



## **Nature of International Maritime Security Threats in Nigeria Coastal Waters and Economic Development: Delta and Rivers States in Perspective**

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### **Abstract**

The nature of international maritime security threats in Nigeria coastal waters has huge implications for economic development of Rivers and Delta States because of the geostrategic position of the states in international trade. The purpose of this paper is to examine the nature of international maritime security threats in Nigeria coastal waters affecting poverty and unemployment levels in Delta and Rivers States. This paper was built around the neo-functional integration theory of multilateralism paradigm at systemic level of analysis. The sample size of the study was 385 respondents drawn from a population of 9,925 people comprising of staff from Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Nigeria Customs Service, Nigeria Police Force and Nigeria Maritime Administration and Safety Agency in Delta and Rivers States. The population of the study equally includes staff drawn from Togolese, Benin republic and Senegalese embassies Abuja as well as operators of shipping businesses, fishing groups and oil servicing firms in Warri, Port Harcourt, Oporoza and Bonny. Primary data were collected from close-ended and open-ended questionnaire and in-depth interview involving 15 experts. Also, data were collected from secondary source. Data from questionnaire were analysed using simple percentages and absolute frequencies, while data from in-depth interview were analysed using narrative analytic technique. Data from secondary source were analysed using relational-content analysis. Findings showed that the nature of international maritime security threats in Nigerian coastal waters hinders economic development of Delta and Rivers States and trans-border cooperation among littoral states as well as poverty alleviation in the coastal areas are among the strategies for mitigating international maritime security threats affecting economic development in Delta and Rivers States. Among other things, it was recommended that the littoral states should urgently form joint maritime security taskforce for eliminating all threats from the crimes hindering economic development of Delta and Rivers States.

**Keywords:** International; Maritime Security; Development; Economic Development

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## Introduction

The economic health of West African sub-region is largely dependent on the elimination of international maritime security threats such as sea piracy and oil bunkering from the coastal areas of Delta and Rivers States. The foregoing is as a result of the fact that the Gulf of Guinea is a transit hub for most of the West African's over \$252 billion USD worth of trade. The sub-region equally serves as a major transport route for export and import of petroleum products. This further shows that increase in the level of piracy attacks on the sea affects the economies of states within the Gulf of Guinea and beyond in several ways (African Center for Strategic Studies, 2015).

The maritime domain in the in Delta and Rivers States has been confronted with international maritime security threats, internal conflicts, poverty, international disputes in the Gulf of Guinea, among other challenges; hence deterring Nigeria from reaping the full benefits derivable from its location in the Gulf of Guinea. Nigeria loses about \$600 million USD in export earnings every year because of sea piracy attacks in the coastal areas of Delta and Rivers States alone. Nigeria equally lost nearly \$115.4 billion USD to oil theft in the Niger Delta region from 2000 to 2008 as well as about \$7.7 billion per day illegal oil bunkering in 2011 (Shafa, 2011).

In the Nigerian coastal states, sea piracy and oil theft have contributed to increase in illegal arms trafficking, resulting in the seizure of 13 containers of illegal arms at Apapa Sea Port, Lagos State, in October 2010. Even though countries like Cameroon, Mali, Nigeria, Kenya, Senegal, Guinea and Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) are threatened by oil theft, sea piracy and other maritime security threats in West Africa nothing significant has been done by the government and other stakeholders in the international maritime sectors, making Nigeria, DRC, Cameroon, Code' D'Ivoire, Mali, Sudan, and Kenya continue to be poorly ranked 7.65, 6.45, 4.96, 5.95, 5.90, 5.75, and 5.56 respectively (Enact, 2019).

