



SHELL IN NIGERIA **BIODIVERSITY**

APRIL 2011

Promoting sustainability through participatory forestry and community livelihoods

The Niger Delta's rich biodiversity continues to be threatened by unsustainable consumption patterns, unmanaged economic growth and encroachment. In 2006, The Shell Petroleum Development Company of Nigeria Limited (SPDC) worked with government, forest communities, other energy companies, regulators and non-profit organisations (NGOs), to develop Biodiversity Action Plans (BAP) to conserve two forest reserves - Gele-Gele and Urhonigbe in Edo State, which are International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) designated category IV protected areas.

The Gele-Gele Forest Reserve (IUCN category IV) covers 363 square kilometres with a range of habitats varying from fresh water swamp forests to tropical rain forest. The Urhonigbe Forest Reserve covers 308 square kilometers. Farmers have encroached on large parts of the reserves, significantly degrading the land.

In 2007, SPDC, together with NGOs contributed to the passing of a biodiversity law by the Edo State Government - the first biodiversity conservation law enacted by a Nigerian State. The law regulates exploitation and cedes forest management rights and responsibilities to grass-roots consultative committees.

The drive for more funding and partnerships is ongoing throughout the Niger Delta. In 2010, the Akwa Ibom State Government, forest communities, NGOs, an International oil company, and a potential funding partner took part in a stakeholder engagement session for the Stubbs Creek biodiversity action plan. Another stakeholder engagement was initiated for the Andoni Forest BAP, bringing together the Rivers State Government, relevant forest communities and a potential funding partner.

In 2010, SPDC also organised a stakeholder engagement for the Taylor Creek Forest Reserve near the Gbaran Ubie Gas Project. Looking ahead, as part of the company's Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiatives, SPDC hopes to carry out the rehabilitation of mangroves and fisheries which are strategic biodiversity issues in the Niger Delta.



Close up of hanging dense globular head of West African Locust Bean



St. John's Lily which can be found in forest areas in Nigeria



His Excellency Chief Timipre Sylva, Governor of Bayelsa State, on the occasion of the First Stakeholder Engagement for Taylor Creek Forest BAP, on March 4, 2010: "The Shell Biodiversity Programme is an exciting and timely intervention to save our natural resources from extinction, for the benefit of generations yet unborn. It is good to know that the existing plant and animal species have survived the exploitation and degradation by people and industry. On behalf of the people and government of Bayelsa State I pledge support for the Taylor Creek Forest Reserve Biodiversity Action Plan that you are preparing with our communities. We will do our best to play our part when you are ready to start."

More information on the operations of Shell companies in Nigeria can be found at www.shellnigeria.com

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