

CROSS RIVER STATE APPENDIX

Preamble

Cross River State derives its name from the Cross River which flows through the State. It is a coastal State located in the South Eastern region of Nigeria. It occupies an area of 20,156 square kilometres.

With a population of 3,717,517 (2016) and GDP of USD 15.56 billion (2007), the State is composed of several ethnic groups which include Efik, Ejagham, Yakurr, Bette, Yala, Ukele and Bekwarra.

Cross River State presently has over 50 percent of the remaining tropical rain forests in Nigeria. These forests are home to a large amount of floral and faunal biodiversity including several species of primates, birds, butterflies, orchids and medicinal plants, many of which are endemic to Cross River State.

The areas covered by the forests are also home to 75 percent of the rural and indigenous people.

Opportunities for Climate Change Mitigation:

- Cross River State harbours the largest forest reserves in West Africa (about 6,100km²).
- About 7.3 tons of Carbon Credit valued at 17billion USD available on 60% forest cover of the State
- Available land for afforestation and regeneration (about 20 million trees to be planted by 2020).

Targets

Cross River State is committed to reducing Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions by 20 percent by 2030. This ambitious target is premised on the State's preparedness to leverage on two cardinal policy thrusts – ambitious forest regeneration and investment in clean energy usage.

Tree Planting Campaign

Since assumption of office, the Prof Ben Ayade led administration did not only create the Ministry of Climate Change and Forestry to midwife robust climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies, it has religiously embarked on an annual 5 million tree planting project, with tree planting mainstreamed into the State's carnival festivities (the Green Carnival).

Clean Energy

In partnership with the private sector, the Cross River State Government has embraced clean energy as a way of reducing pressure on the use of forests as fuel wood. Clean energy

cookstoves have been introduced to the public-sector workers to pioneer the policy. Similar locally fabricated cook stoves are being mass-produced for distribution to the local communities.

Green Sheriff Scheme

The State Government in 2016 flagged off the Green Sheriff scheme, comprising youths who have been trained and equipped to protect the forests from illegal exploitation. The Sheriffs are also involved in the forest regeneration efforts of the Government.

UN REDD+ Programme

Based on its expanse of standing forests and the immense biodiversity therein, Cross River State was chosen to pilot the UN REDD+ programme in Nigeria. Today, the State has developed a strategy for reducing emissions in line with globally accepted policies, conferring the title of “Centre of Excellence” on the State.

Implementation Strategy

For effective State-wide implementation, the Ministry of Climate Change and Forestry, which is the coordinating Ministry has pushed for the creation of budget lines in all the 18 Local government Councils of the State. This is to facilitate REDD+ implementation across the entire State. These budget lines will complement the State Government’s ambitious targets at mitigating climate change and resilience.