The nature of international maritime security threats in Nigeria coastal waters has huge implications for economic development, not only in the Niger Delta states of Rivers and Delta States, but also in Nigeria generally, West Africa, Africa, and the world at large because of the geostrategic position of the country in international trade. As at 2007, there were over 100 attacks on vessels in Nigeria coastal waters arising from the nature of



international maritime security threats in the coastal waters of Nigeria, even though the spate of the attacks reduced in 2009 due to Amnesty Programme between the government and the militants (Ebo'o, 2019). The spate of sea piracy increased again when the Amnesty Programme was suspended by President Muhammadu Buhari with its huge impact on the economic development in the coastal areas of Nigeria. In spite of the efforts of the government to secure the country's maritime domain and protect it from international maritime security threats confronting it, oil theft and sea piracy continue to constitute huge threats to economic development in the country. Therefore, this paper is geared towards the examination of the nature of international maritime security threats in Nigeria coastal waters hindering economic development of Delta and Rivers States as well as proffer strategies for mitigating challenge posed by international maritime security threats affecting economic development in Delta and Rivers States.

### **Research Propositions**

The following research propositions were examined in this paper:

- i. The nature of international maritime security threats in Nigerian coastal waters hinders economic development of Delta and Rivers States.
- ii. Trans-border cooperation among littoral states as well as poverty alleviation in the coastal areas are among the strategies for mitigating international maritime security threats affecting economic development in Delta and Rivers States.

### **Conceptual Explication**

#### **International Maritime Security**

Before delving into the conceptualisation of international maritime security, it is vital to first and foremost examine the concepts of security. According to Okereke and Okoli (2020), security was originally used in describing situations related to liberation from two Latin words "se" which means "without" and "curus" which means "uneasiness". The authors further stressed that security is usually perceived as a largely contested concept. For them, security is a policy objective that is targeted at protecting cherished values of the state. However, the authors' perception of security is over-generalized which made it inadequate to the requirements of this paper.



For Akbar (2012), security has two aspects: traditional security and non-traditional security. Traditional security is focused on the protection of the state as well as its cherished values from attacks, especially from external aggressors, while non-traditional security is individual-centric in nature. Nevertheless, the author did not examine the components of the concept of security, which is vital to this paper.

In their contribution to the definition of security, Eme and Onyishi (2014) asserted that the concept of security is defined to include individual security, collective security, economic security, legal security, political security, health security, environmental security and other aspects of security. For the authors, anything that constitutes threat to the safety of individuals or state constitutes security threats. However, the authors did not define security to capture international maritime security, which is the focus of this paper.

Bueger (2015) defined international maritime security by pointing out those things that pose threats in the maritime domain. In this regard, threat such as trafficking of narcotics, environmental crimes, maritime disasters and accidents, arms proliferation, among others are discussed. The foregoing defines international maritime security in a negative light, but the concept of international maritime security can be defined in a positive light by constructing a nexus between it and the blue economy. International maritime security can be perceived as sea power which is related to the traditionalist view of security. However, this definition did not meet our requirements in this paper.

For Francois (2013), international maritime security is equally linked to development because the oceans occupy a pride of place in enhancing economic development. This is hinged on the fact that majority of goods are transported through the seas and fishery equally occupy a vital portion in international trade. The commercial importance of oceans has been increasing as a result of offshore resources such as fossil fuel, seabed mining and ocean terrorism. Therefore, international maritime security can be perceived as attempts to protect as well as use global maritime resources in a sustainable manner. International maritime security is connected to economic development, human security, national security and environmental security. The author also linked international maritime security to development, which is linked to the dependent variable in this study.



From the foregoing, international maritime security is defined, in this study, as ensuring the safety of maritime professionals, vessels, environment and businesses resulting in social and economic loss in coastal areas of Delta and Rivers States. International maritime security issues include issues relating to sea piracy, maritime kidnappings, sea robbery, oil theft, oil bunkering, vessel theft, kidnapping of crew members, sea terrorism, among others, in the coastal waters of Rivers and Delta States.

### **Economic Development**

Literature on development showed that the concept can be better understood by looking at social and economic aspects of development. Nahar (2014) noted that development is a concept that is flexible, broad and holistic depending largely on our own disciplinary traditions, manner of thinking and orientations. Development involve improvement in the quality of lives of people in a state; efficiency and equity in the distribution of natural resources, increase in the number of people that participate in the process of decision-making, continuous improvement in the welfare of the individuals as well as that of the society. Nevertheless, the foregoing definition of development is not linked to employment creation and poverty reduction in Rivers and Delta states, which is needed in this study.

