BODO MEDIATION INITIATIVE:
FINAL PROJECT REPORT

PROJECT LOCATION:
BODO COMMUNITY IN RIVERS STATE IN THE NIGER DELTA REGION OF NIGERIA.

REPORTING PERIOD
12 MONTHS (JANUARY – DECEMBER, 2015)

BEING REPORT SUBMITTED AT THE END OF THE PROJECT TO THE EMBASSY OF THE KINGDOM OF THE NETHERLANDS.

JANUARY, 2016
1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Community of Bodo in Ogoni land is located within the Niger Delta region of southern Nigeria. The population of Bodo is estimated at about 70,000 people and more than 85 percent of the community depend on the land and the richness of marine life, for their livelihood.

In 2008, Bodo experienced 2 major Oil spills which had devastating impacts on the lives of the entire community. Marine life was destroyed and farmlands were rendered unfit for the cultivation of various agricultural products. While the community was still cringing under the effects of the previous spills, there was another spill in 2012. The combination of oil spills caused by equipment failure, human error, illegal refining and bunkering activities on the environment, has had devastating effects on the Bodo community. These include health issues, loss of sources of livelihood, lack of potable water, distrust and the resultant factions within the community.

Five (5) years after the Spills in Bodo, the Community was yet to be cleaned up. This delay was blamed on various factors including the lack of unity in the community, particularly among its leadership. It was also blamed on a stalemate between the community and the Shell Petroleum Development Company (SPDC).

A ray of hope for clean-up and remediation in Bodo community, came when an Ambassador from the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Bert J. Ronhaar, visited the creeks and saw first-hand the level of devastation. The BMI process took off in April 2013, following this visit to the impacted creeks. Ronhaar, with the Dutch Embassy in support, initiated a process to end the stalemate and bring about clean-up and remediation in Bodo community.

The process passed through three phases – the Pre-mediation phase, the Mediation Phase and the Implementation phase. The Pre-mediation and the Mediation phases successfully got the primary stakeholders, (Bodo community and SPDC) to end the stalemate, sit around a table and agree on modalities for clean-up/remediation. It provided a platform for the community to be informed of the need for proper clean-up. It equally helped them to speak with one voice on the need for urgent clean-up of Bodo and articulate the terms for this clean-up. The Bodo Pre-mediation Initiative spanned over a period of five (5) months, running from April to August, 2013. The project had however been planned to last for a period of three (3) months. Some time extension was therefore necessitated particularly due to the delicate nature of issues in the community and the need to get the full consensus of all stakeholders.
The clean-up process is currently at the implementation phase where some milestones have been achieved. A Project Director was put in place and International contractors were selected through a rigorous process that produced 2 international contractors, LAMOR & INKAS out of. Shoreline Clean-up Assessment Technique (SCAT) mission were successfully conducted and contractors were mobilized to site. Trainings were also conducted for Bodo Youths and 400 youth benefitted. The process also promoted the building of bridges for trust and peace within the community.

The Bodo Mediation Initiative went through some challenges throughout the various phases of the process but was able to overcome these through transparent and sustained engagements with stakeholders at different levels, particularly at the community level. The process has therefore enjoyed the support and enduring commitment of the stakeholders who are all keyed into the objective of a clean/remediated Bodo community.
2. **BMI PARTNERS/STAKEHOLDERS**

- Bodo community
- **Shell Petroleum Development Company of Nigeria Ltd Joint Venture** (SPDC JV)
- Rivers State Government
- **Rivers State Sustainable Development Agency** (RSSDA)
- Federal Ministry of Environment
- **National Oil Spill Detection and Response Agency** (NOSDRA)
- Department of Petroleum Resources (DPR)
- **National Petroleum Investment Management Services** (NAPIMS)
- National Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC)
- **National Coalition on Gas Flaring and Oil Spills in the Niger Delta** (NACGOND)

The Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands has continued to support the BMI from its inception in 2013 to the current implantation phase.
3. THE PRE-MEDIATION PHASE OF ENGAGEMENTS

The Pre-mediation engagements were undertaken by the Pre-mediation Committee as well as by the Ambassador, Bert J. Ronhaar, the then Chairman of the Mediation Initiative. Numerous consultations and engagements with stakeholders at various levels were held. There were consultations and engagements with individuals, small and larger groups to ensure that the pre-mediation message is shared and understood by all and to hear views from all factions of the community.

