

# CLIMATE AMBITION BEYOND EMISSION NUMBERS

**Taking stock of progress by looking inside  
countries and sectors**

**NIGERIA**

*Chukwumerije Okereke*

**SEPTEMBER 2021**

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# CLIMATE AMBITION BEYOND EMISSION NUMBERS

## Taking stock of progress by looking inside countries and sectors

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The results presented in this report are outputs of the academic research conducted under the DDP BIICS project as per the contractual agreement. The academic work does not in any way represent our considered opinion for climate negotiations and also does not reflect the official policy or position of the Government of Nigeria.

# How is this document relevant to the Global Stocktake?

This document is part of a collective report that assesses the evolution of climate ambition in 26 countries and 3 hard-to-abate sectors through a granular and context-specific analysis of trends and progress of national and sectoral transformations.<sup>1</sup> This approach allows identifying what hinders and spurs action in countries and sectors, and understanding the conditions that can support enhanced ambition, which could be political, social, economic, governance.

These insights are directly relevant to four overarching functions of the Global Stocktake in support of its desired outcome, i.e. "to inform Parties in updating and enhancing, in a nationally determined manner, their actions and support in accordance with the provisions of the Paris Agreement, as well as enhancing international cooperation for climate action" (Article 14.3 of the Paris Agreement):

- Create the conditions for an open and constructive conversation on global cooperation (on e.g., technology, trade, finance, etc.), based on an in-depth understanding of the international enablers of enhanced country ambition.
- Organize a process for knowledge sharing and collective learning, based on concrete examples of actions already in place or being discussed, including best practices.
- Create space for open dialogues across different stakeholders to support better coordination of actions, based on a detailed understanding of the levers to be activated to enhance ambition in national and sectoral transitions
- Facilitate ownership by decision-makers of the climate challenge and the risks and opportunities of the low-emission and resilient transition, based on context-specific and granular analysis of barriers and enablers.

More specifically, the collective report in general – and this document in particular – can contribute to address some of the key guiding questions for the Global Stocktake<sup>2</sup>, notably:

- What actions have been taken to increase the ability to adapt to the adverse impacts of climate change and foster the climate resilience of people, livelihoods, and ecosystem? To what extent have national adaptation plans and related efforts contributed to these actions (Decision 19/CMA.1, paragraph 36(c))?
- How adequate and effective are current adaptation efforts and support provided for adaptation (Article 7.14 (c) Paris Agreement)?

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<sup>1</sup> The full report « Climate ambition beyond emission numbers - Taking stock of progress by looking inside countries and sectors" can be found at: <https://www.iddri.org/en/publications-and-events/report/climate-ambition-beyond-emission-numbers-taking-stock-progress>

<sup>2</sup> Draft Guiding Questions for the Technical Assessment of GST1 (version 20th October 2021), available at: [https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/Draft%20GST1\\_TA%20Guiding%20Questions.pdf](https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/Draft%20GST1_TA%20Guiding%20Questions.pdf)

- What are the barriers and challenges, including finance, technology development and transfer and capacity-building gaps, faced by developing countries?
- What is the collective progress made towards achieving the long-term vision on the importance of fully realizing technology development and transfer in order to improve resilience to climate change and to reduce greenhouse gas emissions referred in Article 10.1 of the Paris Agreement? What is the state of cooperative action on technology development and transfer?
- What progress has been made on enhancing the capacity of developing country Parties to implement the Paris Agreement (Article 11.3 Paris Agreement)?
- To achieve the purpose and long-term goals of the Paris Agreement (mitigation, adaptation, and finance flows and means of implementation, as well as loss and damage, response measures), in the light of equity and the best available science, taking into account the contextual matters in the preambular paragraphs of the Paris Agreement:
  - What are the good practices, barriers and challenges for enhanced action?
  - What is needed to make finance flows consistent with a pathway towards low GHG emissions and climate-resilient development?
  - What are the needs of developing countries related to the ambitious implementation of the Paris Agreement?
- What is needed to enhance national level action and support, as well as to enhance international cooperation for climate action, including in the short term?
- What is the collective progress made by non-Party stakeholders, including indigenous peoples and local communities, to achieve the purpose and long-term goals of the Paris Agreement, and what are the impacts, good practices, potential opportunities, barriers and challenges (Decision 19/CMA.1, paras 36(g) and 37(i))?

