## The Statistical Based Approach to Vulnerability and Adaptation Strategies by Rural Farmers to the Impact of Flooding In Rivers State, Nigeria.

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#### Author's contributions

This work was carried out in collaboration between all authors. Author CAT design the study, performed the data analysis, and wrote the first draft of the manuscript. Author TB and PTO reviewed the first draft of the manuscript and helped with the revisions. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.

### ABSTRACT

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> Aims: To examine the Statistical based approach to Vulnerability and Adaptation Strategies by Rural Farmers to the impact of flooding in Rivers State

Study design:Cross sectional survey design

Place and Duration of Study: The study was carried out in Okirika, Obio Akpor, Opobo/Nkoro, Andoni, Ahoada West and Bonny Local government area all in Rivers state, between December 2016 and September 2017

**Methodology:**.Thesurvey methodwasemployed whilst 399 copies of questionnairewere used toelicitinformationfrom399respondents.Purposivesamplingtechnique wasemployedtochoose the sixcommunities affected byflooding.Pearson product moment correlation coefficient wasemployedtotest thehypothesis.

Results: The findingsshowed that there wasasignificant relationship between knowledge of adaptationstrategies flooding and of the farmers; also tha groupsaffectedbytheimpactof uralfemalefarmersarethemostvulnerable flooding. Themajorunderlyingcauseof flooding was found to be farming in floodprone areas. Ontheadaptation thestudyshowedthatmajority measures, oftherespondents perceivedthatbuildingofcriticalinfrastructureshave beenacrucialmeasurein checkmating the impacts of flood;haphazardconstruction ofhouses along flood plains to be majorfactormilitatingagainsttheefficientmanagement of

floodingintherespectivecommunities

**Conclusion:**It was concluded that cluster groups should be organized so as to sensitize the people on the impact of flooding and possible adaptation measures

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Keywords: Vulnerability, Impact. Adaptation strategies and rural farmers

# 2829 1. INTRODUCTION

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Flooding is one of the greatest environmental, economic and social problem that the world is experiencing currently [1]. Its impact is often felt most by rural farmers. Much literature, documentaries organization on the impact of flooding exist in some libraries and the internet[2]

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The impact of Floodisspatiallyheterogeneousacross geopoliticalscales in Nigeria,Forinstance, therisk isgenerallybelievedtobemore acutein the southsouth and Niger-Benue though regions of the country, Due to the fact that these areas relyheavilyonclimate-sensitivesectors,suchasagricultureand fisheries, and havelowGDPs,highlevelofpoverty,lowlevelsof education,and weak institutional,economic,technical,and financialcapacity to manage floods [3]

43 Theimplicationisthat vulnerability of countries and societies to the effects of climate change dependsnotonlyonthemagnitudeofclimaticstress 44 45 butalsoonthesensitivityand capacityofaffectedsocieties toadapttoorcopewithsuchstress 46 [4]. Therefore, vulnerability isthedegreetowhichasystem issusceptibleor 47 48 unabletocopewiththeadverseeffects ofclimate change, and extreme weather.Vulnerabilityisafunctionofthecharacter,magnitude,and 49 rateofclimate variationtowhichasystem is exposed to, its sensitivity, and its adaptive capacity [3] 50 51 52 Ananalysisofvulnerability tofloodingisneededatthelevelthat adaptation 53 wouldenablepolicy makers totacklefloodingproblemswiththeprecisionthat 54 isnecessary [5].After all, it is by understanding, planning for, and adaptingtoachanging 55 individuals and societies climate that 56 cantakeadvantageofopportunities and reducerisks [6]. This is particularly themost 57 necessary inNigeria, populouscountry inAfricaand 7thintheworldwith162million people,ofwhich51percentresideinruralareas[7].More 58

importantly, there is nonational-level analysis offlood vulnerability that provides the
 spatial picture that is needed to understand where and how flooding might
 constitute a threat to security in the country, even though studies indicate that
 Nigerialies within a high vulnerability region in Africa. [8].

