



CONNECTED
ADVOCACY

LOCAL GOVERNMENT
Climate Change
POLICY PLAN



Editorial Team
John Oluwafemi

Layout/Cover Graphics
Ola Peter

Admin/Director
Prince Israel Orekha

CONTACT INFO

All mails, inquiries and
articles should be sent to
info@connectedadvocacy.org.ng

For Sponsorship & Partnership Cooperation

Connect with Us : info@connectedadvocacy.org.ng

+2348064871447, www.connectedadvocacy.org.ng

FOLLOW US ON :



The publication or parts of it can be used for free as long as proper reference is made to the original publication. The content of the publication is the sole responsibility of **Connected Advocacy**

Table of Content

CHAPTER ONE: Background	1-4
• Introduction	
• Local Government Profiles	
• Rationale for the Policy	
• Linkages with Regional and National Policies	
CHAPTER TWO: Situation Analysis	5
• Situation Analysis	
• Niger Delta's Vulnerability to Climate Change	
• Emerging Issues in the Niger Delta and Other Regions	
CHAPTER THREE: Policy Direction	6-7
• Policy Vision	
• Policy Mission	
• Policy Goal	
• Strategic Objectives	
• Guiding Principles	
CHAPTER FOUR: Mitigation Activities	8-18
• Agriculture, Forests, and Other Land Use	
• Energy	
• Health	
• Industry	
• Transport	
• Waste Management	
• Water Resources	

CHAPTER FIVE: Adaptation Activities	19-21
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Agriculture ● Forest Management ● Energy Efficiency ● Water Management ● Transport Infrastructure ● Industry Resilience ● Health Services ● Climate Change Science and Communication ● Human Settlement Planning ● Security and Conflict Prevention 	
CHAPTER SIX: Enabling Environment	22
Creating an Enabling Environment for Climate Action	
CHAPTER SEVEN: Public Participation and Partnerships	23
Promoting Public Participation and Partnerships	
CHAPTER EIGHT: Finance and Finance Mobilization	24-25
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Climate Fund Mobilization ● Engagement with International Development Agencies ● Bilateral and Multilateral Cooperation ● Private Sector Partnerships (Public-Private Partnerships - PPPs) ● Loss & Damage Fund Access ● Local and Regional Funding Sources 	
Conclusion	26

Chapter One

Background

Introduction

Local governments play a pivotal role in the fight against climate change, as they are closest to the communities that are most vulnerable to its impacts. In many regions, including Nigeria, local governments are responsible for implementing policies, managing resources, and providing services that are directly influenced by climate change. Their strategic position allows them to address the specific needs of their communities, making them key players in the global effort to mitigate and adapt to climate change.

The Niger Delta region, in particular, is one of Nigeria's most climate-vulnerable areas. Known for its extensive oil reserves and rich biodiversity, the region is also characterized by its complex network of creeks, rivers, and mangrove swamps. This unique environment,

while rich in natural resources, is highly susceptible to climate-related risks such as flooding, sea-level rise, and extreme weather events. These threats are exacerbated by the region's socio-economic challenges, including poverty, pollution from oil extraction, and a high dependency on natural resources for livelihoods.

Statistics indicate that the Niger Delta is experiencing the adverse effects of climate change at an alarming rate. For instance, it is projected that by 2050, sea levels in the region could rise by as much as 1 meter, potentially displacing millions of people and submerging critical infrastructure. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) also highlights that the region could face an increase in the frequency and intensity of extreme weather events, such as storms and floods, which could further jeopardize the lives and livelihoods of the local population.

Local governments in the Niger Delta are at the forefront of responding to these challenges. They are responsible for developing and implementing policies that address the specific climate risks faced by their communities. This includes everything from managing land use and enforcing building codes that consider flood risks, to developing early warning systems and disaster response plans. Moreover, local governments play a critical role in engaging and mobilizing communities to participate in climate action, ensuring that policies are inclusive and reflect the needs of all segments of the population.

