

*Full Length Research Paper*

# Communal conflict and resource development in Ini Local Government Area of Akwa Ibom State, Nigeria

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**Communal conflicts and violence have become a plague that has eaten deep into the fabric of Nigerian economy. These conflicts result from different value systems, aggressive competition for environmental resources and ethnic/identity crisis amongst others. In the study area, several communal clashes abound. The major consequence of this bloody communal clashes have been an outright reduction in the livelihood and development potential of the natural resource base of the people. Through empirical survey of 27 communities; 9 drawn from non-conflict and 18 from conflict areas, information on the major causes and patterns of communal conflict and its effect on resource development in Ini Local Government Area of Akwa Ibom State, Nigeria was obtained. Several conflict variables were measured and correlated with variables of resource development in these communities. The result indicates that resource development in the study area has been adversely retarded by communal conflicts.**

**Key words:** Communal conflicts, value systems, natural resource development.

## INTRODUCTION

The Nigerian historical landscape is dotted with cases of conflict and violence which in the early sixties climaxed into Nigerian civil war of 1967 to 1970. Protracted agitation for resource governance, inequality in the distribution of national wealth, ethnic chauvinism, economic and political deprivations, tribalism and favouritism are factors identified as the immediate causes of these crises. Added to these were the fear of domination and marginalization of the minority, by the dominant ethnic groups.

The foundation of the present stage of conflict in Nigeria could be said to be the offshoot of the civil war. The discovery and exploration of oil has further accentuated conflict and violence in Nigeria. It is however, widely believed by the people that the majority of the violent conflicts in the oil producing communities in the Niger Delta are rooted in oil, and that the conflicts are no less than people's reactions to the policies, laws

and politics of the state towards oil exploration, production, transportation and storage.

This internal conflict and violence have become a plague that had eaten deep into the fabric of the economy. These conflicts result from different value systems, aggressive competition for environmental resources, political and unhealthy competition for status among some community leaders. Recent studies (Banjo, 1998; IFPCR, 2002) have shown that there is hardly a year without a major violent communal conflict in Nigeria. Since the Ogoni uprising in 1993, conflicts and their management have been brought to the centre stage in the discourse. Osaghae (1995) sees conflict as largely ethnic and identity problem.

Mounting evidence from several researches (Omoweh, 2001, 1998, 1995; Ihonvbere and Shaw, 1988) suggests that violence and conflicts are far from being ethnic and identity crisis. Rather, conflicts were and are still rooted in the nature of capitalist development, promoted by underdevelopment.

In Akwa Ibom State, according to Akpaeti (2005), one of the causes of conflict is land dispute. A release from the Department of State Service (DSS) cited by the

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Institute for Peace and Conflict Resolution (IFPCR, 2002) notes that since the creation of Akwa Ibom State from Cross River State in 1987, several bloody communal clashes have occurred. For instance, Oku Iboku and Ikot Offiong, Mbiakong and Ifianyong Usuk in 2003, Ngwa and Ikot Umo Essien in 1996 to 1997, Ikporom communal conflicts in Ini Local Government Area and Edem Aban in Abia State. These conflicts have impacted negatively on the land and other environmental resources, thereby reducing the livelihood and development potential of the natural resource base of the people.

In spite of the preponderance of conflict in rural communities as cited by IFPCR (2002), there is still a knowledge gap regarding conflict and resource development. Mentions are only made on the potential effect on human life and properties with little or no empirical information on resources development (Akpaeti, 2005). In an attempt to improve our understanding and fill this gap of knowledge, the study will attempt to answer questions related to the socio-economic characteristics of conflict and non conflict group; identify the major causes and patterns of conflict; explore the effect of conflict on resource development and suggest strategies to enhance resource development in the study area.

## **NATURE OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONFLICTS IN INI LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA, AKWA IBOM STATE**

The fundamental issue in human needs is that in multi-ethnic societies, there must be distributive justice, otherwise frustrations will result in acts of aggression in the pursuit of the satisfaction of basic life requirements (Burton, 1999).

Conflicts in Ini Local Government Area may be explained from economic theory. The basis for such explanation could be understood from the feelings of grievance or injustice. In Ini L.G.A, human participants in conflict situations are the result of compulsory struggles in their respective Institutional environments at all social levels aimed at satisfying primordial and universal needs. These needs includes: security, identity, recognition and development. They strive increasingly to gain the control of their environment that is necessary to ensure the satisfaction of these needs. This struggle for primordial needs is theoretically related to the Frustration-Aggressive Theory (FAT) developed by Dollard et al. (1939).