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64 The aim of this research was to examine the statistical based approach to vulnerability and adaptation strategies to rural farmers to the impact of flooding in 65 Rivers state. The specific objectives of the study were to: Identifying the most 66 vulnerable areas and groups affected by the impact of 67 flood in the rural communities of Rivers state and to Examining the different adaptation measures to 68 the impact of flooding taken by rural farmers in Rivers state to reduce the impact of 69 70 flooding on development while the research hypothesis formulated was that There is no significant relationship between knowledge of the impact of flooding and 71 72 adaptation strategies used by the people of Rivers state.

### 74 **2. METHODOLOGY**

75 76 The study populationasseeninTable1 was 2,738,331 personswhich consisted 77 ofrural farmers 78 oftheselectedthirty(30)communitiesinthesix(6)localgovernmentareas. These were 79 the areas affected most by flooding inRiversstatewhichrepresented33% of the entire 80 Riversstatepopulation of8,201,591[9]. 81 Furthermore, the National Population Commission 82 dataof2006wasusedasthebaseyearandprojectedto2016usinganannualgrowthrateof3 83 .2%. 84 Data for this work was from both primary and secondary sources. The sample size 85 was determined through the use of the [10] sample size determination formula. 86 87 The Purposive sampling technique was used to elicit information from the rural farmers in the rural areas for the study. In the context of this research rural areas 88 have few people who are mostly into farming and petty trading spread out over a 89 stage,theStatewasgrouped 90 large area [11]. Inthefirst 91 intothreeStrata(SenatorialDistricts);RiversEast, RiversWest,andRivers-SouthEastsenatorialdistricts. 92 93 ThesecondstageinvolvedthestratificationoftheSenatorialDistrictsintoLocalGovernmen tArea 94 andtwo(2)LocalGovernmentAreafromeachoftheSenatorialdistrictswhichincluded(Okir 95 96 ikaand Obio-AkporLGAs-RiversEast,Opobo/NkoroandAndoniL.G.A's-97 RiversSouthandAhoadawest BonnyLGAsand Riverswest)thatwerevulnerabletofloodingwasrandomlyselected 98 togivea 99 totalofsix(6)L.G.A's.. 100 101 ThethirdstageinvolvedthestratificationofeachL.G.A'sintoCommunities.Five(5)rural communitieswerepurposively chosenfromeach 102 of thesix(6)L.G.A'smakingatotalofthirty(30) communities with reference to Table 1. The 103 104 rationale behind the selection of the communitieswas based on 105 theruralnatureofsuchcommunitiesandalso theprimary 106 livelihoodpatternwhichincludedfarmingand fishing. 107 108 Furthermore, thedatathatwasusedfortheresearchwasderivedlargelyformfieldsurvey 109 throughtheuseof 399 copies of questionnaire and fieldobservation.The purposeofthismethodordesignwasto 110 acquireinformationfromasamplepopulationinorderto makeaninferenceonthe 111 entirepopulation(sampleframe)ofthestudyarea. 112 113 114 115 116 117 118

S/NO	LGAs	Senatoria I district	Communities	2006 Population	2016 Populat ion Projecti on	Questionna ire distributed	Retrieved questionnair e
1	Okirika	Rivers East	1.lbaka 2.Sarrah 3.Owuambo Kiri 4.Biebele 5.Owuigono	295,325	404,66 6	20 19 30 20 15 Total;104	18 13 20 20 15 Total:86
2	Obio Akpor	Rivers East	1.Rumuigbo 2.Woji 3.Oginigba 4.Elelenwo 5 Elioparanwo	535,800	734,17 5	21 30 25 21 10 Total;107	10 15 15 13 5 Total:58
3	Opobo/N koro	Rivers South	1.Epelema 2.Queens Town 3.Minimah 4.Kalibiama 5.Aya-ama	173,228	237,36 7	6 7 8 9 5 Total; 35	5 5 6 9 4 Total:29
4	Andoni	Rivers South	1.Ataba 2.Ayama 3.Dema 4.Ikuru 5.Ngo	248,532	340,54 8	15 11 8 9 7 Total;50	13 10 8 9 7 Total:47
5	Ahoada west	Rivers west	1.Akinima 2.Edeoha 3.Idoki 4.Oboh 5 Ochigba	285,116	390,67 6	12 9 8 9 18 Total;56	10 9 8 9 16 Total:52
6	Bonny	Rivers west	1.Finima 2.Oloma 3.Abalama 4.Abaja 5.Bonny	237,299	325,15 6	16. 12 .9 5 .5 Total;47	15 11 8 4 4 Total:42
	GRAND TOTAL			2,098,431	2,738,3 31	399	314

