

“Small Small” – Ecological Governance in Nigeria

Discussion Paper

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Governance is a new term. In addition to government, it embraces two other pillars of social decision-making, business and what is loosely called “civil society.” Our governance systems are themselves situated in ecological systems that are dramatically deteriorating at all levels. Inevitably if we are to develop sustainability, a central challenge of the 21st century is to reinvent these processes. There is no choice: we need ecological governance in the 21st century.

(M’Gonigle, Michael. *POLIS Summary of Major Discussion Topics for POLIS Meeting* (November 12, 2002))

Introduction

A form of ecological governance is emerging today, contained in social institutions, cultural norms, and within individual decision-making, that assist human populations to live more sustainably. This includes some of the largest, most diverse and widespread social movements for the environment, such as the international protests at the World Trade Organization meetings or other such global events. But, it also the countless efforts made by civil society organizations at the local level to address pressing ecological or social problems. In significant ways, the world’s population is self-organizing to seek more appropriate forms of living in harmony with each other and with surrounding ecosystems. Together, these efforts combine to give rise to an unprecedented global phenomenon. While one simple decision made in accordance with ecological viability may not seem like much, when it merges together with the multitudes of other seemingly insignificant decisions, the collective impact is significant. Like water droplets gathering together, eventually the river flows strong.

This discussion paper peers into this emerging ecological governance in an unlikely place. With its infamous environmental injustices in the oil and gas industry, Nigeria is hardly the place one might expect to witness ecological governance. My research in November-December 2004 provided a glimpse into the ways ecological governance is present and strengthening in the country. Through the organizing efforts and activities of civil society in Cross River State, Nigeria, particularly through the Nigeria-Canada Coalition, numerous civil society groups unite in capacity building activities, networking, joint initiatives, regional workshops and international conferences. This coalition magnifies small efforts into more widespread movements for sustainability—moving slowly and in small ways toward ecological governance. As it is said in Nigeria, *small small*.

Background

In November – December 2004 I spent three weeks in Cross River State, Nigeria. Cross River State is one of the more ecological diverse areas of Nigeria. With some of the most significant endangered primate species on the planet, it is of critical environmental concern.

My time in Cross River State was spent working on a contract with One Sky-Canadian Institute for Sustainable Living as part of the **Cross River State Environment and Capacity Development Project** (CRE Project), a project supported by the Canadian International Development Agency. One Sky is a Canadian non-governmental organization (NGO) partnered with four NGOs and one environmental network in Nigeria, all of whom are members of the **Nigeria-Canada Coalition** (NCC).¹ One Sky's CRE Project focuses in two protected areas – the Guinean Lowland Forest Ecosystem in Cross River National Park as well as the Montane Ecosystem of the Obudu Plateau. These areas represent the largest remaining contiguous Tropical Moist Forest in West Africa with the highest biological diversity in the region. One Sky also connects this work at the local level with international policies for sustainability, through their participation and/or leadership in international conferences, networking opportunities, and other advocacy activities.

The NCC is made up of civil society groups that seek to influence environmental policy and practices in Cross River State. The coalition, with its particular structure and approach, offers an example of ecological governance. It is illustrative of an emerging culture in Nigeria, which centers its consideration and action on the environment and local communities, and seeks to influence policies, institutions, social norms with progressive concepts such as bioregionalism, community-based natural resource management, and gender and the environment. The NCC members spearhead environmental activities and projects, and together as the coalition foster changes in policies and institutions that contribute to environmental degradation. Through this network, members build capacity as a cohesive movement for implementing strategies for sustainability.

In this paper, I comment on the need for, and the features of, *ecological governance* in Cross River State, as a case study for Nigeria and Sub-Saharan Africa more generally. Ecological governance refers to a conceptual approach or systemic orientation for addressing ecological sustainability. It is not a precise set of processes, but rather an approach to social decision making that is embedded in ecological understanding. I unpack this definition further in the paper, by exploring the approach and activities of the Nigeria-Canada Coalition that contribute to ecological governance. Two examples include an Ecotourism and Policy Influence Write-shop and an international conference

¹ Nigerian partners: CERCOPAN, Development in Nigeria (DIN), Living Earth, NGO Coalition for the Environment (NGOCE), Nigeria Conservation Foundation (NCF). Appendix 1 lists the Canadian partner organizations paired with each Nigerian partner, and gives an overview of their Joint Initiatives underway.

on renewable energy, organized by One Sky, including NCC members, entitled Energetic Solutions. These examples offer important lessons for ecological governance.

For this discussion paper, I used participant-observer methodology, reviewed existing documentation for the region and project, and carried out further literary research on Nigeria and on ecological governance. I participated in two 2-day workshops, on gender and the environment and on ecotourism, as well as the weeklong international conference Energetic Solutions.

Small Efforts Made Big

I met Luis in a courtyard, in amongst a dozen other people. His traditional West African clothing was embroidered white and reached the floor. Luis is a descendent of the traditional rainforest dwellers of West Africa; today, he is a modern day leader for forest conservation.

Luis comes from a small enclave community situated in the tropical rainforest national park of Cross River State in the southeast corner of Nigeria. Eight years ago, at the mere age of 21, he realised that his people were having to adapt their forest-based livelihoods to park boundaries that they themselves had not created and did not fully understand. With few other opportunities, the community continued to extract resources in the park, such as harvesting trees, collecting non-timber forest products, and hunting animals like monkeys and small mammals. While at one time this was sustainable, the population of Nigeria – an astounding 130 million – adds too much pressure on these dwindling forest resources.



This forest itself is a unique habitat for several primate species, it stabilizes the local weather patterns and provides water in this region of Nigeria. Park wardens simply cannot turn a blind eye to the illegal extraction of resources by enclave forest communities. Luis explains to me how community people who still harvest and hunt in the forest out of necessity are then fined or put in jail—their only crime being their struggle to adapt to the new park boundaries and the consequent changes in resource use.

Luis witnessed this struggle. He realized that the community needed to accept the new park boundaries and the re-drawn economic parameters while also meeting their own livelihood needs. To work toward this, he started a community-based organization to

promote education, training and solutions for sustainability. While his grassroots group is small, it is connected with other civil society organizations in Cross River State and Canada via the Nigeria-Canada Coalition. Through participating in this coalition, he is able to garner further capacity building, moral and (some) financial support, and amplify his activities and communications beyond the village; moving small efforts into larger scale impacts.

As I watched Luis navigate this topic of ecotourism as one of several solutions for his village, it occurs to me that Luis is one of many leaders that are putting their heads together through this coalition to create a sustainable future for Nigeria.

The Nigerian context

Nigeria is Africa's most populous nation, with a population estimated at more than 130 million people. It has relatively recently established a peaceful transition to a civilian government, adopting a new constitution in 1999. From the country profile on CIDA's website:

The new president faces the daunting task of rebuilding a petroleum-based economy, whose revenues have been squandered through corruption and mismanagement, and institutionalizing democracy. In addition, the present administration must defuse longstanding ethnic and religious tensions, if it is to build a sound foundation for economic growth and political stability.

Nigeria ranks 151st out of 171 countries worldwide on the Human Development Index. The northern part of the country is Muslim, while Christianity and traditional belief systems predominate in the south. The cultural diversity in the country is high, with over 350 ethnic groups with distinct languages and a judicial system based on English common law, statutory law, Islamic law and tribal customary law.

Nigeria is an interesting context to look at ecological governance, primarily because of the corruption, inequitable wealth distribution and increasing environmental degradation.²

Poverty, Corruption, Ecological Collapse

Nigeria is representative of sustainability issues in Sub-Saharan Africa, in which poverty and corruption are intermingled, both adding to on-going ecological degradation. In this context of overpopulation and poverty, any environmental intervention quintessentially includes human communities. Environmental sustainability is impossible without addressing the socio-economic needs in the villages. Poverty is in turn exacerbated by declining natural resources, and vice versa, calling for an integrated approach to any intervention.

