



**NON- GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT  
IN RURAL BUANCHOR OF CROSS RIVER STATE OF NIGERIA**

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**ABSTRACT**

Resources mobilization for community development by government at different tiers remain an arduous task that require synergies with development parties as Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs) in all spheres of human endeavors .This paper investigates rural development strides recorded by Pandrilus - Primate Conservation (NGO) in host communities of Buanchor , Cross River state of Nigeria. Data for the study were generated through oral interviews and questionnaire instrument. A total of 416 copies of well filled questionnaire were retrieved, out of 500 copies administered in 8 communities, representing 83.2 per cent return rate. The study revealed that , Pandrilus spearheaded the provision of such amenities as rural roads , schools , health centre, including human capacity building, in the area of bee and snail keeping, rabbits husbandry and eco-guarding training of beneficiary indigenes of host communities. The boosting of the NGO's revenue base through internally generated funds to sustain the primate conservation programme , instead of over dependence on donor agencies were recommended.

**Keywords:** Non-Governmental Organization, Community Development, Rural Development

**INTRODUCTION**

Community development implies the provision of basic amenities such as roads, electricity, pipe borne water, health care facilities, schools including human capacity building and other necessities of life pertaining to man's general well being.

There is global realization of recent that, contemporary government can no longer single handedly meet most communities' needs within their jurisdiction in terms of service provision. This notion has triggered off the urgent desire for synergies with development

partners while enlisting community participation to actualize the spread of development to the rural areas (Colderin, 2001).

According to Mulgunji (1990), the problem of rural development cannot be viewed as a narrow technical problem of increasing output, but that of the institutions to mobilize and induce members of the rural society to greater productivity, to help them overcome the constraints in the way of utilizing available resources, and to enable them distribute the results of their efforts to develop the rural areas. Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) are non-profit creation, self governing grouping outside the domain of government in the areas of formation, funding, management, and the process and procedures in which their objectives are set, reflect a conscious effort towards the cultural, socio-economic and political transformation of all facets of the society (Eni, 2005, Angba, 2008, Omofunmwan and Odia 2009).

Studies have shown that, developmental activities of most NGOs usually focus on nature conservation, skill acquisition, economic empowerment, disease control and management, literacy schemes, capacity building, amenities provision, conflict resolution, charity, and peace promotion. For instance, in South Korea, (Eni, 2005) reported that an environmental conservation association provided in service training programme for administrators and managers in public and private sectors and in Kenya, the Mazingira Institute (NGOs) spear headed tree planting campaign through sensitization of pupils in public schools. A study by Adebayo (1997) revealed that most NGOs in Nigeria focus on development related issues which aptly indicates a positive drive to stamp out poverty plaguing the Nigerian citizenry at different levels.

In Edo State, Nigeria, Omofunmwan *et al* (2009) discovered the invaluable role NGOs played in community mobilization, environment, health and sanitation awareness creation and the promotion of Childs right law in rural communities of the state. This study examines community development efforts by Pandrillus (Primate conservation NGO) in rural Buanchor, Nigeria, being the fulcrum of its activities.

#### **Study area**

Buanchor and its environs harbors primates rehabilitation (wildlife sanctuary) of the Afi mountains at the Eastern flank of Boki rainforests. It is located between longitude  $5^{\circ}45'N$   $8^{\circ}30'E$  and latitude  $5^{\circ}75'N$   $8^{\circ}50'E$ . It has an annual rainfall that varies between 1500mm and 200mm with up to four to five months of dry season. Temperature is generally high with mean monthly minimum of  $27^{\circ}$ - $28^{\circ}C$  (Utang, Akintoye and Enyogo, 2007).

The region is a typical rainforest which has various species of hard and soft wood among which are mahogany, Iroko, Obeche, Alfafa and numerous climbers that constitutes ecological niche for the survival of wildlife species such as chimpanzees, gorillas, leopards reptiles, monkeys and buffalos. However, intense deforestation agriculture threatens the forest and the ecosystems biodiversity overtime.

