



Evaluation of the Use of Online Media for Green Reporting of the Environmental Clean-Up Project in Ogoni Land by Key Stakeholders (2019-2023)

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ABSTRACT

Background: Environmental pollution resulting from oil spill has been a major problem in the oil-rich Niger Delta region of Nigerian particularly in the Ogoni-land. The government and the oil companies have been carrying out environmental clean-up in the area. Amidst the on-going environmental clean-up in Ogoni-land, the media has been abuzz with discourses from stakeholders of the Ogoni clean-up project. These reports are necessary to keep the people informed and updated on the clean-up project. However, stakeholder communication is sometimes fraught with contention and disagreement among the different stakeholder groups which can distort audience perception of the activities of the Ogoni clean-up project.

Objective: The study investigated green reporting of the environmental clean-up by stakeholders in the Ogoni clean-up project between 2019 and 2023.

Method: Adopting a qualitative content analysis, 20 extensive reports on the Ogoni clean-up project were purposively selected, with ten each from YouTube and the website of organisations that report on the Ogoni clean-up project. Discourse analysis was used to analyse the data gathered.

Results: The green reporting themes from stakeholder reports on the Ogoni clean-up project are pollution; environmental remediation and restoration; accountability and environmental sustainability; health and livelihood; environmental advocacy; and environmental awareness and risk communication.

Conclusion: There is a lot of green reporting carried out by the primary, secondary and tertiary stakeholders of the Ogoni clean-up project. This communication is done in the interest of the locals to ensure a long-term sustainable Ogoni environment.

Unique Contribution: This study offers insight into the intricacies of environmental communication, and can be relevant in policy making for environmental communication and environmental management with the aim of achieving long-term environmental sustainability.

Key Recommendation: Stakeholders of the Ogoni clean-up project should incorporate other important areas of interest to the people and environmental sustainability in their public reports such as environmental risk communication, health communication/programmes, participatory engagement, environmental awareness creation, etc.

Keywords: Stakeholders, Ogoni clean-up, online media reports, green reporting, environment



INTRODUCTION

The rise of ecological awareness has fostered an increase in addressing environmental matters. To this end, groups and organisations make known their environmental contribution as green reports which keep people informed on how man's activities have affected the environment or how it has contributed to sustaining the environment. According to Gray (2016), this increased focus on the environment has brought up new issues about the fundamental goals of organizations, the most effective methods for accounting for and discussing social responsibility, and the degree to which the goals of the various stakeholder communities have been taken into consideration.

This underscores the importance of green reports. Green reporting is a mode of analysis on environmental discourses. It is fundamental to the drive in the environmental protection and sustainability, it and comes with its own values, paradigms, standards, assumptions and measures. Green reporting is associated with making public reports with regard to issues on environmental sustainability, environmental remediation, hydrocarbon restoration, hydrocarbon footprints, climate change, etc. The importance of green reporting is underscored by the fact that it provides a framework to examine the activities of man in the environment (Nsude, & Nwafor, 2016).

Brown and Dillard (2014) aver that the reporting of social and environmental information has led to several narratives that describe an organization's relationship with its stakeholders and the environment in differing degrees of detail and misdirection. Given the expectations of the Ogoni people, green reporting on the Ogoni clean-up project is required to cover and provide public accounts of the primary, secondary and tertiary stakeholders as well as make known the extent to which the activities of the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP) and concerned organisations are geared towards achieving a sustainable Ogoni environment. The stakeholders should be watchdogs of the Ogoni environment with the main concern of executing a well-remediated Ogoni environment, and this should be accompanied by regular green reporting that exudes transparency and accountability. For this reason, the involvement of green activists who understand the intricacies of environmental sustainability and are duty bound to advocate for the cause becomes inevitable.

To this end, different stakeholder groups in the course of the ongoing Ogoni clean-up project have made use of various media to articulate on matters pertaining to the successful clean-up of oil polluted Ogoniland. This has been carried out using radio, newspapers, social media, television, etc. in the forms of media briefings, communiqué, news reports, interviews, etc (Governor, Edherue, Onyejelem, Ozioko & Onuama, 2024). However, discourses on Ogoni clean-up project have for long been approached with social and political underpinnings that unfold within a larger political context. It is necessary to place these discourses into interpretive categories in order to truly understand the phenomenon.

Current literature that focused on examining the discourses on the Ogoni clean-up project are limited. Zikargae (2018) examined environmental communication and its implication for sustainable development in Ethiopia, Khan (2016) examined communication strategies used by 'British Petroleum' (BP) to maintain its legitimacy before and after the Deepwater Horizon (DH)



oil spill, Brickfield (2014) examined how SPDC uses every day communications materials to protect and maintain the social legitimacy of its operations in the Niger Delta. Not much have been done to examine green reporting by stakeholders of the Ogoni clean-up project. This literature gap has prompted the researchers to provide academic insights on green reporting of the environmental clean-up by stakeholders in the Ogoni clean-up project.

Research Questions

1. What are the green reporting themes from stakeholder messages on the UNEP clean-up programme?
2. What are thematic nuances of stakeholder messages on the clean-up project?

LITERATURE REVIEW

The Ogoni Clean-up Project

Activities associated with oil exploration have done considerable damage to the Ogoni environment as many of the communities have experienced several incidents of oil spills since the inception of oil exploration on a commercial scale in the region. The negative impact on the people attracted the attention of various national and international organisations to assess the level of damage caused by the oil pollution in Ogoniland. Consequently, the Nigerian Federal Government in 2006 commissioned the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to conduct an independent assessment of the environment and the public health impact of oil pollution in Ogoniland, and make recommendations for remediation. Recognizing the human and environmental tragedy associated with oil contamination in the region, where oil exploration and production began in the 1950s, the UN Environment responded to the Nigerian Government's request and conducted the assessment, with the agreement and support of the Ogoni communities, Rivers State Government and other partners. The UNEP Report was released on August 4, 2011 and it revealed that crude oil contamination in Ogoniland was widespread and severely impacting many components of the environment (Isaac, 2021).

