

# CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION AND MITIGATION PLAN FOR RIVERS STATE

*Developed by the National Coalition  
on Gas Flaring and Oil Spills  
in the Niger Delta (NACGOND)*



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## Executive Summary

Climate Change is a global issue with localized impact. This plan describes the actions the Rivers State Government will take over the next five years to fight climate change: to reduce greenhouse gas pollution and help the State move its citizenry to a prosperous low-carbon economy. It recognizes the tremendous economic opportunities that exist for Rivers State as the world seeks to mitigate and adapt to climate change. It ensures our businesses, innovators and researchers are well positioned to develop clean technologies, recommend sustainable agric-measures and low-carbon solutions that will ensure competitiveness, maintain existing jobs and create new ones. This plan will help different stakeholders namely Federal government, State Government, Local Government, Private Sectors, Civil Society organizations, Community Based Organizations, and other stakeholders understand the significant roles they have to play to move rivers State to a low-carbon economy, use less energy and save more money by investing in initiatives that reduce greenhouse gas pollution, such as home energy retrofits, low-carbon incentives, and social housing retrofits. Whether you live in Port Harcourt or Bori, in a rural area or big city, the actions in this plan will help the State reduce carbon footprint. Fighting climate change means transforming the way we live, move and work. We already have the knowledge and understanding we need to make that transition, but we need to get more low-carbon technologies into Rivers homes and businesses. Through this action plan, we will help protect and transition existing jobs, create new jobs, and help Rivers families along the way. Our actions will help more Rivers households and businesses adopt low- and net zero carbon energy solutions in homes, vehicles and workplaces. In addition, the plan seeks to ensure zero-emission transportation, and a halt to rising greenhouse gas pollution from buildings, industries and oil and gas platforms by retrofitting existing oil and gas infrastructures, buildings have the lowest possible emissions. Ultimately, the plan intends ti make Rivers State to be a strong centre of modern, clean manufacturing and jobs — and a leader in the fight against climate change in the Niger Delta and beyond.

## CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION AND MITIGATION MEASURES IN RIVERS STATE

### Introduction

Climate Change is real and it is happening at an alarming rate affecting every sphere of human existence on earth. Rivers State has a responsibility to tackle the immediate threat – and seize the opportunity that Climate Change poses. Rivers State has a responsibility to coordinate efforts to protect and improve citizens' life, while bolstering the economy and leaving sustainable legacy for the local population and the next generation.

As a state, strategies have been developed to reduce the release of carbon dioxide—a major Climate Change driver. For example, the State established a Taskforce to collect and impound used tyres that are periodically burnt and pollute the environment. Emissions from such practice does not only pollute air but releases carbon into the atmosphere.

Rivers State Climate Change Action Plan is a five year plan that will help Rivers State fight Climate Change over the long term. It recognizes Climate Change as a global issue with localized impacts. Rivers State people and businesses are already feeling the impact and unfortunately paying the price. Climate Change has damaged the environment. It has caused extreme weather events such as flooding. It has damaged and destroyed infrastructure. It is currently hurting our ability to grow food crops and harvest them in due season. Climate Change is a grave concern but by moving forward – Rivers State will help make a difference that must be made by reducing pollution and grow the low-carbon circular economy.

Fighting Climate Change presents a major economic opportunity. Substantial economic resources would be required to transcend into a green and low-carbon economy. More so, the infrastructure required to reduce dependence on fossil fuels and consequent carbon emissions will be capital intensive. Therefore, substantial financial commitment is imperative if a low-carbon economy will be achieved. Clean technology is the direction of every green economy. Given our abundant natural resource base, a developing competitive tax regime and a committed Rivers people, Rivers State can deliver a Climate Change Action Plan that will curb Climate Change and protect our environment for this, and the next generation.

In addition, a highly skilled work force, low-carbon economy, an enlightened population and a willing people are necessary components in the fight against

climate change. By acting now, Rivers State can foster innovation. And as researchers, entrepreneurs, business owners, government agents, the oil and gas industry and the entire population rise to the challenge, Rivers State will be well position to adapt and mitigate climate change impacts.

