

## **UN-REDD Programme – Civil Society Representative Nomination Form**

*Please limit response length to two pages. Nominations must be submitted to [csselection@un-redd.org](mailto:csselection@un-redd.org) by Friday, 11 September 2009. Self-nominations are accepted.*

1. Name of the candidate: Mr. Odigha Odigha
2. Name of organization or network: Non Governmental Organization Coalition for Environment(NGOCE)
3. Title (if applicable): Executive Director
4. Country: Nigeria
5. Language(s) spoken: English
6. Please describe the primary interests and functions of the organization and community/constituency that the candidate represents and what countries the organization is active in.

NGOCE is engaged in the protection of the rainforest. Our main focus is the conservation and protection of the Cross River Rainforest, which constitutes over 50% of the surviving pristine Forest in Nigeria. This forms part of the Cross River bio-region which includes western part of Federal Republic of Cameroon. It is one of the biggest water catchments in the bio-region. This forest is close to Rivers State in Nigeria, where gas flaring has been going on from 1956 to date. The area is classified among one of the twenty-five (25) biodiversity hot spots in the world (courtesy of Conservation International). NGOCE has been in the fore front of the global Campaign to protect this forest under the leadership of Odigha Odigha from 1995 to date.

Through this campaign Odigha Odigha was awarded the Goldman Environmental Prize for Africa in 2003. He is on the board of some national and multinational organizations which include the Washington based Ecoagriculture Partners.

7. Describe briefly the organization's experience gathering and representing the diverse viewpoints of a range of communities or organizations, and disseminating and coordinating information and communications among a network of communities or organizations.

NGOCE is a network of over 46 environmental NGOs and CBOs working in over 200 rainforest communities. NGOCE is one of the leading environmental advocacy groups in Nigeria. Organization liases with government and other relevant bodies in the development of legal and policy framework that will enhance rainforest protection.

NGOCE builds the capacity of member organizations to carry out;

- I. Natural resource governance at the community level
- II. Provision of alternative livelihood programs/projects in communities.

NGOCE also publishes a news letter “integration” which is sent to policy makers, forest communities, the member organizations and the general public. Members are also linked through a list serve for information exchange.

NGOCE operates an Environmental Resource Centre in Calabar, Nigeria which is accessed by the media, educational institutions and researchers.

8. Describe briefly your organization’s background and experience with multilateral agency programs, social and environmental issues related to forests, and the role of forests in response to climate change, including REDD.

NGOCE was supported/funded by IUCN/World Bank in 1996/1997. NGOCE worked with a CIDA funded project coordinated by One Sky (a Canadian NGO) under the CRE-Coalition meant to build the capacity of NGOs working in the rain forest (2004-2007).

NGOCE worked with USAID sponsored project, SPACE (Sustainable Practices in Agriculture for Critical Environment) in the review of the Cross River State Forest Law. NGOCE coordinated this participatory legal process (2005-2007).

NGOCE worked with the Council for Renewable Energy in Nigeria (Odigha Odigha – National Coordinator) in the promotion of the use of fuel efficient wood stoves in 30 forest communities.

This project was funded by Heinrich Boll Foundation under Climate Change (emission reduction and reduction in the use of firewood). This project also helps to address the issues of health problems facing women due to pollution from firewood/kitchen smoke.

NGOCE is currently working with Concern Universal (CU – a UK NGO) on an EU project for Mangrove forest protection. NGOCE is the host for the project and is engaged in mobilizing and organizing the NGOs, CBOs and Communities participating in the project. This project includes the use of alternative means of livelihood to alleviate poverty so as to reduce pressure on the last mangrove forest estate.

NGOCE is working with NEST (Nigerian Environmental Study and Action Team) in the project “Building Nigeria’s Response for climate change (BNRCC)”, funded by Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA). NGOCE is collaborating with a couple of organizations; Tropical Forest Group (TFG – based in United States of America), Environmental Resources Management (ERM) based in United Kingdom and Pandrillus Foundation based in Nigeria in the development of a REDD Programme for Cross River State.

9. Describe the financial, technical and/or advisory arrangements your organization has with the UN-REDD Programme, as well as the governments of the UN-REDD pilot countries, NGOs, or private sector organizations as they pertain to the UN-REDD process.

Our Organization has no arrangement with the UN – REDD programme nor with the government of the UN – REDD pilot countries. However our organization, in collaboration with the Cross River State government and other Organizations is having exploratory discussions with UNDP, Abuja on possible consideration or some form of involvement in the UN – REDD activities. Also there are private companies coming to Cross River State who have made contacts with NGOCE on areas of collaboration on REDD particularly as it affects the communities

*Please send completed form to [csoselection@un-redd.org](mailto:csoselection@un-redd.org)*