



Communique: **Stakeholder's Dialogue on Adaptation and Conservation Policies in Kano State** **Kano - 27 July 2023**

Background

Climate change as a threat multiplier continues to pose severe social, environmental, economic and security risks to the people, livelihoods and socio-economic welfare of Kano State. One such climate-induced risk is when in 2022, [flooding destroyed over 14,000 farmlands and killed 23 people in Kano state](#). In addition to this, the increased frequency of irregular weather changes has intensified the risk of flash floods and agricultural droughts in some regions which have led to fluctuations in crop yield, climate-induced migration, exposed communities to food security challenges, and resulted in the destruction of essential infrastructures such as schools, health and WASH facilities.

Human activities such as logging, rapid urbanization and unsustainable agricultural practices have exacerbated climate impacts on the local community's livelihoods and economies, as well as the state's adaptive capacity to cope with climate shocks. [From 2001 to 2021](#), Kano lost 0.226ha of tree cover, equivalent to an 8.6% decrease in tree cover since 2000, and 56.9t of CO₂e emissions. This shows the level of deforestation occurring within just a decade and its significance to the environmental resources of the state. [Additionally](#), in 2005 alone, Kano lost 226 mha of tree cover, equivalent to 56.9t of CO₂ emissions.

Kano is one of the 11 frontline states currently experiencing a steady incursion of desertification and droughts in Nigeria. This raises great concern as Kano, like other Northern states has a huge agrarian and pastoral population that solely depends on ecosystem resources such as land and water for food and herd production, and sustenance of their livelihoods.

To address this challenge, the Kano State Government will need to take a multifaceted approach to work with key stakeholders from local communities, nonprofits and civil society organizations, and international organizations to develop a holistic climate action plan towards addressing climate change, and strengthening resilience/adaptation measures.

Against this backdrop, stakeholders convened at the dialogue on adaptation and conservation policies to examine the impacts of climate change in Kano state, review the State's efforts in addressing the crisis and discuss proposals and recommendations that offer possible pathways to building a climate-resilient Kano state.

Key Observations

1. Kano state is inundated with several environmental and climatic issues adversely impacting the socio-economy of the state. Issues such as perennial flooding caused by poor urban planning and indiscriminate waste disposal which causes blockage of drains; coupled with rapid urbanization have distorted natural resources such as ponds, lakes and waterways that act as flood control.



2. Water pollution caused by the discharge of wastewater from tanning industries, open defecation and improper waste and sewage disposal also poses significant health and environmental risks.
3. Air pollution caused by the population's reliance on fossil fuel-generating machines is becoming a major risk to public health and rapid urbanization has led to massive deforestation and the depletion of green areas being replaced by structures for personal and economic purposes.
4. Some drivers of deforestation in Kano state include a) expansion of unsustainable agriculture and livestock production, b) Unrestricted logging of trees, c) Outdated environmental laws and lack of personnel and resources for law enforcement, d) Rapid urbanization, and e) Exploitation of natural resources. The lift of the ban on charcoal production and exportation may exacerbate deforestation and pose a significant challenge towards afforestation and conservation efforts.
5. Deforestation and desert encroachment are some of the leading factors of migration of pastoralists into more arable regions which in most cases causes competition for scarce resources, social tensions and in some cases full-blown conflicts. If these issues are left unresolved, Kano state will witness an even greater proportion of food insecurity, human and biodiversity losses and conflicts which will negatively impact the social and economic well-being of the State.

