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MITIGATION AND RESPONSE MEASURES TO FLOOD DISASTER IN KHANA LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA OF RIVERS STATE, NIGERIA

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ABSTRACT

This study examines flood hazard effects in Khana Local Government Area of Rivers State, Nigeria. Both Primary and Secondary data were used. The study adopted the research survey method that used social area analysis to investigate flood hazard effects, people's perception, frequency, magnitude and socio-economic characteristics of dwellers of flood-proned areas. The sample size of the study was obtained from the application of Taro Yamene's formula on the population of the LGA projected to 2019 which gives 400. These 400 copies of the structured questionnaire were designed and distributed to the respondents. Out of this, 350 copies of the structured questionnaire were duly analyzed. From the analysis, different people lived in the flood-proned areas eg. farmers, traders, transporters, civil servants, business men, company staff and students. It also revealed that flood hazard mitigation and response measures adopted in the area include raised pavement, wooden foot bridge, raised elevations and sand filling of their premises found to be grossly inadequate; based on their socio-economic status, perception, flood frequency and cultural background. Globally, recent developments have also shown that flood disaster increases with rapid population, up springing residential buildings and other infrastructural facilities that depend on the natural environment. Hence, immediate attention and efforts are needed because it puts the human race and the environment into great risks and untold hardships as the problems persisted. Thus, the study recommends among others; the reclamation of floodable areas for agro-based industries in Khana L.G.A, re-design and implement Bori urban Master plan according to specification, enactment of environmental bye-laws with monitoring team, reactivate and strengthen the monthly environmental sanitation exercise in the area, provision of adequate basic amenities, dualization of all internal roads with good drainages in Bori Town, aggressive youth empowerment/poverty alleviation programmes

and capacity-building strategy for adequate security networks in Khana LGA and Nigeria at large.

KEYWORDS: *Flood-Hazards, Disaster, Mitigation Measures, Bori Town, Khana LGA.*

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