The struggle by two or more groups over political powers, status and control of resources, in which the aims of the opponents are to neutralize, injure or eliminate their rivals – constitute yet another factor for communal conflict in the LGA. Political inequality, inter-group intolerance, inadequate inclusions in associational membership, imbalance power sharing, inter-clan and factional rivalries are factors that enhance communal conflicts in Ini Local Government Area. Communal

conflict in the study area involves violent struggle among groups typically organized along ethnic, religious and cultural lines. The issues at stake in such conflicts are not typically cultural but may involve struggle over economic, political and land/boundary disputes. Aside the loss of life and property and the displacement of people usually associated with communal conflicts its impact on environmental resources cannot be over emphasized.

## **THE STUDY AREA**

The study was carried out in Ini Local Government Area of Akwa Ibom State, Nigeria. The Local Government Area is located approximately between latitudes 5°18' to 5°30' North and longitudes 7°37' to 7°52' East in the Northern boundary of Akwa Ibom State and is bounded by three Local Government Areas of Abia State which includes Ikwuano, Bende and Arochukwu. The area is generally low lying with spot hills scattered within the Local Government Area with the highest point at Obotme (150 m above sea level). The rainfall is heavy and lasts about 10 months in the year. The land is generally suitable for the cultivation of upland rice, cocoa, cassava and other root crops. The area is drained by the tributaries of Enyong creek, locally known as Inyang Nkante, Inyang Ebo and Igwu Abam.

Geologically, the dominant characteristic is sandstones and limestone's east of Nkari, Obotme which stretches to Itu and Enyong creek confluence. The soil is composed of clay stones, sands and gravels. The population was estimated to be 72,121 (NPC, 1991). The major clans of the Local Government Area include Ikpe, Itu – Mbonuso, Nkari, Iwere, Ukwok and Odoro Ikono with a total of 90 villages (Akpadiaha et al., 1996).

## **THEORETICAL/CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK**

### **Human Need Theory (HNT)**

According to Burton (1991), this theory was developed in the 1970s and 1980s as a generic holistic theory of human behaviour. It is based on the hypothesis that humans have basic needs that have to be met in order to maintain stable societies. Human participants in conflict situations are compulsory struggles in their respective institutional environments at all social levels to satisfy primordial and universal needs. Such needs include: security, identity, recognition and development. They strive increasingly to gain the control of their environment that is necessary to ensure the satisfaction of these needs. This struggle cannot be curbed, it is primordial.

There are fundamental universal values or human needs that must be met in multi-ethnic societies, unless in every social system there is distributive justice, a sense of control and prospect for the pursuit of all other

human societal developmental needs, instability and conflict are inevitable. The abstraction of human needs helps to eliminate the sense of being mutually exclusive of gained at the expense of another, they are universal.

According to (Faleti, 2004) need theorists over time have identified such issues as deprivation to be the major causes of conflict. Burton (1999) identified a link between frustrations, acts of aggression and efforts to satisfy basic needs. Individuals cannot be taught to accept practices that destroy their identity and other goals that are attached to their needs and because of this; they are forced to react against the factors, groups, and institutions that they see as being responsible to threatening such needs. Burton (1999) also maintained that human needs of survival, protection, affection, understanding, participation creating an identity are shared by all people, irrepressible, and have components (needs for recognition, identify, security, autonomy and bonding with others) that are not easy to give up. No matter how much a political or social system tries to frustrate or suppress these needs, it will either fail or cause far more damage on the long run. The absence of economic opportunities, hyper-inflation, and penury are manifestations of economic imbalance, while political imbalance leads to fear, xenophobia (intense fear of foreign people, their customs and culture) crime and violence, forced migration, voluntary or forced exile and political marginalization. All these constitute the root causes of bitter conflicts. Even though some scholar identify a wide range of human needs, source of which they of which they consider to be basic human needs, they are agreed on the fact that the frustration of these needs tempers the actualization of the potentials of groups and individuals, subsequently leading to conflict.

