



## INTRODUCTION

Community entry and land access can be very challenging to any project management team working locally and even more challenging to a multicultural project management team working on international projects abroad.

## INTRODUCTION – 2

Indigenous land tenure patterns differ between countries and localities and this could be challenging for a multicultural project management team.

The involvement of indigenous land management professionals and experts with local knowledge of land tenure patterns can add value to the overall success of international projects.

## ENVIRONMENTAL SURVEYS

Environmental surveys include:

- ▶ very simple projects involving the investigation of a single site
- ▶ large and complex projects involving multiple locations
- ▶ investigating multiple environmental media (atmospheric, aquatic and terrestrial).

## ENVIRONMENTAL SURVEYS – 2

Simply described, an environmental assessment project will involve a

- ▶ preliminary historical and literature review on the study area,
- ▶ minor or major fieldwork and sampling followed by
- ▶ laboratory analysis and report production.

## METHODOLOGY

An illustrative case study combined with field research data collection techniques and provides detailed description of the design and implementation of an innovative community entry and land access strategy developed by the UNEP project management team in collaboration with RSUST and executed jointly between RSUST and RIVPOLY in conjunction with the UNEP team.

## THE UNEP OGONILAND PROJECT

On invitation from the Federal Government of Nigeria, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) undertook a two-year study involving a comprehensive environmental survey of several communities in the Niger Delta region following reported and documented high levels of hydro-carbon pollution in these areas.

See UNEP Ogoniland report at  
[www.unep.org/nigeria](http://www.unep.org/nigeria)



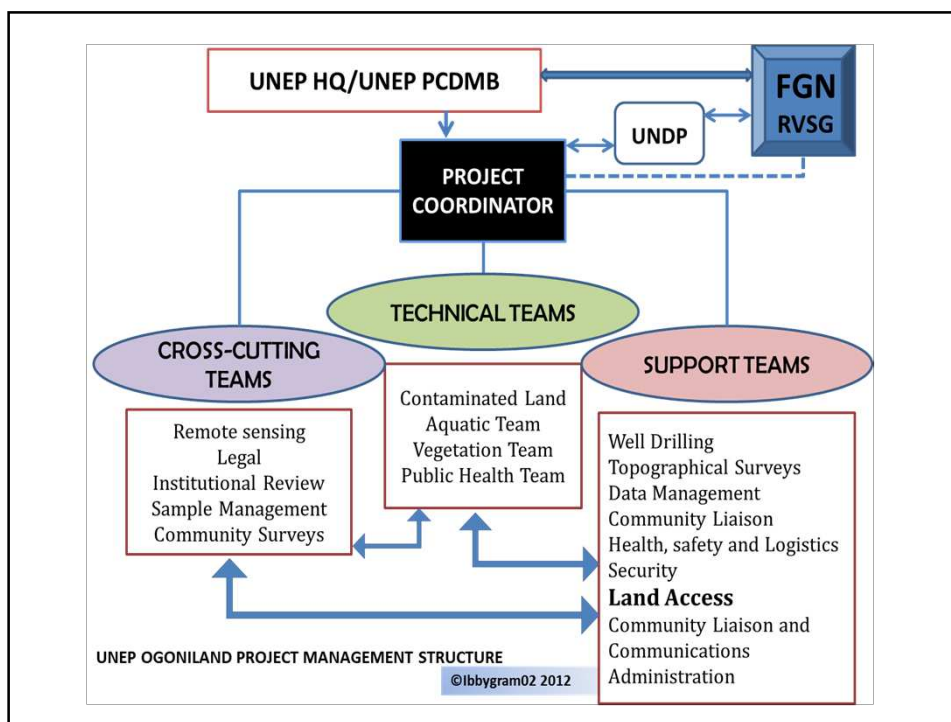
## STUDY AREA

- ▶ The geographical description of Ogoniland as per the UNEP study, covers four Local Government Areas (LGAs) of Rivers State in Nigeria which include Khana LGA, Tai LGA, Gokana LGA and Eleme LGA.

## COMPLEXITY OF THE PROJECT

UNEP acknowledges that:

“the two year study of the environment and public health impacts of oil contamination in Ogoniland is **one of the most complex on-the-ground assessments ever undertaken by UNEP**”.  
(UNEP, 2011, p. 8)



## LAND ACCESS ISSUES

UNEP acknowledges further that:

- ▶ “facilitating access to specific sites where UNEP specialists needed to collect data was a major exercise and one that needed to be handled delicately as ownership was not always clear with attendant potential for local conflict”. (UNEP, 2011 p.57)

## LAND ACCESS ISSUES

UNEP acknowledges further that:

- ▶ “Multiple negotiations were often required, involving traditional rulers, local youth organizations and individual land owners or occupiers” (UNEP, 2011 p.57)

## LAND ACCESS ISSUES – 2

- ▶ “A Land Access Team, provided by RSUST, working in conjunction with UNEP’s Communications Team, managed these challenging issues, explaining precisely what the UNEP team would be undertaking, where and at what time”. (UNEP, 2011, p. 57)

The Rivers State University of Science and Technology was a the main Project Collaboration Partner with UNEP.

