



FEDERAL MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT

[NATIONAL REDD+ PROGRAMME]

NATIONAL STRATEGY FOR NIGERIA REDD+ PROGRAMME

[FINAL]

**NATIONAL STRATEGY FOR
NIGERIA'S REDD+ PROGRAMME**

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ABBREVIATIONS

AD	-	Activity Data
ADB	-	Asian Development Bank
ADF	-	African Development Fund
AF	-	Adaptation Fund
AfDB	-	African Development Bank
AU	-	African Union
BAU	-	Business as Usual
Bn	-	Billion
BSM	-	Benefit Sharing Method
BUR	-	Biennial Update Reports
CBA	-	Cost Benefit Analysis
CBD	-	Convention on Biological Diversity
CBN	-	Central Bank of Nigeria
CBR	-	Cost Benefit Ratio
CB REDD+	-	Country-based REDD+
CEDAW	-	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women

CFI	-	Cocoa & Forests Initiative
CILSS	-	Comité permanent inter-État de lutte contre la sécheresse au Sahel, (which means Permanent Interstate Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel)
CITES	-	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species
CI	-	Confidence level
CO ₂	-	Carbon Dioxide
COP	-	Conference of the Parties
CRS	-	Cross River State
CSA	-	Climate Smart Agriculture
CSO	-	Civil Society Organizations
CSR	-	Corporate Social Responsibility
ECOWAS	-	Economic Community of West African State
EF	-	Emission Factor
EIA	-	Environmental Impact Assessment
ESMF	-	Environmental and Social Management Framework
ERGP	-	Economic Recovery and Growth Plan
FAC	-	Forest Advisory Committee
FAO	-	Food and Agriculture Organization
FBO	-	Faith Based Organizations
FCI	-	Forest Carbon Inventory
FCCC	-	Framework Convention for Climate Change
FCPF	-	Forest Carbon Partnership Facility
FDF	-	Federal Department of Forestry

FGDs	-	Focus Group Discussions
FGoN	-	Federal Government of Nigeria
FGRM	-	Feedback and Grievances Redress Mechanism
FIP	-	Forest Investment Program
FLEGT	-	Forest Law Enforcement Governance and Trade
FM	-	Frequency Modulations
FMARD	-	Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
FMC	-	Management Committee
FMANR	-	Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources
FMoE	-	Federal Ministry of Environment
FPIC	-	Free Prior and Informed Consent
FRELS	-	Forest Reference Emission Levels
FRL	-	Forest Reference Level
FSFM	-	Financing Sustainable Forest Management
FUGs	-	Forest User Groups
GCF	-	Green Climate Fund
GDP	-	Gross Domestic Product
GEF	-	Global Environment Facility
GGWP	-	Great Green Wall Project
GHG	-	Green House Gas
GIS	-	Geographic Information System
GOFC-GOLD	-	Global Observation of Forest Cover

GOLD	-	Global Observation of Land Dynamics
GPS	-	Geographical Positioning System
Ha.	-	Hectares
HCV	-	High Conservation Value
IDA	-	International Development Association
IEPICs	-	Emissions Performance Credits
IFC FDI	-	International Finance Corporation Foreign Direct Investment
IPCC	-	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
ITTO	-	International Tropical Timber Council
IUCN	-	International Union for Conservation of Nature
Km.	-	Kilometres
LG	-	Local Government
LNG	-	Liquefied Natural Gas.
LUA	-	Land Use Act
LULUCF	-	Land Use Land Use Change in Forestry
m.	-	meters
MANR	-	Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources
MDGs	-	Millennium Development Goals
M & E	-	Monitoring and Evaluation
MMRV	-	Monitoring, Measurement Reporting and Verification
MoEFCC	-	Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Climate Change
MoU	-	Memorandum of Understanding

MRV	-	Measurement, Reporting and Verification
MSF	-	Multi-Stakeholder Forum
MSIF	-	Multi-Sectoral Investment Framework
Mt	-	Metric tonne
NASPA-CCN	-	National Adaptation Strategy and Plan of Action for Climate Change Nigeria
NBS	-	National Bureau of Statistics
NBSAP	-	National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan
NDC	-	Nationally Determined Contribution
NEWMAP	-	Nigeria Erosion and Watershed Management Programme
NFAP	-	National Forestry Action Programme
NFDC	-	National Forestry Development Committee
NFMS	-	National Forest Monitoring System
NGO	-	Non-Governmental Organization
NNBSAP	-	Nigeria National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan
NNPS	-	Nigeria National Park Service
NPF	-	Nigerian Police Force
NPV	-	Net Present Value
NPS	-	National Park Service
NREEEP	-	National Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Policy
NSIS	-	National Safeguard Information System
NSTCs	-	National and State Technical Committees
NSWG	-	National Safeguards Working Group

