



# Climate Adaptation in Nigeria:

Strategies, Initiatives, and Practices Final Workshop

In light of the enormous challenges that climate change poses to communities in Nigeria, APRI - the Africa Policy Research Institute - in close collaboration with the Centre for Climate Change and Development (CCCD) and the Department of Climate Change (DCC), has conducted a comprehensive study on the effectiveness of local communities in taking necessary action through locally-led adaptation. With our workshop, we will briefly summarize the key findings and engage with civil society organizations (CSOs) and policymakers to formulate policy priorities and key messages that would help local and international funding agencies support climate adaptation actions in Nigeria, for all Nigerians.

**Chida International Events Centre, Abuja**

**Thu | 08 August | 10 AM - 2 PM**



**DEPARTMENT OF CLIMATE CHANGE**  
GATEWAY TO NATIONAL ACTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE



APRI – Africa Policy Research Institute is an independent and nonpartisan African think tank. It researches key policy issues affecting African countries and the African continent. APRI provides insights to the German and European Union policy-making processes on Africa. In addition, APRI provides policy options to African policymakers and civil society actors.



The Centre for Climate Change and Development (CCCD) is a dynamic research think tank based at the Alex-Ekwueme Federal University Ndufu-Alike (AEFUNAI) in Ebonyi State, Nigeria. The Centre focuses on innovative learning, research, and policy guidance in the areas of environmental sustainability, climate change, and green development in Nigeria and Africa more broadly.



**DEPARTMENT OF  
CLIMATE CHANGE**  
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The Department of Climate Change (DCC) is the official information hub on climate change in Nigeria. It was established by the Federal Government of Nigeria under the Federal Ministry of Environment to serve as the vehicle for driving national climate actions and efforts. It was established with the broad mandate of coordinating activities towards national implementation of the climate change national and international agreements including the Paris Agreement.



## SPEAKERS

### **Dr. Iniobong Abiola - Awe, Director, DCC**

Dr. Iniobong Abiola-Awe is the Director of the Department of Climate Change (DCC) and the UNFCCC National Focal Point in the Federal Ministry of Environment, Abuja Nigeria. She is a seasoned environmentalist and climate change expert who has headed many divisions, agencies, and special units within the Federal Ministry of Environment.

### **Dr. Olumide Abimbola, Executive Director, APRI**

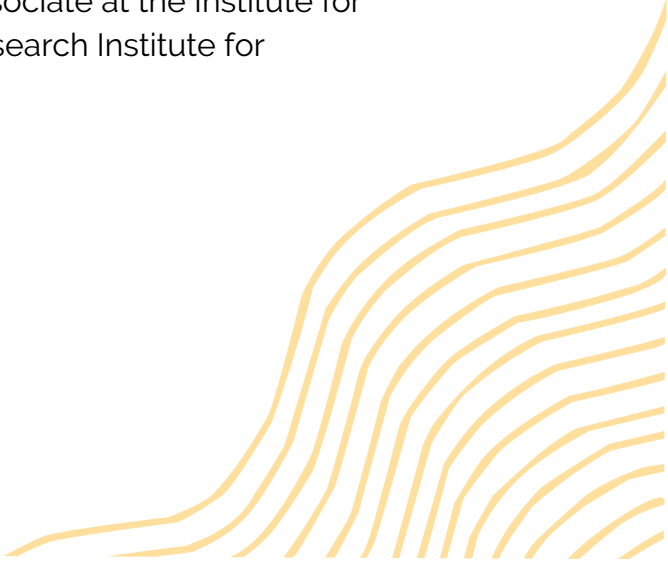
Dr Olumide Abimbola is the Executive Director of APRI - Africa Policy Research Institute, a Berlin-based think tank. He previously worked on trade and regional integration at the African Development Bank and on natural resources governance at the deutsche Gesellschaft für internationale Zusammenarbeit.

### **Prof. Chukwumerije Okereke, Director, CCCD**

Professor Chukwumerije Okereke is the Director of the Center for Climate Change and Development, Alex Ekwuwme Federal University Ndufu-Alike Nigeria and Coordinating Lead Author of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) AR6 Working Group 3.

### **Dr. Grace Mbungu, Head of Climate Change Program, APRI**

Dr. Grace Mbungu is a Senior Fellow and Head of the Climate Change Program at APRI – Africa Policy Research Institute, a Berlin-based think tank. She previously worked as a fellow and research associate at the Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies (IASS), now the Research Institute for Sustainability (RIFS), in Potsdam, Germany.





