

MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT

BETWEEN



**RIVERS STATE UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
NKPOLU – OROWORUKWO PORT HARCOURT**

AND



ECOLOGIA APPLICATA ITALIA SRL, ROME, ITALY

AND



ASSOCIAZIONE CENTRO ELIS NGO, ROME, ITALY

Prepared by:-
A.B. Tsaro-Goteh Aligbe Esq.
Legal Unit
RSUST, Nkpolu-Oroworukwo
Port Harcourt.

This **MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING** is made thisday of, 2014

BETWEEN

RIVERS STATE UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, NKPOLU OROWORUKWO, PORT HARCOURT (hereinafter called "**RSUST**") which expression shall where the context allows include any assigns and successors in title of the first part.

AND

Ecologia Applicata Italia S. R. L of Rome, Italy, Which expression shall where the context allows include any assigns and successors in title of the second part.

AND

Associazione Centro Elis NGO, of Rome Italy (The NGO) which expression shall where the context allows include any assigns and successors in title of the third part.

WHEREAS:

- a) **RSUST** is a tertiary educational institution operating in Rivers State, Nigeria, while **Ecologia Applicata Italia S. R. L** and **Associazione Centro Elis NGO** are both of Rome Italy. All parties are interested in establishing co-operation relations between themselves through mutual assistance in the area of education, research, museum development and ecotourism, capacity building and any other related activities to achieve their collective aim.
- b) The parties by this agreement intend to employ their technical expertise and resources in achieving the objects of the contract.
- c) This contract is necessary in order to clearly define the rights and obligations of the parties.

PART 1

SCOPE OF COOPERATION

The areas of cooperation include, subject to mutual consent, programs and projects that will be desirable and feasible within the cooperation and all members of the group shall contribute to fostering and developing cooperative relationships between the three institutions. The group in

January 2014 created a research and project unit inside the Rivers State University of Science and Technology, Port Harcourt, Nigeria, known as Niger Delta Ecology and Biodiversity Conservation Unit. The Unit is created to carry out scientific, educational and development projects, including ecotourism, under the sponsorship of public and private organizations, based both nationally and internationally.

The aims of the unit will include:

- i) Collating and conducting a set of projects, including fund raising, for optimize the development of education and research in ecology, zoology, botany, marine biology, microbiology, genetics, and biodiversity conservation in the Niger Delta region.
- ii) Promotion of joint cooperation among scientists in the respective fields, that will articulate and maximize the presence of the Rivers State University of Science and Technology within international and national organizations,
- iii) Always promote excellence in science and technology advancement.
- iv) Secure the Rivers State University of Science and Technology to a prominent position among the scientific and educational centres at the continental level.

Priority objectives will be:

- a. To enhance manpower and capacity building in the areas of museum technologies.
- b. To preserve dwindling populations of threatened life within the Niger Delta ecosystems.
- c. To stimulate interest of students in overlooked scientific subareas, including taxonomy of Niger Delta flora and fauna.
- d. To stimulate innovative research in environmental sciences.
- e. To stimulate the multinational companies working in the Niger Delta to fund pure and applied research of environmental interest, even when it is not directly linked to their main business.
- f. To increase conservation awareness this is absolutely lacking in the Niger Delta.

PART 2

A. GENERAL AREA OF COOPERATION

Assistance shall be carried out, subject to availability of funds through activities and programmes such as;

- i) Creation of museum of Ecology and Biodiversity Conservation within Rivers State University of Science and Technology, Port Harcourt.
- ii) Development of various research lines that will involve the Staff of RSUST and Ecologia Applicata Italia S. R. L. and Associazione Centro Elis NGO.

B. MANAGEMENT

Except in so far as by this agreement otherwise provided, the management of The Niger Delta Ecology and Biodiversity Conservation Museum shall function and be governed in all respects by a board consisting of nine (9) members viz:

- | | |
|---|-----------|
| 1. Prof. Barineme B. Fakae (Vice-Chancellor, RSUST) | Chairman |
| 2. Prof. Maureen N. Koko (Director of Academic Planning, RSUST) | Member |
| 3. Prof. I.K.E Ekweozor (Dean, Faculty of Science, RSUST) | Member |
| 4. Dr. Godfrey C. Akani | Member |
| 5. Prof. Luca Luiselli | Member |
| 6. Engr (Chief) Giandomenico Massari | Member |
| 7. Dr. Fabio Petrozzi | Member |
| 8. Engr Edoardo Politano | Member |
| 9. Daba C. Odimabo Mrs (Registrar, RSUST) | Secretary |

The terms of mutual assistance and necessary budget for each programme and activity that shall be implemented under the terms of this agreement, and shall be mutually discussed and agreed upon in writing by all the parties. Prior to the initiation of the particular programme or activity, and specific staff shall be designated to develop and co-ordinate specific activities or programmes.

The under listed research lines shall be developed with the attached contact persons:

- a) Ecology and conservation of turtles, tortoises, snakes and crocodiles of the Niger Delta
(Contact person: Prof Luca Luiselli)**



- b) Fish biodiversity conservation (Contact person: Prof Godwin Isitor)**



- c) Crop entomology (Contact person: Prof Ougua K. N. Ogbalu)**



d) Biology of Malaria studies (Contact person: Dr Nwabueze Ebere)



e) Mammals and bush-meat trade in the Niger Delta (Contact person: Dr. Fabio Petrozzi)



f) Marine and Estuarine Environmental Pollution Studies (especially in oil and gas industry) (Contact person: Prof Ikem Kris E Ekweozor)



g) Wildlife conservation (Contact person: Dr Godfrey C. Akani)



h) Plant taxonomy (Contact person: Dr Blessing O. Green)



i) Plant pathology (Contact person: Dr. Martina T. V. Adeleke)



Substitution of Contact Person

The Board shall by a majority vote remove a contact person and replace with another qualified expert, or fill a vacancy in the event of incapacity to function productively in that office by any of the designated persons.

