

Unlocking Climate Finance: Actionable Pathways for Nigeria’s Low Net Emissions Growth

Date: 6th May 2024

Location: Abuja Continental Hotel

Organizers: [APRI](#) and [Enzi Ijaye Africa Initiative](#)

Background and Objectives

Mainstreaming climate action into Nigeria’s development plan presents opportunities to raise the finance it needs to support a bold and dynamic new economic programme. These opportunities involve engaging with development finance institutions, development partners and the private sector to create a country platform that can help raise the financing needed to plan and execute a broad-based decarbonisation programme.

Creating such a country platform requires putting in place the right framework where institutions and other market players are clear on their roles, responsibilities, functions, and powers - a framework within which the players collaborate. It is also essential to ensure that its design and implementation is inclusive, informed by local realities, underpinned by credible data, and is in sync with the country’s overall development agenda.

The quantum of climate finance available to Nigeria will likely be proportional to the level of external confidence in the depth, efficacy, sustainability and credibility of Nigeria’s climate and energy transition architecture.

This event seeks to discuss these issues based on strong, evidence-based research – with the goal of providing pragmatic and useful inputs to the policy making process for Nigeria’s climate transition. It builds on APRI’s ongoing research projects, much of which is being done in collaboration with Government stakeholders – as well as an APRI mapping exercise of Nigeria’s climate and energy transition landscape.

The event will further explore Nigeria’s preparedness in incorporating climate action into its economic and development agenda.

Agenda

Time	Agenda
9:00am – 9:30am	Registration
9:30am – 9:35am	Welcome Remark Olumide Abimbola. <i>Executive Director, APRI</i>
9:35am - 9:50am	High Level Remark Senator Abubakar Atiku Bagudu. <i>Hon. Minister of Budget and Economic Planning</i>
9:50am – 11:10am	Rethinking Nigeria’s Climate Strategy Moderator: Habiba Daggash. <i>Fellow, The Energy for Growth Hub</i> Panelists: Muhammad Wakil. <i>Country Delivery Lead, Global Energy Alliance for People and Planet</i> Lai Yahaya. <i>Visiting Fellow, APRI</i> Tengi George-Ikoli. <i>Senior Officer, Nigeria Program, Natural Resource Governance Institute</i> Nana Skari Maidugu. <i>Head, Sustainability & ESG, Nigerian Sovereign Investment Authority</i>

11:10am -11:30am	Tea Break
11:30am – 12:50pm	<p style="text-align: center;">Mainstreaming Climate Action & Ensuring a Just Transition</p> <p>Moderator: Amara Nwankpa. <i>Director, Public Policy Initiative, Shehu Musa Yar'Adua Foundation</i></p> <p>Panelists: Rahila Thomas. <i>CEO, EMRC</i> Eugene Itua. <i>Facilitator, Sustainability Policy Commission, Nigerian Economic Summit Group</i> Echezona Asuzu. <i>PAGS, Nigeria Labour Congress</i> Sally Woolhouse. <i>Head of Economic Development, UK FCDO (tbc)</i></p>
12:50pm – 1:00pm	<p style="text-align: center;">Closing Remarks</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Charles Wanguhu. <i>Director of Enzi Ijaye Africa Initiative</i></p>
1:00pm	Lunch

Panel Session 1: Rethinking Nigeria's Climate Strategy

This session will discuss and assess Nigeria's Climate Finance Strategy. Key questions that will drive the session include:

- Is Nigeria doing the right thing in the right way or just dangling the prospect of billions of dollars of climate finance in the offing?
- Should Nigeria be looking to design more flexible short, medium and long-term strategies that will be fit for purpose?
- Should Nigeria be prioritizing loss & damage and adaptation, whilst leaving mitigation to the Global North who have caused the damage?
- Should the focus be more on consumer-led promotion of technology products, rather than top-down, policy-driven prescriptions?
- Is a JET-P realistic?

