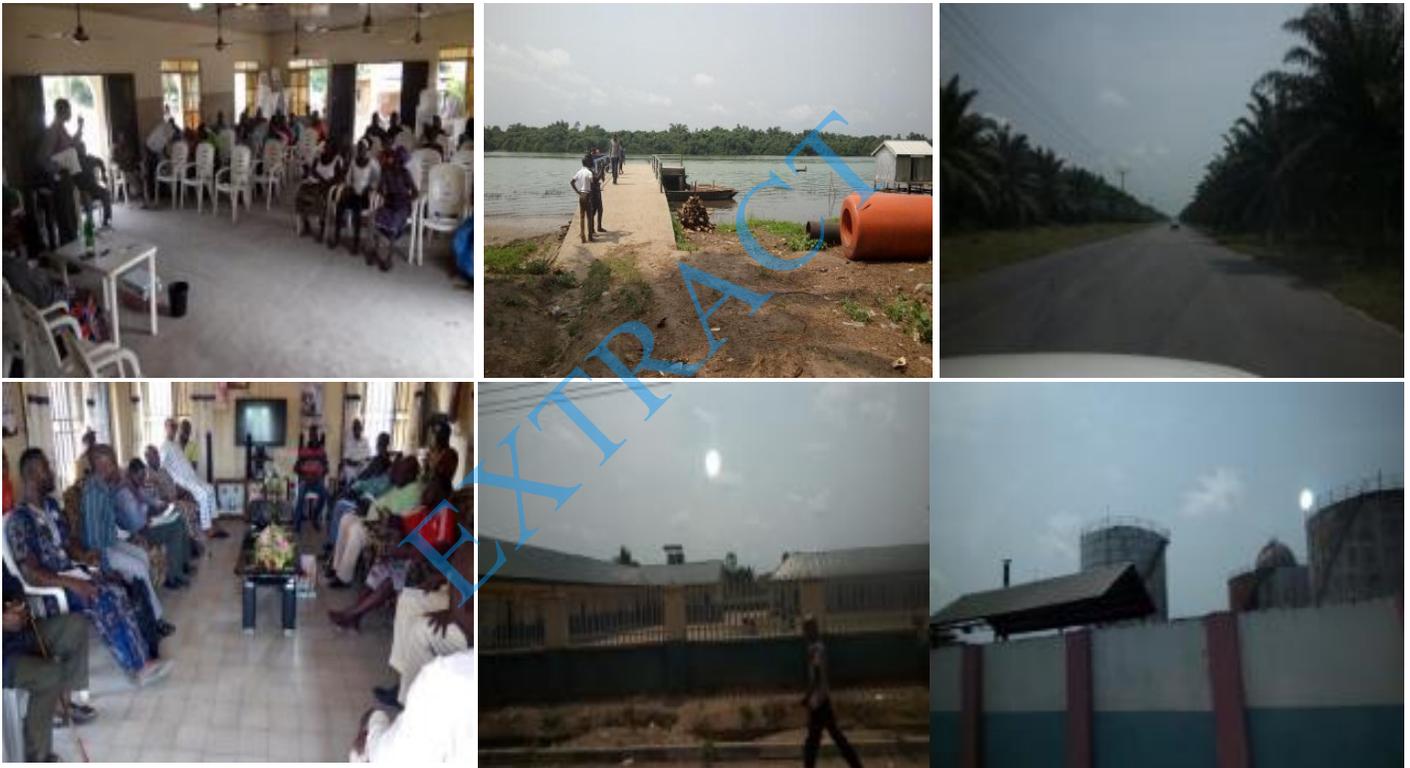




PRESCO PLC

SOCIAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (SIA) OF COWAN ESTATE AT ETHIOPE WEST AND WARRI NORTH LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREAS, DELTA STATE, NIGERIA



FINAL REPORT

AUGUST 2017

Social Impact Assessment (SIA) of Cowan Estate at Ethiope West and Warri North Local Government Areas, Delta State, Nigeria

Final Report

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This study involved the processes of analyzing, monitoring and managing the experienced, likely and unintended, both positive and negative social consequences, and the social change processes that may result from the operations of the Cowan Estate of Presco Plc. Its primary purpose is to bring about a more sustainable and equitable biophysical and human environment. The assessed communities of Cowan Estate are two (2) in numbers cutting across two Local Government Areas of Warri North Local Government Area and Ethiope West Local Government Areas of Delta state, Nigeria. Quantitative and qualitative data gathering were the two main methodologies adopted for the study.

In accordance to the guidelines, the Social Impact Assessment (SIA) engaged all relevant stakeholders in consultations and public hearings through Focus Group Discussion (FGD); provided a detailed description and analysis of the social diagnostic situation as a basis for development, mitigation and future monitoring, also provided an assessment based on collected data to identify both positive and negative social impacts. The assessment as well focused on the optimization of positive impacts and mitigation against negative impacts from the plantation activities throughout the project lifetime; and finally development of a Social Impact Management and monitoring Plan.

It was obvious that the two assessed communities of Cowan Estate lack desirable social amenities. Evidences abound of non-commitment on the part of government with regards to development especially Ajagbodudu community; the Ajagbodudu community needs urgent attention from government most especially in the community Primary School as it lacks virtually all the desirable basic setup to make both pupils and teachers comfortable.

