

Presentation given at the Marine Katoomba meeting

**Katoomba XVI:
Building a Blueprint to Harness New Investment for the Protection
of Marine and Coastal Ecosystem Services**

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The Perils of Resource Development for People, Environment, and Business

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Introduction

- From the perspective of a state, a resource can be a natural, economic, political, or military asset enjoyed by a nation.
- Today my focus is on the mangroves of the Niger Delta region of the Fed. Rep. of Nigeria :The Perils of Resource Development for People, Environment, and Business

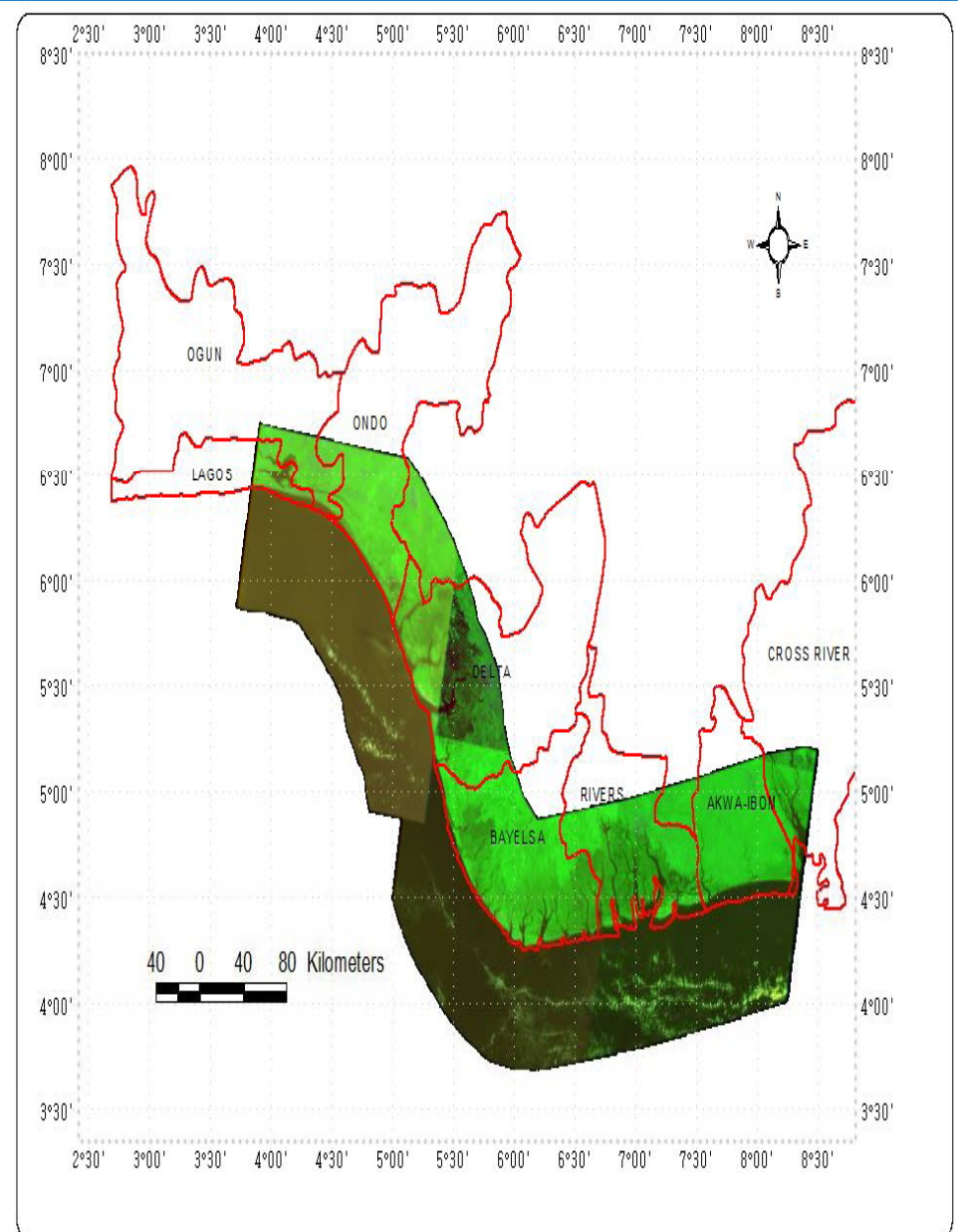


The Environment of the Niger Delta

- World's 2nd largest delta
- At 20,000 sq km: Africa's largest wetland and world's 3rd largest
- Freshwater swamp forests cover 8,600 sq km.
- Its 1,900 sq km mangrove forests are largest in Africa.
- 2nd largest forest in Nigeria after Cross River State
- Unique biodiversity such as Niger Delta red colobus, & Sclater's guenon monkey
- A breeding ground for fisheries from Guinea to Angola and further



The Niger Delta comprises of the entire coastal areas of Nigeria covering about nine hundred and twenty kilometers along the Atlantic coast and fifty kilometers inland.