# Foreword

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Henri Waisman, Marta Torres Gunfaus, Anna Perez Catala, IDDRI.

Country commitments as reflected in enhanced Nationally Determined Contributions submitted to the UNFCCC are insufficient to put the world on track to achieve the collective objective of the Paris Agreement to hold temperature increase below 2 °C or 1.5 °C above pre-industrial levels. Furthermore, concrete policies and actions adopted by countries on the ground are often not sufficient to achieve these NDC targets. These conclusions highlight the need to increase ambition and to provide convincing evidence to accelerate action in the immediate and short term to give effect to this ambition. Yet these assessments are not sufficient to effectively guide the progressive increase of ambition, as organized by the cyclical process of the Paris Agreement.

## APPROACH

With this imperative in mind, this report adopts a different, complementary, perspective on climate ambition. It seeks to open the box of emission pathways, by considering multiple dimensions of the conditions that will make these pathways possible. These are technical, economic, political, social and governance considerations in need of attention to enable the required far-reaching and systemic transformation towards the long-term goal. On the one hand, the revision of emission targets needs to be directed by an assessment of how drivers of emissions should change to trigger transformation. On the other hand, converting emissions' targets into pertinent concrete implementation requires well-designed policy packages and investment plans that are also informed by a clear and detailed understanding of the starting point, priorities and interplays between the available levers of transformation.

This bottom-up assessment aims at contributing to the process of collective learning in support of the progressive increase of collective ambition, as inserted at the core of the Paris Agreement paradigm. Approaching climate ambition through the lens of underlying transformations calls for reflecting the heterogeneous nature and the multi-faceted aspects

of transitions in different sectors and countries. This forces a move away from a purely global perspective and adopts a more granular approach based on country and individual sector perspectives. Thus, the report explores trends and progress on these transformations, as locally observed over the past years, notably since the Paris Agreement. This 'backwards looking' approach can help identify where developments are going in the right direction, where they should be accelerated and where major tensions remain that should be addressed as a priority to avoid undermining the transition. The picture of the state of the ambition discussion, firmly embedded in the country and sectoral realities, can provide means for reflection and action within the international climate community, particularly to inform focus areas for advancing the collective ambition agenda.

## STRUCTURE OF THE REPORT

This country report describes the recent evolutions of domestic discourses on climate ambition, national climate policy, national governance and concrete policies and actions with a significant effect on GHG emissions. The chapter highlights a selection of striking and structurally important elements to advance the transformation towards carbon neutrality from an in-country perspective.

This report is part of a full series of 26 country chapters and three sectoral chapters. The full report includes a "summary for decision-makers" to present 10 cross-cutting messages emerging from the country and sector analysis, as a guide to the selection of priorities for collective action in the post-COP26 period.

You will find the full report at: [https://www.iddri.org/sites/default/files/PDF/Publications/Catalogue%20Iddri/Rapport/DDP\\_beyond%20emissions%20report.pdf](https://www.iddri.org/sites/default/files/PDF/Publications/Catalogue%20Iddri/Rapport/DDP_beyond%20emissions%20report.pdf)

*This chapter has been written thanks to the support of the International Climate Initiative (IKI) of the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU).*

*This short essay provides a brief account of the progress that Nigeria has made on addressing climate change since Paris Agreement in 2015. The essay is based on personal observations and experience working with several groups of stakeholders in the country. The account is not intended to be exhaustive but to highlight some of the most significant developments from the perspective of the country's transformations towards carbon neutrality. The essay is structured in three parts as follows: (a) domestic discourse, which deals with the level of awareness, and dominant views on the reasons for climate (in) action; (b) national governance, which covers institutions and processes at national and subnational levels for steering the Nigeria's transformation (or lack of it) in the face of climate change; and (c) concrete policies and actions.*