Corruption and mismanagement are reported to swallow about 40 percent of Nigeria's \$20 billion annual oil income (see: "Corruption costs Nigeria 40 percent of oil wealth, official says", Reuters (Dec. 17, 2004, posted on Nigerian Economic and Financial Crimes Commission). Despite its oil riches, 70 percent of Nigeria's population live below the poverty line. With corruption remaining a way of life (Odunlami, 2004), and coupled with a volatile and inequitable economy (Africa Development Bank, Nigeria - CSP 2002-2004), working in poverty alleviation and sustainable development in Nigeria challenging.

² Elendu, Jonathan. "Corruption in Nigeria and how Obasanjo raised billions for 2003 elections." Special to USAfrica The Newspaper, Houston, February 20, 2003

Although the country is renowned for its oil and gas resources, extremely little of the revenue from this industry is re-circulated into the civil infrastructure, such as hospitals, schools and roads. While Nigeria is the sixth largest producer of crude oil in the world, due to mismanagement of the economy, Nigerian people rank amongst the poorest in the world (Elendu, 2003).

Critics suggest this lack of good governance could be the single biggest barrier to sustainability, which only accentuates the need for ecological governance. Ecological governance is about democracy as much as it is ecosystem viability, and as such, it provides a good framework for addressing the interconnected eco-social needs of Nigeria's population.

In Nigeria, civil society contributes to ecological governance in (at least) two ways. First, civil society plays a central role in promoting and exhibiting more sustainable policies and practices. Civil society organizations may have few resources and decision-making power, yet they often have higher capacity than government officials for managing the complex and pressing eco-social issues, such as conservation, equity, gender and sustainable livelihoods. Increasingly, governmental departments seek to work directly with civil society organizations to itemize and define new policies.³

Civil society has an opportunity to lead by example here. As civil society organizations themselves demonstrate a form of policy-making that is embedded in ecological consideration, they can also influence the ways further decisions and policies are made in government. Civil society organizations that work to promote sustainability often do so by engaging social institutions, local leaders and village chiefs in dialogue, collective visioning and capacity building. This approach recognizes the fragility and necessity of the surrounding ecosystems, and seeks to raise awareness about the environment. In using such an approach, these organizations promote ecological governance in their respective municipalities and communities. This approach offers a new and revolutionized reference point for social decision-making, which first and foremost seeks to maintain environmental integrity and can be laterally applied to address other social, political and/or economic issues.

Thus, civil society organizations not only promote an approach to ecological governance through their participation in governance, but also emulate this approach in their own sustainability work.

Nigeria-Canada Coalition – The Approach

Ecological governance is thus about democracy and community, but also about the natural world within which our communities exist and with

³ The Ministry of Woman's Affairs and Social Development, for example, is currently working with the Nigerian-Canada Coalition of nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) to outline gender policies for Cross River State.

*which they interact. Today, this connection has been broken, our daily lives ruptured from the sources of our sustenance. Global sustainability must be sought at all levels, but ultimately it must find its way to new relationships on the ground, in countless local places.*⁴

Through the NCC, civil society organizations are an essential player in forming and informing governance processes in Cross River State. The NCC brings together civil society organizations to collectively build their capacity for influencing policy and working with communities as vehicles of change.

The approach of NCC is to promote alternatives to more conventional development. This conventional development is defined by being Euro-centric, biased by science and economic ideology, and often culturally and environmentally inappropriate. Through the NCC, Canadian and Nigerian civil society organizations engage in capacity building and collaboration, with a focus on policy, such that they can take the lead on development questions for their region.

The partnership fosters dialogue and re-interpretation of the broad definitions of what is (and what is needed for) sustainability, so that these are meaningful and relevant to the national and local context. For example, in workshops and dialogues, NCC members explore what terms such as desertification, climate change and biodiversity mean in relation to forest policy and land use in Nigeria and in Cross River State. These North-South civil society partnerships also serve to collectively re-interpret international frameworks, such as Agenda 21 and Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs), into real-time questions, issues, analyses and solutions related to Nigeria.

Multi-level Impact Through Meaningful Partnership

The CRE Project — NCC is built on a foundation of partnerships that are designed to take direction from Nigerian partners and to respond to the changing needs of these groups and their local beneficiaries. Yet, there is also an overarching global intention that holds this coalition together philosophically and practically which is

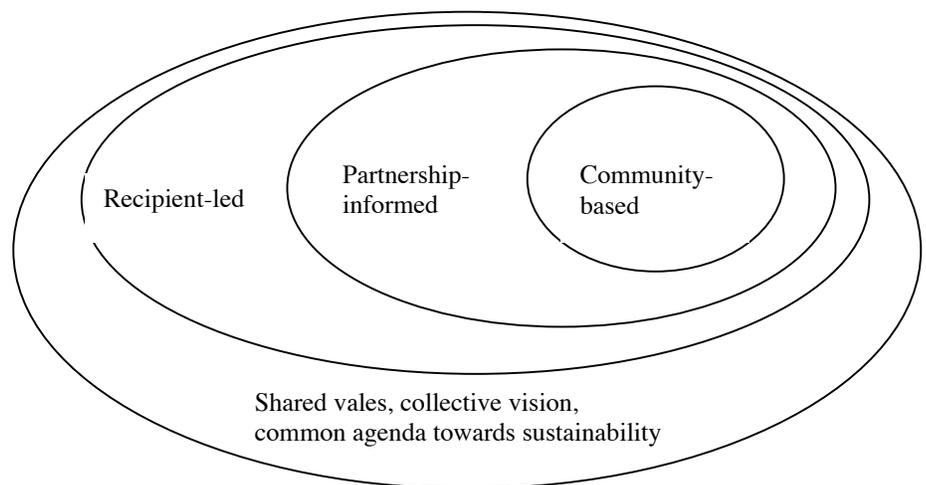


Figure 2: Building the foundation for recipient-led, development efforts, through a unique community-based and partnership-informed approach.

⁴ M'Gonigle, Michael. *POLIS Summary of Major Discussion Topics for POLIS Meeting* (November 12, 2002)

to foster sustainable solutions for Nigerian communities and conservation of critical forest ecosystems that are of global significance.

Each Nigerian organization is matched with an appropriate Canadian organization. The partnership is designed such that information and capacity can be shared between both groups.⁵ Initially, the partners had some difficulties working together, likely due to the different cultural and social norms, but as the groups continued together, these beginning struggles gave way to effective collaborative work.

NCC's partnership approach essentially moves between three scales of action, namely: *community-based*, *partnership-informed* and *recipient-led*. This ensures that community voices are heard in development activities, that southern partners have a central role in defining directions for sustainability work with Canadian NGOs, and that Nigerian civil society is empowered and enabled to come forward with their own agenda for sustainable development, an agenda that has local meaning, is culturally appropriate and addresses the real needs of local beneficiaries.

Capacity Development Focus

The NCC seeks to build capacity with its member organizations to strengthen sustainability in Cross River State.⁶ Capacity development is focused on the following areas:

- Participatory Planning Process,
- Environmental Management and Poverty Alleviation,
- Participation in Policy Dialogue,
- Organizational and Project Management Capacity,
- Communication and Engagement,
- Gender Mainstreaming,
- HIV/AIDS Education, Prevention and Policy, and
- Participatory Monitoring and Evaluation.

Within each area of capacity development, training is distributed between hard skills, such as policy writing, fundraising, financial and organizational management, and also in the soft skills of communication, messaging, mentorship, and education. In this way, the NCC is not only creating tangible solutions for sustainability in Cross River State, but also becoming those solutions, as the members emulate a culture of environmental stewardship.

⁵ Nigerian partners listed first, Canadian groups second: CERCOPAN with Greenheart Conservation Company, Development in Nigeria (DIN) with Nappan Project, Living Earth with Laing and McCulloch Forest Management Services (LM), NGO Coalition for the Environment (NGOCE) with Atlantic Council for International Cooperation, Nigeria Conservation Foundation (NCF) with Silva Forest Foundation.

⁶ Capacity Development in Environment (CDE) is described as the ability of individuals, groups, organizations, and institutions in a society to devise and implement solutions to environmental issues as part of a wider effort to achieve sustainable development.