## THE UNEP LAND ACCESS TEAM – LAT

The UNEP Land Access Team was made up of Land Management Experts from:

- ▶ The Departments of Estate Management, Surveying and Geo-informatics and Urban and Regional Planning at the Rivers State University of Science and Technology (RSUST)
- ▶ The department of Estate Management, Rivers State Polytechnic, Bori (RIVPOLY)

## LAND ACCESS NEEDS

The multidisciplinary scientific team required access to

- ▶ Communal land
- ▶ Family land
- ▶ Individual farmlands
- ▶ Mangrove swamps, or
- ▶ Fishing villages

for the purpose of obtaining soil samples, ground and surface water; aquatic, agricultural and sediment samples, etc.

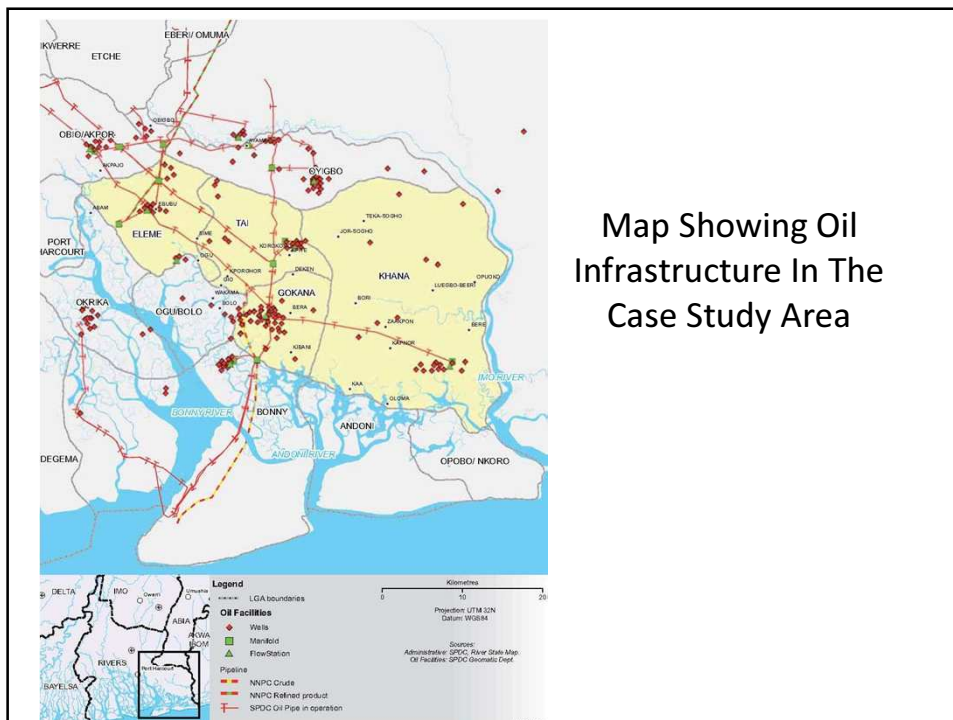


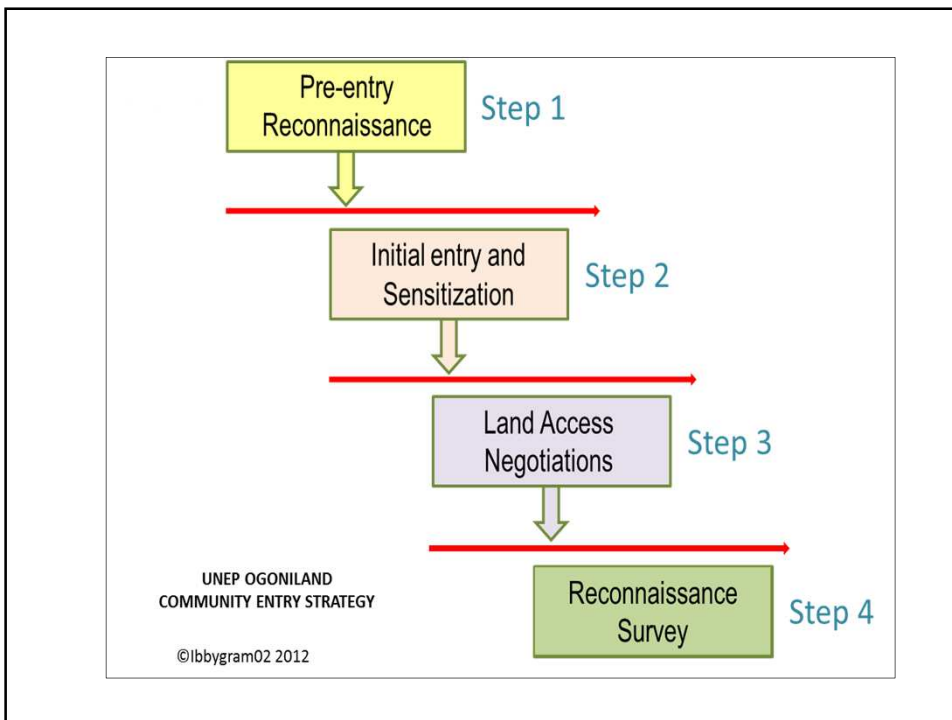
## HISTORICAL SPILL DATA

Grid_ID	Spill Number	spill_id	Source	Cause	Size
21012		121012_1	SS1 : Pipeline	SC3 : Lack of maintenance	SSI2 : Medium (2,001-10,000m³=)
21013		121013_1	SS1 : Pipeline	SC3 : Lack of maintenance	SSI2 : Medium (2,001-10,000m³=)
22014		122014_1	SS1 : Pipeline	SC3 : Lack of maintenance	SSI4 : Very Large
23014		123014_1	SS1 : Pipeline	SC5 : Unknown	SSI4 : Very Large

Grid_ID	CalcSize	Vegetation	Water Body	Water Source	lon_UTM	lat_UTM	lon_dd	lat_dd	LGA
21012	0.000000	SV2 : Trees	WB2 : Pond	WS1 : Well	290106	536443	7.107343	4.850599	ELEME
21013	0.000000	SV2 : Trees	WB2 : Pond	WS1 : Well	290284	536231	7.108953	4.848687	ELEME
22014	0.000000	SV2 : Trees	WB2 : Pond	WS1 : Well	290817	535808	7.113768	4.844875	ELEME
23014	20000.00000	OSV1 : Grass			290944	535719	7.114915	4.844074	ELEME





## Pre-Entry Reconnaissance – Step 1

- ▶ The main purpose of the pre-entry reconnaissance step was an initial attempt to gain vehicular access to actual locations or those within close proximity of the impacted grids on the map of historical spills.
- ▶ To identify the Local Government Area (LGA) within which it falls.
- ▶ It was also to assess the likely physical access challenges envisaged at the actual reconnaissance phase.

## Initial Community Entry and Sensitization – Step 2

The main purpose of a sensitization meeting was three-fold:

- ▶ To meet and interact with the land owners and their leaders
- ▶ To inform and educate the community on the project's goals, objectives and the proposed pattern of field activity.
- ▶ To obtain community representatives who would work with the project team on land access issues in several phases of the project.

