to the report tagged 'UNEP Ogoni land oil assessment' countering and cleaning up the pollution done to the Delta region in order to restore the land would take up to 25-30 years. Many observers however have said Nigeria and Shell can carry out clean up and remediation exercise of the affected areas in less than the number of years stipulated in the UNEP report.

Mr. George Akor, an environmentalist with the Women Environmental Programme (WEP) said 25-30 years is a long time for Nigeria to clean up the oil spills in the delta region despite it being labeled one of the worst oil spills in history.

He also made comparison between the oil spills in the Gulf of Mexico which took less than a year to be cleaned up and the situation in Nigeria which has continued to drag on for several years without the government taking any serious action until the UNEP report was published. "I believe that if more effort is put into the remediation exercise, the time needed to carry out the cleaning would not take Nigeria close to 20 years. No double standards should be accepted in this exercise because if the American government can clean up the Gulf of Mexico Spills in less than a year, then Nigeria can do the cleaning in less than 20 years even though the spill in Nigeria is more than that of the Gulf of Mexico, he said. An environmentalist had once said the Nigerian government is very good in providing curative measures instead of preventive measures whenever environmental challenges come to the fore. There is also need for such remediation exercises to be done in other parts of the country where oil spills had occurred or may occur in future.

3. WE SHOULD EXPECT MORE – *Tell July 25, 2011*

The Executive Director, WEP, had an interview with *Tell* magazine on the issue of threat of flooding to Nigeria. She said that the threat of flooding is becoming vast in Nigeria as a result of climate change and man-made activities, we should expect more flooding all over the country as a result of changes in weather variation and climate conditions, blockage of water channels and drainages, indiscriminate dumping of refuse, opening of dams without necessary measures.

4. GROUP URGES FG TO TACKLE DROUGHT – *Leadership weekend, June 18, 2011*

The Executive Director, Women Environmental Programme (WEP), Priscilla Achakpa has urged the federal government to tackle drought problem in the nation's desert. She disclosed this at the World Desertification Day programme held in Abuja with theme: "Forest: Keep Dry land Working". Desertification leads to poverty with all social, economic and cultural consequences with women been the most vulnerable group.

She further said that the decrease in vegetation cover would lead to an increase in soil erosion, decrease in fresh water availability, destruction of human settlement and infrastructure by active sand dunes, loss of bio-diversity, agricultural land and resource use conflict. "Government has initiated policies like; Land Use Act, NEEDs, MDGs goals, Nigerian Energy Policy, Green Wall Sahara Programme to tackle desertification problems but they are ineffective, she added.

Mr Odibo O. a Personal Assistance to the former Minister of Environment John Odey, said that drought is a silent killer that kills about 25 people on a daily basis as a result of hunger.

5. GROUP FAULTS FEDERAL GOVERNMENT OVER DEFORESTATION – *Leadership Newspaper, June 8, 2011.*

The Executive Director of Women Environmental Programme (WEP), Priscilla Achakpa in a press briefing on 2011 World Environment Day held at Peace Haven Hotel in Abuja faulted the Federal Government for not doing much to battle deforestation in the country. The theme 'Forest: Nature at Your Service'. She however that the government should

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consider the benefit of communities, especially those who have lived in the forest all their life and do all in its power to safeguard the forest, there is nothing like monoculture farming system in Nigeria anymore therefore the forest must preserved strictly as there is huge gap in forest management.

Also, the Special Adviser to the former Minister of Environment, Odibo o. said that Nigeria has the highest rate of deforestation in the world. He further said that monitoring of land use and vegetation at the national level will bring change in the nation.

The deputy director, Draught and Desertification, Ministry of Environment, Uju Okoye, said that women are mainly actors, both in climate change instigation and diversification. She said 'Women's labour is on the increase because most of them, given their productive role in the community have access to land but do not have control and this is problematic'.

6. COMMUNITIES IN MOKWA LGA RESOLVE CONFLICT -*Newsline Newspaper on Sunday, February 27, 2011*

The people of Gbogifu, Lenfa-kuso, Jifu and Nkukuso communities in Mokwa LGA of Nigeria State finally agreed to embrace peace and live with o another after over a decade of conflict that existed among them. The agreement was reached during a one day workshop on information sharing on conflict organised by Women Environmental Programme (WEP) with support of United Nations Development Programme (UNDP); and Niger State Government for the people of the communities, the programme held at the Bida town hall saw the warring communities agreeing to peaceful coexistence.