## **THE IMPACT OF CLIMATE CHANGE IN RIVERS STATE**

Climate Change that is evidenced by increase in temperature of the environment caused the melting of ice in the arctic regions of the World in a global sense, resulting in increased volume of water and sea level rise. However, at the State level, Climate Change has caused sea level rise, coastal erosion, coastal subsidence, harsh weather, poor yield of crops, increase of disease vectors, loss of lives due to increased waves in the rivers and seas, threat to food security in the State, contamination of fresh water sources, and resettlement of those living in flood prone areas amongst others.

## **SECTORS AFFECTED BY CLIMATE CHANGE**

The following sectors will be affected by Climate Change in the State. These include-

- \* Agriculture (Crops and Livestock)
- \* Freshwater Resources, Coastal Water Resources and Fisheries
- \* Forests
- \* Biodiversity
- \* Health and Sanitation
- \* Human Settlements and Housing
- \* Energy
- \* Transportation and Communications
- \* Industry and Commerce
- \* Disaster, Migration and Security
- \* Livelihoods
- \* Vulnerable Groups
- \* Education

## **ADAPTATION AND MITIGATION MEASURES**

### **Agriculture (Crops and Livestock)**

Climate change adaptation and mitigation is a multi-stakeholder responsibility. The State Government, civil societies, private institutions, and individuals have different roles to address the climate change issue. State Governments should strengthen State agricultural extension services and, in particular, should establish an Agricultural Extension for Climate Change Adaptation Programme. Key elements would include:

- Improved training at State agricultural colleges to build capacity of extension workers with respect to climate change adaptation
- Direct outreach to engage farmers/land users
- Cooperation with other community-based initiatives, including in particular the community based adaptation support programme
- Practical demonstration of more resilient crop and livestock practices (including demonstration plots and other mechanisms)
- Use of State Radio, FM radio and community radio for extension and information services
- Mobilization of existing Local Government agricultural community development offices, State universities and research institutions should expand agricultural research programmes relating to climate change impacts and adaptation in the agricultural sector (e.g. testing new varieties and cropping systems, low cost/low impact irrigation technologies, improved land management, etc.).
- Research collaboration between institutions should be encouraged to provide maximum transfer of experience.

Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) should:

- Contribute to programme design
- Monitor and evaluate progress of implementation and provide feedback
- Undertake practical adaptation projects

Rollout pilot experience into new climate change adaptation projects. CSOs/NGOs should work with partners to ensure accessibility of microfinance for climate change adaptation by farm families, particularly female-headed households and rural agricultural communities. The potential role of cooperatives as one mechanism for meeting this need should be explored. CSOs and NGOs should undertake public awareness and education programmes in the area of climate change adaptation in the agricultural sector, supported by advocacy initiatives directed at the public, the private sector and all levels of government. Raising awareness of association members: Farmers and industry associations should raise their members' awareness of and participation in climate change adaptation programmes. Micro-insurance and micro-credit: Private sector companies and organizations should explore public-private partnerships to provide micro-crop insurance and finance to small holder farmers dealing with climate change risk.

Seed varieties: Private sector seed companies should work to develop and supply new seed varieties that are adapted to a changing climate (e.g. early maturing, drought and pest resistant). The companies should also support

related extension services, to assist farmers using the new varieties.

**Adaptation technologies:** Private sector companies supplying agricultural products should explore and begin to supply new products better adapted to a changing climate (e.g. equipment for rainwater harvesting, drip-irrigation, etc.). Companies should provide appropriate training in the use of new products and technologies.

**Carbon credits:** Private sector organizations should explore opportunities to obtain carbon credits for adaptation practices such as improved soil management and agroforestry. Sale of carbon credits could reduce the cost of some adaptation measures.

### **Freshwater Resources, Coastal Water Resources and Fisheries**

**Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) and policy/programme review:** State and Local Governments should participate as partners in the IWRM project and in the policy/programme reviews

**Surveys and monitoring:** State agencies responsible for water resources management should intensify programmes to survey and monitor quantity, quality, and distribution of ground and surface water resources.

**Water supply:** In cooperation with the Federal Government, state agencies should expand environmentally sustainable programmes to increase water supply in areas most vulnerable to water scarcity through bore hole and pump development, rainwater harvesting at small (household) and large scales, and reservoirs.

**Water quality:** State agencies should expand and strengthen programmes to reduce surface water and ground water contamination in areas of decreasing water availability, especially in upland areas of the state.

**IWRM and policy/programme review:** CSOs should participate as partners in the IWRM project and in the policy/programme reviews

**Awareness and training:** CSOs should work to raise public awareness of water supply technologies, deliver new water technologies to the most vulnerable communities, and educate communities on how to minimize contamination of surface and ground water.

