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## LOCAL ADAPTATION PLAN OF ACTION FOR ENUGU STATE



Embassy  
of the Federal Republic of Germany  
Abuja

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- Plogging Nigeria
- Eco-Cyclers
- Society for the Improvement of Rural People (SIRP)
- Sustyvibes
- David Folaranmi Foundation
- Collaborative Online International Learning Research Group, UNN (COIL)

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Local Adaptation Plan of Action (LAPA) for Enugu State is designed to address the pressing challenges posed by climate change through community-driven strategies. This document synthesizes input from diverse stakeholders, including local community members, government representatives, women, youth, persons with disabilities (PWDs), and other vulnerable groups, using various data collections like questionnaires, surveys, and interviews, ensuring that all voices are heard in the adaptation process.

The LAPA aims to enhance resilience by identifying specific vulnerabilities and proposing actionable strategies tailored to the unique socio-economic and environmental context of Enugu State. Without urgent and concerted action, climate change will have irreversible and catastrophic impacts on Enugu state's economy and its citizens, from climate awareness on proper waste segregation and disposal to enhancing local air quality, while engaging green skills for youths, women, and the vulnerable groups on resilience, will see us contributing to national climate goals evenly. Our key objectives include improving agricultural practices, enhancing proper waste management systems, strengthening infrastructure, and fostering disaster preparedness. By prioritizing inclusive engagement and leveraging local knowledge, LAPA will serve as a vital tool for sustainable development and climate resilience in Enugu State.

Having assessed the current situation in our local communities, there is a need to set ambitious goals that are clear, and measurable to build the resilience of the people to climate change. This policy is an action guide to involve community members, businesses, non-profit organizations, and stakeholders in Enugu State. This document will coordinate efforts on climate change at the local level to build stronger partnerships at the national and international levels.

This LAPA document highlights the roles we can play in reducing our waste footprint and carbon footprints and educating citizens on the importance of climate action. These policy with stipulated regulations if enacted, supports climate action and track progress towards reaching climate goals, identifying areas that should be improved while ensuring accountability.

As we move forward with the implementation of this policy, it is crucial to engage with local communities to ensure their active participation in achieving our climate goals. Community members, businesses, non-profit organizations, and stakeholders in Enugu State must work together towards a sustainable future. Collaboration at the regional level will be essential to address the challenges posed by climate change. By fostering stronger partnerships at both the national and international levels, we can amplify our efforts and make a more significant impact on mitigating climate change effects.

Education plays a vital role in promoting climate action. By raising awareness about carbon footprints and the importance of sustainable practices, we can empower citizens to make informed choices that contribute to a greener environment. Monitoring and evaluating the progress of our climate initiatives is key to ensuring accountability and identifying areas for improvement. Enacting policies with clear regulations will guide our actions, track our advancements, and hold us all responsible for achieving our climate targets.



## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The development of this Local Adaptation Plan of Action document (LAPA) would not have been possible without the contributions and support of numerous individuals and organizations. We want to extend our sincere gratitude to the Network of Youth For Sustainable Initiative (NGYOUTHSDGS) and the German Mission in Nigeria for providing financial and technical support throughout this project.

We also appreciate Ecocyclers, Plogging Nigeria, Society for The Improvement of Rural People (SIRP), SustyVibes, Collaborative Online International Research Group UNN (Coil), and Dele Folaranmi Foundation (DFF) for sharing their expertise and providing valuable insights on climate change adaptation.

We immensely appreciate the Ministry of Environment, Department of Climate Change Enugu State, likewise the Enugu North & Enugu South Local Government community, for their active participation through our community dialogues and engagement in the development of this document.

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## INTRODUCTION

### **Geographical, Socio-Economic, and Environmental Background**

Enugu State, formed in 1991 and known as the Coal City State, is located in southeastern Nigeria and is characterized by its diverse geography, including hills, valleys, and fertile agricultural lands. The state has a rich cultural heritage and an estimated 5 million population that primarily relies on agriculture, mining, civil service, and trade for their livelihoods. However, the region faces significant socio-economic challenges, including poverty, lack of employment, underemployment, and inadequate infrastructure.

