

Environmental Management Conference

September 12 – 15, 2011

Secretariat: College of Environmental Resources Management (COLERM) Building,
University of Agriculture (UNAAB), PMB 2240, Abeokuta, Ogun State;
E-mail: emconference2011@gmail.com
Phone: 08033338534, 07039594417

Theme:
Managing
Coastal
and
Wetland
Areas of
Nigeria

LOC Officers

Prof. C. A Kogbe
Conference Facilitator

Prof. O. Martins
Chairman, LOC
08033338534

Prof E. A. Ayolabi
Vice-Chairman, LOC
08037206074

Dr. Grace O. Oluwasanya
Secretary, LOC & Publicity
08039594417

Dr. S. Dublin-Green
Treasurer, LOC

Prof. J. O. Ajayi
Chairman, Fund Raising
Sub-Committee

Dr Garba Iliya
Chairman, Programme
Sub-Committee

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Chairperson, Logistics

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Chairman, Technical &
Publication Sub-Committee

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Sub-Committee

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& Welfare Sub-Committee

Dr. J. K. Adewumi
Chairman, Transport, &
Security
Sub-Committee

Dr. O. A. Idowu
Chairman, Venue &
Registration
Sub-Committee

Communiqué

An Environmental Management Conference was held from September 12 -15, 2011 at the University of Agriculture, Abeokuta with the theme "Managing Coastal and Wetland Areas of Nigeria".

Assessing the challenges and solutions to environmental management in the coastal and wetland areas of Nigeria, professionals in the water, public health, urban planning and infrastructural development sectors discussed best practices, regulation and innovations for provision of safe and green environment. The following recommendations were made:

1. Experts in environmental and urban development should generate and make use of appropriate maps in developmental projects of fragile environments like the coastal and wetland areas;
2. Reclamation and regeneration of coastal and wetland areas of Nigeria;
3. Promotion of ecotourism to boost the economy of the country;
4. The government should be proactive in providing information on natural disasters like flood, seismic and volcanic activities by providing adequate number of seismic monitoring and hydrometeorological stations for sustainable monitoring and forecasting of natural hazards;
5. Enforcement of environmental policies to curb dumping of solid wastes and discharge of industrial effluents into the natural ecosystems by the advocate of polluter-pays policy;
6. The need to control the increasing encroachment of farming and building activities around the wetland to avoid soil erosion, removal of the vegetation and degradation of the ecosystem ;
7. Development of a mandatory localized sustainability reporting framework for deforestation, and land degradation due to oil and gas exploitation in line with international best practices;
8. Observation of high degree of surface water and shallow groundwater pollution calls for immediate action with respect to governmental operation of regulatory laws in respective local government areas in the country;
9. The inability of surface water development alone to satisfy the future water demand of water users was recognised. To reduce unmet demand, waste water treatment, introduction of water meters to check wastage, building of new dams or increasing the capacities of existing ones, groundwater development, information dissemination and development of manpower in the field of water resources are recommended.

These recommendations are specifically made in good faith for the attention of the following arms of government whom we consider as the direct stakeholders:

1. Federal Ministry of Water Resources
2. State Water Corporations
3. River Basin Development Authorities
4. Nigeria Integrated Water Resources Management Commission
5. Nigeria Society of Engineers
6. National Institute of Land Surveyors
7. Nigerian Mining and Geosciences Society
8. Federal Ministry of Environment

We regard this phenomenon as a critical challenge to all stakeholders, and we sincerely expect that ad hoc programmes would be initiated for a proper implementation of the remedial measures on all the above enumerated problems.



Prof. O. Martins
Chairman Local
Organizing Committee



Dr. E. A. Meshida
Chairman Technical
Sub-Committee

September 14, 2011