Joint Initiatives

A component of the CRE Project is the introduction of new approaches in environmental management through six joint initiatives. Each Nigerian organization with their Canadian counterpart collaboratively deliver a joint activity that builds their own capacity and also benefits all of the NCC partners. The joint initiative is intended as a value-added activity, complementing work that the Nigerian partner group is already engaged in and to which the Canadian group can bring some expertise or transfer technology. Appendix 1 lists the Canadian and Nigerian partner organizations, and gives an overview of their Joint Initiatives underway. The Joint Initiative projects include:

- Ecotourism,
- Eco-villages,
- Participatory approaches to Community-based Natural Resource Planning,
- Regional Ecosystem-based Planning, and
- Strengthening ENGO networks in Cross River State.

The value of building connections between civil society groups North and South via practical hands-on initiatives is an innovative aspect to the NCC. These are truly cross-cultural initiatives, as Canadian and Nigerian civil society address activities and issues differently based on their own set of past experiences and contexts. These joint initiatives allow sharing knowledge and information, as well as identifying and building on what works.

Evidenced-based Policy Analysis

Policy dialogue is a key aspect to the NCC approach. NCC capacity development is strategically designed to strengthen the management and capacity for policy dialogue for member environmental NGOs (ENGOS), who in turn support communities surrounding two key protected areas in the Cross River bioregion of Nigeria. The NCC creates avenues to bring lessons-learned, methods and local knowledge from the field into policy making. This is done through various mechanisms. For example, the NCC created Policy Task Forces in certain areas, such as gender mainstreaming and ecotourism, through which to influence particular policies in government (other mechanisms are listed in Appendix 2). Even inviting government representatives to meetings, workshops and committees is another essential piece of this strategy. To date, these policy efforts are proving to be effective for policy influence in Cross River State.

Examples of Ecological Governance

I participated in two activities involving the NCC, both of which offer important lessons for ecological governance in Cross River State, Nigeria, and beyond.

1) Ecotourism and Policy Influence Write-shop

Ecological governance is an approach to making decisions that is guided by ecological understanding. It involves awareness raising, skill building, capacity development, and at times it will also include new policies. How this looks in practice will differ between topics, themes, participants and contexts. In December 2004, I participated in a workshop on ecotourism for policy influence in the city of Calabar. This workshop blended awareness-raising on the environment, capacity development on ecotourism and skill building for policy influence. It offers an example of ecological governance emerging into practice.

Ecotourism is not simply a form of “ecological tourism”, as it has often been misconstrued in other regions. It articulates a democratic, bottom-up and sustainable approach to tourism — a distinct difference from that of conventional tourism. It has social and cultural impacts as well. It encourages forest communities to value the surrounding forest as a living resource rather than only a harvestable product.

This workshop had two main objectives. The first was to help build capacity for implementing ecotourism. The second objective was to build skills for policy influence regarding new policies on tourism in Cross River State. The workshop activities focused on learning about policy analysis, and writing for policy influence. For this reason, it was called a “write-shop”.

Participants’ definition of Ecotourism:

1. A holistic approach to tourism
2. Natural conservation
3. Sustainable tourism
4. Relationship between ecosystem of a protected area and tourism
5. Tourism that does not impact negatively on the environment and protects heritage
6. Nature-based tourism which enhances sustainability
7. Leisure practice that agrees with the ecosystem
8. Ecotourism has an environmental education component
9. Visitation to a natural environment without impacting it negatively
10. Appreciates culture
11. To alleviate poverty of rural communities – rural-based tourism



Workshop participants dialogue on ecotourism policy issues.

As a joint initiative between Atlantic Council for International Cooperation (ACIC) and Nigerian NGO Environment Coalition (NGOCE), the write-shop involved representatives from each member organization of the NCC that work with forest communities. ACIC facilitated the process and Nigerian partners of the CRE Project are currently writing a white paper from the policy recommendations, which will be delivered to the Cross River State Government.

The goals of the workshop included: increased organizational capacity to influence policy; strengthened ability to synthesize and analyze information; improved facility in working with the government and private sector in ecotourism policy work; and increased knowledge about ecotourism challenges and opportunities in Cross River State. The write-shop format involved group discussions on current policy and small group work on key issues to be addressed by new policies. Through a facilitated group discussion, the participants produced a two-page document of policy recommendations.

The Tourism Bureau in Cross River State has a seat available for civil society in their decision-making process, and encouraged the NCC to include their input in Cross River State tourism development. The two-page document produced in the write-shop was presented to the Tourism Bureau, which will then be used for future decisions on ecotourism in the region.

The two-day event was rigorous and participatory. The long hot days spent in dialogue about the definition of ecotourism, about policy influence, and about various themes related to ecotourism, including natural resource management, socioeconomic impacts, finances, governance and implementation. Participants split into sub-groups to discuss each theme, document the pertinent issues, and write recommendations related to ecotourism in Cross River State. This process brought together capacity building for ecotourism with writing for policy influence. The result was a series of ecologically sound and evidenced-based policy recommendations presented to key sectors of government in Cross River State (Appendix 3). It offers an example of ecological governance.

2) Energetic Solutions Conference

The Energetic Solutions conference, organized by One Sky for the Canadian Environmental Network (CEN) and attended by members of the NCC, offers an example of a local-to-global, tri-sector approach to ecological governance. The Energetic Solutions conference included representatives from nations throughout Africa (including Ghana, the Gambia, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Niger and Cameroon), as well as Latin America, North America and Europe.

The one-week event brought together representatives from civil society, government and private sector to find realistic solutions to the energy issues. Simpson (2004) explains:

Society is often grouped into three broad categories of civil society, the private sector and government. The WSSD recognized the need for Type II partnerships, which combines the energies of all three of these distinct sectors in solving sustainability issues... [During this conference] our hope is that we can cooperate in a Type II partnership as called for under the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD.) The idea is to form, for a short period of time, an alliance between [different sectors] North and South... in analyzing a development challenge. We can then

share the outcomes with a broader spectrum of people and influence international dialogue in the area of energy development. This cooperation is based on the underlying assumption that energy is a global problem and deserves a shared response.



Community people show conference participants the natural gas flaring on their traditional lands.

Local Communities

The conference responded to international environmental initiatives around climate change, yet it also included case studies from certain forest communities in Nigeria. During the conference, participants visited the Rumuekpe community in the Niger Delta. The community's on-going struggle with abject poverty, despite the income generated from oil and gas on their traditional lands, is one shared with many other communities in the Niger Delta.

The poverty in this community was striking, with a lack of education and health care facilities next to extensive oil and gas infrastructure in the community. Natural gas flaring a mere 500 metres from the village huts, and the oil and gas pipelines that track through the surrounding agricultural fields and ecosystems, are of environmental concern. While the energy extractions continues on their traditional lands, the community still cooks over three stone open fires, pointing to one of the key causes of respiratory illness in the developing world.

During the field trip, the chiefs and community people shared their concerns with the conference participants. The chiefs held a traditional ceremony with other villagers and conference participants under a thatched roof in the centre of the village. Hundreds of children gathered around; their wide-eyed gazes and quick smiles framed the ceremony. The chiefs shared groundnuts and palm wine, and gave inspiring speeches in their traditional dialect. Participants from each nation stood up to share their own speeches of solidarity in response. Afterwards, the entire group visited one of the many natural gas flaring sites, this particular one situated only a short walk through the villager's agricultural fields.

This visit was an act of solidarity, for an otherwise forgotten community. This field trip also served to open the eyes of conference participants, from both North and South, and gave a face to the issues of fossil fuel exploitation in Nigeria.

Democratic and Place-based Alternatives to Fossil Fuel

The conference highlighted technical skills for more ecological forms of energy, but also underlined the fact that energy production and access is an issue of democracy and social justice. Renewable energy is about the production of, and control over, energy resources, as much as it is a question of ecological limits to growth. As such, renewable energy has the potential to revolutionize and re-structure economies to be more bottom-up and equitable. Simpson (2004) explains this further:



Conference participants and local community, Niger Delta

In Bonn, Germany for [UN conference on] Renewables 2004...Renewable energy was declared a viable solution to the growing needs of the developing world and to the restrictions of traditional energy use in the developed world. Policy options that were related primarily to developing countries were outlined in three important ways that are worth repeating in the words of the Bonn Recommendations.