# CLIMATE AMBITION BEYOND THE NDC

## DOMESTIC DISCOURS

***From a low base, public awareness of climate change in Nigeria has grown since the Paris Agreement helped by a charismatic environment Minister but research suggest that awareness remains shallow and superficial***

There are no definitive large-sized studies on the perception of climate change among Nigerian citizens as exists in many developed countries. However, several localized studies that measure the perception of climate change among various regions and demographics find that awareness can be as high as up to 80% with equally a high percentage feeling that the issue is serious enough to warrant concerted attention by government and other stakeholders.<sup>1,2,3</sup>

- 1 Badmos, B. K., Sawyerr, H. O., Awopeju, S. O., Salako, G. A., & Abdurashheed, A. A. (2017). The Socioeconomic/Demographic Determinants of Public Perception about Climate Change in Ekiti State of Nigeria. *Journal of Geography, Environment and Earth Science International*, 9, 1-10.
- 2 Nche, G. C. (2020). Beyond Spiritual Focus: Climate Change Awareness, Role Perception, and Action among Church Leaders in Nigeria. *Weather, Climate, and Society*, 12(1), 149-169.
- 3 Esan, V. I., Lawi, M. B., & Okedigba, I. (2018). Analysis of cashew farmers adaptation to climate change in South-Western Nigeria. *Asian Journal of Agricultural Extension, Economics & Sociology*, 1-12.

However, many of these publications also report that when pressed, not many respondents are able to elaborate on the possible measures of climate action or on the positive steps being taken by the government to transition Nigeria to a low carbon future. The general perception therefore is that awareness is broad but shallow and superficial.

There is evidence that the Paris Agreement has had some impact in increasing public awareness of climate change in Nigeria not least because the preparation process of the Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDC) in the run to the Conference of Parties (COP) in France in 2015, although somewhat rushed to meet UNFCCC deadline, incorporated a number of medium-sized stakeholders' consultations especially in Abuja and Lagos metropolis. For many stakeholders, the consultations exercises represented the first real opportunity to engage the government in a meaningful discussion on the implications of climate change to Nigeria's economic development and more importantly to make inputs to a document that would help to determine the policies and measures that Nigeria would adopt to tackle climate change.<sup>4</sup> The appointment of charismatic Ms Amina Mohamed who was previously serving as the Special Adviser to UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon on post-2015 development planning as the Minister of Environment in November 2015 also had strong positive impact in increasing public awareness of climate change in Nigeria during and immediately after Paris Agreement. Ms Mohamed was media savvy and very visible during the Paris Agreement. She played a major role in helping to broker a deal on Adaptation Goal which was a priority issue for the African Group of Negotiators (AGN) during the Summit. She also had a more open approach to government than many of her predecessors and encouraged meetings and inputs from a wider section of the Nigerian public. After signing the Paris Agreement, the government invested some effort into public engagement including holding consultations in the different geo-political zones that make up Nigeria. A series of National Consultative Workshops on gender and climate change supported by Ms Mohamed which was launched in 2016 was also used as a means of broadening public awareness of climate change and

engaging Nigerians to take the INDC and the Paris Agreement forward from pledges to action.

As part of the revision on the NDC process which is ongoing, the WRI funded a national project on Promoting Public Engagement with Nigeria's NDC Revision and Climate Action implemented by CCCD at AEFUNAI designed to generate independent analysis on critical aspects of climate change and also increase public engagement stakeholders' engagement in the revision and subsequent implementation of the revised NDC. The project was intended to strongly compliment the current government-led NDC revision process with the support of the NDC Partnership through the Climate Action Enhancement Package (CAEP), by injecting academic analysis and more public debate into the process. Through the project there has been series of publication and national virtual dialogue to provide opportunity to national and international experts to analyse various aspects of the NDC. However, while awareness continues to grow, it is not clear that the momentum or political will is shifting in the direction that will engender a radically shift the trajectory of development towards a green economy.

