



Net-Zero Learning Brief - Nigeria No.1

Harnessing Community Insights and Engaging the Media to Heighten Awareness of Net-Zero in Nigeria

May – August 2023

Introduction

The 2021 IPCC report¹, referred to by the UN Secretary-General as a "Code Red for Humanity," emphasizes the critical need for substantial reductions in carbon emissions, the primary driver of climate change in the coming decades. This urgent action is deemed essential to prevent catastrophic global warming.

Adhering to the 1.5°C temperature goal of the Paris Agreement necessitates a net-zero approach, which entails significant reductions in man-made carbon dioxide emissions to prevent further increases in atmospheric carbon dioxide levels. It also involves the removal of already released carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, thereby mitigating the impacts of climate change.

At COP26 in Glasgow, Nigeria committed to achieving Net Zero by 2060, and subsequently signed into law the Climate Change Act on the 18th of November 2021 – demonstrating her commitment to the fight against climate change.

According to the Director General of the National Council on Climate Change (NCCC),² Dr. Salisu Dahiru, "The Climate

Change Act provides an all-inclusive, regulatory legal framework for achieving Nigeria's long-term climate goals that include net-zero carbon emissions by 2060, adequate climate financing, environmental and economic accountability."³

The term "Net-Zero" may be unfamiliar to local communities at the forefront of climate change, but in their local context, they have been actively engaged in environmental stewardship by preserving community forests, safeguarding water sources, participating in tree planting initiatives, embracing clean cooking solutions, and promoting community health. The Raising awareness about Net-Zero in Nigeria.

(RANTZ Nigeria Project) was conceptualized with the objectives to.

1. Raise awareness about emission reductions and Climate Change mitigation in Nigeria.
2. Build the capacity of Local Communities, Media, and CSOs to understand net zero and engage with

Climate Change mitigation.

3. Provide feedback from communities, the media, and CSOs to policymakers on mainstreaming Community concerns into long-term mitigation strategies for Nigeria.

It is paramount to emphasize the importance of raising awareness among communities and the media, as they both have pivotal roles in fostering public engagement that can catalyze action for substantial emission reductions, particularly at the local level where the impacts of climate change are acutely experienced daily.

Communities form the foundation of societies and drive activities at the local level. The deep understanding of their communities and reliance on indigenous/local knowledge is instrumental in driving initiatives to decrease carbon emissions.

The media, serving as the universal conduit for disseminating information, can significantly amplify voices and actions aimed at reducing carbon emissions through partnership and collaboration in this endeavour.

RANTZ Nigeria Project Activities

Media Engagement

The RANTZ Project placed a high priority on media training related to net zero. Personnel from print, electronic, and social media outlets underwent training on Net-Zero principles and were introduced to the processes involved in developing Nigeria's Long-Term Low Carbon Development Strategy, which was ongoing at the time of the training.

The media personnel had the opportunity

to gather relevant data on the sources of Greenhouse gases and Nigeria's priority sector where urgent action is needed to reduce carbon emissions. This media training also included organizing a press briefing to introduce the public to the RANTZ Project and creating the #RANTZNigeria hashtag for social media advocacy and awareness.



Participants at the Net-Zero media training.



Trainers at the Net-Zero media training.

Following the training, the media practitioners took on the responsibility of producing special feature reports in their respective media outlets to enhance public awareness about Net-Zero. They

established a Net-Zero WhatsApp group and arranged media appearances for the leaders and implementers of the RANTZ Project, who conveyed messages about Net-Zero on various television and other media platforms to educate the public.

The media network used its platforms to publicize all activities implemented under the RANTZ Project, thereby shining a spotlight on Net-Zero in Nigeria and

The Local governments and other community stakeholders such as traditional rulers and women leaders were enlisted as partners in convening the community consultations. They mobilized community people to the meetings and participated actively by providing critical information about net zero activities in the communities as well as challenges that may arise because of embracing new technologies and practices to achieve Net-Zero.

S/N	COMMUNITY	LGA	STATE	ZONE
1	Wuse	Abuja Municipal Area Council	Federal Capital Territory Abuja	North Central (middle Belt)
2	Jonesboro	Ojokoro LCDA	Lagos State	South West
3	Nporogwu	Igbo Etiti LGA	Enugu State	South East
4	Uselu	Egor LGA	Edo State	South South (Niger Delta)
5	Dogarawa	Sabon Gari LGA	Kaduna State	North West
6	Difa Community	Yamaitu LGA	Gombe State	North East

Location of Community Consultations events on Net-Zero in Nigeria

drawing the attention of policymakers to address the issues.

