



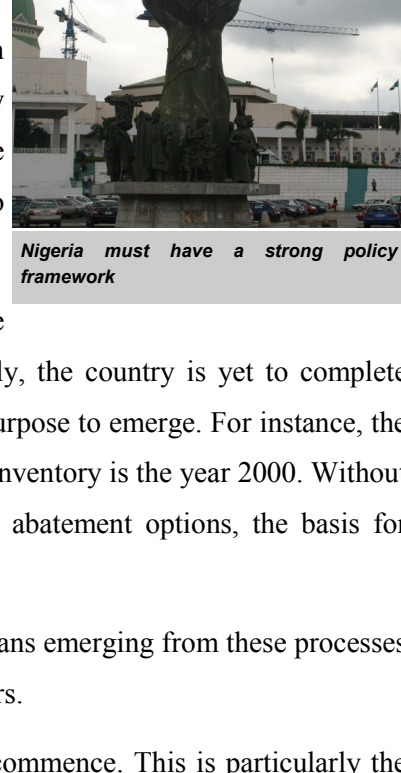
nigeriacan newsletter february 2011

Policies and action plans taking shape

This is a remarkable month for climate change governance in Nigeria. Recently, the Federal Ministry of Environment in collaboration with the House of Representatives hosted a validation workshop for the draft National Climate Change Policy. This is only one of the signs of growing traction for providing road maps in Nigeria's response to climate change.

This same month, the Ministry in collaboration with the UNDP brought stakeholders together to finalise the REDD Readiness Programme. A draft Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Action (NAMA) was also subjected to stakeholder review. This comes in addition to the progress already made in completing the National Adaptation Strategy and Plan of Action.

It is clear that Nigeria cannot make much progress on tackling climate change without strong policy framework and clear action plans. We therefore welcome the efforts made by the government to complete these important documents.



Nigeria must have a strong policy framework

However, the government must also ensure that the final policy documents are evidence-based. Regrettably, the country is yet to complete important analysis that allows policies that are fit for purpose to emerge. For instance, the base year for the most recent greenhouse gas emission inventory is the year 2000. Without a valid emission inventory and analysis of least cost abatement options, the basis for developing NAMAs will be weak.

We must also work to ensure that policies and action plans emerging from these processes are products of genuine participation by key stakeholders.

Finally, work on a number of action plans are yet to commence. This is particularly the case for the Technology Needs Assessment and the Finance Needs Assessment. Both the Senate Committee on Environment and the House of Representatives Committee on Climate Change must ensure that funds are appropriated for these important documents to be completed before COP17 in Durban.

Latest Updates

VSO, NEST host climate change study tour

Volunteer Service Overseas (VSO) Nigeria and the Nigerian Environmental Study/Action Team (NEST) are hosting a climate change study tour for nine international participants from Namibia, Mozambique, Kenya, Ghana, United Kingdom and Canada. The purpose of the study tour is to learn from and share ideas about climate change adaptation initiatives in Nigeria. These lessons will be shared globally within the VSO network.

ICEED, a leading organisation on climate change issues in Nigeria, shared relevant information with the study group on issues concerning its Copenhagen and Beyond project. This project links an equitable international climate deal with a low carbon future that addresses poverty, inequality, and promotes good governance.

World Bank/UNDP Prepares Climate Risk Analysis for Nigeria

The World Bank has launched a study to assess the challenges and prospects of climate resilient, low carbon economic development in Nigeria. The study is one of the pieces of analytical work envisaged by the Country Partnership Strategy (CPS) for Nigeria (2010-2013). The key objectives of the study include (i) to develop a solid knowledge platform on climate risks and low carbon growth and (ii) to provide an analytical underpinning for follow-up financial assistance by the donor community.

Stakeholders from government departments and agencies, civil society and embassies participated in the workshop. Participants provided comments, recommendations and suggestions on areas, including: structure and presentation of the risk analysis; thresholds to base adaptation strategies and priority adaptation measures to be included in the report.

Stakeholders on Nigeria's REDD+ Readiness Programme meet in Abuja

A National Validation Workshop was organized to review and validate sections of the draft Nigeria REDD+ Readiness Programme in Abuja, February 21, 2011. The Nigeria REDD+ Readiness Program envisioned as a two-track plan: a) to develop institutional and technical capacities at the Federal level, and b) roll out demonstration activities in Cross River State.

Participants provided comments, recommendations and suggestions on key areas of the programme. The workshop was facilitated by the UN-REDD mission led by Mr. Joseph Gari (UNDP), Ms. Julie Greenwalt (UNEP), Mr. Matieu Henry (FAO) and Mr. Tunde Morakinyo. A similar workshop with forest communities in Cross River State took place on February 18, 2011. The comments from these workshops will be integrated into a final draft to be submitted at the next meeting of the Policy Board of the UNREDD Programme in March 2011.

Draft National Climate Change Policy Reviewed

The Federal Ministry of Environment in collaboration with ACI Environment & Resources Limited hosted a national workshop to validate, review and adopt the Draft National Climate Change Policy, February 21, 2011. This was a follow-up to the initiative of the House of Representatives Committee on Climate Change to provide a comprehensive climate change policy and a legislative framework for the country.

The event was attended by Honourable Eziuche Ubani, Chairman, House of Representatives Committee on Climate Change, experts and stakeholders. The workshop agreed that the draft policy document has identified key climate change issues and guiding principles. However, the draft policy still required more work both in form and content.