***The dominant discourse promoted by the government is that action on climate change can help build a resilient economy***

The key government narrative is that ambitious climate action will foster low carbon economy, sustainable growth and the building of a climate resilient society.<sup>5</sup> Examples of the positive relationship between taking ambitious action and building a resilience society often touted by the government include increase in renewable energy use as a means of addressing energy poverty, reforestation as part of the effort to tackle aggressive desertification that is ravaging the northern parts of the country, and oil spill clean-up and land remediation in the Niger- Delta which is claimed will recover the carbon sink potential of about one thousand square kilometers (1,000 KM<sup>2</sup>) of mangrove ecosystem that had been affected by oil pollution.<sup>6</sup> However, there remains a significant percentage of Nigerians that question the "win-win" philosophy and suggest that Nigeria's preoccupation should be on the pursuit of industrialization and rapid

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.environmentnigeria.com/nigeria-puts-finishing-touches-indcs-stakeholders-validate-draft/>

<sup>5</sup> INDC, Federal Government of Nigeria, 2015

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.thenigerianvoice.com/news/281875/full-text-of-president-buharis-speech-at-the-united-nations.html>



economy growth needed to pull its citizens out of poverty. These ones argue that climate change is a “White Man” problem which should not be allowed to distract government’s concentration on economic development.

Among the wider Nigerian population climate awareness and discourse may have been shaped the multiple impacts of climate change on the livelihood of the people especially through drought and flooding. Nigeria is among the most vulnerable countries to climate change in the world according to the ND-GAIN index<sup>7</sup> score which measures country’s climate vulnerability based on exposure, sensitivity and ability to adapt to the negative impact of climate change. Nigeria’s forests have been massively depleted at an annual rate of 3.5% with the FAO estimating that between 1990 and 2015, the country lost about 35% of its remaining forest resources and over 50% of other wooded land, making it a country with the highest rate of deforestation in the world.<sup>8</sup> Over 25 million Nigeria’s are exposed to the risk of flooding and an estimated 27 to 53 million people in the country may need to be relocated with a 0.5 m increase in sea level.<sup>9</sup> Oil infrastructure worth trillions of dollars are in the coastal area that are risk of sea-level rise.

Agriculture employs over 70% of Nigeria population and 86% of all crop farming is rain-fed and vulnerable to even small changes in weather pattern.<sup>10</sup> Climate change is causing a decrease in productivity of many of the staple food crops and worsening the state of food insecurity in the country. Significant changes in rain fall pattern in the last 10 years and the resulting drought and famine have stimulated a lot of national conversation on climate change and served to increase awareness among the population. Climate change is a major driver of desertification in the North and the shrinking of Lake Chad which in turn is driving cattle-rearers down to the South, increasing farmers-herders conflict and amplifying insecurity in the country. At the same time Nigeria has witnessed an

unprecedented number and intensity of flooding events in the last 5 years. In September 2020 alone it was reported that flooding 192,594 people across 22 states in Nigeria including 826 injuries, 155 fatalities and about 25,000 displacements.<sup>11</sup> Several news reports of the droughts, crop-failure, famine, flooding, heat-waves and other extreme weather events in Nigeria linking these events to global warming and climate change and this has served to increase awareness. Already Nigeria has one of the highest numbers of internally displaced people in the world. Moreover, the almost sole dependence of Nigeria on oil export for foreign exchange earnings (about 85%) means that Nigeria runs the risk of suffering a catastrophic economic consequence that will involve massive job losses, inflation, and huge amounts of stranded assets in the event of a global transition to the green economy.