The Pre-mediation Committee had several consultations and engagements with several stakeholders, most importantly at the community level. The committee met stakeholders individually, in small groups or in very large groups as in the case of town-hall meetings.

The following are some of the groups that were engaged:

- **Bodo Traditional Rulers**
- **Bodo Council of Chiefs**
- **Bodo Youth groups**
- **Bodo Women groups**
- **Association of Bodo Fishermen**
- **Farmers**
- **Shell Petroleum Development Company** (SPDC)
- **Rivers State Sustainable Development Agency** (RSSDA)
- **Hydro-carbon Pollution Restriction Project** (HYPREP)
3.1 The Consultations:

Members of the Pre-mediation team on individual basis engaged in consultations before dates were fixed for the actual meetings with the stakeholders. A total of 20 different consultations were done.

3.2 Actual Engagements & the Message:

The Actual engagements took place usually after prior consultations with relevant stakeholders as listed above. At the community level, engagements were with the following:

- Bodo Traditional Rulers
- Bodo Council of Chiefs
- Bodo Youth Groups
- Bodo Women Groups
- Association of Bodo Fishermen
- Farmers

Cross section of Chiefs & Elders at a Pre-mediation Town Hall Meeting in Bodo.
A total of 15 such meetings were held either in the communities or Port Harcourt as the situation required. The Pre-mediation Committee had a clear message for all stakeholders, particularly those of the community. The major components of this message are as follows:

- There is simply the need for a proper clean-up in Bodo to be done by international contractors, according to international standards.

- The Committee informed that it was necessary for the community to come together in unity and nominate their representatives who would sit for talks with other stakeholders to make known their demands for clean-up and the terms for same.

- The community was also informed that the clean-up process would have a socio-economic component. This aspect would enable community decide on socio-economic projects they would implement for the development of their community.

3.3 Reactions from Pre-mediation engagements at the community level:

- The initial reactions received from the community during engagements were suspicion, anger & arguments. Some youths who were engaged at pre-mediation phase, had lamented on the plight of the Bodo youths and stated that empowering the youths e.g through skills training, would help to participate in the development of the community.

- The Pre-mediation team and their mission were viewed with caution and suspicion. Some were sceptical and felt that the team were there merely to facilitate the return of Shell, a company they feel, has destroyed their environment and means of livelihood.

- The subject of clean-up in Bodo readily brings to mind the many years of lost livelihoods and hardship for the people of Bodo. The Pre-mediation team was confronted with questions as to why it has taken so long for clean-up to take place.
• Often, frayed tempers and emotions were displayed during meetings. These were usually about perceived losses by individuals and the community at large. Borve Paago, the then Youth President, while speaking at a meeting of youths with the Mediation team remarked that, “the conflicts that currently exist in Bodo is as a result of Shell’s divide & rule system.” Paago called for “the government to build small scale industries in Bodo instead of the adhoc empowerment programmes that give paltry sums through its agent, the RSSDA.” Also speaking at the meeting, a female youth, Bare, joined her voice in support of the call for clean-up in Bodo. For Bare, “educational facilities should be provided in Bodo so that youths would not seek to travel abroad in search of education.”

These various emotions were assuaged by the Committee’s transparency on issues as it affects the community. Clarity was particularly given on the Mediation initiative and its goal for clean-up and remediation in Bodo as well as the socio-economic development aspect of the clean-up process.
3.4 Outcomes

- Consensus list of Bodo Representatives: One of the major achievements of the process is that the community agreed and produced a consensus list of those to represent Bodo at the Mediation process. It also drew attention to the need for all members of the community to think more of collective gains for the community instead of individual gains.