Beyond the Niger Delta, local governments across Nigeria are

increasingly recognizing the need to integrate climate change into their planning and decision-making processes. As the impacts of climate change become more pronounced, there is a growing understanding that local governments must lead the way in implementing effective mitigation and adaptation strategies. This is particularly important in a country like Nigeria, where the effects of climate change are felt differently across its diverse regions. For example, while the Niger Delta faces the threat of rising sea levels, the northern regions are dealing with desertification and water scarcity.

The role of local governments in addressing climate change is critical. Their ability to tailor policies to the specific needs of their communities, coupled with their proximity to those most affected by climate change, makes them indispensable in the fight against this global challenge. The Niger Delta region exemplifies the urgent need for local governments to take decisive action, not only to protect their communities but also to contribute to the broader national and global efforts to combat climate change. Through strategic planning, effective governance, and community engagement, local governments can lead the way in building resilient, sustainable communities that can withstand the impacts of climate change.

Local Government Profiles

The Niger Delta region is characterized by its rich biodiversity, extensive mangrove forests, and oil-rich resources. However, these natural assets are under threat from climate change, which

exacerbates issues like coastal erosion, flooding, and pollution. This section profiles the local government areas within the Niger Delta, highlighting their unique environmental, socio-economic, and cultural characteristics. Understanding these profiles is essential for tailoring climate action to the specific needs and vulnerabilities of each area.

Rationale for the Policy

The rationale for this policy stems from the urgent need to address the vulnerabilities of the Niger Delta region to climate change. The region's heavy reliance on natural resources, combined with its exposure to environmental hazards, makes it imperative for local governments to adopt proactive climate strategies. This section explains the motivations behind the policy, including the need to protect livelihoods, promote sustainable development, and ensure environmental justice for affected communities.

Linkages with Regional and National Policies

This section outlines how the local government climate change policy integrates with broader regional and national strategies. It highlights the importance of aligning local actions with Nigeria's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), the National Climate Change Policy, and other relevant frameworks. By ensuring coherence between local, regional, and national policies, local governments can contribute more effectively to the country's overall climate goals.

Chapter Two

Situation Analysis

Situation Analysis

Understanding the current climate situation is crucial for developing effective policies. This section provides an analysis of the environmental, social, and economic impacts of climate change in the Niger Delta and other regions of Nigeria. It discusses the specific climate hazards faced by these areas, such as flooding, sea-level rise, and changes in agricultural productivity.

Niger Delta's Vulnerability to Climate Change

The Niger Delta is one of Nigeria's most vulnerable regions to climate change, with communities experiencing increased flooding, loss of arable land, and threats to biodiversity. This section delves into the specific vulnerabilities of the region, examining how climate change exacerbates existing environmental challenges and poses new risks to local populations.

Emerging Issues in the Niger Delta and Other Regions

Climate change is bringing new challenges to the forefront, including shifts in disease patterns, changes in fishery resources, and the displacement of communities. This section identifies and discusses these emerging issues, providing a basis for developing targeted strategies to address them. It also considers how these challenges might evolve over time and the potential long-term impacts on the region.

Chapter Three

Policy Direction

Policy Vision

The vision of this policy is to create climate-resilient communities across the Niger Delta and other regions in Nigeria. This vision emphasizes the need for sustainable development that protects natural resources, enhances economic opportunities, and ensures the well-being of all residents, particularly those most vulnerable to climate change.

Policy Mission

The mission of the policy is to guide local governments in implementing effective climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies. This mission focuses on building local capacities, fostering collaboration among stakeholders, and integrating climate considerations into all aspects of local governance and development planning.

Policy Goal

The primary goal of this policy is to reduce the vulnerability of local communities to the impacts of climate change while promoting sustainable development. This goal is to be achieved through

targeted interventions in key sectors, including transport, land use, health, industry, and agriculture, with a particular emphasis on the Niger Delta.

Strategic Objectives

This section outlines the specific objectives that will guide the implementation of the policy. These objectives include:

1. Enhancing local government capacity to respond to climate change.
2. Promoting sustainable land use and environmental management.
3. Strengthening resilience in critical sectors like transport, health, industry, and agriculture.
4. Fostering inclusive community engagement in climate action.