***A new wave of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) has helped to increase awareness but these lack the capacity to pressure government and businesses for real action***

The post Paris Agreement has also witnessed the proliferation of civil society organizations seeking to broaden public awareness of and engagement with climate change. These include groups like the Climate and Sustainable Development Network (CSDevNet) representing the PanAfrican Justice Alliance (PACJA), the International Climate Change Development Initiative, Creative Youth Community Development Initiative, the International Student Environmental Coalition (ISEC), and Women In Renewable Energy Association (WIRE-A). A key focus of these groups many of which are driven by youth climate activities has been the promotion of climate education (often with tree planting components) in primary and secondary schools as well as local communities. Another topical issue is the promotion of clean cooking and renewable technologies such as solar lanterns, solar PVC, LPG cylinders and improved cooking stoves. These CSO have also contributed to keeping climate change on the political agenda even after COVID-19 with references to the need to build back better and leverage COVID-19 stimulus package to take action on climate change.<sup>12</sup>

<sup>7</sup> <https://gain-new.crc.nd.edu/ranking/vulnerability>.

<sup>8</sup> FAO cited in Emmanuel Oladipo. (2021). *Analysis Of The Adaptation Components That Could Be Included In Nigeria's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) Revision*. Center for Climate and Development, Alex Ekwueme Federal University Ndufu-Alike Nigeria Discussion Paper.

<sup>9</sup> TNC

<sup>10</sup> Onyeneke Robert and Emekwe Chukwumeka (2021). *Options for promoting climate-smart agriculture in the new NDC in Nigeria*. Centre for Climate and Development, Alex Ekwueme Federal University, Ndufu-Alike, Nigeria Discussion Paper.

<sup>11</sup> <http://www.floodlist.com/africa/nigeria-floods-october-2020>

<sup>12</sup> <https://nnn.ng/csos-advocate-green-recovery-out-of-covid-19-in-nigeria/>

However, many of these NGOs are small and nascent. They do not have capacity to undertake major works or initiatives that can put pressure on policymakers and businesses to increase their ambition on climate action. Moreover, there is a sense that most of the narratives on climate change in Nigeria are still at a superficial level and lack the level of rigor required to trigger meaningful and strategic decarbonization of the economy. While there is a recognition of the positive synergies that exist between climate action and sustainable development in Nigeria there remains a lack of deep understanding of the almost far-reaching threats of climate change to Nigerian economic future and possibly its survival as a country.

For example, while the NDC is hailed as ambitious, the data and analyses on which it was built has been judged very suspect given the absence of a comprehensive national emission registry, the emissions from most of the key sectors (energy, transport, and forestry) on which the NDC was based were best guess projections. Although the NDC makes reference to ending gas flaring, the country's main economic plans such as the Vision 2020 and the Economic and Growth Recovery Plan (EGRP) and the Post COVID-19 National Economic and Sustainability Plan (NESP) all emphasize the commitment of the government to increased oil exportation.<sup>13</sup> A Petroleum Industry Bill (PIB) which was intended to deregulate the oil sector has been lying remains a hostage to political brinkmanship and horse-trading in the Federal Houses of the Parliament. Government has touted the need to diversification the economy away from its current dependence on oil but this has remained a lofty ambition with the economy heavily reliant oil receipts which are dwindling because of COVID-19 pandemic and the global green economy transition.

## ON NATIONAL GOVERNANCE

*A vibrant Department of Climate Change Drives Climate Governance in Nigeria but capacity is low and higher level of coordination apparent.*

<sup>13</sup> Chukwumerije Okereke and James C. Okeuhie (2021). Aligning Nigeria's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) and The Covid-19 economic stimulus, Center for Climate and Development, Alex Ekwueme Federal University Ndufu-Alike Nigeria Discussion Paper

Responsibility for the governance of climate falls under the Federal Ministry of Environment. Initially, the coordination of climate change activities was done by a Special Climate Change Unit (SCCU) within the Environment Ministry. However, in recognition of the growing importance of climate change and the need to elevate its governance at the national stage, the government in 2011 elevated the Special Unit to a full Department of Climate Change (DCC) with the head of the Special Unit promoted to the position of director. The DCC remains the focal point and Designated National Authority (DNA) for Climate Change in Nigeria.