More so, literature on development show that the common dimensions of development are education, employment, health, poverty, justice, gender, equity, access to basic infrastructure as well as services and inequality. Soft aspects of development include morality, culture, ethics and spirituality (Adam, Mohammed & Bin-Baron, 2019). This definition of development is slightly related to the meaning of the concept in this study because it touches on poverty; however, the definition did not touch on unemployment which is vital in the definition of development in this study.

According to Wilson (2020), development can be perceived as a process that brings about change or transformation of institutions of the state in a way that brings about improvement in the ability of a state to realise its aspirations. This shows that development sometimes involves quantitative change in the manner in which a state carries out its activities in the area of improvement in the behaviour of its citizens, adoption of more advanced technology in order to improve the quality of lives of the people as well as improvement in the way a state conducts its affairs. The foregoing definition of development did not largely meet our



requirements in this study. Therefore, development is defined, in this study, as adequate protection of maritime businesses and individuals in the coastal areas with a view to achieving steady increase in the wellbeing of people in coastal communities in Delta and Rivers States. Development, in this study, is targeted at reduction in the level of unemployment and poverty in coastal communities in Delta and Rivers States.

Migala-Warchal (2019) defined economic development by examining the determinants of the concept such as Gross Domestic Product (GDP) per capita, unemployment rate, gross domestic expenditure, number of people with lower secondary education, number of people who cannot meet their unexpected expenditure, the number of people who are at the risk of poverty, number of people who live in slums in cities, and number of people who have access to quality education. The author's definition of economic development captures unemployment rate which one of the variables in the definition of the concept in this study, but omitted poverty rate which is equally vital in the definition of the concept in this study.

In view of the foregoing, economic development is defined, in this study, as prevention of sea piracy and oil theft in Nigeria coastal waters with a view to reducing poverty and unemployment rates in the coastal communities in Rivers and Delta States. In this study, economic development is measured in terms reduction in the level of poverty and unemployment in coastal areas in Delta and Rivers States.

### **Theoretical Framework**

This paper was built around the neo-functionalist theory of multilateralism paradigm at systemic level of analysis. The origin of the theory was traced to the writings of David Mitrany (Asogwa, 1999). The theory has many perspectives including inter governmentalist integration theory and neo-functionalist integration theory associated with the works of E.B. Haas in the late 1950s and early 1960s (Niemann, Lefkofridi&Schmitter, 2018).

The major assumption of the theory is that when states agree to cooperate in one area or sector, the cooperation provides platform for them to cooperate in related areas (Schimmelfenning, 2010). The theory is relevant to this paper because it helps our understanding of the need for international cooperation in combating sea piracy and oil theft



responsible for increasing level of poverty and unemployment in coastal areas of Delta and Rivers States.

## Methodology

The design of this paper is a mixed design involving descriptive and historical research designs. The population of the study was 9,925 comprising of respondents from Nigeria Ministry of Foreign Affairs (815), Nigeria Customs Service (1,658), Nigeria Police Force (3,477), Nigeria Maritime Administration and Safety Agency (1,133), from Delta and Rivers States. This also includes staff in Togolese (61), Benin Republic (57) and Senegalese Embassies (53) in Abuja. The population of study equally includes operators of shipping businesses and fishing groups in Warri and Port Harcourt (262) and oil servicing firms in Oporoza and Bonny (186).

Rakesh sample size formula was adopted in arriving at a sample size of 385. Proportional random sampling was used in allocating questionnaire to population units because of the heterogeneous character of the population units, while purposive sampling was used in tentatively selecting 15 experts for in-depth interview from the population units using saturation theory. Out of 361 questionnaire administered to the respondents, 318 questionnaires were dully-filled and returned to the researcher for analysis. Secondary data were collected from reports of International Maritime Bureau, Nigeria Maritime Administration and Safety Agency, among others, on sea piracy, and oil theft affecting economic development in Nigeria. Data collected from questionnaire were analysed using simple percentages and absolute frequencies, while data from in-depth interview were manually-transcribed and analysed using narrative-analytic technique. Data from secondary source were analysed using relational content analysis.