Other related outcomes include:

- Community informed of the Pre-mediation Process and its implications for clean-up;
- Community confident in the Pre-mediation/Mediation Initiative;
- A total of 10 community representatives nominated by the community for the Mediation process.
- Consensus reached that an action-oriented clean-up of Bodo area is a top priority for all;
- Production of a neutral list of People to represent Bodo at Mediation talks
- Successful end to Pre-mediation process and initiation of the Mediation process;
3.5 Challenges & Lessons Learned

The major challenges experienced were:

- Difficulty in bringing the two major factions to sit and dialogue in one room;
- Factions often agreed during consultations to sit and meet for discussions but often boycotted such meetings;
- These attitudes resulted in delays and holding of more meetings to accommodate hearings and views from all sides;
- The extended period of pre-mediation engagements over-stretched the project’s budget.

The lessons learned include:

- Patience and compromise are essential in bringing about dialogue for the resolution of conflicts;
- It is always good to be open/transparent in dealing with the community. The Pre-mediation team had remained open and this helped in winning the trust of the community and a good relationship with the community.
- It may not always be possible to get a 100 percent agreement among the people, but always good to move on with the view that represents the wishes and interest of the majority of the people.

The pre-mediation process provided a platform for information to be shared with the community on the need for clean-up and the benefits to be derived from same. The process also brought home to the people, the need to move the community forward as a united people in order to achieve greater development for Bodo.

It is hoped that with the opportunity provided by the Pre-mediation as well as its success will serve as a model that can be replicated in other areas in the Niger Delta. The onward progress to the Mediation phase of the process is proof of the success of the pre-mediation talks. There is optimism that will usher in a great future for Bodo community.
4. **THE MEDIATION PHASE**

The Mediation Phase of the clean-up process focused on the facilitation of negotiations among primary stakeholders for a successful and sustainable clean-up process in Bodo. This phase took off in September, 2013 and spanned through till October, 2014. An important outcome of this was the consensus to handle the subject under three broad thematic areas namely clean-up, Pipeline Integrity/Illegal oil refinery and confidence building. Three Working Groups were then formed to handle the subject under these headings. A total of seven plenary sessions were held within the reporting period. Several steering committee and Working Group meetings, as well as several other meetings and engagements also took place under the platform.

Activities implemented at this phase were those that include the following:

- **Conduct of Mediation trainings for stakeholders:** The training was aimed at building the capacity of participants in the art of Mediation and to equip them to be bridge builders in their community and the environment. Three (3) sets of Mediation trainings were conducted and a total of 72 people benefitted from the trainings.

- **Reconciliation Meetings/engagements:** A Reconciliation committee was constituted upon the request of the Bodo delegation, who expressed weariness over the unending factional divides and conflict within the Bodo Community. The Bodo Mediation Initiative has through this committee helped to bridge the difference between factions and create a peaceful environment in the community.

- **Organized Working Group Meetings:** There were three working groups and each necessarily had to meet regularly in order to produce a work plan for the implementation of activities under its thematic area. More than 18 working group meetings were held within the period.

- **Organized Technical Group Meetings:** Working Group1 handles the issue of clean-up but was later transposed into the Technical team.
• **Organized Roundtable Meeting:** The successful negotiation of the release of a goodwill fund in the sum of USD$7 million necessitated the organization of a roundtable on community development fund models. This was aimed at building the capacity of the community and facilitate their making informed choices of the models that would best suit the Bodo context. Following this roundtable, the community chose a hybrid model which is made up of elements of the GMOU model of SPDC & the Akassa model.

• **Held bilateral Stakeholder engagements & consultations:** Several bilateral engagements were held with stakeholders and this resulted and greater commitment by stakeholders.