### Economic Theories

Existence and sustenance of conflict could also be explained from the economic point of view. This is largely because people in conflict area are assumed to be fighting over, material and not about non-material things. The question then becomes "is the conflict a result of greed (intention to "corner" something) or grievance? (anger arising over feelings of injustice)." Collier (2003) pointed out that so people (commonly referred to as conflict entrepreneur) actually benefit from conflict while the overwhelming majority of the populations are affected negatively. The leaders of armed formation that are actually perpetrating the violence often profit from the conflict, and that is why the prospect of pecuniary gains is seldom the principal indenture for rebellion. Bredal and Malone (2000) agree that social conflicts are generated by many factors, some of, which are deep, seated. For them, across the age, conflicts have come to be seen as having a "functional utility" and are embedded in economic disparities. War, the crises stage of internal conflicts, has sometimes become a vast private and

profit-making enterprise. Many argue further that though to historians and social scientists, the importance of economic factors to the understanding of conflicts will always be contentious issue, the need to explore this linkage, however, is not contested. Conflict may later be packaged as resulting from ideological, racial or even religious (value) differences; there represent at the most basic level, a contest for control over economic assets and resource. Economic theories highlight resources, and to the extent, are close to the radical structural theory of conflict except for the emphasis of left wing structuralist one exploitative relationships between parties.

### MATERIALS AND METHODS

The research is based on a survey at the community and household level conducted in 2007 in 27 communities in the study area. 9 of the 27 communities were drawn from non-conflict areas with 18 from conflict areas. In open and semi structured interviews with key persons such as village heads, local communities, youths and women leaders and individuals affected in communal conflicts, information about the major causes and patterns of communal conflict and the effect of conflict on resource development was obtained.

The multi-stage sampling procedure was employed in collecting data on the socio-economic characteristics of households and the pattern of conflicts and resource development in the selected communities.

The total number of households interviewed and the number of questionnaires issued was determined by expressing the population of each of the selected communities as a percentage of the total population of all the selected 27 communities based on the 1996 projected population of the communities at a growth rate of 2.83%. The 18 communities which were randomly selected in the conflict area were used to assess the pattern, relationship and effect of conflict on resource development in the Local Government Area. The Taro-Yamane formula for finite population was statistically used to determine the sample size, thus, 400 households were interviewed in all the 27 communities proportionally to the percentage size of their population. Specific households interviewed within each community were selected by the use of systematic random sampling technique.

The copies of the questionnaire administered to the randomly selected households in the conflict areas covered variables on types of conflict, duration and impact on the socio economic life of the communities. The conflict variables defined included:

<b>Group A</b>	-	<b>Types of conflict</b>
Boundary conflict	-	Frequency of occurrence
Political conflict	-	"
Struggles over land resources	-	"
Boundary disputes	-	"
Struggles over pol resources	-	"
<b>Group B</b>	-	<b>Temporal dimensions of conflict</b>
Monthly conflict	-	Frequency of occurrence
Seasonal conflict	-	"
Rarely/occasionally experienced conflict	-	"
Yearly conflict	-	"
Two weeks internal conflict	-	"
One month internal conflict	-	"

Group C	-	Effect of conflict
Displacement of people	-	Total number of people
Death	-	Total number of deaths
Destruction of properties with a dollar	-	Valued in local currency
Food shortages	-	Value in local currency
Movement restriction month	-	Total number of days in a

#### Variables of resource development

Total output of cocoa	-	Y <sub>1</sub>
Rice	-	Y <sub>2</sub>
Yam	-	Y <sub>3</sub>
Cassava	-	Y <sub>4</sub>
Gravel	-	Y <sub>5</sub>
Shaft sand	-	Y <sub>6</sub>
Farmland destroyed	-	Y <sub>7</sub>
Hectares of farmland not used	-	Y <sub>8</sub>

In order to identify the major factors of conflict in the area, a factor analysis model was used to collapse the 16 independent variables. This produced four major factors. Four major dimensions of the effects of conflict on resource development were also produced after using the model on the y- variables.

Factor analysis is a multivariate statistical technique which enables the researcher to reduce many inter-related variables into major factors (Udofia, 2005). The model is stated thus:

$$X_1 = b_{11}f_1 + b_{12}f_2 + b_{13}f_3 \quad \dots \quad U_1 + t_1$$

$$X_2 = b_{21}f_1 + b_{22}f_2 + b_{23}f_3 \quad \dots \quad U_2 + t_2 \text{ etc.}$$

The relationship between conflict and resource development in the area was measured using multiple correlation/regression analysis. This helped to establish the measure of association of the identified conflict factors with the factors of resource development as well as the level of predictability of the defined components of resource development given specific conflict factors.

