Background

Nigeria is a lower-middle-income African country whose development vision is that by 2020 the country has a large, strong, diversified, sustainable and competitive economy and is using its natural resources and addressing climate change responsibly. Poor energy access, food insecurity, and unemployment are significant development constraints to Nigeria exacerbated by the fact that the country is highly vulnerable to climate change. Nigeria’s greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions are projected to grow 114% by 2030, but its NDC, aligned to the country’s development policy Vision 20:2030, targets a 20% unconditional and 45% conditional emission reduction below Business as Usual (BAU) by 2030. Nigeria has signed and ratified the Paris Agreement, demonstrating its strong commitment to climate action.

About the INDC Project

The UNDP Low Emission Capacity Building (LECB) Programme was launched in January 2011 as part of a joint collaboration between the European Union, the Governments of Germany and Australia and UNDP. In the run up to the historic Paris Agreement, the European Commission and others provided financial and technical support specifically to advance the preparation of countries’ INDCs. This support, in the context of the larger global LECB Programme called the INDC Project, continued post-Paris and has enabled advances in implementation and country-driven action.
Preparation of the INDC and translation into NDC

The government prepared and submitted Nigeria’s INDC to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) as well as the review of the NDC, with support of the INDC Project. The process was highly participatory, including stakeholder consultation at national and regional level. It also involved a number of sectoral and regional analyses.

Development of NDC implementation plan

An implementation plan, known as the NDC Sectoral Action Plan, was developed and then validated in July 2018. Five sectoral action plans of priority to NDC implementation were prepared, for agriculture, industry, power, transport and oil and gas. The preparation of the sectoral action plans included a detailed assessment of the governance structure and the policies needed to implement the NDC and featured ‘lighthouse projects’—quick wins and priority areas for achieving NDC goals.

Strengthened capacity for NDC implementation

The participatory development of sectoral action plans strengthened the capacity of key ministries for NDC implementation, including the Ministry of Environment and the ministries for which sectoral action plans were developed. Ministries now have deeper understanding of the Paris Agreement and the NDC. Sectoral action plans also provided implementation roadmaps and policy recommendations on enabling legislation that will guide sectors on effective NDC implementation.

Country ownership and buy-in for NDC implementation

An important aspect of the INDC process was ensuring that it is strongly aligned to national development priorities, national climate change plans and strategies, and the sustainable development agenda. This, coupled with the highly participatory NDC process involving technical and political levels of government and awareness raising, generated country ownership of NDC and buy-in for sectoral action plans that ensures sustainability for NDC implementation. For example, the INDC was approved by the inter-ministerial committee on climate change, the Cabinet and Parliament. Government officials were supported to participate in international negotiations and provided with critical assessments of how to operationalize the NDCs. All these foster country ownership and drive the NDC implementation process.

Laid foundation for mobilizing climate finance

The INDC process, supported by the Project, delivered strategic outputs and outcomes that can be used to mobilize climate finance to support NDC implementation. By contributing to the development of NDC sectoral action plans and an enabling policy environment, the Project built a base for long-term investment in climate change.

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