



NATIONAL ACTION PLAN ON GENDER AND CLIMATE CHANGE FOR NIGERIA (2020)

Federal Ministry of Environment

Simplified Summary

Curated by Clean Technology Hub



Clean Tech Incubation &
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Energy Innovation Center



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Action Plan is based on a series of informed consultations with different stakeholders (Government Ministries, Departments and Agencies, CSOs, women, youth, farmers, persons with disability, elderly persons, among others) using inclusive participatory approaches. It will guide the implementation of gender and climate change-related policies, strategies, programmes, negotiations and actions at Federal, State and Local Government levels. Some of these policies and strategies include;

- I. National Adaptation Strategy and Plan of Action for Climate Change in Nigeria (NASPA-CCN 2011);
- II. Nigeria Climate Change Policy Response and Strategy (2012);
- III. National Agricultural Resilience Framework (2014);
- IV. Agriculture Promotion Policy (2016); and
- V. National Gender Policy 2006 (revised 2015). Other related policy instruments include
- VI. Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and its Sectoral Plans.

GOAL

1. The purpose of these regulations is to prevent or minimize pollution and encourage energy efficiency in all operations and ancillary activities of the energy sector in order to achieve sustainable economic development in Nigeria.
 2. These Regulations shall cover power generation, transmission and distribution from the following:
 - a. combustion processes fueled by gaseous, liquid, and solid fossil fuels are designed to deliver electrical or mechanical power, steam, heat, or any combination of these, regardless of the fuel type;
 - b. renewable (hydro, wave, wind, solar, geothermal, biomass) sources; and
 - c. nuclear sources.
- Increase the understanding of climate change impacts among women, youth and other vulnerable groups through evidence-based vulnerability analysis and dissemination.
 - Promote mainstreaming of gender in all policies, programs and processes of climate change management in various sectors of the economy.
 - Advocate the integration of gender concerns and gender-responsive innovative approaches in the implementation of the Paris Agreement and Nigeria's NDCs.
 - Increase participation of vulnerable groups, especially women, youth, and people with disabilities, in climate change policies and negotiations at local, state, national and international levels.



- Promote the implementation of gender responsive and sustainable adaptation and mitigation initiatives that will minimize risks associated with climate change while maximizing opportunities for women, men, youth and other vulnerable groups.
- Establish a gender responsive monitoring and evaluation system for the collection and regular dissemination of sex disaggregated data on climate change issues.
- Promote the mobilization of climate finance to implement gender-sensitive adaptation initiatives to enhance the resilience of women, youth and other vulnerable groups.
- Strengthen capacity of the Department of Climate Change for gender mainstreaming in the overall national climate change response.
- Provide a uniform implementation guide and platform for partnerships building and coordination among key stakeholders working on gender and climate change in Nigeria.

GENDER AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Gender mainstreaming is the process of assessing the implications for women and men of any planned action, including legislation, policies, and programmes in all areas and at all levels. It is a strategy for making women's as well as men's concerns and experiences an integral dimension of the design, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of policies and programmes in all social, economic, and environmental spheres, so that women and men gain equality by transforming the mainstream. It does not entail developing separate women's projects within work programmes or even women's components within existing activities in the work programmes. It only requires that attention be given to gender perspectives as an integral part of all activities across all programmes. This involves making gender perspectives—what women and men do and the resources and decision-making processes they have access to - more central to all policy development, research, project development, planning, implementation, and monitoring of norms and standards.

Gender mainstreaming includes gender-specific activities and affirmative action whenever women or men are in a particularly disadvantageous position. Gender specific interventions can target women exclusively, men and women together, or only men, to enable them to participate in and benefit equally from development efforts. These are necessary temporary measures designed to combat the direct and indirect consequences of past discrimination.



