

Niger Delta Social and Conflict Analysis

Framing Workshop

World Bank, Washington DC.

Thursday, April 5, 2007

Background

The World Bank is undertaking a **Social and Conflict Analysis of the Nigerian Niger Delta**. A fuller understanding of the complex social and economic situation is expected to guide the development of the institution's policy and programs in the Delta region.

This one-day workshop brings together experts on the Delta, members of the World Bank's Nigeria Country Team and members of the Social Development Department to discuss the key issues facing the Delta and to map possible solutions.

Workshop Objectives

- Identify the main challenges facing the Niger Delta and discuss their linkages.
- Identify key issues for further exploration.
- Identify policy and program actions and recommend how key stakeholders (the government, development partners, oil companies, and in particular the World Bank) might respond to these challenges.

The aim of the workshop is thus to: (i) arrive at a consensus on the main challenges affecting the Niger Delta; and (ii) identify responses to address these challenges. In the months ahead, both will be the subject of further investigation and consultation.

Participants

(a) Resource Persons

- Professor Michael **Watts**, Director, Center for African Studies, UCLA, Berkeley
- Precious **Omuku**, Shell International (Former Head of Public Relations, Shell Nigeria)
- Prof. Peter **Lewis**, Director, African Studies Program, SAIS, Johns Hopkins
- Sola **Omole**, General Manager, Public Affairs, Chevron
- Deirdre **La Pin**, Independent Consultant , former Head of Community Development, Shell PDC, Nigeria
- Aaron **Padilla**, Senior Consultant, Environmental Resources Management
- Ben **Jua**, Professor, Department of Social Sciences, South Carolina State University

(b) World Bank Nigeria Country Team Members

The Country Director will open the meeting. The Country Program Coordinator, Country Economist and other key members of the team, including representatives of sectors and outcome groups, will participate in the workshop.

(c) World Bank's Social Development Department

Staff from the Social Development Department will participate in the workshop.

Approach

While the workshop follows a structured approach, the proceedings will be informal so as to facilitate the shared envisioning of imaginative solutions to the challenges of the Niger Delta. For the same reasons, participants will be encouraged to contribute their views in a personal capacity, rather than feeling constrained to represent the institutions to which they are affiliated.

The Workshop Program

The workshop will take place in the World Bank's Main Complex, room MC4-800, on April 5, 2007. Proceedings will be opened at 9 a.m. by the Country Director for Nigeria, Hafez Ghanem. Paul Francis, task team leader for the NDSCA will outline the day's agenda. Session 1, ***Diagnosis of the Main Social and Conflict Challenges in the Niger Delta***, will be initiated by Ben Jua, consultant for the NDSCA, who will summarize the key challenges affecting the Niger Delta. Professor Jua's preliminary synthesis brief draws from the joint policy note prepared by the World Bank, DFID and USAID in February 2007 and an extensive annotated bibliography prepared by the World Bank. This brief will be shared with the six experts prior to the workshop (April 1).

After Ben Jua's presentation, each expert will be asked to make a 10 minute presentation addressing three questions:

1. Have the key issues been identified correctly, and their manifestations captured accurately?
2. Are there other issues which should be examined? What are they?
3. How do the identified issues relate to each other, i.e. what are the causal linkages between them?

A discussion will follow. The expectation is that by the end of the morning's discussion, broad consensus will be reached on the key challenges in the Niger Delta. These will be subject to further analysis in the months ahead.

The afternoon session is entitled ***Actions to Address and Respond to Challenges in the Delta***. Again, each expert will be asked to make a 10 minute presentation on key policy and program actions which could address the identified challenges, and the potential role of government, the private sector, civil society, and development partners in addressing them. The experts will be asked to address three questions:

1. How realistic is it to expect development in an ongoing conflict environment?

2. How could key stakeholders (government, civil society, development partners, oil companies) address the key challenges?
3. How can the World Bank best contribute to promoting peaceful and progressive social and economic development in the Delta, both as regards its overall approach and stance, and the design and implementation of specific interventions?

A discussion will follow and the expectation is that at the end of the discussion, a range of innovative and realistic solutions will have been identified, which would form the basis for further consideration in the months ahead.

Expected outputs

In summary, two main outputs are anticipated from the workshop:

1. Agreement on the key challenges in the Niger Delta. These will be subject to further examination.
2. Suggestions on the most promising responses to these key challenges, especially by the World Bank. These will be subject to further exploration and consultation