

REPORT
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DIALOGUE ON ADAPTATION AND CONSERVATION POLICIES

KANO, NIGERIA

A DAY OF STRATEGIC CONVERGENCE

The Stakeholders Dialogue on Adaptation and Conservation Policies hosted by Surge Africa brought stakeholders from government-led entities and non-state actors to examine the impacts of climate change in Kano state and review the interventions/programs initiated by the government to address the challenge. This is geared towards learning from successful government initiatives, unpacking the gaps, and exploring ways to bridge the gap and harnessing opportunities to enhance climate actions in Kano State.

The 1-day Dialogue was held on July 27, 2023, at the Chilla Luxury Suites, Kano state. A total of 20 participants from the Kano State Ministries, Departments Agencies, and Civil Society Organizations were in attendance.

The program provided a platform for a robust interactive dialogue that produced a preliminary roadmap for addressing climate change and setting measures to strengthen climate resilience in Kano state as well as promoting and receiving contributions from stakeholders on the Conserve 10% Policy that seeks to conserve 10% of the States forest land and promote sustainable forest management which will address forest degradation while increasing direct benefits to the people, the environment and the state. The gathering also provided a platform to explore other opportunities towards improving adaptation and conservation policies and programs in the State.

SETTING THE PACE

The Dialogue commenced with a welcome address and an overview of Surge Africa's work in Kano presented by Salihu Hamisu, Consultant for Resilience at Surge Africa. In his welcoming remarks, Salihu noted that Kano State is known for its rich cultural heritage, diverse ecosystems, and vibrant communities, however, like other parts of the world, Kano state is facing significant challenges arising from the consequences of climate change caused primarily by anthropogenic activities. Noting that climate change adversely impacts the environment, economy, and well-being of the people of Kano state. Urging stakeholders to actively engage in the Dialogue, sharing their expertise and knowledge in order to guide the process of addressing climate impacts and making Kano state climate-resilient



GOVERNMENT EFFORTS IN CLIMATE CHANGE INTERVENTIONS: SUCCESS & SETBACKS

The Kano State Ministry of Environment noted that 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 and rapid urbanization have distorted natural resources such as ponds, lakes, and waterways that act as flood control.

Another issue is that water pollution caused by the discharge of wastewater from tanning industries, open defecation, and improper waste and sewage disposal poses significant health and environmental risks.

Thirdly, air pollution caused by the population's use of fossil fuel-powered generating machines is becoming a major risk to public health. Finally, rapid urbanization has led to massive deforestation and the depletion of green areas being replaced by structures for personal and economic purposes. All of these issues have led to huge biodiversity, economic, and human losses.

During the open discussion, participants raised significant questions pertaining to the preparedness of Kano State to climate shocks and disasters, and its plans to transition to a low-carbon development economy. Some measures and interventions initiated by the Kano State government include collaborating with CSOS/NGOs to embark on an afforestation drive and environmental awareness campaigns to sensitize the general public on improper waste pollution, open defecation, and deforestation.

The State government is promoting the use of alternative energy by installing solar-powered street lights and converting petrol-powered tricycles to electronic-powered ones to reduce air pollution and Greenhouse gas emissions. Finally, the Kano State government established the Kano State - Nigeria Erosion and Watershed Management Project (NEWMAP), now transitioned to the Agro-Climatic Resilience in Semi-Arid Landscapes (ACReSAL) saddled with addressing dryland management, landscape management and improving livelihoods of affected communities in Kano state

Other issues raised pertained to how the government and other regulatory bodies can effectively manage the sustainable use of forest and other land resources with the lift of the ban on charcoal exports as charcoal production is one of the major causes of deforestation in Nigeria. The Kano State government is reclaiming greenspaces and restoring forest and grazing reserves with an aim to plant 10 million trees within the next five years (by 2028). In an effort to improve the environment and biodiversity, the Kano State government has set up a committee to review existing environmental policies in order to improve their effectiveness in ensuring a sustainable and resilient Kano state.

The representative from the National Environmental Standards and Regulations Enforcement Agency (NESREA) noted that the agency has regulations that guide the sustainable use, production, and exportation of charcoal as well as other regulations to promote human health, biodiversity, and sustainable use of natural resources. NESREA's guideline on Charcoal Production and Export mandates only the Department of Forestry for the approval of any exports of charcoal or its products at the national and sub-national levels; b) Exports of charcoal are prohibited except where they are derived from approved sources, c) Charcoal producers must have an afforestation and rehabilitation plan for areas where charcoal will be derived or produced; d) Shall not produce charcoal from marginal land, fragile ecosystems, endangered, threatened or prohibited plant species listed in the Endangered Species Act or by the Convention of International Trade in Endangered Species of wild flora and fauna as may be ratified or domesticated in Nigeria.

Stakeholders from the Civil Society applauded Surge Africa for organizing the Stakeholders Dialogue as it provided a platform for meaningful engagement between state and non-state actors, and called on the State government to set up similar meetings for continuous engagement and collaboration with Civil Society and Non-governmental organizations in its efforts to address climate change and drive sustainable development in the State.