The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)

The UNFCCC is an international environmental treaty established in 1992. Amongst other goals, it is focused on facilitating inter-governmental climate change negotiations, providing technical expertise and assisting in the analysis and review of climate change information reported by Parties and on the implementation of the Kyoto mechanism. Nigeria signed the Convention on Climate Change on the 9th of June 1992 and ratified it on the 15th of April 1994. Nigeria also ratified the Kyoto Protocol on December 10th, 2004, and signed and ratified the Paris Agreement on September 22nd, 2016 and May 16th, 2017 respectively.

The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)

The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) is an international treaty of the United Nations aimed at ensuring the equal rights of men and women to enjoy all economic, social, cultural, civil, and political rights. Nigeria entered into force in 1981 and ratified the CEDAW on August 23rd, 1984. Nigeria agreed to implement all appropriate measures, including legislation and temporary special measures, to ensure that women's human rights and fundamental freedoms are protected. It may be impossible for Nigeria to achieve the goal of CEDAW if effective strategies are not put in place to address climate change and other challenges in a gender-sensitive manner. Since the impacts of climate change undermine the full enjoyment of rights that CEDAW aims to guarantee and lead to unequal access to these rights by different groups in society, the implementation of CEDAW has to take into account the climate change challenge.

The Maputo Protocol on the Rights of Women in Africa

The Maputo Protocol, as it is commonly referred to, is the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa. The Protocol, which supplements the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights, provides for a comprehensive set of human rights for African women. Nigeria ratified the Protocol in 2004 after its adoption in 2003. Unlike any other women's human rights instrument, the Maputo Protocol details wide-ranging and substantive human rights for women that cover the entire spectrum of civil and political, economic, social, cultural, and cultural rights, as well as environmental rights. Article 18 of the Protocol calls on State Parties to ensure women have the right to live in a healthy and sustainable environment, while articles 15 and 19 provide for the right to food security and the right to sustainable development, respectively. These rights cannot be achieved in the face of climate change challenges. The Maputo Protocol, therefore, is an important instrument that will contribute to addressing climate change, thereby ensuring the rights of women to a healthy and sustainable environment, food security, and sustainable development.



National Gender Policy

The National Gender Policy is designed to address the issue of imbalance in the opportunities available to women compared to men. The policy aims at dismantling barriers that limit women's access to and control over resources in order to enable them to break out of the poverty cycle and become more active economic agents. The goal of the policy is to build a just society devoid of discrimination where the needs and concerns of women, men, girls, and boys are mainstreamed equitably into all sectors of national development by developing and utilizing the capabilities and capacities of women, who make up half of the nation's population.

Nigeria's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)

Nigeria produced its NDCs to reduce greenhouse gas emission following the adoption of a new climate change agreement at 21st session of the COP to the UNFCCC in Paris, in December 2015. NDCs is a country specific pledge to reduce carbon emissions, which is an obligation of the Parties to the Paris Agreement. Nigeria's main targets for its NDC are 20% unconditional and 45% conditional green-house gas emission reduction by 2030. The key priority sectors of Nigeria's NDCs include – Agriculture and Land Use, Power, Transport, Energy, Oil and Gas. The idea is to adapt this plan in key areas – Agriculture, Disaster Risk Management, Education, Energy, Environment, Health, Forestry, Urban, and Water. The Department of Climate Change of the Federal Ministry of Environment in a bid to achieve the NDC has developed the National Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan. In addition, there was the development of Nigeria's Sovereign Green Bond in 2017.

Nigerian Constitution

The Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (1999) as Amended places an obligation on the State to protect and improve the environment and safeguard the water, air, land, forest and wildlife of Nigeria. The Constitution also prohibits discrimination on the grounds of place of origin, sex, religion, status, ethnic or linguistic association or ties. The above implies that the state or agencies acting on its behalf, while protecting and improving the environment, should not put some groups at a disadvantage based on their sex, religion, or ethnicity. This conforms to the principle of sustainable development, which is one of the principles guiding the UNFCCC. Based on the provisions of the Nigerian Constitution on environmental protection and preservation and



non-discrimination, it will be right to say that the National Action Plan on Gender and Climate Change will greatly contribute to fulfilling the provisions of the Nigerian Constitution.

