



POLICY BRIEF

Keeping the Paris Promise

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Background

This policy brief focuses on the imperative of upholding the Paris Climate Change Commitment and Promises within the context of Nigeria, with a specific emphasis on achieving complete adherence to the National Climate Change Adaptation Law. In light of escalating global environmental challenges, adherence to the commitments made under the Paris Agreement is essential for mitigating the impacts of climate change.

This policy brief delves into the key elements required for Nigeria to ensure full compliance with its National Climate Change Adaptation Law, offering recommendations to facilitate effective implementation and thereby contribute to global efforts in combating climate change.



Introduction

Climate change has emerged as a pressing global issue, driven by increasing levels of greenhouse gas emissions from activities like fossil fuel consumption and land use changes. This phenomenon carries profound implications for both the environment and human well-being. Its impacts resonate across ecosystems, human security, livelihoods, and socio-economic development, charting the course of human progress (UNDP, 2008). The consequences of environmental degradation are multifaceted, ranging from intensified flooding and droughts to compromised agricultural productivity. Projections suggest that billions, particularly in developing regions, will confront scarcities in vital resources such as water and food, alongside an escalation in climate-related diseases and other life-threatening challenges (UNFCCC, 2007; FAO, 2008; Hans-Peter et al, 2009; OsmanElasha, 2010; UNDP, 2013).

Climate change exerts a far-reaching influence on shelter, health, and livelihoods, reflecting the dwindling availability of natural resources including essential food supplies, impacting economies, environments, and human health (Onokerhoraye, 2011). As global temperatures rise, rainfall patterns shift, and extreme weather events like floods, droughts, and forest fires become increasingly frequent (Zoellick, 2009). The stability of the world economy, ecosystems, and overall environmental health is susceptible to the ongoing acceleration of climate shifts.

International communities, organizations, and stakeholders including the United Nations and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) have dedicated extensive efforts to addressing the challenges of global warming. Conventions such as the Paris Climate Change Conference serve as a platform for nations worldwide to collaborate on strategies to adapt, mitigate, and fund climate variations (Schelling, 1997; Gigli and Agrawala, 2007; Karousakis and Corfee-Morlot, 2007; Morvaj and Bukarica, 2010). Substantial resources have been invested, and ongoing research endeavors seek to deepen the understanding of the intricate relationship between climate change and the environment (Schelling, 1997).



Climate Change Impact on Nigeria

Human-induced increases in greenhouse gas emissions are continually warming the Earth by 1.1 degrees Celsius compared to pre-industrial levels. This rise in temperature has led to observable effects worldwide: Greece and Algeria grappling with wildfires, London and Turkey facing floods, and Australia and northern Nigeria experiencing severe drought. Additionally, there's a distressing scenario of species extinction, rising sea levels, and aggravated drought. Developing nations like Nigeria are especially vulnerable to these shifts.

In 2016, Verisk Maplecroft ranked Nigeria as the seventh most vulnerable nation globally. Similarly, the Notre Dame Global Adaptation Initiative (ND-GAIN) rated Nigeria's climate disaster vulnerability and adaptive capabilities at 161 out of 182 countries in 2021. Nigeria's Office of the National Security Adviser (ONSA) released the National Security Strategy 2019, revealing how climate change contributes to devastating floods and droughts, causing significant human and economic losses. In 2019, nearly two million Nigerians were displaced due to floods. Studies by international scientists predict that by 2070, about a third of the Earth's surface, including West and Central Africa, will be uninhabitable due to rising temperatures, potentially forcing

mass migrations. It's estimated that around 81% of Nigeria's population will suffer from extreme temperatures, potentially leading to substantial migration. Since 2012, Nigeria has been grappling with erratic climate patterns, including heavy rainfall leading to devastating floods, causing losses worth \$16.9 billion. Presently, these floods and other climate-related disasters contribute to a rise in vector-borne diseases like malaria, causing substantial fatalities. Waterborne diseases such as cholera are also becoming more prevalent. In certain regions, droughts, saltwater intrusion, and sea level rise adversely affect crop yields and urban infrastructure, resulting in higher food prices and developmental costs. Over 70% of Nigerians engage in subsistence agriculture, making them particularly susceptible to climate shifts.

Economic analyses estimate that if Nigeria doesn't adapt to climate change adequately by 2050, losses could range from \$100 billion to \$460 billion. Despite being a signatory to the Paris Climate Change Agreements, and signing the National Climate Change Adaptation Bill into law, Nigeria's climate change vulnerabilities persist, underlining the disparity that exist between signed agreements and effective implementation.

Streamlining Paris Agreement

The Paris Agreement, established as a legally binding international treaty focusing on climate change, emerged from the UN Climate Change Conference (COP21) held in Paris, France, on December 12, 2015. This pivotal agreement gained approval from 196 Parties and officially became effective on November 4, 2016.

The central objective of the Paris Agreement revolves around curbing the rise in the global average temperature to a level significantly below 2°C compared to pre-industrial levels. It also seeks to make endeavors towards restricting the temperature escalation to merely 1.5°C above the pre-industrial benchmarks. Yet, in recent times, global leaders have underscored the urgency of limiting global warming to the 1.5°C threshold by the conclusion of this century.