**Aquaculture:** CSOs should encourage and provide assistance to vulnerable communities to develop community-owned aquaculture projects.

**IWRM and policy/programme review:** The private sector should participate as partners in the IWRM project and in the policy/programme reviews.

**Innovative technologies:** The private sector should make available new and innovative technologies that are environmentally appropriate and sustainable. Of particular importance are technologies to increase water supply in areas most vulnerable to water scarcity due to climate change. Technologies include solar pumps, solar desalinization, water recycling, grey water use and water harvesting, etc. Other priorities include technologies for environmentally

appropriate and sustainable water management infrastructure.

**Aquaculture:** The private sector should intensify participation in the aquaculture business, including both fish production and supply of knowledge and materials (fingerlings, fish feeds, etc.) needed by individuals and communities involved in aquaculture.

**Community support:** The private sector should explore opportunities to provide financial support for community initiatives concerning water supply, water management and aquaculture.

## Forests

**Community-based Natural Resources Management and Business (CBNRM) Incentives:** State and Local Governments should participate as partners in the CBNRM and business incentive programmes.

**Forestry Extension Services for Climate Change Adaptation:** State Governments should provide expanded and enhanced forestry extension services to communities, civil society organizations, and the private sector. The purpose would be to transfer skills, knowledge, and resources (seedlings, financing etc.), to help establish and restore community and private natural forests, plantations and nurseries.

**Forest reserves:** State Governments should strengthen management of forest reserves, improve control of tree harvesting outside reserves, re-institute the strict use of management plans for forest reserves, and involve local communities in management of reserves.

State Governments should step-up the use of economic instruments/incentives as an alternative to command and control regulation to achieve sustainable forest management.

**Regulation of commercial forestry:** State Ministries should improve regulation of commercial harvesting to ensure low impact logging and efficient conversion practices. The Ministries should also intensify treatment of products (to increase durability, thus contributing to reduced rates of deforestation) and enforce post-harvest silvicultural treatment of logged forests to promote natural regeneration.

Civil society and Private Sector groups should participate as partners in the CBNRM programme. Within this programme CSOs could play a particular role facilitating and encouraging the development of community forestry.

**Research:** CSOs should monitor, review, and interpret the outputs of the research programme

**Domestication of forest products:** CSOs should explore and implement programmes focused on domestication of forest products (afang, bush mango, etc.), in order to reduce pressure on forests.

**Compliance:** All Private Sector groups should abide by the legislation and regulations enacted at the state and federal levels to control sustainable forest

management.

### **Biodiversity**

The Rivers State Governments should strengthen efforts to fulfill their responsibilities for protected areas (including forests) and for environmental protection.

**Biodiversity hotspots:** State Governments should develop plans to identify and protect additional areas that are biodiversity hotspots.

**Local Governments and communities:** State Governments should appropriately support Local Governments and communities that are adjacent to conservation areas by providing alternative sources of livelihood.

**Critical biodiversity “hotspots”:** In states with critical biodiversity “hotspots” like Rivers State, CSOs should continue to work with State Governments to protect this biodiversity by, for example, negotiating forest management protocols with the states, and providing community training in sustainable forest management practices. Of course, Rivers State has a lot of biodiversity hot spots.

**Private Sector Organizations should show Support for community participation in biodiversity:** In recognition of the economic value of maintaining biodiversity, the organized private sector should as part of its corporate social responsibility encourage, promote, and provide funding for community participation in maintaining biodiversity.

### **Health and Sanitation**

**Collaboration with Federal Government:** Rivers State Government should work with the Federal Government to implement programmes for prevention & treatment of climate change-related diseases, and for improved wastewater & solid waste management.

**“Cool communities” pilot programme:** Rivers state should pilot a "cool communities" programme by building on and expanding tree planting activities. Promoting appropriate architecture for cool housing and work spaces and also promote design to reduce heat island effect in urban areas.

**Collaboration between CSOs, Federal and Rivers State Governments:** CSOs should work with the Federal and Rivers State Governments to implement programmes for prevention and treatment of climate change related diseases, and for improved wastewater and solid waste management. CSOs can play key roles in this programme, including awareness raising, sharing of technologies, promotion of appropriate housing to reduce heat stress, and implementation of local projects such as tree planting

The private sector should work with the Federal and Rivers State Governments to implement programmes for prevention and treatment of climate change related diseases, and for improved wastewater and solid waste

management.