Community Consultations on the Net-Zero

Community awareness activities on Net-Zero were conducted in the six geopolitical zones of Nigeria, leveraging the local government sub-national structure. One community was selected in each of the six Local Governments across the six geopolitical zones of Nigeria to carry out these activities.

Perception Survey on Net-Zero

In each of the six communities where community engagement took place, a questionnaire survey was conducted to assess the community's perception of Net-Zero. This survey was instrumental in establishing a baseline of the community's knowledge and ongoing actions at the local level to achieve Net-Zero. It also aimed to identify areas that require further action to inspire progress towards Net-Zero, particularly in



documenting indigenous and local practices at the community level to reinforce climate mitigation efforts. Additionally, the survey sought to deepen understanding of lesser-known sources of greenhouse gases at the community level. The outcomes of the survey were shared with the committee developing Nigeria's long-term low-carbon development strategy to mainstream community issues into the strategy.

communities where consultations were conducted, the community members themselves mobilized participants, organized refreshments, administered questionnaires, and maintained ongoing communication with the organizations implementing the project.

The involvement of local and traditional leaders creates the enabling environment to amplify net-

Key Learnings

Equipping and providing media professionals with credible information has facilitated the dissemination of net-zero messages to the general public and revealed how net-zero actions could inadvertently exacerbate the climate crisis. The training provided to media professionals furnished them with reliable evidence concerning various sources of greenhouse gases in Nigeria. They were presented with different scenarios depicting business as usual and the impacts of acting across various greenhouse gas sectors. Additionally, they gained insight into Nigeria's Long-Term Low Emission Development Strategy Document, enabling them to develop documentaries and stories that assist the public to understand diverse actions to achieve net-zero in Nigeria.

Ogijo residents contend with constant pollution over industrial emissions

The documentary about the Ogijo community in Lagos State highlighted how recycling initiatives, while supporting the goal of achieving net-zero, could unintentionally result in air pollution and health concerns. It is essential to avoid creating additional challenges that may arise alongside efforts to reduce carbon emissions, as these could further exacerbate the climate crisis.

Therefore, the implementation of policies and laws is crucial to guide net-zero activities, prevent detrimental actions, safeguard public health, and ensure community well-being

<https://www.environewsigeria.com/experts-weigh-lagos-options-in-bid-to-mitigate-climate-change-achieve-net-zero-emission/>

<https://youtu.be/T0BPDYosx3c?si=tBBzBtC9WX4DS2Jc>

Leveraging community ownership and voice to drive change on the ground requires intentional community participation. The consultations with communities across the six geopolitical zones facilitated the establishment of community ownership of the project. By engaging with local governments and community gatekeepers, the groundwork was laid for community acceptance of the project. Notably, in all the

zero messages Collaboration with local government officials, e.g. Ojokoro local Council development area, Abuja Municipal Area, community leaders, and influential personalities played a crucial role in amplifying the message of the Net-Zero Project. Their endorsement helped enhance the visibility and credibility of the initiative, leading to broader community acceptance and support. Community leaders leveraged

their influence and structural frameworks to distribute informational leaflets and disseminate messages about net-zero practices, such as recycling, tree planting, and adopting clean cooking solutions, to community members.

community members are actively engaged in recycling efforts but face challenges due to the lack of timely waste plastic collection services. Consequently, the Local Government Chairman has committed to establishing

Community Net Zero Action

Dispose your waste properly. Recycle and upcycled waste.

Improper Waste Disposal. Proper Waste Disposal.

Releases emissions and can cause fire hazard. Are environmentally friendly and does not emit carbon.

Kerosene Lanterns. Solar Lanterns.

Produce high level of smoke and pollutant leading to indoor air pollution and health issues. Reduces smoke emissions, improve indoor air quality resulting in better community health.

Firewood Stoves. Clean Cooking Stoves.

Incandescent Bulbs (5% of the energy used is converted to light while remaining 95% is given off as heat). Energy Saving Bulbs.

Leads to desertification. Tree absorb carbon dioxide, & reduce the amount of green house gases in the atmosphere & improve air quality. Also provide shades & cooling effect in the community.

Tree Felling. Tree Planting.

Turning off lights & electrical appliances when not in use saves energy.