The multiple correlation/regression equation is stated thus:

$$Y = a + b_1X_1 + b_2X_2 + b_3X_3 + \dots + b_nX_n$$

Where Y = the dependent variable

a = y intercept

b<sub>1</sub>b<sub>2</sub>b<sub>3</sub> = regression plane

x<sub>1</sub>, x<sub>2</sub>, x<sub>3</sub> ----n = the independent variable.

## RESULTS

The socio-economic data of the conflicts and non conflict communities shown reveals the major characteristics of the inhabitants. Table 2 shows that collapsing the 16 conflict variables identified as factors affecting resource development in the data matrix yielded four significant eigen values with a cumulative percentage explanation of 90.3%. This approximately indicates the factors of communal conflict that affects resource development in the study area.

### Justification of the approach to study

A reconnaissance survey by the authors revealed that there are numerous variables contributing to the nature, causes and effects of conflict in the study area. After

identifying the types of conflict, and causes their spatial and temporal dimensions and their effects, it was necessary to adopt an analytical model that will summarize the array of data into manageable one and at the same time reveal the major issues that relate to conflict and development. The factor analysis approach was therefore adopted for this purpose. The result shows that the factors extracted bring together the numerous variables and this will facilitate a policy focus for solving the conflict problem.

## DISCUSSION

### Socio-economic characteristics of conflict and non conflict communities in Ini LGA

The dominant group in both communities are the middle aged who are mostly farmers. Most inhabitants have not gone through any formal education and their income levels are generally below average. On the other hand, large sizes of households are prevalent in both classes of communities. It is also shown in Table 1 that 27% of the respondent in conflict areas had no formal education.

### Communal conflict and resource develop in Ini L.G.A

The rotated factor matrix of the component loadings indicated that factor 1 (boundary dispute and food supply) loaded positively (61.2%) and significantly of all the 16 variables in the analysis on the following factors: boundary dispute X<sub>4</sub>, shortage of food supply X<sub>5</sub>, two weeks conflict, seasonal conflict boundary and tussles for political power. This is the most important factor. This implies that communal conflict aggressively affects food production in the study area. Thus, for effective resource development, boundary dispute and food scarcity should be accorded greater priority and attention by policy makers.

Factor 2 (yearly destruction of properties) was found to load highly on variable 9 (yearly conflict), variable 14 (destruction of properties), variable 11 (one month conflict) and variable 8 (rarely conflict). These factors accounted for 13.5% of the total variance.

Factor 3 (freedom of movement factor) loaded positively and significantly with only variable 16 (movement restriction). This accounted for 8.24% of the total variance. This factor indicates that people, goods and services were often restricted during conflict period. This manifests in high vicious cycle of poverty among households in the period of conflict. As the socio-economic life of the people is disrupted, widespread hunger, starvation and malnutrition remains a direct and common feature in conflict areas, than non-conflict areas.

Factor 4 (lost of life and property) loaded heavily on variable 12 (death) and variable 13 (destruction of properties). This factor accounted for 7.32% of the total

**Table 1.** Socio-economic characteristics of conflict and non conflict communities in Ini LGA, Akwa Ibom State, Nigeria

Variable	Conflict area		Non conflict area	
	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage
<b>Sex</b>				
Female	43	18	22	13
Male	190	82	146	87
Total	233	100	167	100
<b>Age</b>				
15-20	39	17	13	8
20-35	113	48	73	44
36-50	68	29	62	37
51 and above	13	6	19	11
Total	233	100	167	100
<b>Marital status</b>				
Single	35	15	18	11
Married	198	85	149	89
Total	233	100	167	100
<b>Primary occupation</b>				
Civil Service	47	21	49	29
Business	65	27	44	26
Farming	96	41	59	35
Fishing	9	6	9	6
Hunting	6	5	6	4
Total	233	100	167	100
<b>Monthly income (₦)</b>				
300 – 5,000	71	30	34	20
5001 - 8,000	102	44	57	34
8001 and above	60	26	76	46
Total	233	100	167	100
<b>Educational status</b>				
Non Formal	63	27	29	17
FSLC	60	26	34	20
SSCE	56	24	28	17
NCE/OND	35	15	31	19
B.SC/HND	19	8	45	27
Total	233	100	167	100

Source: Author's Data Analysis (2007).

variance. Factor 4 reveals the consequences of communal conflict as evidence in the lost of life and property, the burning of farmlands and farm produce, destruction of buildings and other infrastructural facilities and the massive displacement of population among others in the study area.

