

KANO DECLARATION ON CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENT

2024



OVERVIEW

The Kano Declaration on Climate Change and Environment, adopted at the Northwest Commissioners Summit on Climate Change, which was held on February 29, 2024, acknowledges the devastating environmental and social impacts climate change is having on the region, including desertification, floods, unpredictable weather patterns, and declining food security.

The declaration signed by representatives of Kano, Jigawa, Kaduna, Kebbi, Katsina, Zamfara and Sokoto states outlines a seven-point action plan to address these myriad challenges head-on.

PREAMBLE

We, the participants of the Northwest Commissioners Summit on Climate Change, convened in Kano, Nigeria, on Thursday, 29 February 2024, collectively recognise the urgent need to address climate change and its impact in our region. In line with national and international commitments, we affirm our unwavering commitment to fostering a sustainable, resilient, and low-carbon future for the region. This commitment extends to the preservation of our social, cultural, economic, and environmental well-being.

In the pursuit of these objectives, we hereby declare our allegiance to the principles enshrined in this Kano Declaration. Through this commitment, we aim to contribute meaningfully to the broader global effort to mitigate the impact of climate change and safeguard the holistic health of our region and country.

RECOGNIZING THE IMPACT;

We recognize the severe impact of climate change on our region such as the expanding desert encroachment - desertification, floods - erosion, extreme rising temperature, unpredictable weather patterns, declining soil fertility and food production, etc. as well as the resulting rise in insecurity, displacement, malnutrition, increasing food import receipts, unemployment and increase diseases burdens caused by climate change.

WE COMMIT TO;

1. Affirming our commitment to reducing climate risks and bridging development gaps through climate actions.
2. We affirm our commitment to supporting the development, and implementation of environmental governance initiatives towards sustainable development.

WE PLEDGE TO IMPLEMENT THE FOLLOWING;

CONSERVATION OF BIODIVERSITY

Restoration, protection and conservation of our biodiversity contributes to the resilience of our ecosystems and helps maintain essential services they provide. This commitment involves the protection and sustainable management of the diverse range of natural resources and the ecosystems within the region.

It may include the establishment and enforcement of conservation areas, the promotion of sustainable land-use practices, sustainable nature based farm system, and efforts to combat illegal resource exploitation i.e. illegal tree felling, sand and mineral resource mining, water exploration and wildlife poaching.

CALL TO ACTIONS

1. Establish protected areas, afforestation and wildlife corridors to preserve critical habitats.
2. Implement and enforce regulations against illegal resource exploitation and their associated trade.
3. Support community-based conservation initiatives, involving local communities in biodiversity protection.
4. Invest in research and monitoring programs to assess the status of various species and ecosystems.
5. Promote sustainable land-use practices that balance human needs with biodiversity conservation.

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RURAL INTEGRATION

Rural integration focuses on bridging the urban-rural divide by promoting balanced development. It involves initiatives that improve infrastructure, access to education, healthcare, and economic opportunities in rural areas.

This commitment aims to create a more equitable and sustainable development model, ensuring that the benefits of progress are shared across urban and rural communities.

CALL TO ACTION

1. Improve the supply and functionality rural infrastructure, including roads, schools, healthcare facilities, and water supply systems, by improving functionality of these public facilities with more reliable efficient energy sources
2. Facilitate access to skills, education and vocational training in rural areas especially in the area of low carbon technological skills.
3. Promote sustainable agricultural practices like agroecology and afforestation that enhance food security and secure local livelihoods.
4. Encourage the development of agro-processing industries to add value to rural products and stimulate rural economic activities via the integration of reliable off-grid energy access

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COLLABORATION AND PARTNERSHIPS

Building collaborative networks with various stakeholders, including neighbouring governmental bodies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), private enterprises, international development agencies, CSOs, traditional and religious institutions and most importantly the local communities.

This commitment fosters a multi-sectoral approach to addressing climate change, ensuring that diverse perspectives, resources, and expertise are leveraged for effective and comprehensive solutions.

CALL TO ACTION

1. Make the Northwest Commissioners Summit a bi-annual meeting. This will serve as a platform for regular dialogue and knowledge exchange for better collaboration among the commissioners and partners. Upon which the location for the summit will be circulating across the 7 states.
2. Support the introduction and establishment of the Northwest Summit on Climate Change to drive the discussion and collaboration at the governors levels, parallel to the Commissioner's Summit.
3. Considering the interconnections and mobility of the negative impact of climate change and anthropological activities, there is a need for the formulation of joint projects and initiatives in the region, leveraging on a common regional pool of resources and expertise.
4. Facilitate public-private partnerships for the implementation of sustainable development projects in the states.

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ADAPTATION FINANCE

Acknowledging the financial challenges associated with adapting to climate change, this commitment involves mobilizing and allocating funds to support adaptation measures.

It may include establishing a State Climate fund, securing grants or loans, floating green bonds, accessing climate funds and implementing financial mechanisms to execute adaptation projects and assist vulnerable communities in adapting to the impacts of climate change, such as flooding, drought, deforestation, extreme heat, and changing agricultural conditions.

CALL TO ACTION

1. Establish a dedicated State Climate Fund for climate change adaptation projects, sourced from the States, national government and international financial mechanisms.
2. Explore opportunities for securing grants, concessional loans, investment streams and climate finance to support adaptation initiatives, through partnerships with experts organizations on climate finance access.
3. Develop clear budget allocation of adaptation funds, prioritizing vulnerable communities and the restoration of the ecosystems.
4. Establish a transparent system for tracking and reporting on the progress as well as use of adaptation funds.