The report noted that some areas which appear unaffected at the surface are in reality severely contaminated underground. The report made recommendations to the government, the oil and gas industry and communities to begin a comprehensive clean-up of Ogoniland, restore the polluted environment and put an end to all forms of ongoing oil contamination in the region. The ensuing environmental assessment gave rise to a World Bank Report which warned that 40 percent of habitable terrain in the Niger Delta area would disappear in twenty years if strong-willed remediation was not carried out (Ndujihe, 2012). The UNEP report concluded that Ogoniland needed the world's largest ever oil clean-up, which would cost an initial \$1billion or N160 billion and could take 30 years (UNEP, 2011).

After the report was released almost four years were wasted, holding meetings and conferences on the report, without any tangible actions to implement the report (Alike, 2016). On June 2016, President Muhammadu Buhari, represented by Vice President Yemi Osinbajo, flagged off Ogoni clean-up at Bodo Waterside, in fulfilment of his election campaign promise in 2015 (Isaac, 2021). This necessitated the on-going Ogoni clean-up exercise facilitated by the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP) which commenced in 2018.



Green Reporting

Green reporting is also known as environmental reporting. Green reporting is concerned with accounting for the environment and its well-being (Kolk, 2000). Green reports can be information packed to reflect everything from the organisation's packaging guidelines to its levels of water use over time. It is more than a collection of dry data, the report gives readers a sense of the seriousness with which the company pursues its environmental goals. British-Columbia (2022) defines environmental reporting as the presentation of unbiased scientific data and information relating to the environment, providing insights into the state of the environment. Green reporting provides access to scientific data and information about our environment. Kolk (2000) notes that green reports should be a clearly structured report that will be updated frequently and posted for all to see. Such reports should contain summaries of the environmental policies and systems, a discussion of relevant stakeholder relationships, reviews of product and operations performance, and an overview of the environmental sustainability of its business. Green reports can be more visible if it is posted on an organisation's website.

Green reporting can be analysed in terms of using the mass media to report the environment as well as presenting company reports in accounting for their activities with the environment. Green reporting represents a conscious effort in accounting for the environment to ensure environmental sustainability. There is need to educate and empower environmental communicators to be more effective at communicating about the complexities of the environment and the societal and economic impacts of climate science. Green reporting is pivotal to the climate and environmental sustainability movement. Providing information on environmental issues and management can educate people about the severe condition of the environment while utilizing the power of media to bring about positive changes that can improve the quality of life in our communities. Green reporting takes scientific information and makes it accessible to non-technical audiences. One goal of green reporting is to provide the basis for informed decision making so that individuals, agencies and policy-makers can take positive action (British-Columbia, 2022).

One of the failures of Nigeria media in reporting the environment is letting the publics know about the level of oil spills and gas flaring in Niger Delta region that go unnoticed. The operations of several oil companies in the area are not climate-friendly and has put the ecosystem in danger as a result of their activities. This prompts the question of whether the oil companies will ever be held responsible for the rampant spills and attendant pollution that have caused mass destruction of the mangroves, sea, land and human lives (Wilcox, Ewoh & Okoli, 2012; Okoro, Nwafor, & Odoemelam, 2014; Aondover, Okuneye, & Onyejelem, 2024).

Empirical Review

Zikargae (2018) conducted a study on 'Analysis of Environmental Communication and its Implication for Sustainable Development in Ethiopia'. The main objective of the study was to analyse environmental communication of Amhara National Regional State Environmental Protection Authority. The study utilised a qualitative research method. The study used the descriptive research design. Results showed that the authority is unable to communicate



environmental issues which were stated in the different conventions and policies. Also, results showed the major gaps and challenges in addressing practical issues of environment which are poor environmental information systems, lack of awareness creation through communications, and weak public dialogue and genuine participation.

Khan (2016) conducted a study on ‘Communication Strategies used by ‘British Petroleum (BP)’ to deal with Legitimacy before and after the Deepwater Horizon Accident. Jyväskylä University School of Business and Economics’. The objective of the study was to conduct research on the communication strategies used by ‘British Petroleum’ (BP) to maintain its legitimacy before the Deepwater Horizon (DH) oil spill caused in April 2010 and to repair its legitimacy after the DH accident. The study was a qualitative content analysis that examined press releases collected from BP’s official website. Results show that three main communication strategies i.e. Image Enhancement, Avoidance/Deflection, and Disclaimer were used by BP. Results also showed that there was a difference in preference of strategies by BP before and after the DH accident.

Brickfield (2014) conducted a study on ‘Green is the New Black: How the Shell Petroleum Development Company Communicates Social Responsibility in the Niger Delta’. The study examined the operations of the joint venture of Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) (55%); SPDC (30%); Total E&P Nigeria Limited (10%); and Nigerian Agip Oil Company (5%) which have been subject to intense criticism on the basis of environmental and social damages caused by oil spills in the Niger Delta. This study objective was to better understand how SPDC uses every day communications materials to protect and maintain the social legitimacy of its operations in the Niger Delta. The study was a qualitative content analysis that employed critical discourse analysis using Foucauldian techniques. The study examined data released by the SPDC between 2010 and 2014 accessed via the SPDC website (shell.ng.com). The sample size comprised 53 content samples. Results showed that of the 53 content samples analysed, more than half contained interdiscursivity and only four did not contain instances of buffering or bridging which are discursive tools used to help an organization ensure its social legitimacy in the face of crisis. Social and environmental issues are also downplayed, except where necessary to explain the value of a SPDC development program, and the overarching conditions surrounding these issues is rarely discussed. Constructing this reality of the Niger Delta allows SPDC to develop programs and communications that may address issues raised by SPDC critics, without assigning any responsibility for these problems to SPDC.

