



**NATIONAL STAKEHOLDERS' ENGAGEMENT AND
CONSULTATIONS FOR STOCKHOLM + 50 IN NIGERIA**

CONCEPT NOTE AND IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

MARCK 2022

1. Background

This year (2022) marked the 50th anniversary of the great 1972 United Nations Conference on the Environment (UNCE) which was held in Stockholm, Sweden. The Conference was the first world conference to make the environment a major issue of development, and it marked the beginning of the global consciousness of the imperative to accept the critical role the planet earth plays in our socio-economic development and human survival.

A major outcome of the UNCE was the Stockholm Declaration which recognized that humanity has *the fundamental right to freedom, equality and adequate conditions of life, in an environment of a quality that permits a life of dignity and well-being, and he bears a solemn responsibility to protect and improve the environment for present and future generations*. The Declaration and its Action Plan was guided by 26 key principles that laid the foundation for future global discourse on sustainable development and placed environmental issues at the forefront of international concerns.

Another key result of UNCE was the creation of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). Since its establishment in 1972, UNEP has been “the global authority that sets the environmental agenda, promotes the coherent implementation of the environmental dimension of sustainable development within the United Nations system and serves as an authoritative advocate for the global environment”. It also *provides leadership and encourage partnership in caring for the environment by inspiring, informing, and enabling nations and peoples to improve their quality of life without compromising that of future generations*¹.

To commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of UNCE and celebrate five decades of consistent global discussion and action on the environment, an international environmental meeting will be held in Stockholm, Sweden on 2 and 3 June 2022. In recognizing that *social and economic sustainability are only possible with a healthy planet*², the theme of the high-level meeting is “Stockholm+50: a healthy planet for the prosperity of all – our responsibility, our opportunity”. It will be preceded by a one-day preparatory meeting, which will be held at United Nations Headquarters in New York on 28 March 2022.

The overall aim of Stockholm+50 is to further contribute to the global effort at accelerating the implementation of the UN Decade of Action to deliver the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including the 2030 Agenda, Paris Agreement on climate change and the post-2020 global Biodiversity Framework, and encourage the adoption of green post-COVID-19 recovery plans through effective multilateral attack on the planetary crises of climate change, biodiversity loss, pollution and waste, among others. It is also expected to provide leaders with an opportunity to

¹ <https://www.unep.org/about-un-environment>

² WWF (2014): Living Planet Report 2014: Species and spaces, people and places

further build on the gains of 50 years of multilateral environmental action towards achieving the urgent action needed to secure a better future on a healthy planet.

The meeting will consist of three leadership dialogues to reflect on the urgent need for actions towards a healthy planet and prosperity of all, achieving a sustainable and inclusive recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, and accelerating the implementation of the environmental dimension of Sustainable Development in the context of the Decade of Action. It will have the ambition to accelerate the implementation of the environmental dimension of Sustainable Development in the context of the Decade of Action. The three leadership dialogues recognize that *we cannot protect nature without also recognizing the needs and aspirations of people, and the right to development. But equally, we cannot have development or meet the needs and aspirations of people without protecting nature*³ and focus on:

- I. Reflecting on the urgent need for actions to achieve a healthy planet and prosperity for all;
- II. Achieving a sustainable and inclusive recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic; and
- III. Accelerating the implementation of the environmental dimensions of Sustainable Development in the context of the Decade of Action.

Stockholm+50 will also be an occasion to raise awareness about the importance of protecting our planet. Each country is encouraged to conduct extensive consultations and discussions with individuals, communities, organizations and governments to provide national inputs into the three leadership dialogues that will be discussed at the Stockholm + 50 high-level meeting. These consultations could be in a series of virtual or in-person meetings.

The following highlights the approach that will be used in Nigeria to undertake national consultations for the country's input into the high-level meeting and to further recommit Nigeria to human and planetary health, responsibility, prosperity, equality and peace in the post COVID-19 era. It will be a downscale of the three global leadership dialogues to the national, state and local scales in the country that should enable different stakeholders in Nigeria (government, civil society, private sector operators, communities and individuals) to contribute to the outcome of Stockholm+50 by yielding clear and concrete national recommendations and messages for action at all levels for the country's sustainable development that will be delivered at the high-level meeting in Stockholm on June 2022. The national consultation will also be a good opportunity to further raise awareness among Nigerians on the imperative for strengthened cooperation and accelerated innovative action to tackle the planetary challenges and crises of climate change, biodiversity degradation, pollution and waste for the sustainable development of the country within the global framework.