### **Climate Change Impacts in Local Context**

Climate change is one of the most pressing challenges of our time, affecting communities and disrupting economies. As part of the Climate Action for Stronger Naija Project, in partnership with NGYouthSDGs with support from the German Mission in Nigeria, we wanted to have a better understanding of the level of climate change awareness and the extent of community participation in climate-related activities in Enugu State.

In so doing, we had a community dialogue to highlight the adverse effects of climate change in Enugu North and South LGA, and in so doing, we found the below:

- **Climate Impacts:** Communities throughout Enugu State are currently grappling with erratic weather patterns characterized by prolonged dry seasons, increased temperatures, and sudden, intense rainfall. These fluctuations have a detrimental impact on agriculture, resulting in food insecurity and economic volatility. The issue is further compounded by erosion and flooding, which is exacerbated by poor waste management practices and inadequate drainage systems. This not only causes damage to crucial infrastructure but also forces families to be displaced, while simultaneously heightening health hazards. Moreover, the detrimental effects of deforestation and erosion continue to ravage the environment, posing a significant threat to both livelihoods and biodiversity.
- **The Vulnerable:** Women, youth, and persons with disabilities (PWDs) are disproportionately affected by climate adversities, yet are inadequately represented in adaptation strategizing. Their inclusion is essential in ensuring equitable and effective resolutions. Indigenous populations often bear the brunt of climate change impacts due to their intimate connection to the land and dependence on traditional practices. Integration of indigenous knowledge and perspectives in climate adaptation strategies is pivotal for impactful and sustainable solutions. Tailored support programs and agricultural practices that foster resilience and sustainability are imperative for the well-being of rural farming communities.
- **An increased temperature:** An increase in temperature is one of the most significant impacts of climate change in most localities around the world, and we have just confirmed that ours is not an exception. This increase in temperature has led to a lot of health-related problems such as heat exhaustion, heat stroke, and respiratory problems like asthma in children and elderly members of the population. It has also led to the loss of biodiversity, as certain plants

- and animals are known to thrive within a certain temperature range. But beyond this range, they wither and die. Finally, temperature increases further stretch the need for energy and increase its costs. People now rely heavily on air conditioning, refrigerators, and other cooling measures to reduce the temperature in their homes.
- **Spread of Vector-Borne Diseases:** Changes in rainfall patterns and escalating temperatures in Enugu state have cultivated optimal breeding environments for mosquitoes and other disease-carrying insects. Consequently, there has been a surge in the prevalence of ailments such as malaria within the state.
- **Respiratory Problems:** Burning waste releases toxic chemicals and pollutants into the air, which can irritate the respiratory system. The smoke and fumes from burning waste can contain particles that can be inhaled into the lungs, leading to respiratory issues such as asthma and bronchitis.

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- **Food insecurity:** The issue of food insecurity is a significant concern in various local contexts, exacerbated by the effects of climate change. Within our communities in Enugu State, the impact of climate change is evident in the alteration of conditions essential for crop cultivation, resulting in diminished crop quality and yield. Additionally, the occurrence of extreme weather phenomena such as droughts, floods, and heat waves have detrimental effects on crop growth, leading to food scarcity and economic repercussions. Farmers have voiced their struggles in adapting to changes in the

- timing and duration of growing seasons, ultimately affecting crop productivity. Consequently, the escalating cost of food presents challenges for individuals to access nutritious food options.
- **Awareness:** Many residents lack awareness regarding the causes and mitigation strategies of climate change, perceiving environmental issues as natural occurrences. Nonetheless, dialogues within the community have uncovered a readiness to engage in adaptation endeavors, especially when solutions cater to immediate necessities such as waste management, flood prevention, and sustainable agriculture.





