

impacting agricultural production and sources of safe drinking water. With support from BNRCC, the Catholic Rural Development Programme (CARUDEP) is working with two communities, Vom and Mabudi, to assess vulnerable areas with respect to climate change and implement sustainable adaptation measures.

Community-based assessments are being done that may lead to adaptations such as:

- Rain water collection for household use
 - Training on simple water filtration technology
 - Training/demonstration of soil and water conservation techniques
 - Production of tree seedlings as an alternative means of generating income.
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Building Nigeria's Response to Climate Change Project

All of these actions have been made possible with the support of the Building Nigeria's Response to Climate Change Project. BNRCC is a four year project funded by the Canadian International Development

Agency (CIDA) and implemented by Marbek Consultants (www.marbek.ca) and CUSO VSO (www.cuso-vso.org) in partnership with the Nigerian Environmental Study/Action Team (NEST) (www.nestinteractive.org) of Nigeria.

BNRCC aims to increase Nigeria's capacity to adapt to the effects of climate change and reduce its negative impacts on the livelihoods of vulnerable men and women. To do this, BNRCC is taking action by supporting pilot projects as well as by:

- Supporting research of Nigeria's vulnerability to climate change and suitable adaptation strategies;
- The development of a comprehensive and sustainable national adaptation strategy/plan of action on climate change for Nigeria,
- Initiating outreach activities to generate action and adaptation to climate change in Nigeria



BNRCC Partners at SAS2 training in Calabar

For more information on our other project components, please visit our website or pick up another copy of our other brochures. BNRCC has lots of opportunities and ideas for action. To learn more please contact us at: www.nigeriaclimatechange.org or info@nigeriaclimatechange.org

THE DRUMBEAT IS CHANGING;
we have to change the dance steps!

The global climate is changing. Around the world, storms are getting worse, floods are increasing and in some areas it does not rain at all. In Nigeria the signs are obvious: the rainy season has become unpredictable; in the North, desertification is spreading; and in the South the sea level in the coastal cities is rising. Scientists have confirmed that the earth's climate is changing due to the gases that come from burning fuels such as coal, oil, wood and diesel and from land use changes such as deforestation it is called Climate Change.



Trees that buffer impacts of climate change are cut down for fuel.

Compared to many industrialized countries, Nigeria does not burn a lot of these gases, but the negative impact from the industrialized nations affects the entire earth's climate.

Luckily there are many things that Nigerians can do to prepare their communities. Building Nigeria's Response to Climate Change (BNRCC) Project (www.nigeriaclimatechange.org) has provided funding for adaptation pilot projects enabling communities across the country to work with local partners and take action. These pilot projects may inform future adaptation activities in other communities like your own and the lessons learned will assist national and state governments in developing their own adaptation strategies. The projects include:

1. Introducing alternative livelihood options that promote community-based adaptation to climate change in coastal and rain forest zones

Along the coast, mangroves that provide protection from storms and act as buffers to erosion are being destroyed for fuel wood and fish drying.

Twelve communities are presently working with three established organizations - **CERCOPAN, DIN and COLIN** in Cross River State to explore alternative livelihoods as a means of climate change adaptation. These communities are taking action to develop community land management plans. In addition, people are being trained in alternative occupations, such as the production and use of fuel efficient wood stoves; aquaculture management; bee keeping; grasscutter /



Erosion caused by climate change in Nigeria

snail farming, and afang / bush mango domestication.

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2. Increasing community-based indigenous adaptation strategies to climate change to enhance food security of vulnerable people in northern Nigeria

In the North, finding fuel wood and water is becoming a challenge. Yet the same trees that are needed for fuel are also vital in trapping water and stopping the spread of the desert. **Darazo and Zaki** communities in Bauchi State and **Hadejia** in Jigawa State are tackling these problems with the support of a team from **Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University**. These communities are taking action to:

- Produce fuel efficient wood stoves to reduce tree cutting
- Develop methods to trap rain water for farm and household use
- Cultivate drought-resistant jatropha shrubs which control erosion and produce an oil that can be used as a fuel source
- Reduce losses from rainfall variability by planting drought-resistant and early maturing crops.

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3. Implementing agroforestry strategies to rehabilitate sand dunes and improve livelihoods in the Nigeria Sahel

In the Sahel region of Nigeria, the desert continues to grow. Sand fields and sand dunes are increasing, reducing the amount of land available for agriculture and housing. At present with the support of the University of Maiduguri, and BNRCC two communities, Sansan (Damasak) in Borno State, and Toshua (Geidam) in Yobe State are carrying out the following activities:

- Planting drought resistant crops
- Planting trees that have proven to be effective in rehabilitating dunes and controlling erosion
- Introducing water collection and conservation measures
- Improving animal feed production
- Using biogas as an alternative to fuel wood for energy

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4. Promoting climate change adaptation best practices in Daudu (Guinea savannah) and Falgore (Sudan savannah) of Nigeria

Communities in central and northern Nigeria → where farmers depend on rain-fed agriculture- are experiencing water scarcity, flash floods and severe erosion during the rainy season. This situation is becoming worse, forcing people to move away from their farms. Two rural communities, **Daudu in Benue State and Falgore in Kano State** are taking action with the help of the **Greenwatch Initiative** and BNRCC to introduce sustainable adaptation strategies that include:

- Planting drought tolerant and early maturing crop varieties
- Constructing rain water collection tanks
- Producing fuel efficient wood stoves
- Establishing woodlots to serve as wind breaks
- Training and implementing community members in alternative income generating methods such as poultry raising, aquaculture, irrigation farming and orchard establishment.

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5. Employing rural community-based assessments and adaptation strategies in Plateau State

In some regions of Plateau State the temperature has increased by 4°C over the past 30 years. Rainfall is less predictable and water bodies are drying faster than before, negatively