The Executive Director, WEP, Priscilla Achakpa said her team was not there to dictate for the people, rather to discuss with them on how best to restore peace in these communities. She urged the warring communities to put the past behind them and forgive as they need basic amenities such as electricity, water, good road network, primary health care center etc. Also present at the workshop was the treasurer of Mokwa Local government Area, Alh. Aliyu Mohammed Naibi, who is from Jifu community, he reiterated the history of the four warring communities, that they are from the same origin, speaking one language (Nupe), and practice the same religion (Islam), adding that the crisis was against the teaching of their religion. He stated also that one can not differentiate the four communities, especially because of the intermarriages,

adding that the conflict mapping programme organised by WEP, UNDP and Niger State Government was a challenge to them as he highlighted some past effort towards resolving the conflict in the communities.

**7. SLUM DWELLERS HOUSING COOPERATIVE SCHEME UNDERWAY -
*Thisday Newspaper, January 20, 2011***

The Federation of Urban Poor (FEDUP), in partnership with the Women Environmental Programme (WEP) mulled up plans to initiate a housing cooperative in Abuja, FCT. The cooperative serve as a key to promoting Secured Tenure; an alliance between the Government Public Sector and Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) in a bid to ensure sustainability.

The Programme Manager of WEP, George Akor, disclosed that the plan as a matter of priority seeks to address the housing needs of slum dwellers in every area councils of the city where demolition had occurred. He also stated that FEDUP, which is also known as Shacks and Slum Dwellers Association of Nigeria and alliance of other CSOs have continued to constructively engage the government to observe the rights of land and housing of the affected people as enshrined I dozens of international, regional and national human rights instruments, to which Nigeria is a signatory. While explaining that the incessant demolition without recourse to its effect has so far displaced about 800,000 people in the FCT, and that alliance is currently negotiating with the FCTA to allocate lands for mass housing scheme.

Details of funding for the scheme shows that FEDUP with membership-base of about 5,000 across FCT will ensure funding via cooperative revenue from its members. This initiative is inspired by what is obtained in the case of slum settlements in South Africa, Kenya and Ghana.

PARTNERS AND NETWORKS

WEP collaborates with agencies and community based organisations in the implementation of its activities and projects. Some of the activities implemented range from women political participation, promoting community participation in slum areas, empowerment of youth and career development etc. These organisations include;

Development Partners

- a) Misereor
- b) European Commission
- c) Global Greengrants Fund (GGF)
- d) Irish Aid
- e) UNFPA
- f) UNDP
- g) USAID/EDWARDS
- h) AWDF

Federal Government of Nigeria

- a) Federal Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development
- b) Federal Ministry of Environment

State Government

- a) Benue State Government
- b) Niger State Government
- c) Adamawa State Government

Networks and Coalitions

- Benue NGOs Network (BENGONET)
- Gender and Climate Change Network
- Gender and Disaster Network (GDNL)
- Global Environment Facility (GEF)
- Global Land Tool Network (GLTN)
- Green Alliance, Nigeria
- Institute for Housing and Urban Development Studies (IHS)
- International Alliance for Inhabitants (IAI)
- Network for African Peace Builders (NAPS)
- Shacks/Slum Dwellers International (SDI)
- Network of Civil Society on Water and Sanitation in Nigeria (NEWSAN)
- Transition Monitoring Group of Nigeria (TMG)
- West African Network for Peace building –Nigeria (WANEP)
- World Alliance for Citizen Participation (CIVICUS)

HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

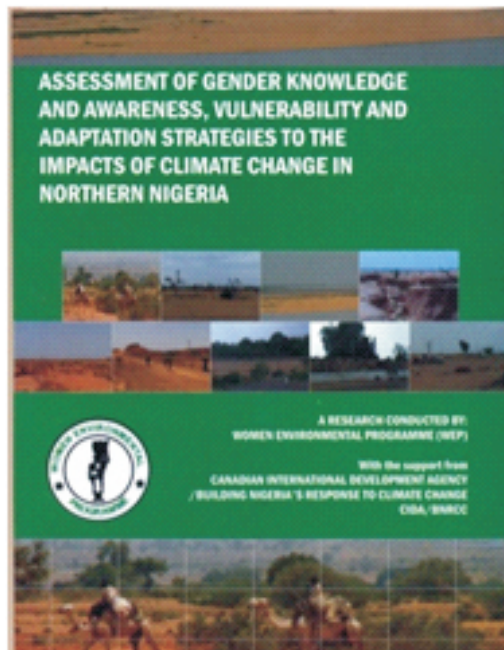
2011 was a remarkable year for human resource development in WEP. This is in line with the organisation's commitment to being a learning one in which all staffs are continuously given opportunities to learn, sustain and improve organizational and individual outputs. Members of staff attended several meetings, workshops and training programmes nationally and internationally. Some of these are:

- 19th Session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) organized by United Nation headquarters New York 3rd-16th May, 2011.
- Stakeholders Capacity Building Workshop on Gender and Climate Change organized by Federal Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development on 29th – 30th September 2011.
- Conference on Sustainable City Development-Waste Management and Waste-To-Energy organized by The Federal Ministry of Environment and The Embassy of Sweden on the 24th-25th October,2011 in Nicon Luxury Hotel.
- Training Workshop on Effects Monitoring, organized by the Misereor Office in Nigeria for Project Partners Abuja, October 2011
- Information Session on Purdue Improved Cowpea Storage Project (PICS) Non Chemical Cowpea Storage Technology, organized by International Institute for Tropical Agriculture (IITA) Kano, November 2011
- Climate Change, Water and Conflict in the Niger River Basin Dissemination Meeting organized by International Alert at Niamey, Niger, 8 December 2011.
- First African Conference on Climate Change Development and African Preparatory Conference towards Rio+ 20 at Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.
- 6th World Water Forum, Africa Preparatory Process Regional Multi Stakeholder Validation Workshop, Banjul, The Gambia: 19th – 21st December, 2011.
- UNDP/Bank of Industry – Renewable Energy Project Defense Meeting

PUBLICATIONS

Assessment of Gender Knowledge and Awareness, Vulnerability and Adaptation Strategies to the impacts of Climate Change in Northern Nigeria

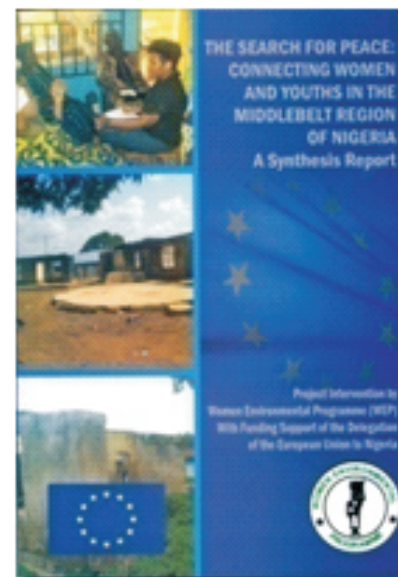
It has been determined that global climate change will have a strong impact on Nigeria, and West Africa more generally, particularly in the areas of agriculture, land use, energy and water resources. Nigeria's long term development priority of poverty reduction will be severely constrained, if insufficient attention is paid to the current and future impacts of climate change. It is based on this fact that the Building Nigeria's Response to Climate Change (BNRCC) Project was developed and been implemented with funding from the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), and implemented by the Nigeria Environmental Study/Action Team (NEST). Women Environmental Programme (WEP) carried out a research proponent of the BNRCC project which is based on the "Assessment of Gender Knowledge and Awareness, vulnerability and Adaptation Strategies to the impacts of Climate Change in Northern Nigeria". Three States are selected from the North West, North East and North central with two local governments from each of the selected states. The project objective is identifying major climate hazards and analyzing the processes by which they impact on human livelihoods and welfare in the study area, determine gender differences in awareness and perception of climate variability and climate change and the impacts of associated hazards, evaluate gender differences in vulnerability to the impacts of identified hazards of climate change and variability with respect to the following indicators – economic wellbeing, dependence on agriculture, education, health and nutrition, physical infrastructure, food security, poverty, and access to resources. Evaluate measures taken by communities in adaptation to impacts of major climate change hazards and assess gender differences in terms of responses and adaptation needs, determine economic, social, cultural, technological and institutional constraints to and opportunities for enhancing adaptive capacities of males and females to climate change impacts and finally estimating the costs of impacts and adaptation/coping strategies and any gender differences.