## Data Analysis

### Examination of Research Proposition (i)

**Research Proposition 1:** The nature of international maritime security threats in Nigerian coastal waters hinders economic development of Delta and Rivers States

Findings from questionnaire show that majority of the respondents either strongly agree that sea piracy involves actors from diverse countries operating on national, sub-national,



regional, and international waters with their activities hampering shipping businesses in Delta and rivers States; while majority of the respondents strongly agree that oil theft has global nature, but it is the leading cause of poverty in coastal areas of Delta and Rivers States' coastal communities. Also, majority of the respondents strongly agree that driven by lack of adequate protection of maritime domains in West Africa; sea piracy has largely reduced the level of employment in Delta and Rivers States coastal areas, while majority of the respondents agree that driven by demand for cheap crude oil in developed economies, oil theft increases unemployment rate amongst the people in the coastal communities in delta and Rivers States. In addition, majority of the respondents agree that the nature of international maritime security threats in Nigeria coastal waters hinder increases poverty level among residents of coastal areas of Delta and Rivers State. Majority of the respondents opined that international maritime security threats in Nigerian coastal states of Delta and Rivers States is trans-border in nature and involves many actors that work in harmony in increasing the level of poverty in the coastal areas.

Similarly, findings from in-depth interview showed that maritime security threats such as sea piracy and oil theft are international in nature. They are universal crimes that cannot be combated by one country alone. It is an organised criminal activity involving people from diverse nationalities. Sea piracy and oil theft have national, sub-regional, regional, and global dimensions. Table 1 shows the nature of international maritime security threats affecting poverty and unemployment levels in the coastal areas of Rivers and Delta States.

**Table 1: Actors in the value chain of Oil Theft and Sea Piracy in the Niger Delta**

Category of Actors	Illegal Fuel Trade	Oil Theft	Piracy
local Actors	Niger Delta militants, Community Leaders	Niger Delta Youths, Community Leaders	Niger Delta Youths, Community Leaders
Intermediate Actors	Oil companies & NNPC officials, Nigeria Customs service, Vessel Owners, PPPRA, registered oil marketers, shipping industry	Security personnel in Nigeria, oil companies, senior politicians, retired Army Generals	Security personnel in Nigeria, oil companies, senior politicians, retired Army Generals
International Actors	foreign and local banks, international	Network of transnational	Network of transnational




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organised syndicates	criminal	organised groups Rotterdam Market Netherlands refining crude	criminal and Spot in for	organised groups Rotterdam Market Netherlands refining crude	criminal and Spot in for
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Source: Compiled by the Researcher from Interview Conducted (2022)

Also, findings from in-depth interview showed that the nature of international maritime security in the coastal areas in Delta and Rivers States disrupts development in the coastal areas. In this regard, sea piracy and oil theft are harmful to fishing and other maritime businesses in the coastal areas. Sea piracy and oil theft are equally pervasive in the coastal areas, hence impacting negatively on economic development in the coastal areas. Therefore, maritime insecurity, especially oil theft is characterised by loss of revenues, loss of jobs and means of livelihood of people through incessant attacks on ship operators.

Findings from both questionnaire and in-depth interview are slightly similar to findings from previous studies. In this regard, Essien and Adongoi (2015) studied sea piracy and security challenges of maritime business operations in Bayelsa State, which is slightly different from the focus of this study, which is focused on Rivers and Delta States. The previous study found that sea piracy attacks have significant effect on maritime businesses in Bayelsa State is slightly related to the findings of this study by pointing out the fact that the nature of sea piracy in Bayelsa State is destructive since it impacts negatively on maritime business. However, the findings of the study are different from the findings of this study in terms of depth of issues covered.