• **Steering Committee Meetings:** Members of the steering committee comprised of heads of Bodo and SPDC delegations respectively, the Chairpersons of the Bodo Mediation Committee ads

• **Plenary sessions:** The Plenary session is the platform where all issues are discussed among stakeholders and decisions taken and endorsed by the house. A information regarding the progress of the mediation process are also shared. A total of 7 plenary sessions were conducted within the reporting period.
5. **THE IMPLEMENTATION PHASE**

The implementation Phase of the clean-up process focused on modalities and timelines for the implementation of clean-up activities. It ran through the course of the year 2015 and is yet to be concluded. The shutting down of the project site also negatively impacted on the speed of implementation.

5.1 Objectives & Activities Implemented:

**OBJECTIVE 1: TO FACILITATE DIRECT TALKS BETWEEN THE COMMUNITY STAKEHOLDERS, SHELL AND OTHER STAKEHOLDERS.**

The Bodo Mediation Initiative (BMI) facilitated stakeholder engagements at the community level as well as multi-stakeholder engagements at the state and national levels. Through this function, it promoted the participation of all and the sharing of relevant information.

5.1.1 Organized Roundtables

The BMI organized roundtables that helped to build capacity of stakeholders, particularly at the community level and also to produce strategies to tackle issues. Two of such categories of roundtables include:

5.1.2 Roundtable on Community Development Models:

This roundtable was organized to empower the community on the choice of development models to adopt for their community. At this roundtable presentations were done by experts on the different models for community development. The roundtable was informed that the goal of community development is to sustain development beyond oil and mineral exploitation period. It was also highlighted that the responsibility for community development rest on the people and their government.

Following the conduct of this roundtable, the community was able to make informed choice on its preferred model for development. It was also important because of the need to avoid potential conflicts/divisions that may arise as a result of the implementation of development projects in the community.
5.1.3 Roundtable on the Prevention of Re-Pollution

The Mediation Initiative also organized roundtables on the prevention of re-pollution of the creeks. The background to this was the concern that was expressed at the 8th plenary session, about the reported presence of crude oil around the Sivibilagbara water side in Bodo creek. The crude oil was suspected to be coming from active illegal refining site in neighbouring communities. This pointed to the possibility of more occurrences within the region, if proactive measures were not employed to check further spill and for active measures to prevent re-pollution.

Three (3) separate roundtables were organized, all with the aim of producing a strategic document for the prevention of re-pollution. Participation at the roundtables cut across various stakeholders including representatives of Bomu, Mogho, Ne-ol, Biara and Bodo communities. Also in participation, were representatives of SPDC, Ministry of Environment, River State Ministry of Environment, Rivers State sustainable Development Agency (RSSDA), NOSDRA, Nigerian Civil Defence Corps, SDN and the National Coalition on Gas flaring and Oil spills in the Niger Delta (NACGOND).

The issue was tackled under the following thematic areas:

i. **Sustainable Sensitization and Awareness campaigns.**

ii. **Security & Issues of Sponsors**

iii. **Community Partnership/ Inclusiveness**
The roundtable also highlighted the implications of re-pollution to the society, as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>HEALTH</th>
<th>SOCIAL</th>
<th>ENVIRONMENT</th>
<th>ECONOMY</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Predisposition to:</strong></td>
<td><strong>Predisposition to:</strong></td>
<td><strong>Degradation</strong></td>
<td><strong>Unsustainable wealth</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>• Cancer</td>
<td>• Social disharmony and restiveness</td>
<td>• Pollution; Air, water and land</td>
<td>• Poverty</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Respiratory diseases</td>
<td>• Social vices (Cultism, thuggery)</td>
<td>• Destruction of aquaculture</td>
<td>• Destruction of means of livelihood</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Organ dysfunctions</td>
<td>• Criminality</td>
<td>• Soil infertility</td>
<td>• Scares investors</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Infertility and reproductive malfunction</td>
<td>• Vulnerability of women to rape, unwanted and teenage pregnancies, abortion, HIV and AIDS and other STDs</td>
<td>• Destruction of vegetation and mangrove forest</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Skin diseases</td>
<td>Truncates educational development and overall development of the community</td>
<td>• Low crop yield/productivity</td>
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<td>• Eye defects</td>
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<td>• Ground water contamination</td>
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<td>• Reduced life expectancy</td>
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Benefits of Prevention were listed as follows:

- **Increased health and wellbeing**
- **Enhanced economy**
- **Restored livelihood**
- **Secured future and social security.**

The roundtables produced a strategic document for the prevention of re-pollution, which was presented to plenary for implementation. The roundtables also created greater awareness in Bodo community on the dangers of illegal crude refining and bunkering and the need to end this.
5.1.4 Organized Technical Committee meetings:

The Technical Committee (TC) meeting was a team made up of 8 people with knowledge of the technicalities of the clean-up. The TC members were drawn from the working Group 1, which dealt with the issue of Technology/Clean-up. Their responsibilities included technical oversight of the implementation process and advise the Steering Committee and plenary, as may be necessary. Several TC meetings were organized within the reporting period and successfully addressed issues as they arose. These include:

- Dealt with the technicalities of the reconnaissance field trip and review of method statements.
- Produced a timeline for clean-up/remediation project implementation.
- Participated in the SCAT missions.
- Worked with the Mediation secretariat and conducted interview sessions for the recruitment of a Project Director and Technical Assistant respectively.
- Performed continuous oversight of activities.

5.1.5 Organized Steering Committee meetings:

These constituted part of the pre-plenary engagements. This was a platform where members of the Mediation committee, the Heads of the Working Groups and the heads of delegations, as well as the UNEP Advisor, met to review progress of implementation and resolve emerging issues that may pose a hindrance to the achievement of set goals. Information was also shared at the engagements.

5.1.6 Multi-Stakeholder Forums:

The Initiative organized a multi-stakeholder forum which brought together stakeholders at both the community and state levels. The State actors included the Ministry of Environment, regulatory agencies such as National Oil Spill Detection and Response Agency (NOSDRA), the office of the Secretary to the State Government (SSG) and the Governor of Rivers State, who sent a representative. The forum produced open deliberations and brought out the need for further sensitization and engagements at the community level.
5.1.7 Conducted bilateral engagements of stakeholders:

The Mediation process by its nature required sustained stakeholder engagements. These were therefore implemented at the community and state levels respectively. Outcomes of these engagements were improved stakeholder relations. They also brought reduced tensions and suspicions and promoted partnership and synergy. Stakeholder involvement and commitment were also improved through these engagements.
5.2

OBJECTIVE 2: TO PROVIDE A FOUNDATION FOR SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN BODO COMMUNITY THROUGH PROMOTION OF BUILDING BRIDGES OF TRUST AND UNITY AMONG THE FACTIONS.

5.2.1 Formation of a Reconciliation Committee:

The Reconciliation committee was constituted upon the request of the Bodo delegation, who expressed weariness over the unending factional divides and conflict within the Bodo Community. The Reconciliation Committee was composed of 6 men who were respected members of the community and were willing to engage stakeholders in the community to promote peace. The Committee derived its powers from the Bodo community, who pleaded for assistance to bring about peace in the community and the Bodo Mediation Committee, who offered the administrative/logistic support to achieve the set goals. In order to achieve their mandate, the Mediation Initiative not only supported the formation of a Reconciliation Committee but also facilitated the convening of reconciliation engagements:

Reconciliation Committee mandate and achievements:

The major responsibilities of the Reconciliation team is to bring about the withdrawal of some pending court cases with particular focus on any law suit that may hinder the achievement of clean-up/remediation in Bodo community. The committee was also to bring about peace & reconciliation among the various factions in the community and ensure the establishment of a governance structure that would promote peace & development in Bodo community.

