



Environmental Conflicts in Ogoni: An Evaluation of the United Nations Environmental Project Report

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Abstract

The study examined the environmental conflicts in Ogoniland, with an evaluation of the United Nations Environmental Project Report in context. The contrasting perceptions of the cleanup proposed by the United Nations Environmental Report and the expectations thereof posed a daunting contention to conflict as well as sustainable peace building in Ogoniland. In the light of this, there was need to conduct an evaluation of the impact of UNEP report on Ogoniland with a bid to assessing whether the report ended the environmental conflicts in Ogoniland. Thus, the study adopted secondary data and content analysis as methods of data collection and analysis. The theoretical framework was anchored on conflict theory. Findings showed that the UNEP recommendations are effective in addressing the conflicts; however, its implementation has not been effective in remedying conflict. Based on the findings, it was recommended among others that the government should fully implement UNEP report by engaging sincerely, the clean-up of the polluted environment in the area.

Keywords: Conflict, Environmental, Evaluation, Ogoni, Project, Report, United Nations

INTRODUCTION

The people of Ogoni are a distinct indigenous minority nationality residing on South-East peripheral of the Niger Delta River in what is geopolitically described as the South-South of Nigeria. Ogoni had a well-established social system that places immense value on their environment with aged-long peaceful coexistence between them and government before the discovery of crude oil in large quantities. Prior to discovery of crude oil in the Niger-Delta rich region, the people of Ogoniland are great fisher folks and farmers, producing for themselves and their neighborhoods (United Nations Environmental Project, 2011a; Agaptus, 2019). However, with the discovery of oil in 1956 at Olobiri and Ogoni in 1957, the social system and aged-long peaceful coexistence in the region were distorted.

In the 60s and 70s, a number of oil extraction companies, including Chevron Nigeria Limited moved into Ogoniland. Oil exploration and extraction activities increased and as such the government ordered the people of Ogoni to give up their lands which they use for farming for oil operations, without consultation, compensation, or informed consent being obtained from people of Ogoniland (Ebeku, 2001). In order to make lawful, the claims of government and oil extraction companies on the lands of people of Ogoni, a controversial land use decree was conceded in 1978, making ownership of lands in the region vested on government while compensation for land determined based on value of crops planted on it.

In 1979, the land use decree was incorporated into Nigerian Constitution; this finally eased acquisition of Ogoni and other indigenous peoples' lands by oil extraction companies (Balouga, 2019; Ebeku, 2011; Agbola & Olurin, 2003). During the 70s and 80s, the people of Ogoni gradually saw that government promises of beneficial development associated with oil extraction were unreliable. More disturbing is that the oil extraction and production activities in Ogoniland sparked up calamitous history of pollution from oil spills, gas flares and oil well fires (Fentiman & Zabbey, 2015; Legborsi, 2007; Legborsi, 2005). Undeniably, oil extraction in Ogoniland is one typified by continual dispute among the people of Ogoniland and the oil companies, on one hand, and strong discord between the people of Ogoni and government, on the other hand. This led to a morbid atmosphere of hostility over the years (Balouga, 2019) and the situation was further galvanized by military dictatorship ruling at the time (Tombari, 2019; Uyigüe & Agho, 2017;

UNEP, 2016; UNEP, 2011b). Again, extraction activities of oil companies were carried out without due regard to the negative impacts of such activities on the people of Ogoniland and the environment.

In Ogoni, between 1993 and mid-2007, there have been over 35 incidences of oil spills recorded, notwithstanding the undetected and unreported cases of oil spills. No doubt, the catastrophic damages caused by the extraction activities of oil companies alongside the lack by government to remedy the damages by way of resolving conflict in the region, in part fueled up the conflicts in Ogoniland (Tombari, 2019; Frynas,2010). The reality is that decades of negotiations, initiatives and protests have ultimately failed to deliver a solution that meets the expectations and responsibilities of all parties (people of Ogoniland, oil companies and the government).

