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Redefining Environmental Governance in the Niger-Delta: The Nigerian Leadership Imperative

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Subject: Redefining Environmental Governance in the Niger-Delta: The Nigerian Leadership Imperative.

This research closely examines how oil exploration has caused environmental degradation and untold hardship to the local communities in the Niger Delta region of Nigeria. Nigeria is the sixth largest producer of crude oil in the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), and the largest in the African continent. The crude oil that puts Nigeria in this position is being produced in the Niger Delta region of the country.

The objective of this research paper is to understand the challenges of leadership in Nigeria in the context of environmental governance. This research seeks to define and understand what environmentally concerned leadership in Nigeria would look like using the Niger-Delta oil producing states as a case study. We will examine the impacts of climate change on Nigeria, the social dimensions and the need for transformational leadership. First, this research paper will define the concept of environmental governance, its origins, climate change, and the impacts the discovery of oil has had on the Niger Delta communities. This research paper will also critically discuss the politics of environmental governance, the challenges of leadership in Nigeria, the role that ethnic marginalization plays in the response to the dilemma, how it affects different demographics, and how these factors have exacerbated violence in the region, and the vicious cycle of how poverty brought on by marginalization and environmental degradation has caused even more problems for the environment. This paper also examines the implication of Nigeria's dependence on oil, which has led to the recent economic crisis, and what this means for Nigeria, and specifically the Niger-Delta when the world moves on from crude oil products. This

paper also critically examines the role of Multi-National Corporations and foreign oil companies and the role they play in the Niger-Delta, and by extension, environmental governance.

This paper also discusses the impact of climate change on human rights, social policy, and the environmental implications of crude oil production in Nigeria as research shows that these issues are intertwined as climate change impacts every aspect of human life. This research paper will also discuss attempts at mitigation on each issue and the leadership imperative as well as the impact this will have on environmental sustainability, and the idea of environmental human rights, its merits, problems and concept of inevitability of moral choice. This paper also examines environmental governance, the state of environmental protection (or the lack thereof) and social change. It also offers an analysis on how these impacts affects different demographics distinctly and finally an insight on what this all means for future generations.

Finally, this research paper critically examines the need to redefine Nigerian leadership, the role that transformational leadership plays in achieving environmental sustainability, and how issues such as lack of infrastructure, underdevelopment, and widespread corruption need to be tackled from the stand point of sustainable development. This paper also analyzes the contradictory tendencies of wealth and poverty in Nigeria despite her massive oil resources. It further conceptualizes the class contradictions of the Nigerian state, with emphasis on the commonalities of interest between the domestic ruling class and foreign capital.