



## **Academic Associates PeaceWorks**

B35, Trans Amadi Facilities Ltd.,  
129132 Trans Amadi Industrial Layout,  
Port Harcourt, Rivers State, Nigeria.

Tel: +234 915 310 7741,

[aapeaceworks@yahoo.com](mailto:aapeaceworks@yahoo.com); [www.aapw.org](http://www.aapw.org)

---

# **Coping with Climate Change as a Cause of Conflict in Coastal Communities of West Africa (C7-WA).**

## **Introduction**

Academic Associates PeaceWorks (AAPW) is implementing a project with three partners, referred herein as consortium members, namely Fondazione Accademia Italiana della Marina Mercantile (FAIMM), Health of Mother Earth Foundation (HOMEF), and West African Network for Peacebuilding (WANEP) with support from the European Union (EU). The title of the project is “Coping with Climate Change as a Cause of Conflict in Coastal Communities of West Africa (C7-WA). The aim of the project is to strengthen West African Coastal Communities’ resilience to cope with climate change and conflict by developing innovative tools related to conflict sensitive climate change (CC) adaptation and prevention of environmental crimes that exacerbate climate change impact on communities as well as monitoring of the impact of climate change as a driver of conflict.

To achieve this, the project intends to develop tools, based on innovative research and global best practices, which will be tested through the establishment of a Community Stakeholders Network, constituted with highly influential community stakeholders’ by AAPW. The CSNs will then be trained to deliver nature based innovative solutions to the climate change challenges in the region, through a large-scale capacity building program, targeting communities and local actors. Information about climate change and conflict will be used to update the ECOWAS regional framework for Conflict prevention and early warning.

While, the CSNs will be trained to advocate and mobilize resources to address the climate change challenges, the project will also finance climate change mitigation and adaptation interventions of the project targeted communities in the Niger Delta through a small-scale grant scheme. Thus, as part of the project, AAPW carried out community entry and stakeholders mapping as well as supported HOMEF one of the consortium partners to conduct a research. Findings of the research have been encapsulated in a report after validation by community representatives and copies made available for each community. Below are key points during the community entry and stakeholders mapping visit.

## **Esuk Mba Community Climate Change Issues**

- Gully Erosion: An entire road is cut-off by gully erosion due to increase in rainfall
- Deforestation as a result of timber logging was considered a major issue in Esuk Mba. Farmlands are flooded; roof of houses are destroyed by storm etc.
- Mangrove Cutting was said to be predominant in the area
- Nypa palm invasion of the mangrove forest

- Low fish catch
- Poor crop yield caused by erosion of top soil, changes in climatic conditions in addition to use of pesticides, herbicides and poor farming techniques.
- Increase in rainfall patterns resulting to destruction of mud houses
- Dilapidated health facility and inadequate personnel
- Lack of potable water
- Poor waste management
- High level of insecurity in the area. The only ancient trade by barter market had to stop operation due to piracy, kidnapping, sea robbery, etc.

### **Current Esuk Mba Community Adaptation and Mitigation Strategies**

- Mixed livestock farming as an alternative to fishing
- Mixed cropping and farming of short term crops is practiced in a bid to understand crops that can produce better in current climatic conditions.
- Multiple trade and occupation: Most people are involved in farming, fishing, trading and transportation business to earn a living
- Cluster fishing with different types of fishing nets due to unpredictable fishing season

### **Questions for Discussion**

1. As a community member, what adaptation and mitigation strategies would you recommend to each of the above issues if any?
2. What skills are available in the community that will be useful to the adaptation and mitigation strategies you have recommended?
3. What are the current adaptation and mitigation strategies in the community?
4. What can community members do collectively that are different or supportive to improve the current adaptation and mitigation practices?

### **Conclusion**

The visit of AAPW and HOMEAF this time, is to fulfil our commitment of presenting our research findings to the community. We will also commence the next step in the project implementation activity plan. As stated in the introduction. Setting up of Community Stakeholders Network as well as commence Tools development interactive session with selected representatives of the community. Particularly the CSN members.

**Godson Jim-Dorgu, Tega Edeki and Ken Omavuayenor. For AAPW**



Funded by the European Union