The committee carried out this mandate and was able to engage all parties in the community and encouraged them to embrace peace.
5.3

OBJECTIVE 3: ENSURE THAT CLEAN-UP, REMEDIATION & RESTORATION OF BODO CREEKS IS IN LINE WITH INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS.

Activities carried out in the actualization of this objective include the following:

5.3.1 Facilitated the conduct of reconnaissance field trip by international contractors

The Initiative successfully facilitated the conduct of a reconnaissance field trip to the Bodo creeks. The field mission was organized to enable potential international contractors for the free phase oil removal to assess the current state of the creeks and get data that they may require for the preparation of their method statements for the free phase oil removal.

A total of 11 international companies participated in the reconnaissance field trip. Regulatory Agencies, the Ministry of Environment, Community representatives as well as representatives of the National Coalition on Oil Spills and Gas Flaring in the Niger Delta (NACGOND), took part in the reconnaissance trip. The field mission visited the affected areas namely:

- Sivibiragbara/ Patrick Water-Side
- St. Brigid
- Tene-ol
The locations visited are shown on the satellite map represented here:

*Satellite Map of Bodo Creek – showing Reconnaissance Locations.*

At each impacted site visited, the contractors collected data that would be needed for their work, including photos, video documentation, as well as samples of the soil and water from the site.

Apart from photo and video documentation, some members also took murky bits of dead twigs, reminders of the type of vegetation that had existed at these sites.

Following the reconnaissance trip, the contractors produced and submitted their method statements for evaluation. The evaluation was conducted by the technical and 2 companies, LAMOR and INKAS, were selected for the free phase oil removal.
Scenes from the reconnaissance field trip

Scenes from the reconnaissance field trip

Scenes from the reconnaissance field trip

Scenes from the reconnaissance field trip
Cross section of participants at the reconnaissance field trip.

Addressing the community after the reconnaissance trip.
5.3.2 Facilitate the selection of international contractors for free phase oil removal

The Initiative facilitated the process for the request of profiles of international contractors and after a review of 25 profiles received, 17 companies were listed for consideration. The qualities that were used in the scoring matrix of the companies include:

- Relevant global experience
- Relevant experience in the tropics
- Experience in estuarine environment
- Equipment/material availability
- Organisational structure
- Technical Operational content

A total of 11 international contractors participated in the reconnaissance field trip, production and submission of their method statements for evaluation by a technical team.

5.3.3 Facilitate the recruitment of a Projector

The Initiative also facilitated the recruitment of a Project Director to oversee the implementation of clean-up/remediation. The 4 candidates who had submitted their profiles for the position, were interviewed by the technical team and Mr Kay, Holtzmann who scored higher than the other candidates, was selected for the role.
5.3.4 SCAT Presentations and Trainings Conducted

SCAT representations were made to the plenary to enable all stakeholders have an understanding of what it is all about as well as the benefits of its adoption for the Bodo clean-up. The presentation helped to create better appreciation of SCAT.

![Figure 1: Cross section of participants at the SCAT training](image)

Capacity building for stakeholders was also carried out in the form of SCAT Trainings were conducted. Participation for the trainings was opened to the regulatory agencies, the Ministry of environment, the contractors and the Technical team of the Bodo Mediation process. This empowered participants for the actual mission to the field as well for future engagements. Over 50 people benefitted from the SCAT training.
5.3.5 Facilitated the conduct of Shoreline Clean-up Assessment Technique (SCAT) Trainings and missions

- **Defining SCAT:**

The Shoreline Clean-up Assessment Technique (SCAT) is a standard method to obtain reliable and timely data on the spill’s shoreline impact, and recommend treatment. SCAT obtained SYSTEMATIC information on the spill’s shoreline impact and recommended treatment using net environmental benefit analysis (NEBA).

