

## **Level of Preparedness of Nigeria on Achieving Sustainable Development Goal 13**

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### **Abstract**

This study examines Nigeria's level of preparedness in achieving SDG 13 on climate action before the 2030 deadline. The study adopted a qualitative approach using a case study of two institutions responsible for the implementation of SDG 13 in Nigeria. Two national policies were appraised; these include National Policy on the Environment (NPE) of 2016 and the National Climate Change Policy Response and Strategy (NCCPRS), 2012. The study used the baseline finding and the interview conducted with the institutions to determine Nigeria's Government level of preparedness in achieving SDG 13 on Climate action. The findings showed that Nigeria has the right set of policies to enable the achievement of the SDG 13 and its targets since the 2016 revised NPE and the 2012 NCCPRS have captured all the targets of SDG 13. Hence, it is possible to meet the targets before the deadline of 2030. However, the findings also revealed, despite having the right policies, the two main institutions responsible for the goal implementation are not well-prepared due to lack of structures at the local government level and insufficient funding as well as inadequate personnel. The study recommends that the government should ensure the provision of adequate funding and the establishment of structures at the Local government level to enable them to implement the policies.

**Keyword:** *Sustainable Development Goals, Climate Change, Climate Action, Environmental Policies, Nigeria.*

## Introduction

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), officially known as 'Transforming Our World', are a set of 17 aspirational goals with 169 associated targets, and 232 monitoring indicators, which cover all sustainable development issues, such as malnutrition, poverty, unemployment, health, climate change, low agricultural productivity and degraded ecosystems to social inequality (Jaiyesimi, 2016).

In September 2015, Nigeria was among the 193 countries of the World that adopted the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in New York during the 70<sup>th</sup> UN General assembly, following the expiration of the MDGs (Ladan, 2018). Of the seventeen (17) SDGs, five (5) have direct linkages with Environmental Management. These include SDG 6 on clean water and sanitation for all; SDG 7 on sustainable clean energy for all; SDG 13 on addressing climate change and its impacts and finally SDG 14 on sustainable use of oceans, seas and marine resources and finally SDG 15 on the protection of terrestrial ecosystem (Popoola, 2016).

This study is focusing on SDG 13 on addressing climate change. The SDG 13 is central to this research which commits States to “take urgent action to combat

climate change and its impacts.” It emphasizes the agreed global need to mitigate anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions and to adapt to the damages already caused by climate change. It also acknowledges that “the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change is the primary international, intergovernmental forum for negotiating the global response to climate change.”

The SDG 13 has five targets and eight indicators to show compliance. The objectives of SDG 13 are also reflected in several binding treaties, including the Kyoto Protocol, the Doha Amendment, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and the Paris Agreement among other multilateral agreements to which Nigeria is a signatory to (Lofts *et al.*, 2017).

A review of the MDGs implementation in Nigeria revealed that climate change constituted the greatest obstacle that prevented the achievement of the MDGs especially those goals related to ending poverty and hunger and promoting environmental sustainability (Oladipo, 2010). Similarly, SDG 13 is central to the SDGs and its achievement will to a large extent be a determinant to meeting the Goals. This is because, the goal (and its targets) affects social, environmental and

economic aspects of development.

Despite the glaring need for achieving SDG 13 on climate action in Nigeria; there is no discernible effort by the relevant institutions to assess the country's readiness towards achieving the goal (SDG 13). No study was also conducted to verify if the existing climate change policies capture the SDG 13 goals or not. This study has therefore become imperative as assessing the country's readiness will enable timely action at policy and institutional levels to ensure the goal is achieved. The objectives of the study were to identify relevant policies on climate change and assess if these policies capture the SDG 13 targets, assess the readiness of the key institutions responsible for implementing the goal, determine the extent to which the climate policies are implemented and identify the problems confronting them.

### **Materials and Methods**

The methods used to achieve the research objectives include Policy appraisal, document review and structured interviews. The policy appraisal was used to assess whether the existing policies on climate change captures the SDG13 targets or not. This was done through extensive content analysis of the selected policies. The policies identified and reviewed include the

National Climate Change Policy 2016, and the National Climate Change Policy Response and Strategy of 2012. Key document reviewed include reports of statistical abstracts from the National Bureau of Statistics, National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) and Department of Climate Change of the Ministry of Environment. The documents were analysed by systematic content analysis to know the gaps in policy implementation in line with SDG 13 indicators of the United Nations.

The structured interviews were conducted among three selected institutions that have the statutory mandate of addressing climate change to investigate the extent to which the climate policies are implemented or operationalized. This was to reveal the extent of their preparedness in implementing the SDG13 target and to further verify if the results of the content analysis of the statistical abstract are valid. Institutions interviewed include the Department of Climate Change (DCC) unit of the Federal Ministry of Environment) and the National Emergency Management Agency.