Bodo and Ukpong (2018) conducted a study on ‘Community Participation in the Remediation of Petroleum Impacted Sites in Ogoni, Rivers State, Nigeria’. The objectives of the study were to examine the level of community participation in the remediation of petroleum impacted sites in Ogoniland and factors influencing the participation of the locals in the remediation process. The study employed the survey design method and purposive sampling technique was used to select 21 oil bearing communities from the four Local Government Areas (LGAs) of Ogoniland. Data were collected using questionnaires, unstructured interviews, focus group discussions, oral narratives or revelations of past and present happenings. Results showed that people were not incorporated in the remediation of petroleum impacted sites in their community. It was also revealed that stakeholders (for example, Government Representatives, Movement for the Survival of Ogoni People, Khana, Gokana, Tai, Eleme Association, Ken Saro-Wiwa’s Associates, Village



Council, Multinational Oil Companies, and Militant Groups) were fully involved in the remediation plan with relative interests; which further separated the local people from participating in the remediation process. However, many communities believed that there was no sincerity on the part of the stakeholders, since minority groups were not involved in the process of remediation and as such, do not see the remediation project as being credible.

METHOD

The study is a qualitative content analysis of data purposively selected from YouTube and reports from website of organisations that report on the Ogoni clean-up project such as the media and environmental activist organisations. Ten reports were purposively selected from each unit making a total of 20 reports. The criteria for selection were that the reports had to be on the topic of green reporting by Ogoni cleanup project stakeholders in order to qualify for the study. The time frame of the study data was between 1st January, 2019 to 31st August, 2023. This was the period when remediation activities gained momentum, and it constitutes the period of the active clean-up process. Face and content validity of the instrument was ascertained by experts in communication research, while inter-coder reliability was established using the Holsti method. Discourse analysis was used to analyse the data gathered.

RESULT

As presented in the study, the Primary Stakeholders are the Ogoni people, the Secondary Stakeholder is Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP) and its representatives, while the Tertiary Stakeholders are organisations and groups concerned with environmental sustainability that make reports and recommendations from their observations on the Ogoni clean-up project.



Category 1: Green reporting themes

Table 1: Pollution

S/N	Source	Exemplar	Speaker
Tertiary Stakeholder			
1	SPDC (2020)	SPDC is committed to cleaning up oil spills in Ogoniland.	SPDC.
2	Global Business (2021)	because of pollution over the years, their water systems had become severely polluted. We had situations where benzene and hydrocarbon pollution had gone so many hundreds of times, in fact thousands of times higher than tolerable levels	Tijah Bolton-Akpan (NGO representative)- YouTube
3	Global Business (2021)	there is a cleanup but you know there is a also a re-pollution of the environment because of these activities (artisanal refining)	Tijah Bolton-Akpan (NGO representative)- YouTube
4	NDNTV (2020)	The issue of re-pollution makes the whole process futile. So now the work has been started on land and the most of pipelines still constitutes a danger to this, and then when the HYPREP operations and the contractors start working on the water-based pollution, then you will have more oversight of that and also very important to meet both pipelines and water pollution to stop	Jens-Peter Kjemprud (Norwegian Ambassador to Nigeria) - YouTube
5	Pride TV (2019)	The excavated sites are exposed because of raining season. It's been raining. Extensive areas have been polluted beyond areas that the contract has been awarded	Dr. Godwin Ojo (Environmental activist) – YouTube

The theme of pollution is reflected in the discourse of mainly tertiary stakeholders of the Ogoni clean-up project. The discourses cover pollution and re-pollution after the clean-up of the impacted land. Pollution in the exemplars provided are linked to artisanal refining in Global Business (2021), while in Pride TV (2019), the issue is worsened as a result of natural causes.



Table 2: Environmental remediation

S/N	Source	Exemplar	Speaker
Primary Stakeholder			
1	Channels TV (2022)	There's no impact. We do not see anything like any cleanup at all in that area. What we have seen is that they are they are digging places.... I feel that what we have seen has not been a clean-up, it has been a cover up. It has been a cover up of the pollution. We see people digging earth and pouring it over things.	Ledum Mitee (Former MOSOP President) – YouTube
Secondary Stakeholder			
2	Arise news (2023)	HYPREP has handed over some already remediated and completed sites back to NOSDRA and the community	Dr. Marvin Dekil (as former HYPREP PC) - YouTube
3	HYPREP (2020a)	In January 2019, 21 contractors having resolved issues of land disputed, chieftaincy tussle, were handed over 21 sites located in Tai, Eleme, Gokana and Khana LGAs At present, about 70% of the contractors are expected to complete work by ending of August 2020. The other 30% are expected to finalize by end of November 2020. On the 15 th February 2020, more remediation sites were handed over to 29 contractors.	HYPREP
4	HYPREP (2020b)	5 contractors have completed works in Eleme, Gokana and Tai LGAs the lots completed in Eleme as lot 2 Obolo, Ebubu and 8, Nkeleoken, Alode. In Tai, the lots are 17, Bara Akpor Botem and 18, Korokoro Well 9. While in Gokana lot 10, Deebon Bodo/Mogho has also been completed. ... 36 lots were awarded to contractors who have commenced mobilization to sites.	Dr Marvin Dekil (as HYPREP PC) – HYPREP
Tertiary Stakeholder			



