

UNEP In Ogoniland Newsletter

February 2011

UNEP colleagues remember Clement Kemte Nekabari Faah, 1960-2011

The death of Clement Faah, a respected scientist and lecturer, has shocked and deeply saddened his UNEP colleagues and many others involved in the ongoing environmental survey of Ogoniland.

Clement, 50, will be remembered for making a pivotal contribution to UNEP's work in Ogoniland.

He worked as a senior Technical Assistant on the project's agriculture and forestry component and was also a key contact point between UNEP and its lead scientific partner, the Rivers State University of Science and Technology. Having joined the project in October 2009, Clement was involved in collecting samples of plants, soil and other data during 14 months of fieldwork.

Clement died in his village, Yeghe, in Ogoniland on 19 February.

Clement held a masters degree in environmental engineering and specialized in pollution control and waste management. Prior to joining UNEP, he was a lecturer within the Electrical Department at Rivers State College of Arts and Science. Clement had been a staff member at this institution for some 20 years where he lectured in Technical Drawing. He had risen to the position of Acting Director of his department.

Known for his leadership, strong ethics and open approach, Clement won the respect of colleagues at UNEP and RSUST, as well as the local community representatives, and he will be sorely missed.

He is survived by his mother, his wife Mercy, and seven children. Members of the UNEP Project Team, led by the Project Coordinator Mike Cowing, visited Clement's widow to pay their respects.

It was with great sadness that UNEP colleagues learned of the death of Clement Faah. Please join us in paying tribute to Clement.



At the request of the Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) is conducting a comprehensive, independent assessment of the environmental and public health impacts of oil contamination in Ogoniland, Rivers State, Nigeria, and options for remediation. The fieldwork is now completed. The laboratory analysis and report writing are ongoing. The report will be published in early 2011.

UNEP in Ogoniland Newsletter

Tributes to Clement Faah



Late Clement Faah on a contaminated site collating data during sampling phase of the project

"I restate my deep sorrow and extend my sympathy to you all in the UNEP Team over the death of Mr. Clement Faah. His death has come at a very sad time especially given the great work that UNEP has done, and continues to do, and also given that we are coming closer to dealing with the issues of the tragic past. We thank God that Faah was at the starting blocks of this initiative and we pray that a clean Ogoniland and Nigeria will be the reward we can give him and a legacy he would have been proud of. I pray that God will give the family the fortitude to bear this terrible loss."

Msgr Matthew Hassan Kukah, Chairman, Presidential Implementation Committee

"As an Ogoni with scientific expertise, Clement provided invaluable local knowledge and continuity, and was heavily relied upon by me and others working alongside him. Clement, your passing has left a huge hole within the UNEP family in Port Harcourt, Geneva and Nairobi. You may be gone but you are not forgotten."

Mike Cowing, UNEP Project Coordinator

Your contribution stands clear in the international community. You will always be remembered. May your gentle soul rest in peace."

Professor B. B. Fakae, Vice Chancellor, RSUST

"I pay tribute to Faah, our senior technical assistant. Clement was for me a close friend who introduced me to the Nigerian context. Thanks to him I got an insight into the socio-economic realities of Ogoniland. I deeply appreciated his frankness and ongoing support. Nekabari, I miss you!"

Dr Urs Bloesch, Team Leader, Forestry and Agriculture

"I lost my best friend."

Babu Gopinathan, Head, Project office

"Na Wah!!! No words can describe the shocking news of your death. Rest in peace."

Dr. Ibbu Kakulu, Team Leader; RSUST/UNEP Collaboration

"I learnt so much from you. You have gone but what you have taught me will remain forever fresh. Rest in peace my best friend."

Andrew Akhighu, Technical Assistant

"You delivered your duties with utmost attention to details. We shall surely miss you. Go with God. Adieu my friend."

Ferdinand Giadom, Technical Assistant

"Oga Faah. The news of your death is so shocking and saddening. I will surely miss you."

Christie Gbaraba, Community Liaison Assistant

"Oga Clement, it's quite a pity that we parted like this. May your soul rest in peace. Amen."

Nweke C. Mercy, Administrative Assistant

"Clement, rest in peace. You were a nice and gentle person. Rest in the bosom of the Lord."

Professor J. P. Alawa, Dean, Faculty of Agriculture, RSUST

"Mr. Faah was a very bright star in the firmament and there he remains shining for ever. Rest in peace, jolly good fellow."

Professor F. N. Ikpe, Faculty of Agriculture, RSUST

"The news about Clement's death left me sad and shocked. He was an outstanding colleague, being a dedicated scientist and warm-hearted person. I learnt a lot from him during my time in Nigeria. In mourning his loss, let us be thankful we had him amongst us." *Thorsten Kallnischkies, Technical Team Leader*

Please visit the online tribute to Clement and see further personal messages from colleagues and associates at: <http://postconflict.unep.ch/Clement/>.