## SPEAKERS

### **Dr. Chukwueloka Okeke, Senior Climate Change Fellow, APRI**

Dr. Chukwueloka Udechukwu Okeke is a Senior Climate Change Fellow at APRI and the Lead Researcher for the project "Climate Adaptation Strategies and Initiatives: Issues and Pathways in Nigeria". He is a pioneer Fellow of the Commonwealth Futures Climate Research Cohort with extensive knowledge of green technology, waste to wealth, green jobs, life cycle assessment, nature-based solutions, and disaster risk reduction. He is currently a Research Associate at the Centre for Climate Change and Development.

### **Mr. Francis Wisdom Chiemela, Case Study Representative**


Mr. Francis Wisdom Chiemela is a trained chemical engineer specializing in the design and fabrication of biogas systems and bio-fill digesters as well as a researcher and consultant in biological renewal energy technologies. He is the Managing Director of Chiwis Biogas Engineering and CEO of Chiwis Chemicals and Agro Allied Ltd. He is passionate about environmental sustainability and climate change mitigation.

### **Mr. Olufemi Gbenga, Case Study Representative**

Mr. Olufemi Gbenga is a trained electrical and electronics engineer and a seasoned aquaculturist with a wealth of experience in catfish farming. Over the years, his passion for the profession has help him to navigate the challenges experienced as a result of climate change. His keen interest in sustaining his livelihood has made him develop alternative solutions of dealing with the impacts of climate change that affect his aquaculture business, and he has extended his knowledge to help contemporaries improve their productivity in the area of catfish farming.

### **Mrs. Ngozi Kenneth-Michael, Case Study Representative**

Mrs. Ngozi Kenneth-Michael is a registered teacher and the provincial education officer at the Province of the Niger Education Commission, Onitsha, Anambra State. She is a community development officer with a wealth of experience in training and building the resilience of rural women and marginalized groups against the impacts of climate change.



# AGENDA

9:30 -  
10:00 AM

Arrival of Participants / Registration

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10:00-  
10:20 AM

Introduction with Mr. Jonah Barde

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10:20-  
10:35 AM

Welcome Remarks with Prof. Chukwumerije Okereke  
and Dr. Olumide Abimbola

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10:35-  
10:45 AM

Keynote Address by Dr. Iniobong Abiola-Awe

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10:45 -  
10:55 AM

Project Context with Dr. Grace Mbungu

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10:55-  
11:30 AM

Summary of Key Findings by Dr. Chukwueloka Okeke

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11:30-  
12:00 PM

Comments from Case Study Reps  
Case Study I with Mr. Francis Wisdom Chiemela  
Case Study II with Mr. Olufemi Gbenga  
Case Study III with Mrs. Ngozi Kenneth-Michael

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12:00-  
12:45 PM

Discussion/Questions & Answers

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12:45-  
12:55 PM

Looking Ahead/Wrap Up with Dr. Grace Mbungu  
and Prof. Chukwumerije Okereke

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12:55-1:05  
PM

Closing Remarks by Dr. Iniobong Abiola-Awe

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1:05-2:00  
PM

Lunch

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# SUMMARY OF REPORT

## Introduction

With its multiple adverse impact on human and ecological system, climate change has become an issue of great concern globally. Nigeria is ranked as one of the most climate vulnerable countries in the world despite the fact that it accounts for the least amount of global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. This vulnerability has been attributed to the country's complex agro-ecological zones, burgeoning urban and rural populations, extensive coastline that is vulnerable to sea level rise and storm surges, as well as an underlying economic challenges and weak governance system. The systemic risks posed by the burgeoning climate crisis in Nigeria have triggered rising cases of infectious disease outbreak, frequent communal conflicts, farmer-herder crises, loss of livelihoods, loss of aquatic and terrestrial biota, decreasing food security and rising economic crises. These issues have been exacerbated by a lack of climate finance, especially for sustainable adaptation initiatives, coupled with lack of basic amenities, inadequate infrastructure and inequality.

To mitigate these challenges, the Nigerian government has developed several climate change adaptation and mitigation plans and frameworks, such as the Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC), the National Adaptation Plan Framework (NAPF), the National Strategy and Plan of Action on Climate Change in Nigeria (NASPA-CCN), the Climate Change Act (CCA) and the Medium-Term National Development Plan, to name a few. However, despite establishing several adaptation priority sectors in its NDC, NAPF and NASPA-CCN, Nigeria does not have a clear idea of the status of adaptation activities on the ground, and so there is no clear evaluation of implementation gaps, and locally led processes.