C. ONGOING PROJECTS:

i) Niger Delta Ecology and Biodiversity Conservation Museum Project

The Rivers State University of Science and Technology in collaboration with Associazione centro ELIS NGO, Rome, Italy and Ecologia Applicata Italia SRL, Rome, Italy has proposed the creation of a **Museum of Ecology and Biodiversity Conservation in the Campus of the University.**

The scope is to create a unique centre of education and research for West African and Nigerian students in the fields of zoology, ecology, conservation biology and sustainable development. Moreover, the museum could be the first step for developing naturalistic tourism to Nigeria and from other countries.

The Museum will be organized as a two-floors building with the following facilities:

- One entrance and hall room (reception and room for books, tourist souvenirs and gifts);
- Six exhibition rooms
- Two laboratories
- Two offices
- One conference hall
- One library
- One coffee / tea bar
- Two toilets (one of them also with facilities for handicapped people)
- One storage facility
- One security office.
- Each of the exhibition rooms will consist of:
 - Two dioramas, 1 Totem (touch-screen PC), 1 exhibiting cabinet and 3 explanation panels.
 - The exhibition rooms will be devoted to:
 - ✓ ROOM 1: Entomology
 - ✓ ROOM 2: Marine Biology

- ✓ ROOM 3: Ornithology and mammalogy
- ✓ ROOM 4: Herpetology
- ✓ ROOM 5: Biodiversity conservation and sustainable development
- ✓ ROOM 6: Niger Delta Ecosystems

In total, there will be:

10 dioramas (not needed in the ROOMS 5 and 6)

6 totems

6 exhibiting cabinets

22 explanation panels (including 2 panels in the entrance and 2 additional panels in the ROOMS 5 and 6)

ii. Study of the status of endangered species turtles and freshwater tortoises

(Conducted by Luca Luiselli, Godfrey C. Akani & Fabio Petrozzi)

The Niger Delta houses some of the most endangered species of turtles and tortoises of the world. A long term project has been going out to study their ecology and their conservation at the regional level, under the funding of the IUCN/SSC Tortoises and Freshwater Turtles Specialist Group, the Chelonian Research Foundation, the Turtle Survival Alliance, and the Mohamed Bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund.

PART 3

INTELLECTUAL AND TECHNICAL PROPERTY RIGHTS

In the course of collaboration between RSUST, Associazione centro ELIS NGO, Rome, Italy and Ecologia Applicata Italia SRL, Rome, Italy, participating individuals using proprietary materials and technologies acquired by either institution must adhere to intellectual property (IP) and technical property (TP) protection (i.e. material transfer agreement (TA) or license) pertaining to relevant technologies and material. Protection of innovations, research products and other IP/TP (through patents, knowledge production rights, or other means) accruing from joint collaboration between RSUST, Associazione Centro ELIS NGO, Rome, Italy and Ecologia Applicata Italia SRL, Rome, Italy shall be done jointly following consultations with the relevant institutional IP/TP organs / panels on propriety science and technology.

All TP/IP resulting from the collaboration shall be jointly owned and managed by RSUST, Associazione Centro ELIS NGO, Rome, Italy and Ecologia Applicata Italia SRL, Rome, Italy. For

purposes of this MOA, IP shall be taken, without limitation , to mean intellectual property rights (IPR), unpublished patent applications, any other inventions, improvements and/or discoveries that may or may not be legally protectable, including all know-how, trade secrets, research plans and priorities, research results, reports, statistical models, computer programmes, product ideas etc. technical or tangible property (TP) will be taken to mean, without limitations, tangible property such as computer software, architectural designs and teaching or learning toys or aids.

PART 4

RENEWAL, TERMINATION AND AMENDMENT

This agreement shall remain in force for a period of five years (5yrs) from the date of the last signature; however, either party may terminate the agreement upon giving 3 months notice to the other parties in writing.

This agreement may be extended for an additional period upon mutual consent of the three parties.

This agreement may be amended by the exchange of letters between the three parties. Such amendments once approved by the parties will become part of this Memorandum of Agreement.


IN WITNESS WHEREOF the parties have executed this agreement the day and year first above written in the following manner:

THE COMMON SEAL OF Ecologia Applicata Italia S. R. L

Is hereby affixed in the presence of:



FIRST ADMINISTRATOR



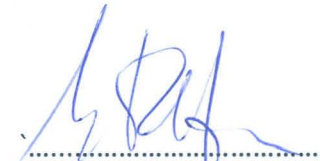
SECOND ADMINISTRATOR

THE COMMON SEAL OF Associazione Centro Elis NGO, of Rome Italy

Is hereby affixed in the presence of:



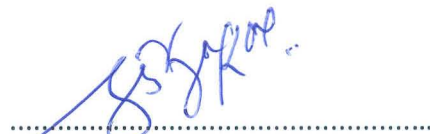
DIRECTOR



SECRETARY

THE COMMON SEAL OF RIVERS STATE UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Is hereby affixed in the presence of:



PROF. B.B FAKAE
VICE CHANCELLOR



D.C ODIMABO(MRS)
REGISTRAR