ICAT

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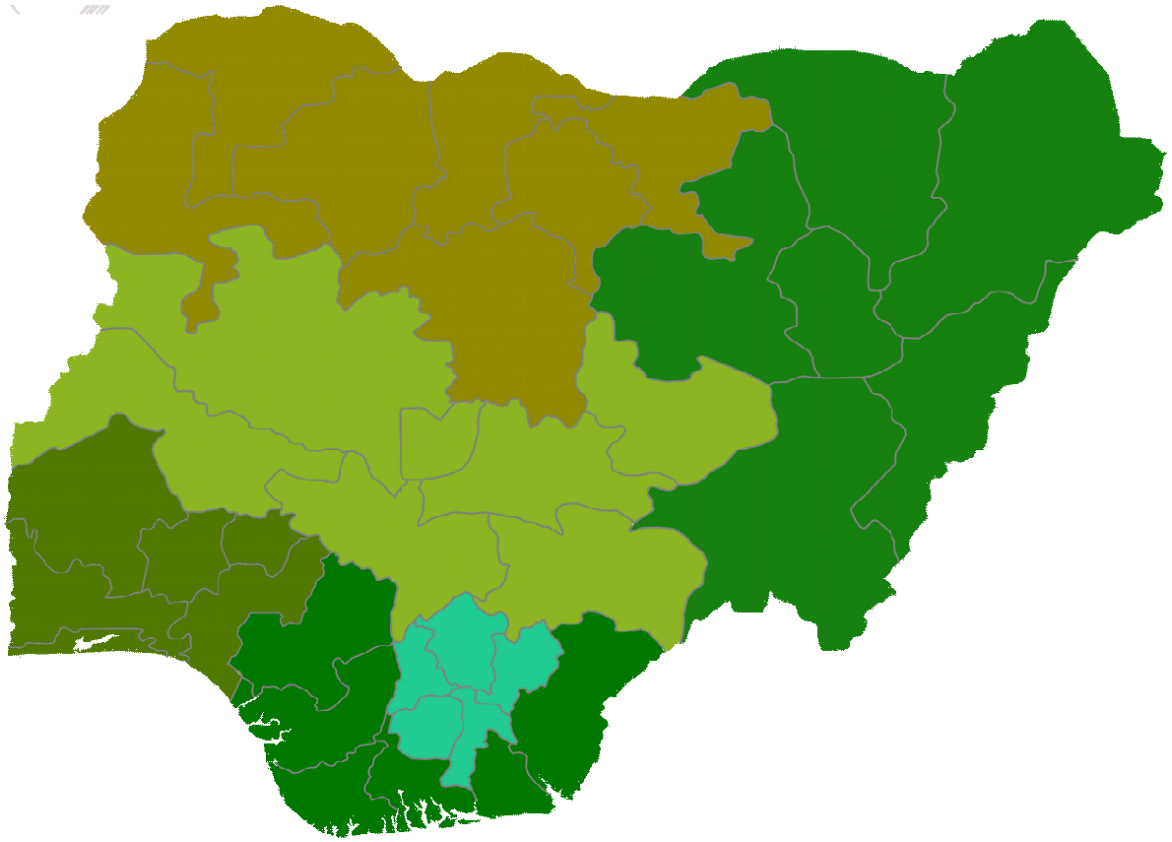
Country Context

Nigeria, officially known as the Federal Republic of Nigeria, is a country in West Africa measuring 923,769 square kilometres (approximately 356,669 square miles) with an estimated population of over **230 million people** (Britannica, 2024).



As the most populous country in Africa, Nigeria has significant strategic global geopolitical relevance with her abundant hydrocarbon, mineral and transition metal deposits relevant to global decarbonisation ambitions, including the transition away from fossil fuels and towards net-zero greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in 2060 targets. Key facts about the context of Nigeria include:

Geography: Nigeria's diverse geography ranges from arid regions in the north to humid equatorial climates in the south. It is situated between the Sahel to the north and the Gulf of Guinea to the south, with a resource-rich 853 kilometres of coastline along the Atlantic Ocean.