³ Marco Lambertini, Director General WWF International Director-General, 2014

2. Objectives of the National Consultation

In line with the global objective of the Stockholm +50 national consultations, the specific objectives of the national consultation in Nigeria are to:

- Stimulate inclusive debates on Stockholm+50 Leadership Dialogue themes;
- Build a shared national vision on how to achieve a healthy planet and prosperity and accelerate progress on the Sustainable Development Goals and Multilateral Environment Agreements through an inclusive green recovery and within the global context;
- Offer clear recommendations for governments, civil society and private sector that advance national and sectoral policies that integrate climate concerns and Nature-based solutions including through NDCs, NBSAPS, Green Economy/Green Recovery and SDG frameworks;
- Amplify the voices of the poor and other marginalized groups, including women, youths etc.; and
- Influence national, state and local debates that consider the perspectives of all stakeholders that can contribute to the global discourse on healthy planet.

The national consultation will be organised to generate concrete ideas that can represent national input into the Stockholm +50 international meeting. There will be a national report that captures key findings, recommendations, data, media coverage, and links to national policy frameworks such as National Climate Change Policy and Programme, Nigeria’s NDC, National Adaptation Plan, National Biodiversity Action Plan and Strategy (NBSAP), National Action Plan to Combat Desertification, Nigeria Economic Sustainability Plan, Energy Transition Plan, green recovery, and sector strategies.

3 Thematic Areas

3.1 National Environmental Challenges

The last five decades have witnessed increasing recognition of the interconnections between development, poverty, and the environment. Yet, despite all global efforts to address the environmental dimensions of development, the world is witnessing increasing environmental challenges and growing inequality that are negatively affecting development and wellbeing. “Climate instability, biodiversity loss, chemical pollution, plastic waste, nitrogen overload, anti-microbial resistance, and rising toxicity through reduced and altered ecosystem goods and services are unprecedented challenges for humanity”⁴.

⁴ Stockholm+50: A Healthy Planet for the Prosperity of All – Our Responsibility, Our Opportunity
Concept Note

Like in many parts of the world, Nigeria's environment is under increasing threat from human activities and natural disasters. The country's large population of about 200 million and its rapid growth rate of 2.8 per cent per annum are contributing to its environmental degradation, with visible scars associated with the destruction of the natural resource base (land, water and air), upon which all life depends, being noted in varying degrees across the country.

Nigeria's biodiversity, particularly the forest cover, is continuously declining because of deforestation for agriculture and fuel, while its enormous freshwater resources, including seasonal and permanent rivers, lakes, and wetlands, are under tremendous pressure from various human interventions. Annual average river flow and water supply are projected to decrease during the next ten years by 10 – 30% under conditions of increasing demand for water, resulting in increased water stress and vulnerability to climate change poor conditions. The drastic shrinking of the surface area of Lake Chad is a critical management challenge with enormous socio-economic consequences for the northeastern region of Nigeria. The ongoing insecurity and increasing potential for conflict and regional instability in the northeastern part of country, including international border and land

Deforestation, large scale land clearing and floodplain encroachment, mainly for agricultural production, have resulted in large scale land degradation in Nigeria, reflected in terms of severe gulley erosion in the south and desertification in the north and resulting in loss of valuable top soil, siltation of water bodies and flooding. Land degradation is directly impacting the sustainability of key systems and livelihoods of the poor and contributing to the high rate of poverty in Nigeria.

Environmental pollution in Nigeria is much greater in magnitude today than in previous decades because of the high rate of population growth and urbanization, modernization of agriculture, especially in the growing use of agrochemicals, the introduction of modern technologies and consumer products, as well as weak institutional, logistical and policy arrangements that have been put in place over the years to tackle the menace.

Further compounding the environmental challenge in Nigeria is the country's high vulnerability to climate change, which is undermining development across all sectors of the economy. Poor management of the natural resources is a threatening challenge to the development and sustainable use of the different resources in Nigeria, particularly under increasing climatic variability.

While the key challenge for the country is to manage its rapid economic development in a sustainable manner and to prevent adverse impacts of environmental degradation and climate change, the current COVID-19 pandemic further draws attention to the profound disconnect that exists in modern societies between humans and their environment. This zoonotic disease is being linked with poor and uncontrolled human interaction with animals and the environment and our inability to adopt an ecosystemic approach that appreciates the interconnections between the health of our planet, biodiversity, and humans.

By negatively impacting health, eroding capabilities, and limiting present and future development opportunities, these environmental challenges are increasing human insecurity. Inequality and imbalance are also evident in the use of natural resources, where economic benefits and environmental and social burdens are asymmetrically distributed across countries and regions. Furthermore, with the pandemic, the whole earth is going through a “rebooting” and both the preservation and restoration of environmental quality are experiencing a new normal. For example, the massive amount of medical waste being generated in response to the pandemic requires special disposal means and methods. This implies that managing the future global change and environmental challenges will also require a new thinking, new perspectives and new way of doing things to ensure environmental sustainability⁵. The conduct of the leadership dialogues provides Nigeria a good opportunity to generate new ideas about managing its environmental resources for sustainable development.