125 Source;[2]

The following procedure and statistical technique was employed for the analysis 128 129 which included the Geographic information system using the choropleth technique of mapping and descriptive statistics, Pearson product moment correlation 130 coefficient was employed so as to establish the relationship among variables under 131 132 consideration in order to arrive at a good decision. Apart from investigating causal 133 relationships between the variables, it was helpful in measuring the actual impact of each independent variable in predicting the outcome of the dependent variable. 134 This technique could only be applied to make generalization about a larger sample 135 136 size. [12] recommended 15 samples to arrive at a fairly accurate result. Hence, the adoption of this statistical technique was justified. 137

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#### 140 3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

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# 143 Vulnerable Areas and Categories of People prone to the impact of flooding in the 144 Rural Communities



Fig 1: Residing in Flood Prone areas as the Underlying cause of Vulnerability



Fig 2: Poverty as the Underlying Cause of Vulnerability towards the impact of flood





#### 160 161 *Category*

The percentage scores of respondents (65%) as shown on Table 2 indicated that the female respondents are the most vulnerable to the impact of flooding while the male respondents are the least vulnerable with a response rate of 35%.

Meanwhile, it is important to stress that women generally tend to be more vulnerable to the impact of flooding due to limited access to resources (wealth, knowledge and skills, technology, infrastructure and information) than men. This limitation has the potentials to increase vulnerability and thus limit their ability to cope.

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#### Underlying Cause of Vulnerability

174 Investigation reveals that the underlying cause of vulnerability posed some 175 consequences on the respondents. For instance 56% of the surveyed respondents, 176 opined that residing in area prone to the impact of floding was the major cause of 177 vulnerability. Their reasons for their opinion were borne out of the fact that most of 178 the rural communities under study lack adequate land for building/construction and 179 they are close to the floodplain. Furthermore, based on this fact that most of them 180 reside in flood prone areas, it was discovered that the major reason for this was poverty and this correlates with the second highest opinion which reveals that 181 182 poverty was the major underlying cause of vulnerability as 34% of the respondent concurred to that. Thus, if poverty exists, then definitely there would be no way they 183 could have an alternative livelihood and this accounts for the 10% of respondents 184 185 who agreed that lack of alternative livelihood was a major factor of vulnerability.

Figure 1 shows the choropleth map on residing in flooding prone areas which was carried out by the researcher based on the surveyed local government areas. The legend indicated that 17-27 respondents had the opinion that their location is low to vulnerability while 28-38 respondents are located in a moderate flood prone area and 39-48 respondents are located in a high flood prone area.

Furthermore, Figure 2 shows the choropleth map on poverty as the underlying cause of vulnerability which was carried out by the researcher based on the surveyed local government areas. The legend indicated that 8-15 respondents had a low opinion that poverty was a major cause of vulnerability while 16-22 respondents had a moderate opinion that poverty was a major cause of vulnerability in their location and 23-29 respondents had a high opinion that poverty was a major cause of vulnerability

Figure 3 shows the correlate mapping on lack of alternative livelihood as the underlying cause of vulnerability which was carried out by the researcher based on the surveyed local government areas. The legend indicates that 3-4 respondents had a low opinion that lack of alternative livelihood was a major cause of vulnerability while 5-6 respondents had a moderate opinion that lack of alternative livelihood was a major cause of vulnerability in their location and 7-8 respondents had a high opinion that lack of alternative livelihood was a major cause of vulnerability.