SCAT also provided the systematic basis for operations to plan and conduct the clean-up. Two SCAT missions were conducted to the Bodo creeks - the Pre-SCAT mission and the main SCAT mission respectively.

The Pre-SCAT mission was conducted in May, 2015 while the main SCAT mission was conducted in August, 2015. The SCAT missions helped to establish the very large extent of oiling and required clean-up method, particularly related to reducing the level of oiling in soft muddy sediment.

![Figure 1: Showing Sites surveyed during the August, 2015 SCAT Mission.](E.Gundlach's Report on SCAT – Sep. 2015)
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5.3.7 Memorandum of Understanding signed between the parties:

A memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed by Bodo community and SPDC. This MoU spelt out the terms of the clean-up as agreed by the parties. Among other items in the MoU, the parties agreed to contribute to the economic livelihood of the people and areas affected by the oil pollution and support the socio-economic development of BODO. The parties also agreed to build trust and confidence between them through mutually agreed activities/programmes, and dialogue processes, guided by independent chairpersons and advisors.

Signing of the MoU between Bodo Community and SPDC at the 9th Plenary Session.
5.3.8 Mobilization of Contractors to Site and Monitoring Visits.

The BMI also facilitated the setting up and mobilization of contractors to the Bodo site. This was to ensure that the prevalent momentum was maintained and that timelines would, as much as possible be respected in the implementation of project activities.

Follow-up monitoring field visits were also conducted to ensure that contractors were duly settled on site and that implementation was on course.
5.3.9 Youth Training conducted.

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5.3.10 Organized Plenary Sessions

The plenary session is the platform where all stakeholders in the Mediation process converge to deliberate and take decisions on issues. Information sharing among stakeholders was also made possible through the platform. Ten plenary sessions were held and some of the outcomes of those plenaries include:

• **The Formation of the three (3) Working Groups which handled the subject of clean-up/remediation under 3 thematic areas.**

• **Adoption of WG 1 as the Technical Committee.**

• **Formation of the Bodo Reconciliation Committee.**

• **Formation of a Reconciliation Committee.**

• **Adoption of LAMOR & INKAS as the contractors for the free phase oil removal.**

• **Signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Bodo community and SPDC.**

5.3.11 Organized Town Hall meetings.

Town hall meetings were organized to directly update the people on activities to be implemented. It also facilitated direct interaction with the community and an opportunity for them to speak to stakeholders at various levels who may be present at the Town Hall. Important decisions in the community are often taken here.
Participants at a Town hall meeting

Participants watch masquerade display at a Town Hall
RESULTS AND IMPACTS

The mediation process has impacted the community and other stakeholders and these include

- **Reduced Suspicion and greater openness among stakeholders:** At the onset of the Mediation initiation, palpable tension could be felt at the plenary sessions and other engagement/meeting platforms. This has with time, dissipated and parties now engage more constructively.

- **Better understanding/tolerance among stakeholders:** It has contributed immensely in the building of trust between Bodo community and SPDC.

- There is greater awareness in Bodo of the need to end Illegal crude oil refining and bunkering

- The BM process has also resulted in a consensus and readiness by stakeholders for the clean-up and remediation of the Bodo creeks.

- There is reduced activity from oils spills as a result of bunkering activities in Bodo.

- Community empowered to make choice, adopt and implement a development fund model suited to their community.

- **Community Cohesion:** Increased willingness in community to accommodate the views of others and work together to move the community forward.

- Harmonized work plan for project implementation was produced
MILESTONES

• Memorandum of understanding (MOU) between the parties (Bodo community and SPDC), was produced and signed.

• Reconnaissance field visit conducted for international contractors for free phase oil removal, to determine current status of sites and work scope.

• Recruitment of Project Director.

• A framework/timeline was produced for the implantation of clean-the for the as well as a strategic document for tackling re-pollution of the creeks.