5

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Embracing development practices that meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. Sustainable development integrates economic, social, and environmental considerations

This commitment entails fostering economic growth, social equity, and environmental stewardship in a balanced and harmonious manner.

CALL TO ACTION

1. Formulate and implement policies that integrate economic, social, and environmental considerations.
2. Promote renewable energy sources and energy efficiency measures such as clean stoves, hydro-energy, green hydrogen, wind energy, E-vehicle, solar electrifications mini-grids, efficient stoves, etc.
3. Encourage sustainable nature based agricultural farm systems to ensure long-term food security, soil restoration and protect our environment.
4. Support green private businesses and sustainable initiatives that increase local incomes and inform biodiversity restoration.
5. Invest in education and awareness programs to foster a culture of environmental sustainability.
6. Push for the introduction and implementation of climate laws, policies and regulations that incentivise green sustainable businesses and sustainable initiatives in our states and regions

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CLIMATE SECURITY

Recognizing the security implications of climate change, this commitment involves addressing climate-related risks that may impact national and regional security. It encompasses measures to prevent conflicts related to resource scarcity, displacement due to climate-induced events, and ensuring the resilience of critical infrastructure in the face of changing climate conditions.

CALL TO ACTION

1. Conduct risk assessments to identify climate-related security threats.
2. Integrate climate considerations into national and regional security strategies.
3. Develop early warning systems for climate-related disasters and conflicts.
4. Enhance the resilience of critical infrastructure to withstand climate impacts.
5. Strengthen international cooperation on climate-related security issues through diplomatic channels and partnerships.

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MONITORING AND REPORTING

Implementing a robust system for monitoring the progress of climate-related initiatives and regularly reporting on the outcomes. This commitment ensures transparency, accountability, and informed decision-making. It involves tracking key indicators, evaluating the effectiveness of implemented measures, and making data-driven adjustments to climate policies.

CALL TO ACTION

1. Develop a comprehensive set of climate indicators to monitor progress towards sustainability and resilience goals.
2. Implement a regular reporting mechanism to provide updates on the status of climate initiatives.
3. Establish an independent monitoring body or involve existing institutions to ensure impartial assessment.
4. Collect and analyze data on greenhouse gas emissions, environmental quality, and socio-economic indicators.
5. Use technology and data visualization tools to enhance transparency and accessibility of information.

IN CONCLUDING THIS MOMENTOUS DECLARATION;

We, the participants of the Northwest Commissioners Summit on Climate Change, stand united in our commitment to a sustainable, resilient, and low-carbon future for our region. The Kano Declaration on Climate Change and Environment signifies not just our acknowledgment of the urgent need for action but also our collective resolve to confront the challenges posed by climate change. As we embark on this journey, we recognize that the road ahead demands unwavering dedication, collaboration, and innovative solutions.

Together, we pledge to conserve our rich biodiversity, integrate rural communities into the fabric of sustainable development, foster collaboration and partnerships, secure necessary adaptation finance, implement robust monitoring and reporting mechanisms, advance sustainable development practices, and prioritize climate security.

Let this declaration be more than words on paper; let it be a catalyst for transformative change. May it inspire every stakeholder, from government bodies to local communities, to take decisive actions that resonate with the principles outlined herein. Through our shared commitment, we aim not only to mitigate the impact of climate change but also to build resilience and a legacy of environmental stewardship for generations to come.

**SIGNED ON THIS DAY 29TH OF
FEBRUARY 2024, IN KANO, NIGERIA.**

SIGNATORIES;

Jigawa

Hon. Dr. Nura Ibrahim Kazaure, Hon. Commissioner of Environment
Hon. Sale Baba Buji, House Committee Chair on Environment

Kaduna

Hon. Abubakar Buba, Hon. Commissioner of Environment
Hon. Usman Stingo Danlami, House Committee Chair on Environment

Kano

Hon. Nasiru Sule Garo, Hon. Commissioner of Environment
Hon. Musa Ali Kachako, House Committee Chair on Environment

Katsina

Hon. Musa Adamu Funtua, Hon. Commissioner of Environment
Hon. Garba Aminu, House Committee Chair on Environment

Kebbi

Hon. Musa Muhammad Tungulawa, hon. Commissioner of Environment
Hon. Hashim Usman Hinabiro, House Committee Chair on Environment

Sokoto

Hon. Nura Shehu Tangaza, Hon. Commissioner of Environment
Hon. Aminu G. Gidado, House Committee Chair on Environment

Zamfara

Hon. Mahmud Muhammad Abdullahi, Hon. Commissioner of Environment
Hon. Rilwanu Marafa Anka, House Committee Chair on Environment

Rep. Samuel Ifeanyi Oniugbo
Sponsor, Climate Change Act 2021

Tetra Tech International Development
Dr. Adnan Aminu Adnan

FCDO PERL
Yunusa Hamza

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Ahmed Nuhu

Bridge That Gap
Gloria Kasang Bulus

Heinrich Böll Stiftung Foundation (HBS)
Ikenna Donald

Bridge Connect Africa Initiative
Abdulazeez Musa

Surge Africa Organisation
Nasreen Al-Amin

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Adopted and signed at the first North West
Commissioners Summit on Climate Change
KANO, NIGERIA

About Surge Africa

Surge Africa Organisation is a non-profit collaborating with relevant stakeholders to promote, design and implement innovative measures that improve approaches to climate adaptation through policy, media and community resilient development in Nigeria and Africa.

For more information, visit:
www.surgeafrica.org

