Work Plan for Luce Foundation/CASS In-Country Summer 2006
Training Workshop

Introduction.

The Centre for Advanced Social Science (CASS) is committed to providing the scientific base of public policy and management for the purpose of advancing appropriate strategies/mechanisms required for sustainable development of the Nigerian State, in general, and Niger Delta in particular. On May 27, 2004, CASS inaugurated and constituted CASS Niger Delta Development Round Table under the theme “Exploring Partnership for Sustainable Development in the Niger Delta”.

CASS aims to provide a platform that encourages open and frank discussion of public policy by policy makers and other stakeholders in the political process. This commitment is influenced by the teleological assumption that science must address pressing social problems and serve the progressive, sometimes radical function of speaking the truth to power by, among other options, indicating, on the basis of research findings or intellectual reflections and analysis, where public policy falls short of promoting the general interest and, going beyond that, to put forward and advocate policy options on the policy agenda to correct any such policy short coming. Nigeria’s in country summer training workshop will utilize the centre’s Niger Delta Development Round Table which policy advocacy aim is similar to that of the Luce Foundation project.

Workshop Design.

First, the workshop will be held in the conference hall of CASS located on 13 William Jumbo street, Old G.R.A.,Port Harcourt, and will span a period of three months, i.e. August to October, 2006. The conference hall can accommodate at least fifty participants thereby eliminate usual high cost of hire of venue for events of this nature in Port Harcourt. Second, the workshop will be held on last Tuesday of every month beginning from August 2006. This date has been chosen because CASS’s monthly Round Table on the Delta holds on the same date and will thus reduce the burden of holding two workshops in a month apart from the problem of sustaining interest in the workshop.

Participants will be drawn from states and Federal government development intervention agencies (such as Niger Delta Development Commission-NDDC, Agricultural Development Programme-ADP), Ministries and relevant Departments (especially Ministries of Agriculture and Lands and department of forestry in the ministry of Agriculture), Corporate organizations ( Multinational oil companies -Departments of Community/Sustainable Development), academia, media ( electronic and print), representatives of local and state government legislatures, community leaders (customary authorities, women and youth leaders), and civil society organizations. In selecting civil society organizations, specific consideration will be given to Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) dealing on Environmental and livelihood concerns and
forest conservation. Reaching these vital stakeholders will not be problematic given that CASS has through the round table and revitalization of the applied research components of its program with deliberate focus on the Niger Delta area establish contacts/network, therefore should have comparative advantage.

Dr. Sofiri Joab-Peterside, CASS Niger Delta program officer, will coordinate the workshop and ensure that invitations are circulated two weeks in advance. Furthermore, CASS quarterly Newsletter edited by Dr. Joab-Peterside will be used to disseminate information about the workshop and the Luce foundation project to a wider audience. A chairman will be appointed to moderate the monthly sessions, while each of the Luce fellows will make one presentation (per month) on topics outlined under sub-themes below. To generate broad perspectives on issues outlined under sub-themes, other presenters will be selected from stakeholders identified as thoroughly knowledgeable on workshop themes and, will be given honoraria to cover transportation fare to and from CASS. There will be two presentations at each session that will not last more than one hour. Another hour will be devoted to questions, discussions and comments, and ends with policy recommendations. Recommendations emanating from the sessions will be collated and disseminated globally at an international press conference to be held in November 2006 in Abuja, the capital of Nigeria. Also electronic and hard copies of the policy recommendations will be submitted to Luce Foundation, University of California, Berkeley, in December 2006 while popular version will be produced and circulated among stakeholders in the Delta.

**Theme:** The central theme of CASS Niger Delta Development Round Table “Exploring Partnership for Sustainable Development in the Niger Delta” will be retained because land and forest issues can not be pursued outside the context of sustainable development due to their cross cutting nature. The rising political and social activism and incendiary unrest in the area, is fuelled by deepening deficits in accountability and transparency that has turned the Niger Delta in to a social laboratory for application of social science not only to advance the course of good governance and, in doing so, to serve as harbinger of sustainable development. Some sub-themes however, have been selected to reflect Luce Foundation focus (Land & Forest) for this year.

**Workshop Sub-themes.**

a) Role of Community in Natural Resource (forest) management with emphasis on key features of Participatory Management of Resource.

b) Impact of the Land use Act on Livelihood/Framework for proper valuation and compensation for damage of Natural Resources in the Niger Delta.

c) Framework for Resolution of areas of conflict between Customary and Statutory Tenure Systems.

d) Impact of Legal Regimes on Community-Based Conservation of Resource (forest).
Objectives.

i. Establish linkage between social scientists, government/agencies, civil society organizations and communities for building bridges and finding solutions to the perennial development problems that seem to have defied huge development inputs over time.

ii. Help to clarify Customary and State imposed tenure systems with emphasis on areas of overlap and contradictions. Consequently presentations by experts under this sub-theme will aim at illuminating rules and processes by which land and resource rights are allocated and, how competing claims can be resolved to mitigate the uncertainty and insecurity that results from dualist land policies.

iii. Develop the capacity of CASS (by establishing a green governance section in the library) to provide technical support to Community-Based Organizations working on land and forest governance issues faced with practical problems of developing suitable institutional arrangements.

iv. Develop a framework for consultation and discussion at both state and local government levels, for land and forest users including representatives of customary authorities to facilitate a sustained process of dialogue. This will constitute an important deliverable of the workshop.

v. Pioneer a train the trainer workshop to build capacity of select group of NGOs involved in forest conservation and land management projects. For this purpose, CASS will develop a training manual and ensure NGOs access to materials in the green governance section of its library.

Materials.

Hard and electronic copies of each presentation will be circulated alongside invitations, while photocopy of other relevant materials that enable participants gain insight in to the issues will be circulated at workshop venue.