



FEDERAL MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT

REPORT

Of the

10th NATIONAL COUNCIL ON
ENVIRONMENT (NCE)

HELD AT

**TA'AL Conference Hotel,
Lafia, Nasarawa State**

Monday, 15th - Friday, 19th August, 2016

REPORT OF THE 10TH NATIONAL COUNCIL ON ENVIRONMENT HELD AT THE TA'AL CONFERENCE HOTEL, JOS ROAD, LAFIA, NASARAWA STATE: MONDAY, 15TH – FRIDAY, 19TH AUGUST, 2016

Theme: *“Environment and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Nigeria: Empowering People, Taking Climate Action and Protecting the Environment.”*

1.0 BACKGROUND:

The National Council on Environment (NCE) is the apex decision making body on environmental concerns and related issues in Nigeria. It is a forum for brainstorming to initiate and articulate policies towards coordinating sustainable environmental management across the country.

The Council holds annually to review the state of the environment, exchange ideas, harmonize issues and adopt suitable policies that address environmental challenges, which include climate change, drought and desertification, biodiversity and deforestation, land management, flood and erosion, pollution, land degradation, sanitation and waste management.

The 9th NCE was held in May, 2013 at Makurdi, Benue State titled “Green Economy: A Panacea For Sustainable Development”, was held in Makurdi, Benue State from Sunday 5th to Friday 10th May, 2013, in order to align strategies with global development on environmental sustainability and the Green Economy initiative as emphasized at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in 2012.

The 10th NCE with the theme *“Environment and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Nigeria: Empowering People, Taking Climate Action and Protecting the Environment”* was held

in two (2) segments at the Ta'al Conference Hotel, Lafia, Nasarawa State. The Technical segment was from Monday, 15th – Wednesday, 17th August, 2016 while the National Council meeting was held on Thursday, 18th to Friday, 19th August, 2016.

2.0 **TECHNICAL SEGMENT**

The Technical Segment of the 10th NCE was attended by State Permanent Secretaries, Directors of Environment from States, Directors from Federal Ministry of Environment and Agencies, Non-Governmental Organizations and other Stakeholders. In all, more than 500 delegates participated.

2.1 **Opening Ceremony**

The ceremony, which commenced with the National Anthem by 11.00 a.m. on Monday, 15th August, 2016 was chaired by the representative of the Permanent Secretary, Federal Ministry of environment, Mr. A. K. Bayero; Director (Pollution Control and Environmental Health). The opening prayer was said in both Christian and Muslim faiths by participants who volunteered to do so respectively.

2.2 **Welcome Address by Permanent Secretary, Nasarawa State Ministry of Environment**

The Permanent Secretary, Nasarawa State Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources, on behalf of her State Government, welcomed delegates to the Technical Session of the 10th National Council on Environment. She observed that the theme of the 10th NCE which is "***Environment and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Nigeria: Empowering People, Taking Climate Action and Protecting the Environment***" was timely in view of the need to imbue dynamism into the management of both natural and human resources and also because the Nigerian economy is presently in dire need of

diversification in the face of the current global economic recession. Concluding, she therefore appealed to the delegates to encourage both foreign and local massive investment in solid minerals abundant in Nasarawa State.

2.3 **Vote of Thanks by Director, Planning, Research and Statistics (PRS), Federal Ministry of Environment**

The Director, Planning, Research and Statistics (PRS), in giving vote of thanks, on behalf of the Federal Ministry of Environment, expressed his gratitude to His Excellency, Umaru Tanko Al-makura Governor of Nasarawa State, and the people of Nasarawa State for accepting to host the 10th National Council on Environment. He appreciated Development Partners, Organized Private Sector, Cooperatives and other Stakeholders for honouring the invitation. Finally, he expressed his profound gratitude to the entire organizing team which has been working tirelessly towards the success of the programme.

2.4 **Closing**

The opening ceremony ended at 12.30 p.m. followed immediately by the Plenary Session.