There area is predominantly rural and had long faced neglect in terms of infrastructural provision by government and its agencies before the arrival of Pandrillus in the late 1990s. Peopled by peasant agriculturists, the food crops they produce are yams, banana, plantain, vegetables, and non-timber forest products (NTFPS). The farm produce are perishable and hardly record large volume of consumer patronage due to poor road network into the hinterlands.

#### **RESEARCH METHOD**

The data for this study were generated through oral interview and the administration of questionnaire. Oral interviews were held with staff of the NGO engaged in the wildlife conservation programme at the research site. The questions asked elicited information on the NGO's capacity building initiatives for the local people (alternative means of livelihood), infrastructural projects undertaken; rural roads, health care service, schools, electricity and many more), employment opportunities, and the level of community participation in NGO's decision making processes.

About 416 copies of questionnaire out of 500 administered to eight communities of Katabang, Buanchor, Boje Nsadop, Olumn, Ula, Kachuan and Abu surrounding the Afi mountain sanctuary were retrieved. The instrument was proportionately administered to the given population of each community using Taro Yemes's sample size determination model.

Indigenes of host communities were also asked to identify the socio-economic impact of the NGO's presence in their localities. Beneficiaries of alternative means of livelihood training programmes such as bee-keeping, snail keeping, rabbit husbandry, and eco-guarding were asked to relate their experience before and after these programmes were introduced.

## **RESULT AND DISCUSSIONS**

Table 1 presents data on the infrastructural benefits derived from the presence of Pandrillus in the locality of its programmes. The infrastructural facilities that have witnessed tremendous improvement are also seen in the table. Responses show improvement in the construction of rural roads, and communication into the hinterland with a score of 6 or 1.4 per cent, schools 95 or 22.8 per cent, hospital/health post 71 or 17.1 per cent; markets 30 or 7.2 and electricity 0 or 0.0 per cent.

From the foregoing, it is evident that, all other facets of infrastructural improvement have been impacted except electricity supply to the rural people especially at the research site in Buanchor.

The various alternative means of livelihood training programmes organized by the Ngo for the benefit of local people are shown in table 2. They include, snail keeping, Bee keeping, Rabbit farming, and eco-guarding. From the table, the number of beneficiaries across the communities in snail keeping has a total response of 93 or 22.4 per cent. Those trained on bee keeping recorded 47 with a percentage of 11.3. Also, those who acquired skills on rabbit keeping were 60 or 14.4 per cent. On eco-guarding 76 persons affirmed that they were trained, representing 18.3 per cent while about 140 or 33.7 per cent indicated in their responses as none beneficiaries of such intervention programme. This observation corroborates the finding of Thomas and Logan (1982) that building the managerial capacities of the rural people by NGOs empowers them for rapid poverty eradication and economic growth.

**Table 1: Infrastructural benefits derived from NGO's presence in the locality**

Communities	Roads		Schools		Hospital/Health		Markets		Electricity		Water		None	
	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%
Katabang	1	0.2	2	0.5	1	0.2	1	0.2	0	0	0	0.0	5	1.2
Buanchor	4	1.0	11	2.6	7	1.7	8	1.9	0	0	0	0.0	14	3.4
Boje	0	0.0	5	1.2	6	1.4	2	0.5	0	0	0	0.0	10	2.4
Nsadop	0	0.0	18	4.3	10	2.4	1	0.2	0	0	0	0.0	19	4.6
Olum	0	0.0	14	3.4	9	2.2	3	0.7	0	0	13	3.1	8	1.9
Ula	1	0.2	22	5.3	18	4.3	0	0.0	0	0	13	3.1	40	9.6
Irruan	0	0.0	19	4.6	15	3.6	11	2.6	0	0	31	7.5	41	9.9
Abu	0	0.0	4	1.0	5	1.2	4	1.0	0	0	7	1.7	13	3.1
Total	6	1.4	95	22.8	71	17.1	30	7.2	0	0	64	15.4	150	36.1