The findings of this study are different from the study by Nwalozie (2020) in terms of areas of coverage of the study and variables studied. While the study by Nwalozie (2020) focused on contemporary sea piracy in Nigeria with particular reference to the Niger Delta and Gulf of Guinea generally, this study focused on the nature of sea piracy and oil theft on economic security of the people in the coastal areas in Delta and Rivers States. However, the findings of the study by Nwalozie (2020) showed that maritime criminal activities in Nigeria have impacted adversely on agriculture, and economy of the country, which is related to the nature of sea piracy and oil theft in Rivers and Delta States with variations in terms of variables covered in the study.



Findings from the study by Adodo-Adebanjoko (2017) focused on towards ending conflicts and insecurity in the Niger Delta region using qualitative methods. The study did not identify the nature of sea piracy and oil theft in Delta and Rivers States like the findings of this study. The study is only slightly related to this study in terms of geographical coverage, but differed significantly from it in terms of issues covered.

The study by Olukayode and Urhie (2014) focused on insecurity and socio-economic development, which is different from this study in terms of issues covered. However, the study found that increase in the level of insecurity has impinged negatively on businesses in the country, which is slightly related to the destructive nature or character of sea piracy and oil theft in the coastal areas of Rivers and Delta States as found by this study. In addition, a study by Adodo-Adebanjoko (2017) did not examine the nature of maritime insecurity in Delta and Rivers States, hence making it largely different from the focus and findings of this study.

Finally, the study by Ukeje and Ela (2013) focused on approaches to maritime security with particular reference to the Gulf of Guinea. Though the study focused on maritime insecurity which is covered by the findings of this study, it did not examine the nature of international maritime security in coastal areas of Delta and Rivers States which makes it different from the findings of this study in terms of focus. In view of the foregoing, majority of the findings from questionnaire, in-depth interview and previous studies largely supports our research proposition 1. Therefore, research proposition 1, the nature of international maritime security threats in Nigerian coastal waters hinders economic development of Delta and Rivers States, was accepted.

### **Examination of Research Proposition (ii)**

**Research Proposition (ii):** Trans-border cooperation among littoral states as well as poverty alleviation in the coastal areas are among the strategies for mitigating international maritime security threats affecting economic development in Delta and Rivers States.

Findings from questionnaire showed that majority of the respondents strongly agree that Yaounde Code of Conduct can be adopted in combating oil theft for enhanced poverty reduction in coastal areas of Nigeria, especially in Rivers and Delta States, while majority of the respondents agree that ECOWAS Protocol can be used in fighting sea piracy for



improved employment opportunities in the coastal areas of Rivers and Delta States. Majority of the respondents agree that International Maritime Organisation can play adequate role in reducing oil theft for improved job creation in Delta and Rivers States, while majority of the respondents strongly agree that International Maritime Bureau can be used as a veritable investment in combating oil theft for enhanced poverty reduction in coastal areas of Delta and Plateau State. Also, majority of the respondents strongly agree that transnational cooperation as well as collaboration are among the effective measures in combating sea piracy for enhanced reduction of unemployment level in coastal areas of Delta and Rivers States. In view of the foregoing, majority of the respondents were of the view that the oil theft can be mitigated through effective collaboration between Nigeria and littoral states for improved poverty reduction in coastal areas of Delta and Rivers States.

Similarly, findings from in-depth interview showed that joint maritime security operations should be carried out by countries that share international waters with Nigeria with a view to effective monitoring of the Gulf of Guinea. Also, it was found that poverty alleviation could be used in discouraging more people from indulging in the crime of sea piracy and oil theft in the coastal areas of Rivers and Delta States, while creation of employment opportunities for youths in the coastal areas of Rivers and Delta States is found to be effective in combating sea piracy and oil theft in the coastal communities of Rivers and Delta States. More so, strengthening of laws for combating sea piracy and oil theft in Nigeria would further mitigate the crime, while improved collaboration and security cooperation between Nigeria and other littoral states would largely solve the challenge of sea piracy and oil theft in the coastal areas. Similarly, eradication of corruption among maritime security personnel in Nigeria coastal waters would largely improve security of lives and properties in the coastal areas of Delta and Rivers States.