PUBLICATIONS

Connecting the Disconnect Through Women & Youth for Peace Building in the Middle Belt Region

The EU supported WEP on a project: Connecting the Disconnect through Women & Youth for Peace Building in the Middle Belt Region - to build a structure and a platform for connecting the disconnect for peace building and Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) in the Middle Belt region, in order to contribute to the development and promotion of lasting and sustainable peace through positive Women and Youth engaging in peace building in the two project states of Benue and Taraba. One of the aims of this project was to critically evaluate structural and institutional safeguards put in place by government to check the escalation of violent conflicts in project target states and build a peace advocacy network of women and youth organizations who have been disconnected from peace building decisions and policies to connect in order to continually monitor and intervene for peaceful and harmonious relations in the project states. It also provided early warning and crisis response support to the government in situations of outbreak of hostilities. The project led to the formation of Pan-Middlebelt, a grassroots peace advocacy movement covering states within the Middlebelt region of Nigeria.



Environmental Impact Newsletter

Published on the Global Green Fund (GGF) Project, it highlight issues, concerns and articulations of community residents and their action plans for engagement with institutions and stakeholders, and a listing of monitoring carried out in the target areas. The newsletter is innovative and serves as a veritable resource and information material; it has been distributed to the media, construction and mining companies, government establishments, community leaders and other stakeholders. It also serves as an advocacy tool for WEP, its partners and community members to feed into promoting environmental sustainability.



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WOMEN ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMME (WEP)

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2011

PKF

**Pannell Kerr Forster
{Chartered Accountants}
Abuja-Nigeria**

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DIRECTORS AND PROFESSIONAL ADVISERS

Board of Directors

Priscilla M. Achakpa
Dr. Kabiru Isyaku, Mni
Charles Abaagu
Mr. Yakubu Aliyu
Prof. David I. Ker
Anna Maria Abaagu

Executive Director
Director
"
"
"
"

Advisory Board

Mrs. Sarah Jibril
Festus Okoye
Mrs. Veronica Garba

Registered Office

Block E Flat 2, Anambra Court
Gaduwa Housing Estate
Apo After Legislature Quarters
P. O. Box 10176, Garki, Abuja
Nigeria, West Africa.

Bankers

Eagle Bank, Abuja
Spring Bank, Abuja
United Bank for Africa Plc, Abuja
Oceanic Bank, Abuja
Zenith Bank, Abuja

Auditors

PKF Professional Services
[Chartered Accountants]
Abuja, Nigeria.

DIRECTORS REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2011

The Directors present to the members their report for the year ended December 31, 2011 together with the Financial Statements and report thereon.

Principal Activities

The main activities of the Programme are to protect the Economic and Social rights of Women, Youths and Children, Conflict Management and Environmental Issues, Research and Documentation.

Legal Form

The Programme is a non-profit making organization registered under part C of the Companies and Allied Matters Act of 1990.

	Dec. 2011	Dec. 2010
Result for the Year	N	N
Net Surplus for the year	(24,401,993)	28,432,161

Fixed Assets

Information on the fixed assets owned by the Programme as at the end of this financial Period is given in note 2 to these financial statements.

Health, Safety and Welfare of Employees

The Programme places a high premium on the health, safety and welfare of its employees in their place of work.

DIRECTORS REPORT- [CONTINUES]

FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2011

Employees and Disabled Persons

No disabled persons were employed by the company during the year. However, it is the company's policy to consider disabled persons for employment bearing in mind the respective aptitudes and abilities of the applicants concerned. In the event of members of staff becoming disabled, every effort shall be made to ensure that their employment continues and appropriate training is arranged. It is the policy of the company that the training, career development and promotion of disabled persons should be identical with that of other employees.

Auditors

In accordance with section 357 (2) of the Companies and Allied Matters Act 1990, Messrs PKF Professional Services, Chartered Accountants, have indicated their willingness to continue in office. A resolution will be proposed authorizing the directors to determine their remuneration.

By Order of the Board



PROGRAMME SECRETARY

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PKF

Pannell Kerr Foster
{Chartered Accountants}
NACRDB PLAZA (4TH FLOOR)

Independence Way, Central Business District G.P.O. Box 2071 Garki-Abuja-Nigeria
Tel: 08034086939, 08080411569, E-mail: pannellabj@yahoo.com.uk

REPORT OF AUDITORS TO THE MEMBERS OF WOMEN ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMME

We have audited the financial Statements of Women Environmental Programme for the year ended December 31, 2011 set out on pages 5 to 12, which have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

Respective responsibilities of directors and auditors

In accordance with the Companies and Allied Matters Act, 1990, the Programme trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements. It is our responsibility as Auditors to form an independent opinion, based on our audit, on those financial statements and to report our opinion to you.