ICEED collaborates with stakeholders to hold Low Carbon Industrial Strategy workshop

ICEED in collaboration with Global Climate Network, the Federal Ministry of Commerce and Industry and Federal Ministry of Environment will hold a workshop on Low Carbon Industrial Strategy in Nigeria on March 17, 2011 at Rockview Hotel, Abuja.

The main aim of the workshop will be to identify low carbon development opportunities in key industries, identify barriers to increase investments in low carbon technologies and consult the policy makers, business leaders and experts on the development of Nigeria's low carbon industrial strategy.

A Low carbon industrial strategy will help articulate government and private sector actions that lead to rapid industrialization through low carbon emission technologies. Scaling up these investments is crucial in the federal government's efforts to diversify the economy away from the carbon intensive petroleum sector.

The First National Climate Based Microinsurance Conference to hold in Abuja

ICEED in collaboration with National Insurance Commission, Nigerian Meteorological Agency and other stakeholders will hold the "Climate Based Microinsurance Conference - Providing Protection for Nigerian Farmers". This will hold on March, 22-23, 2011 at Reiz Continental Hotel, Abuja.

The objectives of the conference are to: present international best practices on the development of a climate based insurance scheme, identify key challenges to the development of climate based agricultural insurance in Nigeria and recommend approaches to addressing them. The conference also seeks to establish a national partnership through the formation of a national implementing committee for the further development of the scheme.

The implementation committee will provide guidelines for government and private sector actions on the process of establishing a climate based microinsurance scheme in Nigeria. Establishing this scheme is essential for building the resilience of farmers to climate change impacts, in addition to opening up the insurance market to the 120 million uninsured population of the country.

The Silent Energy Crisis: Nigeria going up in smoke

By Katrin Macmillan

Traditional cooking methods are a health risk, they cause deforestation and climate change, and they are unnecessarily expensive to some of the world's poorest people. 90 million Nigerians, and almost all public institutions cook with wood on the traditional "three-stone fire".

Cooking smoke causes 79,000 deaths in Nigeria annually. For those who survive the smoke there are serious health problems. For children born to women who are exposed during pregnancy the risks are low birth weight, impaired mental abilities and birth defects. Nigeria experiences the highest number of smoke-related deaths in the world. After Malaria and HIV/AIDS, smoke from traditional cookstove is the biggest killer.

102million Nigerians live in poverty, a ¼ of Africa's extreme poor. The traditional cooking method is expensive, burning up to 90% more wood than is necessary and costing poor families money that could be put to better use on education, health and nutrition.

In Nigeria deforestation is happening at an alarming rate; the use of wood as fuel is a major cause. Carbon Dioxide emissions from millions of cooking fires are contributing to greenhouse gases. Desertification, caused in part by deforestation, is contributing to poverty by forcing groups from ancestral lands in search of fertile pastures. This movement of people has resulted in violent ethnic disputes.



Traditional cooking method - a health risk

Clean cookstoves save lives, money and our forests. So why doesn't everyone have one? Despite the many benefits of clean cookstoves the market to supply them is undeveloped. This stems from both policy and market failures: a lack of education about the benefits of clean cookstoves, weak government policies, poor stove quality and insufficient access to finance.

A public private partnership is needed to deliver millions fuel-efficient stoves to Nigerian homes and institutions. The partnership should deliver policy reforms, a financing framework, technical certification and public awareness.

Upcoming Events

- March 1—3, Carbon Market Insights (CMI) 2011, Amsterdam, Netherlands**
- March 3—4, Green Investment Congress India 2011**
- March 17 Low Carbon Industrial Strategy Workshop, Abuja, Nigeria**
- March 17, The Sustainable Business Summit—Business in Evolution, London, United Kingdom**
- March 17—18, Sustainable living, London, United Kingdom**
- March 22—23, Climate Based Microinsurance Conference - Providing Protection for Nigerian Farmers, Abuja, Nigeria**
- March 22—24, Greenbelts: Local Solutions for Global Challenges, Toronto, Ontario, Canada**
- March 24—26, Global Sustainability Forum, Hotel Tropical—Manaus Amazonas, Brazil**
- April 3—5, Brownfields 2011: Sustainable Communities Start Here, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, United States**
- April 5—9, ECCLima—Estuaries in a Changing Climate, Oporto, Portugal**
- April 6—7, 5th African Regional Conference on Sustainable Development, Ambrose Alli University, Ekpoma, Edo State, Nigeria**
- April 11—12 Energy Efficiency for Business, London, United Kingdom**
- April 12—13 Environmental Conference 2011, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia**
- May 2—5, Conference on Wind Energy and Wildlife Impacts, Trondheim, Norway**
- May 3—4 The Responsible Business Summit, London, United Kingdom**
- May 8 International Sustainable Development Research Conference. New York., U.S**
- May 22 World Environmental and Water Resources Congress, Palm Springs, California, U.S**

Nigeria Climate Action Network

Nigeria Climate Action Network (nigeriacan) is a coalition of groups and individuals in Nigeria working to promote government and individual actions to combat climate change. Opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of the authors, and do not necessarily reflect the views of nigeriacan. To subscribe or unsubscribe to this newsletter, please send a mail to info@nigeriacan.org. Please send your comments or enquiries to info@nigeriacan.org

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