3.2 Rationale for Selecting Thematic Areas for Stakeholders Leadership Dialogue

To make the dialogues focused, the discussions and consultations will focus on a few selected thematic areas where concrete ideas and recommendations will be generated as to how Nigeria can manage and maintain its environmental resources for the attainment of the SDGs and good environmental health for viable ecosystem services and goods. The selection of critical themes for discussion is done in such a way to ensure appropriate coverage of key planetary boundary issues such as climate change, biological diversity loss, biogeochemical cycles, freshwater use, land system change, chemical pollution and atmospheric aerosol loading (air quality) that are critical to addressing environmental challenges of Nigeria for the country’s sustainable development. A good entry point for the identification of the thematic issues for the leadership dialogues for the Stockholm + 50 in Nigeria is the climate crisis that is outpacing global and national efforts to address it. This is because climate change, in addition to accelerating environmental degradation and biodiversity loss, is also leading to significant risks to health, livelihoods, food security, water supply and security, human security, and economic growth, among others.

Climate change It is threatening our ability to ensure food security, eradicate poverty, and achieve sustainable development, while fueling and/or aggravating resource-based conflicts in the country. To these will be added the challenges of pollution and waste. Without rapid and all-encompassing transitions, these impacts will be even worse in future and become a major roadblock to achieving the SDGs in Nigeria with disproportionate effects on the poor. To achieve key SDGs in Nigeria, therefore, our national development effort must strive towards a climate compatible path. Prevention of and adaptation to climate change are critical to ensuring adequate food and water supply, sustainable economic growth, and good environmental

⁵ See Federal Ministry of Environment (2020): Post-COVID-19 Medium-Term Strategy and Plan (2020-2022) for the Environment Sector (A national report written by a group of experts lead by Prof. Emmanuel Oladipo)

governance, promote resilience to environmental shocks and stressors, as well effective management of the country’s natural resources to reduce conflict.

3.3 Selected Thematic Topic

Using climate change as an entry point to the national consultations, the following are the proposed prioritized thematic areas for national consultation and discussion:

- i. **Climate change and natural resources management: Imperative for nature-based solutions for sustainable development**
- ii. **Environmental pollution and waste management**
- iii. **Enabling Policy, Legal and Institutional Frameworks for Environmental Sustainability**
- iv. **Improving People’s Understanding of Sustainable Development**

Table 1 highlights some of the subtopics for each of the identified thematic issues

Table 1: Proposed Thematic Topics and Sub-Topics for the Leadership Dialogues

S/No	Thematic Topic	Sub-Topics	Proposed Paper Presenter
1	Climate change and natural resources management: Imperative for nature-based solutions for sustainable development	An overview of the impact of climate variability and change on renewable natural resources in Nigeria (Lead Paper)	Prof. E. Oladipo
		Natural resource degradation and climate vulnerability nexus: An overview of the situation in Nigeria and implications for sustainable development	Prof. F. Adesina
		The imperatives for biodiversity and healthy ecosystems for food security and sustainable development in Nigeria: Adapting natural resource management to climate change	Prof. D. Gwary
		Management of mangroves for coastal resilience and sustainable livelihoods in Nigeria (<i>Resilient livelihoods through the sustainable use of natural assets</i>)	Engr. R. Okibe
		Landscape restoration and resilience building in the arid and semi-arid areas of Nigeria (<i>through integrated landscape management</i>)	Prof. H. Ayuba
		Reducing deforestation in the rainforest and guinea savanna ecological zones of Nigeria	

		Advancing integrated water resources management to manage the impacts of climate change on Nigeria's water resources and hydrological cycle and meet its development and growth needs.	Prof. D. Adie
		Natural capital accounting for integrated climate change policy and NDC implementation	Prof. N. Chukwuone
		Enabling SDGs through inclusive just energy transitions: Challenges and opportunities for the achievement of net-zero emissions in Nigeria by 2060.	Prof. M. Onuoh
		Building capacity to mainstream gender in emission reduction programmes and REDD+ strategies	Ms. T. Akosa
		Enhancing urban and community resilience to environmental change and disasters for sustainable development	Prof. J. Falade
		Operationalizing gender-based and inclusive sustainable development in Nigeria (<i>leaving no one behind in the SDGs</i>)	Dr. E. Jeiyol
		Reducing climate-induced resource-based conflicts in Nigeria	Prof. M. Dura
2	Environmental pollution and waste management	Overview of environmental pollution in Nigeria: impacts on sustainable development and way forward (Lead Paper)	Prof. Babajide Alo
		improving air quality for environmental health, well-being and resilience to pandemics	=Prof. O. Osibanjo
		Promoting environmentally sound management of chemicals and wastes in Nigeria: Challenges and opportunities for a more resource-efficient and circular economy.	Prof. P. Onianwa
		National and sub-national action to advance towards a more resource efficient and circular economy, including aligning COVID-19 recovery measures with resource efficiency objectives in a coordinated manner	Dr. U. Amadi