Guiding Principles

The guiding principles of the policy include:

1. **Sustainability:** Ensuring that all interventions contribute to long-term environmental, social, and economic sustainability.
2. **Equity:** Addressing the needs of the most vulnerable populations and ensuring that climate actions benefit all community members.
3. **Resilience:** Building the capacity of communities to withstand and recover from climate-related shocks.
4. **Collaboration:** Encouraging partnerships between government, private sector, civil society, and local communities.

Chapter Four

Mitigation Activities

4.1 Agriculture, Forests, and Other Land Use

Agriculture, forests, and land use are central to climate change mitigation strategies at the local government level. These sectors not only contribute significantly to greenhouse gas emissions but also hold the potential for substantial carbon sequestration and climate resilience.

Agriculture

In the Niger Delta and across Nigeria, agriculture is both a major source of greenhouse gas emissions and a critical sector for food security and livelihoods. Emissions in agriculture primarily come from livestock (methane), rice paddies (methane), and fertilizer use (nitrous oxide). To mitigate these emissions, local governments can support the adoption of climate-smart agricultural practices. These include:

Sustainable Agricultural Practices: Promote the use of low-emission farming techniques, such as conservation tillage, which reduces soil disturbance

and carbon release. Agroforestry, integrating trees and shrubs into agricultural landscapes, can also enhance carbon sequestration and improve soil health.

Improved Livestock Management: Encourage practices that reduce methane emissions from livestock, such as improved feed efficiency, manure management, and the use of feed additives that inhibit methane production.

Efficient Water Use: Implement water-efficient irrigation practices to reduce methane emissions from rice paddies and ensure water availability during drought conditions. Techniques such as alternate wetting and drying can be effective in reducing emissions and improving water use efficiency.

Forests

Forests play a crucial role in carbon sequestration and climate regulation. Deforestation and forest degradation contribute significantly to greenhouse gas emissions. Local governments can play a key role in forest management and protection through:

Reforestation and Afforestation: Initiate and support reforestation and afforestation projects to restore degraded lands and increase carbon sequestration. These projects should consider the local biodiversity and ecological needs to ensure their effectiveness and sustainability.

Forest Conservation: Implement and enforce policies to prevent illegal logging and land conversion. Establish protected areas and community forest management programs that involve local communities in conservation efforts.

Sustainable Forest Management: Promote sustainable logging practices that minimize environmental impacts and ensure the regeneration of forest resources. This includes implementing certification systems and encouraging the use of sustainably sourced timber.

Land Use Planning

Effective land use planning is essential for climate change mitigation. Local governments can integrate climate considerations into land use policies to:

Promote Urban Green Spaces: Develop and maintain urban green spaces such as parks and community gardens. These areas not only sequester carbon but also improve urban air quality and provide recreational opportunities.

Control Urban Sprawl: Implement zoning regulations that limit urban expansion into valuable agricultural or forested areas. Encourage higher-density development and the use of sustainable building practices to reduce land consumption and associated emissions.

Integrate Climate Risks into Land Use Planning: Incorporate climate risk assessments into land use

planning processes to ensure that new developments are resilient to climate impacts such as flooding and heatwaves.

Energy

The energy sector is a significant contributor to greenhouse gas emissions, and local governments have a crucial role in promoting cleaner energy sources and improving energy efficiency.

Renewable Energy

Local governments can lead the transition to renewable energy by:

1. **Supporting Solar and Wind Energy Projects:** Facilitate the development of solar and wind energy projects by providing incentives, streamlining permitting processes, and investing in necessary infrastructure. Community solar projects can also be promoted to increase access to renewable energy.
2. **Encouraging Energy Efficiency:** Implement energy efficiency programs that promote the use of energy-efficient appliances, lighting, and building designs. Local governments can offer rebates or incentives for energy-efficient upgrades and conduct public awareness campaigns on energy conservation.
3. **Facilitating Biogas Production:** Support the development of biogas systems that convert organic waste into renewable energy. These systems can reduce

methane emissions from waste and provide a local source of clean energy.