In 2008, Nigerian government invited the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP) to undertake an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) of the oil exploitation in Ogoniland. However, the action of the government was in rejoinder to the prerequisite by Ogoniland people that Shell Petroleum Development Corporation (SPDC), the Anglo-Dutch oil corporation, which has been extracting crude oil for decades shattered their ecosystem via gas flaring and oil pollution. In 2011, the UNEP completed its inquiries and released a report revealing that SPDC is accountable for massive and widespread oil pollution that would take about 25 to 30years to address in Ogoniland (UNEP, 2011). In addition, the report concluded that a convergence of physical cleaning and adoption of political actions is indispensable for resolving oil-based environmental conflicts in Ogoniland (Owkhonda, 2016).

In 2012, the Peoples' Democratic Party(PDP) led administration by President Ebele Goodluck Jonathan commenced the process of implementing UNEP report in Ogoniland environmental cleanup was done in a politicized and shamble manners; thus, the aim of the UNEP report was not fully realized. Besides, the PDP led administration inaugurated the Hydrocarbon Pollution and Remediation Project (HYPREP) agency. Evidently speaking, HYPREP agency, which was saddled with the onus of ensuring the implementation of UNEP report (in area of environmental cleanup) (see figure 1b), was not passably funded. For instance, HYPREP employees were not paid remunerations and eventually, the HYPREP collapsed in 2015. The widespread hope of Ogoniland people was shattered since the then President who is from Niger Delta could not carry out an effective cleanup process in Ogoniland.

The ascension of the All Progressive Congress (APC), led by President Muhammadu Buhari in 2015 brought about the resuscitation, reform and legal backing to HYPREP. Also, the APC led administration constituted a fresh board of trustees and governing council, while at the same time, released a squalid sum of \$10million(out of a projected cost of \$1billion) for the cleanup of Ogoniland. Stakeholders and people of Ogoniland frowned at this action of the government, particularly, when the government persisted on resumption of oil production in concomitance with physical cleaning that is yet to take off. The Ogoniland people not only rebuffed this display by the government but the action also engendered fresh conflict.

The negligence by previous government sparked up remarkable conflict in Ogoniland between SPDC and people of Ogoni. There are established movements such as the Movement for the Survival of Ogoni People – MOSOP, Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta – MEND formed under the leadership of Ken Saro-Wiwa), led to the kidnapping of SPDC expatriates and the brutalization of military officers (Tombari, 2019; Yakubu, 2017). A staunch defender of rights of people of Ogoni, Saro-Wiwa criticized oil corporations and the governments' oil policy and brought international attention to the Ogoniland.

In 1990, MOSOP presented Ogoni Bill of Rights (OBR) to the Federal Government of Nigeria; the OBR included a number of references to environmental issues. In 1993, Saro-Wiwa joined 300,000 Ogoni on a march to demand a share in oil revenue and greater political autonomy. The conflict within the region, however, was not resolved in a peaceful manner. As a consequence of the ensuing violence, oil exploration and production activities in Ogoniland ceased in 1993. Thus, the relations between SPDC and the people of Ogoni have remained tensed.

Consequently, actions by the government brought no profound moves with respect to the implementation of pragmatic and all-inclusive strategies to cleanup Ogoniland. Still, with the presence of indigenous oil firms like Robo Michael and Belema Oil, which support youth movement and some chiefs in the brawl to substitute SPDC in Ogoni, have prompted a new twist to competition for benefit incarceration and their related conflicts in Ogoniland. Overall, the contrasting perceptions of the cleanup proposed by UNEP and the expectations thereof pose a daunting contest to conflict as well as sustainable peace building in Ogoniland. Given the above occurrence in Ogoniland and UNEP report, there is therefore the need to conduct an evaluation of UNEP report on Ogoniland with a bid to assessing whether the environmental projects by UNEP lessen conflicts in Ogoniland.

Theoretical Framework

This study adopted conflict theory as its theoretical framework. The conflict theory is based on the philosophizing of Karl Marx and other prominent theorists of conflict like Ralph Dahrendorf, Georg Luckas and Lewis Coser. The

underlying philosophy of conflict theory is that human are sociable beings, however, conflict-driven. The theory sees human society as a buildup of individuals or groups such as the Movement for the Survival of Ogoni People (MOSOP), Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta – MEND led by late Ken Saro-Wiwa. According to the conflict theory, these groups (MOSOP, MEND) struggle for power and that struggle for power may be for economic, material resource control, political, social amid others.