Funding

Funds to implement the National Action Plan on Gender and Climate Change would be sourced from National and State budgets; the private sector; 25 CSOs; global finance agencies such as Global Climate Fund (GCF), Global Environment Facility (GEF), Adaptation Funds (AF), Development partners such as UNDP, World Bank (WB), Africa Development Bank (AfDB) and other climate funding institutions.

Monitoring and Evaluation

The monitoring and evaluation of this Action Plan will be coordinated by the Federal Ministry of Environment and the internal monitoring and evaluation systems of the responsible institutions and partners, including civil society.

PRIORITY SECTORS

This National Action Plan is focused on five key priority sectors indicated in the NDC and the Economic Recovery and Growth Plan (ERGP). They include:

1. Agriculture, Forestry and Land Use,
2. Food Security and Health,
3. Energy and Transportation,
4. Waste Management,
5. Water and Sanitation.

The overall objective is to mainstream gender concerns into Nigeria's climate-related policies, ensuring access to, participation in, contributions towards and benefits for the diverse group of stakeholders for the sustainable and equitable development of Nigeria.

Agriculture, Forestry and Land Use

Agriculture is an important aspect of Nigeria's economy and accounts for about 22.86% of GDP. Even though only about 32 million hectares of land are under cultivation, agriculture contributes significantly to employment, food production and export.



Agriculture is the source of food and provides employment opportunities to 37% of the country's population, with strong linkages to other sectors through downstream activities such as agro-processing, consumption and export, providing raw materials to industries and providing a market for manufactured goods. Food security is a major priority for the Nigerian government, in sync with the objectives set out in both the ERGP and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). An estimated 55% of the population in Nigeria live in rural areas where their livelihoods depend predominantly on agriculture. The agricultural sector in Nigeria is of importance due to its contribution to the national economy and the employment opportunities that it generates. In 2017, the agricultural sector accounted for 22.86% of the GDP.

Women constitute a substantial part of the agricultural labour force (75%), in a sector that is largely characterised by smallholder farmers that mostly cultivate rain-fed farms. The major constraint facing the agricultural sector is the declining labour and land productivity as a result of the use of poor technology and an overdependence on unpredictable and irregular weather conditions that is aggravated by the effects of climate change, which leads to livestock and crop failures impacting negatively on dependent communities. Agricultural growth is strongly reliant on environmental resources such as land, forest, and water. The sustainable use of these resources is vital for the growth and sustainability of the sector. Nigeria is endowed with rich forestland and biodiversity; the forest area is valued at 7.68% of the country. The forest encompasses three vegetation types: the swamp forest, tropical rainforest, and secondary regrowth, which are all found in the southern part of the country, and some game reserves in the northern part of the country. The forests in Nigeria are an important source of food, medicine, income for local people and raw materials for industries. Deforestation is currently a major challenge in Nigeria, with an annual deforestation rate of 3.5%. Lumbering, animal grazing, fuelwood and charcoal production are the major drivers of deforestation in Nigeria. Due to the link between forests and climate change, there are concerns about the unsustainability of current levels and processes of extraction and consumption of forest products.

Food Security and Health

Food security and climate change are ranked among the two major global challenges facing humanity. Climate change impacts directly on food security, thereby worsening the dangerous situation of those already impacted by food insecurity globally through droughts, excessive rainfall, wind and salinity. The issue of food insecurity is a major one. It is coupled with the challenge of dwindling or limited resources is needed for sustainable food security. Climate change will make it harder to overcome them, as it reduces the productivity of the majority of existing food systems and harms the livelihoods of those already vulnerable to



