# 'MYTH AND REALITIES ABOUT THE ROLE OF CBOS IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES: THE CASE OF OGONI COMMUNITIES IN THE NIGER DELTA, NIGERIA'

#### **OUTLINE**

- Introduction
- \* Rationale of project
- My project
- Research method
- Findings
- Typology of CBOs
- Perceptions about CBOs and CD
- Conclusion and queries

#### **BACKGROUND OF STUDY**

- Ogoni is a kingdom in Rivers state of Nigerias' Niger Delta
- Extremely rich in biodiversity -houses the 3rd largest mangrove forest in the world
- Contains vast deposits of best quality oil in the world
- Since 1950s until 1993, Ogoni has provided \$5.2 billion for its host nation
- Today, most forest and farmlands in Ogoni are covered in sheens of greasy oil
- Oil pollution devasted agrarian life of Ogonis

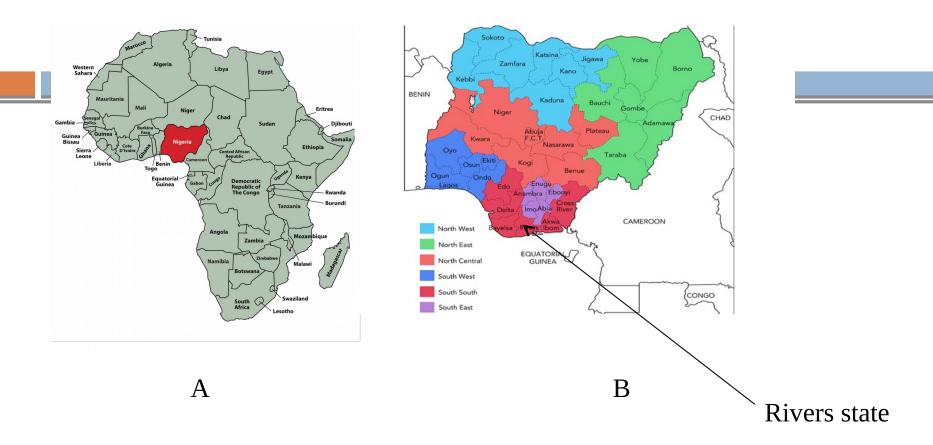


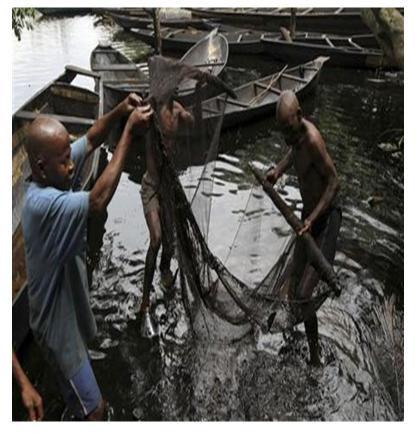
Figure 1: (A) Map of Africa (B) Map of Nigeria

## THE TRUE TRAGEDY

Farming without food



Fishing without fish



## LIFE IN OGONILAND



#### **RATIONALE OF PROJECT**

- □ Before 1950, 90% ——export of agricultural product; no oil exportation
- Contributes significantly to the coffers of the Nigerian state
- □ Since 1960-till date, 2.2 million barrels of crude oil; agricultural production (85%)

- Yet even when about 70% of Nigerians live on less than 1\$ per day, most Ogonis are cashless
- Suffer 'poverty qua poverty'
- □ Life expectancy is less than 45 years below national average of 50
- Over 5 decades of 'intensive' CD has failed to develop Ogoniland

#### **TOP-DOWN SOLUTIONS BETWEEN 1960-2015**

- Over 30 pieces of legislature
- 22 Environmental Protection Agencies
- 6 Interventionary agencies

#### MY PROJECT- CBOS AS ALTERNATIVE AGENTS OF CD

- \* "21st century" Agent of CD
- Base their programmes on BU
- Work with the grain of local communities

#### **CASE STUDIES**

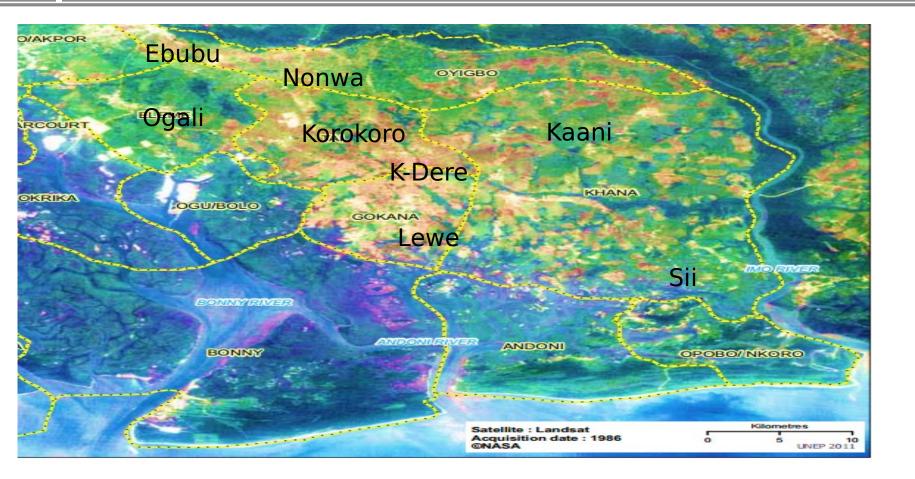


Figure 2: Satellite Map of Ogoniland UNEP(2011).