Source: Author's field survey 2012

**Table 2: NGO's alternative livelihood intervention programmes and beneficiaries in each community**

Communities	Snail keeping		Bee keeping		Rabbit Farming		Eco-guard Training		None	
	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%
Katabang	3	0.7	1	0.2	0	0.0	2	0.5	4	1.0
Buanchor	14	3.4	9	2.2	2	0.5	4	1.10	15	3.6
Boje	6	1.4	3	0.7	1	0.2	3	0.7	10	2.4
Nsadop	13	3.1	8	1.9	6	1.4	10	2.4	11	2.6
Olum	12	2.9	6	1.4	6	1.4	12	2.9	11	2.6
Ula	21	5.0	0	0.0	24	5.8	14	3.4	35	8.4
Kachuan	21	5.0	18	4.3	18	4.3	16	3.8	44	10.6
Abu	3	0.7	2	0.5	3	0.7	15	3.6	10	2.4
Total	93	22.4	47	11.3	60	14.4	76	18.3	140	33.7

**Source: Author's field survey 2012**

**Table 3: NGO's capacity building intervention loan scheme for alternative livelihood skill acquisition programme**

Communities	Thousand naira 50-100		Thousand naira 101-200		Thousand naira Above 200		None	
	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%
Katabang	3	0.7	1	0.2	1	0.2	5	1.2
Buanchor	17	4.1	3	0.7	3	0.7	21	5.0
Boje	12	2.9	0	0.0	1	0.0	11	2.6
Nsadop	16	3.8	5	1.2	4	1.0	23	5.5
Olum	18	4.3	2	0.5	0	0.0	27	6.3
Ula	53	12.7	10	2.4	18	4.3	13	3.1
Kachuan	40	9.6	23	5.5	5	1.2	49	11.8
Abu	15	3.6	5	1.2	3	0.7	10	2.4
	174	41.8	49	11.8	34	8.2	159	38.2

**Source: Author's field survey 2012**

Table 3 presents categories of financial loan schemes floated by NGO in conjunction with donor agencies to build capacity on beneficiaries of alternative means of livelihood skill acquisition programme. From the table, about 174 or 41.8 per cent of respondents benefited from between (₦50,000-₦100,000) category; 49 or 11.4 per cent also were empowered to the tune of between (₦10,000-₦20,000) while 34 or 8.2 per cent were given above (₦200,000) to initiate their business ventures. About 159 or 38.2 persons responded negatively as none beneficiaries of the loan scheme. Omofonnwan *et al* (2009) cited the provision of micro credit facilities-cash loans, training, and small income yielding project-cassava processing mills, soap making shops and cake baking, for women by lift above poverty organization (LAPO) and Ngo in Edo State of Nigeria. This initiative according to the authors, helped in cautioning the effect of hardship accessioned by the introduction of structural adjustment programme (SAP) introduced by Nigerian government in 1986.

**Table 4: Number of persons (natives) employed by the NGO and their communities**

Communities	Yes	%	No	%
Katabang	6	1.4	4	1.0
Buanchor	32	7.7	12	2.9
Boje	16	3.8	7	1.7
Nsadop	29	7.0	19	4.6
Olum	26	6.3	21	5.0
Ula	53	12.7	41	9.9
Kachuan	80	19.2	37	8.9
Abu	20	4.8	13	3.1
	262	63.0	154	37.0

**Source: Author's field survey 2012**

Table 4 shows the number of natives in the employ of Pandrillus at the drill ranch. From the figures, Katabang has 7 persons which represent 22.6 per cent of the total; Buanchor has 12 or 38.7 per cent; Boje, 3 or 9.6 per cent, Nsadop 1 (3.2) per cent, Olum 2 or 6.4 per cent, Ula 4 or 12.9 per cent, Kachuan nil or 0.0 per cent, while Abu has 2 employees which accounts for 6.4 per cent.

It can be deduced from the employment data of indigenes that, Buanchor tops the list, perhaps due to its proximity to the research site where the ranch situates.

## CONCLUSION

Community development as observed in this study requires collaborative efforts of government and development partners (NGOs) in order to meet up with the millennium development goals (MDGs) of nations of the world. Strategizing to ensure sustainable rural development and its people by Pandrillus through capacity building and empowerment, presents a new challenge of funding. There is therefore an urgent need for the NGOs to look inward in sourcing for funds in termally, rather depending international donations that seldom come.

This paper submits that operators of NGOs should be more proactive and focused towards their set goals while benefiting communities should respond positively to the challenges of change and development in their respective domains.

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