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| 5 | NAN (2021) | 17 lots have been completely remediated....10 have been closed out, meaning have been handed over to the community, have been certified by NOSDRA. | Dr. Mohammed Abubakar (Minister of Environment) – YouTube |
| 6 | SPDC (2021) | In January 2020, HYPREP awarded a further 29 contracts for remediation of eight polluted sites. The contractors began remediation activities in the fourth quarter of 2020. In 2021, remediation work on nine sites was completed and certified by the Nigerian government’s National Oil Spill Detection and Response Agency (NOSDRA). Remediation work continues to take place on 11 sites | SPDC |
| 7 | Global Business (2021) | artisanal activities of those young people should be addressed... But we have not actually seen this happening. So it would appear that its set up, so people now see that there is a cleanup but you know there is a also a re-pollution of the environment because of these activities. | Tijah Bolton-Akpan (NGO representative)- YouTube |
| 8 | Global Business (2021) | We find situation where companies that have no business in, you know, pollution remediation are getting contracts for cleanup activities | Tijah Bolton-Akpan (NGO representative)- YouTube |
| 9 | YEAC (2021) | work has been concluded on the sites we visited in the Phase 1, Batch 1 contracts while the Phase 1, Batch 2 sites visited in Gokana and Tai Local Government Area are active, contractors on site with workers and work is ongoing | YEAC |
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The theme on environmental remediation is mostly seen in the report from secondary stakeholders. The report in exemplar 1 by a primary stakeholder shows dissatisfaction in the environmental remediation carried out. He refers to it as a cover-up rather than a clean-up (Channels TV, 2022). In the same vein, in exemplar 7, the speaker, a tertiary stakeholder, asserts that the clean-up process is flawed with some hitches as there is the likelihood of re-pollution which defeats the essence of environmental clean-up (Global Business, 2021). Other secondary stakeholders report on environmental remediation being carried out in different areas in Ogoniland.



Table 3: Accountability and environmental sustainability

S/N	Source	Exemplar	Speaker
Primary Stakeholder			
1	Nigeria Info (2023)	The amount that has been expended on the project so far is about \$90 million	Fyneface Dumnamene - Environmental activist (YouTube)
Secondary Stakeholder			
2	HYPREP (2023)	We have awarded contract for 34 LOTs of shorelines for cleanup, and after that we are going to plant mangroves. At the same time, we are piloting mangrove revegetation in Bomu concurrently with the shoreline cleanup.	Prof. Nenibarini Zabbey - HYPREP PC (HYPREP website)
3	HYPREP (2023)	the success rate or the performance rate of the planted mangroves... is okay.... but we are going to improve on that.... we are not just going to plant red mangroves as the BMI did, we are going to plant the black mangrove and the white mangrove by adopting their natural zonation pattern in this environment so that would be an improvement. Again, most mangrove restoration projects around the world including the one of the BMI, adopted a distance of 2 meters apart between the seedlings. In our manual ... we recommended 1.3 to 1.5 meter apart because it will help natural recolonization, because the closer the planted mangrove seedlings, the more the possibility of stranding of natural seedlings.	Prof. Nenibarini Zabbey - HYPREP PC (HYPREP website)
4	HYPREP (2020b)	samples from the remediated sites will be sent to local and international laboratories and then certified by NOSDRA.... monitoring wells have been constructed on the remediated sites to look out for further contamination.	Dr Marvin Dekil - as HYPREP PC (HYPREP website)



Tertiary Stakeholder

5	YEAC (2021)	some materials including biocel, bags used to bag sand and other materials used for the cleanup still litter the sites and may require another 'clean-up' to free the area for possible more grass growth	YEAC (website)
6	Global Business (2021)	I would say that the clean-up efforts in Ogoniland has been far, far, far below par. It's below expectations and especially worrisome is the fact that not only is the clean-up not being done to specifications, but also there is a very disturbing lack of, you know, transparency and accountability in how the effort is being prosecuted.	Tijah Bolton-Akpan - NGO representative (YouTube)
7	SPDC (2020)	The third phase of the clean-up, planting of mangrove seedlings, started in 2021. ... around two million mangrove seedlings need to be planted and survive to 2025, and monitoring of the mangrove seedlings from 2025 will be conducted via satellite pictures.	SPDC (website)

Table 3 shows exemplars on stakeholder accountability and environmental sustainability on reports on the environmental clean-up. In exemplar 1, the primary stakeholder provides financial accountability on the amount of money expended to actualise the Ogoni clean-up project so far. Reports from the secondary stakeholder (HYPREP, 2023; HYPREP, 2020b) and a tertiary stakeholder (SPDC, 2020) show results of progress achieved and future plans to remediate the environment for long-term environmental sustainability. However, reports from the tertiary stakeholders in exemplars 5 and 6 shows that the way the clean-up is handled is not favourable for long term environmental sustainability (YEAC, 2021; Global Business, 2021).



Table 4: Health and livelihood

S/N	Source	Exemplar	Speaker
Primary Stakeholder			
1	Nigeria Info (2023)	As part of the emergency measures ... about \$10million US is there for youths who were involved in artisanal crude oil refining. HYPREP has not brought out that money any day to address the issue ... they have the money in their possession. They need to bring out that money and make provision for alternative livelihood opportunities for youths who were involved in artisanal crude oil refining within the area	Fyneface Dumnamene - Environmental activist (YouTube)
Secondary Stakeholder			
2	Arise news (2023)	their occupation is fishing and farming.... that Land can be put back to farming.... They are also recovering their sources of livelihood and business as well	Dr. Marvin Dekil - as former HYPREP PC (YouTube)
3	HYPREP (2022)	the Project will through its livelihood programme, introduce socio-economic development programmes geared mainly towards the improvement of agricultural activities and the development of agro-entrepreneurs to create jobs for the teeming youths and women of Ogoniland	Dr Ferdinand Giadom as HYPREP PC (HYPREP website)
4	HYPREP (2020a)	HYPREP has carried out water quality assessment of all drinking water sources in the four LGAs of Ogoniland....On the 15 th February 2020, 7 contractors were handed over contract for ground water monitoring.... In 2018 and 2019, HYPREP carried out two medical missions in the past for the collection of initial data for the study.... carried out audit of health personnel and infrastructure in Ogoniland.	HYPREP (website)
5	HYPREP (2020a)	In February 2019, 15 Ogoni youths received 3 months intensive hands-on training in the fabrication and use of cassava processing machines. SDN in	HYPREP (website)