3.0 **PLENARY SESSION**

The Plenary Session of the Technical Segment commenced with a presentation of the following Technical Papers:

3.1 **Waste-to-Wealth in Nigeria by Director, Pollution Control and Environmental Health (PC&EH), A. K. Bayero**

The paper highlighted the current status of Solid Waste Management in Nigeria and Federal Government interventions to address the problem through several Waste-to-Wealth initiatives which include the establishment of Integrated Waste Management Facilities, Plastic Recycling Plants and Briquetting Plants amongst others.

It also stated that funding constraints had been a major challenge to the completion of the projects. It further highlighted the Ministry's new policy thrust of encouraging and promoting private sector involvement in achieving sustainable waste-to-wealth programmes.

3.2 Reviving the Sahara and Sahel to Regenerate Livelihood by Director-General, National Agency for Great Green Wall, (NAGGW), Goni Ahmed

The Paper highlighted that one third of the World's population lives in dry lands and faces challenges of droughts and poor soil fertility exacerbated by climate change.

It further stated that the challenge in Sub-Saharan Africa led to the Great Green Wall (GGW) initiative which was presented by Nigerian Government to the African Union and was approved by the Continental body.

Consequently, the National Agency for Great Green Wall (NAGGW) was established in 2015 to undertake the following programmes and projects:

- i. Establishment of Shelterbelt/Windbreak and Woodlot Plantations
- ii. Promotion of Agro-Forestry and Renewable Energy
- iii. Farmers Managed Natural Regenerations
- iv. Support Drylands Research Efforts
- v. Oases Development

3.3 Development in Climate Change Policies and Measure: Implementing Nigeria's NDC – from Commitment to Action By Dr. Yerima Tarfa, Ag. Director, Climate Change

The Paper focused on the following three (3) key areas, namely:

- i. Key messages
- ii. Strategies to address climate change
- iii. Role of the States

As key messages, the presenter drew the attention of the delegates to the following facts:

- i. Nigeria's vulnerability to the impact of climate change due to its geography vegetation etc.
- ii. Climate change is a cross cutting issue.

In spite of the above challenges, the presenter reminded the delegates that Nigeria was, however, striving to ensure that it developed in harmony with her environment, protect her environment and ensures protection of her climate, among others.

On measures and policies put in place to address climate change, he listed the following,

- i. National Policy on Climate change
- ii. NASPA – CCN
- iii. MRV Framework
- iv. Nigeria Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (NDIC)
- v. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
- vi. Paris Agreement.

Mention was also made on Nigeria Intended Nationally Determined Contributions as key mitigation measures which could reduce emission by 45%. All key Stakeholders, including States are to play roles towards the reduction of emission and diversification of economy, reduction of poverty and job creation.

The roles of the States towards addressing climate change under Nationally Determined Contribution and Paris Agreement include:

- i. High level support of Governors towards implementation
- ii. Conserve, protect & enhance natural resources within their territories
- iii. Improve and safeguard rural livelihoods and social welfare, to mention but a few.

3.4 **Restoration of the Niger Delta by Nnimo Bassey, Represented by Otive Igbuzor Health of Mother Earth Foundation (HOMEF)**

The paper attributed the cause of the crisis in the Niger- Delta region to oil exploration which had led to destruction of environment and water, as well as peoples' sources of livelihood. This, the lecturer said, had impoverished the vast majority and created a clear inequality gap between the rich and the poor in the region.

The restiveness experienced in the place was said to be responses to what the people perceived as injustice arising from oil exploration. The Federal Government reaction to this menace were through military operations, project locations, Amnesty Programme and dialogue approach which had up to date proved abortive due to lack of transparency on the part of government.

He also highlighted the activities of the present administration in implementing the UNEP Report on the Clean Up of Ogoni land, making reference to the launching of the Clean Up, the inauguration of the Governing Council and Board of Trustees etc.

Concluding, he recommended restoration of the region through cleaning up of the whole area and genuine effort of government to resolve the matter.

