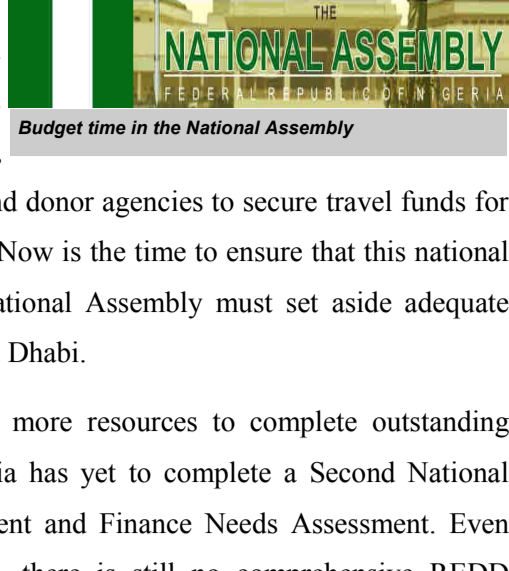




# nigeriacan newsletter **january 2012**

## Budget 2012 - more money, more accountability

The budget season is here again. Agencies of government are busy defending and lobbying for their budgets in the National Assembly. This is the time to act to ensure that we match our commitments to address climate change with robust financial provisions to enable action on mitigation and adaptation.



In 2011, the Federal Ministry of Environment bemoaned the inadequacy of budgetary provisions to complete action plans and participate in the Conference of Parties that was held in Durban. Last year as in years past, the Ministry went cap in hand to companies and donor agencies to secure travel funds for the Nigerian delegation. This is unacceptable. Now is the time to ensure that this national embarrassment is brought to an end. The National Assembly must set aside adequate budget lines for the Rio+20 and COP18 in Abu Dhabi.

The Federal Ministry of Environment needs more resources to complete outstanding reporting obligations to the UNFCCC. Nigeria has yet to complete a Second National Communication, Technology Needs Assessment and Finance Needs Assessment. Even though we have made progress on REDD+, there is still no comprehensive REDD Readiness Plan with clear action plans to halt deforestation and manage our land resources.

The time has also come to move from planning to implementation. Nigerians demand to see concrete benefits of climate change adaptation and mitigation. We must begin to link action on climate change to prosperity for Nigeria's poor. Opportunities for action abound. For instance, the UN Secretary General has declared 2012 as the year of Universal Sustainable Energy Access. Today, over 100 million Nigerians literally live in the dark without access to electricity, and about 30 million households are dependent on traditional use of wood for cooking. Yet, there is no urgency in the Federal Government to address energy deprivation.

The two Houses of the National Assembly must rise to the challenge. Both Hon. Eziuche Ubani and Senator Bukola Saraki, Chairman, House Committee on Climate Change and Chairman, Senate Committee on Environment, respectively have shown strong leadership. And with the improved relationship between the parliament and the Ministry of Environment under Mrs Hadiza Mailafia, we hope to see budget lines that show seriousness in tackling climate change.

As the National Assembly works to ensure adequate financial resources to address climate change, it must also accept the moral burden of ensuring that these monies are well spent. Over the years, resources have been allocated for the development of climate change action plans that have never seen the light of day. For instance, UNDP has over the several years appropriated money for Nigeria's Second National Communication. Neither UNDP nor the National Assembly have shown any interest in seeking accountability for these resources. Other climate change action plans funded by national appropriation have suffered a similar fate. We must match the demand for more financial resources with a stronger commitment to transparency and accountability.

## Latest Updates

### Save the date - Official launch of the Nigerian Alliance for Clean Cookstoves

A new date has been set for the launch of the Nigerian Alliance for Clean Cookstoves. The new date is Tuesday March 20, 2011. The Nigerian Alliance for Clean Cookstoves is a public private partnership to introduce 10 million clean cookstoves to Nigerian homes and institutions by 2020. The Alliance is an initiative of ICEED.

### FADE Africa achieves UNEP observer status

Fight Against Desert Encroachment (FADE) project, was recently accredited to the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum (GC/GMF) of United Nations Environment Programme. This accreditation grants FADE Africa an observer status in the forum's sessions. FADE Africa is the first Nigerian Civil Society Organization to be accredited to this forum. The next governing council session is scheduled for February 18-22, 2012.

### Workshop on legal and regulatory frameworks for scaling up agricultural insurance

The International Centre for Energy, Environment & Development (ICEED) in partnership with the Central Bank of Nigeria and the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany will host a workshop on legal and regulatory frameworks for scaling up agricultural insurance in Nigeria. The workshop will hold at the Transcorp Hilton Hotel Abuja, February 20, 2012. The objective is to examine legal and regulatory best practices for scaling up the coverage of agricultural insurance among Nigeria's farmers.

### FADE proposes a Trans Sahara Green Project

FADE has proposed the 'Trans Sahara Green Project'. The project seeks to open up the Sahara region and the entire African continent using highways. The founder of FADE, Dr Newton Jibunoh stated this at a recent forum in Cross River State.

It is envisaged that the project will facilitate increased business activities, inter and intra continental trade, reduce conflicts arising from scarcity of resources and reduce the level of migration. This project is designed after a concept developed in the 60's by the then Organization of African Union (O.A.U).

### Heinrich Boll Foundation to launch Green Deal Nigeria Study

Heinrich Boll Foundation has launched a 'Green Deal Study for Nigeria'. The project seeks to articulate a greener, more sustainable vision for Nigeria's development towards 2020. It also seeks to highlight the capacity for green transformation in strategic policy areas and to initiate a broad and in depth debate among senior decision makers in government, private sector and civil society.

On January 25, 2012, Heinrich Boll Foundation hosted a peer review session to provide initial comments on the several issues addressed in the study. This study will be concluded in March 2012.

## Upcoming Events

**February 20, 2012** *Legal and Regulatory Frameworks for Scaling up Agricultural Insurance in Nigeria, Abuja, Nigeria*

**February 8-9, 2012**, *Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung Summit on Climate Change, Sheraton Hotel, Abuja, Nigeria*

**February 20-22, 2012**, *12th Special Session of the UNEP Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum, Nairobi (Nairobi Area), Kenya*

**March 20, 2012**, Official Launch of the Nigerian Alliance for Clean Cookstoves, *Abuja, Nigeria*

**March 26, 2012**, *Planet Under Pressure 2012 - London, UK*

**May 15-19, 2012**, *Second International Symposium on "Effects of climate change on the world's oceans", Yeosu, Republic of Korea*

**May 29-31, 2012**, *Climate Adaptation Futures: Second International Climate Change Adaptation Conference 2012, Tucson (Arizona), United States of America*

**June 20-22, 2012**, *Rio +20: United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development - Rio de Janeiro, Brazil*

### Nigeria Climate Action Network

Nigeria Climate Action Network (nigeriacan) is a coalition of groups and individuals in Nigeria working to promote government and individual actions to combat climate change. Opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of the authors, and do not necessarily reflect the views of nigeriacan. To subscribe or unsubscribe to this newsletter, please send a mail to [info@nigeriacan.org](mailto:info@nigeriacan.org). Please send your comments or enquiries to [info@nigeriacan.org](mailto:info@nigeriacan.org)

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