



## **OPERATION GREEN JUSTICE**

### **Objective**

*Operation Green Justice* is designed to identify, mobilize and deploy the instrumentality of all the relevant legal provisions in the Nigerian constitution in order to ensure that all societal institutions, including the government, respect the land and play their rightful roles in management, maintenance and conservation of our shared living space at the local, state and national levels. This operation takes effect immediately and shall last as long as needed in order to assure that its principal goal has become well entrenched in shepherding the environmental imperatives of WIEF's target area.

### **Strategy**

WIEF's extensive field work, which includes soil erosion studies, workshops and sensitization campaigns in communities throughout ground zero, have revealed many man-made problems caused by willful negligent acts by individuals, groups or even the government which end up compounding the environmental nightmare faced by the populace. In some instances, there are blatant violations of existing laws and statutes by incorrigible perpetrators who persist in their unlawful actions because of lack of predictable punitive consequences for doing what they do. *Operation Green Justice* shall retain expert legal services, as deemed necessary and appropriate, in order to exert accountability and remedies from whoever willfully negates the constitutional rights of the populace to a clean, safe and habitable living space.

WIEF's operational mantra is predicated on empowering the public to retake ownership of the environment on which our collective survival depends. It is fact that the primary responsibility for proper environmental husbandry rests with the government because it remains the arbiter of the people's resources, both the ones realized from our natural resources and those raised through taxation. It is also fact that we the people must see to it that those in authority are not allowed to renege on meeting the basic existential needs of the citizenry without consequences.

In ordered societies, citizens usually seek legal redress whenever there is a perception that their constitutional rights are being infringed upon by fellow citizens, corporate entities and even the government. Nigeria operates a constitutional democracy in which the rule of law must prevail for all, both great and small. There are instances where constitutional rights of the of the populace have been infringed upon and as a consequence of such acts, entire communities are often exposed to the harmful consequences engendered by widespread environment degradation, decay and pollution due to no fault of theirs. *Operation Green Justice*, in close collaboration with the afflicted, seeks redress to the full extent allowed by the nation's laws.



### **Funding & Financial Management**

The seed money to initiate *Operation Green Justice* shall be mobilized by WIEF stakeholders as usual. Initial capital outlay of N1 million (\$7,000US) shall be dedicated for community outreach, assemblage of competent legal team from all parts of ground zero and for payment of initial installment for prosecuting litigable cases to be filed in Nigerian courts with appropriate jurisdiction over some carefully selected instances. Additional funds shall be solicited from individuals, communities, groups and civil society in an ongoing basis. Alex Ikefuna (Engineer) shall head *Operation Green Justice* and shall also lead in mobilizing the wherewithal, from sundry sources already delineated, for its successful implementation. The Executive Director of WIEF Nigeria, Dr. Odili Ojukwu, shall be responsible for holding, dispensing and accounting for all funds mobilized for *Operation Green Justice*. Since some of the litigated cases shall include monetary compensations for damages, pain and suffering resulting from defendants' negligent acts, it is anticipated that *Operation Green Justice* shall soon become self-sustaining after the initial court cases are won.

### **Process & Procedure**

The first essential step is identification of instances of blatant malfeasance such as negligent acts by businesses or government organs throughout WIEF's operational area. The Uke junction eyesore is a very good example. Items identified and their locations shall help WIEF in deciding the associate stakeholders with which *Operation Green Justice* can establish functional partnership, case by case. WIEF team on the ground shall lead in assembling all relevant facts, including sourcing and liaising with expert consultants as needed, before the matter is transferred to the legal team for necessary filings. Where the defendant(s) on any particular case would prefer to settle out-of-court, WIEF shall determine the terms for such settlements.

### **Conclusion**

It is gross injustice for law-abiding citizens to be denied their inalienable right to a clean, safe and healthy living space without which survival itself becomes an impossible task for many, particularly those who occupy the bottom rung of society. WIEF, in implementing its mission of enabling public ownership of the environment throughout ground zero, has seen the necessity of firming up the rights of grassroots population through litigation as a powerful tool for freeing up the human and material energies which, in turn, shall be deployed for accomplishment of the foundation's agenda.

Utilizing the legal infrastructure to defend the constitutional rights of the downtrodden shall further endear WIEF and its mission to the target population and also provide all the necessary free publicity which shall be generated through the mass media when high-profile cases of public interest are taken to the courts of law. *Operation Green Justice* is the logical sequel to its successful predecessor, *Operation Green Parrot*.