3.5 **DEMYSTIFYING THE GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS (GMOs) DEBATE BY RUFUS EBEGBA – Ph.D, DG/CE NATIONAL BIOSAFETY MANAGEMENT AGENCY**

The presenter defined Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO) as movement of desired gene from unrelated species into the chromosome of another organism for the organism to exhibit the peculiar characteristics of the donor. He stated that the benefit of GMOs can be applied to the agriculture, health and environment management sector.

However, there are safety concerns associated with GMOs for which the National Bio-safety Agency was established to provide regulatory framework to adequately safeguard human health and environment from potential adverse effect.

ADDRESSING GULLY EROSION IN NIGERIA – THE NEWMAP APPROACH, BY SALISU DAHIRU, NATIONAL PROJECT COORDINATOR

The paper highlighted the root causes of Gully erosion, unsuccessful previous attempts at controlling Gullies, the establishment of NEWMAP to address the gaps by:

- i. Investing in the public environmental goods;
- ii. Improving institutional performance, governance and multi-sector coordination , and information access; and
- iii. By establishing replicable investment models and institutional solutions that can be scaled up inside and outside the project.

The paper also highlighted the project expected impacts and benefits as well as the NEWMAP Intervention Approach in both Southern and Northern States.

3.6 TOWARDS A COMMON VISION TO REDUCE EMISSION FROM AND AFFORESTATION AND FOREST DEGRADATION (REDD+) BY PHILIP BANKOLE, DIRECTOR OF FORESTRY, FEDERAL MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT

In the paper, Mr. Bankole stated that the essence of REDD+ was reduction of emission arising from deforestation and other related human activities.

He explained that Nigeria’s forests were being destroyed through cutting of trees, mining and climate change, adding that measures were however being taken to address the challenges.

Delegates were also informed that Cross River was being used as a Pilot State and other States such as Ogun and Ekiti had equally acquired land for the same purpose.

Finally, he recommended the following measures towards afforestation;

- i. Sustainable management of forest
- ii. Tree planting
- iii. Collaboration among Stakeholders

- iv. Resource mobilization
- v. Global financial support

3.7 **Briefing by Agencies and Departments of the Federal Ministry of Environment**

Director-General of NESREA briefed delegates about the mandates and activities of his Agency. He emphasized the need for the States to take advantage of the NESREA Zonal and State Offices to enhance collaboration between the States and the Agency.

Similarly, the Project Coordinator of NEWMAP and Director EA Department of Federal Ministry of Environment, also gave further briefings and clarifications on their activities.

3.8 After the presentations, delegates made comments and contributions that highlighted on:

- i. Enhancing synergy among the three tiers of Government on the one hand and the Private Sector on the other.
- ii. Mainstreaming gender factor in the implementation of policies and programmes on environmental sustainability
- iii. Promoting Public Private Partnership (PPP) arrangement in tackling environmental problems in line with global practice and considering the present economic challenges facing the nation
- iv. Private Sector to drive the management of the environment sector
- v. The need for States to demonstrate political will in the management of the environment; and
- vi. The need for attitudinal/behavioral change among the major Stakeholders.

4.0 **THEMATIC WORKING GROUPS (TWGs) SESSION**

After the Paper presentations and discussions, the Plenary collapsed into the following thematic groups to consider 106 memoranda submitted by

stakeholders for the 10th NCE:

- i. Climate Change and Renewable Energy
- ii. Forestry, Droughts and Desertification
- iii. Pollution and Environmental Health
- iv. Flood, Erosion and Coastal Zone Management
- v. Environmental Impact Assessment and Regulations
- vi. Institutional Governance.

5.0 **COUNCIL MEETING**

The Council meeting which was held on Thursday, 18th August, 2016 commenced with opening ceremony attended by His Excellency, the Governor of Nasarawa State; His Excellency, the Deputy Governor of Nasarawa State; Honourable Minister of Environment; Honourable Minister of Niger Delta Affairs and Hon. Minister of State, Environment. Others included State Commissioners and Permanent Secretaries of Environment; Permanent Secretary Federal Ministry of Environment; Permanent Secretaries State Ministries of Environment; Commissioner of Police, Nasarawa State; Director of State Security Services; Traditional Rulers of Nasarawa State; Directors, Federal & State Ministries of Environment; Media Houses; Representatives of the Civil Society of Nigeria and other invited guests.