#RANTZNigeria

Net Zero action leaflets distributed in the communities

There are Disparities in Community Approaches to Net-Zero Across Nigeria's Geopolitical Zones

Working with six diverse communities across Nigeria's geopolitical zones illuminated the varying strategies and challenges related to achieving net-zero emissions at the local level

Ijaiye-Ojokoro Community, Lagos

During consultations in the Lagos community, it was expressed that while there is a willingness to transition using electric ovens for baking bread to reduce reliance on coal and firewood, the high cost of electric ovens presents a significant barrier. Additionally,

a designated recycling point for the prompt collection of waste plastic within the community. A suitable piece of land has been swiftly identified for this initiative, and efforts have commenced to establish the recycling point.





Participants at the Ijaiye-ojokoro Community Wuse Community Consultations on Net-zero Consultations on net-zero, Lagos state at Abuja municipal Council Area, FCT, Abuja

A community member also disclosed the existence of programs aimed at incentivizing civil servants to collect plastic waste for recycling within the Lagos state Civil Service. This initiative has notably raised public awareness about recycling and motivated individuals to proactively engage in recycling efforts

Wuse Community, Federal Capital Territory, Abuja

A participant shared how she influenced her mother who is a caterer, to switch to using LPG gas for cooking instead of fuel

wood. Another participant highlighted his involvement in tree planting initiatives, and also pointed out the need to cut down a particular tree for crafting drums used in local festivals. Furthermore, there was a call for government support in providing bicycles and creating dedicated bicycle pathways to reduce reliance on motorized transportation in the urban community.

Nporogwu Community, Enugu State

The residents are dedicated to preserving their forests and other natural resources, but they continue to face challenges with excessive hunting and bush burning. While the community members rely on hunting for sustenance and livelihood, it has resulted in the depletion of animal populations and deforestation. Additionally, bush burning remains a



Wuse Community Consultations on Net-zero at Abuja municipal Council Area, FCT, Abuja



Participants at the Nporogwu Community Consultation in Igbo-Etiti local Government, Enugu State

common practice linked to subsistence farming within the community.

To address these issues, the Enugu State Ministry of Environment, specifically the Department of Climate Change and Environmental Management, has mandated Forest Guards to patrol the forest areas to prevent deforestation. Furthermore, a directive is in place requiring the planting of ten trees for every one tree cut down, with permission from the Ministry.

Difa Community, Gombe State

The community is enthusiastic about initiating tree-planting exercise and has been encouraged by the consultation to obtain seedlings from Civil Society Organizations within their community. However, they have expressed concerns about a native plant in their community that is suitable for erosion control but poses health risks. This plant, when used as firewood, can affect human health and harm animals if its leaves are consumed. The community requests further research to be conducted on this plant species to determine the best methods for its use, particularly in deploying it to control erosion.



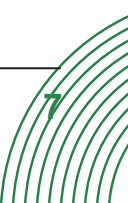
Participants at Difa Community Consultation on net-zero in Yamaitu Local government, Gombe State

Furthermore, the community is troubled by improper waste disposal, specifically the proliferation of plastic waste, which is becoming a significant problem that negatively affects their farms, consequently impacting food security.

The women in the community raised concerns about the construction of a new industrial park. The Muhammadu Buhari Industrial Park, spanning 1000 hectares in the Yamaitu area of the Deba Local Government in Gombe State, is expected to transform the state into a regional industrial center. While slated to feature mega factories and create substantial employment opportunities, the introduction of heavy machinery in the industrial park raises apprehensions about increased carbon emissions. The government should make effective mitigation strategies from the outset to address this issue before the commencement of operations.

Uselu Community, Edo state

Community members are aware and are actively engaging in , tree planting, recycling, and adopting renewable energy using solar. The people are however concerned about the high cost of solar and the inadequacy of waste bins to address energy poverty and



improper waste disposal. They posited that the establishment of more recycling plants in the state will help to address improper waste disposal. They equally express the desire to know more about afforestation, biodiversity conservation and their role in reaching net-zero.



Participants at the Uselu Community, Egor Local Government consultation on net-zero, Edo State

They call on the government to subsidize the cost of solar to support the transition to clean and affordable energy at the community level while they also explore the option of forming energy cooperatives at the community level.

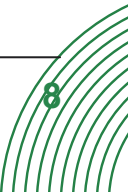
Dogarawa Community, Kaduna State

The community members are excited upon learning about strategies to reduce carbon emissions through tree planting, renewable energy uptake, biodiversity conservation and simple energy efficiency strategies. They are however concerned with the issues of deforestation.