Moderator Bio:

Habiba Daggash. *Fellow, The Energy for Growth Hub*

Habiba Ahut Daggash is a Senior Associate at RMI, a US-based think-tank working to scale clean energy solutions globally. Her current work focuses on scaling utility-enabled distributed energy resources and the productive use of energy in Nigeria's agriculture sector. Prior to this, she was a consultant at the Boston Consulting Group.

Habiba holds a PhD in energy systems modelling from Imperial College London and bachelor's and master's degrees in engineering from the University of Oxford. Her research seeks to understand the technologies and policies needed to achieve energy transition. Habiba sits on the Vision Council of the TED Future Forum.

Panelist Bio:

1. Muhammad Wakil. *Country Delivery Lead, Global Energy Alliance for People and Planet*

Muhammad Wakil is the Nigeria Country Representative for the Global Energy Alliance for People and Planet (GEAPP). GEAPP partners with governments and the private sector to channel philanthropic capital into Energy Access and Energy Transition investments in developing countries. He leads a program focused on supporting Nigeria's Energy Transition Plan, the required enabling environment, innovation and entrepreneurship in the private sector, and the local currency financing needed to catalyze private sector investment in distributed renewable energy and battery storage projects.

Prior to his current position, he was a Senior Energy Specialist at the World Bank where he was a member of energy teams working in Nigeria, the wider West Africa region and the Middle East. Prior to this, he worked with the Nigeria Infrastructure Advisory facility and the Nigeria Electricity Regulatory Commission. His experience covers a variety of energy sector issues including policy and regulatory reform, gas-to-power investments, electricity generation, transmission, distribution and off-grid electrification.

2. Lai Yahaya. Visiting Fellow, APRI

Lai is a lawyer and political economist, working with senior government officials, development finance institutions and major corporates in the areas of economic policy reform, infrastructure development and energy transitions in Sub-Saharan Africa.

He is currently an advisor to the Chief of Staff to President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, was Senior Special Assistant to President Muhammadu Buhari and advised Raila Odinga, in his role as African Union High Representative for Infrastructure Development.

Lai was previously Team Leader of the Senior Advisors' Group of President Obama's Power Africa Initiative, working with a group of former Heads of State (led by Tony Blair and Olusegun Obasanjo) and industry leaders, to provide advice to serving government leaders on how best to design, finance and deliver major energy projects in Sub-Saharan Africa. He was also Team Leader of the Facility for Oil Sector Transparency and Reform (FOSTER), an FCDO-funded initiative designed to support the restructuring of the oil and gas sector and to increase transparency and accountability in oil sector governance in Nigeria.

He originally qualified as an attorney with the New York law firm of Milbank, Tweed, Hadley & McCloy, working on major international project finance and securitisation transactions and was a qualified solicitor of the Supreme Court of England and Wales. He received his BA(Hons) and MA from Balliol College, Oxford University and MSc in Business Economics.

Lai is a Yale World Fellow, Archbishop Tutu Leadership Fellow and was selected as one of the "New Leaders for Tomorrow" by the Crans Montana Forum and one of the "25 Africans to Watch" by the Financial Times. He sits on the Board of the African Leadership Institute and is a member of the ONE Africa Policy Advisory Board.

3. Tengi George-Ikoli. Senior Officer, Nigeria Program, Natural Resource Governance Institute

Tengi is actively involved with the Natural Resource Governance Institute's initiative, "Oil Dependency in Nigeria." This project critically examines the role of oil in Nigeria's economy amidst its declining petroleum sector performance and the global pivot towards cleaner energy sources.

Before her role at NRG, Tengi served as the program coordinator for the Nigeria Natural Resource Charter (NNRC), where she implemented a series of global best practice principles aimed at bolstering the Nigerian economy and its citizenry through improved management of natural resource wealth. Her work primarily focused on enhancing revenue management, ensuring community benefits, boosting efficiency in the oil and gas sectors, and promoting transparency and accountability within the extractive industries.

Tengi earned her LLB in Law and Economics with joint honors from the University of Wales, Swansea, and holds an LLM from the University of Bristol.