According to Agaptus (2019), the struggle for economic, political and material resource-control powers by these social groups to an extent precipitated the conflict between people of Ogoniland and the government. Conflict theorists contended that economic, political and the perceived inequality in the control of material resources (natural resources in Ogoniland) are the major causes of conflicts. The conflict theorists believed that conflict cannot be totally eroded from societies; however, makes societies balance. Collins (1974); Tombari (2019) assert that struggle for powers by the social groups (economic, social, political, material resource-control, etc.), results to two conflicting interests, antagonistic (Ogoniland people) and responsive (government and United Nations – people are desirous of cleaning-up polluted Ogoniland environment via a programme – the United Nations Environmental Project Report)

Collins (1974) suggests that conflict surface between Ogoniland people and the government because the antagonistic (aggressive) parties have their lands or environment polluted and that the programme (the United Nations Environmental Project Report) is perceived not good enough to clean up the polluted Ogoniland. In specific, conflict theory associates tension between antagonistic and responsive as ensuing from growing vulnerability in environment, and insecurity of livelihood. Besides, the theory contends that environmental degradation, unequal social distribution of wealth and perceived crude oil exploration and exploitation activities, which polluted the Ogoniland are the main causes of conflict in Ogoniland, which made the move by the ‘responsive’ to clean up the Ogoniland.

The conflict theory has been used to explain wide range of social phenomena, including revolutions, wealth and poverty, discrimination and domestic violence and even war. Accordingly, conflict theory ascribes most of the fundamental developments in human history such as democracy and civil rights, capitalistic attempts to control the masses rather than to a desire for social order. The theory revolves around concepts of social inequality in the division of resources and focuses on the conflicts that exist not only between classes but also among social groups of equal status.

The conflict theory embodies four key assumptions which are:

Competition: conflict theorists believe that competition is a constant and, at times overwhelming factor in nearly every human relationship and interactions. It asserts that communication exists as a result of the scarcity of resources, including material resources like money, property, commodities such as natural resources (oil, steel, coal etc.), and many more. It furthers asserts that beyond material resources, individuals and groups within a society also compete for intangible resources such as leisure time, dominance, social status, sexual partners and many other factors as well. In this regard, conflict theorist assumes that competition is the default rather than cooperation.

Revolution: the assumption by conflict theorists that conflict occurs between social classes one key outcome of this view is a revolution. The notion is that change in a power dynamic between groups does not happen as the result of adaptation. Rather, it comes about as the effect of conflict between these groups. In this way, changes to a power dynamic are often abrupt and large in scale, rather than gradual and evolutionary.

Structural inequality: another important assumption of conflict theory is that human relationships and social structures all experience inequalities of power and wealth. In this sense, some individuals and groups inherently develop more power and reward than others. Following this, those individuals and groups that benefits from a particular structure of society tend to work to maintain those structures so as to retain and enhance their power.

War: conflict theorists assumes war as either a unifier or as a cleanser of societies for conflict theory, war is the result of cumulative and growing conflict between individuals and groups and between the whole societies.

Weber adopted many aspects of Marx’s conflict theory. He believed that conflict over property was not limited to one specific scenario. Rather, he believed that there were multiple layers of conflict existing at any given moment and in every society.

Weber’s belief about conflicts suggests that some forms of social interactions, including conflict generate beliefs and solidarity between individuals reactions to inequality might be different depending on the groups with which they are associated, whether they perceive those in power to be legitimate or not. Conflict theorists of the later 20th and 21st centuries while not evading economic relations as the key determinant feature of the inequalities across groups in various conflicts theory, tends to extend conflict theory beyond strict economic classes as posited by Marx. Conflict theory is highly influential in modern and post-modern theories of sexual and racial inequality, peace and conflict studies and many varieties of identity studies that have arisen across the field of academics.