NTFPs	-	Non-Timber Forest Products
PFC	-	Private Forest Centre
PSC	-	Programme Steering Committee
PWC	-	Price Waterhouse Cooper
REDD+	-	Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation and the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks
RIL	-	Reduced Impact Logging
RPF	-	Resettlement and Policy Framework
R-PP	-	Readiness Preparation Proposal
RS	-	Remote Sensing
SBCC	-	Social and Behaviour Change Communication
SCCF	-	Special Climate Change Fund
SDF	-	State Forestry Department
SESA	-	Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment
SIS	-	Safeguard Information System
SSCF	-	South-South Climate Finance
t.	-	Tonnes
TFAP	-	Tropical Forests Action Plan
UAV	-	Unmanned Aerial Vehicle
UBA	-	United Bank for Africa
UNDP	-	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	-	United Nations Environment Programme

UNFCCC	-	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UN-REDD	-	United Nations Collaborative Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries
USAID	-	United States Agency for International Development
USD	-	United State Dollar
WB	-	World Bank

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

What is REDD+?

Forests provide multiple ecosystem services including local livelihoods, socioeconomic development related goods and services such as food, wood, and water, and global ecological and economic services, such as ecosystem functioning, biological diversity, carbon dynamics, and climate regulation. Deforestation and forest degradation account for approximately 17 per cent of carbon emissions contributing to global warming and climate change, more than the entire global transportation sector and second only to the energy sector. Therefore, as set out in the Paris Agreement of 2015, nations of the world must work together to limit global average temperature rise below two degrees Celsius. This will be practically impossible to achieve without reducing emissions from the forest sector, in addition to other mitigation actions. Therefore, Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) developed a policy and incentive framework for Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation (REDD+). REDD+ aims at creating a financial value for the carbon stored in forests by offering incentives for developing countries to reduce emissions from forested lands and invest in low-carbon paths to sustainable development. The “+” sign indicates that REDD+ goes beyond deforestation and forest degradation, and includes the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks. The UNFCCC’s REDD+ Web Platform (<https://redd.unfccc.int/>) serves as a comprehensive source of information on REDD+ decisions, guidance and experiences in implementing REDD+.

A National REDD+ Strategy is one of the requirements for those seeking results-based payment for REDD+. The Strategy identifies drivers of deforestation and forest degradation, identifies existing and proposed policies and measures, and develops options for addressing the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation, while integrating various systems to establish baselines, monitor and report performance, and enable validation of claims of emissions reduction attributed to the REDD+ programmes or activities within the country.

Why REDD+ in Nigeria – (suitable to respond to Nigeria’s forest cover change)

Nigeria's forests cover only 7.7% of the country’s total land area yet plays an important role in the country’s economy in the provision of goods and ecosystems services, and contribute to the sustainability of the environment. Post independent, the sector contributed two-thirds of Nigeria’s GDP in the 1970s, before this contribution declined significantly over the past decades to about 2% of GDP. About 80% of rural economy in Nigeria depends on the forest, which offers opportunities for sustainable livelihoods and poverty eradication in the country, particularly in rural areas where the majority of the people live. Forestry products contributed between about 0.41 % to the total Gross Domestic Product at 2013 basic price, and 2.4% as reported in Nigeria’s Country Report for Nigeria for the Forest Resource Assessment (FRA) Report (2015).

However, Nigeria loses forest cover annually. The rate of deforestation and forest degradation in Nigeria is rated as one of the highest in the world, estimated at 3.7% or 163,359ha every year. In 1978, 25.7% of the country’s land area of 923,763 km² was covered with forest. However, by

1995, the land area covered by forest had decreased to 16.6%. Again, the latter figure decreased to 13% in 2014 and has plummeted to 7.7% in 2016. Between 1978 and 2016, Nigeria lost 18% of its forest cover due to land use changes, making her one of the countries with the highest deforestation rates in the world. The key drivers of deforestation and forest degradation in Nigeria are agricultural expansion, heavy reliance on wood fuel particularly firewood and charcoal, unsustainable timber extraction, urban expansion, grazing, bush burning, infrastructure development (e.g., mining and other large infrastructural developments), and underlying issues around governance, poverty, technology, and others.