## PRE-LAPA PREPARATION

### Capacity Building Sessions

The participating CSOs had weeks of training sessions conducted by NGYouthSDGs and were equipped with the necessary skills to engage communities effectively. From understanding the basics of climate change and the role of human activities in accelerating it to learning about the various region's specific climate problems to understanding the Nigerian Climate Policies like the NAP & NDC were all an important part of our learning tools which we were able to replicate using a step-down training while emphasizing the importance of inclusive participation, particularly from marginalized groups, vulnerable groups, and PWDs.

### Community Dialogue Overview

The participating CSOs had community dialogues in two local government areas of Enugu State, namely Enugu North & Enugu South, which involved diverse stakeholders, local leaders like the councilors, youth leaders, ward leaders, government representatives from the Department of Climate Change, and vulnerable groups from underserved communities in Enugu State, Nigeria. They were able to draft compelling communication strategies using storytelling and advocacy to engage the community members in a dialogue in a way they could comprehend the importance of climate action.

The data collection methods used were, focus group discussions, break-out sessions, questions & answers, and interviews to gather insights on local peculiar climate experiences and challenges facing the communities and possible solutions that should be adopted going forward.

Here is a tabular theory of change represented:

IMPACT	OUTPUT	OUTCOME	CHALLENGES
<p>The community dialogue in Enugu State had a significant positive impact by raising awareness and fostering a better understanding of Nigeria's National Adaptation Plan (NAP) and Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) at the local level.</p>	<p>Stakeholder Engagement: The dialogue successfully brought local leaders, &amp; community members together. This created a space for dialogue &amp; knowledge sharing, ensuring that all voices were heard.</p>	<p>The community dialogue in Enugu State had a significant positive impact by raising awareness and fostering a better understanding of Nigeria's National Adaptation Plan (NAP) and Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) at the local level.</p>	<p>Through the discussions, the community was able to clearly outline the specific climate challenges Enugu South is facing, including water scarcity, agricultural decline, and biodiversity loss like deforestation and improper waste management.</p>
<p>The dialogue also empowered local citizens by giving them a platform to voice their unique challenges, such as flooding, erosion, environmental degradation, Deforestation, biodiversity</p>	<p>The Dialogue was the first of its kind on climate change for the community</p>	<p>Community Ownership: As a direct result of the dialogue, local citizens now have a better understanding of the importance of their role in climate adaptation. This increased awareness will likely lead to more community-led</p>	<p>Limited Public Awareness: A general lack of public awareness of climate change and its impacts has reduced the effectiveness of adaptation efforts, as most of them do not fully understand the urgency or</p>

<p>loss, and agricultural instability, which may not be fully addressed by broader national strategies. This increased sense of ownership and involvement in climate change discussions has paved the way for stronger community participation in future adaptation efforts. By highlighting local climate challenges and solutions, the dialogue fostered a collaborative spirit, making it clear that effective climate action in Enugu South requires both top-down policies and grassroots engagement.</p>		<p>initiatives that align with national climate goals, fostering resilience and</p>	
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<p>It allowed engaging directly with the community, and the dialogue helped bridge the knowledge gap between national climate policies and local realities, making the NAP and NDCs more accessible and actionable for local stakeholders.</p>		<p><b>Policy Integration:</b> The findings from the community dialogue will help inform local and state governments as they develop and implement climate policies, which was why we had in attendance the Ministry of Environment and the Department of Climate Change. By integrating these community-driven insights, policies will be more targeted and effective in addressing the specific needs of Enugu South.</p>	<p><b>Increased Poverty:</b> The combined impact of climate-induced agricultural decline, flooding and resource shortages have led to increased poverty levels, particularly amongst the vulnerable.</p>
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## Rationale for Developing the LAPA

The development of the LAPA is essential in addressing these local climate challenges that are facing us and ensuring that vulnerable populations, especially underserved communities, are equipped with the right tools, knowledge, and capacity to adapt to the changing climatic conditions while building effectively on their resilience to adapt and thrive. Participants shared first-hand observations of climate challenges, such as:

- A) **Agricultural Disruption:** Changes in rainfall patterns have been affecting the plantation season & harvesting schedules.
- B) **Health Risks:** Increased incidences of waterborne diseases due to flooding.
- C) **Infrastructure Damage:** Frequent road washouts, erosions, and damage to houses and businesses during heavy rainfall also caused displacement.
- D) Heat waves and mental health challenges especially for young people.
- E) **Waste management:** Indiscriminate disposal of waste that has contributed to clogging of waterways and are breeding grounds for diseases and insect bites while spreading air pollution.