Languages: In Nigeria, more than 200 unique native languages are spoken, reflecting the country's rich linguistic and cultural diversity. Some prominent languages include Yoruba, Igbo, Hausa, Edo, Ibibio, Tiv, Efik, etc. Despite this diversity, the English language, a byproduct

of Nigeria's Anglo-colonization history, is a unifying national language that almost everyone understands.

Most Populous State: Lagos, the most populous city in Nigeria, is a testament to the country's rapid urbanisation. It is one of the most populated metropolitan areas in the world and one of the largest and fastest-growing mega-cities in Africa (World Bank, 2023). Despite its high urban population, Lagos State is Nigeria's smallest geographical land area. In 2015, it was estimated to have about 24.6 million inhabitants, with Metropolitan Lagos accounting for over 85% of this population in an area that is only 37% of the land area of the State. The city's population is growing at an astonishing rate, 10 times faster than that of New York and Los Angeles, and more than the population of 32 African nations combined. The State's population is expected to reach 30 million in 2030 (Uduku et. al, 2021).

Impact of Colonization: British colonisation in the 19th century shaped the modern state, merging the Southern Nigeria Protectorate and the Northern Nigeria Protectorate in 1914 (BBC,2024). Since then, Nigeria has evolved into a federal republic comprising 36 states (6 Geopolitical zones) and the Federal Capital Territory.

Capital: The capital city of Nigeria is Abuja.

Climate Change in Nigeria

Climate change significantly impacts Nigeria in various aspects. Some of the key issues related to climate change are:

Vulnerability and Risk: Nigeria is among the top ten most vulnerable countries to climate change effects (NCCC, 2023). Children, who make up a 51% of Nigeria's population, bear the brunt of climate shocks, underscoring the urgent need for climate action (UNICEF, 2024).

Climate Variability and Irregular Rainfall: Nigeria experiences heightened and irregular rainfall patterns due to climate variability, which exacerbates land degradation, leading to more frequent floods and erosion.

- **Temperature Increases**: Rising temperatures affect ecosystems, agriculture, and human health.
- **Variable Rainfall**: Erratic rainfall patterns impact water availability and agriculture.
- **Sea Level Rise and Flooding**: Coastal areas face risks from rising sea levels and floods.
- **Drought and Desertification**: Arid regions experience water scarcity and land degradation.
- **Extreme Weather Events**: More frequent extreme events disrupt communities.
- **Freshwater Resources**: Climate change affects water availability.
- **Biodiversity Loss**: Ecosystems face threats due to changing conditions.

Relevant Climate Change-related Policies

Nigeria's commitment to climate change action is crucial for its future and global sustainability. As expressed in national policies, an equitable and fair energy transition is crucial for realising global efforts to mitigate the impacts of climate change while, in parallel, meeting national development goals. In the past decade, the Government of Nigeria has published several crucial policies that seek to address climate change and the energy transition:

- **Nigeria Climate Change Act of 2021**

The Climate Change Act of 2021 established a framework for Nigeria's national-level climate change mitigation, adaptation, and resilience-building efforts. The Act established the National Council on Climate Change (NCCC) with the power to make policies and decisions on all matters relating to climate change in Nigeria. The Act allows NCCC to collaborate with the Federal Inland Revenue Service (FIRS) to develop a mechanism for a carbon tax in Nigeria. The carbon tax proceeds, emissions trading, and other sources of funds will be used to fund the Climate Change Fund (the Fund) proposed by the Act.

- **Nigeria NDC Commitments (2021)**

Nigeria submitted its First NDC in 2015, ratified the Paris Agreement in 2017 and submitted a revised First NDC in 2021. The updated First NDC submitted provides a more recent update on the country's emissions using the base year of 2018, with further details on the emissions level by 2030 under a business-as-usual (BAU) scenario. The Updated First NDC provides an objective that could enhance ambition by including fugitive emissions from methane in the oil and gas and waste sectors. This presents an opportunity for the country to increase its emission reduction targets. Priority sectors for mitigation are energy, industry, and waste. The updated First NDC includes targets for reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, adapting to climate impacts, and promoting sustainable development. Nigeria aims to reduce emissions by 20% below BAU levels by 2030. It has also made a conditional commitment to reduce 47% of GHG emissions contingent on financial assistance, technology transfer, and capacity-building support (UNFCCC, 2021). Nigeria must diversify its energy mix, enhance renewable energy adoption, and improve energy efficiency to meet these commitments.