• Selection of competent international contractors for free phase oil removal and mobilisation of contractors to site.

• Scoping missions were also conducted.

• Training conducted for 400 youths from Bodo community on remediation techniques.

• Promotion of reconciliation in the community through engagement with parties in the community. This has produced greater cohesion among parties in the community.

• Inclusion of developmental projects (socio-economic component) in the clean-up for the benefit of the entire community.

• Ending the lull in implementation activities and obtaining an endorsed guarantee from Bodo community for re-engagement for clean-up.
CHALLENGES AND LESSONS LEARNED.

CHALLENGES:

• **Security**: A safe, secure and conducive environment is necessary for successful activity implementation in the community. The safety and security of lives and property were sometimes threatened. This caused delay in implementation.

• Impacts of leadership vacuum in community

• Shut down of project site by some community youths

• The “Share the money” chant: misconception of the aims of clean-up and remediation.

• Resignation of the Bodo Delegation.

• Misconception on the aims of the clean-up; some people prefer money to be shared instead of the clean-up and remediation.

• Over-bearance of individual and factional interests over community interests.

LESSONS LEARNED:

• **Transparency**: The BMI remained open and transparent in the course of its engagements and activities in the community and with stakeholders. This helped gain the trust of all stakeholders, particularly the primary stakeholders and encouraged open dialogue in the process.

• **Communication/Information Dissemination**: This remained an important tool in the progress of activities. Stakeholders were regularly updated on events and were thus carried along on issues. This promoted team work and good will towards the BMI and activity implementation. It was however also learned that sensitization at the community level should be sustained to enable them get better understanding of relevant issues.

• **Sustained engagements**: There is need for sustained transparent engagements, even when situations may seem challenging. These help to share more information and directly explain issues that may have been misunderstood.
CONCLUSION

The BMI continues to be a veritable tool for the actualization of clean-up/remediation in Bodo community. The need for the restoration of the environment and livelihoods in the community remains a goal that must be achieved. It is therefore gratifying that stakeholders were not daunted by challenges, but have remained committed to driving the process to a successful end.

The BMI will continued to engage with all stakeholders, particularly at the community level and the indications therefrom are that the community is beginning to accept the fact they have received the needed compensation from litigation and could not deprive themselves of the benefits inherent in clean-up/remediation. It was also made abundantly clear that the process is about clean-up and not about money sharing. There is optimism that the stalled implementation phase will pick up its old momentum and clean-up will be achieved. Stakeholders have also remained committed to working to achieve the set goals of a cleaned-up and remediated Bodo community.
QUOTES FROM THE BODO MEDIATION PROCESS.

1) “The success of the Mediation process can change the landscape of Bodo community.” - Bert J. Ronhaar Chairman of the Bodo Mediation Process

2) “Any Leader that cannot sacrifice for the development of his community is not a Leader.” - Charles Konya

3) “Closeness in relationship becomes an opportunity to tell one another the truth.” - Prof. Ben Naanen

4) “Reconciliation means to forgo some past events, no matter how painful.” - Prof. Ben Naanen

5) “Admitting that there are problems is the first step to solving those problems.” - Inemo Samiama, Co-Chair and later Chairman of the Mediation Initiative

6) “Reconciliation is a two-way thing. It’s necessary to hear from each of the aggrieved parties.” - Mike Aloega

7) “Let us not be tired of making peace.” - Prof. Ben Naanen

8) “Execute discipline with Grace.” - Fr. Abel Agbulu

9) “Do not overlook the silent voices.” - Fr. Abel Agbulu

10) “Bodo is standing at the threshold of history.” - Dr. Ferdinand Giadom

11) “Bodo is on course and we are working to ensure peace, reconciliation and development.” - Dr. Livinus Barikor @ Roundtable for the Prevention of Re-pollution

12) “Any society that has no consequences for crime is doomed!” - Mike Aloega at the 7th Plenary session of the Bodo Mediation Process