Highlights of the opening ceremony included welcome address by the Hon. Commissioner of Environment & Natural Resources, Nasarawa State, Gabriel Ortan Aka'aka, Esq; presentation on Spatial Data Infrastructure (SDI) by the Hon. Minister of State for Environment, Ibrahim Usman Jibril; Goodwill Messages by the Hon. Minister of Niger Delta Affairs; representatives of the Speaker, Nasarawa State House of Assembly; UNDP; UNIDO; Traditional Rulers and Civil Society Organisations (CSOs). The Hon. Minister of Environment, Amina J. Mohammed in her Opening Remarks, expressed her sincere gratitude to

Nasarawa State for their warm reception accorded the delegates.

She stated that the importance of the environment to the current Administration is reflected as one of the six (6) core pillars of its Agenda, and that the Ministry is set to contribute to this agenda with its new vision of empowering the people, taking climate action and protecting the environment.

She also stated the achievements of the Ministry in 2016 to include adoption of the historic Paris Agreement in Climate Change to reduce emissions by 20% by 2030; repositioning the Great Green Wall programme; expanding the Nigeria Erosion and Watershed Management Programme from 7 to 19 States; launch of the Clean-Up of Ogoni land; suspension of the export semi-processed wood in order to curb Deforestation, Preventing the death and retardation of over 300 children with the remediation of Shikira, organizing the first ever expert meeting on GMOs and commemorating of various United Nations International Days.

As part of the Ministry's plans, she informed delegates that the launching of the Clean and Green Campaign to address the menace of open defecation and indiscriminate disposal of plastics, repositioning the structure of the NCE starting from 2017 to ensure all Council decisions are reported and monitoring throughout the year and making the process more efficient and effective. In this regard, the number of days for the Council was reduced from five to three.

A Keynote Address was delivered by His Excellency, Umaru Tanko Al-Makura, Governor of Nasarawa State. He expressed his sincere appreciation for the choice of the State as the host of the 10th NCE. This

must have been informed by the myriad of environmental challenges confronting the State. He also acknowledged the Ministry's Solid Waste Management Project sited in the State as well as the inclusion of the State into the Nigeria Erosion and Watershed Management Programme (NEWMAP) of the World Bank project, etc.

6.0 **COUNCIL DELIBERATIONS**

The Chairman of Council, the Honourable Minister of Environment, Amina J. Mohammed presided over the meeting. Council considered fifty-two (52) Memoranda and made the following decisions:

- | | | |
|--|---|----|
| i. Memos Stepped Down | - | 25 |
| ii. Information Memo for noting | - | 29 |
| iii. Action Memos for Council consideration & Approval | - | 52 |

6.1 **FMENV/10TH/NCE/FED/CCRE/04 Action Memorandum to the 10th National Council on Environment on the Deployment of Clean Energy Technologies for Climate Change Mitigation in Nigeria**

Prayer:

Council is invited to consider and approve the adoption and deployment of strategies and activities articulated in the Renewable Energy Master Plan under the auspices of the Energy Commission of Nigeria across the States and Local Government Councils.

Council's Decision: *Approved.*

6.2 **FMENV/10TH/NCE/STATE/CCRE/05 Information/ Action Memo on Renewable Energy Programme in Tsangaya Schools, Jigawa State**

Prayer

- i. Council is invited to consider and approve that State Ministries of Environment establish similar programmes.

Council's Decision: *Approved as Amended*

- ii. Council is invited to consider and approve the Secretariats of the National Agency for Great Green Wall (GGW); Ecological Fund Office (EFO) and other financing windows partner with the Alternative Energy Fund in their activities, including the fabrication of improved cooking stoves.