At the core of the LAPA development will be to continue to engage diverse lawmakers, local dwellers, and key relevant stakeholders at the community level in ensuring that the strategies and recommendations developed are people-centric, inclusive, relevant, practical, and sustainable.



## Goals and Objectives of the LAPA

- To Enhance Agricultural Resilience and Implement sustainable practices in improving access to climate-resilient crops.
- To Improve Water Management while Developing a community-based water conservation initiative.
- Strengthening Infrastructures: Upgrade existing infrastructure to withstand climate impacts.
- Promote Disaster Preparedness (Early Warnings): Establish community disaster response mechanisms.
- Increased Awareness: Educate & Sensitise communities on the issues of climate change and advocate resilience strategies.

## ADAPTATION STRATEGIES

### Review of Nigeria's NAP and NDCS

The Nigerian National Adaptation Plan (NAP) and Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) provide a framework for addressing climate change. NAP aims to identify and address medium -long-term adaptation needs and strategies using the community-based approach in planning and implementation which requires community participation for its sustainability.

Nigeria's vulnerability to climate change, as enshrined in the NAP, includes loss of biodiversity, damage to socioeconomic systems, and significant threats to the country's food security.

The Local Adaptation Plan of Action (LAPA) aligns with these national strategies while incorporating local community insights that are peculiar to Enugu State, Nigeria. With our ever-growing and increasing number in population growth, we realized that community members need to be taken into consideration to build on our resilience and improve our capacity for significant impact & progress on more coordinated climate change adaptation efforts both at the local and national level.

In prioritizing the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), young people are a recognized catalyst for green growth and change, with opportunities having been identified, including tools to promote sustainability. Likewise, the LAPA, we were able to leverage the NDC goals to identify strategies that can work at our local communities.

## Implementation Framework

We have been able to classify the identified strategies into priorities ranging from high to low risk and Actions will be prioritized based on urgency, available resources, and potential impact, ensuring that the most critical needs are addressed first. It includes;

### High Priority

- **Sustainable Agricultural Practices**

Responsible Persons: local government leaders, community members, and civil society groups/volunteers to train farmers on agroecological methods and promote crop diversification, knowing that agriculture, afforestation, and urban greening with sustainable land management can help us create a liveable green environment and a coordinated planned city with ecosystem restoration to improve green infrastructures within Enugu State in the next 5 years.

This is of utmost importance and is very high risk, as the state is beginning to experience a growing biodiversity loss and not enough yields for farmers due to illegal cutting down of trees, lack of green areas, and timber logging, which can cause severe loss and damage, and it will not cost us much to restore green spaces through the planting of economic trees and indigenous seedlings, as some are beginning to go extinct.

- **Water Resource Management:** Implement rainwater harvesting and efficient irrigation systems during the rainy seasons.

### Medium Priority

- The Enugu State Ministry of Water Resources should engage residents on water conservation schemes using the above approach. It would promote behavioral change by engaging with community members and collaborating with private sectors.

- **Infrastructure Development:** Invest in climate-resilient infrastructure projects.
- **Community-Based Disaster Risk Reduction:** Form local disaster response committees and conduct training.
- **Public Awareness Campaigns:** Facilitate workshops to disseminate climate information. Strategies will include creating flyers, drafting social media campaigns to drive change, designing climate workshops, seminars & webinars to promote sustainable lifestyles in communities
- **Waste management:** Educate the people on waste-to-wealth schemes and circular economy: Ways to reduce pollution, stop littering, and reduce landfilling while encouraging proper sorting of waste using sensitization, jingles, word of mouth, advertising of recycling culture, and incentivized systems of return packages at stores and malls through recycling.
- **Community engagement programs:** Regular community engagement sessions should be held to educate locals like the farmers and women on sustainable measures and also give them knowledge on climate-resilient practices. A key co-benefit from climate action engagement programs will be the creation of green jobs & MSMEs.

