

The Forum is a collaborative effort between the Special Climate Change Unit (SCCU) of the Federal Ministry of the Environment, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and civil-society organizations, such as the Nigerian Environmental Study/Action Team (NEST) and Building Nigeria's Response to Climate Change (BNRCC), Nigeria Climate Action Network (Nigeria-CAN) and the Heinrich Böll Foundation (HBF).

Building Nigeria's Response to Climate Change

The BNRCC is playing a leading role in this process of developing a comprehensive climate change adaptation strategy and plan of action for Nigeria.



BNRCC partners at Esuk Idebe in Cross River State on practical use of SAS2 tools.

The BNRCC is a four-year project funded by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) and implemented by Marbek Consultants (www.marbek.ca) and CUSO-VSO (www.cuso-vso.org) in partnership with the Nigerian Environmental Study/Action Team (NEST) (www.nestinteractive.org) of Nigeria.

The BNRCC aims to increase Nigeria's capacity to adapt to the effects of climate change — and reduce its negative impact on vulnerable geographic regions and households in those areas. To do this, the BNRCC is taking action by:

Supporting research projects on Nigeria's vulnerability to climate change impacts and identify adaptation strategies;

Supporting pilot projects in communities across Nigeria;

Initiating communication, outreach and networking activities to generate climate change action and adaptation in Nigeria.

CLIMATE CHANGE IS REAL: TO SURVIVE - ADAPTATION IS THE KEY

The global climate patterns are changing. Around the world, storms are more intense resulting in floods; this surfeit in some places seems to have become a deficit in others, where drought has become the norm. In Nigeria, the rains have become unpredictable; the desert is growing and the sea level in coastal cities like Lagos is rising dangerously. This is called 'Climate Change'.



Sand dunes submerging farmlands and houses in the Nigeria Sahel

For more information on our other project components, please visit our website or pick up some copies of our other brochures. To learn more about how you can participate in the adaptation to climate change strategy please contact us at: www.nigeriaclimatechange.org or info@nigeriaclimatechange.org, Naspa.nigeria@yahoo.com

Scientists affirm that unless there is a substantial reduction in the green house gas emissions within the next decade, the earth will be on course for further warming: continued drought, floods, severe storms and rising sea levels. This will translate into a loss of food crops, homelessness, and starvation, exacerbating conditions that could lead to conflict, war and misery for millions of persons.

Despite all the evidence that supports the increasing damage to the ozone layer, scaling back carbon emissions has become a fierce political issue, pitching rich countries against each other and against poor countries, opening old divisions within countries.

To reduce carbon emissions, countries have to become more energy-efficient or develop a series of adaptation strategies by switching to clean or renewable energy sources. This may carry a socio-economic and political price.

Nigeria's 800 kilometre coastline makes it particularly vulnerable to any rise in the sea level; while the other two-thirds of the country face potential damage from heavy storms (ie, the MiddleBelt and South) and increased drought and desertification in the North. Global climate change is a real threat to household food security and livelihood in Nigeria because 60 per cent of the labour force is engaged in agriculture which is basically rain-fed.

Extreme weather events, such as flash floods, high winds, hurricanes, and severe dust storms can damage industrial structures, particularly power plant installations. Flooding can also pose a serious health security problem especially if safe drinking water supplies are contaminated resulting in the spread of water-borne diseases, such as cholera, typhoid, and dysentery. At the same time, prolonged dry periods also carry a variety of dangerous dust-borne infections, such as cerebrospinal meningitis, parovirus, conjunctivitis, recurring fever, etc.

Building Nigeria's Response to Climate Change (BNRCC) Project (www.nigeriaclimatechange.org) is supporting the development of a comprehensive and sustainable National Adaptation Strategy and Plan of Action (NASPA) on climate change for Nigeria through the provision of counterpart funding for this action that will be used at federal, state and local government levels.

Some of the efforts embarked upon under this component of BNRCC project include the signing of an agreement by Key Climate Partners to Collaborate on Nigeria's Climate Change Adaptation Strategy and Plan of Action.

The partners include:

- Federal Ministry of Environment- Special Climate Change Unit (SCCU),
- NEST BNRCC
- Nigeria-CAN
- UNDP
- Heinrich Böll Foundation (HBF)

The above agencies are collaborating to develop a 'national adaptation strategy and action plan' through a consultative multi-stakeholders forum.

The partnership is unique because of the strong civil society involvement.

The ultimate goal of the partnership is to:

- Develop a comprehensive national strategy and plan of action that will:
 - provide a mandate to integrate adaptation into key federal and state policies and Programmes;

Enhance the adoption of adaptation efforts at all levels of government.

Through the:

a. Establishment of an advisory forum made up of civil society, government, private industry and environmental groups to oversee the process.

This forum will direct in-depth assessments of impacts and adaptation to climate change in all sectors – including agriculture, health, insurance and financial sectors, energy and infrastructure.



Signing the NASPA MoU by key partners in Abuja

b. Development of innovative action plan, using existing as well as new implementation tools that will bring about real adaptive actions at the national, regional and local level.

c. Gather experts and stakeholders from across the country to assess Nigeria's key vulnerabilities and develop implementable strategies

d. Holding regional meetings to ensure the final strategy and action plan have the community inputs from across Nigeria

e. Commissioning of policy research

The Inauguration of the National Adaptation Strategy and Plan of Action (NASPA) Multi-stakeholder Forum

The Multi-stakeholder Forum (MF), tasked with developing Nigeria's National Adaptation Strategy and Plan of Action, was inaugurated December 1, 2009.

NASPA is a national strategy which will effectively and systemically tackle the threat of climate change. The plan enables the federal, state and local governments to effectively integrate climate change adaptation concerns into their developmental policies.

The Multi-Stakeholder Forum comprises government, civil society and private sector Representatives.

The MF will establish a framework for the NASPA as well as establishing multi-stakeholder working groups (MSWG) to develop the policy.

The Forum meets regularly to monitor and evaluate Progress.