

BNRCC

BUILDING NIGERIA'S RESPONSE TO CLIMATE CHANGE

LOCAL ACTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

Quarterly Newsletter
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Publisher

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YOUR FEEDBACK IS WELCOME

The BNRCC newsletter invites correspondence from interested stakeholders.

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Cover photo: Community fish market at Mbaka, Akwa Ibom State

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WE STAND FOR PEOPLE

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Other BNRC Research Work & Activities

In addition to UNIUYO research project, BNRC is still supporting three other socio-economic research projects and one climate change scenario modeling project namely:

- a) Assessment of impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change in the Niger-Delta by Rural Linkage Network -RULIN, Asaba, Delta State;
- b) Gender Dimension and indigenous Knowledge Systems for Adaptation to climate change in the southeast agro-ecological zone by Women and Children Development

- Initiative -WACDI, Umuahia, Abia State;
- c) Assessment of Gender Knowledge and Awareness, Vulnerability and Adaptation Strategies to Impact of Climate Change in Northern Nigeria by Women Environmental Programme -WEP, Abuja and
- d) Developing Climate Change Scenarios, Biophysical Impacts and Adaptation Strategies in Nigeria by Climate System Analysis Group, University of Cape Town, South Africa and Institute of Ecology and Environmental Studies, Obafemi Awolowo University, Nigeria.

Case studies on the BNRC pilot projects and other recent updates are available on our website.

At the recently concluded COP 16, Cancun, Mexico, the short version of

BNRC climate change documentary in Nigeria was screened and shown. The official launch of the documentary is scheduled for March 2011 in Abuja, Nigeria.

Map of Nigeria showing BNRC project States



Research in Progress: *in the Niger Delta*

By: Robert Onyeneke Research Programme Officer, BNRC



Photography: Samson Samuel Ogallah

conducting research in this capacity in the Niger Delta region. The study has four specific objectives centred around climate variability and its impact on fisher folks, wetland and upland farmers, including: assessing available climate information sources for relevant stakeholders; determining awareness and knowledge of climate variability; assessing the vulnerability of households to climate variability; and identifying possible adaptation strategies.

Agriculture and fishing are important livelihoods in the Niger Delta. Both the upland as well as wetlands is cultivated, and farmers and fishermen alike are feeling the impacts of climate change hazards - like flooding and erosion. Given the vulnerability of the region to climate change, sufficient attention needs to be focused on empirical investigation of climate variability and long-term climate change. A team from the University of Uyo (UNIUYO) has been

In order to achieve these specific objectives, UNIUYO randomly sampled people in three selected States, Ondo, Rivers, and Akwa Ibom, and five communities within each State. A total of 540 households were selected for the study. The main methods for data collection included a questionnaire, focus-group discussion guides (FGD), and in-depth interviews.



Photography: Samson Samuel Ogallah

Site of gully erosion at Ikot Ebom Itam, Akwa Ibom State



Rising sea level destroyed houses in Ibuot Utan, Mbo LGA, Akwa Ibom State

Emerging results from the respondents indicate that farmers and fishermen access few sources of climate information, mainly from radio and television. With respect to awareness and knowledge of climate change, interviewees recognized that temperatures have increased in recent years. Other climate change related impacts, or hazards, identified by participants included: sea-level rise, beach erosion, flooding, temperature extremes,

harsher rain and wind storms, hailstone storms, an increase in human diseases, new crop pests.

Respondents acknowledged that the Niger Delta is particularly vulnerable to fluctuating weather, due to their proximity to the river. Poverty amongst the farmers and fisherman make it more difficult for these communities to cope and adapt to climate variations. Communities themselves recognized that women and children in particular were most vulnerable to climate change as they are the individuals responsible for food and water in

The household. Adapting to change is more difficult for those who are more vulnerable, if their resources are less and if the hazards are greater.

Adaptation measures have been adopted by households and communities to help respond to some of the impacts of climate change. In communities affected by flooding, construction of embankments, walkways and



Embankment at Mbaka, Akwa Ibom State effort at combating sea level rise

“Erosion affects us; that is why people move. I don’t know if [my home] will still be here after the rains have fallen this year.”

Emmanuel David Eto Akpan a community member in Ikot Ebom Itam, Itu LGA, Akwa Ibom State



Filled sand bags to control erosion and sea level rise in Mbaka community

canals, and raising floorboards in buildings are strategies being employed to prevent homes being washed off by flood or rising seawater. Dwindling fish catch means fisher folk spend more days at sea. To prevent fish from spoiling, some fisher folk now carry portable freezers to preserve fish until they return to shore. Farmers are planting more trees and ground cover crops to shade soil from the scorching heat and provide shade for people. Female respondents also indicated that they are adjusting their planting times to accommodate the late onset of rain that has been more common in recent years.

Emmanuel David Eto Akpan a community member in Ikot Ebom Itam in Itu LGA, Akwa Ibom State, has employed his own adaptation strategy. He is planting bamboo trees around his house, hoping the roots of this strong species will prevent his home from falling into the community’s growing ravine. Erosion in this community has eaten away at the land destroying homes and farms, forcing people that have options to find safer places to live and more productive land. With no other land available to him or his family, Emmanuel is hoping the bamboo will stand strong protecting his home.

The Future Generation

by Esther Agbarakwe, NYCC

Climate change is one of the most important issues facing youth today. In Nigeria a growing number of youth are banding together, pressing their local, state and national governments for action on climate change, and raising awareness and education in schools about this global phenomenon and how it affects us locally. The Nigeria Youth Climate Coalition (NYCC) is an umbrella organization of individuals, groups and organizations working on issues affecting youth and climate change in Nigeria. One member, Youth Aid Organization for Africa (YAOFA), is currently implementing a Climate Change Youth Communication project called “Engaging Naija Youth on Climate Change” funded by Building Nigeria’s Response to Climate Change (BNRCC) project.

Through their project, NYCC/YAOFA has trained over 80 students in two schools in Delta, Imo and Ondo State. The three-day training was the first ever youth-led initiative in these states using a Peer Education Model (PEM). The PEM enhances the sustainability

of learning, as trainers pass along their knowledge to future trainers. This approach is especially successful with youth as information sharing is much more readily accessible and effective when it comes from a fellow friend or student. The curriculum itself focuses on creating awareness and understanding about climate change, and discussing possible adaptation strategies, while building leadership capacity for youth climate change leaders.

In addition to the capacity training, the “Engaging Naija Youth on Climate Change” project conducted a study to determine the gaps in climate change knowledge amongst youth. To assist with building the capacity to do the study, BNRCC’s research component assisted in the methodology (design of a questionnaire to hand out to youth), preparation of the spreadsheet for data coding and data analysis, including mentored NYCC in preparing an analysis of the research results.

“I Now have knowledge about climatic change and global warming as well as understanding that young people will be greatly affected when disaster comes.”

Chinemerem is a member of one of the Secondary school Climate Change Club in Imo State.



The BNRCC-supported “Engaging Naija Youth on Climate Change” project has reached over 6000 youth both in Nigeria and internationally through Facebook, the NYCC website and promotion on radio and television.

PHOTO SPEAKS