Nigeria has had the good fortune of having Directors of DCC that are relatively vibrant and keen to elevate climate governance in the country. As a result of the dynamism of the two previous directors and the current acting director the DCC has managed to make a decent representation in the annual COPs and keep pace with the creation of international climate policy documents as demanded by the UNFCCC. The DCC drove the creation of the NDC in 2015 and has coordinated the drafting of a number of many other important documents and plans such as the Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Action (NAMA), the Building Nigeria Response to Climate Change (BRNCC) and the Second and Third National Climate Communication, the latter of which especially involved a measure of stakeholder consultation and validation exercises.

There is also exists an Inter-ministerial Committee on Climate Change, convened by the Minister of Environment, with representation from the ministries of Finance, Agriculture, water Resources, Energy Commission, Nigeria National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC), Foreign Affairs, Nigerian Meteorological Agency (NIMET), and industry to promote horizontal integration of climate action in Nigeria. Interestingly the Committee also has representatives from the Civil Society Organization and two Research Centers<sup>14</sup>. A National Council on the Environment, also convened by the Minister of Environment, comprising state governors and representatives at the federal level

<sup>14</sup> NGOs rep is Nigerian Environmental Study/Action Team), and the Academic Reps are Centre for Climate Change and Fresh Water Resources, Federal University of Technology Minna; Centre for Energy, Research and Development, Obafemi Awolowo University Ile-Ife; and Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University, Bauchi.

also meet periodically to review the state of the environment and make policy recommendations. The council also provided a strong endorsement for the formulation of an ambitious renewable energy policy and a renewable energy master plan in the months immediately after the Paris Agreement.

Government also creates ad hoc interministerial committees to engage with or help manage climate change initiatives that are deemed of national importance and requiring coordination across ministries. For example following President Buhari promise in his speech at the 74<sup>th</sup> United Nations General Assembly in New York in 2019 that Nigeria would plant 25 million trees to address deforestation, climate change and increase carbon sink among others, the government convened an inter-ministerial committee to oversee the implementation of the pledges<sup>15</sup>. More recently the government has also convened another inter-ministerial committee to help steer the production of low emission development pathways for the country which is being undertaken as part of the Deep Decarbonization Project coordinated by IDDRI.

However, there remains a sense that the current institutional arrangement for the governance of climate change in Nigeria lacks the coherence and leverage that matches the scale and urgency of the challenge. Despite these existential threats, there has not been any urgency to elevate climate action to the level comparable to national security or macro-economic growth in the country. For the large part, climate change discussion is confined within the Ministry of Environment and its Department of Climate Change and the role of many critical stakeholders such as businesses has remained largely limited. The government does not as yet have a National Green Growth Plan or any other plan to ensure the integration of climate action across ministries or mainstreaming of climate change into the core of aspects of economic plan. There have been calls for a Special Envoy on Climate Change, a Presidential Special Adviser on Climate Change or a Special Climate Change Fund

National Climate Change Commission as ways to elevate the status of climate governance and increase horizontal coordination, however these calls have largely gone unheeded.

***There is need for vertical integration in the governance arrangement of climate change and new legislations to achieve greater coherence and focus.***

While the effort at horizontal integration is generally moderate, vertical integration is all but lacking. Nigeria is a big country with 36 federating units. However, the bulk of climate governance instruments and institutions have concentrated at the national level and awareness and governance at the state and local government level is woefully lacking/inadequate. Of the 36 states, only a handful of states such as Lagos state in the West and Ebonyi State in the South East have a state climate change policy. The government has made some effort to address this gap through the creation of climate change desks officers at the state level but the desk officers lack clear mandate and powers to drive meaningful climate governance at the state levels.

There have been two unsuccessful attempts to pass a climate change law that would elevate the political profile of climate change, and strengthen both horizontal and vertical coordination in climate governance. The first attempt was between 2014 and 2015 when the Senate Committee on Ecology and the Committee on Climate Change at the National House of Representatives both passed a bill on Climate Change which among other sought to create a National Commission on Climate change. However, Dr Jonathan Goodluck who was President at time refused to sign the bill in to law on the basis that the government had a commitment to curb the “proliferation” of government agencies. Following the signing of the Paris Agreement a second attempt was to pass a bill to create a National Climate Change Agency and a National Council on Climate Change to raise the political standing of climate governance in the country. But again, having passed through the two houses of parliament, President Buhari also in 2019 refused to sign the bill into law.