collaboration with HYPREP and IITA, Onne has now completed the construction a Cassava Processing Factory in Korokoro community of Tai Local Government Area. Training of 400 women on Agro-based skills such as Feed Production, Poultry, Fish and Crop farming by the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) in Songhai Farms to commence soon.

HYPREP has employed over 200 Ogoni young scientist in the PCO... 21 have received intensive training in the Management of Contaminated Site, Assessment, Clean-up Assessment, Clean-up of Contaminated Sites and Field Work Techniques.... over 500 community workers have received basic training on HSE and remediation processes.... a total number of 582 community youths have been recruited and are currently working on 21 sites

6	HYPREP (2020b)	20,000 adult persons from the four (4) LGAs of Ogoniland have benefitted from the medical outreach of the project	Dr. Marvin Dekil - as HYPREP PC (HYPREP website)
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Tertiary Stakeholders

7	NAN (2021)	a total of 2000 temporal jobs were created in the course of remediation across the four LGAs of Ogoniland	Dr. Mohammed Abubakar - Minister of Environment (YouTube)
8	Global Business (2021)	artisanal refining, the young people who are involved in that needed also to be given certain alternative livelihoods.... a certain amount of money was also earmarked for that particular intervention.... but we have not actually seen this happening	Tijah Bolton-Akpan - NGO representative (YouTube)

On Table 4, the theme of livelihood programme is reflected in the report from the primary, secondary and tertiary stakeholders. Exemplar 1 and 8 show that livelihood programme has not yet been executed HYPREP (Nigeria Info, 2023; Global Business, 2021). However, the secondary stakeholder reports especially emanating from HYPREP representatives show the provision of livelihood and health programmes of which the locals have benefitted from (Arise news, 2023; HYPREP 2020a; HYPREP 2022, NAN, 2021).



Table 5: Environmental advocacy

S/N	Source	Exemplar	Speaker
Primary Stakeholder			
1	Nigeria Info (2023)	HYPREP was given \$1 billion for the first five years of the cleanup... and now over five years have elapsed.... HYPREP has been able to spend \$200 million US dollars, and the \$200 million US dollars was supposed to be given to the HYPREP every year.... HYPREP has not been able to deliver on the emergency measures that was supposed to go up \$1billion US, and that is why you see, eight years has gone by	Fyneface Dumnamene - Environmental activist (YouTube)
2	Nigeria Info (2022)	If you cannot provide portable drinking water to the people as the first step, then you are talking about second step, third step and all that then it is not correct.... Provision of portable drinking water should be the first thing. Followed up by building this Integrated Contamination Soil Management Centre, where the soil test of all these ... you know... highly impacted sites will be conducted.	Prince Biira - MOSOP President(YouTube)
3	NDNTV (2022)	Ogoni youth is using this day to call on its managers to expedite actions as it concerns the livelihood of the people because a man is product of his environment and having destroyed the environment, you have destroyed the man.	Legborsi Yamabana - Environmental activist (YouTube)
4	NDNTV (2022)	HYPREP, like I did say, to me personally, I am, I have scored them zero because they've not done the needful. They should go back to the Ogoni Bill of Rights.	Prince Ngorbor - Representative, Khana constituency 2, Rivers State House of Assembly (YouTube)
5	NDNTV (2022)	What we have seeing in Ogoniland today is not what the UNEP report recommended. So HYPREP should first track in the process of carrying out the cleanup in Ogoniland, so that they can extend to other parts of the Niger Delta.	Fyneface Dumnamene - Environmental activist (YouTube)



Because the pollution we have in Ogoniland is child’s play when compared to what we have in other parts of the Niger Delta.

Tertiary Stakeholder

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| 6 | YEAC (2020) | Four years down the line, neither the black crude nor emergency measures has been cleaned up or implemented by HYPREP in Ogoniland.... HYPREP is still demonstrating lack of capacity to use available funds to fast-track Ogoni cleanup.... Advocacy Centre... call on HYPREP to demonstrate capacity if it claims to have one, return to its drawing board and recommence the clean-up according to UNEP. | YEAC (website) |
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Table 5 shows reports that reflect the theme of environmental advocacy. The theme was reflected in the discourses of only primary and tertiary stakeholders. For the primary stakeholders, advocacy was reflected in form of the need for HYPREP to fast track the clean-up process (Nigeria Info, 2023), adhere to the recommendations of the UNEP report (NDNTV, 2022), expedite actions in providing portable drinking water to the Ogoni people (Nigeria Info, 2022) and provide alternative means of livelihood to the people (NDNTV, 2022). For the tertiary stakeholder, advocacy is seen in exemplar 6 where YEAC (2020) which draws attention to the slow pace of work done by HYPREP in actualizing the Ogoni clean-up project.