1. Provide access to cleaner cooking fuels: Biomass resources can be used through modern conversion technologies to provide cleaner and higher value-added fuels to support both cooking and industrial processes... particularly important for women. Such technologies and fuels can reduce the negative social and health impacts of cooking, and can expand the economic opportunities in women's heat-intensive microenterprises.

2. Provide access to electricity:... Approaches [for electrification of rural areas] deserve consideration in developing countries, where rural electrification remains a major challenge. Some recent models for grid extension and for installation of decentralised renewable power projects... are emerging that support rural entrepreneurs with a range of services—including training, marketing, feasibility studies, business planning, management, financing, and linkages to banks and community organisations—as means to expand access to energy services with renewable energy.



Participants learn about technologies for fuelwood conserving stoves, combining issues of renewable energy, deforestation and gender equality.

3. Make use of new financing tools: To attract private sector capital to renewable projects, governments should extend public-private partnerships, and develop and use micro-credit schemes. They should also encourage the creation of financial tools targeted to third party all renewable energy investments. In addition, access to and use of funds for

renewable energies through carbon financing should be strengthened. Micro-credit lending can also be an effective tool for supporting investors in establishing renewable energy and service delivery systems, and can expand consumer access to both grid and non-grid connected renewable electricity.

Outcomes – Far and Wide

The Bonn recommendations on renewable energy (from the UN conference in May 2004) provided a blueprint for how to address the energy crisis in developed and developing countries from local to international initiatives. The Energetic Solutions conference took up some of these suggestions, and applied them in a globally significant declaration on renewable energy with participants from six African countries and from four continents. The “energetic solutions” discussed between conference participants offer as alternative to the current fossil fuel economy. Appendix 4 includes the Energetic Solutions Calabar Declaration, which summarizes the policy recommendations made in consensus by conference participants. Already the outcomes of the conference are being used by a regional renewable energy network (CURES) based in South Africa, and were shared with the Energy For Development UN conference in the Netherlands in December 2004.

The approach taken during this conference had several defining features of ecological governance. The approach offers a way to orient decision-making to include the environment as a central consideration of any policy or recommendation. This differs from other forms of decision-making, which tend to centre their efforts on other factors, such as economic growth. In this way, the Energetic Solutions conference emulates ecological governance.

Analysis: Ecological governance – A Process for Fostering Change

This glimpse into Nigerian civil society inspired me to consider ecological governance further. What does ecological governance mean? How might ecological governance be manifested in social organization? By better understanding the process and parameters of ecological governance, civil society organizations can more strategically focus communications and efforts to influence its emergence in society, in Nigeria or any other country.

Ecological governance involves a re-structuring of many societal systems. This notably includes social and economic institutions, which are particularly unsustainable today. To this end, ecological governance:

offers alternatives to extractive, linear and unsustainable [socioeconomic] systems that continue to level ancient forests, displace indigenous and local communities, and clog global cities. Instead, ecological governance asks how we might foster circular systems where we reduce our demands on ever more supply. (M'Gonigle, 2002)

In Nigeria, the community forestry of NCC members (Nigeran Conservation Foundation and Living Earth, in collaboration with Silva Forest Foundation and Laing and McCulloch Forest Management Services) is an example of such a transformed socioeconomic system, which enables communities to harvest and process timber and non-timber forest products for sale in their region and for profit directly back into their village. Such circular socioeconomic systems mimic those of the forest ecosystem itself, in which water and organic material are re-circulated, creating and sustaining the forest.

Such changes in socioeconomic systems are interwoven with shifts in cultural norms. These norms are the unseen and intangible boundaries within which people go about their day. They are influential guides for cultural appropriateness; they may be stated or regulated but they do not have to be. As ecological governance infuses cultural norms, it provides a socially valid foundation for the processes of making decisions.

Luis, in the example above, began to realize that poaching animals and harvesting timber from the tropical forest in the park around the community was no longer a culturally appropriate activity, that the region had ecological importance that went beyond but included his community, and that a new culture around this understanding had to emerge. His CBO is helping the people in his village to adapt to this change in culturally appropriate practices for the forest ecosystem.

Ecological governance also exhibits itself in the values and behaviours of individuals. As M'Gonigle (2002) puts it: "It is critical to define governance not only as government but as a network of practices (self and externally imposed) that happens at all levels: of the self, within communities, corporations, etc". In a sense, the individual contains his or her own ecological governance system embedded within his or her own intentions and actions.

Thus, ecological governance co-arises within 1) societal systems and institutions, 2) cultural and social norms, 3) individual intentions and values, and 4) individual behaviours and practices. Figure 1 provides a brief sketch of how ecological governance emerges in society, including shifts in these four areas.

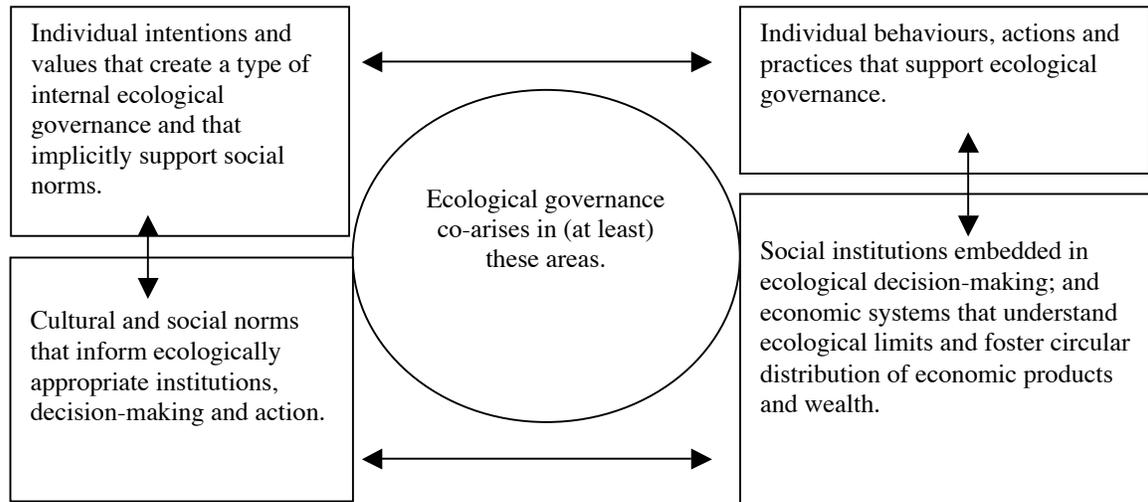


Figure 1: The emergence of ecological governance.

This view expands the mechanisms and strategies for ecological governance. Understood this way, ecological governance is as much about transformed social institutions as it is about new ways of thinking and engaging in our communities. The interplay between these is intriguing: intangible processes can manifest as tangible shifts in society; small efforts can ricochet into larger outcomes.

The NCC approach and activities span this range of mechanisms to manifest ecological governance in social organization in Nigeria. Through their guiding principles, members of the NCC emulate the processes of ecological governance in their projects, activities and policy dialogues.

Conclusion

Looking at ecological governance in a country like Nigeria is insightful. The lack of good governance is marked, with high levels of corruption in both the private sector and government. Ecological governance is an even further milestone on Nigeria's path toward sustainability. Civil society organizations fill an important role in such a context, for promoting good governance and also leading the process toward ecological governance.

The Nigeria-Canada Coalition gives rise to a local-to-global cross-sector approach that is key for ecological governance. Through participating in the NCC, members are

developing processes and practices oriented toward sustainability and embedded in an ecosystem-based understanding of community wellbeing. This effort is spread across local, regional and international spheres of influence, which assists local groups to circumnavigate the lack of good governance at the state level. The international connections also help NCC members to encourage state government to improve their practices, policies and ethics. Including the private sector when and where possible also helps to craft realistic and environmentally sound solutions for sustainability.