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Areas Most Vulnerable to Flooding





Figure 4: High Density Market as Most Vulnerable to flood impact



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Figure 5: Poor Residential Areas as Areas Most Vulnerable to the impact of flooding





Figure 6: Unplanned Communities/Town as Areas most vulnerable to flood impact

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Table 2: Category of People Vulnerable to the impact of flooding (n=314)

Response	Frequency	%
Category		
Male	109	35
Female	205	65
Underlying cause of Vulnerability*		
Residing in flood prone area	177	56
Poverty	106	34
Lack of alternative livelihood	31	10
Areas Most Vulnerable to the impact of f	lood*	
High density market	45	14
Poor residential areas	73	23
Unplanned communities/towns	196	62

231 Source: Data Analysis, 2017

Multiple Response

The areas which are vulnerable to the impact of flooding had impact on the respondents who lived in those locations. Majority of about 62% of the respondents as seen on Table 2 adjudged that unplanned communities and towns are highly vulnerable to the impact of climate change. In expatiation to the reason given, based on observation, it was seen that these communities are unplanned due to the fact that there are no existing building laws that regulate the construction of building in the communities. Further investigation revealed that most of the buildings are carried out haphazardly with no proper plan on ground. Hence, if the communities are unplanned, it will definitely lead to poor residential environment which is clearly visible in almost all the surveyed locations of study. This accounts for the 23% of responses which relied on the fact that the poor residential areas are prone to flooding because they neglect building codes and ethics. The least percentage of responses was on high density markets as revealed by 14% of respondents.

- 248 Subsequently Fig.4 shows the choropleth mapping on high density mapping of areas 249 most vulnerable to the impact of flooding which was carried out by the researchers 250 based on the surveyed local government areas. The legend indicates that 4-6 251 respondents had a low opinion that high density markets are areas most vulnerable 252 to the impact of climate change while 7-9 respondents had a moderate opinion that 253 high density markets are areas most vulnerable to the impact of flooding and 10-12 254 respondents had a high opinion that high density markets are areas most vulnerable 255 to the impact of flooding.
- Fig 5 reveals the choropleth mapping on poor residential areas as areas most vulnerable to flooding which was carried out by the researcher based on the surveyed local government areas. The legend indicates that 7-10 respondents had a low opinion that poor residential areas are most vulnerable to flooding while 11-14 respondents had a moderate opinion that poor residential areas are areas most vulnerable to flooding and 15-18 respondents had a high opinion that poor residential areas are areas most vulnerable to flooding .
- Figure 6 reveals the choropleth mapping on unplanned communities/towns as areas most vulnerable to the impact of flooding which was carried out by the researcher

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based on the surveyed local government areas. The legend indicates that 18-30 respondents had a low opinion that unplanned communities/town are most vulnerable to the impact of flooding while 31-42 respondents had a moderate opinion that unplanned communities/town are areas most vulnerable to the impact of flooding and 43-54 respondents had a high opinion that unplanned communities/town are areas most vulnerable to the impact of flooding.

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#### Different Adaptive Measures to Flooding Taken by the Rural Communities 275

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#### Table 3: Multiple Responses on the Different Adaptive Measures to the impact of 279 flooding Taken by the Rural farmers to Reduce the Impact (n=314)

Adaptive measure*	Frequency	%
Indigenous Ways Adopted by the People		
Use of sand bags	31	10
Formation of local groups	67	21
Planting of trees	32	10
Construction of drainage channels	252	80
Building of soak pit	87	28
Adaptation Measures Used to Cushion Flooding		
Building of critical infrastructure in the community	278	88
Training of volunteer on flood, capacity building etc.	38	12
Movement from a flood prone area	77	25
Listening to information about flooding through mass media such as	99	32
radio, newspaper etc.		
Others	62	20
Factors Militating Against Efficient Management of Flood Disaster		
Lack of implementation of existing flood policies	98	31
Poor town planning such as haphazard construction of houses in the	124	40
community		
Rising population and increased density	67	21
Others	23	7
Information Needed to Adapt to Flooding		
Cause of flooding	190	61
Effect of flooding	65	21
Adaptive measures	209	67
Source Data analysis 2017		

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#### Indigenous Ways Adopted by the People.