Table 6: Environmental awareness and risk communication

S/N	Source	Exemplar	Speaker
Primary Stakeholder			
1	Channels TV (2022)	The areas that you see the pollution, nothing has been touched and people are drinking polluted water, fishing in polluted water.	Ledum Mitee - Former MOSOP President (YouTube)
Secondary Stakeholder			
2	HYPREP (2020a)	HYPREP has increased public awareness campaigns to the communities, at town hall meetings and in the media on the dangers of illegal bunkering and refining on human health, environment. HYPREP has been organizing awareness lectures on Covid-19 safety procedures for contractors and workers in the field	HYPREP (website)



Tertiary Stakeholder

3	SDN (2022)	lots handed over to contractors to remediate oil pollution at ‘simple’ sites have been government-certified as complete (19 out of 50), however, we have found contaminants above target levels at five of these. We believe there is likely to be secondary contamination around the location of biocells (where contaminated soil is treated) due to poor practices, such as leaving contaminated soil exposed to rainfall over an extended period... no action has been taken at any of the sites we have identified as needing remedial action, but a majority will be monitored for a further six months	SDN (website)
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The theme of environmental awareness and risk communication is seen in both primary and secondary stakeholder reports. The report from the primary stakeholder in exemplar 1 calls attention to the risk of drinking polluted water due to delays in expediting the UNEP recommendations (Channels TV, 2022). For the secondary stakeholder exemplar 2 shows efforts by HYPREP at conducting public awareness campaigns on the dangers of illegal bunkering and refining on human health, environment in the communities (HYPREP, 2020a). For the tertiary stakeholder, exemplar 3 calls attention to the risk of contaminants above target levels found at already remediated sites (SDN, 2022).

Category 2: Thematic nuances of stakeholder reports

The thematic nuances in stakeholder reports are categorised and presented below.

Table 7: Communication frugality

S/N	Source	Exemplar	Speaker
Primary Stakeholder			
1	Channels TV (2022)	We have complained about opaque, eh, contracting processes which has been dominated by by I mean, from the up, and this appears to be a pattern I must say.	Ledum Mitee - Former MOSOP President (YouTube)

Communication frugality is seen in the discourse of both a primary stakeholder. Not much of communication frugality was deduced from the reports provided. In exemplar 1, the primary stakeholder was supposed to throw light contracts awarded concerning the Ogoni clean-up project, however he was being careful in his choice of words.



Table 8: Priming

S/N	Source	Exemplar	Speaker
Primary Stakeholder			
1	Channels TV (2022)	Why the drag? Why the tussle over this? And were wind back,... while this project has been under the Ministry of Environment, there have been a very high turnover of Ministers in that environment, six ministers. No other Ministry in this country has had those high turnover than the Ministry of Environment while that supervises this project	Ledum Mitee - Former MOSOP President (YouTube)
2	Channels TV (2022)	That tells me that perhaps all these sort of mindboggling exponential increase in the budget for for this remaining part of the year might not be unconnected with election expenses.... That might be the reason why there's a struggle over control of HYPREP	Ledum Mitee - Former MOSOP President (YouTube)
Secondary Stakeholder			
3	Arise news (2023)	In terms of what was done, we laid a solid foundation starting the project, we put together a very strong team, we brought UNEP who did the initial work	Dr. Marvin Dekil - as former HYPREP PC (YouTube)
4	HYPREP (2020a)	The Project Coordination Office headed by Dr. Marvin Barinem Dekil, an Ogoni son, a renowned Environmental Scientist with experience in oil remediation having worked for UK Environment, the Nigerian oil industry and the United Nations as a member of the team that carried out the environmental assessment on Ogoniland could not have had a better Coordinator.	HYPREP (website)
5	NDNTV (2019)	the generality of Ogoni people whose land we are cleaning are very happy.	Dr. Marvin Dekil - as HYPREP PC (YouTube)



Tertiary Stakeholders

6	SPDC (2021)	The SPDC JV has produced neither oil nor gas in Ogoniland since 1993	SPDC (website)
7	Global Business (2021)	One of the challenges that this effort has encountered is the disturbing lack of transparency and accountability in the management of resources that have gone into the cleanup.	Tijah Bolton-Akpan - NGO representative (YouTube)
8	NAN (2021)	10 have been ... have been certified by NOSDRA... and this is our certification agency. When you clean up an impacted land, what you want is a competent body that will say - Yes this is clean.... And to show you how diligent they are, 2 or 3 of those lots have been found to have slightly over and they were returned to the contractor to make sure they are clean and whistle clean.	Dr. Mohammed Abubakar - Minister of Environment (YouTube)
9	SPDC (2020)	SPDC is committed to cleaning up all spills from its facilities, irrespective of cause. This is equally the case in Ogoniland, despite the fact that SPDC ceased producing oil and gas there in 1993.	SPDC (website)

Table 8 shows discourses that reflect priming in the reports of the primary, secondary and tertiary stakeholders, however, there were more report of priming by the secondary stakeholders. For the primary stakeholder, priming is shown in exemplars 1 and 2 where the speaker draws attention to the high rate of turnover of Ministers in the Minister of Environment as a result of their interest in the financial gains they could derive from the monies awarded for the Ogoni clean-up project (Channels TV, 2022). In the report of the secondary stakeholder, HYPREP representatives use priming to generate a positive view about the organisation's management of the clean-up project. Exemplar 7 shows a divergent view in Global Business (2021) where the speaker draws attention to a lack of transparency and accountability in the management of resources that have gone into the clean-up.



Table 9: Interest in economic comfort over environmental sustainability

S/N	Source	Exemplar	Speaker
Primary Stakeholder			
1	Channels TV (2022)	while this project has been under the Ministry of Environment, there have been a very high turnover of Ministers in that environment.... Now what that tells you is that perhaps there is something that is out there that is driving this struggle for control and therefore its budget.	Ledum Mitee - Former MOSOP President (YouTube)

Table 9 shows an interest in economic comfort over environmental sustainability in the discourse of a primary stakeholder. The extract shows how there is a frequent change in headship of the Minister of Environment as a result of the economic gains that accrue from the Ogoni clean-up project.