  - **Adaptation Commitments:** Given Nigeria's extreme vulnerability to climate change, adaptation is a key priority and focus in the country's NDC. The NDC identifies the following areas for adaptation and resilience: Agriculture, Forestry, Water, Waste, Energy, Education, Infrastructure, and Disaster Risk Management.

  - **Mitigation Commitments:** Without international support, the greenhouse gas emission reduction target is 20% by 2030. With international support, the greenhouse gas emission reduction target is a 47% reduction compared to the business-as-usual scenario by 2030. The reduction target is divided into an unconditional reduction target of 20% and an extra conditional target of 27%.

- **Nigeria's LT-LEDS**

As one of the signatories to the Paris Agreement (PA), Nigeria recognises that the transition to low-emission development is indispensable for achieving sustainable economic growth through mitigation pathways that will reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and other social, economic, and environmental benefits. Also in alignment with the Paris Agreement, under Article 4.19, there is a call for all Parties to strive to formulate and communicate LT-LEDS; considering common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, the Federal Government of Nigeria decided to develop its LT-LEDS as part of the ambition to ensure a low-carbon future, with an initial focus on a Long-Term Vision to 2050 for the country. The vision provides a direction to all stakeholders for a well-managed transition to a low-carbon economy that grows existing and new sectors, creating new jobs and economic opportunities for the nation.

Plate 1: Gas flare in one of the fields in Niger-Delta now cleaned up with gas processing facility shown in plate 2

- **Nigeria Energy Transition Plan**

The Nigeria Energy Transition Plan (ETP) reflects the country's plan for attaining net zero emissions by 2060. It is a data-backed, multi-pronged strategy developed to achieve net-zero emissions regarding the nation's energy consumption. The Nigeria ETP sets a timeline and framework for reducing emissions across 5 key sectors: Power, Cooking, Oil and Gas, Transport, and Industry (ETP, 2022). Within the scope of the ETP, about 65% of Nigeria's emissions are affected. Funding the ETP requires approximately USD 1.9 trillion, with an

annual cost of USD 10 billion, which is very high to accommodate in the country's budget; therefore, securing international climate finance is crucial to its success.

Plate 2: Gas Processing Facility helps to capture gas flare and process for domestic utilisation

Plate 3: Female Farmers working on a Farm

Plate 4: Crude/Manual/Subsistence Post-Harvest Processing on a Farm

Project Overview

The Nigeria Just and Gender Inclusive Transition (JGIT) Monitoring, Reporting and Verification (MRV) was the Initiative for Climate Action Transparency's (ICAT) second strategic intervention project. The first project completed in 2022 was the design of the Nigeria JGIT MRV Framework, which focused on key sectors of Nigeria's NDC, including Oil & Gas, Agriculture, Forestry, Transport (Road) and Other Transport (Rail, Water and Air) sectors. This project provided insight into transparent MRV of climate actions and strengthened institutional arrangements at national and sub-national levels. Building on the first phase's achievements, the second project detailed in this case study focused on Just and Gender Inclusion Transition activities within the energy and agriculture/forestry sectors. ICAT's strategic interventions have covered three (Oil and Gas, AFOLU, and Transport) of Nigeria's updated NDC's seven priority sectors.

The overall aim of the ICAT project was to develop an MRV framework of a Just and Gender-Inclusive Transition (JGIT) in Nigeria in alignment with existing frameworks and with stakeholder consultation. Deliverables produced under this project provided valuable information and guidance, all within the context of implementing an energy transition. The project team in Nigeria identified and mapped out the stakeholders for both Energy and Agriculture. The stakeholders include industry management and workers, researchers, NGOs, CSOs, Government Policymakers, and Regulators. Through interviews and focus engagement with the stakeholders, the team collected a review and assessment of the impacts of transition on these industries and an understanding of various capacities to collect data.