Ecological governance arises from the very processes and activities carried out by such a coalition. NCC's reach into the society is profound – through the organization's membership, relationships with donor agencies, participation in networks, and connections to local beneficiaries. It is giving rise to new, more ecologically informed, ways of thinking and acting. This includes sustainable practices such as community forestry and renewable energy – practices that re-circulate resources and wealth back into the communities of Cross River State – and it also generates a culture of people with ecological worldviews that are ready, willing and excited about such changes in the socioeconomic context.

Finally, in devising strategies for ecological governance, it is wise to consider both the tangible and intangible ways that it emerges in society. Ecological governance takes root when there is the understanding and motivation from individuals in society to manifest it. It provides a new context for approaching problems by situating social processes within an ecological context, and infuses those processes with ecological values and practices. It is not only a different way of producing goods or using land, it is also a way of thinking about production and land use. It is not only an ecosystem-based decision-making, it is also a question of who is making decisions and with what knowledge to share.

Through its local activities and international reach, the NCC builds on projects taking place in Nigeria, and is also building an emerging culture of ecological governance, within individuals, partners, organizations and cultures in both countries. It is an example of small actions catalyzing larger outcomes, through processes and implicit intentions as much as in practical and hands-on examples. As said by Nigerians, *small small* – efforts that are moving slowly and steadily toward ecological governance in Cross River State.

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Appendix 1: Nigeria-Canada Coalition members engage in Joint Initiatives as part of the Cross River State Environment and Capacity Development project.

(taken from the NCC website: <http://www.onesky.ca/Nigeria/collaboration.html>, January 4, 2005)

Ecotourism

Cercopan with Greenheart Conservation Company

Tourism is the fastest growing economic sector worldwide, and eco-tourism has the steepest development curve of the tourism sector. While the future of eco-tourism - sustainability, alternative income-generation and education/awareness - are promising, it is imperative that tourism development is participatory and well-planned to minimize negative social, environmental and economic impacts.

Cercopan, therefore, is working with the community of Iko Esai to carefully consider the potential for eco-tourism as an alternative and sustainable income-generating activity. Greenheart Conservation Company – specialists in canopy walkway construction and ecotourism – works jointly with Cercopan to undertake activities including construction of a primate viewing platform at Cercopan's Rhoko Camp near the village of Iko Esai. Prior to further tourism development, Greenheart and Cercopan have done a social and environmental impact assessment to understand the impacts tourism would have on Iko Esai. To ensure a community-driven process, all community members stated their desire to conduct participatory planning meetings with all stakeholders to determine appropriate strategies for tourism development. As part of the community planning process, the village head, clan head and community liaison traveled to Ghana to study ecotourism development at Kakum National park and in the surrounding communities.

Eco-villages

Development in Nigeria (DIN) with Nappan Project and Silva Forest Foundation

Eco-villages are living models of sustainability, and examples of replicable and affordable steps to sustainability. They represent an effective, accessible way to combat the degradation of our social, ecological and spiritual environments. In particular, the Global Eco-village Network strives to integrate alternative livelihoods and environmental health.

DIN and the Nappan Project will complete activities together to improve knowledge and skills relating to the Global Eco-village Network concept. Working specifically with the community of Bateriko, training workshops and demonstration projects have included analog forestry, organic agriculture, composting toilets and water filters.

Participatory approaches to Community-based Natural Resource Planning

Nigeria Conservation Foundation (NCF) with Silva Forest Foundation

Participatory approaches to community-based natural resource planning and management, supported by enabling policies and enforcement, gives people an opportunity to participate in decision-making, provides opportunities for access to market opportunities and strengthens the probability that forest goods, services and enriching values are maintained.

Silva Forest Foundation and NCF are developing a participatory process for community forest land-use planning system that will in the long-term complement efforts aimed at enhancing biodiversity protection of the Cross River National Park while promoting sustainable livelihood of the people in the buffer zone of the Park. The planning process uses an ecosystem-based approach and emphasizes forest use, forest protection, and forest restoration.

Activities include community-based forest land-use planning using Participatory Rural Appraisal in the communities of Balagete and Anape, implementation of Forest Action Planning Committees, and workshops to devise Participatory Action Plans.

Regional Ecosystem-based Planning

Living Earth Nigeria Foundation (LENF) with Laing and McCulloch Forest Management Services (LM).

Ecosystem-based planning requires regional identification of biological hotspots and understanding of key components and systems of ecological functionality. The historical range in biological diversity must be established to evaluate the risk to ecosystem integrity arising from current practices and policies. Gaps in knowledge must be identified and their importance assessed in the context of ecosystem-based planning guidelines.

In Cross River State, there has been no broad analysis of ecological systems or recognition of areas of critical biological importance with respect to ecosystem functionality. Areas/systems that are the highest priorities for protection in the face of continued resource use pressures is unknown.

The preparation of an Ecosystem-Based Plan and Guidelines will provide a regional framework for resource use planning, which regards environmental protection as the highest priority, will be available to organizations planning any resource use in forested areas.

LENF and Laing and McCulloch Forest Management Services (LM) are working

together to develop a regional ecosystem-based plan to identify biological hotspots and the key components and systems of ecological functionality.

Strengthening ENGO networks in Cross River State

NGO Coalition for the Environment (NGOCE) with Atlantic Council for International Cooperation.

Networks – operating effectively – are capable of generating ideas, building on knowledge and skills, galvanizing resources, and reducing time and workloads. With these advantages in mind, NGOCE is taking the lead in Cross River State as an environmental network, representing close to twenty environmental NGOs in the State. More specifically, NGOCE members determined that the network required restructuring to ensure an inclusive, knowledge-based organization to support the strong environmental interests of the many environmental civil society organizations in Cross River State. The process of redesigning NGOCE's constitution and governance structure – which began in the planning stage of the CRE project – has strong momentum now, but previous experience shows this is the beginning of a lengthy process that will take a few years to result in a strong and committed network of members.

To ensure continued support for a functioning network of Environmental Non-Governmental Organisations (ENGOS) and Community-Based Organisations (CBOs) involved in environmental management, protection, education, policy research and development in Cross River State, ACIC and NGOCE work cooperatively on activities including development of a constitution, membership policies, staff policies, gender policies, and governance policies for NGOCE in cooperation with ACIC, an exchange program for NGOCE Acting Executive Director, and development of seven professional development workshops for NGOCE members.

Appendix 2: Focus Areas for Capacity Development for the CRE Project and NCC

(taken from the NCC website: <http://www.onesky.ca/Nigeria/collaboration.html>, January 4, 2005)

Participatory Planning Process

Success of projects can be attributed to the buy-in of the stakeholders and beneficiaries of the project. The most trusted and effective method known for this is to ensure stakeholders are involved in the planning and design of the project from the beginning. While this process is necessarily time and resource-intensive, the result is a project plan that is inclusive, respectful and appropriate.

During the planning stage of the CRE Project, each ENGO held workshops and/or meetings in the communities where they will work. Meetings were held with village heads (traditional rulers, clan heads, women's groups and youth) to devise activities and goals for each of their respective two-year projects. Project Advisory Committee meetings were held prior to and during the planning stage to coordinate activities and to devise management plans based on expected results. During the planning missions in December and January, village Elders gathered in Iko Esai, Abontakon, Bateriko and Obudu to welcome and discuss the project with members of the PAC. The stakeholders at the village level will continue to be involved through their ENGO representatives and during project monitoring and evaluation. The participation of community-based organizations in this project is key to distributing environmental protection activities at the local level, for communicating local needs and concerns to policy-makers and for integrating indigenous knowledge and techniques with western knowledge systems.

Consultations were also held with the Forestry Commission through the Permanent Secretary on several occasions during the inception mission, the delegation mission and in the project implementation planning stages. The Cross River State Governor, key advisors and the State government were also involved in an information sharing session during a press conference with the steering committee and ENGOs in February 2003. Roundtables are planned with the State government in the early stages of the project and throughout the two-year project cycle to communicate planned activities, disseminate results and impacts from the project, to showcase lessons-learned and to advocate for policy responses in relation to community directives and ENGO policy research.

The result is a project implementation plan owned by its stakeholders and project beneficiaries.