For all the factors of conflict isolated, a loading  $\geq 0.5$  was considered to be significant. According to Velicer

and Fava (1998), such factors should have at least four variables that contribute to their eigen values. The four factors isolated as conflict factors based on this analysis are very plausible. Secondly from the variables that make up the factors, it can be seen that during disputes or fighting, there is a drag in food production, tussles and disagreements which leads to societal disorganization and hence productivity is negatively affected.

**Table 2.** Factors of communal conflict and resource development in Ini Local Government Area of Akwa Ibom State.

X - Variable	F <sup>1</sup>	F <sup>2</sup>	F <sup>3</sup>	F <sup>4</sup>	Communalities
Boundary conflict	0.70	0.54	0.33	0.28	0.97
Political conflict	0.84	0.27	0.33	0.83	0.70
Land conflict	0.56	0.54	0.44	0.42	0.98
Boundary dispute	0.91	0.29	0.15	0.12	0.95
Struggle over political resources	0.45	0.57	0.33	-0.27	0.89
Monthly conflict	0.82	0.24	0.68	-0.19	0.76
Seasonal conflict	0.32	0.26	0.15	0.48	0.98
Rarely conflict	0.18	0.55	0.59	0.95	0.76
Yearly conflict	0.87	0.92	0.21	-2.08	0.93
Two weeks	0.38	0.37	0.21	0.21	0.97
One month	0.38	0.65	0.57	0.11	0.90
People forced to move away (displacement of people)	-5.17	0.11	0.43	0.83	0.89
Death	0.11	0.63	-1.4	0.93	0.89
Destruction of properties	0.39	0.86	-6.84	2.97	0.89
Shortage of food supply	0.88	0.12	0.36	-0.14	0.94
Restriction of movement	0.28	3.20	0.82	0.26	0.82
Eigen value	9.79	2.16	1.31	1.172	
Percentage variance	31.22	13.50	8.24	7.32	
Cumulative %	61.22	74.72	82.97	90.30	

Source: Authors data analysis (2007)

### Resource development in Ini L.G.A

Factor 1 (output of gravels/shaft sand) accounted for 30.53% of the total variation in the data set.

Factor 2 (output of root crops) was found to load highly on two variables: the total output of yam  $y_3$  and the total output of cassava  $y_4$ . These factors accounted for 17.7% of the cumulative percentage explanation. The factor was named output of root crops because it is a variable related to root crop production.

Factor 3 (cash crop factor) accounted for 15.8% of the total variance in the original data matrix. These variables includes: variable 1 (output of cocoa) and 2 (output of rice). They are named cash crop factor because they are cash crop.

Factor 4 (Hectare Usage Factor) loaded significantly with variables  $Y_1$  (output of cocoa) and  $Y_8$  (total hectare of land not used). It accounted for 14.30% of the total variance. Thus, the relative importance of the pattern of resource development in the study area is shown by their eigen values, which indicated that  $F_1$  (boundary dispute) is more important, followed by  $F_2$  (loss of life and properties) etc.

The factor analysis model employed suggests that a limited number of dimensions sufficiently accounted for the major variability not only in the level of communal conflict factors but also in the indicators of resource development in the study area. Further interest in understanding the effect of conflict on resource

development in the study area is generated by examining the correlations between the major causes or factors of communal conflict extracted and the four indicators of resource development identified in the course of the research. Table 3 shows that the nine dependent variables identified as indicators of resource development in the data matrix significantly yielded four eigen values. The four factors accounted for 78.39% explanation of the total variance.

### Correlates of resource development in Ini L.G.A

These correlation coefficients are presented in Table 4. The result reveals that only two correlations are significant. The first indicator of resource development, an index of "Output of gravel/shaft sand" was positively correlated  $R=0.777$  with all the factors of communal conflict components (that is, boundary dispute, yearly destruction of property, freedom of movement, and lost of life and property). The second resource development indicator, an index of "Output of root crop production" correlated positively ( $R^2=0.512$ ) with all the extracted factors of communal conflict in the study area. This correlation was significant at  $F=0.041$  level. Other correlations extracted (Cash Crop Usage Factor and Hectare Usage Factor) could not be relied upon, as the strength of the relationship of these factors with the extracted factors of communal conflict are not significant.