New business opportunities: The private sector should explore and participate in new business opportunities in innovative wastewater and solid waste management; and in innovative cooling for living and work spaces.

### **Human Settlements and Housing**

Climate Change Adaptation Action Plan Programme for Urban Areas: Rivers State Ministries of Environment should not wait for Federal Government action, but should take the lead in developing and implementing climate change adaptation action plans for large urban areas including Port Harcourt, Bori and Omoku. In addition, Rivers State should quickly develop and implement risk management plans targeting high-risk settlements. Plan development and implementation should emphasize participatory approaches.

Risk mapping: Rivers State Ministry of Lands and Housing should develop and update 10, 50 and 100- year floodplain maps and maps of erosion-prone areas and make these publicly available in a user-friendly format. Maps should also identify critical infrastructure vulnerable to climate change, including the location of municipal water supplies and energy facilities

Land use plans: The Rivers State Ministry of Lands and Housing, in partnership with the State Ministry of Environment, should review existing land use plans in light of climate change, and should enhance implementation of these plans. Based on the mapping described above, priority should be placed on enforcing land use plans in areas identified as most vulnerable to climate change impacts.

Training for builders and construction workers: State ministries should organize training sessions for private building firms, local builders and construction workers to inform them of updated building codes and land use standards.

Revitalization of green spaces: The Rivers State Government should take the lead in implementing a programme of revitalization of green spaces and shade. The programme could also include providing financial incentives for trees and shade on private property.

Adaptation action plans: CSOs should work in major urban areas to support and advocate for development and implementation of citywide adaptation plans.

Training in adaptation planning and implementation: CSOs should specifically provide training workshops for local decision makers, community leaders and youth advocates in basic methods of community-based vulnerability assessments, adaptation planning and implementation.

Climate-sensitive business practices: Private sector companies (land and housing development companies, construction firms, etc.) and all private

building owners should incorporate climate change into their business planning and practices, with particular emphasis on location of new buildings, adherence to construction standards, and resilient site design and management.

Banks and insurance companies: Banks and insurance companies should promote climate resilient land use and construction to their clients, to reduce risk and long term costs.

## **Energy**

Infrastructure standards: The Rivers State Government should work in partnership with the Federal Government to update standards for construction and maintenance of energy infrastructure to include an additional protective margin for the expected risks associated with climate change.

Risk assessment and response plans: Rivers State Government should partner federal agencies, CSOs and private sectors to develop and implement risk assessment and response plans that include energy infrastructure mapping, identification of high risk infrastructure, and investment in reinforcing and/or relocating existing high risk infrastructure.

The Rivers State Government should collaborate with the Federal Government to end gas flaring and enforce the gas flare out programme which is currently on-going.

The CSOs/NGOs should support the review of relevant laws that will lead to the end of gas flaring and minimize oil/chemical spills in the Niger Delta in general and Rivers State in particular.

Renewable energy development: CSOs should develop and promote renewable energy for rural uses to reduce pressure on forests and watersheds (for example, by encouraging use of more energy efficient wood stoves and solar cookers in rural areas).

Insurance companies: Insurance companies that insure energy facilities should undertake independent risk mapping and risk reviews to assess and provide recommendations to Federal and State bodies in charge of energy. Effort should be made to go green by de-emphasizing the use of fossil fuels and encouraging the use of renewable energy which is well captured in the green economy report of the United Nations Environment Programme.

## **Transportation and Communications**

Infrastructure standards: Rivers State Government should partner the Federal Government to update standards for construction and maintenance of transportation and communications infrastructure to include an additional protective margin for the expected risks associated with climate change.

Risk assessment and response plans: The Rivers State Government should partner federal agencies, CSOs and private sectors to develop and implement

risk assessment and response plans that include infrastructure mapping and identification of high risk infrastructure, and investment in reinforcing and/or relocating existing high risk infrastructure. In addition, the Rivers State Government should establish inter-ministerial agencies to enforce the control of air pollution in the State.

**Insurance companies:** Insurance companies that insure transportation and communications facilities should undertake independent risk mapping and risk reviews to assess and provide recommendations to Federal and State Government bodies in charge of transportation and communications.