This urgency stems from findings by the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, which warns of the heightened risks associated with surpassing the 1.5°C limit. These risks encompass heightened occurrences of severe climate change impacts, such as more frequent and intense droughts, heatwaves, and precipitation patterns.

Achieving the target of restraining global warming to 1.5°C demands that greenhouse gas emissions reach their peak by no later than 2025, followed by a 43% reduction by 2030.

Operating within a five-year cycle, this agreement entails a progressive scale-up of climate action,

referred to as “ratcheting up,” as executed by individual countries. Starting from 2020, nations have been submitting their national climate action blueprints known as Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). Each successive iteration of the NDC is anticipated to showcase a higher degree of ambition compared to its predecessor.



International Climate Adaptation Initiatives

One of the key aspects of the Paris Agreement is Adaptation. This pivotal aspect of the agreement is dedicated to advancing adaptive capabilities, reinforcing resilience, and minimizing susceptibility to the impacts of climate change, all within the framework of the Agreement's temperature objective. The primary aim is to markedly enhance individual nations' endeavors in adaptation, facilitated by international support and collaboration.

It's crucial to acknowledge that adaptation stands as a worldwide challenge, affecting all nations. Each participating Party is expected to partake in adaptation initiatives. This involvement includes the formulation and execution of National Adaptation Plans. Additionally, Parties are required to regularly furnish an adaptation communication, outlining their focal points, necessities, strategies, and undertakings in the realm of adaptation.

In Nigeria, Government's commitment to adaptation is evident in a comprehensive array of policies, laws, frameworks, and strategies. These encompass key initiatives such as Nigeria's updated Nationally Determined Contributions for 2021 (NDCs), the 2021 Climate Change Act, the National Climate Change Policy, the National Adaptation Plan (NAP), the Long-Term Vision (LTV), the Medium-Term National Development Plan (MTNDP), the Biennial Update Report

(BUR), and various other national and sub-national plans. The NAP Framework, which is a precursor to the central adaptation agenda of the government, sets forth specific objectives to align the nation's adaptation endeavors with the Cancun Adaptation Framework. This framework serves as a guiding principle for harmonizing adaptation practices with Nigeria's economic aspirations and contextual nuances. Moreover, it yields numerous consequential advantages and encompasses pivotal considerations. These include a focus on community-based adaptation, the integration of ecosystem-based approaches, the incorporation of gender-responsive strategies within the NAP process, and the acknowledgment of climate change as a pervasive concern that intersects with various sectors and inevitably involves trade-offs.

Although Nigeria has indeed developed a comprehensive NAP framework, there is a noticeable dearth of recorded instances showcasing its practical utilization in diminishing vulnerability at the community level. Nonetheless, the efficient implementation of adaptation measures assumes paramount importance within the Nigerian context. This is primarily due to the country's pronounced exposure to climate extremities.

Addressing Climate Adaptation Challenges in Nigeria

In Nigeria, the urgent need for effective climate change adaptation remains a largely untapped aspect of national discourse. While the development of essential frameworks for planning and implementing adaptation practices is underway, the country still lacks a universally accepted adaptation process. As a result, various local communities, international organizations, and government agencies are independently navigating adaptation efforts.



A critical challenge lies in the insufficient political will to recognize climate adaptation as a pressing national concern, resulting in inadequate funding. Both public and private sectors fall short in providing the necessary financial support to combat the escalating climate crisis. This deficiency is further compounded by the absence of active

citizen engagement in demanding improved environmental governance. Despite growing climate awareness, citizens' demands have yet to drive significant political debates on adaptation. Consequently, collaboration among different ministries and government bodies involved in climate change administration remains limited. Science-based targets for

informed planning and legislation are not yet mainstream. Communities lack essential resources such as financial support, proper environmental governance, and improved access to necessities like energy and justice. This lack of access poses a significant hindrance.

The existing challenges highlight the necessity for a new approach to climate action and adaptation in Nigeria. This approach should align with the needs and aspirations of the Nigerian people while also addressing broader national policy priorities. To truly overcome these obstacles, a unified effort is required from all sectors to ensure effective climate adaptation for a sustainable future.



Climate Finance in Nigeria



The financing of climate adaptation initiatives within the country presents a crucial topic demanding attention. Notably, these projects in Nigeria often receive funding from international organizations, with implementation occurring at both national and sub-national tiers. This situation mirrors the trend in numerous Sub-Saharan African nations, where external loans, aid, and grants play a pivotal role in financing over 50% of climate adaptation and mitigation endeavors. Unveiling the financial landscape, it becomes evident that a substantial portion of project costs is shouldered by multilateral financial institutions (MFIs). Among these, the World Bank takes the lead, followed by the African Development Bank (AfDB) to a lesser extent. Moreover, key international contributors to Nigeria's adaptation efforts include GIZ, FCDO, and USAID. However, a significant gap persists between this funding and the level required to fortify resilience. Crucially, local financing sources, including the Nigerian government and

the private financial sector, have yet to match the intensity of international contributions. As a consequence, the substantial funding gap for bolstering resilience remains to be effectively addressed. This underscores the imperative for both domestic and international stakeholders to collaboratively bridge this gap, ensuring the nation's capacity to effectively tackle climate change impacts.

