

## Niger Delta Poetics and the Politics of Environmental Rebranding

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**ABSTRACT** The Niger Delta extends over 70,000 km<sup>2</sup> and makes up 7.5 percent of Nigeria's land mass. The region has experienced the bad side of mineral exploitation with the discovery of crude oil in commercial quantities with only a meager share of the dividends. This study delves into how literary artists particularly poets in Nigeria have articulated their dissent against the excruciating age-long suppression. While many scholars have looked into the Niger Delta issue from socio-political angle, an ecological platform has been purposively chosen, beaming the search light on Albert Otto's *Letters from Earth*, Tanure Ojaide's *Tale of Harmattan* and Sophia Obi's *Tears in my Basket*. This research work is based on ecocriticism, a theoretical framework that engages nature, looking into the untoward cultivation of natural resources. Niger Delta poetry therefore exposes hard core challenges on environmental degradation with oil pollution, gas flaring, desert encroachment, animal extinction, acid rain and sea pollution subsumed. The poets in their different poetic input unite in adopting a fearless stance as worthy activists as they mediate between mother earth and her age-long traitor. This study use intellectual resources toward reversing all actions enhancing despoliation of the earth. Hence, it squall for immediate rescue of the hitherto perishing valuables nature enables.