3	Enabling Policy, Legal and Institutional Frameworks for Environmental Sustainability	The appropriateness of current policy, legal and institutional frameworks to address the challenges of sustainable development in Nigeria (Lead Paper)	Bar. H. Mshelia
		Capacity building for sustainable development in the post-Covid era	
4	Improving People's Understanding of Sustainable Development	Information dissemination, awareness creation and adoption of sustainable development initiatives in Nigeria: Challenges and opportunities (Lead Paper)	
		Advocacy imperatives for the achievement of SDGs in Nigeria	Mr. M. Simire

4. Next Steps

- i. Once the topics and sub-topics for the leadership dialogues are agreed to, a generic guideline for their delivery by various identified speakers will be developed to highlight the main elements that should be contained in the papers.
- ii. Potential speakers and presenters will be identified
- iii. Stakeholders' identification will be undertaken and list of participants compiled
- iv. Dates and venues for the dialogues will be agreed
- v. Collation of national policies and strategies for sustainable development
- vi. Logistics for both in-person and virtual participations in the dialogues will be finalized
- vii. Dialogues will be conducted
- viii. Reports of the dialogues will be consolidated and written into a national report for Stockholm + 50
- ix. National report submitted to UNEP/UN

5. Proposed Workplan

Stockholm + 50 National Consultations Activity Plan

Activity	Sub-Activity	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep
1. Information collation, knowledge products and reporting Expectation: the final report should include (1) consultation results, main contributions, innovations,	1.1 Collate relevant national policies, strategies and plans (and where possible and necessary sub-national plans)	X	X				
	1.2 Submit collated data on national policies, strategies		X	X			

Activity	Sub-Activity	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep
insights, (2) next steps and links to national policies, (3) a description of the consultation process, and (4) number and list of participants/speakers.	and plans to relevance analysis for sustainable development issues						
	1.3 Start to populate Spark Blue page for Nigeria with the analysis of collated national policies, strategies and plan		X	X			
	1.4 Define and address any data/analytics gaps and needs for the national consultations		X	X			
	1.5 Upload National Consultations materials on Spark Blue (agenda, background materials, recordings, photos, media coverage, reports)			X	X	X	X
	1.6 Prepare and submit National Consultations report to UNDP/UNEP			X	X		
2. National Consultations Expectation: to include planning and launch, logistics, interpretation and other meeting arrangements, Spark Blue-based consultations	2.1 In consultation with and support from UNDP and Federal Government define consultations structure.	X					
	2.2 Engage with key national stakeholders on the meeting dates, agenda and key speakers, roles of national government counterparts.	X	X	X	X	X	X
	2.3 Confirm dates for the leadership dialogues	X					

Activity	Sub-Activity	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep
	2.4 Stakeholder mapping, list of participants ensuring a gender balance approach.	X					
	2.5 Engage with key international and regional stakeholders and speakers	X	X	X	X	X	X
	2.6 Engage with and invite National Consultations participants/speakers from all relevant stakeholder groups, including providing speakers with guidelines for delivery	X	X	X	X	X	X
	2.7 Invitations sent out jointly with the Government		X				
	2.8 Identify and book venue and logistic service		X	X	X		
	2.9 Identify/engage moderators and rapporteurs for face-to-face and on-line National Consultations.		X	X	X		
	2.10 Plan for and launch follow up on-line Spark Blue consultations		X	X	X	X	X
3. Communications	3.1 Outreach National Government, identify national focal point/s, deliver information about Stockholm+50 using different formats and means to serve all priority groups	X	X				

Activity	Sub-Activity	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep
	3.2 Engage with Swedish Embassy/SIDA representatives	X	X				
	3.3 Prepare draft communication and outreach plan, share with S+50 Team.		X	X			
	3.4 Recruit videographer to produce video and photos from consultations		X				
	3.5 Plan for and prepare communication materials	X	X	X			
	3.6 Prepare Press Release, share with the S+50 Team and engage outreach national media		X	X	X		
4. Stockholm+50 follow-up	4.1 Share/disseminate consultations materials and reports to stakeholders.			X	X	X	X
5. Coordination and management	5.1 Recruit national coordinator for three months	X					
	5.2 Establish a national technical team to support consultations	X					