

U.S. Consulate General, Lagos, Nigeria & U.S. EPA Region 5
Embassy Science Fellows Program, Summer 2022

Summary

The Niger Delta has endured decades of environmental damage caused by oil pollution from leaky pipelines, oil theft, oil spills, pipeline sabotage, and illegal refining activities. To this day, the Nigerian National Oil Spill Detection and Response Agency (NOSDRA) reports hundreds of oil spills each year in the region. Through the Embassy Science Fellows (ESF) program, the EPA met with leadership of NOSDRA and held a series of meetings and trainings to address important issues regarding response, spill prevention and remediation of legacy sites. The ESF framework also enabled participation by other U.S. Federal Agencies including NOAA, BSEE and the USCG. The partnership on these issues is helping to contribute to State Department mission objectives for advancing an environmental policy that balances energy security, economic growth, and environmental protection.

ESF Program Activities:

EPA (*David Morrison*) facilitated 8 two-hour meetings through July, August, and September with participation by NOSDRA officials, environmental scientists, and U.S. Federal Agency representatives (*see final agenda for further details*).

ESF Support and Assistance Provided By:

U.S. Department of State, U.S. Consulate General, Lagos, Nigeria
- Briana Olson, Mayowa Obilade, Kenechukwu Onyeke

Nigerian National Oil Spill Detection and Response Agency (NOSDRA)
- Idris O. Musa, Director General/Chief Executive Officer
- Dr. Yusuf Rigasa, Director Oil Field Assessment

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- Ariana La Grenade-Finch, Harichandana Karne, Lisa Almodovar, Cam Hill-Macon, Adam Vrabec, Ralph Dollhopf, Joe Davis, Bob Egan, Troy Swackhammer

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Environmental Response Team (ERT):
-Terrence Johnson, Tom Kady, Gary Newhart, Ramon Ortiz

U.S. Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement
- Julie Fleming, Eric J. Miller, Bryan Rogers, John Caplis

U.S. Coast Guard
- LCDR Adriana Gaenzle, CDR Wes James, LCDR Jason Scott, CDR Roberto Rivera

U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
- Adam Davis, NOAA Scientific Support Coordinator for USCG District 8

Virginia Tech, Department of Sociology & Center for Coastal Studies
- Liesel Ritchie, PHD