Energy Conservation

Improving energy conservation in buildings and transportation is essential for reducing emissions:

1. **Building Codes and Standards:** Develop and enforce building codes that mandate energy-efficient construction practices and the use of sustainable materials. Encourage the retrofitting of existing buildings to improve energy performance.
2. **Transportation Efficiency:** Promote public transportation, cycling, and walking as alternatives to private vehicle use. Implement policies that support the development of energy-efficient transportation infrastructure and encourage the use of electric and hybrid vehicles.
3. **Community Engagement:** Engage with local communities to promote energy-saving behaviors and practices. Education campaigns can raise awareness about the benefits of energy conservation and provide practical tips for reducing energy consumption.

Health

Climate change has direct and indirect impacts on public health, and local governments can implement strategies to mitigate these effects and enhance community resilience.

Climate-Resilient Health Systems

Local governments can strengthen health systems to better cope with climate-related health challenges:

1. **Improving Health Infrastructure:** Invest in health infrastructure that is resilient to climate impacts such as flooding and heatwaves. This includes upgrading facilities, ensuring access to clean water, and strengthening emergency response capabilities.
2. **Disease Surveillance and Management:** Enhance disease surveillance systems to monitor and respond to climate-sensitive health risks, such as vector-borne diseases (e.g., malaria and dengue fever). Develop and implement strategies for disease prevention and control in the face of changing climate conditions.

Public Health Education

Public education is essential for improving community resilience to climate-related health risks:

1. **Health Awareness Campaigns:** Conduct public awareness campaigns to educate communities about the health impacts of climate change and the importance of preventive measures. Topics may include heat stress management, vector control, and respiratory health.
2. **Promoting Healthy Lifestyles:** Encourage healthy lifestyles and behaviors that reduce the risk of climate-related health issues. This includes promoting physical

activity, healthy diets, and measures to reduce exposure to environmental pollutants.

Emergency Preparedness and Response

Prepare communities for climate-related health emergencies:

Emergency Plans: Develop and implement emergency response plans for climate-related health crises, such as heatwaves and extreme weather events. Ensure that these plans include provisions for vulnerable populations and are regularly updated and tested.

Community Support Networks: Establish support networks to assist individuals and families during and after climate-related health emergencies. This includes providing access to medical care, psychological support, and basic necessities.

Industry

The industrial sector is a major source of greenhouse gas emissions, and local governments can implement policies to reduce emissions and promote sustainable practices.

Industrial Emission Reduction

Local governments can work with industries to reduce their carbon footprint:

1. **Implementing Emission Standards:** Develop and enforce emission standards for industrial processes to limit greenhouse gas emissions. Encourage industries to adopt cleaner technologies and practices that

- reduce their environmental impact.
2. **Promoting Energy Efficiency:** Support industrial energy efficiency programs that help businesses reduce energy consumption and emissions. Offer incentives for the adoption of energy-efficient technologies and practices.
 3. **Encouraging Waste Reduction:** Implement waste management policies that promote the reduction, reuse, and recycling of industrial waste. Support initiatives that turn waste into resources, such as through circular economy practices.

Sustainable Industrial Practices

Promote sustainable industrial practices that benefit both the environment and the economy:

1. **Green Certifications:** Encourage industries to obtain green certifications that demonstrate their commitment to sustainability. Certifications such as ISO 14001 (Environmental Management) can provide a framework for continuous improvement.
2. **Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR):** Promote CSR initiatives that address environmental and social impacts. Encourage businesses to engage in community-based projects and support local climate action efforts.

Transport

The transportation sector is a significant contributor to greenhouse gas emissions, and local governments can implement strategies to reduce emissions and promote sustainable transportation.

Public Transportation

Enhance public transportation systems to reduce reliance on private vehicles:

1. **Invest in Public Transit Infrastructure:** Develop and expand public transit networks to provide efficient and accessible transportation options. This includes improving bus and rail services and integrating different modes of transport.
2. **Promote Non-Motorized Transport:** Encourage walking and cycling as alternative modes of transportation by developing safe and accessible infrastructure such as pedestrian pathways and bike lanes.