Council's Decision: *Stepped Down for Bilateral Consultation.*

6.3 FMENV/10TH/NCE/STATE/CCRE/06 Action Memoranda on the Impact of Climate Change in all States

Prayer:

The Council is invited to consider and request the Federal Government and International Development Agencies to support the States Government's efforts in upgrading and repositioning its Climate Change Unit as well as the various measures it has taken over time in checking Climate Change in all States.

Council's Decision: *Approved*

6.4 FMENV/10TH/NCE/PRV/ADD/CCRE/01 Memorandum to National Council on Environment on Renewable Energy, FMENV/10TH/NCE/PRV/ADD/CCRE/01 & FMENV/10TH/NCE/PRV/ADD/CCRE/02

Prayer

Council is invited to encourage the promotion of renewable energy technology utilization in all States in Nigeria through Public Private Partnership (PPP) arrangement.

Council's Decision: *Approved.*

6.5 FMENV/10TH/NCE/FDD/01 Memorandum on Establishment of New Forest Reserves and Afforestation Projects to Combat Desert Encroachment in all States.

Prayer:

Council is invited to encourage the States to request for funding from Ecological Funds Office (EFO) for raising seedlings for the establishment of new forest reserves and enrichment of those already existing in all States.

Council's Decision: *Approved as Amended*

6.6 FMENV/10TH/NCE/FED/FDD/02 Action Memorandum To

Include Nasarawa State In The Buffer Zone Of The Great Green Wall Programme (GGW)

Prayer:

Council is invited to approve the necessary amendment in Act and direct the Federal Ministry of Environment to extend the activities of the Great Green Wall to Nasarawa State as a buffer zone in the country.

Council's Decision: *Stepped Down.*

6.7 FMENV/10TH/NCE/FED/FDD/03 Action Memorandum For The Upgrading of Farin Ruwa Forest Reserve into a National Park

Prayer: The Federal Ministry of Environment to immediately facilitate the upgrading of the Farin Ruwa Forest Reserve to a National Park.

Council's Decision: *Stepped Down. To be Addressed Through Bilateral Consultations.*

6.8 FMENV/10TH/NCE/FED/FDD/10 Action Memorandum on Regeneration of Degraded Forests through Enrichment Planting in the Ecological Zones of Nigeria.

Prayer: Council is invited to approve Enrichment Planting Programmes nationwide in our forest reserves to address forest degradation and improve biodiversity.

Council's Decision: *Approved*

6.9 FMENV/10TH/NCE/STATE/FDD/12 Action Memorandum on Sand Dune Fixation in the Northern Part of Sokoto State

Prayer: Federal Government and other Donor Agencies' intervention is urgently needed to compliment the efforts of the State's government in checking this menace.

Council's Decision: *Council Noted.*

6.10 FMENV/10TH/NCE/STATE/FDD/14 Action Memorandum on Deforestation, Desert Encroachment and Desertification in Kano

State

Prayer:

- i. Council to encourage Kano State Government to seek funds to establish 1,000km of shelterbelts per annum for a period of five (5) years to check the rapid progression of desert encroachment and desertification;
- ii. Council to urge relevant MDAs to partner with Kano State Government to support farmers and other village Communities in order to raise three (3) million assorted tree seedlings on annual basis for a period of 5 years while the memorandum is step down to be represented at the next Council.

Council's Decision: *Stepped Down.*

6.11 FMEN/10THNCE/STATE/FDD/15 Action Memorandum on Protection of the Bauchi State Forest Resources and Training of Forestry Staff

Prayers:

Council is invited to encourage State to:

- i. Provide alternative sources of energy;
- ii. Establish modern technologies on energy and training and capacity building of Staff for the protection of these resources.

Council's Decision: *Approved*

6.12 FMENV/10TH/NCE/STATE/FDD/18 Action Memorandum on the Ban on the Exportation of *Pterocarpus Spp* (Madrid)

Prayers:

Council is invited to:

- i. Approve the banning of the exportation of these species of *Pterocarpus* (Madrid) trees; and

Council's Decision: Council recommended Suspension as against banning of the exportation of *Pterocarpus Spp* (Madrid) in Taraba State in the interim and encouraged the State to mobilize funding facility for regeneration of the same species.

