**CHAPTER EIGHT**

**CONCLUSION**

The EIA of the proposed Yoho Development Wells Drilling Project in OML 104, offshore Nigeria, has been carried out using data obtained from a two seasons (wet and dry) sampling and measurement in the area as well as research / literature survey on regional studies offshore Nigeria. The overall goal of the EIA is to ensure that potential environmental and social impacts of the proposed project are identified and evaluated and adequate mitigation proffered for significant impacts. Thus, provides necessary data / evidence that will ensure the issuance of an environmental impact statement (EIS) for the project.

The hydrographic profiles of the seawater column of the area as well as laboratory analysis of surface seawater and surficial sediment samples showed that the physical, chemical and biological characteristics of the seawater column, surface seawater and surficial sediment were consistent across sampling stations and compared well with values recorded in previous studies of similar water environments offshore Nigeria. Analysis of the water and sediment samples for plankton and benthic fauna respectively, indicated unique assemblage of plankton and benthic macro invertebrate faunal species with abundances that relate to the nutrients and chemical composition of the ecosystems.

The potential and associated impacts assessment of the proposed development wells drilling operations indicated that the project would beneficially and significantly impact on the national economy and the overall well being of the Nigerian people. This would be by way of adding value to Nigeria’s total hydrocarbon reserve; increased production capacity and ultimately, enhancement of the overall export earnings for the nation. It would also result in provision of direct and indirect employment opportunities for Nigerians as well as increased derivation fund to local and state governments and other government mandated development agencies / commissions.

The adverse impacts of the project would be in the form of injury/loss of life from operational accidents/incidents, chronic/acute health condition for onsite personnel due to exposure to hazardous chemicals and harsh weather, degradation of air quality from emissions from topsides, degradation of seawater column quality and mortality/reduction of abundance and diversity of marine fauna and flora resulting from disturbance of the seabed, oil spills/leaks, wastes/effluents (spent mud, drill cuttings, etc.) disposal from drilling rig. These adverse impacts can be reduced, prevented or ameliorated if the recommended mitigation measures are strictly followed and implemented.

Consequently, EMP has been developed to ensure effective implementation of prescribed mitigation measures and for proactive environmental management throughout the project duration. The EMP shall be implemented within the framework of MPN’s Operations Integrity Management System (OIMS).