Government has recently started the process of creating a long-term low greenhouse gas emission development plan in compliance with Article 4 of the Paris

<sup>15</sup> Membership comprised the Forestry department, the Climate Change Unit, the unit in charge of drought and desertification, the National Park Services, the National Agency for the Great Green Wall, Representatives of Governors Forum, Civil Society Organizations, the private sector, Wood Export Association, Dangote Foundation and Ministries of Agriculture, Water Resources and Women Affairs.

Agreement. It is hoped that the plan will for the first time articulate a clear a clear vision for carbon neutrality for Nigeria and the pathways for achieving such a vision. So far, the formulation of the plan has involved engagement with several other ministries, departments and agencies in the country bearing in mind the extensive amount of coordination that would be required to achieve such a vision. However, the process has only just started with the first drafts expected to be published before COP26 and it is not yet clear what impact the process and the plan will have in shaping the carbon neutrality discourse in Nigeria.

## POLICIES AND ACTION

*There is a lot of commendable development and efforts in Nigeria with regards to climate action but a general lack of depth, rigor and urgency in driving decarbonization*

A hotchpotch sectoral policies drive mitigation of climate change and are not specifically targeted at decarbonization or synchronized with Nigeria's NDC. Nigeria climate policies and actions are scattered across different sectors and institutional frameworks without sufficient concretization of interventions towards the ambitious goal of achieving carbon neutrality in 2050. There is a raft of initiatives especially in the renewable energy and forestry sector many of which are driven by multilateral organizations and UNFCCC commitments. A major sign of progress was recorded when the government signalled through the Nigerian Renewable Energy Masterplan and Vision 30:3030 a commitment to increase the renewable energy share of the energy supply-mix by 30GW by 2030.

Several international development partners have sought to encourage government along these lines by funding a variety of clean energy programmes across the country. The government has commissioned a number of distributive renewable energy (RE) programmes including the Rural Electrification Agency's Energizing Education projects through which solar energy installations were made in some Nigerian Universities and several across rural communities in the country. The Energizing Education project is supported by both the World Bank and the African Development Bank. The Energy Commission of Nigeria (ECN) has also carried out a number of renewable

energy projects over time including 10 on-grid and off-grid project that were recently given approval through PPAs by the government bulk-purchasing company (NBET) to proceed to development.

The renewable energy sector in Nigeria remains hamstrung by several constraints including lack of policy initiatives and limited public and private sector investment. As a result, the share of RE in the energy mix is still very minimal. The benefit of scaling up private sector investment has been recognized and government has granted some PPP licenses as means of unlocking investment from private sources but a complex regulatory and political environment continues to limit progress.

Some notable progress has also been made in the AFOLU sector. These include the establishment of a National Agricultural Resilience Framework (NARF) on policies required to successfully implement a national climate smart agricultural programme<sup>16</sup> and the completion of a national forestry plan. There has been and increased yield in rice production boosted with injection of financial grants through an Anchor Borrower Scheme that provided soft loans to smallholder farmers. Government has embarked on some successful REDD+ schemes in the different ecological zones to maintain forest resources in its pristine state, and earn carbon credit for the country. These REDD++ schemes have consolidated the country's' efforts to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, and foster conservation, sustainable management of forests, and enhancement of forest carbon stocks. Several of the flagship reforestation and renewable energy projects in the country have received funding support from the two Green Bonds projects launched by the Federal government in December 2017 and June 2019 which raised 10 billion Naira, (USD 30 million) and 15 billion Naira (USD 42 million) respectively.

