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PROGRAM REPORT

# CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP ON DESIGNING & ADVOCATING FOR CLIMATE POLICIES IN NIGERIA



# Policy & Climate Governance

## Executive Summary

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Surge Africa Organisation hosted its second virtual capacity development workshop on December 8th 2022. The workshop series is designed to build the capacity of NGOs/CSOs and individuals working in the climate/environmental sectors on ways to design and advocate for climate policies in Nigeria. The program aims to equip participants with the skills, tools, and resources they can use to advance policy advocacy at both state and federal levels. Participants were drawn from various parts of the country to aid the reach and diversification of experiences.

The second series was built upon the progress of the first virtual Capacity development workshop, upon administering post-survey forms, participants indicated that learning about policy formulation and joining a network to advocate for the implementation of climate policies was paramount for them. Similarly, indicating that learning about lobbying and legislative engagement is the aspect of policy formulation that will be the most useful.

This feedback set the tone for the discussion and the area of focus for the second workshop. The series took a deep dive into understanding the approaches to policy formulation and advocacy in Nigeria, using the Climate Change Act as a case study, participants gained insights into policy formulation, lobbying and advocacy. Participants also gained insights into the articles of the Climate Change Act, as well as the duties and responsibilities of the National Council on Climate Change.

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Policy Formulation and Implementation Approaches:  
**Insights into Nigeria's Climate Change Act, 2021**

The Session was facilitated by Barrister Nkiruka Stella Okonkwo, a seasoned lawyer and climate advocate who took participants on the art of lawmaking, identifying the key stakeholders and the different stages of policy formulation in Nigeria. She also identified the different types of bills; Private Bill which affects private citizens, corporate entities and/or a particular class of people and Public Bill which affects the general public.

Nkiru took participants through the journey of promulgating the Climate Change Act, stating that the bill process sponsored by Honourable Sam Onuigbo began in the Sixth Assembly but was not passed as a law because the bill had some issues; the Federal Ministry of Environment pushing for the National Council to be an agency under the Ministry; some CSOs and stakeholders wanting the Council to be a commission to give it autonomy; while others wanted it to be a Department - at this time, the Climate Change Department was a unit in the Ministry.

The bill was later amended to capture the needs and address the concerns of stakeholders and was later reintroduced by Honourable Sam Onuigbo.

The bill still failed to get the Presidential assent because there were still discrepancies on the establishment of the National Council on Climate Change. To address these challenges, a committee was set up by the Speaker of the House of Representatives to review the bill. The committee had representation from the Attorney General of the Federation and Minister of Justice, Minister of State for Environment and was represented by its sponsor during the 9th Assembly in October 2019. This move ensured that the all vested interests were captured and conflicts resolved.

The reviewed bill was passed by the House of Representatives on July 8, 2021, and later by the Senate on October 13, 2021. The Bill was then assented by the Nigerian President on November 17, 2021, thereby making it an Act of the National Assembly of Nigeria. Nkiru noted that the Climate Change Bill was successfully passed because of the following reasons: it received and addressed the concerns of stakeholders, and stakeholders were adequately sensitised to the benefits of the bill.

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Policy Formulation and Implementation Approaches:  
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Nkiru also shared insights into the components of Nigeria's Climate Change Act (CCA) 2021, the National Council on Climate Change and its Secretariat and made Recommendations on Actions for Participants' engagement in CCA, 2021 implementation processes. It was decided that The National Council on Climate Change will be established as a Council as this poses a greater advantage than being an autonomous commission or department in the Ministry of Environment. This is because the Council being chaired by the President signals the highest level of political will and the magnitude of the impact of Climate Change. With other members consisting of the Vice-President as the Co-Chair, and representatives from the Youth, Women Groups, People with Disabilities, MDAs and key networks.