- ii. Encourage Taraba State Government to source funds from the Ecological Fund Office to carry out massive afforestation programme in the State.

Council's Decision: *Approved*

6.13 **MENV/10TH/NCE/FED/ADD1/FDD/01 ACTION MEMORANDUM FOR UPGRADING OF KOGO FOREST RESERVE INTO A NATIONAL GAME RESERVE**

Prayer:

Council is hereby invited to direct:

- i. The upgrading of the Forest Reserve into National Park by Federal Ministry of Environment in order to provide employment Opportunity to the teaming youth and increase the State's IGR.
- ii. The National Park Service to provide detailed information to the katsina state Government on the status of the proposed project;
- iii. National Park Service to immediately commence the process of upgrading of Kogo Forest Reserve into National Park.

Council's Decision: *Stepped Down to be pursued through Bilateral Applications to Relevant MDAs.*

6.14 **FMENV/10TH/NCE/FED/ADD2/FDD/21 Action Memorandum for National Afforestation Programme For Socio-Economic Development and Environmental Sustainability in Nigeria.**

Prayer: Council is invited to approve that the Federal Ministry of Environment develops and implements the programme whose short and long term effects will consequently benefit millions of Nigerians.

Council's Decision: *Approved.*

6.15 **FMENV/10TH/NCE/FED/ADD2/FDD/22 Action Memorandum for Livelihood Enhancement Through Bamboo Value Chain Development**

Prayer:

Council is therefore requested to approve the initiation and

implementation of investing in a green future bamboo value chain development in States where bamboo is in abundance and can be cultivated to enhance private sector participation in the bamboo and rattan development.

Council's Decision: *Approved.*

6.16 **FMENV/10TH/NCE/FED/PEH/05 Action Memorandum for the Establishment of Environmental Sanitation Desks at all Tiers of Government**

Prayer

Council is hereby requested to approve:

Establishment of Environmental Sanitation Desk in 774 LGAs, 36 States and FCT

Council's Decision: *Approved.*

6.17 **FMENV/10TH/NCE/FED/PEH/06 Action Memorandum on Provision of Sanitary Facilities in Public Places and Transit System Corridors**

Prayers

Council is to approve that:

- i. Each of the 774 Local Government Areas provides site and an enabling environment for private sector to construct sanitary facilities in line with the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.
- ii. The State Governments to provide associated facilities (water and power).
- iii. The Local Governments to monitor and enforce proper use of the facilities in their respective areas.

Council's Decision: *Approved.*

6.18 **FMENV/10TH/NCE/FED/PEH/14 Action Memorandum on Re-Introduction of National Monthly Environmental Sanitation Day, Improved Access to Sanitary Facilities in Public Places and Review of National Environmental Sanitation Policy (NESP)/Guidelines/Action Plans**

Prayer:

Council is invited to urge States:

- i. To re-introduce the National Monthly Environmental Sanitation Day exercise, with a modified approach on such controversial aspect as the limitation citizens' freedom of movement in the 36 States and FCT;
- ii. To provide improved access to sanitary facilities in public premises for public use by LGAs, States and Federal Ministry of Environment.

Council's Decision: *Approved.*

6.19 **FMENV/10TH/NCE/STATE/FECZM/01 Action Memorandum for the Dredging of River Amba in Lafia Town**

Prayer:

Council is invited to urge State to request for funding from the Ecological Fund Office for dredging of River Amba in Lafia town.

Council's Decision: Stepped Down to be pursued through Bilateral Consultations.