## Land Access Negotiation – Step 3

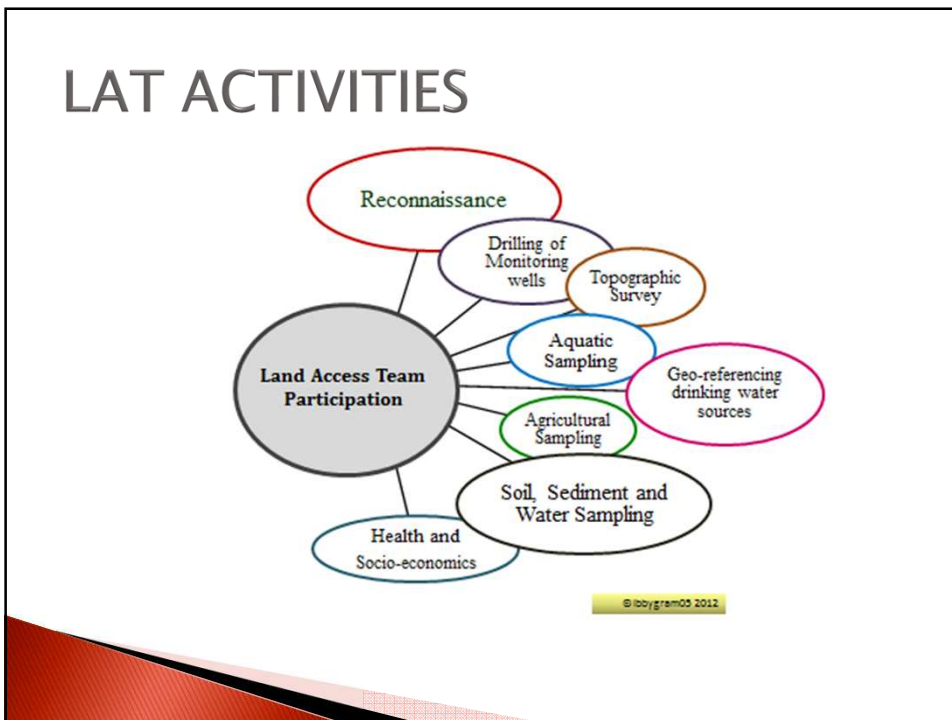
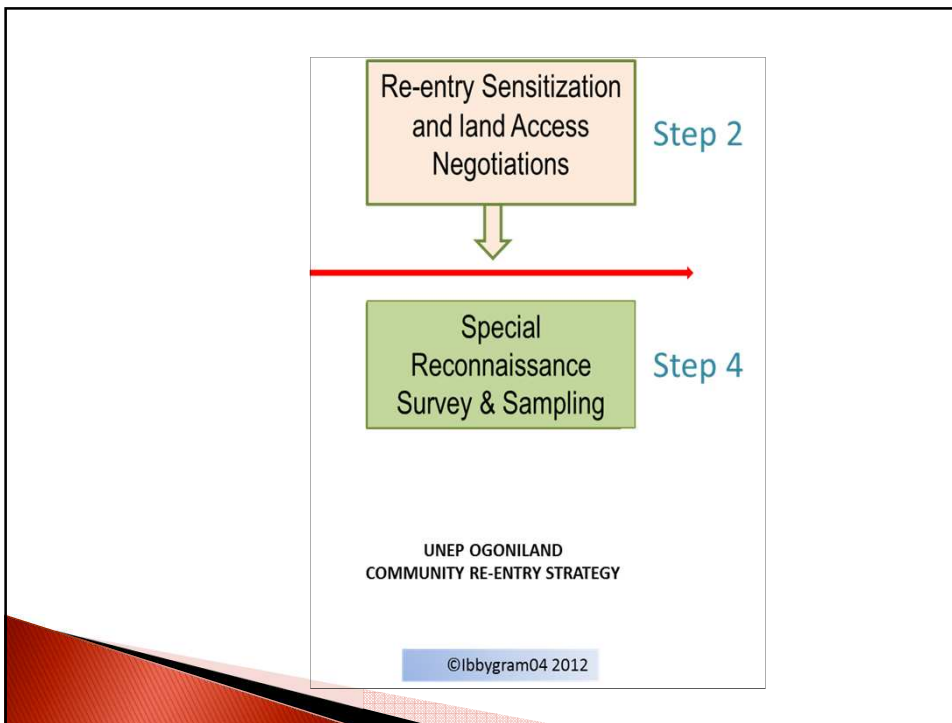
Land access negotiation was an important activity during which physical land entry occurred.

- ▶ Land owners/occupiers of impacted farmlands were identified by the LAT as this was crucial to the future sampling activity and community surveys.
- ▶ The land access negotiation was important for the activities of all technical teams, the cross cutting teams as well as the support teams throughout the life of the project.

## Land Entry and Reconnaissance Survey – Step 4

Step 4 involved actual entry for the *purpose of work* in connection with drilling of boreholes and /or sample collection on community/family/individual land.

During this activity, the technical teams were physically on the land and were allowed to spend time carrying out their different activities



## CHALLENGES IN IMPLEMENTATION

- ▶ Strict Compliance with the Protocol was essential but in a complex multinational project, the desire to abridge the protocol by different thematic groups often posed a major challenge for the LAT who insisted on compliance.
- ▶ Where a sensitization activity ended without the appointment of community representatives, it became impossible to do any further work in the area.

## CONCLUSION

- ▶ An adaptive project management strategy used in the Environmental assessment of Ogoniland project was responsible for its timely completion and publication of the full report in 2011.

## CONCLUSION 2

- ▶ The step-by community entry protocol enabled the formation of lasting friendship between community youth and members of the land access teams who gradually become constant figures within the community.

## CONCLUSION – 3

- ▶ By participating in the sensitization meetings in Step 2 and taking responsibility for nominating community contact persons to work with the UNEP team, a sense of ownership of the project and its process was developed by several communities.
- ▶ The process is replicable in similar international and national projects

Thanks for listening

