

# **Collaboration-Based Management of Petroleum Pipeline Rights of Way in Nigeria 2011**

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## **Abstract**

This thesis starts with a conceptual exploration of the challenges in the management of Petroleum Pipeline Rights of Way within the context of public infrastructure maintenance, upon which it developed a holistic understanding of the concept and global challenges of petroleum pipeline rights of way management. It argues the need for Collaboration-Based Management of the Rights of Way of Petroleum Pipeline, in particular, to involve the communities traversed by the pipelines as a stakeholder in the management framework to enhance social, economic and environmental sustainability in a balanced manner in their interaction with the other stakeholders, viz; the government and the multi-national oil companies. The fundamental goal of collaboration-based management of the rights of way of pipeline of petroleum products in Nigeria and indeed globally, lies in its inclination to justice and inclusion in the distribution of the social and economic opportunities created in the oil and gas industry.

Building upon the theoretical arguments made, this research developed a spatial geographic information system framework for demarcating the rights of way of petroleum pipeline and other linear infrastructure. By applying the framework to the route taken by the pipeline in the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja, it found that there is widespread encroachment on the statutory rights of way by residential developments and other land uses. It also found that the pipeline has not improved the economic situation of the people in the rights of way communities. On the contrary, it has transformed the otherwise tranquil communities into disorderliness and caused a plethora of environment problems, exposing the people to challenges which are unimaginable if the pipeline project were not executed.

The empirical evidence from the case studies also suggests that vandalism thrives in the pipeline communities because the people, who are closest in terms of proximity to the pipelines, have no role in its management and the national and multi-national oil companies that have lawful authorisation over the pipelines and the associated rights of way do not have the capacity to maintain real-time presence over the rights of way, hence the need for a framework that operates to achieve a collaboration-based

framework that captures the concerns and potentials of all stakeholders for the management of the rights of way of the over 7,000 km network of pipeline in Nigeria. This framework will engender the environment conducive to make connection with, and adopt localised knowledge and proximity experience of the people for the greater collective interest of the oil and gas industry, the citizenry and by extension, the Nigerian national economy.

The thesis concludes by offering some recommendation for pipeline rights of way management policy and directions for future research.