Furthermore, Nigeria's current climate adaptation plan utilises a 'top-bottom' approach without including frontline communities and stakeholders in the decision-making process, coupled with their traditional knowledge, cultures, norms and values. Therefore, the Nigerian government needs to mainstream locally-led adaptation (LLA) in its adaptation plans, to ensure effective, efficient and equitable delivery of adaptation actions. This will give local communities agency over the designing, monitoring, and evaluating phases of the adaptation actions. In view of this, the current research project 'Climate Adaptation Strategies, Initiatives and Practices: Issues and Pathways in Nigeria' was initiated by APRI with particular focus on the adaptation components of Nigeria's NDC and other national frameworks. The project seeks to evaluate the challenges and opportunities in Nigeria's adaptation policies as well as any implementation gaps, especially as they relate to locally-led adaptation. The project also seeks to assess the barriers, challenges, entry points and opportunities of climate adaptation strategies at the local level through a deep dive into three (3) case studies in rural communities.

## Research Objectives

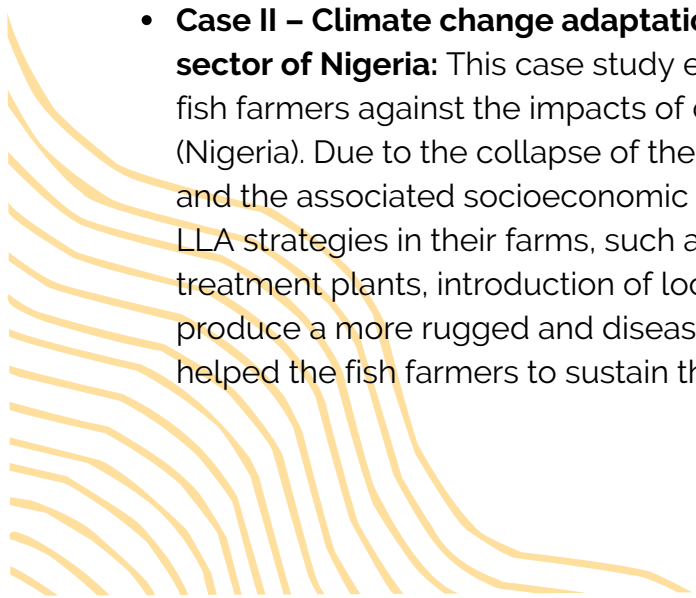
The specific objectives of this research are to:

- understand the status and trends of climate actions, including the financial implications, policies, strategies and implementation frameworks for addressing climate change
- evaluate the adaptation needs, priorities, knowledge gaps and implementation gaps at the community level
- examine the experiences and contextual narratives of climate impacts and the strategies, adaptation actions and practices employed by local communities
- understand the challenges and barriers faced by frontline communities
- learn and document the potential opportunities and entry points for effective adaptation actions with the potential for scale-up at the local and regional levels
- assess the adaptive capacities of local communities in Nigeria with global best practices for broader adaptation actions and environmental sustainability

## Approach and Methodology

The research approach and methodology included mapping Nigeria's climate policy landscape, implementation strategies, practices, and actions at the local and national levels. It draws on the policy landscape mapping and deep dives into adaptation strategies, initiatives and practices at the local level. The national mapping of Nigeria's NDC consists of three key tasks that assess policy frameworks for climate action, the capacity of stakeholders to take into account local adaptation strategies and the coherence or inconsistency of local adaptation policies with the country's needs, priorities and international development goals and commitments. Next, two stakeholder engagement meetings were held with diverse national, regional and local stakeholders operating in the field of climate change, with a view of situating the research objectives in the context, needs and priorities of Nigeria policy makers and broader society. Last but not least, the team conducted three deep dives which fell within the three (3) priority sectors of Nigeria's NDC including:

- **Case I – Biogas production for forest conservation in Nigeria:** This case study assesses the LLA initiatives and practices of smallholder farming communities in Owode, Ogun State, south-west Nigeria. The research sought to understand how the rural community is adapting to the impacts of climate change by converting organic waste generated from crops, livestock and poultry farming into a clean energy source (biogas), thus conserving the nearly depleted forest resources and restore biodiversity.
- **Case II – Climate change adaptation strategies in the fisheries and aquaculture sector of Nigeria:** This case study evaluates the narratives and adaptation strategies of fish farmers against the impacts of climate change in Abesan and Shagari Estates, Lagos (Nigeria). Due to the collapse of the fisheries and aquaculture sector of Nigeria by 60%, and the associated socioeconomic challenges, the fish farmers are integrating a lot of LLA strategies in their farms, such as drilling of deeper boreholes, installation of water treatment plants, introduction of locally-sourced feeds and performing hybridisation to produce a more rugged and disease resistant fish. These initiatives and practices have helped the fish farmers to sustain their livelihoods.