A study completed in 2021 evaluated the impact of Nigeria’s climate policies on employment, GDP, and emissions. This found that in terms of the total number of jobs created, policies to increase power generation have the largest effect. Over the period 2020 up to 2035, on average, around 12 million net additional jobs will be added across the economy as compared to a baseline scenario.

- **Climate education in local schools and communities:** bring the message of sustainability and climate information down to children and women in rural areas.

## MONITORING AND EVALUATION FRAMEWORK

### Measurable Indicators

Indicators will be developed to track the progress and implementation of the LAPA, understanding fully well that we currently do not have enough data from the various ministries on current statistics of Climate Action in Enugu State.

- Number of farmers adopting sustainable practices: Working with the Enugu State Farmers Association to get the number of farmers that will adopt sustainable Agricultural practices in the next 2 years, as none currently adopts within the state and to the best of our resources.
- Reduction in solid waste pollution at landfills (How many households and Businesses subscribe to recycling companies) by year the. Year will work with the Enugu State Ministry of Environment, The Enugu State waste management authority, and some relevant private sectors within the state.
- Community preparedness levels for climate-related disasters. (Number of climate change experts in all the local government areas in Enugu state, number of early warning mechanisms, number of people familiar with the climate-related disaster).
- Transitioning to green skills and green energy. (Number of residents or businesses transitioning to green energy alternatives). The Energy and Mining Ministry currently states that sustainable energy to help us reduce greeregreenhousens ( GHG) by converting from fossil fuels to a manner underway by the state government from the plans to roll out electric transport vehicles to efficient transport reliable systems and inbreeding with 21st

century to solar enabled homes, appliances are underway by 2026. As CS Os, we will conduct a joint needs assessment and situation analysis to ascertain the facts therein.

- Community engagement sessions: for instance, the number of green projects carried out in the state, the number of schools and locals reached through climate and sustainable education. It will be best to establish a multi-stakeholder platform for the State for proper coordination and knowledge sharing, especially concerning representation at COP. It should include Government representatives, local government leaders, youth groups, private sectors, civil society groups, international development partners, academics, and research institutions.

## RECOMMENDATIONS FROM STAKEHOLDER GROUPS

Here's a collapsed version of the summarized strategies from the stakeholders meeting with similar points for clarity and conciseness:

1. **Inclusive Participation:** Engage people with disabilities, farmers, women, and youth in climate adaptation planning to ensure their voices are heard and unique needs are addressed.
2. **Flood and Erosion Control:** Invest in drainage systems and erosion control measures to protect infrastructure and farmland from flooding.
3. **Climate-Smart Agriculture:** Promote drought-resistant crops, efficient irrigation, agroecology, and organic farming, and provide seed grants to farmers to enhance agricultural resilience.
4. **Reforestation and Green Spaces:** Encourage community-led reforestation, ensure trees are planted to replace those cut-down and promote greening initiatives in communities and homes.
5. **Public Awareness and Education:** Launch awareness campaigns on climate change impacts, integrate climate education into school curricula and children's media, and foster community understanding through various channels.
6. **Disaster Preparedness:** Establish early warning systems for extreme weather and community-based disaster preparedness plans to enhance resilience.
7. **Resource Management and Collaboration:** Develop equitable systems for sharing natural resources, encourage public-private partnerships for sustainability, and strengthen collaboration among community, government, and civil society organizations.