Table 10: Contention

S/N	Source	Exemplar	Speaker
Primary Stakeholder			
1	Nigeria Info (2023)	HYPREP is surcharging the Ogoni people if they are unable to spend so that more money can be given	Fyneface Dumnamene - Environmental activist(YouTube)
2	Channels TV (2022)	I do not see the impact of that when you hear the amount of money that has been said to have been spent and is about to be spent and the people do not see the impact.... I feel that what we have seen has not been a cleanup, it has been a cover up. It has been a cover up of the pollution. We see people digging earth and pouring it over things	Ledum Mitee - Former MOSOP President (YouTube)
3	NDNTV(2022)	HYPREP, like I did say, to me personally, I am I have scored them zero because they've not done the needful. They should go back to the Ogoni Bill of Rights.	Prince Ngor-Representative, Khana constituency 2, Rivers State



			House of Assembly (YouTube)
4	NDNTV (2022)	What we have seeing in Ogoniland today is not what the UNEP report recommended. So HYPREP should first track in the process of carrying out the cleanup in Ogoniland, so that they can extend to other parts of the Niger Delta. Because the pollution we have in Ogoniland is child’s play when compared to what we have in other parts of the Niger Delta.	Fyneface Dumnamene - Environmental activist (YouTube)
5	Channels TV (2022)	anything that will give birth to HYPREP being transferred to a corrupt ministry like NDDC will be summarily and vehemently resisted by all and sundry, as far as the Ogoni land is concerned.	Legborsi Yamabana - Environmental activist(YouTube)
6	Pride TV (2019)	Presently as I speak some of the communities that we were forced to move like myself, my home, we deserted my home, in going on the ground that it was greatly polluted. There is nothing like livelihood issues.,,, HYPREP doesn’t have a focal point	Local Chief (YouTube)
Tertiary Stakeholder			
7	Global Business (2021)	I would say that the clean-up efforts in Ogoniland has been far, far, far below par. It's below expectations and especially worrisome is the fact that not only is the clean up not being done to specifications, but also there is a very disturbing lack of, you know, transparency and accountability in how the effort is being prosecuted	Tijah Bolton-Akpan - NGO representative (YouTube)
8	Pride TV(2019)	HYPREP lacks the capacity to spend as it has no physical work plan for the funds received, and because it lacks the capacity, it is not prepared to receive the yearly \$200 million for 2019 cleanup. There is fundamental deviation of HYPREP from the recommendations by UNEP report. The absence of the Integrated Contaminated Soil Management Centre as well as Centre for Excellence to train Ogonis and raise the needed manpower for the cleanup has been sidelined.	Dr Godwin Ojo- Environmental activist (YouTube)

Table 10 shows contention in the discourses of both the primary and tertiary stakeholders. The discourses mostly reflect contention against HYPREP performance in the executing the Ogoni clean-up project. There is contention expressed in terms of performance (Pride TV, 2019 & Global Business, 2021); the slow pace of work (Pride TV,



2019), making use of the available fund to do the work (Nigeria Info, 2023); adherence to the Ogoni Bill of Rights (NDNTV, 2022), etc.

Table 11: Focus on expected time frame for clean-up

S/N	Source	Exemplar	Speaker
Primary Stakeholder			
1	Nigeria Info (2023)	between 2017 today we have elapsed five years and that 1 billion was meant to be spent within the first five years and now over five years have elapsed.... So, the speed that the project is taking is a snail speed.	Fyneface Dumnamene - Environmental activist (YouTube)
2	Nigeria Info (2022)	that the emergency measures should be implemented, that is provision of portable drinking water within eighteen months, that is one year six months and it is not done up till this moment	Prince Biira - MOSOP President (YouTube)
3	Pride TV (2019)	UNEP in its preliminary cost estimates for the first five years allocated substantial funds to the establishment of the Centre of Excellence. What HYPREP is telling us is that since they are doing secondary sites at the moment, the Centre of Excellence and the Integrated Soil Management Centre are not required at this stage, and that is a monumental deviation from the recommendations	Dr. Godwin Ojo - Environmental activist (YouTube)
Tertiary Stakeholder			
4	YEAC (2020)	HYPREP may need extra 22years to complete the first five years project recommended by UNEP Report.... the snail speed of Ogoni cleanup should not be blamed on President Muhammadu Buhari or the Joint Venture Partners	YEAC (website)

Indications of a focus on expected time frame for clean-up as seen on Table 4.11 is reflected in the discourses of both primary and secondary stakeholders. The reports mostly reflected stakeholder complains directed at HYPREP on the time used up in the clean-up project, which has exceeded the expected time frame that the work was supposed to have used up. Exemplar 2 in Nigeria Info (2022) showed delays by HYPREP in actualising the provision of portable water for the people. Exemplar 4 in YEAC (2020) made estimation that with the delays in doing the work despite the available monies, it may 22years to complete the first five years project recommended by UNEP Report.



Table 12: Advocacy

S/N	Source	Exemplar	Speaker
Primary Stakeholder			
1	Nigeria Info (2023)	about \$10 million US is there for youths who were involved in artisanal crude oil refining. HYPREP has not brought out that money any day to address the issue.... They need to bring out that money and make provision for alternative livelihood opportunities for youths who were involved in artisanal crude oil refining within the area.	Fyneface Dumnamene - Environmental activist (YouTube)
Tertiary Stakeholder			
2	YEAC (2020)	Advocacy Centre thus uses this opportunity of the 4th anniversary of the flag-off and commencement of Ogoni cleanup to call on HYPREP to demonstrate capacity if it claims to have one, return to its drawing board and recommence the clean-up according to UNEP	YEAC (website)

Table 12 shows the expression of advocacy in the discourse of both primary and tertiary stakeholders. Exemplar 1 reflects advocacy by a primary stakeholder on the need for HYPREP to make provision for alternative livelihood opportunities for youths who were involved in artisanal crude oil refining in the area. In exemplar 2, YEAC (2020) shows advocacy of a tertiary stakeholder calling on HYPREP to carry on the activities of the Ogoni clean-up project without delays.