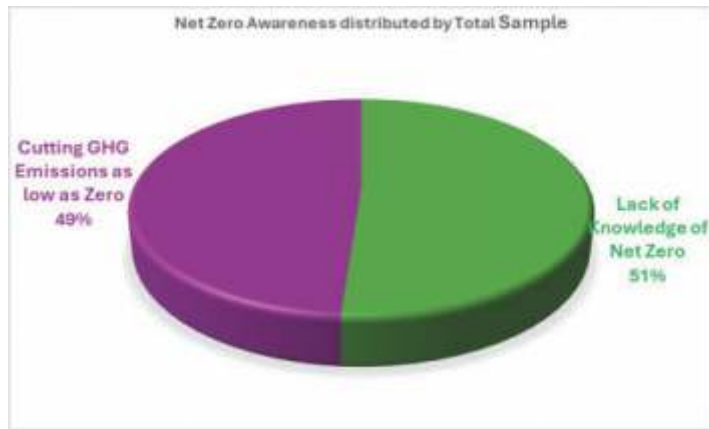
Participants at the Dograwa Community Sabon-Gari Local government Consultation on net-zero-Kaduna state

The community also want to know more about carbon trade and how they can use tree planting to mobilize climate finance in their community.



Community Survey on Net-Zero strengthens Community Consultations and reiterates the need for robust community engagement to attain net-zero emissions in Nigeria

A significant portion of community respondents, constituting approximately 51%, indicated their lack of familiarity with the term "net-zero," while around 49% reported that net zero is cutting emissions to as low as zero.



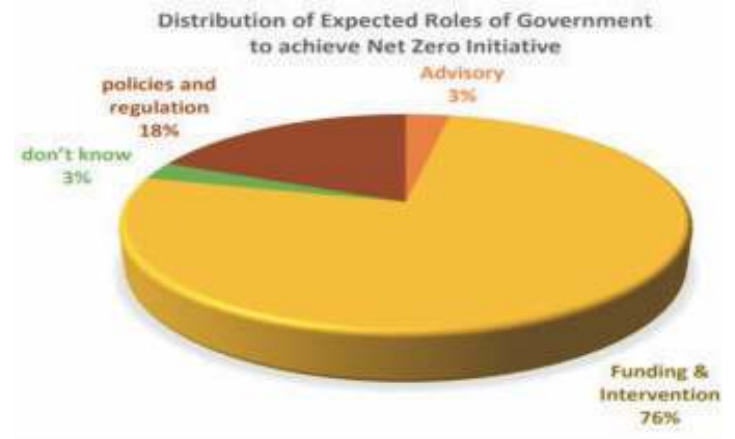
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Robust community engagement is required to achieve Net Zero

Response	Counts Proportio	
	n	%
strongly agree	209	35%
Agree	366	61%
Strongly disagree	5	1%
Disagree	20	3%

Community members are actively engaged in recycling efforts but face challenges due to the lack of timely waste plastic collection services.

The majority of community respondents, approximately 75% across the six geopolitical zones, believe that the government's role in achieving net-zero should involve funding interventions. Additionally, 18% identify the role of government as setting policies and regulations, 3% indicate an advisory role, and 3% are uncertain about the government's role in this regard.



Communities across the six geopolitical zones of Nigeria identified improved waste management, forest conservation, and the protection of natural resources as crucial steps to propel Nigeria toward achieving net-zero status. They also advocated for improved energy access and subsidized clean energy, along with ongoing advocacy and sensitization efforts to advance net-zero initiatives in Nigeria.

Key Success Factors

1. Mobilizing Media as Partners and Advocate

Engaging with media professionals and platforms throughout Nigeria has been instrumental in generating momentum and raising awareness about net-zero. Various media channels and platforms have played a crucial role in disseminating information about net-zero, resulting in heightened public awareness. There are currently over 20 media links reporting on the Rantz Project in Nigeria, and many others are actively raising

awareness through coverage of events and other related activities.