6.20 **FMENV/10TH/NCE/STATE/FECZM/02 Action Memorandum for the Installation of Automated Based Flood Early Warning Equipment**

FMENV/10TH/NCE/STATE/FECZM/07 ACTION MEMO ON THE NEED TO INSTALL AUTOMATED WEB-BASED FLOOD EARLY WARNING SYSTEMS (FEWS) IN FLOOD PRONE COMMUNITIES IN TARABA STATE

FMENV/10TH/NCE/FED/ADD/FECZM/18 Action Memorandum on the Installation of Flood Early Warning Systems in Katsina State

FMENV/10TH/NCE/AKM/23 ACTION MEMORANDUM ON THE INSTALLATION OF AUTOMATED WEB BASED EARLY WARNING SYSTEM IN COASTAL AREAS OF AKWA IBOM STATE

Prayer:

Council to approve:

The installation of and training on *Automated Based Flood Early Warning*

Systems (FEWSs) by Federal Government through Federal Ministry of Environment in the affected States owing to its enormous financial resources required for installation of each.

Council's Decision: *Approved.*

6.21 **FMENV/10TH/NCE/STATE/FECZM/03 Action Memorandum for the Control of Gully Erosion at Lafia, Toto and Doma Towns**

Approve:

Federal Government intervention through Federal Ministry of Environment to reclaim the Lafia, Toto and Doma gully eroded areas of the state.

Council's Decision: *Stepped Down to be pursued through Bilateral Consultations.*

6.22 **FMENV/10TH/NCE/STATE/FECZM/04 Information/Action Memorandum on Erosion and Flood in Sokoto State**

Prayer:

Council is invited to encourage Sokoto State Government to request for funds from the Ecological Fund Office to restore infrastructures that have been damaged by floods and erosion.

Council's Decision: *Stepped Down to be pursued through Bilateral Consultations.*

6.23 **FMENV/10TH/NCE/STATE/FECZM/05 Action Memorandum for the Commencement of De-Silting of Rivers Jama'are, Kari and Katagum in Bauchi State as Approved by the 9th Council Meeting at Makurdi**

Prayer:

Council to Encourage Bauchi State Government to request for funds from the Ecological Fund Office for the immediate commencement of de-silting of these rivers to avoid further loss of lives and property due to devastating flood and erosion each year.

Council's Decision: Stepped Down to be pursued

through Bilateral Consultations.

6.24 **FMENV/10TH/NCE/STATE/FECZM/06 Action Memoranda on Urgent Intervention by Federal Ministry of Environment to Reclaim Erosion Degraded Areas Nationwide.**

Prayer:

Council is invited to direct the Federal Ministry of Environment to seek for resources and conduct a national inventory of all erosion sites in Nigeria for necessary follow up action.

Council's Decision: States are advised to provide the Federal Ministry of Environment with Inventory of Erosion Sites in their states for further action.

6.25 **FMENV/10TH/NCE/STATE/FECZM/08 Action Memorandum on the Menace of Floods and Gully Erosion in Gombe State**

Prayer:

Council to Urge:

- i. Relevant MDAs to fund the flood and erosion control projects in the State through the Ecological Fund Office (EFO) and the SURE-P. Donor Agencies should also be requested to provide assistance to urgently address the situation.
- ii. The Nigerian Railway Corporation through the Federal Ministry of Transport to upgrade their culvert behind PZ to a bridge for easy flow of run-off flood water.
- iii. Federal Ministry of Works to rehabilitate the washed out areas at Wuro-dole in Gombe – Bauchi Road and upgrade the culvert at Kwami Village on Gombe – Darazo Road destroyed in the last September flooding.

Council's Decision: *Stepped Down to be pursued through Bilateral Consultations.*

6.26 **FMENV/10TH/NCE/STATE/FECZM/09 Action Memorandum on Uyo Urban Drainage Project and Request for Assistance through the Ecological Fund Office for the Completion of the Project in order to Combat Flooding**

Prayer:

Council to Urge:

The Ecological Fund Office to take over and complete the Uyo Drainage scheme.