**Telecommunications companies:** Telecommunications companies should carry out independent risk assessments and response plans, including consideration of the impact of weather events on capacity and demand for airtime

### **Industry and Commerce**

**State radio and TV programming:** State Radio and TV stations should provide business-oriented programmes on climate change impacts and adaptation in English as well as local languages.

**Industrial land use plans:** The Rivers State Ministries of Lands and Housing and Environment should review and enforce land use plans in high risk industrial areas.

**Incentives for relocation of industries:** The Rivers State Ministries of Lands and Housing and Environment should explore land swap schemes to encourage relocation, and in co-operation with the Federal Government and Rivers State Ministries of Commerce and Industries, provide tax breaks and other incentives for relocation of industries to industrial parks/layouts in less vulnerable areas.

**Community radio programming:** Community radio should provide business-oriented programmes on climate change impacts, adaptation measures and opportunities.

**Industry training:** CSOs should provide targeted training sessions for industry leaders and insurance companies on the impacts and opportunities of climate change.

**Local Government training:** CSOs should provide training and support for Local Governments in high risk areas to encourage relocation of markets, and other social infrastructures.

**Micro-credit and micro-insurance:** CSOs should expand micro credit and micro insurance schemes to ensure that credit is available for Small and Medium scale Enterprises (SMEs) in crisis. They should also consider livelihood diversification programmes in communities vulnerable to climate change.

**Awareness:** Industries should make themselves aware of climate change

impacts and opportunities.

**Standards:** Business should conform to international standards and best practices related to environmental management and climate-proofing.

**Climate-sensitive business planning:** Companies should incorporate climate change into annual and long term business plans, with particular emphasis on risk reduction, but additionally with a focus on new adaptation-related business opportunities (e.g. adapted agricultural inputs, increased demand for beverages and cooling equipment).

**Relocation:** Industries should plan for relocation of facilities located in high risk, high impact areas.

### **Disaster, Migration and Security**

**Comprehensive Emergency Management Programme for Nigeria:** The Federal, Rivers State and Local Governments should participate as partners in the comprehensive emergency management programme

**Training:** State Emergency Management Agencies (SEMAs), where they exist, and other key state agencies, should arrange and support training in emergency management planning for staff and officials. SEMA should be set up in Rivers State.

**Preparedness:** In high-risk states, the SEMAs and other key state agencies areas should arrange and support disaster preparedness workshops and simulations on a regular basis.

**Comprehensive Emergency Management Programme for Nigeria:** CSOs/NGOs should collaborate to develop comprehensive emergency management programme

**Community protection policies and plans:** In high-risk areas, CSOs/NGOs should work with Rivers State officials to develop community and social protection policies and plans.

**Community disaster risk reduction plans and activities:** CSOs and NGOs should support communities in the development of disaster risk reduction (DRR) plans and activities.

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**Integrating climate risks:** Companies should begin to factor climate-related risk into their operations. For example:

- Engineers should include climate change risk in their design parameters
- Construction companies should avoid development in high risk areas
- Insurance companies should integrate climate risk into their underwriting calculations
- Private hospitals should prepare for increases in patients affected by both the urgent and long term effects of climate-related disasters.

## Livelihoods

Livelihood programmes: Rivers State Government and Local Councils should carry out and augment livelihood programmes that provide input and materials for activities that support incomes of the population.

Develop and implement an NGO model for action on climate change and livelihoods: Major NGOs should develop and implement an approach/model that uses intermediate NGOs, community members and radio to diffuse climate change adaptation approaches and information and to gather feedback on adaptation actions focused on livelihoods. NGOs can stimulate/animate in communities; community members such as teachers and farmers can diffuse information; and radio broadcasters can provide regular and supportive information to the wider community and elicit feedback. Key implementation steps include:

- Identification, selection and training of intermediate NGOs to undertake the role of supporting community-based adaptation livelihood activities
- Development by the intermediate NGOs of programmes to support local NGOs, Community Based Organizations (CBOs), and communities by providing technical and process support, a channel for funding, and a supervisory structure
- Selection of communities for direct and indirect support.

Programme elements: Key elements of the community-level programmes will vary between communities, but may include:

- Provide education, information, awareness raising and sensitization to communities
- Carry out participatory, community-based needs assessments
- Design relevant interventions and activities in communities
- Provide input and materials for activities that support incomes
- Provide diffusion of adaptation responses out from communities through peer education (e.g. techniques used in BNRCC's pilot projects)
- Incorporate community-oriented radio and other effective, inexpensive rural extension methods
- Evaluate, scale up and replicate projects.