**Table 3.** Indicators of resource development in Ini Local Government Area of Akwa Ibom State.

Variable	F <sub>1</sub>	F <sub>2</sub>	F <sub>3</sub>	F <sub>4</sub>	Communalities
Y <sub>1</sub> Total output of cocoa	0.117	-0.253	0.816	0.122	0.759
Y <sub>2</sub> Total output of rice	0.049	0.269	0.841	-0.231	0.853
Y <sub>3</sub> Total output of yam	0.067	0.879	0.035	-0.120	0.793
Y <sub>4</sub> Total output of cassava	0.082	0.648	0.020	0.323	0.580
Y <sub>5</sub> Total output of gravel	0.967	0.072	0.114	0.077	0.959
Y <sub>6</sub> Total output of shaft sand	0.897	-0.139	0.069	0.168	0.858
Y <sub>7</sub> Total farm land destroyed	0.571	0.438	0.138	-0.453	0.743
Y <sub>8</sub> Total hectare of land not used	0.347	0.321	0.492	0.542	0.759
Y <sub>9</sub> Total hectare of land used dry comp	0.107	0.045	0.074	0.866	0.768
Eigen value	2.727	1.597	1.421	1.287	0.768
Percentage variance	30.58	17.75	15.80	14.30	
Cumulative percentage	30.53	48.28	64.02	78.39	

Source: Authors Data Analysis (2007).

**Table 4.** Multiple correlation coefficient  $R_s$  and  $R^2$  for resource development.

Factor	Multiple R	$R^2$
Output of gravel/shaft sand	882	777
Cash crop usage factor	451	204
Output of root crop production	716	512
Hectare usage factor	500	250

Source: Authors Data Analysis (2007).

### Patterns of communal conflict in Ini L.G.A.

Table 5 shows the distributional pattern of the extracted factor scores of communal conflict that influence resource development in the eighteen conflict communities show that the total of three (3) out of the eighteen (18) conflict communities are strong in boundary dispute and food supply shortage. These communities (Ikporom, Ifa Nkari, Obotme) have strongly positive scores indicating average performance on factor 7 (boundary disputes). Yearly conflict factor is strong in only one conflict community (Ebo) with a high positive score. Three communities (Obot Ndon, Nchana Eboa, Ifa Nkari) had high positive score in the freedom of movement factor. Also, out of the 18 conflict communities, only one conflict community (Obotme) had high positive score in lost of life and property factor.

### Patterns of resource development in Ini LGA, Akwa Ibom State

Table 6 depicts the spatial pattern of resource development among the conflict communities in the study area. The exploitation of the output of gravel and shaft sand is very high in three major communities (Ikporom,

Ifa Nkari and Obotme). This indicates that the inhabitants of these communities produce gravel/shaft sand in high quantity. Thus, the increasingly demand for and acquisition of more lands for gravel and shaft sand production often generates communal conflict, with obvious socio-economic and environmental consequences in these communities. Root crops are principally produced in four (4) out of the 18 conflict communities. These communities (Obot Ndon, Ikporom, Ebo and Ikot Ede) had strong positive scores indicating above average performance on this factor. This reveals that these communities principally produce root crops such as yam and cassava as their major agricultural output and source of livelihood. Based on the need to increase production, the urge to acquire more land resources by the inhabitant's result in simmering rivalries and prolong disputes among the peasant farmers.

The matrix in Table 6 further shows that cash crop is dominantly produced in only one conflict community (Obot Ndon) with a factor score of 0.510. This means that the major source of livelihood of the agrarian farmers in this community is from cash crop production. In order to effectively harness and expand the development of this resource, land is needed for production. However, the mode of the land acquisition for the production of this cash crop often generates intra and inter-communal conflict with adverse effect on the development of these resources in the area of study.

Hectare usage, as a factor of resource development is strongly positive in two of the conflict communities (Ebo and Obotme). These communities are majorly involved in the acquisition of large expanse of land in food crops production. This is an indication that most of the conflict experienced in these communities results from the acquisition of large expanse of land by their members.