An important emission reduction policy which is rarely projected as a climate policy in the country is the pockets of rail infrastructural development being undertaken by the government. Transport infrastructure in Nigeria is not only grossly undeveloped but poorly maintained. To curb reliance on inefficient transportation mode the federal government initiated and completed two major rail lines from Abuja to Kaduna,

<sup>16</sup> [www4:unfccc.int/submissions/INDC/submissionpages/submissions.aspx](http://www4.unfccc.int/submissions/INDC/submissionpages/submissions.aspx)

Lagos to Ibadan. Additional new lines from Calabar to Lagos and Kano to Marradi in Niger Republic are at different stages of construction while light rail line is at formative stage in the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja. Lagos state government is the only state where there is high presence of green transportation infrastructure with an extensive energy efficient BRT buses in operation and a light rail line project planned. A positive development in line with NDC outlook of moving freight to rail is the construction and commencement of moving freight from the much-congested Apapa port to container terminals in Ibadan. This measure not only eased traffic congestion at the Apapa axis but also reduced cost of goods and pollution from trucks.

Urbanization has increased the incidence of managing Municipal Solid Waste (MSW). Solid waste accounts for 3% to Nigeria's carbon emissions with agriculture contributing a total of 30m tonnes/year of waste. One measure so far adopted to reduce MSW is the Solid Waste Program Interventions organized by the Federal Ministry of Environment to implement an integrated solid waste management programme. Different states around the country participated actively and offered to elaborate policies within their areas of jurisdiction. However, poor waste management remains a major issue in the country and virtually none of the several large waste-to-energy schemes talked about in the country has proceeded to project execution stage.

Gas flaring remains the largest single-point source of GHG emission in Nigeria accounting for over 50 million metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub> per year. Ending gas flaring by 2030 is one of the big targets of the NDC. In 2016 the government launched an ambitious Nigerian Gas Flare Commercialization Programme ("NGFCP") which is aimed at selling the previously flared gas to private investors so they can convert to other economically viable uses such as CNG, LNG, and LPG. Government recently says that a contract has been signed with over 100 entities to participate in this program but it is not clear when the operation will start. More recently the government has also launched a National Gas Expansion Program (NGEP) aimed to deliver 1million autogas vehicles by 2021. However, government has recently expressed frustration that the country is encountering resistance from international development partners which do not see natural gas as part of the future for Nigerian green transition. This frustration

may be a sign of the crisis that awaits Nigeria if it fails to get its act together to take a proactive approach towards the diversification and decarbonization its economy in line with the global transition towards neutral world by 2050. In sum a huge gap remains between rhetoric and action and with limited capacity many of the CSOs are not able to bring pressure to bear on the government to follow through with the commitments it makes at several international fora.

## DDP

The DDP is an initiative of the Institute for Sustainable Development and International Relations (IDDRI). It aims to demonstrate how countries can transform their economies by 2050 to achieve global net zero emissions and national development priorities, consistently with the Paris Agreement.. The DDP initiative is a collaboration of leading research teams currently covering 36 countries. It originated as the Deep Decarbonization Pathways Project (DDPP), which analysed the deep decarbonization of energy systems in 16 countries prior to COP21 ([deepdecarbonization.org](http://deepdecarbonization.org)). Analyses are carried out at the national scale, by national research teams. These analyses adopt a long-term time horizon to 2050 to reveal the necessary short-term conditions and actions to reach carbon neutrality in national contexts. They help governments and non-state actors make choices and contribute to in-country expertise and international scientific knowledge. The aim is to help governments and non-state actors make choices that put economies and societies on track to reach a carbon neutral world by the second half of the century. Finally, national research teams openly share their methods, modelling tools, data and the results of their analyses to share knowledge between partners in a very collaborative manner and to facilitate engagement with sectoral experts and decision-makers.

[www.ddpinitiative.org](http://www.ddpinitiative.org)

## IDDRI

The Institute for Sustainable Development and International Relations (IDDRI) is an independent, not-for-profit policy research institute based in Paris. Its objective is to identify the conditions and propose tools to put sustainable development at the heart of international relations and public and private policies. IDDRI is also a multi-stakeholder dialogue platform and supports stakeholders in global governance debates on the major issues of common interest, such as actions to mitigate climate change, protect biodiversity, strengthen food security, and to manage urbanisation. The institute also participates in work to build development trajectories that are compatible with national priorities and the sustainable development goals.

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