## **PILOT STUDY**

- IO2 telephone interviews
- 10 survey questionnaires

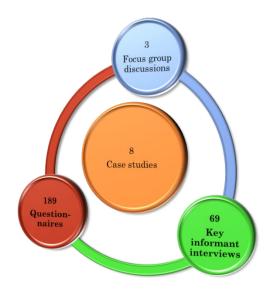


Figure 3: Field work

## **RESEARCH QUESTIONS**

- How do Ogonis perceive the concept of CBO and CD?
- What type of CBOs exist in Ogoni communities?
- \* What are their various contributions to the development of their host communities?
- \* How do these contributions affect these people and their communities?

#### RESULT A1: RESPONDENT'S PERCEPTION OF CBOS AND CD

- Community based organizations(CBOs) any type of organization that work in the community
- CD as infrastructure \_ 42 respondents
- CD as psychological capital \_ 92 respondents
- CD as human, economic and social \_ 222 respondents

#### **RESULT A2: TYPOLOGY OF CBOS**

There are varieties of CBOs managed by community elites

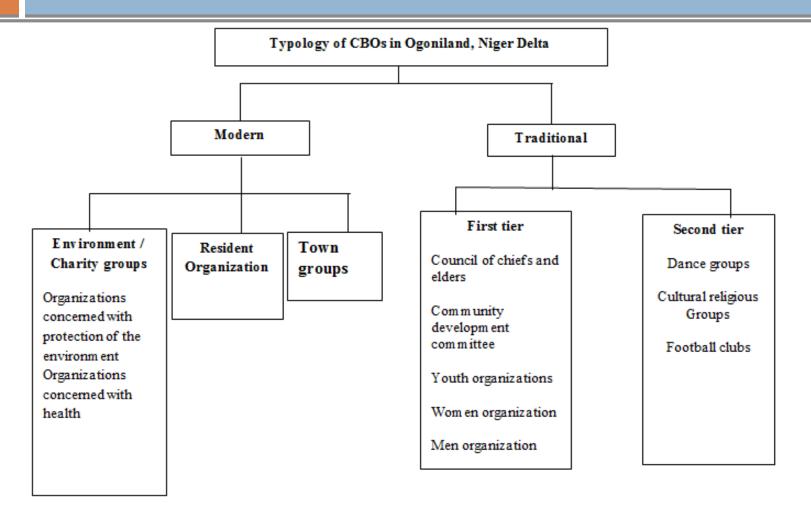


Figure 4: Typology of CBOs in Ogoniland.

### **RESULT A3: TRADITIONAL CBOS**

- Originate from community
- Managed by community
- Perceived as representative of entire community
- Source of community identity
- Source of governance
- \* Agent of infrastructural development
- Concept of civic virtue> communality

## **RESULT A4: FLAWS OF TCBOS CD**

- Faulty foundation in inheritance
- Blurred idea of communality
- Source of emotional stress

#### **RESULT A5: MODERN CBOS**

- Originated from outside local communities
- Managed mostly by non-Ogoni indigenes
- Concept of civic virtue philanthropy
- Mostly shortlived
- Donation of household items
- Provision of affordable infrastructure
- Subsidized health services

#### **RESULT A6: FLAWS OF MCBOS CD**

- Needy objects and givers
- CD approach is not structural or collectivist
- Undermine self-reliance
- Self-serving
- Defraud communities

#### GENERAL WEAKNESSES OF OGONI CBOS

- CBOs practise instrumental CD
- Unable to provide needed infrastructures; social, human economic and psychological capital
- CBOs seem part of the Ogoni problem than solution
- Ogoni CBOs are not genuinely bottom up
- Do not engage fully with community members
- Their programmes are not sustainable

# **MY QUERIES**

\* Is development still possible in Ogoniland?

How can it be found?

#### REFERENCES

- \* Blaikie, P (2006) Is Small Really Beautiful? Community-based Natural Resource Management in Malawi and Botswana [World Development Journal, vol 34(11) 1942-1957]
- Boele, R, Fabig, H and Wheelers, D. (2001), Shell, Nigeria and the Ogoni [Sustainable Development Journal, vol 9 (2) 74-86]
- \* Akpomuvie, O (2011) Breaking Barriers to transformation of the Niger Delta region of Nigeria: A human development paradigm [Sustainable Development Journal vol 4(3) 210-222]

#### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

- Supervisors: Profs Selina Stead and Tim Gray
- Sponsors: Petroleum Technology Development Fund (PTDF) Nigeria
- Organizers of ASFPG workshop