

**How Multi-stakeholders Forum will
Shape Policy, Programme or
Instrument from the Multi-
Stakeholders Working Groups into
National Adaptation.**

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Introduction:

- Climate change is real. The impacts of climate change expected to affect Nigeria include:
- Floods along coastal areas
- Increases in temperatures and heat waves
- More frequent weather extremes and anomalies
- Drought, desertification
- Loss in biodiversity
- Increase in diseases
- Poor and vulnerable people will first be affected. The people who suffer first and the most from the impacts of climate change are people who are to large extent incapacitated or apparently voice less. They know their experiences as they face their plight. They don't know we are here. Many already have some of the practical solutions.

- **The way forward**

- The output from the MSWG will help MF in coming up with the adaptation strategies that will be utilized in mainstreaming climate change into policy and development programs. To do this we should take note of the following:

- To be gender sensitive at all stages. Women and men are in everyday life confronted with social, economic and environmental concerns. They in turn respond to these concerns differently. The responses are closely linked to age, social status, economic status and cultural values. We thus need to understand these constraints and incorporate them into our plans as women and men in the face of challenges have different inherent and socially imposed ways of responding.

- To always involve the participation of stakeholders in various local communities. To do this we need to cooperate with leaders from the Communities that are intended to benefit since they are the final implementers and beneficiaries. We also need to incorporate small groups who are representatives of their communities. This will provide some necessary awareness creation and create room for the ownership of strategies.

- To come up with the observed climate change impacts already happening, the perception of the impact, the vulnerability rating for each sector and also the perception of the vulnerability by stake holders. Identify the existing local adaptation strategies and the drivers and the group involved with the strategy and general awareness of such strategies. Analyze the benefits or results so far and rank the local adaptation strategies in terms of sustainability in the immediate, medium and long term.

- We expect some community based adaptation strategies to be suggested as pilot projects. To do this we must involve the communities in the identification of their impact and vulnerability and also suggest the solution which we will use. The working groups are to provide a sort of compass and fund provision where necessary. This way each community will be fully involved and actually own the projects as the people and their civil society organizations will be involved at all levels. Spiral effects will thus be generated. This has been reported to work in other places.

- To identify local practices/technologies elsewhere that can be adopted for communities where community based adaptation strategies can not be easily identified by the communities. We could do this by selecting and prioritizing some adaptation strategies for each agro-ecological zone we can use as community based adaptation strategies or case studies. To propose some adaptation strategies, each suggested strategy should take cognizance of the acceptability and ownership of such pilot projects. This should include the local adaptive capacity of each zone.

- To provide information on adaptation strategies in other geographic locations that can be tried in similar locations so as to create room for appropriate technology transfer. We also expect information on the acceptability of such strategies in each sector.

- To as much as possible identify the difficulties that may arise in the implementation of the strategy bearing in mind the complexity of the climate change problem on the environment in each agro-ecological zone. What vulnerabilities will be taken care of by what environmental inter-linkages as the environment responds to the changes? What strategies will provide counter productive consequences and what the trade offs are?

- In addition to the above we need input on recent crucial and relevant sector specific information by taking into account the implications of climate change impacts on the most vulnerable communities in each agro-ecological zone. namely:
 - The Sahel
 - The Sudan savanna
 - The Guinea savanna
 - The Rain forests and
 - The Mangrove swamp forests

- Identify the knowledge base being utilized in each zone and the extent of use of such knowledge?
 - Identify the best methods in identifying climate change impacts locally, nationally, regionally and globally.
- Keep abreast with the level of priority placed on climate change internationally.

- Keep abreast with both the methodological advances and the field experiences from case studies on adaptive strategies in other parts of the world. Case studies will further furnish us with the socio environmental challenges.

- Differentiate between vulnerability and risk so as to keep on track in each community studied. What environmental and social characteristics make us vulnerable to the impacts of climate change? What is the degree of the fragility of our environment? What are or will be the damage to the economy as a result of it. What are the constant risks (threats) we live with. How prepared are people to deal with risks?

- Popularise and communicate projects in a way that will further encourage a wider involvement of stakeholders and the involvement of potential local sponsors/donors. Publicity of NASPA effort is needed at all stages. We need to cultivate a good audience climate that will crave and disseminate our work. This will go a long way in helping us achieve our goal.

- In conclusion:
 - Remember that the people who will suffer first and the most from the impacts of climate change are people who are to a large extent incapacitated. We have decided to share the responsibility of helping poor communities develop adaptation strategies that will enable them to cope. We must always bear in mind that many technological solutions are there but we need to identify are the appropriate ones for our use.

- At each point we must try to identify the direct effects of extreme weather events from the effects caused by changes brought about by damage to the environment on each sector. Should there be displacements due climate change related problems we should also try to identify them.

- As we come up with practicable adaptation strategies we need to test them then replicate them based on our findings to be in a position to make adjustments for further application. Thus monitoring and evaluation is important. To do this we need cooperation at all levels.

- We must all keep our focus focused on helping communities adapt to the impacts of climate change. We must also make haste slowly as mistakes can be rather costly. Some environmental mistakes are not easily reversed.

- In developing the adaptation strategies we need to understand what it practically means to mainstream climate change adaptation strategies. To mainstream climate change adaptation strategy for our purpose is to integrate climate concerns and adaptation responses into relevant policies, plans, programs, and projects at the national, sub-national, and local scales. How far have gone along this some how tough road with our politicians? Also we need to work on how our effort fit into the vision 20: 2020. Are we working in a close relationship with our vision casters? Have they included information on climate concerns into the vision 2020 in the various sectors of the policy?

- To mainstream climate change concerns we must also fit into the development agency programs. Will the development agencies want to support our pilot projects? We must plan to integrate policies and measures that clearly address climate change into our development plans and also the various sectors in an on going process so as to ensure long term sustainability and participation of international agencies.

- Our document must create entry points at all levels. There must be linkages at the policy level and the sectoral level through the adaptation strategies and the mainstreaming aspects. None should be independent of the other if we are to succeed. At the adaptation level how much of awareness have been created? Are people at various levels ready to take responsibility and ownership? What are the options for adaptation? How do we link these?

- At all levels we need awareness creation/raising at each stage about climate change/variability threat, vulnerability and risk. At all levels we are to wear climate lenses and help stake holders to do so.

- We should make stakeholders at all levels in Nigeria understand that an adaptation strategy is a way of responding to the impacts of climate change while at the same time managing the risks and opportunities. A good adaptation strategy should be one that increases the ability of people, societies, and/or natural systems to cope with the consequences of the impacts of climate change or variability or fluctuations. We should also aim to raise or create awareness on vulnerability and adaptive capacity.

- Finally it will be worth while if we avail ourselves with the very rich and informative literature many of which are freely available on the internet so as to better position ourselves for the task.
- There many resources freely available on the internet to help us since details have not been taken care off. The most recent materials published in 2009 include:

- Handbook for Conducting Technology Needs Assessment for Climate Change. Jointly developed by UNDP and UNFCCC.
- Resource Guide on Gender and Climate Change by UNDP.
- Screening Tools and Guidelines to Support the Mainstreaming of Climate Change Adaptation into Development Assistance-A Stock Taking Report By UNDP.

LET'S ADAPT – TOGETHER WE CAN TAKE ACTION