The result of situation analysis in relation to the assessed communities can be summarized as that the two communities have close to related culture due to their proximity in the way of greetings, marriage, tradition and other norms and values and they tend to be more bonded by the common interests they share as farmers. The Ajagbodudu as Itsekiri community strongly advise against entering or urinating around their shrine called “Dale” most especially women. While Oghareki is an Urhobo speaking community but vehemently opposed the idea of Presco Plc coveting their land without following due process. Although the two communities are indigenous landlord communities to Presco Plc there are other migrant ethnicity such as the Akwa-Ibom, Hausas, Yorubas, Ibos etc., that have lived and are integrated into these community values, norms and beliefs over time.

Specifically the impacts are categorized as construction, operation and decommissioning phases. The key social issues associated with these phases include:-

1. Experienced and likely positive impacts

- a. Creation of employment with Ajagbodudu indigene occupying the position of personnel officer while Oghereki indigene is occupying the position of Estate Manager; apart from many plantation workers. Also there are business opportunities including skills development and on-site training.
- b. The sector of the local economy that has benefited from the Cowan Estate operations is the local service industry. The opportunities for the local service sector would be linked to accommodation, catering, cleaning, transport and security etc. This created opportunities for local hotels and restaurants most especially in Oghareki. In addition, a proportion of the total income accruing to workers over the short period construction phase was likely to be spent in local economy.

2. Experienced and likely negative impacts

- a. Destroying of assets inherited from Bendel State government such as Cowan estate mill and men hospital are perceived as disservice to Cowan estate communities.
- b. Influx of workers employed on the project and associated cultural dilution, social vices, such as drug abuse, prostitution and stealing.
- c. Increased risk of stock theft, poaching and damage to farm infrastructure associated with construction workers
 - d. Impact of heavy vehicles including damage to roads, safety, noise and dust
 - e. Loss of farmland and established crops and plantation associated development and construction related activities to field establishment.

A good number of issues and concerns of the communities would appear to have derived from their wrong perception and misunderstanding of the Estate operations. The lack or ineffective community engagement mechanisms of the company has also helped to widen the communication and education gaps. Suffice it to say that a robust community and stakeholder engagement mechanism of the company will help to mitigate some of the negative social impacts.

Some management and mitigation measures have been suggested for adoption and implementation to address the significant social impacts in order to make the plantation socially suitable and favorable. These include; Proper community engagement, proactive corporate social services to communities and diligent implementation of social impact management plan.

9.0 Proposed Social Management and Monitoring Plan

The proposed social management and monitoring plan is summarized in Table 21 below.

Table 21: Social Management and Monitoring Plan

Main Issues/Concerns	Management Objective	Management Action	Timeline	Monitoring Measures
Restiveness and Conflicts triggers	Achievement of peace and security of lives and property in the communities	Include communities in Grievance and Conflict Resolution Mechanism; Establish joint Presco-Community Conflict Resolution Committee	Throughout project life	Incidents, tensions, grievances
Protection of Social-Cultural Values	Reduce social-cultural breaches and violation of customs and traditions	Include community orientation in code of conduct for all employees	Throughout project's life	Incidents, violations, reports
Restoration of Livelihoods	Assist displaced farmers to re-establish their livelihoods	Design resettlement and livelihood restoration plan	All stages of project development	Implementation of plan
Coordinated CSR	Assist each community to conduct Sustainable Livelihood Assessment with facilitation of 5years Development Plan	Establish joint Cowan Estate-Community Development Committee	All stages of project development	Implementation and annual review of community development plan
Community Health	Reduction of health	Establish and	Throughout	Illnesses; Incidents;

and Safety	and safety hazards in the communities	implement a robust community health and safety policy	project life	Accidents; Fatalities
Presentation of SIA findings to an enlarged Stakeholders' Forum	Closing existing gaps and achieving stakeholders' buy-in	Review existing management plan to accommodate opinions and comments arising from the enlarged Stakeholders' Forum	After presentation of draft SIA Report, before issuing Final SIA Report	Implementation of Social Management Plan

10.0 Remarks and Recommendations

Based upon the findings, the Cowan Estate operations showed generally positive social impacts in the assessed communities. However, there are considerable adverse social impacts enumerated by community stakeholders and observed by the study team, which require urgent attention and mitigation measures in order for Cowan Estate to achieve social security in the project area.

A good number of issues and concerns of the communities would appear to derive from their wrong perception and misunderstanding of the Estate operations. The lack or ineffective community engagement mechanisms of the company has also helped to widen the communication gaps. Suffice it to say that a more improved community and stakeholder engagement mechanisms will help to mitigate some negative social impacts.

The following management and mitigation measures are recommended for adoption and implementation to address the significant potential social impacts in order to make the project more socially acceptable and beneficial:

- Improved community engagement plan
- Regular review of MoUs and agreements with te communities
- Ensuring attractive social package most especially for the vulnerable members of the communities.
- Implement Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) that is, community driven development.
- Provision of healthcare services and HIV prevention assistance and support.
- Diligent implementation of social impact management plan