Conclusions and Recommendations

1. The Kano State Government, Kano State House Assembly, Ministry of Justice and Ministry of Environment should hasten the passing of the reviewed environmental, afforestation and conservation laws to ensure effective coordination, monitoring and protection of forest and conservation areas. This should include harnessing national, state and local policies and fostering a multisectoral approach towards effective implementation of adaptation and conservation policies in Kano state.
2. The Kano State Government should work with the Ministry of Lands, the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Works and Infrastructural Development, and the Department of Urban Planning to ensure inclusive and sustainable development of livelihoods and socio-economic infrastructures in rural areas. This will ensure essential services and economic opportunities are provided for rural communities and curtail the scourge of rapid urbanization.
3. The Kano state government should collaborate with relevant Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) and stakeholders including traditional councils, local governments, communities, CSOs, and hunters to initiate programs and campaigns that encourage sustainable agriculture and land management and promote the protection and conservation of parks, forest zones and green areas.
4. The Kano State Government should ensure synergy between the Ministry of Environment, Department of Forestry, NESREA, ACREsAL, and its affiliates; park rangers, and forest guards with all state security personnel to protect conservation and afforestation zones.
5. Up-to-date data on climate trends, deforestation rates and impacts on the ecosystems and communities is required. For climate data, meteorological stations should be strategically set up by the Government around Kano State to facilitate this. Special emphasis should be placed on the Metropolitan area as the population is most concentrated there and the impacts of climate change over the years have been on the increase for the urban area.



6. There is a need for the Government (all relevant ministries) to collaborate with members of the academic community regarding research that will inform the policies to be drawn, this will provide the much-needed synergy that will channel development in the right direction.
7. The Kano State Government should invest in and initiate Public-Private Partnerships to increase investment in waste management, forest and wildlife conservation. The State Government should also demonstrate the political will to ensure the sustainability of the government-led projects.
8. Seek partnerships with international governments through diplomatic measures to promote technology transfer and initiate inter-government exchanges, serving as a platform to upskill state-led initiatives and advance new strategies on climate change.
9. Implement policies and initiate programs that address emerging issues while creating frameworks that attract financial resources for the state. Emphasis should be made on the importance of considering indigenous knowledge in adaptation and conservation efforts.
10. Initiate a climate change fund that supports programs and initiatives aimed at addressing climate-induced crisis as it intersects with social and economic issues
11. Strengthen relations with non-state actors to address critical development issues such as education, health, employment, technology gaps, and climate change, and leverage such initiatives to drive strategic change.
12. Create frameworks that enable the state to access funding from the federal govt, multilateral institutions and development partners by developing credible initiatives, and demonstrating interest and drive in promoting climate action.
13. Advance stakeholder engagement and partnership with existing local and international organizations to harness financing for climate programs and create investment structures that international partners/donors can see as viable platforms to streamline financial instruments.

About Us

Established in 2017, Surge Africa Organisation designs and implements innovative measures that improve approaches to climate adaptation through policy, media and resilience building. We understand that climate change poses a multi-dimensional threat to Africa, which is why our programs are tailored to meet the specific needs of people and focused on empowering and educating people using strategies that will unlock human potential and integrate development.

Stakeholders Dialogue on Adaptation and Conservation Policies in Kano State

As part of its broader policy advocacy program, Surge Africa hosted the Stakeholders Dialogue on Adaptation and Conservation Policies in Kano State on July 27, 2023. The convening brought stakeholders from government-led entities and non-state actors to examine the impacts of climate change in the state in order to chart viable pathways to building a climate-resilient Kano state

The convening created a platform for a robust and interactive dialogue between the Kano State government and non-state actors on assessing and addressing climate impacts in the state, as well as setting measures to strengthen climate resilience in Kano state. In addition to unpacking the potential of state-led actions, the program centred discussions around the need for improved conservation and



adaptation policies, and the various ways state-level policies can complement national laws and international frameworks and agreements.

This extended to introducing the Conserve 10% Policy that is being proposed by Surge Africa to the state, including the opportunities it holds from a social, financial and environmental perspective. The Conserve 10% Policy seeks to conserve 10% of Kano's state forest land and promote sustainable forest management which will address forest degradation while increasing direct benefits to the people, the environment and the state.

To round up the program, stakeholders at the event developed the above communique that outlines measures to improve adaptation and resilience and set a roadmap for a climate action plan towards building a safe, climate-smart and resilient Kano state.

Surge Africa seeks to collaborate and partner with relevant authorities and entities to address the numerous environmental issues affecting Nigerian states, in addition to helping develop a Climate Action Plan that will help strengthen climate resilience, improve livelihoods and increase investment in the states.

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