4. Nana Skari Maidugu. Head, Sustainability & ESG, Nigerian Sovereign Investment Authority

Mrs. Nana Maidugu is the Head of Sustainability and ESG at the Nigeria Sovereign Investment Authority, where she is responsible for developing and driving NSIA's sustainability strategy & climate initiatives, as well as implementation of NSIA's ESG framework across the Authority, its investments and its partnerships.

Nana has extensive experience in infrastructure investment, particularly in originating, executing, and managing strategic and impactful investments in the Agriculture and Motorways sectors. Her expertise spans various areas, including strategy development, program design and project management for both private and public sector entities. She has been involved in the delivery and implementation of key national initiatives and development of national policies.

Nana has antecedent at KPMG, a professional services firm, where she worked in Management Consulting. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Computer Systems Engineering from the University of Kent and a Master's degree in Oil and Gas Management from the University of Dundee.

Panelist Session 2: Mainstreaming Climate Action & Ensuring a Just Transition

Building on the first session, this session will look at what needs to be done in terms of implementation. The driving questions for the session include:

- What are the challenges and what needs to be done to overcome them?
- How do we ensure that key civil society voices, labour force, and vulnerable groups amongst others are part of the discussions and implementation?
- How do we mainstream climate action into our economic and development planning whilst still raising the finance required to implement our economic agenda?
- What does a Just transition mean for Nigeria based on our local realities and context?

Moderator Bio:

Amara Nwankpa. Director, Public Policy Initiative, Shehu Musa Yar'Adua Foundation

Amara Nwankpa serves as Director of the Public Policy Initiative at the Shehu Musa Yar'Adua Foundation. With over a decade of experience in public policy, strategic communication, and community engagement, Amara's expertise spans critical areas, including climate change, elections, energy, security, governance, and accountability. He is adept at bridging multi-level policy objectives and engaging stakeholders at both national and sub-national levels. His efforts have been instrumental in shaping impactful policy initiatives and fostering strategic collaborations with key stakeholders.

Amara holds a bachelor's degree in electrical/Electronic Engineering from the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology in Kumasi, Ghana. He is currently pursuing an MSc in Global Energy and Climate Policy at SOAS University of London.

Panelist Bio:

1. Rahila Thomas. CEO, EMRC

Rahila Thomas is a visionary leader shaping Nigeria's power industry with over 20 years of experience. From investment strategies to regulatory expertise, Rahila is driving innovation and change in the energy landscape. As the Country Director of EMRC Nigeria, Rahila spearheads industry-wide power market analysis, financial due diligence, and policy formulation in the sector.

Currently, she is also the head of Kaduna Electric Board of Directors, as a regulatory intervention by Nigerian Electricity Regulatory Commission (NERC). She is the first female to attain this position in any of the country's Distribution Companies (DisCos). In addition to her KEDCO board chair appointment, Rahila is also the appointed Chairperson of NERC's Commercial and Transaction Working Group on operationalising the Electricity Act 2023. With a BSc in Business Administration, an MSc in Energy Finance, and a Galileo Master Certificate (GMC) in Energy Solutions, Management and Finance, Rahila's knowledge base is as robust as her achievements.

From being a core member of the Electric Power Team in 2000 at the Bureau of Public Enterprises (BPE) to leading roles in pivotal reforms like the preparation of the National Electric Power Policy 2001, the Electric Power Sector Reform Act (EPSRA) 2005, and unbundling of PHCN, Rahila has been at the forefront of shaping Nigeria's power policies. She also served as a lead advisor to the Senate Committee on Power, on the Electricity Act (EA) 2023.

2. Eugene Itua. Facilitator, Sustainability Policy Commission, Nigerian Economic Summit Group

Dr. Eugene Itua is the CEO of Natural Eco Capital and a pivotal figure in environmental management and sustainability across West Africa. He serves as the Coordinator for the Nigeria Long-Term Low Emissions Development Strategy and leads the West Africa Capitals Coalition Hub, advocating for sustainable capital flows and development practices.