286 Data analysis shows that the most common indigenous measures undertaken by 287 majority of the respondents in the communities as seen in Table 3 were the construction of drainage and building of soak pits. These two measures were 288 289 applied by 80% and 28% respectively of the surveyed respondents in the sampled 290 communities. Such high success rate in the adaptation measures can be explained 291 by (i) the drainages were constructed by the locals with high gradient and proper 292 layout; likewise the soak pits formed from the runoff from the drainage channels. 293 However, on careful observation carried out by the researchers, it was found out that 294 majority of the drainages that were constructed are not really constructed with

- 295 mortar, leading to an imminent collapse within a short time frame. Furthermore, rural 296 dwellers found in the various communities have resulted in a self-help effort by the 297 formation of local groups which account for the 21%. This self-help effort groups are 298 headed by well exposed individuals who are, most times, trained by volunteers on 299 the impact of flooding. The duty of these heads is to enlighten other members of the 300 groups found in the community on recent adaptation measures. This correlates to 301 the preceding 10% who attributed that they have adopted the planting of trees as an 302 adaptation measure towards flooding. The reason for this percentage is as a result 303 of the activities and the effort of the local groups in educating the rural dwellers on 304 different adaptation measures. Moreover, the least percentage went to the use of 305 sand bags. The reason for this low response from the respondents was based on 306 the fact that from, a careful observation, Impact of flood in form of flood often 307 washes away the sand easily, it might also lead to erosion which may become 308 disastrous for the communities.
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#### Adaptation Measures to Cushion Flooding

- 311 Almost all respondents adapted to one or more measures so as to cushion flooding. 312 Results as seen in Table 3 reveal that the most common adaptive measures to 313 cushion the impact of flooding e.g. flooding were the construction of critical 314 infrastructures in the community. About 88% of the respondents had this opinion and 315 obvious findings show that most of these critical infrastructures were carried out by 316 external assistance and in other times by the locals. Also, it was discovered that 317 most of the ancient infrastructures that were put in place by the past administration 318 have been overstretched by the inhabitants. Furthermore, since these critical 319 infrastructures have been provided, the respondents are of the opinion that they 320 have started listening to programmes and documentaries on the impact of flood 321 through the mass media which include flood forecasting from the radio and 322 television, etc., and this attests to 32% of the respondents who have opinion on this 323 factor. 324
- 325 In the same vein, in putting what they have heard through the mass media into action, respondents have decided to liaise with internal/external organizations who 326 327 are willing to train those who have decided to become volunteers. These volunteers 328 are trained on pre-requisite knowledge on flood control with global practice on how 329 to adapt to flood disaster. Lastly enlightenment on movement to a flood prone area 330 is seen as the last option and this attests to the 25% of respondents having opinion 331 on this factor. The reason for this low percentage is as a result of poor linkage of 332 nearby communities in the area and also that relocation is not a good strategy. 333 Thus, making them reside where they have been used to. 334

#### Factors Militating against the Adaptation strategies towards flood Disaster

- According to the perception of respondents, a combination of factors has militated against the efficient management of flooding disaster. These factors were lack of implementation of existing policies on the impact of flooding, poor town planning such as haphazard construction of houses in the communities, rising population and increased density and other factors.
- As stated earlier majority of the respondents (40%) stated that poor town planning such as haphazard construction of houses in the communities had been a major factor militating efficient management of climate change disaster in their communities. Careful observation by the researcher to find out why there is a haphazard construction of buildings shows that those who are to implement these

348 laws are not even coming to work as most of them reside in the urban areas and 349 come only when there is verification of staff by their local government council 350 secretariats. Thus, if those who are supposed to ensure the strict compliance of this 351 laws are not on ground, it will lead to lack or poor implementation of the existing climate change policies if even they have any. This fact concurs to the 31% 352 respondents who concurred to the existing views of the researcher. A critical 353 354 evaluation of the flood policies in the local council shows that there is no existing 355 flood policy document in the study area as it was discovered that the process of 356 domesticating the existing flood policy document of the state is still in the process and bureaucracy has been a bottle neck in its enactment. 357

359 This, therefore, poses a serious challenge as there has been rising population 360 resulting in an increase in density of the area which accounts for 21% of the 361 respondents. It is pertinent to note that on careful observation, a large number of the 362 populace is yet to be acquainted with the state policy on the impact of climate 363 change. This calls for more effort in the sensitization of the rural populace. 7% of the 364 respondents accounted for other factors which were not mentioned in the data 365 collecting instrument as factors hindering the efficient management of the impact of 366 flooding.