Transportation Efficiency

Improve the efficiency of transportation systems:

1. **Vehicle Emission Standards:** Implement and enforce vehicle emission standards to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from cars and trucks. Promote the use of low-emission and electric vehicles through incentives and infrastructure development.
2. **Traffic Management:** Implement traffic management strategies that reduce congestion and emissions, such as smart traffic signals and congestion pricing.

Sustainable Urban Planning

Incorporate transportation considerations into urban planning:

1. **Transit-Oriented Development:** Promote transit-oriented development that integrates housing, commercial, and recreational areas with public transportation. This reduces the need for private vehicle use and supports sustainable urban growth.
2. **Land Use Planning:** Design land use policies that minimize the need for long commutes and support mixed-use development. Encourage compact, walkable communities that reduce transportation emissions.

Waste Management

Effective waste management is essential for reducing greenhouse gas emissions and minimizing environmental impacts.

Waste Reduction and Recycling

Promote waste reduction and recycling programs:

1. **Waste Reduction Initiatives:** Implement programs that encourage waste reduction at the source, such as through composting and source separation. Educate communities about the benefits of reducing waste and provide resources for waste management.
2. **Recycling Programs:** Develop and support recycling programs that divert waste from landfills and reduce

greenhouse gas emissions. Establish recycling facilities and provide incentives for businesses and households to participate.

Waste-to-Energy Technologies

Explore waste-to-energy technologies that convert waste into renewable energy:

1. **Biogas Production:** Support the development of biogas systems that convert organic waste into renewable energy. These systems can reduce methane emissions from landfills and provide a local source of clean energy.
2. **Waste Incineration:** Implement waste incineration technologies that safely dispose of non-recyclable waste and generate energy. Ensure that incineration facilities are equipped with emissions control technologies to minimize environmental impacts.

Water Resources

Water management is critical for climate change mitigation and adaptation. Local governments can implement strategies to ensure sustainable water use and protect water resources.

Chapter Five

Adaptation Activities

Agriculture

Adaptation in agriculture is essential for ensuring food security in the face of climate change. This section details strategies to enhance the resilience of farming systems, including the promotion of drought-resistant crops, efficient water use, and practices that improve soil health and productivity.

Forest Management

Forests play a critical role in both mitigating and adapting to climate change. This section outlines strategies for sustainable forest management, including reforestation, afforestation, and protecting existing forests from degradation and deforestation.

Energy Efficiency

Energy efficiency is a key adaptation strategy to reduce the vulnerability of energy systems to climate impacts. This section discusses the importance of adopting energy-efficient technologies and practices in homes, businesses, and public facilities.

Water Management

Water is a vital resource that is increasingly under pressure due to climate change. This section outlines adaptation strategies for water management, including improving water conservation, enhancing infrastructure for water storage and distribution, and protecting water sources from contamination and overuse.

Transport Infrastructure

Transport infrastructure must be resilient to climate impacts to ensure the continued movement of goods and people. This section discusses strategies for incorporating climate risk assessments into the planning and design of transport infrastructure, including roads, bridges, and public transit systems.

Industry Resilience

Industries need to be resilient to climate change to ensure economic stability. This section outlines strategies for enhancing industrial resilience, including conducting climate risk assessments, diversifying supply chains, and implementing business continuity plans.

Health Services

Climate change poses significant challenges to public health. This section discusses strategies for strengthening health services to cope with climate impacts, including improving healthcare infrastructure, enhancing disease surveillance and response systems, and promoting public health education.

Climate Change Science and Communication

Effective communication and the application of science are critical for successful climate adaptation. This section discusses strategies to enhance the capacity of local governments and communities to understand and respond to climate risks. It includes the development of climate data collection and monitoring systems, public education campaigns, and the integration of indigenous knowledge with scientific approaches to climate change adaptation.