Environmental Management and Poverty Alleviation

The linkages between the natural environment, human health and well-being are well established. In Cross River State, 70% of the population lives in forested areas and

depends on land use systems that combine farming and forest use. Land use policies and associated environmental degradation in the past thirty years have led to a significant worsening of ecosystem health. In parallel, the percentage of people in Nigeria living in poverty has risen from 28% (1980) to 65.6% (1996).

To address this poverty-environment nexus, the CRE Project partners advocate for effective strategies to improve natural resource dependent livelihoods in rural areas. In particular, partners will engage in the following activities to support communities and community-based organizations:

- Development of community-based forest management plans;
- Establishment of tree nurseries;
- Teacher-training in environmental education;
- Alternative income-generating activities, including eco-tourism, palm processing, and non-timber forest products;
- Training in micro-credit and micro-enterprise development;
- Community-based research and impact assessment; and
- Participation in policy advocacy, formulation and intervention.

Ultimately, the development of sustainable and appropriate capacity for poverty eradication and land and forest management will require a systematic effort driven by the Government of CRS in partnership with the private sector and civil society. The CRE Project, therefore, attempts to streamline environmental capacity building in the region within the proposed longer term Community Forestry Initiative of CIDA by integrating our work with the Forestry Commission's program priorities, working closely with any transition activities, and liaising with CIDA.

Participation in Policy Dialogue

NGOs have limited capacity in terms of resources, personnel and decision-making capacity. It is essential, therefore, that upward diffusion of the learning and knowledge of NGOs to government occur so that lessons-learned, technology, methods and local knowledge be utilized in the transformation process to sustainability in CRS. The CRE Project partners are creating venues to engage decision-makers by:

1. Organizing Policy Task Forces, such as the Task Force on Ecotourism Policy;
2. Facilitating state-wide forums and round tables to provide for flow of information and dialogue between government departments and civil society organizations;
3. Inviting government participation at meetings, workshops and committees;
4. Providing training in public policy advocacy, formulation and intervention; and
5. Collaborating with government ministries on environmental action plans.

Organizational and Project Management Capacity

Organizational and project management capacity of ENGOs in Cross River State is a key objective of the CRE Project. The need for institutional capacity development was

examined through baseline capacity assessments that were carried out during the planning stage with each of the participating organizations. These examinations included an analysis of:

- Current personnel;
- Communications equipment and infrastructure;
- Office facilities;
- Governance and organization management needs;
- Gender equality; and
- State of current programming including existing demonstration projects.

This was done through visits to offices and field demonstration sites, one-on-one interviews and group peer review. Financial management and fiscal size was examined based on a comparison of peer groups and past and projected growth rates.

Based on these assessments, the Nigerian ENGOs identified several areas for strengthening organizational capacity:

- Gender Equality
- Strategic planning and organizational management
- Fund development, including international fundraising
- Financial management including understanding common management models such as Results Based Management or not-for-profit accounting, monitoring and reporting.

Based on the priorities identified by individual ENGOs, local experts and/or Canadian partners already participating within the project with expertise in these areas will deliver training. ENGO staff will travel to Canadian partner organizations to observe and consult on current Canadian practices in their field. Organizational and management development will be achieved through strategic workshops and/or formal training programs.

Communication and Engagement

Communication is central to the success of the CRE Project, given our work with eleven partners and numerous secondary and tertiary beneficiaries. A two-prong approach has been taken to manage communications with our audience:

1. An Internal Communication and Engagement Strategy

The internal strategy includes shared communication protocols, coordination by a central project manager based in Calabar, via email and partner meetings. A listserv serves as a clearinghouse for information between partners and monthly updates are shared with the project partners. Project Management and Consultative Committees provide formal communication regarding project decisions.

2. An External Communication and Engagement Strategy.

The One Sky web site and newsletters serve the general public as an information source on the project and links to other organizations. The One Sky headquarters office is the communication centre for external communication and engagement activities and is led by the communications coordinator based in Smithers. Nigerian and Canadian project partners engage target audiences at international conference, at local speaking engagements and through strategic media opportunities.

Gender Mainstreaming

Cross River State has neither adopted the Nigerian National Policy on Women nor has it developed its own policy framework on gender. Moreover, unlike other states in Nigeria, CRS does not have a Ministry of Women's Affairs; rather it has a department with limited scope for action. It is therefore important to note that in the absence of a State adopted policy framework on gender as well as gender machinery, the CRE project is a pioneer project that may not be supported by the wider policy environment related to civil society in the state. The inclusion of gender analysis, policy development, gender planning and monitoring and evaluation will all be given priority. Furthermore, the CRE project partners are committed to the promotion of gender equality.

To guide the incorporation of Gender in the CRE project and to ensure the project appropriately considers gender analysis, planning, incorporation of national policies on women, monitoring, and evaluation, two main actions are taking place:

- a) A Gender Equality Committee (GEC) consisting of representatives from all five Nigerian partners, the Ministry of Environment and One Sky will review and make recommendations to regarding the incorporation of Gender in the CRE project;
- b) An in-country Gender and HIV/AIDS Specialist will be retained to provide an independent assessment of gender and environment and gender and poverty in CRS, together with recommendations for a gender equality strategy, which will be presented to the Gender Equality Committee. The Gender Specialist will recommend policy and planning instruments to include gender analysis, policy development, gender monitoring and evaluation, and provide training to partner ENGOS

HIV/AIDS - Integrating Education, Prevention and Policy

HIV/AIDS is a growing problem in Nigeria. Sero-prevalence rates for 2002 (5.8%) indicate that the HIV/AIDS epidemic is present in all of Nigeria's five zones. UNAIDS estimates that at least 2.6 million adults are living with HIV in Nigeria, most between 15 and 45 years of age. More than 1.4 million Nigerians have died of AIDS (NACA, 2002), and over 410,000 children have been orphaned. On a regional level, the South-South political zone (which includes Cross River State) has been identified as a 'hot spot' of HIV/AIDS prevalence. World Health Organization figures in 2001 show a prevalence of 7.7%, up from 5.2% in 1999.

An HIV/AIDS Integration Specialist has been hired by One Sky. Her activities include:

- Designing effective responses to the HIV epidemic by mainstreaming throughout all development activities, particularly given the structural factors central to the epidemic.
- Reviewing the many innovative approaches to mainstreaming and make recommendations for expanding and utilizing these approaches .
- During the assessment period, the Specialist will make recommendations to each ENGO regarding how best to integrate HIV/AIDS into their internal structures, guiding principles and policies.

Participatory Monitoring and Evaluation

Capacity development should be evaluated in ways that contribute to the capacity development process - not simply as an evaluative tool for external stakeholders. Expertise in capacity development will develop only if efforts are treated as applied research from which lessons must be learned. As such, the CRE project has identified participatory monitoring and evaluation (PM&E) as integral to the capacity building process. PM&E involves the beneficiaries, donors and stakeholders in the project and provides for the ability to demonstrate impact and prove change

The following activities reflect this intended result and have been built into the CRE Project:

- Training for two ENGO partners in participatory monitoring and evaluation;
- Design and implementation of a participatory monitoring and evaluation framework;
- Participatory monitoring and evaluation will take place as part of a mid-term evaluation in March 2004, followed by an evaluation during the last quarter of the project, January - March 2005;
- Lessons learned in participatory monitoring and evaluation will be given to an invited audience of CIDA representatives, CRS government delegates, and ENGOs at a Wrap-Up meeting in Calabar in 2005.

Appendix 3: Policy Recommendations on Ecotourism in Cross River State

Theme – Natural Resource Management

Issues:

1. Natural Resources as the mainstay of Ecotourism.
2. Environmental degradation reduces opportunities for Ecotourism.
3. Rural poverty works against Ecotourism development.
4. Poor management of natural resources threatens the ecological wealth of Cross River State

Recommendations:

1. The Chiefs, youths, women and other stakeholders should be involved in natural resource management.
2. Local people should be involved in decision making of natural resources management.
3. Census of biological diversity (plants, animals, microorganisms) should be included in Ecotourism development.
4. Local skills or technology (craft) should be developed for economic empowerment.
5. The stakeholders should be regularly educated on natural resource management.
6. Ecotourism strategies should include sustainable land use practices for agriculture, settlement, grazing, etc. in order that soil fertility, watershed, and climate are retained.