Conflict theory views the relationship between the Ogoni's as the indigenous owners of the land and its underlying resources and Shell as being forced tenants working with the state as being based mainly on conflict instead of balance of interest or harmony, even though there may be harmony than conflict. They believed that they are defined by getting whatever resources they can from each other by the reason of some legislations and laws which empowers the state to have control over all resources beneath the earth wherever and whenever, within the territorial space of Nigeria.

However, conflicts arises when the state and it's agent (Shell) fails to put in place expected measures aimed at protecting the environment and improve the living conditions of the people in the course of their oil exploration and exploitation activities. Conflict theory sees this dynamics as one of conflict over resources, whereby state coercive institutions are deployed to suppress agitations and protests by the people over the wonton destruction of their environment due to the activities of the company as backed by the state.

Synopsis of United Nations Environmental Report

The history of exploration and production of crude oil in Ogoniland is a long, intricate and distressing one that to date has turn out to be apparently obstinate in areas of its resolution and future direction. More so, it has place the people of Ogoniland and the government at loggerheads depicting a landscape typified by a lack of trust and blame (Agaptus, 2019). Realistically, decades of dialogue, scheme and protests have eventually failed to deliver a lasting solution to meet the expectations of both the people of Ogoniland and the government (Balouga, 2019; David & Tombari, 2019; and the Environmental Rights Action/Friends of the Earth, 2016). Furthermore, to find a way from the deadlocks of dialogue, the Nigerian government in consultation with numerous of the germane actors, invited the United Nations to undertake an assessment of oil pollution in Ogoniland. In view of this, the United Nations carried out an independent assessment of the environment and public health impacts of oil contamination in Ogoniland, Niger Delta and options for remediation in its reports termed the United Nations Environmental Report (UNEP) (Tombari, 2019). The UNEP includes over 4,000 samples obtained from the analysis from more than 200 sites. The independent report of UNEP was also meant to show the nature and magnitude of oil pollution in Ogoniland (UNEP, 2016; Platform, 2016; and Owhonda, 2016; UNEP, 2011a; UNEP, 2011b; and Ejelonu, Adeleke, Ololade & Adegbuyi, 2011).

Initially, the UNEP consulted with a wide-range of stakeholders and United Nations country team in the country to consider the scope and feasibility of the assessment; however, the UNEP was confronted with inimitable challenges such as lack of trusts between actors, political apprehension between communities, local and national government, inability to gain access to Ogoniland, security, technical as well as logistical issues (Emam, 2016). Regardless of these challenges, UNEP undertake a study for breaking the decades of stalemate while offering the Nigerian government and stakeholders with a probable basis upon which trusts might be built and actions carried out to resolve the numerous environmental, health and sustainable development problems militating against the millions of people in Ogoniland (UNEP, 2011a; UNEP, 2011b; and UNEP, 2016).

According to Owhonda (2016), to ensure the independence of the UNEP study, a framework for cooperation was discussed such that a renowned team of international and national experts were recruited for a 2year assessment. Over a 14 month period, UNEP examined over 200 locations, surveyed 122 kilometres of oil pipeline right of way, evaluated over 5,000 medical records and engaged more than 23,000 people in Ogoniland in a community meeting (UNEP, 2011b; UNEP, 2011a; and UNEP, 2016). Following the preliminary investigations, UNEP identified 69 sites for soil and groundwater assessment in addition to samples of community drinkable water, sediments from creeks, rainwater, surface water, fish and air were obtained throughout Ogoniland and in several neighbouring villages or towns (UNEP, 2016).

The samples were obtained following the globally accepted sample management procedures for analysis accredited (ISO 17025) to laboratories in the Europe. Findings of the UNEP underscores that there are significant number of locations, grim threats to health resulting from contaminated drinkable water together with pollution that has penetrated deeply in Ogoniland (UNEP, 2016). The UNEP offered the government and stakeholders with priceless, baseline information on the level of the challenges, programmes and actions in areas of cleanup and remediation of the Ogoniland.