Human Settlement Planning

Human settlements in the Niger Delta and other vulnerable regions must be planned and managed to withstand the impacts of climate change. This section outlines strategies for climate-resilient urban and rural planning, including the development of infrastructure that can cope with flooding and sea-level rise, the creation of green spaces to mitigate heat island effects, and the implementation of zoning regulations that minimize exposure to climate hazards.

Security and Conflict Prevention

Climate change can exacerbate existing social tensions and lead to conflicts, particularly over resources like water and land. This section explores strategies for preventing climate-related conflicts, including the promotion of equitable resource management, the strengthening of community-based conflict resolution mechanisms, and the integration of climate risks into local security planning.

Chapter Six

Enabling Environment

Creating an Enabling Environment for Climate Action

For climate policies to be effective, an enabling environment that supports their implementation is essential. This chapter outlines the necessary institutional, legal, and financial frameworks that local governments must establish to create such an environment. It discusses the importance of:

1. Strengthening governance structures to ensure the effective coordination of climate actions across different sectors and levels of government.
2. Developing legal and regulatory frameworks that support climate action, such as building codes that incorporate climate resilience and environmental regulations that promote sustainable practices.
3. Building local government capacities through training and technical assistance to ensure that staff have the knowledge and skills needed to implement climate policies.
4. Encouraging innovation and research to develop new solutions to climate challenges, including the promotion of partnerships with universities, research institutions, and the private sector.

Chapter Seven

Public Participation and Partnerships

Promoting Public Participation and Partnerships

Public participation and partnerships are crucial for the successful implementation of climate policies. This chapter emphasizes the need for inclusive approaches that involve all stakeholders, including local communities, civil society organizations, the private sector, and international partners. It discusses strategies for:

1. Engaging communities in decision-making processes, ensuring that the voices of those most affected by climate change are heard and that they have a role in shaping policy responses.
2. Building partnerships with the private sector to leverage resources and expertise for climate action, such as through public-private partnerships (PPPs) for infrastructure projects.
3. Collaborating with civil society organizations to enhance advocacy, raise awareness, and mobilize grassroots support for climate initiatives.
4. Fostering international cooperation to access technical assistance, funding, and knowledge from global climate networks.

Chapter Eight

Finance and Finance Mobilization

Climate Fund Mobilization

Effective climate action requires substantial financial resources. This section outlines strategies for mobilizing climate finance at the local government level, including accessing national and international climate funds, such as the Green Climate Fund, and developing local revenue sources.

Engagement with International Development Agencies

International development agencies are key partners in supporting climate action. This section discusses how local governments can engage with these agencies to secure funding, technical assistance, and capacity-building support for climate initiatives.

Bilateral and Multilateral Cooperation

Bilateral and multilateral cooperation can enhance local government capacities to address climate change. This section explores opportunities for local governments to enter into cooperative agreements with other governments and international organizations to share knowledge, best practices, and resources.

Private Sector Partnerships (Public-Private Partnerships - PPPs)

The private sector can provide essential support for climate initiatives through public-private partnerships (PPPs). This section discusses strategies for attracting private sector investment in climate-resilient infrastructure, renewable energy projects, and other key areas of climate action.

Loss & Damage Fund Access

As climate change increasingly causes damage that cannot be mitigated, local governments will need access to funds specifically for loss and damage. This section discusses how local governments can navigate international mechanisms to secure financial assistance for addressing the irreversible impacts of climate change.

Local and Regional Funding Sources

In addition to external funding, local governments must also explore regional and local funding sources. This section outlines strategies for generating revenue through local taxes, fees, and innovative financing mechanisms, such as green bonds, to support climate initiatives.

Conclusion

Local governments play a critical role in climate change mitigation and adaptation, particularly in high-risk areas like the Niger Delta. Addressing sectors such as agriculture, energy, health, industry, transport, waste management, and water resources is crucial for reducing greenhouse gas emissions and enhancing resilience. Sustainable practices in these areas, including renewable energy adoption, efficient water and waste management, and improved health infrastructure, can significantly impact climate outcomes. By integrating these strategies into local policies and fostering community engagement, local governments can drive effective climate action, build resilient communities, and contribute to national and global climate goals. Their proactive role is essential for a sustainable future.