#### 367 Information Needed to Adapt to the impact of flood

Observation revealed that the source of information needed to adapt to the impact of flood has substantially changed over the past years. This perception was corroborated by the data as seen in Table 3.

373 When respondents were asked on the appropriate information needed to adapt to the impact of flooding, about 67% of them felt that information on adaptive measures 374 375 are very vital in adapting to the impact of climate change, the reason for this 67% is 376 that respondents are of the opinion that the existing source of listening to the impact 377 of flooding information needs to be expanded and its content expatiated on adaptive 378 measures as they were already feeling the impact. Furthermore, on a careful observation of the content of the information about the impact of flooding which was 379 380 made available to the rural farmers, it was discovered that it lacked critical 381 information needed for adaptation in line with global best practices and this concurs 382 to the percentage of the respondents. In the same vein, 61% are of the opinion that 383 they still need to be abreast with information on the cause of flooding so as not to 384 contradict their local knowledge as can been seen in the percentage of respondents 385 who attested to this factor while 21% of the respondents preferred having 386 information on the effect since most of them are already conversant with the cause 387 and adaptive measures

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#### Testing of Hypothesis

392Ho: There is no relationship between knowledge regime and adaptation393strategies.

394 H1: There is a significant relationship between knowledge regime and 395 adaptation strategies.

Result on Table 4 indicates that there is a significant relationship between knowledge of flooding regime and adaptation strategies (r=0.612; p<0.01) which resulted in rejection of null hypothesis at 0.05 level of significance. Given strong positive correlation of 0.612, this implies that a percentage change (increase or decrease) in knowledge of flooding regime would lead to a corresponding change in adaptation strategies and vice versa.

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 Table 4: Pearson's Product moment Correlation Matrix Showing relationship

 between Knowledge of Flooding Regime and Adaptation Strategies

 \*\*Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

		Indigenous ways	Adaptation strategies
Knowledge of fleeding	Pearson Correlation	1	.521**
Knowledge of flooding	Sig. (2-tailed)		.000
regime	N	290	290
	Pearson Correlation	.521**	1
Adaptation strategies	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	
_	N	290	290
Source: Data Analy	/sis, 2017		

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#### 415 4. CONCLUSION

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The studyassessed the vulnerable groups and impact of flooding on the rural farmers and the different adaptive measures taken to reduce the impact. On identifying the most vulnerable groups that are often affected the study revealed that the rural females farmers are the most vulnerable groups affected by flooding and also that the major underlying cause of vulnerability is residing in flood areas.

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423 On the adaptation measures the study showed that majority of the respondent's perceived 424 that building of critical infrastructures has been a crucial measure in adaptation while poor 425 town planning such as haphazard construction of houses were perceived as a major factor 426 militating against the efficient management of the impact of flooding in the respective 427 communities furthermore the study showed that information on adaptive measure is what is 428 highly needed by the respondents to adapt to the impact of flooding.

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### 430 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

431

The Authors would like to acknowledged the comments and suggestions From Prof Imoh
 Ukpong of the Department of Geography and Natural Resources Planning, University Of
 Uyo, Akwa Ibom state.

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#### 439 COMPETING INTERESTS

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441 Authors have declared that no competing interest exist 442

#### 443 ETHICAL APPROVAL

Approval for this study was obtained from the Department of geography and Natural resources management of the University of Uyo. Also, verbal informed consent was obtainedfrom each respondent. All the participants were informed that the study is voluntary and that they could opt out of the study at any time. Also participants were assured that confidentiality would be maintained during and after data collection and that information given will be used for research purposes only. And lastly articles and authors used were sighted accordingly in this research

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491	APPENDIX