Theme – Socioeconomic Impacts of Ecotourism

Issue:

1. Ecotourism can have both positive and negative environmental socio-economic impacts. Positive impacts include income generation and employment, whereas negative impacts include soil erosion, water contamination, and loss in cultural value.

Recommendations:

1. Where Ecotourism takes place there must be a socio-economic and environmental impact assessment with accompanying recommendations followed for the site location.
2. Local community members should be directly involved in the Ecotourism project planning process.
3. Ecotourism projects should employ local people first.
4. Each local community should develop their own Ecotourism policy in conformity with regulating bodies that will guide such activities as the number of visitors, groups, duration of stay at the site, what sites tourism will visit restriction of movement during the stay, etc.

5. Any Ecotourism project should build capacity of local community members to host clients, manage Ecotourism resources and activities.
6. Any Ecotourism project should minimize environmental impacts and restore degraded ecosystems (trail building, signage, parking areas, viewing sites, latrines, etc.)
7. Local customs, norms and beliefs should be honored and followed by Ecotourism operators and their clients.
8. Local cultural activities/displays such as dance, music and arts/crafts should be encouraged and fostered.

Theme – Finances

Issues:

1. Absence of government policies on financial institution for tourism development.
2. Lack of specialized financial institutions for tourism development.
3. Inadequate government incentives to enhance tourism for all.
4. Inefficient utilization of taxes from tourism and related bodies.
5. Lack of coordination in generating revenue from visits to tourism sites.

Recommendations:

1. Government should compel financial institutions to provide special credit facilities for tourism development.
2. As we have special banks for agriculture, commerce, industry, cooperative banks, etc., government should also establish tourism banks mainly for tourism development.
3. a) Government should provide infrastructure facilities such as roads, electricity, water, etc. at tourist sites.
b) Government should make land available for tourism investors.
4. Government should utilize taxes from companies, tour operators (i.e. owners of airlines), owners of hotels and affiliates, National Union of Road Transport Workers for tourism development.
5. Visitors or tourists to tourism sites should be compelled to pay a token fee from visiting those sites.
6. Local communities should be encouraged to produce arts and crafts and sell to the tourists as souvenirs.
7. Hotels and restaurants should be established around tourist sites.
8. Tour operation and community tour guiding should be encouraged.
9. Travel agencies should be encouraged.

Theme – Governance and Implementation

Issue:

1. Indiscriminant logging.
2. Non Timber Forest Products and other natural resources are overexploited.
3. Lack of community involvement in the Obudu Ranch Resort development and in Tinapa City.

Recommendations:

- 1.1 Cross River State government to enhance Forestry Commission through adequate financing and legislation to regulate logging activities in order to conserve the natural state of our forest.
 - 1.2 Forest communities to be assisted by the Cross River State Tourism Bureau and Private Sector to demarcate part of their land for tourism purposes in order to encourage community-based Ecotourism.
-
- 2.1 To conduct a short term study on the key features of Ecotourism in Cross River State to be carried out by the Ministry of Trade and Investment.
 - 2.2 As a follow-up on the above studies, community members will have to be trained on alternative economic activities.
 - 2.3 Government to implement intervention programs such as micro enterprise development through the State and Federal Poverty Alleviation Program for improved livelihood in communities.
-
- 3.1 There should be a deliberate policy empowering the Tourism Bureau to enforce contractor's adherence to Environmental Impact Assessments on Ecotourism projects as well as ensuring mitigation of identified impacts.
 - 3.2 There should be a committee set up with local representation with regard to further developments on the Obudu Ranch Resort Project, cable car project and the Tinapa City development.
 - 3.3 Communities should be involved in planning profit sharing models for Ecotourism initiatives.

Appendix 4: The Calabar Declaration – A Declaration on Sustainable Renewable Energy

I) PREAMBLE

This international declaration was written by the 65 participants of the conference *Energetic Solutions: An International Conference on Making Renewable Energy a Reality* held in Calabar, Abuja and the Niger Delta in Nigeria from November 21 to 27, 2004. This conference included representatives from Africa, the Americas and Europe, and was a follow up to the WSSD and Bonn Renewables conference to address the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and issues of energy and development, and is based on the following:

II) Recognizing global energy inequity is extreme with over 2 billion people having insufficient access to energy systems and is most prevalently felt in sub-Saharan Africa;

Whereas the developed world needs to increase their energy efficiency and reduce their fossil fuel consumption, and whereas most countries in the South need increased access to energy;

Whereas petroleum is a conflict resource and has the potential to become more so with depleting supplies (fossil fuel estimated to run out by 2050 and prices continuing to rise);

Whereas the fossil fuel economy has been unjust and is generating a serious climate change that is threatening our civilization;

Whereas the disparities between the rich and poor are increasing:

- the four richest men at this point in time control more resources than the poorest 75 countries
- of the largest 100 economies in the world economy, 51 are corporations;

Whereas access to basic, clean and affordable energy services is essential for sustainable development and poverty eradication and that renewable energy is a pre-requisite to achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs);

Whereas the acute energy shortage in the developing world presents opportunities for the introduction of sustainable, renewable energy technologies (RETs)⁷, and sub-Saharan Africa has great bio-mass potentials due to their dependence on agriculture.

III) Whereas Nigeria resembles other countries in the South: more than 70% of Nigerians are living in absolute poverty; the environment is under increasing pressure due to a rapidly growing population and access to traditional energy systems is becoming increasingly difficult; and fossil fuels are unaffordable to about 60% of Nigeria's impoverished people.

IV) Recognizing that there is a gross energy shortage amidst abundant renewable energy potential in sub-Saharan Africa, including Nigeria;

Whereas Nigeria is an economic driver in West Africa because of its international status as a petroleum exporter;

Whereas Nigeria's over-dependence on oil has been an obstacle to democracy and the cause of distorted social and economic institutions in the country;

Whereas 50% of energy consumption in Nigeria is fuel wood that adversely affects the health of women and children and leads to high levels of deforestation;

⁷ *Renewable Energy technologies as discussed in this Declaration comprises hydro-power, solar energy for heat and power, wind energy for mechanical and electrical power generation, and geothermal and biomass energy for power generation and heat.*

Energy Efficiency refers to support for energy efficient technologies and processes including efficiency in business and finance mechanisms to reduce energy consumption.

Sustainable Energy refers to the combination of renewable energy and energy efficiency

Whereas there are regional as well as urban and rural disparities in pricing and access to fossil fuels;

Whereas only 45% of Nigerians have access to the national grid out of which 80% live in urban areas and only 20% in rural areas; women and children are the most negatively affected by the current energy situation;

Whereas Nigeria has suffered recurrent strikes and conflicts arising from fossil fuel price fixing since the 1980s;

Whereas 123 gas flaring sites in the Niger Delta is responsible for most of Nigeria's GHG emissions and leads to acid rain, environmental degradation, poor air quality and adverse health effects;

V) Noting that while the government of Nigeria has set a target for 85% rural electrification by 2010, promises stable energy supply by 2007, plans to achieve between 5 to 10% of renewable energy contribution to the national demand or capacity by 2007, and to stop gas flaring by 2008, these targets can not be achieved without the massive adoption of RETs.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

VI) For Capacity Development -

A sectoral strategy for capacity development should target end users and strengthen the capacity of agencies that include community organizations, policymakers, agencies, RETs entrepreneurs, trade and professional associates to support RETs development. The approach should be unique to the sector and participatory, with consideration of culture, and local and transferable skills, to meet the needs of end users;

Clear strategic directions should be facilitated by community, civil society organizations, policy makers, agencies, and trade associations for renewable energy deployment;

A renewable energy network or coalition of Nigerian stakeholders is created to promote renewable energy projects and policy advocacy, and act as a focal point for consultations. The national network should be sustainable by building the capacity of all members and beneficiary communities;

Several renewable energy technology demonstration projects and learning centers, such as solar or ecological villages, are developed in each state through multistakeholder partnerships that will facilitate community learning and take into consideration the relevant culture and local transferable skills;

The Ministry of Education of Nigeria has RETs integrated into primary and secondary school curriculum as well as into tertiary and professional institutions in the next five years, and develops a separate renewable energy department at tertiary institutions;

Immediate implementation and consistent support for RETs sensitization, information, education and communication for development activities targeted toward youth in the formal and informal sectors;

In order to create general awareness, a RETs association, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and the private sector will employ the mass media, centers of worship and local groups to target RETs capacity development activities targeted toward men, women and children;

By 2010, capacity building initiatives (including but not exclusive to symposia, exchange visits, technical assistance, systems improvement) implemented for 50% of policy makers to all sectors of government (local, state, federal), traditional leaders and relevant NGOs/CBOs;

Multilateral institutions should sponsor international exchanges between RETs research and development centers and the private sector;

Financial and technical support mechanisms for RETs civil society organizations be established by the government in collaboration with the private sector in order to meet targets set out within this document.

