**Cover Letter**

i. Ema, Eti-obong Simeon of the University of Uyo, Akwa Ibom State, Nigeria.

ii. Not applicable.

iii. A brief description of the novelty and importance of the findings detailed in the paper

iv. I declare that this research work was carried out in the ethical standards of the University of Uyo by me.

v. There has not been any conflict of interest in this work as it was an independent research carried out as a partial requirement to the completion of Masters degree in Geography and Natural Resources Management. There was no sponsorship of this work by any Organisation.

vi. Informed Consent: Consent was obtained by all participants that contributed to the study.

vii. Ethical Approval: The paper received the ethical approval of the University of Uyo postgraduate School board.

viii. Trial Registration

Not Applicable.

ix. Contributorship: Not Applicable.