This may account for the frequent land disputes between individuals and members of families. Also, the

**Table 5.** Patterns of communal conflict in 18 conflict communities in Ini L.G.A., Akwa Ibom State – Nigeria.

S/N	Conflict communities	Resource development			
		F1	F2	F3	F4
1	Obot Ndon	-0.600	-0.057	-0.877	-0.339
2	Ikot Essien	-0.211	-0.020	-0.436	-0.599
3	Ikot Nta	-0.522	0.469	-0.341	-0.747
4	Nchana Ebua	0.320	-0.908	1.150	-0.399
5	Ikporom	1.082	-269	-0.023	1.696
6	Ebo	0.374	3.786	0.161	-0.319
7	Ifa Nkari	0.939	-0.138	3.25	-0.506
8	Obotme	3.127	-0.577	-1.254	2.794
9	Mkpu	0.692	-0.016	-0.737	1.705
10	Obrong	-0.087	-0.583	-0.029	-0.234
11	Ikot Uko	-0.933	-0.327	0.139	-0.220
12	Ikot Akpan	-0.791	-0.187	-0.319	0.024
13	Aba Itat	-0.509	0.055	-0.680	-0.879
14	Edem Akai	-0.438	0.302	-0.558	-0.727
15	Ikot Ede	-0.473	-299	-0.398	-0.475
16	Ikot Andem	-0.944	-0.357	0.357	-0.286
17	Ikweme	-0.228	-0.349	-0.485	-0.252
18	Ikot Udot	-0.797	-0.519	-0.683	-0.421

Source: Author's Data Analysis 2007.

**Table 6.** Patterns of resource development in 18 conflict communities in Ini LGA, Akwa Ibom State.

S/N	Conflict communities	Resource development			
		F1	F2	F3	F4
1.	Obot Ndon	-0.339	-0.903	0.501	-0.035
2.	Ikot Essien	-0.599	-0.920	1.929	1.523
3.	Ikot Nta	-0.747	0.263	1.398	-0.850
4.	Nchana Ebua	0.399	0.143	-476	0.333
5.	Ikporom	1.696	1.843	1.202	-0.033
6.	Ebo	-0.319	2.236	-1027	0.866
7.	Ifa Nkari	-0.506	-0.565	.0554	1.092
8.	Obotme	2.784	-0.101	-1.112	0.713
9.	Mkpu	1.705	-0.555	1.107	-384
10.	Obrong	-0.234	-0.5111	-1.082	1.284
11.	Ikot Uko	-0.022	-0.728	-1.043	1.227
12..	Ikot Akpan	0.024	-0.868	-0.849	-0.553
13.	Aba Itat	-0.879	-0.262	-0.699	1.197
14.	Edem Akai	-0.727	0.130	-0.246	0.313
15.	Ikot Ede	-0.475	0.895	0.134	-1.084
16.	Ikot Andem	-0.286	-442	1.201	-0.098
17.	Ikweme	-0.252	0.593	-0.055	-1.852
18.	Ikot Udot	-0.421	-1.054	-0.6937	-1.275

Source: Author's Analysis of Data 2007.

forceful acquisition of land belonging to neighbouring communities for the purpose of cash crop production often results into inter-communal conflict among them. This violent conflict over land resources has led to the

destruction of farm crops, which has resulted in decreased agricultural production and the disruption of human activities. Thus, resource development in the study area has been deeply and adversely affected by



violent outbreaks of communal conflicts.

## CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The study examined the effect of communal conflict on resource development in Ini LGA of Akwa Ibom State, Nigeria. It is however, obvious that resource development in the study area has been adversely retarded by communal conflicts.

To avert further occurrence of communal conflict in the study area, it is recommended that strict adherence to the land use decree of 1978 as amended in 1990 Act should be enforced. This will make available agricultural land to the prospective peasant farmers and further enhance large-scale farming and production of root and cash crops.

Where communal conflicts are as a result of land disputes, land banks could be created and used for community services to be shared by the warring communities. This would be a means of reconciling the conflict communities.

There is need for the institution of a community security system with emphasis on training of people to effectively participate in the act of preventing, resolving and managing conflict at the communal level and strengthen them where they exist in this LGA. Capacities of communal security system such as vigilante groups should be enhanced. Enlightenment campaign programmes aimed at educating the people on the origins, nature and effects of conflicts on their socio-economic life and the need to safeguard their natural resource base should be made effective at Local Government Area level. This will also expose the people to early warning signs of conflicts in order to stem them before they escalate.

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