Stakeholders from the Civil Society also called on the State government to ensure the continuity of policies and programs to ensure sustained and effective development pathways. Noting that climate change presents opportunities for the government to transition to circular economy and low-carbon development. Stakeholders also observed that governments at the national and subnational levels have rich and robust policies and programs, however, the lack of resources and coordination amongst stakeholders hinders effective implementation.

Some issues raised by the representative of the National Agency for the Great Green Wall (NAGGW) were centred around how insecurity hampers the implementation of the Great Green Wall project. Another challenge faced by the Agency is vandalism and theft of properties at their project sites. Stakeholders from the government and civil society emphasized the importance of engagement and inclusion of local communities and adopting a multisectoral approach when executing projects as this will make communities take ownership and ensure effective coordination of the project by key stakeholders.

Some stakeholders noted that the NAGGW does not properly engage with relevant government stakeholders before embarking on projects and this creates a vacuum in coordination amongst all stakeholders for implementation, monitoring, and evaluation. Stakeholders emphasized the need for collaboration and synergy with grassroots communities, especially in rural areas for sustainable land and forest management. Recommendations were made to foster closer relationships with locals and include them in projects to enhance the effectiveness of climate initiatives and programs.



PRESENTING THE CONSERVE 10% POLICY AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR BUILDING A CLIMATE-RESILIENT KANO

This session presented strategies and approaches to combating the scourge of deforestation and climate impacts such as flooding and desertification and also showcased opportunities and solutions to developing a sustainable and resilient Kano state.

Aniebiet Obot, Programs and Policy Manager of Surge Africa presented the Conserve 10% Policy, delving into the extent of deforestation and climate impacts in Kano state, he noted that Kano state has lost 0.226ha of tree cover, equivalent to an 8.6% decrease in tree cover since 2000, and 56.9t of CO₂e emissions. Highlighting some drivers of deforestation in Kano state to include, a) Expansion of agriculture and livestock production, b) Unregulated logging of trees, c) Outdated environmental laws and lack of personnel and resources for law enforcement, d) Rapid urbanization, e) Exploitation of natural resources.

He noted that 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. Lastly, outlining the key outcomes, benefits, and outcomes of the policy, and the roles and responsibilities of all stakeholders and calls them to join the call in the implementation. This was followed by feedback and commentary from stakeholders about the policy and strategies for its implementation in the State.

DISCUSSION ON COMMUNIQUE AND NEXT STEPS FOR ADVANCING ADAPTATION AND CONSERVATION POLICIES IN KANO / ROAD MAP FOR KANO ACTION PLAN

The session provided an overview for drafting climate action plans and contextualising feasible measures that can be adopted by the Kano State government to address the climate crisis.

Nasreen Al-Amin, Founder and Director of Surge Africa led the session spotlighting key socio-economic sectors vulnerable to climate impacts and identifying actions and measures to ensure adaptation and resilience in those areas.

The sectors identified included Energy, Transport, Waste Management, Water, Health, and Urban Planning.

After this, Nasreen led participants in developing a communique for climate actions in Kano state. Participants were separated into 2 groups to brainstorm and design pathways to improving climate resilience of the State and representatives from each group delivered presentations.



CONCLUSION

The Dialogue provided an opportunity for state and non-state actors to engage in robust discussions on improving adaptation and conservation policies and addressing climate impacts in Kano state. Key highlights include understanding governments efforts to combat climate change; the development of a climate action communique and the presentation and review of the Conserve 10% Policy

The Dialogue's outcome underscores the importance of collaboration, inclusivity, and accountability in charting sustainable pathways towards sustainable development and improving the livelihoods, ecosystems, and biodiversity in Kano state.

Key Outcomes

- Promoted interest in developing measures to address climate adaptation issues, and link government measures to national adaptation plans
- Developed a preliminary communique for climate action plans in Kano State
- Promoted and received buy-in of the Conserve 10% policy advocacy and other environmental policies that improve afforestation, biodiversity protection, and urban development

STAKEHOLDERS DURING THE EVENT MADE THE FOLLOWING CALL TO ACTION TO KANO STATE GOVERNMENT; WHICH WAS PUBLISHED AS A COMMUNIQUE FOLLOWING THE EVENT.

1. Kano state government should collaborate with relevant Ministries, Departments, 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.
2. 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.
3. 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.
4. The Kano State Government should ensure synergy between the Ministry of Environment, Department of Forestry, NESREA, ACRoSAL, and its affiliates; park rangers, and forest guards with all state security personnel to protect conservation and afforestation zones.
5. 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 provide the political will to ensure of sustainability of the government project
6. 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.
7. Implement policies and initiate programs that address emerging issues while creating frameworks that attract financial resources for the state
8. Initiate a climate change fund that supports programs and initiatives aimed at addressing climate-induced crisis as it intersects with social and economic issues
9. 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.
10. 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.
11. 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 into.



TEAM

- Aniebiet Obot - Program Lead
- Salihu Hamisu - Program Co-Lead
- Mallam Adamu - Outreach and Engagement Officer
- Nasreen Al-Amin - Program Advisor
- Halima Abdullahi-Kano - Administration and Rappateur
- Juliet Nwobodo - Administration Support



www.surgeafrica.org
contact: info@surgeafrica.org

Surge Africa design and implement innovative measures that improve approaches to climate adaptation through policy, media and resilience building