The National Council on Climate Change (NCCC) is the highest decision-making body on Climate Change in Nigeria. It is tasked with: (1) Approving and overseeing the implementation of the National Climate Change Action Plan, (2) Administering the Climate Change Fund, (3) Ensuring that climate change is mainstreamed into national development plans and programmes,

(4) Providing guidelines for determining vulnerability to climate change impact and adaptation assessment, (5) and facilitating the provision of technical assistance for their implementation and monitoring; determine legislative, policy, appropriation, and other measures for climate change adaptation, mitigation, and other related activities, (6) Collaborate with the Federal Inland Revenue Service to develop a mechanism for a carbon tax in Nigeria. (7) Collaborate with the Federal Ministry responsible for Environment and the Federal Ministry responsible for Trade to develop and implement a mechanism for carbon emission trading.

As regards conflicts and duplicity of duties between the NCCC and the Department of Climate Change, Nkiru believes this may not be the case because of the following; the Minister of Environment is a member of the Council; the Council is also mandated to collaborate with the Ministry of Environment on some issues to develop and implement a mechanism for carbon emission trading.



Finally, participants were tasked with forming formidable partnerships to amplify their work and leverage media partnerships for online, traditional, electronic and social media engagements.

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# Embracing Opportunities

During the session, participants were urged to utilise the provisions of the Climate Change Act to engage in the implementation process of the Act and other related climate change matters. Participants were also encouraged to create awareness about the Act by simplifying, localising and storifying the objectives and components of the Act

# Plenary

## Session

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The room was open for questions, reflections and recommendations. Some highlights included organizing a national youth conference on the CCA; developing a youth manifesto on climate change in order to win legislative actors; inter-agency collaboration to amplify work done by various agencies and looking at the organisational mandate; identifying an entry point to push for the implementation of the Climate Change Act and amplifying Climate Action at state levels; creating a database of stakeholders working on youth and climate change in Nigeria for partnerships and capacity building; engaging with the NCCC and other relevant stakeholders for engagement in the implementation process.

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# Break-out

## Session

### Communications and advocacy strategies to improve awareness of the Climate Change Act.

The participants identified some strategies to use to raise awareness of the CCA and highlighted the steps taken to achieve the strategies including

- Using art and multimedia to communicate using a bottom-top approach
- Evaluation of the National Council on Climate Change and the Act
- Collaborating with UNESCO to create awareness of Climate Change and the Climate Change Act in schools at state levels
- Creating scorecards to assess the implementation of the Climate Change Act
- Collaborating with traditional media outfits to localise climate advocacy contents
- Harnessing social media platforms like Tik Toks and Twitter Spaces to raise awareness on climate change and the Climate Change Act

### Devising ideas to use the Climate Change Act as an advocacy tool to drive state governments to combat climate change.

Participants recommended leveraging on the three major articles of the CCA that involve the general public for state/regional campaigning

They also sought to target relevant Local Government Authorities/Area Councils, departments, Market unions, and community gatekeepers via KAP focal group meetings to understand the immediate environmental community challenges

Community Advocacy: through Climate change jingles in local languages and climate and Media- Regular radio program with call-in sections, Unity in campaign execution

Leveraging on key political events like elections, independence day, international holidays, and diplomacy to push the agenda forward using three key approaches

Stakeholders Engagement: by targeting state-level policy, specifically commissioners, dialogue with prospective political office aspirants to understand their plans, and Capacity building for state legislators, State Government environmental directors, and CSOs.

Communication And Advocacy: by creating policies that reflect local needs and are aimed towards providing long-term resilience e.g revising energy policies, new agriculture laws and stepdown advocacy training & workshops

## Progress Highlights

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26	Participants
1	Speaker
1	Session
2	Breakout sessions

## OUTCOMES



1. Participants learnt approaches to policy formulation and advocacy in Nigeria. They also learnt about policy engagement and lobbying using the Climate Change Act as a case study.
2. Participants learnt about the National Council on Climate Change, its establishing law, membership, responsibility and secretariat. They also understood key components of the Act that could be utilised to engage and advocate for climate actions at state levels.
3. Participants developed strategies towards communicating the Climate Change Act and devising actions for its implementation at the state level.



Capacity Development Workshop on  
Designing & Advocating for Climate  
Policies in Nigeria is hosted by  
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