To bolster climate adaptation, government must lead through a climate change commission-driven national framework. This entails collaboration across critical ministries and agencies, like NEMA, Health, Metrological Agency, Agriculture, Water Resources, Housing, Insurance, Conflict Resolution, and Niger Delta Affairs. A coordinated approach addresses climate-induced security challenges, capacity building, and resource allocation for sustainable development, prioritizing economic empowerment, social progress, and poverty eradication in Nigeria

Recommendation

Marshall The Health Care System

Rising temperatures increase disease risks. Strong awareness campaigns, quality information, and medical access are vital. Empower public health stakeholders for innovative solutions in remote areas. Use local dialects and mobile platforms for grassroots education. Support Nigerian Medical Association and health ministries at all levels for climate-induced health challenges.

Prioritize weather-indexed agriculture to safeguard food security.

Escalating temperatures bring about droughts or increased rainfall, influencing annual crop yield due to fluctuating crop seasons. Educating farmers on adapting crops to these climate shifts is crucial. Developing resilient crop varieties suitable for high-risk lands and implementing efficient irrigation systems can serve as effective measures for climate adaptation in affected regions. These initiatives aim to equip farmers with the tools to mitigate uncertainties arising from the changing climate conditions and maintain sustainable agricultural practices.

Develop Climate Resilient Housing Projects

To address climate change, housing and construction must adopt dual roles: aiding climate adaptation and sustainable practices. Strengthen the construction sector's capacity to face challenges. Ministry of Housing should lead, encouraging innovative designs for resilient housing. Adaptation involves building on stilts, creating water barriers, and local energy solutions.

Promote insurance initiatives for risk mitigation

The insurance sector shoulders significant climate change costs. Leveraging their role, they can encourage risk spreading for extreme weather events through innovative policy clauses. While these measures entail costs for buyers, they preempt larger losses from future infrastructure and asset damage. For example, insurers covering coastal properties should anticipate sea-level rise and storm impact, embedding safeguards in policies. The National Insurance Commission [NAICOM] should comprehend these concerns for effective engagement with stakeholders. Proactivity from NAICOM and industry players is crucial to safeguard the insurance sector against projected climate change shocks.

Enhance weather prediction tech to address climate-driven extreme conditions

Rising global temperatures escalate floods and hurricanes. Institutions like Nigeria's Meteorological Agency should invest in tech for precise forecasts and warning systems. Accurate environmental data from sensors in various zones is crucial. Tracking changes aids disaster prevention and emergency strategies. Deploying resources from the Ecological Funds Office for innovative weather monitoring tech is vital. Timely, high-quality information minimizes losses from disasters.

Mainstream adaptation

Embed climate change adaptation in Nigeria's economic strategies to ensure preparedness, safeguard citizens, and optimize resources. Tailor adaptation efforts to Nigeria's unique challenges, aligning with international initiatives. Developing nations must accept climate realities, including rising seas and changing weather patterns. Governments are realizing long-term adaptation requires integrated policies. Amidst mitigation focus, Africa's rallying call should emphasize adaptation.

Build a resilient local economy to combat climate change

Developing nations hold key economic growth prospects. Africa's participation depends on mitigating climate impacts. Disassociating environment from the economy risks crises. Nigeria must adopt innovative adaptations for economy, health, and environment. Western conventions misaligned with culture hinder local opportunities. For instance, promoting local attire can boost health and economy. Adapting to changing climate requires mindset shifts. Nigeria can lead other tropical countries through examples.

Government must play pivotal role

To bolster climate adaptation, government must lead through a climate change commission-driven national framework. This entails collaboration across critical ministries and agencies, like NEMA, Health, Metrological Agency, Agriculture, Water Resources, Housing, Insurance, Conflict Resolution, and Niger Delta Affairs. A coordinated approach addresses climate-induced security challenges, capacity building, and resource allocation for sustainable development, prioritizing economic empowerment, social progress, and poverty eradication in Nigeria.

Conclusion

Nigeria confronts formidable climate change-related challenges, including floods, droughts, and economic losses. To honor its commitments under the Paris Agreement, Nigeria must take swift and coordinated action. This includes improving its healthcare infrastructure, investing in climate-resilient housing, and prioritizing weather-indexed agriculture to ensure food security. Equally pivotal is the fostering of initiatives in insurance and the advancement of meteorological forecasting technologies. Nonetheless, climate adaptation is not a solitary endeavor. It demands seamless integration into Nigeria's economic blueprints and governance

paradigms, predicated on the bedrock of inter-ministerial and inter-agency collaboration. In this collective enterprise, the government's pivotal role comes to the fore. It assumes the mantle of leadership, addressing the contours of climate-induced security conundrums, bolstering resilience, and championing sustainable development.

Thus, by heeding these discerning recommendations, Nigeria is poised not only to shield its citizenry but also to render a substantive and impactful contribution to the global initiative against climate change.

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