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Mr. Dave Maroc
Earthwise Environmental SA (PTY)Ltd
T/A Spillsorb
Vonkel Street
Saxenberg Park II
Rustdal Cape Town 7580
South Africa

4th July, 2013

Dear Mr. Maroc,

In April, 2012, the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) established an Independent Advisory Panel to provide scientific recommendations to Shell Petroleum Development Company of Nigeria Ltd (SPDC), to help restore the biodiversity of its oil spill sites in the Niger Delta on invitation by Shell, International.

A 7-member panel of international scientists making up the IUCN- Niger Delta Panel (IUCN-NDP) was set up in April 2013, in response to the invitation by Shell and is now nearing conclusion of the first phase of its work, to recommend approaches and international specialists that would work with Shell Petroleum Development Company, Nigeria (SPDC) to apply recommended bioremediation approaches starting with four pilots projects in the Niger Delta. SPDC is a partnership of the Nigerian government, Shell, and Totalfina / ELF and Agip.

A number of specialists' profiles, including your organization, were reviewed by the IUCN Panel based on commendations from international NGOs or consultants the field and spillsorb was recommended as one of the most efficacious bio-products for aggressive treatment of hydrocarbon pollution. We have also received valuable information from an NGO PurpleHibiscus and EwinMark who have applied this product in the Nigeria and testify to the performance of spillsorb in the field as a product that could completely degrade a wide range of hydrocarbon pollutants within relatively short time frames especially when inoculated with oil degrading microbes.

The IUCN Panel has produced a series of biophysical reports from the pilot sites since October 2012, but in our recommendations, IUCN-NDP requests that the specialists conduct their own lab tests to derive site specific data relevant to development of site specific treatments using native isolates for inoculation of the spillsorb from the sites. The Nigerian government does not allow importation of foreign microbes as this constitutes part of your treatment regime – therefore the bio-products would have to be based on native site specific isolates.

Starting in the next quarter, the IUCN Panel would recommend specific field pilots to be implemented using approaches and products developed by a range of specialists like your organization. The Niger Delta has four broadly defined eco-regions namely; Barrier Islands, Mangroves, Freshwater and Lowland forests – all delineated by the hydrological influences of the River Niger and its tributaries. Soil characteristics in the mangroves are mainly clayey or clayey/silty with very high pollution levels of hydrocarbons and heavy metals, which exceed 30,000mg/kg of hydrocarbons in soil in some cases. We understand from background data received from the PurpleHibiscus and EwinMark that your organization has developed special bio-products for complete remediation hydrocarbons as reported in your website that could tackle these kinds of hydrocarbon pollution successfully.

We would like to ascertain how effective your approach would be in the mangroves where the challenges include acidity, anaerobic conditions and crude oil pollution in subsurface waters and in soil. Other polluted soil conditions such as sandy/ loamy and ground water contamination also exist and the Panel would like to verify claims by your associates in Nigeria to see how your products could be applied in these areas as well.

The IUCN-NDP Panel would be on hand to advice and assist on local conditions and has noted that initial site investigations would be paid for, as indicated by Ewin Mark and PurpleHibiscus --- and that they would be able to support your efforts in that regard to ensure that your organization receives all the assistance it needs on the ground to achieve the level of success that it has been commended for.

It would be great to hear from you to indicate your interest in working on this project and how your organization would approach challenges in the field pilot demonstrations. Kindly note that the pilots are real situations of actual oil impacted sites, which are covered in the IUCN- NDP biophysical reports that would be available on request from IUCN by the end of August 2013.

SPDC will contact you directly when they finally decide on the preferable approaches to select.

We look forward to hearing from you at your earliest convenience.

Thank you.



Dr. Uzo Egbuche
Chair, IUCN - Niger Delta Panel



Steve Edwards
Co-ordinator, IUCN - Niger Delta Panel