These institutions were selected based on predetermined criteria as follows:

- a. Global targets and indicators set out for

SDG 13 on climate action

- b. The mandate and role of the institution in strengthening resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in Nigeria
- c. The mandate and role of the institution to coordinate and work with several Ministries through the Inter-ministerial Council on Climate Change

The information elicited during the interview was on technological preparedness, workers' knowledge and skills on combating climate change, institutional funding (or budget) and general challenges faced by the institution in addressing climate change in the country. The questions were validated by a panel of experts in the field of climate change, to ensure that the questions measure the desired construct as recommended by Cook (2016) and Jantarasami, et al. (2010). The interview sessions were also recorded to enable the researcher to accurately capture the data as recommended by Struwig et al. (2001). The interview data were analysed by using thematic content analysis, a method

that enables the classification of each interview script into themes that could be treated as distinct variables (Forman and Damschroder, 2007).

This analytical method comprises five steps, namely: transcription, checking and editing, analysis and interpretation, and verification (Elbardan *et al.*, 2016). The responses from the above institutions provided in-depth information on the mandate of the institutions responsible for implementing SDG 13 on climate actions, technologies used for the implementation of the goal, workers' knowledge, skills and challenges towards combating climate change and its impacts in Nigeria.

## Result and Discussion

### SDG 13 Targets Captured in Nigeria's Climate Change Policy

The result of the appraisal of the 2012 National Climate Change Policy Response Strategy (NCCPRS) and the National Policy on Environment (NPE) is presented in Table 1.

**Table 1:** Checklist of SDG 13 Targets in NPE, 2016 AND NPCCRS, 2012.

TARGETS NUMBER	SDG 13 TARGETS	NPE, 2016	NCCPRS, 2011
13.1	Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries	✓	✓
13.2	Integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning	✓	✓
13.3	Improve education, awareness -raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning	✓	✓
13.4	Implement the commitment undertaken by developed country parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to a goal of mobilizing jointly \$100 billion annually by 2020 from all sources to address the needs of developing countries in the context of meaningful mitigation actions and transparency on implementation and fully operationalize the Green Climate Fund through its capitalization as soon as possible	✓	✓
13.5	Promote mechanisms for raising capacity for effective climate change -related planning and management in the least developed countries and small island developing States, including focusing on women, youth and local and marginalized communities	✓	✓

Source: Author, 2018.

The findings from policy appraisal in Table 1 showed that all the targets of SDG 13 are captured in both the 2012 NCCPRS and 2016 revised NPE which are the current climate change policies in the country. The results indicated that Nigeria's climate change policies are adequately on track and capable of achieving SDG 13 on climate action. This finding by implication showed that Nigeria lives up to expectation among

the committee of nations in complying with global agreements and commitments. This finding may also be connected to the fact that all the targets of SDG 13 are reflected in several binding treaties, including the Kyoto Protocol of 2005, the Doha Amendment of 2012, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction of 2015 and the Paris Climate Change Agreement of 2015 among other

multilateral agreements aimed at addressing the challenges of climate change in which Nigeria is a signatory to (Lofts *et al.*, 2017 and Buhari, 2018).

### Level of Policy Implementation in Line with SDG 13 indicators

The result from a content analysis of the report of statistical abstracts collected from the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS), National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) and Department of Climate Change of the Ministry of Environment is presented in Table 2.

**Table 2:** Baseline Status of SDG 13 Indicators in Nigeria

Indicator number	SDG13 Indicator	Baseline Status	Source
13.1.1	Number of deaths, missing persons and directly affected persons attributed to disasters per 100,000 populations	Death = 5.07 Missing= 0.02 Affected= 607	NEMA,NBS 2016
13.1.2	Does Nigeria adopt and implement national disaster risk reduction strategies in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030	Yes	NEMA, 2018
13.1.3	Does Nigeria adopt and implement local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national disaster risk reduction strategies	Yes	NEMA, 2018
13.2.1	Does Nigeria communicated the establishment of an integrated policy/strategy/plan on the adverse impacts of climate change (including a nationally determined contribution, national communication, biennial update report or other)	Yes	DCC of FMEnv., 2018
13.3.1	Has Nigeria integrated mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning into primary, secondary and tertiary curricula	Yes	NEMA, 2018
13.3.2	Has Nigeria communicated the strengthening of institutional, systemic and individual capacity building to implement adaptation, mitigation and technology transfer, and development actions	- Yes	DCC of FMEnv.,2018
13.4.1	Has Nigeria received any special support including finance, technology and capacity -building, for effective climate change -related planning and management	Yes	DCC of FMEnv.,2018

Source: Author, 2018

Based on the findings in Table 2 and the interview conducted with the DCC, it is clear that Nigeria is on track and has a good starting point for achieving SDG 13 on climate action using the baseline status of the SDG 13 indicators that shows compliance. This finding is in line with the 2016 United Nations Development Program (UNDP) monitoring reports reported by Moshood, (2016).