Findings from questionnaire and in-depth interview are slightly similar from findings from previous studies. In this regard, Mair (2011) examined piracy and maritime security with particular reference to regional characteristics, political, military, legal, and economic implications, which is not largely related to the focus of this study. The findings from the study showed that effective fight against maritime piracy requires a functioning state, which is related to the findings of this study in terms of focus, but differ from it significantly in terms of depth of suggestions made for combating sea piracy and oil theft in the coastal areas.



Findings by a study by Balogun (2018) focused on oil theft, petro-piracy and illegal trade in fuel, which is related to the findings of this study in terms of issues covered. The study recommended increased national, regional, and international cooperation as panacea to oil theft, illegal trade in fuel and piracy, which is related to the findings of this study, but differed from it in the area of focus of the recommendations. Similarly, Odalonu (2016) focused on oil theft and insecurity in the Niger Delta region, which is slightly related to the focus of this study. The study recommended the sea piracy should be combated from the source by solving the problem of unemployment, poverty, resource control and land degradation in the Niger Delta region, which is related to the finding of this study. The foregoing showed that findings from in-depth interview, questionnaire and secondary data support our research proposition (ii). Therefore, research proposition (ii), trans-border cooperation by littoral states and poverty alleviation in the coastal areas are among the strategies for mitigating international maritime security threats affecting economic development in delta and Rivers States, was accepted

## **Discussion of Findings**

The findings from this study and the findings of previous studies support our research proposition (i) in significant ways in terms of identification of the universal and trans-border character of sea piracy and oil theft in Rivers and Delta States. Findings from previous studies as well as findings from this study reinforce the fact that sea piracy, oil theft, and other maritime criminal activities transcend national borders as it involves actors from many parts of the globe whose major aim is to make profit from their activities on maritime domains. Findings from this study agree with findings from previous studies in terms of characterisation of sea piracy and oil theft as being destructive to the quest for individuals, groups and even states from states to generate projected revenues.

In view of the foregoing, the position of this study that sea piracy involves actors from diverse countries operating on national, sub-regional, regional, and international waters with their activities hampering shipping businesses in Delta and Rivers States as well as the position that oil theft has global nature, but it is a leading cause of poverty in coastal areas in Rivers and Delta States become valid. Also, the findings of this study that sea piracy is driven by lack of adequate protection of maritime domain in West Africa making the crime reduce the level of employment in Delta and Rivers coastal areas as well as the finding that demand



for cheap illicit crude oil by some developed economies reduces the quality of lives of people in the coastal communities in Delta and Rivers States are valid. The finding of this study that the nature of international maritime security threats in Nigeria coastal waters hinders economic development in Delta and Rivers States is valid because of huge financial loss that is associated with the transnational crime of sea piracy and oil theft. The foregoing has linkages with the findings from in-depth interview showing that sea piracy and oil theft are harmful to fishing businesses, increases loss of lives and properties, and disrupts development in the coastal areas of Rivers and Delta States become valid and linked to the character of other trans-border crimes such as arms trafficking, drug trafficking, smuggling of goods and services, human trafficking, among others.

More so, the findings from this study are slightly similar to the findings from previous studies by scholars such as Essien and Adongoi (2015); Nwalozie (2020); Olukayode and Urhie (2014); among other supported the findings of this study to the extent that they established the character of international maritime security as a trans-border crime. However, the findings of this study are more in-depth and covers more issues than findings from previous studies in the examination of the nature of sea piracy and oil theft in relation to the wellbeing of individuals in the coastal areas in Rivers and Delta States of Nigeria in particular and littoral states in general.

The findings of this study showing that sea piracy and oil theft are trans-national in nature is linked to the tenets of neo-functional theory. This is because the nature of the crimes requires the intervention of the regional, sub-regional and global organisations in tackling the crime through cooperation. This is key in the understanding of the need for sub-national actors such as shipping companies and oil firms in Rivers and Delta States to begin to cooperate politically and economically across the borders in order to lobby government to further cooperate in tackling trans-border crimes in the region. Therefore, research proposition (i), the nature of international maritime security threats in Nigerian coastal waters hinders economic development of Delta and Rivers States, was accepted.