Basis of Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards. An audit includes examination, on a test basis, of evidence relevant to the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. It also includes an assessment of the significant estimates and judgment made by the directors in the preparation of the financial statements and of whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the Programme circumstances, consistently applied and adequately disclosed.

We planned and performed our audit so as to obtain all the information and explanations which we considered necessary in order to provide us with sufficient evidence to give reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material mis-statement, whether caused by fraud or other irregularity or error. In forming our opinion, we also evaluated the overall adequacy of the presentation of information in the financial statements, and assessed whether the Programme books of account had been properly kept.

In common with many businesses of similar size and organization, the association's system of control is dependent upon the close involvement of the Directors who are the shareholders. Where independent confirmation of the completeness of the accounting records was therefore not available, we have accepted assurances from the Directors that the entire Programme transactions have been reflected in the records made available for our audit.

Opinion

Subject to the foregoing, in our opinion, these financial statements give a true and fair view of the state of the Programme affairs at December 31, 2011 and of the surplus and cash flows for the year ended on that date, and have been properly prepared in accordance with the Companies and Allied Matters Act, 1990.



PKF Professional Services
Chartered Accountants
Abuja, Nigeria

Date: 8th June, 2012.....

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2011

The following are the significant accounting policies adopted in the preparation of these financial statements.

Basis of Accounting

The Financial Statements are prepared under the historical cost convention.

Taxation

The Programme is a non-profit making organization registered under part C of the Companies and Allied Matters Act 1990 and as such no provision is made for taxation in the Financial Statements.

Depreciation

Depreciation of fixed assets is provided on straight-line basis using the following annual rates:

Motor Vehicles	25%
Electricity/Generator	25%
Computer, Office Furniture, Fittings and Equipment	15%

Foreign Currency

The foreign currency balances are translated using the exchange rate as at the end of the period.

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2011

	Notes	Dec.31 2011 N	Dec.31 2010 N
Grants	1	48,972,482	83,362,281
Interest, Donations and Local contribution		974,681	4,135,670
		<u>49,947,163</u>	<u>87,497,951</u>
LESS PAYMENTS			
DIRECT PROJECT EXPENSES		58,792,461	47,846,686
Payee		206,716	320,417
Rent and Rates		10,000	2,200,000
Workshop, Seminar and Affiliation Expenses		-	419,000
Postages and Telecommunications		466,252	587,485
Bank Charges		288,705	230,942
Advocacy Visit		836,500	-
Purchase of Fixed Assets (Motor Vehicle & Gen Set)		10,455,000	7,801,000
Audit Fees		120,000	170,000
Generator Maintenance		674,250	-
Insurance		905,500	-
Newspapers/Periodicals		32,500	352,515
Electricity and Water		73,700	106,450
Loan to individual and Co-operative Society		561,400	-
Computer Maintenance		21,500	67,000
Security Fees		18,000	24,000
Medical Bills		34,000	
Legal Fees		80,000	35,000
Internet		1,543,100	1,680,560
Research Cost		254,500	-
		<u>75,374,084</u>	<u>61,841,055</u>
Net Cash (Deficit)/ surplus for the year		<u>(25,426,921)</u>	<u>25,656,896</u>

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2011

	Notes	Dec.'30 2011 N	Dec.'30 2010 N
Grants and Interest Received	1	48,972,482	83,362,281
Interest, Donations & Local contribution		974,681	4,135,670
		<u>49,947,163</u>	<u>87,497,951</u>
LESS EXPENDITURE			
DIRECT PROJECT EXPENDITURE		58,792,461	47,846,686
Payee		206,716	320,417
Rent and Rates		10,000	2,200,000
Workshop, Seminar and Affiliation Expenses		3,382,200	587,485
Postages and Telecommunications		466,252	230,942
Bank Charges		288,705	-
Advocacy Visit		836,500	170,000
Audit Fees		120,000	-
Depreciation		5,073,191	5,832,250
Generator Maintenance		674,250	106,450
Insurance		905,500	67,000
Newspapers/Periodicals		32,500	-
Electricity and Water		73,700	1,680,560
Loan to individual and Co-operative Society		561,400	24,000
Computer Maintenance		21,500	-
Security Fees		18,000	-
Medical Bills		34,000	-
Legal Fees		80,000	-
Internet		1,543,100	-
Research Cost		254,500	-
		<u>73,374,475</u>	<u>59,065,790</u>
Excess income over expenditure		<u>(23,427,312)</u>	<u>28,432,161</u>