The UNEP provides some insightful recommendations for the Nigerian government and all stakeholders concerned given the enormous amount of data obtained in the UNEP assessment (UNEP, 2016; UNEP, 2011a). First, the UNEP study concluded that the environmental restoration of Ogoniland is feasible but may take 25-30years and that this would bring about a lasting improvement in the contaminated Ogoniland and Nigerian federation as a whole. Second, due to widespread of contaminations in Ogoniland and nearby towns or villages, and degrees of degradation will not be one single clean-up for the entire community. Thus, the UNEP recommended a blend of approaches ranging from active intervention for cleaning top soil and re-cultivating the mangrove to inert monitoring of natural regeneration.

Third, locals in Ogoniland who have consumed water from the contaminated sources should be asked to embark on an all-inclusive medical examination by expert physicians on the likely adverse health effects of the hydrocarbons

detected. More so, a well-focused medical study should commence to help track the health situations of the people of Ogoniland over their lifetime towards ensuring any likely health impacts that may arise in the future (UNEP, 2016; UNEP, 2011b).

Notably, the most serious cases of contamination in the Ogoniland was reported in areas such as Nisisioken-Ogale in Eleme, Gokana, Tai and Khana, which are close to the Nigerian National Petroleum Company (NNPC) product pipeline. Notwithstanding the UNEP, there are outcries by locals that the recommendations by the independent assessment team are yet to provide the needed solution to the issues of oil pollution in Ogoniland.

Critique of the United Nations Report and Environmental Conflict in Ogoni

The Niger Delta region of Nigeria is the world's third largest mangrove ecosystem, a major fish breeding ground for West Africa and is also very rich in oil and gas reserves. Oil exploration and production in the Niger Delta region started during the 1950s. Operations were suspended in Ogoniland in early 1990s due to local agitation for a better environment following several oil spills which had impacted on people's lives as well as the atmospheric, aquatic and terrestrial resources in the region (UNEP, 2011). Since oil exploitation was stopped in Ogoniland, the fields and installations have remained dormant, environmental contamination arising from these facilities have are yet to be remediated, while further oil spills have resulted from lack of maintenance, oil theft for artisanal refining and in some cases, sabotage resulting in increased agitation from the region.

Administratively, Ogoniland is sub-divided into four local government areas namely Eleme, Tai, Khana, and Gokana Local Government Areas (LGAs), all in Rivers State, Nigeria and the study was conducted in these four LGAs. In July 2006, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), an international inter-governmental organization established by the General Assembly of the United Nations, represented by its Post Conflict and Disaster Management Branch of the Division of Environmental Policy Implementation received a formal request from the Federal Government of Nigeria (FGN) to carry out a comprehensive assessment of the environmental and public health impacts of oil contamination in the four LGAs of Ogoniland in the Niger Delta region, and to suggest options for remediation and clean-up (UNEP, 2011).

The expected output is the production of a comprehensive assessment of all environmental issues associated with the oil field activities in Ogoniland, including the quantification of impacts; recommendations regarding the scope, modalities and means of remediation of soil and groundwater contamination; evaluation of alternative technologies which could be employed to undertake such remediation. Also expected is the generation of a database of environmental quality for Ogoniland; recommendations for sustainable environmental management of Ogoniland; and enhancement of local capacity for better environmental management and sustainable development (UNEP, 2011).

The project funding was negotiated to ensure the independence and integrity of the assessment. In line with the polluter-pays principle, the government, the Shell Petroleum Development Company (SPDC) of Nigeria and UNEP agreed the US\$9.5 million project cost would be borne by SPDC (a joint venture between the government, Shell International, Elf/Total and Agip). A Presidential Implementation Committee (PIC) monitored the project while a Community Consultation Committee (CCC) advised UNEP project team and articulated inputs/concerns from the local communities. The CCC also served as a bridge between the people and UNEP (UNEP, 2011).

The UNEP assessment was carried out over a 14-month period; UNEP team examined more than 200 locations, surveyed 122kms of pipeline rights of way, reviewed more than 5,000 medical records and engaged over 23,000 people at local community meetings. Besides, detailed soil contamination investigations were conducted at 69 sites. Altogether more than 4,000 samples were analyzed, including water taken from 142 groundwater monitoring wells and soil extracted from 780 boreholes (UNEP, 2011).

