

Native Institution for the Governance of the Environment, Resources and Ignition of Advancement (NIGERIA)

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Brief Description of the Study

- Ekuri community in Cross River State of Nigeria consist of Old Ekuri and New Ekuri Villages with a population of 6,000 people.
- Majorly are farmers, forest gatherers and petty traders
- Owns the largest communally controlled rainforest in Nigeria totaling 33, 600ha.
- Established the Ekuri Initiative (NGO) in 1992 with Focus on:
 - (a) Conservation
 - (b) Sustainable management of this forest
 - (c) Climate change
 - (d) Livelihoods
 - (e) Community development





The Ekuri community is faced with climate change problems of drought, fire, poor agricultural productivity, food insecurity, loss of biodiversity and poverty due deforestation and forest degradation.



Mitigation Measures

- ❖ Awareness raising, education and information sharing among the local stakeholders
- ❖ Training in timber inventory and its sustainable harvesting
- ❖ Capacity building on forest reconnaissance leading to effective policing of the forest
- ❖ Good Governance involving local stakeholders – Chiefs and elders, men, women, youth, children and various cultural groups

- ❖ Sustainable harvesting of non-timber forest products
- ❖ Agro-forestry
- ❖ Sustainable agriculture
- ❖ Timber inventory plots
- ❖ A perimeter survey of the Ekuri community forest
- ❖ Training of farmers



❖ A preliminary land use plan for the Ekuri community forest into eight designated zones:

- Farm fallow
- Reserved farmland
- Agro-forestry stream buffer
- Commercial cash crop
- Timber management
- Non-timber forest products
- Protected areas,
- Ecotourism attractions and animal corridor



- ❖ Provision of rural infrastructures
- ❖ Poverty reduction
- ❖ Integrated fire management
- ❖ Equitable benefit sharing among the eleven (Etuoh) lineages



Effectiveness of the initiative

- ❖ Inclusive awareness, education and knowledge sharing has deepened the understanding of the villagers on the values of the forest, enhanced its conservation and DRR
- ❖ Perimeter survey and land use plan contribute to the protection of ecosystem goods and services beneficial at the micro and macro-levels.
- ❖ The improvement in the people's livelihoods has effectiveness in addressing deforestation and holistic supports towards DRR in Ekuri.

- ❖ Good governance has enlisted supports from all in the community guaranteeing community ownership and sustainability of programs/forest.
- ❖ Provision of community infrastructures from incomes from the forest ensures the protection of the commonwealth that lays the golden eggs
- ❖ The absent of discrimination in benefit sharing among the Ekuri people is an effective tool in PA and DRR.

TRANSFERABILITY/REPLICABILITY POTENTIAL

- ❖ Awareness education and information sharing on ecosystem values of the forest to inspire conservation, DRR and CCA.
- ❖ Good governance involving all local stakeholders
- ❖ Land use plan, critical tool in the conservation of in PA, DRR and CCA.
- ❖ Fair and equitable benefit sharing – supports to farmers skills development, scholarship, micro-credit, wood subsidy and provision and maintenance of rural facilities beneficial to all.

Difficulties Encountered

- ❖ illegal/secret lease of part of the forest to a logging company.
- ❖ Police and court cases resulting into huge waste of financial resources.
- ❖ Unemployment has fostered difficulties
- ❖ infrequent poisoning of water for fishing purposes.

SHIEMORE (THANK YOU) IIN EKURI