food insecurity. Population growth in Nigeria is increasing at a steady pace and will be accompanied by unprecedented rates of urbanization. The outcome will be rapid growth in demand for food. Additionally, government policies to raise the share of biofuels in energy consumption increase the challenges to Nigeria’s collective ability to achieve sustainable food security. Women, the poor, and other vulnerable groups are likely to be at risk of food insecurity as a result of climate change. Significantly, the effects of climate change on human society and the ability to mitigate and adapt to them are also impacted by social factors such as gender. In relation to public health, more frequent and severe extreme events are expected to have largely adverse effects on key determinants of human health, including clean air and water, sufficient food, and adequate shelter, which will aggravate existing inequalities. Gender-sensitive assessments and gender-responsive interventions have the potential to enhance health and to provide more effective climate change mitigation and adaptation. The FMARD projects that the demand for staple food will increase by more than 50% as a result of the growing population, effects of climate change and structural challenges—funding, farm supplies, etc.. Efficient production of these crops requires stable climate conditions. However, there has been a reduction in crop production in Nigeria due to the increase in surface temperature associated with global warming.

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

Agriculture, Forestry and Land Use (AFOLU)

Objectives	Action Steps and Timeline		Outcome
	2020-2022	2023-2025	
Build and strengthen institutional understanding of gender and climate change.	Conduct capacity assessments of institutions at federal and state levels on gender and climate change awareness and application.	Conduct capacity development training for federal and state institutions on gender mainstreaming in policies and programmes. Review existing and develop new policies and regulations for institutions to mainstream them.	Increased institutional capacity on gender related climate change issues, more policies, regulations, and integrating gender and climate change concerns.

Food, Security and Health



The main effects of climate change on health will include an increase in primary vulnerabilities: water and airborne diseases; food insecurities, heat and cold - related illnesses; and undernutrition. Unavailability and limited access to safe water, in particular during the dry period, is an additional threat.

The impact of climate change on human health depends critically on the success of adaptation to climate change in other sectors. Effective health care systems, implementing water and sanitation programs, and widening the coverage of public health interventions could significantly accelerate progress towards the achievement of health-related Sustainable Development Goals. These could include:

- Mainstreaming adaptation to climate change as a central part of public health services.
- Short, medium and long research on the adverse effects of climate change on health.
- Public awareness programs on climate change impacts on health.
- Development of an advanced preparedness plan.
- Partnership across society and with the global community in order to safeguard and enhance national as well as global public health security issues.

Energy and Transport.

Nigeria's energy challenges overlap with issues such as gender and poverty. Rural electrification is therefore a long term - national priority. The availability of electricity in rural areas would stimulate much needed social and economic development. Key issues need to be prioritised, such as promoting energy efficiency and emphasizing women's needs. Another predominant alternative source of energy, not limited to the rural areas of Nigeria, is the use of charcoal. The International Energy Agency records a steady increase in the use of charcoal from the year 2010 to 2018. The implication of charcoal consumption is the cutting and burning of trees. Note that the cutting of trees and replacement of trees is not proportionate, leading to catastrophic environmental effects. Nigeria's energy challenges overlap with issues such as gender and poverty. Rural electrification is therefore a long-term national priority. The availability of electricity in rural areas would stimulate much needed social and economic development. Key issues need to be prioritised, such as promoting energy efficiency and emphasizing women's needs. They include:

- Promotion and implementation of energy efficiency programs in supply transmission demanding and emphasizing women's needs.
- Restructuring of the energy pricing to guard against abuse and inefficiencies.



- Rationalising energy consumption in the demand sectors without reducing service levels negatively impacts economic development targets.
- Diversifying the energy supply resources by increasing renewable resources such as wind, solar and bioenergy.