The findings from the unprecedented UNEP environmental assessment suggest that the environmental degradation arising from the widespread pollution is extensive. Therefore, a comprehensive environmental restoration effort is required for full rehabilitation of Ogoniland that may require as many as 25 to 30 years for completion. This necessitates an initial 1billion US dollars set aside for the first 5years of a 30yearclean-up project in Ogoni-land alone. UNEP reported that 10 out of the 15 investigated sites which the SPDC records pointed out as having completed remediation, still had pollution exceeding SPDC, and government regulatory remediation closure values. Moreover, the report also suggests that the contamination at eight of these sites had migrated to groundwater. UNEP's report evidenced SPDC's deficient remediation processes, and described them as unfit for Ogoniland and therefore require scrutiny and reevaluation.

Despite the UNEP report, the Ogoniland have been adversely affected by the impact of oil spills caused by long-term oil exploration and production activities, which have resulted in very high unemployment and hardship due to the

destruction of the natural resource base in the area. According to the most comprehensive study to date by the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP), government regulation, technical and logistic capacity is limited and the control, maintenance and decommissioning of oilfield infrastructure by oil companies is inadequate.

There are numerous movements (like MEND, MOSSOB and MOSOP) and the deaths of prominent people in Ogoniland struggle. The movements led to the death of prominent people who were killed by these social movement group members, then the Abacha led government that killed Ken Saro-Wiwa. Partly in response to the environmental consequences of oil production, the Movement for the Survival of the Ogoni People (MOSOP) was the most fundamental, which was founded under the leadership of Ken Saro-Wiwa (Tijen, 2015; Senewo, 2016). In 1990, MOSOP presented Ogoni Bill of Rights to the Federal Government of Nigeria. The Bill included a number of references to environmental issues. In 1993, Saro-Wiwa joined 300,000 Ogoni on a march to demand a share in oil revenue and greater political autonomy.

The conflict within the region, however, was not resolved in a peaceful manner. As a consequence of the ensuing violence, oil exploration and production activities in Ogoniland ceased in 1993. The event was followed by a succession of activities that led to extra-judicial killing of Ken Saro-Wiwa and his colleagues from Movement for the Survival of the Ogoni People (MOSOP) pressure group in November 1995 for allegedly organizing an unapproved mass rally against the interest of the Nigeria state during the then Abacha led government. Ken Saro-Wiwa was hanged alongside eight other prominent Ogoni leaders in Port Harcourt. Continued social upheaval in the area further alienated the Ogoni community from SPDC, and MOSOP has since been campaigning for the total expulsion of Shell from Ogoniland.

The sudden demise of the military ruler in June 1998 changed the dynamics of Ogoni issues (Edeh, 1999). Abacha's death saw a transformation of the political landscape in Nigeria; his exit paved way for the rule of democracy. This change began with a transition government headed by Abdulsalami Abubakar who conducted an elected that handed over to a democratically elected president Chief Olusegun Obasanjo. The Obansajo led government deployed a three-fold strategy in tackling the incessant oil-related conflicts in the Niger Delta using both democratic and undemocratic actions. The undemocratic actions involved the use of military force to quell the agitations of the people of Ogoni. For instance, the Olusegun Obansajo led government in 1999 ordered military invasion of Odi community in Niger Delta which led to the destruction of lives and properties (This day news, 2013).

The Odi invasion is believed to be the most horrifying of state excesses in the region, which many groups have equated with genocide (Epewu, 2012). The militias believed to be loyal to IYC, probably the Egbesu Boys of Africa, were believed to have been responsible for the killing of twelve policemen in the region on a peacekeeping mission in November 1999 (Sobomate, 2016). The Shell-Ogoni crisis was one of the crises in Nigeria that has witnessed the use of the three forms of intervention in the country, and yet the situation can best be described as an impasse.