VII) Financing

Recognizing the threat of corruption, it is recommended that a national multistakeholder RETs forum or council that includes NGOs, independent power producers, industry, community members and all levels of

government to create policy around renewable energy from the planning stage to implementation and to oversee how RETs funding is used.

1. Government

A. The federal government should do the following:

Establish a RETs development bank (similar to the Agricultural and Industrial development banks);

Develop policies to enable feed-in tariffs and green power purchase agreements with all levels of government being required to purchase 50% of their power from green energy by 2007;

Provide incentives to RETs power producers to make getting onto the power grid easier;

Immediately remove import and export duties for RETs (to 0 to 5%) and provide appropriate subsidies for RETs that are reviewed 5 years after implementation;

Set timelines and targets for the deployment of RETs, because these are needed to encourage investment;

Provide small low interest loans for RETs buyers and provide grants for RETs research and development particularly to educational institutions;

Recognizing that the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) projects need to address the twin goals of climate change mitigation and sustainable development, Nigeria's CDM national authority should establish sustainable development criteria for CDM projects such that half of CDM funds go to small-scale RET projects;

Create a special fund for RETs to Nigeria's 36 states and federal capital territory;

Incorporate RETs into existing government programs (such as NEEDS – National Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy and NAPEP-National Poverty Eradication Program);

About 50% percent of the proposed rural electrification fund should be set aside for RETs by 2010.

Likewise, the RETs development fund bill before the National Assembly should be hastened and passed as an Act.

B. The state governments should:

Dedicate part of their statutory allocation from the federal distributable pool account to RETs and RETs education in primary and secondary schools;

Join the federal government in setting up a RETs development bank.

C. The local government should:

Fund RETs demonstration projects to mobilize communities to adopt RETs which address local needs;

Mobilize communities to form cooperatives to find funding to integrate RETs;

Enhance and finance RETs research at grassroots level e.g. identification of RETs potential;

Collaborate with NGOs as a source of funding for RETs.

2. The Oil and Gas Industries and other fossil fuel industries must:

Pay a percentage of their profit to compensate for the social and environmental degradation the oil and gas industry causes as compensation to impacted communities and includes funding of RETs projects.

Form a consultative body that mediates development initiatives between communities and the fossil fuel industries;

3. International and National Financing Institutions (such as the World Bank, IMF, African Development Bank) need to:

Phase out funding of fossil fuel investments/loans/projects and channel 5% of their annual profits to developing and implementing small-scale RE projects;

Target 20% percent of their portfolio to be allocated to developing and implementing RETs projects;

Provide sustainable micro-finance schemes;

Develop internal policies for promoting investments in RE ventures;

Provide cost-sharing agreements and grants for RETs research and development, and low-interest loans for RETs businesses and users;

Collaborate to draw on their banking experience to form a RETs Development Bank.

4. Donor agencies (such as UNDP, Unido, CIDA, GTZ, GEF, UNESCO):

Should provide grants for RETs R&D and loans for RETs businesses and users;

Recognize the centrality of RETs to issues such as health, child welfare and environmental protection – to ensure that funded projects that deal with these issues have a RETs component;

Overseas Development Agencies, such as CIDA and GTZ, stop funding large-scale dams, nuclear and other similar projects and divert funds into RETs.

5. NGOs and CBOs need to:

Access and distribute funding for RETs projects;

Undertake advocacy on RETs financing;

Act as an interface between donor agencies and communities ensuring that all facets of community are fairly represented in all RETs projects.

VIII) Renewable Energy and Markets

The RETs sector should promote a decentralized and competitive entrepreneurial base;

Multinational companies are obligated to spend a significant percentage of their energy budget on RETs research and development appropriate for Nigeria and other countries in the South;

Tax rebates given to companies involved in manufacturing and assembling of RETs;

Facilitation of RETs consumer cooperatives in order to achieve full benefits of government RETs finance programs.

IX) Multilaterals and Donor Agencies

Provide policy instruments to enable maximum access to the opportunities provided by World Bank facilitations like BioCarbon Fund, Community Development Carbon Fund, and other international financial instruments such as the Global Environment Fund (GEF) and CDM.

X) Gender Policy

Immediate incorporation of gender equity in RETs policy making and implementation;

Economic empowerment for women for RETs through micro-credit financing;

Provide a legal framework for protection of women's rights to sustainable energy programs;

To involve women in appropriate mechanisms for relieving and/or resettling victims of environmental disasters (such as oil spills and flooding from dams) and communal conflicts as well as those affected by climate change;

Gender equity in accessing RETs by 2015.

XI) Youth Policy

Youth should be integrated into energy policy making and implementation process;

Economic and social empowerment of youth through entrepreneurship capacity development;

The provision of a legal framework for the protection of resources for the appropriate and sustainable use of energy should include youth.

XII) Implementation Strategies:

A comprehensive strategy should include all the energy uses (for power, transport, household and commercial use) and be implemented in conjunction with energy efficiency measures;

We encourage the electric power reform bill to include the promotion of renewable energy, whereby 25% of all new on-grid energy generating projects should be RETs by 2010 with incremental increases thereafter (35% by 2020, 50% by 2030, 100% by 2050);

5% of government revenue at all levels should be dedicated to renewable energy development;

All rural communities should be considered for renewable energy with a minimum target of 20% by 2010;

Steps to achieve these targets, include:

- To coordinate a renewable energy capacity building conference for community leaders
- Recommend that multi-lateral institutions finance feasibility studies to identify RETs technologies to be implemented in these communities
- Request that the government develop databases and geographic information systems (GIS)
- Ensure that the RET is selected according to the locally available energy resources and implemented in accordance with a shared vision developed through a participatory process that includes various stakeholders and representatives from the communities.

Develop a renewable energy map for all RETs by 2006;

The Standards Organization of Nigeria creates a specific department to develop renewable energy technology standards and certify RETs technicians/installers;

To set up a Federal Ministry of Renewable Energy Technologies by 2006;

Recommend that the Energy Centres focus on research and development of bio-fuels for cooking, transportation and electrification in all regions of Nigeria;

Provide tax incentives for investment in such fuels and efficient or alternative cooking, transportation and electrification technologies;

Recommend that adequate funding be provided for R&D on biofuels for household, commercial and industrial use in Nigeria.

XIII) Monitoring

Recommend that the Energy Commission of Nigeria include a participatory monitoring and evaluation committee that includes representatives from the NGO community, energy research centers, academia, youth, women, the RETs private sector, financial institutes, and other relevant stakeholders to evaluate the performance of current RETs projects in Nigeria.

The proposed Ministry of Renewable Energy Technologies should make participatory budgetary design to ensure that set goals and objectives for RETs are achieved with sufficient financial backing;

All aspects of the RETs project from initial feasibility studies to post-project monitoring will be carefully recorded and consolidated so that this information will guide the research and development of future projects.

Be it resolved that RETs will significantly improve the living conditions of Nigerians through participatory community energy planning and the implementation of appropriate projects.

Signed by the conference organizers on behalf of the Energetic Solutions participants who agreed to the above by consensus.

Michael Simpson
Executive Director
One Sky

Odigha Odigha
Executive Director
NGOCE