Clement Faah on a contaminated site in B-dere during sampling phase of the project

UNEP In Ogoniland Newsletter

Scientific analysis reaches final stage



Oil contamination in Ogoniland is clearly visible in parts of the landscape, as shown in this waterway *Image: Mazen Saggar/UNEP*

Significant progress was made during February with the remaining laboratory analysis for UNEP's environmental assessment of oil pollution in Ogoniland.

The complex scientific study is now into its final stage, ahead of the preparation of the assessment report.

UNEP's study represents an unprecedented effort to examine the extent, nature and implications of oil contamination in Ogoniland, and options for remediation.

The project has involved the collection and testing of more than 4,000 samples of water, soil, sediment, air, and plant and animal tissue over a period of 14 months.

The last of the samples are currently being analysed.

Altogether, more than 400 substances, or analytes, are being measured by internationally-accredited laboratories. The analytes range from petroleum hydrocarbons and heavy metals to sulphur and phosphorus. Among the other data being examined are plant vitality measurements taken in the field.

A robust sample management programme was critical in order to safeguard the quality and integrity of the samples sent to the laboratories for analysis.

Presidential Committee considers next steps

On 3 February 2011, the high-level Presidential Implementation Committee (PIC) overseeing UNEP's environmental survey of Ogoniland convened in the offices of the Federal Ministry of Environment, Abuja.

UNEP reported that its fieldwork was completed, its laboratory analysis was proceeding well, and the report was in the process of being written.

Following a request from the previous PIC, the United Nations presented at this meeting a Transition Phase proposal. The Transition Phase is recommended to ensure a seamless transition from the assessment to the clean-up phase, and would include such steps as:

- preparation of clean-up plans and detailed designs;
- agreement between key partners on legal and financial matters;
- consultations with key stakeholders;
- preparation of bidding documents;
- identification of potential treatment centres;
- design of monitoring programmes and regimes;
- design of laboratory procedures and protocols;
- a socio-economic study for the development of a livelihoods strategy and a livelihoods project proposal for Ogoniland.

The meeting which was hosted by the Hon. Minister of Environment, Mr. John Odey and chaired by Reverend Monsignor Matthew Kukah.

Did you know?

During the course of the project, UNEP took more than 10,000 geo-referenced photographs in the field using GPS (Global Positioning System) cameras.

The images were widely used to trace and cross-check information during different stages of the assessment as they enabled the scientists to match specific visual information to locations.

UNEP In Ogoniland Newsletter

Remaining project timeline

Ongoing:	Scientific analysis and preparation of the assessment report
Ongoing:	Liaison with government officials, traditional rulers, Ogoniland communities
March:	Green Frontiers schools programme activities
Early 2011:	Release of UNEP's environmental assessment of Ogoniland report

Green Frontiers: sanitation days planned

More than 600 children and youth from eight schools in Ogoniland have signed up for the pilot phase of the Green Frontiers Schools Programme.

Green Frontiers is a joint initiative between UNEP and the Rivers State Government and aims to inspire young people in the Ogoni region to take positive action to conserve their environment.

As at the end of February, 665 students have registered as club members as shown in the table.

LGA	SCHOOLS	NUMBER REGISTERED	TOTAL PER LGA
Khana	Community Primary School, Kwawa	32	113
	Community Secondary School, Kpean	81	
Eleme	Government Secondary School, Onne	156	256
	State School, Egbu	100	
Tai	Tua Tua Community Secondary Aabue-Korokoro	103	153
	Community Primary School 1. Nonwa	50	
Gokana	Bodo Community Primary School	53	143
	Government Secondary, Kpor	90	
TOTAL			665



Students of Community Secondary School, Kpean, Khana LGA are excited to be a part of the Green Frontiers Clubs as they find ways to positively contribute to a better environment

The UNEP project team has concluded advocacy visits and leveraged support from the participating schools in Eleme, Tai, Gokana and Khana.

To support the school authorities in ensuring a clean and healthy environment, club members are involved sanitation days in their schools and the members at several schools are proposing to also conduct this activity in their communities by keying into the general sanitation day fixed by the state.

Activities will be stepping up in March when Matrons and Patrons for the environmental education programme are due to be announced.

Tertiary level students in Ogoniland are also invited to participate.

Get involved



Marked annually on 5 June, World Environment Day is a day for everyone on the planet to 'go green' and encourage greater attention and action on the environment from individuals, organizations and governments. Visit the website to find out how to get involved: www.unep.org/wed.

For more information on UNEP's Environmental Impact Assessment of Ogoniland Project

Please contact:

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