- **Case III – Adaptation practices of rural communities to land degradation in south-eastern Nigeria:** This case study examines the actions, barriers, challenges and opportunities behind the adaptation practices of a rural community against land degradation in Abatete, Anambra State (south-eastern Nigeria). The findings revealed that community members devised traditional methods to curb the effects of soil/gully erosion and landslides on roads and vegetable/crop farms. This included the planting of erosion-resistant trees at soil/ gully erosion sites, the placement of sandbags at active gully erosion hotspots and the making of high ridges/ mounds around the vegetable beds to control soil erosion, to name a few. The actions taken by the community members have led to a significant reduction in the evolution of sheet and rill erosion into ephemeral and permanent gullies, because the villagers identify potential gully erosion hotspots on time and apply the necessary preventive measures needed to avert potential disaster and property damage.

## Key Findings

The study provides extensive insight into the locally-led adaptation (LLA) strategies as adopted by different communities in order to address the impacts of climate change on their livelihoods. The key findings are summarised below:

- Despite the limited access to climate finance and technical capacity, community-led adaptation is a reality in climate action in Nigeria and is well aligned with the priority options of the NDC as well as other national and regional climate action and social and economic development policies. The major challenge facing the delivery of climate change adaptation in Nigeria is that the topic has yet to feature in mainstream national discourse.
- While Nigeria has developed adaptation policies and implementation strategies, the adequacy and efficiency of those policies and strategies are yet to be evaluated in a way that provides evidence for improvement and broader climate action, including the recognition, documentation and inclusion of local voices and on-going adaptation strategies and practices. The other pervasive concern connected with climate adaptation in Nigeria is the limited political will to confront it as a critical national issue and the consequent limited financing of such endeavors.
- The impact climate change is having on the Nigerian economy, and the projected increase in the intensity of negative impacts on lives and livelihoods, mean that LLA holds the most promise for far-reaching and sustained solutions. Both public and private sector funding for adaptation falls very short of the total amounts needed to tackle the ever-increasing risk of an unfolding climate emergency. In the absence of a generally accepted, if not ubiquitous, adaptation process, adaptation practice is characterised by independent endeavors from local communities, international organisations and government agencies. Collaboration is limited between ministries and government agencies with different roles in climate change administration, and science-based targets are yet to become mainstream enough to inform planning and legislation.



- Locally-led adaptation (LLA) strategies are led by local stakeholders and adopt bottom-up, community-driven initiatives which are tailored to the local needs, resources and capacities of community members. They build the capacity of local actors to plan and implement adaptation activities and to link local and global resources to support adaptation initiatives. This bottom-up approach could unlock the potential and benefits of climate action in Nigeria, especially at the local level, where such actions are urgently needed.

The results presented in this report provide impulses for local, regional, national, and global policy makers and implementers on the inherent value and importance of LLA adaptation approach for broader climate action and social economic development and well-being of local communities.

## **Structure of Report**

The rest of the report is organised as follows:

Section 1 provides a general introduction of the project, and outlines the climate change status, trends and needs in Nigeria. Section 2 presents a scoping review of key policy documents on climate adaptation in Nigeria with an emphasis on the adaptation component of Nigeria's NDC; Nigeria's climate adaptation strategies, national policies and actions, and local strategies and practices; and the country's climate finance flows. The final section of this chapter maps the key stakeholders in Nigeria's climate adaptation landscape and highlights the challenges, gaps and opportunities. Section 3 presents the findings of the deep dive case studies undertaken across different parts of Nigeria to explore some of the local adaptation practices employed in response to deforestation and energy poverty, food security and land degradation (environmental sustainability). Section 4 presents a general analysis and discussion of the project results while Chapter 5 presents the conclusions and main messages.



**TO READ THE FULL REPORT AND TO LEARN MORE  
ABOUT THE CLIMATE ADAPTATION PROJECT**