This finding is also in agreement with that of Shittu (2015), who reported that Nigeria has recorded appreciable progress in the implementation of the MDGs which put the country on track in achieving the SDGs in comparison with most African countries. The progress of any country is measured using the baseline status of SDG 13 indicators set out by the United Nations to show compliance level.

Luckily, Nigeria does not need to start the implementation of SDG 13 targets from the scratch due to the experience it had from the MDGs, Hyogo framework for disaster management and Kyoto protocol implementations. If this experience is properly leveraged, the country will be in a better pedestal to achieving SDG 13 on climate action. The SDG 13 seeks to build on and complete the unfinished business of

the MDGs, Hyogo framework and Kyoto protocol.

Nigeria has provided leadership in the implementation of the MDGs and the UNFCCC mechanisms within Africa and globally. This is evident in Institutions, innovations and policies introduced in Nigeria were admired and replicated by other countries (Akinyemi, 2016).

#### **Level of Preparedness by Institutions (NEMA and DCC of the FMEnv).**

The results of the analysis showed that the two institutions (NEMA and DCC of FMEnv.) are key institutions with the total mandate to implement SDG 13 on climate action in Nigeria.

In the interview conducted with the DCC, the unit revealed its mandate in the following statement:

*“The Department is the designated Focal Point that has the mandate to coordinate climate change activities and actions in Nigeria's National climate change actions. All the obligations from the climate treaties signed are implemented by the Department of Climate Change.’ They work towards mainstreaming*

*climate action into all development agenda".*

Also, an interview conducted with the DRR Unit of NEMA revealed its mandate as follows:

*"NEMA is mandated to coordinate and integrate all activities for disaster management in Nigeria including climate-related disasters which are some of the major targets of Sustainable Development Goal 13 on Climate Action".*

This may be attributed to the fact that Nigeria is a key player in global climate change agreement and African convention related to climate change.

### **Technology Required for the Implementation of SDG 13 on Climate Action in Nigeria.**

The result of an interview conducted with the DCC of FMEnv and the DRR of NEMA revealed that the two institutions have the required technology for the implementation of SDG 13 but the technologies are distributed across several agencies whose mandates are to assist in the climate change control effort, including weather forecasting technology found in the Nigeria Meteorological Agency, emission detection

devices found with the Ministry of Transport, other technologies from Ministry of Water Resources, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Science and Technology, and media communication from Ministry of Information and Culture.

The Disasters Risk Reduction unit of NEMA revealed that

*"As a coordinating agency we don't need to have all technologies/equipment but we have experts that are very versed in concepts and strategies. However, we have our Helicopter, Air ambulance, Ambulances, GIS laboratory, Emission Control Centre. We also work with technologies of the specialized agencies like Nigeria Meteorological Agency, Nigeria Space Agency, National Air Space Research and Development Agency etc., we work together with them and they have the technology."*

### **Workers Knowledge and Skills towards the Implementation of SDG 13 on Climate Action.**

The result of the interview conducted with the DCC-FMEnv and the DRR-NEMA showed that all the two institutions have the

trained personnel and experts that have the skills and know the strategies of implementing the SDG 13 targets because they have benefited from capacity building and career development on combating climate change.

The DCC of FMEnv has the trained personnel and experts that are very vast in concepts, skills and strategies towards the implementation of climate activities and actions. The department fully participates in many local and international workshops, seminars and training specially designed for capacity building and career development aimed at combating climate change.

The interview with the DRR of NEMA also revealed that n NEMA has the knowledge, skills and trained personnel that are capable of overseeing the policy or plan related to the implementation of climate action. It is a key player in the global framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (DDR) and quite conversant with the relationships between DRR, Climate Change and SDG 13. NEMA is part of the Sendai Framework and African strategies for the actualization of Sendai'. Drills and simulation exercises are also common features of the agencies mandates and routine activities.

### **Challenges Related to the Implementation of SDG 13 on Climate Action**

The results of the interviews conducted with the DCC of FMEnv and DRR of NEMA showed that the two institutions have the same challenges of inadequate funding and lack of structure at the local government level. According to DCC inadequate funding and personnel, and lack of structure at the local government level are major challenges confronting the department.

There is also the challenge of coordination among the various stakeholders since *d i s a s t e r m a n a g e m e n t* is a multijurisdictional, multi-sectoral, multi-disciplinary and multi-resources initiative.

This finding is in agreement with Onafeso, 2014 who pointed out that inadequate funding and corruption are major factors affecting the implementation of any government policy.

### **Conclusion**

The study shows that based on the availability of relevant policies to support the implementation of SDG 13, Nigeria can be said to be on track in achieving the goal. It also establishes the level of policy implementation in the country. All the SDG

13 targets are well captured and the two key institutions responsible for goal implementation are not well due to inadequate funding and lack of structures at the local government level. . The study recommends that the government should ensure the provision of adequate funding of the institutions responsible for the implementation of SDG 13 in Nigeria and also establish structures at the Local government level to ease the coordination for the institutions.

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