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT DECEMBER 31, 2011

	Notes	Dec.' 31 2011 N	Dec.' 31 2010 N
Fixed Assets	2	<u>10,455,000</u>	<u>23,237,765</u>
CURRENT ASSETS			
Other Debtors	3	3,671,400	7,489,133
Bank Balances	4	<u>42,686,388</u>	<u>52,417,492</u>
		<u>46,357,788</u>	<u>59,906,625</u>
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Creditors and Accruals	5	<u>240,000</u>	<u>170,000</u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS		<u>46,117,788</u>	<u>59,736,625</u>
NET ASSETS		<u>56,572,788</u>	<u>82,974,390</u>
FINANCED BY:			
Accumulated Fund	6	<u>57,547,469</u>	<u>82,974,390</u>





]]

DIRECTORS

The Statement of Accounting Policies on page 8 and Notes on page 12 form part of these Financial Statements.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

AS AT DECEMBER 31, 2011

	Dec.'30 2011 N	Dec.'30 2010 N
1 GRANTS AND INTEREST:		
BNRCC	737,641	1,531,530
Misereor	13,561,758	16,544,500
Global Greegrants Fund	-	1,498,500
AWDF	770,350	770,350
EWARD	1,175,704	1,812,622
European Commission (EC)	7,480,859	10,588,326
Federal Ministry of Woment Affairs, Abuja	6,500,000	4,345,000
Local Contribution	974,681	4,135,670
Civil Resources & Development Centre	700,000	-
Interest	-	-
IGI Insurance	3,538,080	-
CORDAID	-	18,270,000
UNFPA	3,998,000	-
UNIFEM	-	1,500,000
GEF	-	3,896,726
ERA	-	100,000
UNDP	9,535,408	22,504,727
	<u>48,972,482</u>	<u>87,497,951</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

AS AT DECEMBER 31, 2011

OTHER DEBTORS

Loan to Co-operative Societies
 Other Loans
 Women back to Farm
 Custard Making

Dec.'31
 2011
 N

561,400
 110,000
 2,500,000
 500,000
3,671,400

Dec.'31
 2010
 N

4,379,133
 110,000
 2,500,000
 500,000
7,489,133

CASH AND BANK BALANCES

Eagle Bank
 Spring Bank I - Garki
 Spring Bank II - Wuse II
 UBA Domiciliary Dollar
 UBA - Current Account
 Oceanic Bank - 039
 Oceanic Bank - 040
 Oceanic Bank - 821
 Zenith Bank
 UBA Euro
 UBA Euro
 UBA-Current Account
 Spring Bank (BNRCC)
 Petty Cash

2,143
 1,392,394
 157,273.14
 745,412
 14,460,886
 261,064
 66,695
 136,577
 814,224
 1,830,915
 22,315,643
 413,280
 89,882
 -
42,686,388

2,143
 2,082,165
 3,581,290
 4,235,285
 4,045,798
 4,856
 460,624
 151,761
 21,794,169
 9,648,663
 6,401,081
 9,658
 -
52,417,492

CURRENT LIABILITIES

Accrued Audit Fees

240,000
240,000

170,000
170,000

ACCUMULATED FUND

Balance Brought Forward
 Surplus for the Year

82,974,390
 (25,426,921)
57,547,469

54,542,229
 28,432,161
82,974,390

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
(DOLLAR)

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AS AT DECEMBER 31, 2011

	Dec.'30 2011 \$	Dec.'30 2010 \$
1 GRANTS AND INTEREST:		
BNRCC	4,918	10,210
Misereor	90,412	110,297
Global Greegrants Fund	-	9,990
AWDF	5,136	5,136
EWARD	7,838	12,084
European Commission (EC)	49,872	70,589
Federal Ministry of Woment Affairs, Abuja	43,333	28,967
Local Contribution	6,498	27,571
Civil Resources & Development Centre	4,667	-
Interest	-	-
IGI Insurance	23,587	-
CORDAID	-	121,800
UNFPA	26,653	-
UNIFEM	-	10,000
GEF	-	25,978
ERA	-	667
UNDP	63,569	150,032
	<u>326,483</u>	<u>583,320</u>