8. **Financial and Policy Support:** Provide financial incentives, such as subsidies and tax reductions for farmers and invest in renewable energy technologies, while advocating for strong climate change policies.
9. **Waste and Environmental Management:** Implement proper waste management systems, including recycling programs, and ensure a reliable electricity supply to reduce pollution. Establish environmental marshals for law enforcement and sanitation promotion.
10. **Healthcare and Nutrition:** Promote balanced diets and access to healthcare to mitigate health issues exacerbated by climate change, particularly respiratory problems.
11. **Continuous Community Engagement:** Maintain ongoing dialogue and engagement with the community to build trust and encourage collective action towards climate resilience.

## Community Engagement and Behavioral Change Initiatives

Effective climate adaptation requires not only policy frameworks but also a shift in community behaviors and attitudes. This section outlines actionable steps to achieve widespread community engagement.

- **Grassroots Climate Awareness Campaigns:** Partnering with local leaders and community influencers to host interactive sessions, drama performances, and exhibitions on the impacts of climate change can increase awareness. Tailored messaging in local dialects can bridge the gap between technical jargon and practical understanding.
- **Behavioral Nudges for Sustainable Practices:** Introducing small but impactful changes, such as segregating waste at the household level or incentivizing the use of reusable containers, can gradually shift community norms toward sustainability.
- **Gamification of Climate Goals:** Community-based competitions can encourage participation in adaptation activities. Rewards can range from monetary incentives to public recognition.
- **Inclusive Feedback Mechanisms:** Establishing channels, such as suggestion boxes or mobile apps, for community members to share their ideas and challenges ensures continuous improvement and ownership of adaptation strategies.
- **Capacity Building Through Peer-to-Peer Learning:** Empowering trained community members to train others creates a ripple effect, spreading knowledge and practices more effectively.

## CONCLUSION

The Local Adaptation Plan of Action for Enugu State will represent a collaborative effort to enhance climate resilience through inclusive strategies. By prioritizing the voices of all community members, particularly marginalized groups, the LAPA aims to foster sustainable development and empower communities to adapt to climate change effectively.

The Local Adaptation Plan of Action for Enugu State will be a cornerstone in building resilience to climate change impacts within the region. By engaging with diverse stakeholders and incorporating their perspectives, the LAPA can address the unique challenges faced by different communities, ensuring that no voice is left unheard in the quest for sustainable development. Through targeted interventions and capacity-building initiatives, the LAPA can empower marginalized groups to actively participate in climate adaptation efforts, fostering a sense of ownership and inclusivity in the process.

Furthermore, the LAPA can serve as a catalyst for innovation and knowledge-sharing among communities, enabling them to leverage local resources and traditional knowledge to enhance their adaptive capacity. By promoting collaboration and cooperation at all levels, the LAPA can create a network of support that enables communities to navigate the complexities of climate change with resilience and determination. In doing so, the LAPA can pave the way for Enugu State to emerge as a model of climate resilience and sustainable development for other regions to follow.

## KEY POLICY PROVISIONS

### A) LAPA Implementation Activities:

1. Selected CSO's physical & Virtual meetings.
2. Advocacy visits to relevant stakeholders and lawmakers.
3. Press and media rounds.
4. State-wide dialogue & stakeholders engagement forum
5. A final draft of the LAPA
6. Distribution of the LAPA evenly.

### B) Implementation Timeline

1. Press round at 9 am at Solid FM, 25th, November 2024.
2. Advocacy visit to the commissioner of Environment, 25th, November 2024.
3. State-wide dialogue forum (Second week of December)
4. Dissemination of the LAPA to key stakeholders and lawmakers. (Third week of December)
5. Media awareness creation of the LAPA. ( 3rd and 4th week of December)
6. Sharing the Final LAPA
7. The final LAPA will be disseminated through community meetings, social media, and emails of attendees of the Step down training, community dialogue, and stakeholders Engagement Meetings while also using media channels to ensure wide accessibility and engagement.

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## GLOSSARY

COP	Conference of the Parties
GHG	Greenhouse Gas
LAPA	Local Adaptation Plan of Action
MSMEs.	Micro, Small and Medium Size Enterprises
NAP	National Adaptation Plan
NDC	Nationally Determined Contributions
PWDs	People with Disability.





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