As part of the recommendations of the UNEP reports, environmental clean-up, compensation for impacted communities, respond to wider issues of political marginalization as well as economic deprivation were part of the recommendations as means of resolving the conflict in Ogoniland. According to Tombari (2019), the people of Ogoni believed that full implementation of UNEP report on Ogoniland and Ogoni Bill of Rights will ameliorate all their sufferings as well as resolving the conflicts in Ogoniland. Moreover, whether the full implementations of UNEP reports are effective in remedying Ogoniland conflict was further assessed.

The poor implementation of the UNEP report in the view of Yakubu (2017), has been in connection with the persistent lack of political will on the part of the Nigerian government, and gross nonchalant attitude by Shell, which remains a major obstacle towards the execution of UNEP's recommendations. In addition, Emam (2016) and Emam (2016) blamed the poor implementation of UNEP reports on the deficient strategies used by the Nigerian government and Shell in addressing Ogoniland conflict. Moreover, whether UNEP reports have significant effect on Ogoniland conflict was further assessed.

Yakubu (2017) posits that due to the fact that the UNEP reports had not yielded the desired result, more conflicts have erupted in the Niger Delta region as inhabitants are unable to gain economic power and material resource control. This view is further reinforced by the conflict theory. The conflict theory of Karl Marx and other prominent theorists of conflict - Ralph Dahrendorf, Georg Luckas and Lewis Coser see human society as a buildup of groups that usually struggle for power; the struggle for power may be economical, material resource control, political, social amid others. Agaptus (2019) believes that the struggle for economic, political and material resource-control powers, to an extent precipitated the conflict between people of Ogoniland and the government.

The core issue to note is the Nigerian Government has been insensitive in remediating and cleaning - up Ogoni land. Very little has been done in this regard. It has been lip service, and this has exacerbated conflicts within the area, with

drum of communal rifts, criminality, and all sorts of activities that negates human lives. There have also been cases of crude oil theft, associated with artisanal refining. This has impact on human security. The sincerity of the government in this regard towards the clean - up and remediation is a desideratum to peace, which would restore confidence and productivity of the people.

Concluding Remarks

The pollution of Ogoniland environment due to exploration and exploitation of crude oil has been a major problem. In January, 2008, militants blew up pipelines in Ogoniland, reasons for which were attributed to protest against pollution of communities' environment. These sources of pollution has affected the livelihood of people and resulted to environmental health problems for the people of Ogoniland. This study argues that the conflicts in Ogoniland can be linked to several social movement groups struggling for power (economical, material resource control, political, and social) coupled with the role elites play in controlling the vast portion of the resources of the region. More importantly, the struggle for economic, political and material resource-control powers, to a large extent precipitated the conflicts between the people of Ogoniland and the government.

The study concluded that though the UNEP reports and recommendations are effective in addressing the Ogoniland conflict, however, its implementation has been weak, hence the reasons for the insignificant effect of UNEP reports in ameliorating the Ogoniland conflict. The findings thus call for some policy recommendations for the Nigerian government, oil companies as well as elites of Ogoniland. Based on the fore going, the following are recommended:

1. That the government should fully implement the UNEP reports by engaging sincerely, the clean-up of the polluted environment of Ogoniland. For instance, the government should implement all the recommendations made by the UNEP reports by engaging stakeholders (government and Ogoniland people).
2. The socioeconomic wellbeing of the people of Ogoniland should be improved while at the same time, there should be perpetual engagement between the government and the people of Ogoniland on issues relating to their socioeconomic wellbeing and reduction in the economic hardship imposed by the exploration and exploitation activities of oil companies; these are needed in order to avert future conflicts in Ogoniland.
3. That effective strategies aimed at realizing UNEP recommendations are required; more so, more funds should be allocated by the Nigerian government for the projects' effectiveness and full implementation.
4. There should be adequate compensation for polluted lands by government. The Ogoni has some of the best soil in the world in terms of cost and durability. The benefit is not commensurate with the hazard; hence they deserve adequate compensation for all this years of exploration.
5. There should be endless follow-up on the progress of the UNEP report by government as well as all stakeholders.

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