Formerly the Policy & Advocacy Coordinator for Natural Capital in African Development Finance (NC4 ADF), Dr. Itua has been influential in integrating natural capital into African development finance. He also held the position of Thematic Lead for Circular Economy and Natural Capital at the Sustainability Policy Commission of the Nigeria Economic Summit Group, emphasizing sustainable economic reforms.

His expertise extends internationally through his roles as a consultant with GLOBE International and GLOBE Nigeria, and as Lead Consultant for Nigeria REDD+, where he designed finance frameworks for forest carbon offsets and credit schemes. Additionally, Dr. Itua has contributed globally as a Climate

Action Consultant for ICAP at Columbia University.

Holding a Doctorate in Environmental Management, Dr. Itua is a recognized Fellow of the Nigeria Environmental Society, the Institute of Corporate Responsibility and Sustainability, The Association of Sustainability Professionals of Nigeria, and the International Institute of Risk and Safety Management. His work not only advances environmental sustainability but also shapes policy and practice in risk management and corporate responsibility.

3. Echezona Asuzu. *PAGS, Nigeria Labour Congress*

Comrade Echezona Asuzu is a Principal Assistant General Secretary (PAGS) of the Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC). He is the National Coordinator of the NLC Climate Change, Green Jobs and Just Transition Program.

He also coordinates the NLC Program on Trade, Investment, Sovereign Debt and Decent Work. He holds a Master's degree in Industrial and Employment Relations from the University of Turin, Italy.

Comrade Echezona Asuzu is also a member of Nigeria's National Steering Committee on Climate Change, Green Jobs, and Just Transition Program. The Program is co-chaired by Nigeria's Federal Ministry of Labour and Employment and enjoys participation by social partners including the National Employers Organisation – Nigeria Employers Consultative Association – and other key government ministries at the heart of the climate change and just transition discourse.

Comrade Echezona Asuzu facilitated the first NLC Side Event at a Conference of the Parties at COP 28 in Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

4. Sally Woolhouse. *Head of Economic Development, UK FCDO (tbc)*

Sally Woolhouse is a seasoned economic development professional currently serving as the Head of Economic Development at the UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office. She brings a wealth of experience in both governmental and private sectors, having previously held the position of Senior Private Sector Advisor and Head of Investment at Prospero within the same office.

Educated at the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE), Sally earned a Master's degree in Development Economics and International Development with Merit (2006-2007). She also holds an ACA in Accounting and Finance from BPP University (1995-1998) and a Bachelor's degree in Development Economics and International Development from the University of Liverpool (1992-1995).

Sally's expertise spans across private equity, real estate private equity, and impact investing. Her extensive skill set includes financial analysis and team management, enabling her to deliver impactful economic development initiatives and investments. With a robust background in both theory and practical application, Sally continues to contribute valuable insights and leadership in her field.

About the Organizations

Africa Policy Research Institute

The [Africa Policy Research Institute \(APRI\)](#) is an independent and nonpartisan African think tank located in Berlin, Germany, and Abuja, Nigeria. It researches key policy issues affecting African countries and the African continent and aims to provide policy options to African policymakers and civil society actors.

Our programmes include Economy and Society, Africa's Climate Agenda, Africa's Digital Agenda and Geopolitics and Geoeconomics. Under the programmes, we design research projects with our partners and collaborators. APRI was established in 2021 and has a strong track record of delivering insightful research to inform policymaking in Africa with the support of partners such as the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), Ford Foundation, Mastercard Foundation, the African Climate Foundation, Global Affairs Canada, and many others.

Enzi Ijayo Africa Initiative

[Enzi Ijayo](#) is a Pan African think and do tank that convenes academia, private sector, civil society and governments to analyze and formulate policies for growing investments in green energy solutions that provide a sustainable path towards greening Africa's economic development. It seeks to leverage its solid networks on the continent to provide actionable outcomes.

Our goal is to inform energy transition policies and solutions that are inclusive, equitable, accountable, and contribute to socio-economic development in Africa.