The conversion of forests to other land use types is a high net source of Green House Gas (GHG) emissions in the country, accounting for 40% of the country's total GHG emissions in the year 2000 alone. Forest areas are of great value for carbon storage. Changes in forest cover and land use, which frequently involves removal of trees in the forest thus, have significant implications for carbon stock, greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and the potential of the country to mitigate the effects of climate change from the forestry sector. Carbon emissions from Nigerian forests have been on the increase. The total carbon emission from the land use and deforestation rose from 9.94MtCO₂e in 2000 to 26.77MtCO₂e in 2010. Between 2006 and 2016, the total emissions were approximately 32.4MtCO₂e which represents about 4.5% of the GHG emissions in Nigeria.

The rates of deforestation and forest degradation experienced during the last decades and their serious consequences for climate change are compelling for Nigeria to adopt new strategies. REDD+ offers Nigeria the opportunity to adopt a set of guiding principles, rules and guidance as a framework to reduce deforestation and forest degradation. Developing a REDD+ Strategy is a major requirement to implementing REDD+. The Nigeria REDD+ Strategy serves as the principal tool to enable the country to achieve its REDD+ Programme objectives. This Strategy prioritises actions, defines institutional arrangements, recommends policy (re)alignments, and identifies partnerships and financial mechanisms that will assist the country to reduce the rate of carbon emissions and enhance removals from the forest sector while creating benefits for resilience building and green economic development, so that Nigeria can meet its National REDD+ Programme objectives and other national commitments to mitigating climate change.

Achieving REDD+ in Nigeria

Nigeria is a party to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and a signatory to the UNFCCC Paris Agreement (2015). Recognizing the significance of the forest and land sector as a source of Nigeria's GHG emissions, and the need for international support to help develop and implement solutions, Nigeria established a National REDD+ Programme under the Federal Ministry of Environment. With the objective of ensuring that Nigeria's climate actions are consistent with UNFCCC rules and guidance, the National REDD+ Programme has developed, in this document, "a national strategy or action plan that addresses, inter alia, the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation, land tenure issues, forest governance issues, gender considerations, and safeguards" (UNFCCC, 2011).

Several iterations with stakeholders at the national, state, and community levels as well broad and in-depth analytic studies led to the development of this strategy. Specifically, it involved

analyses of drivers of deforestation and forest degradation, a critical assessment of the existing policy, legal and frameworks and the recommendations of REDD+ documents including R-PP, FGRM, SESA and ESMF and Benefit Sharing.

Nigeria's vision for implementing REDD+ is "to establish a climate resilient economy through sustainable management of forest to enhance carbon sink, and reduce GHG emissions by at least 20% by year 2050". The country seeks to achieve this by a three-fold mission of 1) strengthening the functioning of forest and land management institutions and systems; 2) improving relevant laws and regulations and strengthening law enforcement across the land management and fiscal governance sectors; and 3) Improving the capacity of relevant Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) of government to manage land, forest and ecosystem resources.

Nigeria will implement its REDD+ Strategy in phases over a thirty-year period from 2021 to 2050 to achieve the short, medium, and long-term goals as follows:

- i. Short-term Goal will be achieved in the first 5 years of implementing the strategy, 2021 – 2025 and will focus on the strategic improvement of institutions and governance systems, as well as of spatial plans and the investment environment, in order to fulfil Nigeria's commitment to reduce greenhouse gas emissions while maintaining economic growth.
- ii. Medium-term Goal is 10 years after the short-term goal, 2026 – 2035, aimed at achieving the implementation of governance systems in line with policies, measures and procedures developed by relevant institutions at the national and sub-national levels. , and their application to the spatial and financial mechanisms developed and established in the previous phase, to achieve a targeted 20 percent reduction in emissions by 2035.
- iii. Long-term Goal will be achieved from 2036 to 2050 at the end of which Nigeria's forests and land areas become a net carbon sink because of the implementation of appropriate policies and measures for sustaining economic and ecosystem service functions of forests and contribution to Nigeria's Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) to climate change mitigation and adaptation.