Participants at the net-zero Media Training

2. Community-Centric Approach

Recognizing the fundamental role of communities in initiating net-zero efforts, the project highlighted the importance of community-level engagement. This approach was emphasized to prioritize climate adaptation as a crucial element while underscoring the need to give prominence to mitigation measures for an effective response to climate change. It was understood that securing community buy-in was fundamental for instigating change from the grassroots level

3. Collaboration with Government and Key Climate Change Institutions in Nigeria

The RANTZ Project was executed in collaboration with vital government agencies and the local governments of the six communities where consultations took place. The National Council on Climate Change (NCCC) and the Department of Climate Change⁶ at the Federal Ministry of Environment provided crucial support for the implementation of the project. They contributed by providing resource personnel to facilitate community consultations and capacity-building components of the project. The Department of Climate Change at the level of states and environmental units of

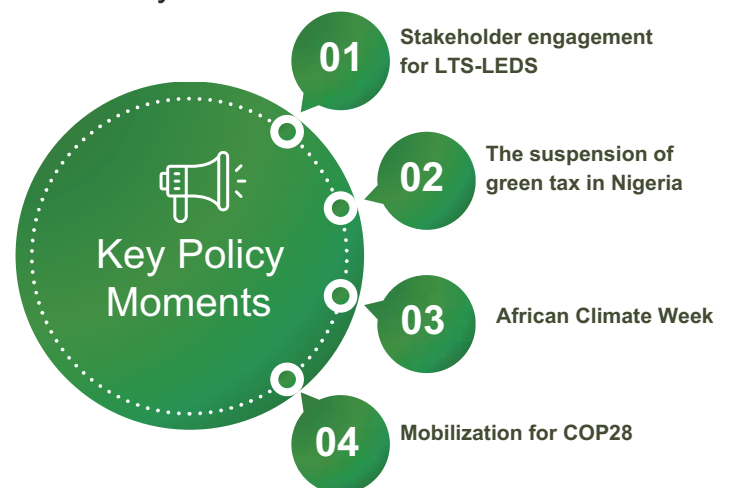
local governments were also involved in the project implementation.

4. Linking the RANTZ Project with Nigeria's LT-LEDS Processes

The project was deliberately connected with Nigeria's Long-Term Low Emission Development Strategy (LT-LEDS) process to ensure that the voices and concerns of communities are incorporated into the strategy documents. Throughout the implementation, the primary coordinators of Nigeria's LT-LEDS were actively engaged, and feedback from the process was relayed to the communities.

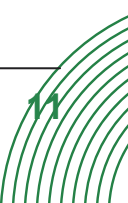
5. Utilizing Key Policy Moments

The project strategically leveraged pivotal policy moments relating to climate change in Nigeria to elevate awareness. Some of these key moments included:



Next Steps

The implementing organizations are committed to ongoing collaboration with all pertinent stakeholders to advance the goal of achieving net-zero in Nigeria. Specifically, there will be a heightened focus on deepening engagement with communities, local governments, and the Steering Committee on Nigeria's Long-Term Low Emission Development Strategy (LT-LEDS) to drive progress toward net-zero in Nigeria. Furthermore, the insights and feedback garnered from this pilot phase are being compiled to inform the design of the forthcoming stage of the RANTZ Project.



References

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2. The National Council on Climate Change (NCCC) is the National Designated Authority and official Focal Point working to address the impacts of climate change in Nigeria. <https://natecc.gov.ng/>
3. <https://natecc.gov.ng/message-from-the-director-general/>
4. A special report by Ajibola Adedoye of Environews Nigeria. Environews Nigeria is a multi media web based news magazine that seeks to highlight a range of topical environment and development related issues. <https://www.environewsnigeria.com/experts-weigh-lagos-options-in-bid-to-mitigate-climate-change-achieve-net-zero-emission>
5. A special report by Esther Omopariola of Television Continental (TVC) Communications, a privately owned, multi platform, national and international full service media organization headquartered in Lagos, Nigeria. <https://youtu.be/T0BPDYosx3c?si=tBBzBtC9WX4DS2Jc>
6. The Broad mandate of the Department is to coordinate activities towards national implementation of the Climate Change Convention, its Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement. <https://climatechange.gov.ng/our-mandate/>

About RANTZ Nigeria Project



The "Raising awareness about Net-Zero in Nigeria (RANTZ Nigeria Project)" is a collaborative initiative being implemented by International Climate Change Development Initiative (ICCDI), Centre for 21st Century Issues (C21st), and Connected Advocacy (CAD) in Nigeria. The project aims to educate, empower, and mobilize to the media, communities and the Civil Society in Nigeria to contribute to sustainable and environmentally conscious practices that support emission reductions, climate change mitigation, and the overall transition to net-zero carbon emissions. This learning brief highlights the key insights and outcomes derived from the implementation of the Raising Awareness about Net-Zero in Nigeria (RANTZ Nigeria) project. It offers valuable insights into the process, outcomes, and lessons learned, shedding light on the project's impact and contribution to sustainable development and climate change mitigation efforts in Nigeria.





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