The key objectives of the project were:

- To develop the Nigeria JGIT MRV Framework and ensure it links with the existing sectoral MRV Framework and the ETF implemented by the Federal Ministry of Labour and Employment, National Council on Climate Change and Federal Ministry of Environment to achieve synergy, institutional memory and stakeholder inclusion and cooperation.
- To enable tripartite cooperation between Government, Labour and Employer Associations to achieve a Just and Gender Inclusive Transition going forward with implementing the Paris Agreement.
- To support policymakers in setting up a JGIT MRV System and designing a JGIT Roadmap to track the Just Transition impacts of climate policies and actions

Project Results and Takeaways

The project objectives were accomplished through the following actions and deliverables:

I. Review of current MRV processes in the country
II. Identification of specific gaps and barriers in Nigeria's existing MRV process
III. Development of JGIT indicators to track performance by assessing relevant policies and measures

IV. Supported Institutional arrangements for MRV implementation in Nigeria
V. Reviewed Nigeria's JGIT policies and assessed their impacts on the Oil and Gas, Agriculture, and Forestry sectors.
VI. Developed a National JGIT MRV Framework, including an Implementation Roadmap.

Conclusion and Next Steps

The Nigeria JGIT MRV Framework will improve data quality and thereby allow Nigeria to better understand emissions drivers. Eventually, this will lead to more efficient policies and measures for climate change mitigation, adaptation, and a just and gender inclusive energy transition.

The National Government can use the JGIT MRV Framework to track and monitor performance in terms of jobs, gender inclusion, NDC progress and Net Zero targets. Similarly, the JGIT MRV Framework and implementation plan can support mobilising additional necessary resources.

The ICAT projects in Nigeria have proven to be successful so far. While this remains a work in progress, it shows a good example of how transparent, inclusive and robust stakeholder engagement can support and expedite climate action. The project has helped Nigeria develop the capacity, especially of the national consultants, for developing the MRV Process, JGIT tracking, and implementation. It is a work in progress as it needs to advance its NDCs' implementation and report on its progress domestically and to the international community. Should the recommendations in the outputs of the ICAT intervention be fully implemented, they will serve as a basis for further strengthening Nigeria’s contributions to global climate action, as spelt out in Nigeria’s Updated First NDC and the Long-Term Strategy for Low Emissions Development Strategy (LTS-LEDS) which captures the Net-Zero 2060 implementation plan of Africa’s biggest economy.

This Nigeria JGIT MRV Project brings ICAT’s strategic intervention to cover three (3) out of the seven (7) priority sectors of Nigeria’s updated NDC. The Nigeria JGIT MRV project is well aligned with Nigeria's actions on climate change, particularly on insights into tracking and monitoring Gender inclusion, job creation/losses and equitable transition. Nigeria's climate change agenda intends to ensure that the impacts of climate change are influenced by social status, gender, women, youth, remote communities, and other disadvantaged people. The intent is to ensure that all interventions and measures are properly assessed against their ability to make social inclusion culturally appropriate and improve livelihood while increasing resilience and reducing GHG emissions.

The JGIT MRV project will help in the transition process when fully implemented, especially in tracking changes and analysing results, and adjusting policies as needed.

It is recommended that the next steps begin with a review of Nigeria’s National MRV System to identify any gaps and determine how best to align the JGIT MRV Framework. This could be followed by streamlining Nigeria’s National MRV System with the JGIT MRV Framework to ensure efficiency and synergy in their implementation and proactively prepare them for

interface with future ICAT projects in Nigeria. Also, there is a need to conduct comprehensive tracking of the initial Nigeria NDC to produce a practical result that would inform and reinforce the Implementation Plan of the Nigeria Updated NDC. These next steps could energise the entire ecosystem of MRV of Nigeria's climate action, drawing from the experience and expertise of ICAT and the national consultants delivering ICAT's critical projects in Nigeria. Implementing these next steps would support and strengthen Nigeria's overall climate action journey through using ICAT projects and tools as a compass to the desired destination.

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