Legal framework for implementing REDD+ in Nigeria

Nigeria has adopted a number of policies and action plans that relate to REDD+ framework to address national development challenges, including deforestation and forest degradation, adaptation to and mitigation of climate change. There is also some development plans that set strategies and priorities that are related to the implementation of the country's REDD+ Strategy. Some of these legal instruments and development plans include those related to the environment, forestry, agriculture, economic development, land use, natural resource extraction, climate change, poverty reduction, food security, and human rights among others. Nigeria has also demonstrated strong political commitments in the international scene, being a

party to several international Conventions and Treaties. The country has put in place economic, environmental and social policies to directly address climatic threats and further reinforce the implementation of its REDD+ Programme.

Ultimately, the overarching constitutional provision that underpins Nigeria's REDD+ Programme is the country's 1999 Constitution, which specifies the roles of the three tier governments (the federal, state and local governments) and rights approach to promoting development. It specifies the roles of the Federal Government in implementing treaties and other international instruments entered into by it, concerning forest products and resources. In particular, Section 20 stipulates "the State shall protect and improve the environment and safeguard the water, air and land, forest and wildlife of Nigeria". Section 36 of the 1999 Constitution, as amended, which is contained in Chapter IV, guarantees access to justice to seek redress and the right to a fair hearing. This is a broad framework to promote and support REDD+ implementation. Furthermore, in the case of local governments, the Constitution provides for their participation in the development of agriculture and natural resources, of which the forestry sector is a major one.

The 36 states in Nigeria and the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) have adopted their own forest laws and policies for regulating forestry practices in their domain. Many of the State laws are based on the 1938 Forestry Law of Nigeria, which recognizes only timber exploitation concessions (FGN 2010; FMoE 2017). However, a few states such as Cross River, Ondo and Lagos states have revised their forestry laws in the more recent past, to set up the forestry commission and give them specific mandates to undertake sustainable forestry management and to set up forest management committees involving the local communities (FMoE, 2017). The state will require help with introducing new clauses to address a wide range of REDD+ issues including carbon tenure, benefit sharing, financial arrangements, private sector participation, etc. all of which are addressed in this strategy.

Nigeria forest definition

When implementing REDD+, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) expects countries to provide a definition of what they mean by forest in their FREL/FRL (i.e. Forest Reference Emission Level or Forest Reference Level) construction and to be consistent with the national circumstances. FREL scientifically establishes the amount of emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in a location, taking into account national circumstances to create scenarios that deviate from historical trends. To achieve this, Nigeria's forest degradation is: *"An ecological community predominated by trees and other layers of woody plants with a minimum area of 0.5ha, a minimum tree height of 3metres, and a minimum tree canopy cover of 15%, or stands with potentials to reach the above thresholds in situ"*. Nigeria Forest Definition applies to the entire country and has largely taken care of the progressive variations from the Mangrove Swamp and Coastal Vegetation in the south to the Sahel Savanna in the North, thus summarising the different agro-ecological landscapes in the country.

Nigeria REDD+ objectives

The specific objectives of the National REDD+ Programme are to:

- i. Implement sustainable forest management programmes, focusing on reduction of major drivers of deforestation and degradation across the ecological regions of Nigeria.
- ii. Build capacity of local communities in improving forest management by introducing sustainable livelihood programs.
- iii. Promote good governance at all levels for the sustainable management of the country's forestry resources.
- iv. Ensure equitable access and distribution of REDD+ co-benefits to all affected parties, including women, youths and other vulnerable groups.
- v. Facilitate access to global and national resources and partnership for the sustainable management of the country's forest resources.

This REDD+ Strategy serves as the principal tool to enable Nigeria to achieve its REDD+ Programme objectives. This Strategy prioritises actions, defines institutional arrangements, recommends policy (re)alignments, and identifies partnerships and financial mechanisms that will assist the country to reduce the rate of carbon emissions and enhance removals from the forest sector while creating benefits for resilience building and green economic development, so that Nigeria can meet its National REDD+ Programme objectives.

The National Strategy objectives

Nigeria anchors its National REDD+ Strategy on one **general objective**, which is: “To reduce the rate of carbon emissions and enhance removals from the forest sector while creating benefits for resilience building and green economic development”. This will be by way of adopting ecologically friendly and climate-smart forest and forest-related investments especially in the agriculture and forest sectors that will promote the conservation and rehabilitation of forest ecosystems as well as generate economic, social and environmental incentives. To achieve these, the strategy proposes four specific objectives to reduce the rate of deforestation through robust programming and multi-sectoral collaboration, harmonise policies and measures across all levels of governance, monitor the impact of emissions reduction activities through REDD+ while observing specific social and environmental safeguards, and expand partnerships and contribute to the mobilization of resources at a scale that is compatible with the priorities for addressing drivers, as well as the voluntary national commitments to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions as established in Nigeria's Nationally Determined Contribution.

