



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; 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.

Kono Community Climate Change Issues

- Poor crop yield: Caused by oil spills in the past and use of pesticides and herbicides without good knowledge on usage. In addition, the harsh environmental climatic issues
- Rusting of Zinc for roofing: This was suspected to be as a result of acid rain. It is a relatively new phenomenon in the community

- Destruction of mud houses: Walls of mud houses are washed off by horizontal rainfall pattern
- Erosion and Flooding due to unpredictable increase in rainfalls
- Use of wood from the fresh and mangrove forest as main source of energy for cooking and processing of fish
- General insecurity (cultism, kidnapping, piracy, sea robbery etc.)
- Lack of potable water
- Poor waste management

Current Kono Community Adaptation and Mitigation Strategies

- Use of Inorganic fertilizers to enhance crop yield
- Construction of mono pump water system through community self-help initiative
- Construction of drainage and roads through community self-help initiative to control erosion and flood.
- Use of cement for plastering of mud walls or annual renovation of houses after the rainy season
- Migration to cities in search of manual jobs
- Community established a security group to check crime and insecurity

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

This visit of AAPW and HOMEF 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, this includes setting up a Community Stakeholders Network as well as commencement of the 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