Waste Management

Waste management has been a major challenge in Nigeria, especially since the post-independence era. Waste generation has consistently expanded both in volume and complexity. This is due to the rapid increase in the population over the years, the increase in socioeconomic development, industrialization, technology advancements, changing lifestyles, and consumption patterns. Sadly, these developments have not been matched by adequate lifestyles, including funding and infrastructural facilities, to sustainably manage this ever growing quantum of waste. Consequently, this has led to a poor state of our environment as all manner of waste clogs our drainages, littering our streets, highways, market places, public places, and, in fact, most open places. Nigeria generates over 32 million tonnes of solid waste annually. Solid waste is one of the largest sectors causing pollution in Nigeria and is also a significant contributor to climate change. Solid waste contributes directly to greenhouse emissions through the generation of methane from the anaerobic decay of waste in landfills and the emission of nitrous oxide from solid waste combustion facilities. Both of these greenhouse gases have a high global warming potential. Both women and men are involved in the production of agricultural and domestic waste. Likewise, they are also negatively affected by waste pollution, increasing health risks and lowering quality of life. Household members have different roles in handling different types of waste and in carrying out hygiene and cleanliness practices in the home and community, which makes their exposure to the harmful effects of waste vary.

Water and Sanitation

Limited access to water and poor sanitation in Nigeria is a major contributor to high mortality rates, especially among children. Contaminated drinking water and poor sanitary conditions, such as open defecation and poor waste management, result in increased vulnerability to water-borne diseases, such as diarrhea, which leads to deaths. UNICEF (2019) reports that only 26.5% of the population uses improved sanitation facilities. Water supply development is a three-tier responsibility in Nigeria between the Federal, State and Local governments. The responsibility for sanitation falls within the purview of state governments. As such, 69% of the population has access to improved water supply, 57% of the same population size are from rural communities. Despite the approval of the National Water Supply and Sanitation Policy in the year 2000, there has been little improvement in clean water supply and sanitation. The Federal Ministry of Water Resources and the river basin development authorities have



been directly carrying out water facility provisions such as boreholes in rural communities (Federal Ministry of Water Resources 2019).

EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE IN NIGERIA

Climate change is expected to have a gradual influence on agriculture, forestry, and land use, with impacts on both land and water. Nigeria is seeing changes in the frequency and severity of droughts and flooding. Climate change is also projected to cause long-term shortages of water and other resources, soil degradation, drought and desertification, and disease and insect outbreaks. These will result in changes in land use and the conversion of forests to grasslands, resulting in biodiversity loss.

In a nutshell, see the list below:

- Degradation of the land
- Pollution of fresh water sources and a decrease in biodiversity
- Extreme weather event, conditions and unpredictable patterns of rainfall
- Drought
- Displacement of persons/forced relocation

KEY STAKEHOLDERS

- Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (FMARD)
- Federal Ministry of Environment
- Civil Society Organizations
- Africa Development Bank (AfDB)
- World Bank (WB)
- Adaptation Funds (AF)
- National Adaptation Strategy and Plan of Action for Climate Change in Nigeria (NASPA-CCN)
- Special Climate Change Unit (SCCU)
- Climate Change Agriculture and Food Security (CCAFS)
- Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)

RELATED REGULATORY AND POLICIES

- National Adaptation Strategy and Plan of Action for Climate Change in Nigeria (NASPA-CCN 2011)
- Nigeria Climate Change Policy Response and Strategy (2012)



- National Agricultural Resilience Framework (2014)
- Agriculture Promotion Policy (2016)
- National Gender Policy 2006 (revised 2015)
- National Action Plan on Gender and Climate Change for Nigeria (2020)
- Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)

IMPLEMENTATION STATUS

- Nigeria's Climate Change Act became law on November 18, 2021. President Muhammadu Buhari of the Federal Republic of Nigeria signed the measure. Nigeria joins the UK, New Zealand, France, Sweden, Ireland, and Scotland in having legislation that sets objectives for decreasing carbon emissions.¹
- Recognizing the importance of gender mainstreaming in the execution of the Paris Agreement and Nigeria's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC), the Federal Ministry of Environment established a gender mainstreaming task force (through the Department of Climate Change) with assistance from the Women's Environmental Programme (WEP) and the United Nations.

¹ <https://www.financialnigeria.com/a-review-of-nigeria-s-climate-change-act-2021-feature-459.html>