Options to achieve the strategic objectives

Nigeria's National REDD+ Strategy has identified four broad options as a set of strategic response to enable Nigeria to achieve the objectives of this Strategy. These options focus REDD+ activities to address drivers of deforestation, improve forest and climate change governance, attract incentives, and enable equitable access to benefit and grievance redress.

The first strategic options is to reduce deforestation and carbon losses from forestry and agriculture as well as other land use activities including bush burning, charcoal production,

mineral exploitation and grazing. These sets of activities are largely responsible for forest loss in the country. The second strategic seeks to increase the country's network of forest reserves and conservation areas in such way that communities are empowered to participate meaningfully in protected area management within a system that secures their rights and livelihoods. The third option is to protect, promote and police forest tenure and resource rights as well as ensure equitable, inclusive and transparent benefit sharing; while the fourth options will enhance investment in a sustainable forestry sector.

The strategic options are set to address priority drivers and barriers related to deforestation from two key sectors of agriculture and forestry. To some extent, these two sectors also have the potential to address forest degradation emanating from fuelwood production, mining, and infrastructural development.

Institutional arrangement for REDD+ implementation

There is a well-defined management and coordination arrangements for the implementation of REDD+ programme in Nigeria, with the Federal Department of Forestry at the Federal Ministry of Environment serving as the National REDD+ Secretariat for overall coordination of the national programme. For a robust coordination and implementation, the Programme has other implementation organs at the national level to ensure an inclusive and iterative process, multisectoral linkages, and regular feedback into the programme implementation to achieve emissions reduction targets.

The activities of these national implementation organs are coordinated by the National REDD+ Secretariat. In each of the REDD+ States in the country, the main organs are state replicas of the national institutional arrangement, clearly defining a coordinating institution, a Technical Committee and state-specific Working Groups, in addition to Stakeholder Platforms for consistent dialogues among various stakeholders for inclusive implementation of REDD+ in the States.

Financing Arrangements for REDD+ Implementation

In anticipation of increased costs of development arising from REDD+ implementation, the strategy provides that such costs will be sourced at national, regional and international levels, as well as from the private sector and other donors. The Strategy identified several funding options including Federal and State Governments budgetary appropriations to climate change or climate change sensitive sectors of the economy; issuance of Green Bonds that have already been adopted to support implementation of the forest sector plan and Nigeria's Nationally Determined Contribution, which is able to provide a fundamental reorientation of financial flows within the economy to enable Nigeria meet its obligations to the Paris Agreement; and Foreign Direct Investment including Diaspora Financial Flows. Others include Bilateral and Multilateral Donor organizations, financial flows from global funding programme including the Green Climate Fund (GCF), the Global Environment Facility (GEF) already funding several small grants initiatives in Nigeria, World Bank's International Development Association (IDA) and any other Multi-lateral

Development Banks e.g. AfDB's African Development Fund (ADF), and private sector investment in mitigation projects.

Benefit Sharing Arrangement

Nigeria REDD+ Strategy will adopt a national policy on Benefit *Sharing Arrangement* for REDD+ Carbon Trading, by which income from emissions' trading is shared through the agreed local processes. Given that aggregated carbon is traded on carbon stock exchanges, the net incomes are to be remitted to beneficiary group accounts and shared as agreed in a memorandum.

Monitoring, Measurement Reporting and Verification (MMRV)

This strategy has proposed the adoption of an integrated approach to establish the required national and sub-national Monitoring, Reporting and Verification (MRV) systems. While the MRV system will be developed at the national level for consistency; management and interpretation shall also be carried out at the state level and fed into a national, aggregated database. In same way, a safeguards information system will be integrated into the monitoring system to ensure that REDD+ implementation enhances social and environmental benefits, and not harm.

Capacity Building and communicating the Strategy

The REDD+ Strategy proposes a capacity building process that will assess the present and required capacities of stakeholders with a view to identifying gaps through assessments, with corresponding capacity building needs proposed and implemented. To integrate knowledge management and learning, the National REDD+ process will put in place an effective communication strategy based on appreciation, participation and national ownership as recommended in Article 6 of the UNFCCC.