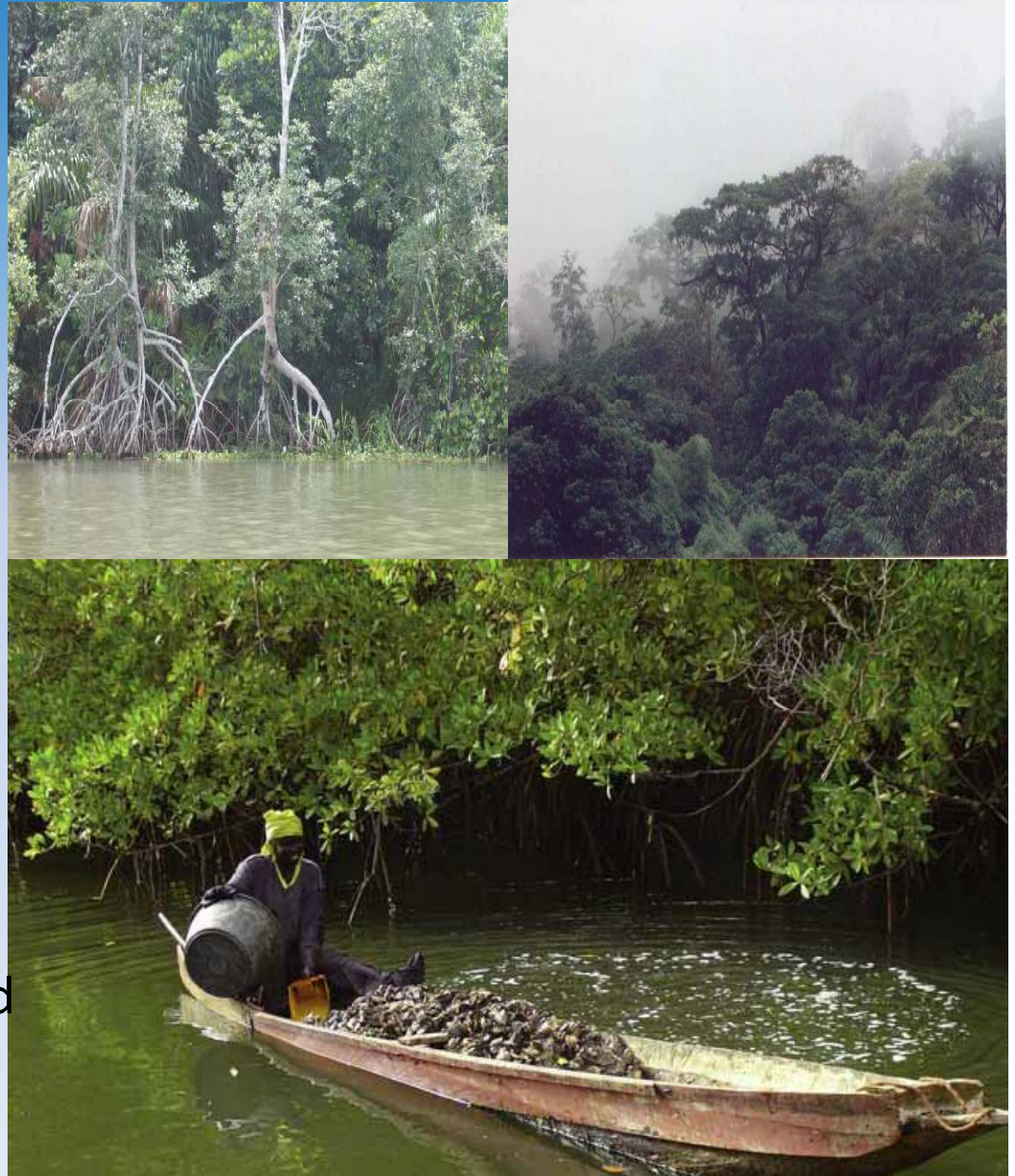


Environmental Resources in Niger Delta

The rich forest resources of the Niger Delta Region offer opportunities for investment in three major areas:

- Timber and non-timber forest products
- Mangrove resources; and Conservation
- There is a rich variety of biological communities of rare plant and animal species in the region that could be conserved for socio-economic benefits, including medical research.

The mangrove ecozone is a remarkably important habitat for birds, mammals, crustaceans, and fish.



Mammals of Niger Delta