Appropriate technologies: Private investors and microfinance institutions should help create new livelihood opportunities by investing in the design, production and sale of appropriate technologies, including imported technologies.

## Vulnerable Groups

Cooperation with the Federal Government: The Rivers State Ministry of Environment, with concurrent responsibilities with the Federal Government in areas of Women Affairs, Social Development, Youth, Emergency Relief, Education, Health, etc. should develop the capacity to cooperate with,

facilitate and help implement national programmes for vulnerable people affected by climate change.

**Social welfare:** The Rivers State Government and Local Government agencies with a mandate to provide social welfare and/or community-based development assistance should initiate programmes designed specifically to assist the vulnerable people most affected by climate change impacts.

**Advocacy:** CSOs/NGOs should advocate for State welfare agencies to acquire the capacity to address current and predicted climate change impacts affecting the welfare of vulnerable groups.

**Health and welfare organizations:** CSOs/NGOs should encourage faith-based health and welfare organizations to better understand climate change impacts on women, the poor, and other vulnerable groups, and to develop enhanced capacity to respond to the climate-related needs of these groups.

**Health impacts:** CSOs/NGOs should build their knowledge about health impacts of climate change on vulnerable groups (e.g. impacts of heat stress), and document how institutions can best respond. Faith-based organizations and CSOs/NGOs should provide information to community leaders on the need for immunization of children and youth against cerebro-spinal meningitis

**Schools:** CSOs/NGOs should work with schools to help build climate change adaptation skills and knowledge among youth in the community (whether in or out-of-school).

**Microfinance for vulnerable groups:** CSOs/NGOs should encourage microfinance organizations to increase their understanding of climate change impacts and encourage them to develop the capacity to support vulnerable groups affected by climate change

**Microfinance:** Leaders of microfinance organizations should increase their understanding of climate change impacts and develop their organizational and financial capacity to provide support for vulnerable groups, including livelihood support programmes.

## **Education**

**Awareness:** In collaboration with the Federal Government, the Rivers State Government should provide increased support for public awareness and education on climate change risks and adaptation options (including programming on state radio and TV stations in English and local languages).

**Programmes and projects:** Local Governments should institute tree planting and other programmes in schools, to involve students in practical community-based responses to climate change.

**School infrastructure:** The Rivers State Government should invest in building school structures that are adapted to expected changes in the climate (which will vary from region to region, but may include increased rainfall, higher

temperatures, more severe storms, etc.).

**Classroom:** Education inspectorates of Ministries of Education should ensure that schools maintain acceptable ambient conditions in the classroom in spite of climate change (through low teacher/student ratios, adequate ventilation, suitable furniture, etc.).

**Programmes and projects:** CSOs should encourage and help children and students to undertake practical climate change adaptation actions. Depending on location, these actions may include planting trees, shrubs and grasses; protecting old trees; harvesting rainwater; growing food using improved practices; etc.

**Community radio programming:** Community radio should provide programmes on climate change impacts, adaptation measures and opportunities

## **ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF DIFFERENT STAKEHOLDERS**

The roles and responsibilities of the various stakeholders have been stated under the Climate Change adaptation and mitigation measures component of the report. The Rivers State Ministry of Environment will be the lead Agency and interphase with other relevant stakeholders.

## **ROAD MAP TO ACTION**

The Rivers State Ministry of Environment will be the lead Agency. They are therefore expected to interphase with other relevant stakeholders to ensure that the adaptation and mitigation measures are put in place for the various sectors.

## CONCLUSION

The phenomenon of Climate Change is here with us and their negative impacts. It is therefore advisable that the relevant adaptation and mitigation measures be put in place to ensure a sustainable environment. One of the challenges is funding and the need to source for funds cannot be over-emphasized. While the Rivers State Government is expected to lead the fight against climate change, design mitigating and adaptive measures, it is the responsibility of all stakeholders to contribute to the climate change fight. Specifically, the Rivers State Government needs to create cleaner transportation system, re-establish wetlands to serve as buffers for flood waters, halt the ongoing wetland reclamation and dredging, ensure natural agricultural, and forested lands, support low-carbon market, work in partnership with the Federal Government to reduce emissions from the active oil and gas industry, and work in partnership with other donor organizations to educate and sensitize the local population.