DISCUSSION

Research Question One: What are the green reporting themes from stakeholder messages on the UNEP clean-up programme?

The green reporting themes from stakeholder messages on the UNEP clean-up programme are: pollution; environmental remediation and restoration; accountability and environmental sustainability; health and livelihood; environmental advocacy; and environmental awareness and risk communication.

Through the green reports stakeholders can analyse environmental performance, express opinions, and offer recommendations for the actualisation of the Ogoni clean-up project. According to



Meisner (2015), environmental communication is both a lay activity that anyone can undertake, and a field of practice that professional communicators have created. The implication here is that the primary (the locals), secondary (HYPREP) and tertiary stakeholders (civil society organisations, environmentalist agencies, human rights agencies, etc.) are at liberty to make reports on their observation about the clean-up process and progress of work done. These stakeholder reports provide angles and insights that are needed for better enlightenment of the people as the critical theory purports. Stakeholder views are also important because the activities of the Ogoni clean-up project affect them directly or indirectly. Stakeholder reports on the Ogoni clean-up project are thereby useful to check levels of engagements on the clean-up activities with a view to unearthing challenges and charting the way forward in the light of the current realities.

The study by Zikargae (2018) that examined environmental communication of Amhara National Regional State-Environmental Protection Authority shows knowledge gap in the areas of poor environmental information systems, lack of awareness creation through communications, and weak public dialogue and genuine participation. The current study does not align with this study as results show a lot of environmental communication on the Ogoni clean-up project that fills the gaps in the areas mentioned. The current also study does not align with the study by Bodo and Ukpong (2018) which purports that the people were not incorporated in the remediation of petroleum impacted sites in their community. The current study reveals green reporting by all the stakeholders of the Ogoni clean-up project which is an indication of dissemination of information to the listening public to facilitate public knowledge of the activities of the project. Moreover, there is a lot of stakeholder engagement by HYPREP with the community members and representatives which is an avenue to keep the people informed on the activities of the Ogoni clean-up project.

Research Question Two: What are thematic nuances of stakeholder messages on the clean-up project?

The thematic nuances in the stakeholder messages are categorised as communication frugality; priming; interest in economic comfort over environmental sustainability; contention; focus on expected time frame for clean-up; and advocacy.

These are noticed in the ways the messages are structured and delivered which can influence understanding. Among these communication frugality means being economical with words when communicating about the clean-up project and threading carefully. Priming is also one of the contexts noticed and it describes how exposure to an idea prompts other ideas later on without an individual's conscious awareness. Priming happens when previously encountered information influences the way people process information on subsequent tasks. Simply put, priming means imposing a narrative. The statements are uttered in different contexts which impacts how the messages are delivered, decoded and even the meaning inferred, and they draw attention to the communication patterns in information dissemination about the Ogoni clean-up project. A critical examination these stakeholder reports can enable us highlight the areas of stakeholder interest and communication implications on the publics.



The result of the study is not consistent with the findings of Khan (2016) that found communication context of image enhancement, avoidance/deflection, and disclaimer were used by British Petroleum repair its legitimacy after the Deepwater Horizon (DH) oil spill. The communication nuances in the current study does not show a strategy the stakeholders to use the discursive tools to avoid or suppress issues environmental raised. Also, the study does not align with Brickfield (2014) that found SPDC's use of discursive tools such as interdiscursivity, buffering and bridging to downplay the social and environmental issues in the Niger Delta raised in the discussion. The current study shows a different set of communication nuances used by the stakeholders of the Ogoni clean-up project, also it is not noticed that HYPREP, the facilitator of the Ogoni clean-up project, uses discursive tools to downplay the environmental issues raised in the discourses.

CONCLUSION

Based on the results, the study concludes that there is a lot of green reporting carried out by the primary, secondary and tertiary stakeholders of the Ogoni clean-up project, and they communicate in the interest of the locals and to ensure a long-term sustainable Ogoni environment. The green reports show advocacy for the preservation, restoration and improvement of the Ogoni environment as well as for better welfare of the people. Although there is a lot of green reporting to disseminate messages on the Ogoni clean-up project, consideration should be made to increase community engagement in the impacted communities to ensure that the locals fully understand the environmental issues and the implications on their lives and the environment. Stakeholders of the Ogoni clean-up project should incorporate other important areas of interest to the people and environmental sustainability in their public reports such as environmental risk communication, health communication/programmes, participatory engagement, environmental awareness creation, etc. HYPREP should ensure that they embark on sensitization programmes before carrying out any project in the communities. They should sensitize the locals on the project, its uses, its relevance to the people and approaches for project sustainability.

Ethical clearance

Ethical consent was sought and obtained from the participants used in this study. They were made to understand that the exercise was purely for academic purposes, and their participation was voluntary.

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Conflict of interest

There is no conflict of interest



Authors' Contributions

Leton Cynthia Kuru conceived the study, including the design, she also analysed and interpreted the data, while Prof. Barigbon Gbara Nsereka joined her in collating the data, and wrote the initial manuscript. All the authors read and approved the final manuscript for publication in its current form, and are responsible for the contents and similarity index.

Availability of data and materials.

The datasets on which conclusions were made for this study are available on reasonable request.

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