Findings from this study support our research proposition (ii). This shows that the findings of this study on effective measures for combating sea piracy and oil theft are valid and can be replicated in other studies following the same methods adopted in this study. Findings



showed that the most effective strategies for combating sea piracy and oil theft in coastal areas of Delta and Rivers States are trans-border cooperation and collaboration by littoral states through multilateral mechanisms of ECOWAS Protocol, Yaounde Protocol, among other similar multilateral instruments. Sea piracy and oil theft being transnational organised criminal activities require the use of technology as well as human security measures such as creation of employment opportunities for the youths in the coastal areas and poverty alleviation in combating it for improved economic development of coastal areas in Rivers and Delta States.

The findings of this study are aligned with the findings from previous studies by scholars such as Mair (2011); Odulonu (2016); Balogun (2018); among others, and the tenets of neo-functional integration theory, that pointed out that sea piracy, oil theft, among other international maritime security threats can adequately be tackled by trans-border measures. However, the findings of this study are deeper than the findings of the previous studies by going beyond the strategy of trans-border cooperation to suggest human security measures such as poverty alleviation and job creation as potent ways for combating sea piracy and oil theft as well as ensuring security of lives and properties in the coastal areas of Rivers and Delta States. Therefore, research proposition (ii), trans-border cooperation among littoral states as well as poverty alleviation in the coastal areas are among the strategies for mitigating international maritime security threats affecting economic development in Delta and Rivers States, was accepted.

## **Conclusion**

The paper examined international maritime security threats in Nigeria coastal waters and economic development with Delta and Rivers States in perspective. The paper examined the international maritime security threats affecting Delta and Rivers States with a view to proffering solution to the challenge to enhance economic development in the states. findings showed that sea piracy, oil theft and other maritime criminal activities transcend national boundaries as it involves diverse criminal actors located in different parts of the world. Given the nature of international maritime security, it is concluded that unless there is meaningful cooperation and collaboration among littoral states, all efforts at combating the crime would be exercise in futility.



## Recommendations

The following recommendations were made in the paper:

- i. Due to the transnational and destructive nature of oil theft and sea piracy, the littoral states should urgently form joint maritime security taskforce for eliminating all threats from the crimes hindering economic development of Delta and Rivers States; and
- ii. The federal government of Nigeria should urgently send a bill to the National Assembly on the establishment of local maritime security outfits in the coastal areas that would work in harmony with the Nigerian Navy and other relevant organisations in eliminating the negative impacts of sea piracy and oil theft as well as ensuring poverty reduction in the coastal areas in Rivers and Delta States;

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## Appendix 1

### Questionnaire Instrument

#### SECTIONS B

This section of the questionnaire contains questions that are directly related to the objectives of the study. Please provide answers as appropriate by ticking [ ] the correct option of your choice. SD = Strongly Disagree, D = Disagree, U = Undecided, SA = Strongly Agree, A = Agree (using Likert Scale)

#### Section B: Nature of International Maritime Security on the Coastal areas in Nigeria

Item	Correlated statements	SD	D	U	A	SA
1	Sea piracy involves actors from diverse countries operating on national, sub-regional, regional, and international waters with their activities hampering shipping businesses in Delta and Rivers States					
2	Oil theft has global nature, but it is the leading cause of poverty in coastal areas of Rivers and Delta States					
3	Driven by lack of adequate protection of maritime domain in West Africa; sea piracy has largely reduced the level of employment in Delta and Rivers States					
4	Oil theft increases unemployment amongst the people in the coastal communities in Delta and Rivers States					
5	The nature of international maritime security threats in Nigeria coastal waters increases poverty level among residents of coastal areas of Delta and Rivers States					

6. What is the nature of international maritime security threats in Nigeria coastal states of Delta and Rivers States? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



## **Appendix II**

### **Oral Interview Guide**

1. What is the nature of oil theft and sea piracy in the coastal areas affecting Delta and Rivers States?
2. Do you think that the nature of oil theft and sea piracy in Nigeria coastal water has any impact on the coastal areas in Rivers and Delta States?
3. How can the adverse nature of international maritime security threats affecting economic development in Delta and Rivers States be mitigated?