Council's Decision: *Stepped Down to be pursued through Bilateral Consultations.*

6.27 **FMENV/10TH/NCE/STATE/FECZM/10 Information/Action Memorandum on the Problem of Gully Erosion and Control in Akwa Ibom State and the Need For Federal Government Intervention in Tackling the Menace**

Prayer:

Council to Urge:

- i. The relevant MDAs to assist Akwa Ibom State Government to access ecological Funds for the intervention works at gully erosion/flood sites in Akwa Ibom State.
- ii. Federal Government Establishments implementing intervention projects to address ecological problems and challenges to liaise with the State Ministry of Environment in order to ensure enforcement and compliance by the contractors to check projects abandonment.

Council's Decision: *Stepped Down to be pursued through Bilateral Consultations.*

6.28 **FMENV/10TH/NCE/STATE/FECZM/11 Action/ Information Memorandum Flood and Erosion Challenges Along Kudeti Stream In Ibadan Urban Centre**

Prayer:

Council to Urge:

The Oyo State Government to approach the Ecological Fund Office for assistance to effectively intervene in early control of this menace.

Council's Decision: *Stepped Down to be pursued through Bilateral Consultations.*

6.29 **FMENV/10TH/NCE/STATE/FECZM/12 Action Memorandum for the Rehabilitation of an Abandoned Quarry Site at Adegbayi off New Ibadan – Ife Road, Ibadan.**

Prayer:

Council to Urge:

The Oyo State Government to approach the Ecological Fund Office for assistance.

Council's Decision: *Stepped Down to be pursued through Bilateral Consultations.*

6.30 **FMENV/10TH/NCE/STATE/FECZM/13 Action Memorandum on Soil Erosion and Flooding in Delta State**

Prayer:

Council to Urge:

The Delta State Government to approach the Ecological Fund Office to finance flooding and gully erosion projects in Delta State.

Council's Decision: *Stepped Down to be pursued through Bilateral Consultations.*

6.31 **FMENV/10TH/NCE/STATE/FECZM/14 Action Memorandum on Coastal Erosion in Delta State**

Prayer:

Council to Urge:

The Delta State Government to approach the Ecological Fund Office to finance flooding and gully erosion projects in Delta State.

Council's Decision: *Stepped Down to be pursued through Bilateral Consultations.*

6.32 **FMENV/10TH/NCE/STATE/FECZM/15 ACTION MEMORANDUM ON THE GENERAL ECOLOGICAL PROBLEMS IN BENUE STATE**

Prayer:

Council to Urge:

The Benue State Government to approach the Ecological Fund Office to timely address the gully erosion projects in Benue State for which feasibility study has been compiled and submitted to it for approval.

Council's Decision: *Stepped Down to be pursued through Bilateral Consultations.*

6.33 **FMENV/10TH/NCE/FED/ADD/FECZM/16 ACTION/ INFORMATION MEMORANDUM ON THE NIGERIA EROSION AND WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PROJECT (NEWMAP)**

Prayer:

Council to Urge:

- i. Federal and State Governments to use part of their share of Ecological Funds to pay for counterpart contributions to NEWMAP;
- ii. The Federal Ministry of Environment to initiate discussions with the Federal Ministry of Finance and the World Bank on Additional Financing for NEWMAP.

Council's Decision: *Stepped Down to be pursued through Bilateral Consultations.*

6.34 **FMENV/10TH/NCE/FED/FECZM/19 Action Memorandum on Menace of Floods And Erosion in Kogi State**

Prayer

Council is invited to Urge:

- i. The relevant MDAs, especially Ecological Fund Office (EFO) to assist the State Ministry of Environment to carry out Continual hazard Mapping of cities and LGAs prone to flooding.
- ii. Federal Government to partner with State Ministry of Environment by directing funded Research/ Programmes to suggest strategies for future flood disaster and risk mitigation in Kogi State.
- iii. Relevant MDAs and the Ecological Fund Office (EFO) to urgently embark on massive erosion control activities in the various affected communities, shoreline protection in communities currently under threat; and

Direct:

The installation of automated Web-Based Flood Early Warning Systems (FEWS) in flood prone communities in Kogi State and also train members of the local communities on flood early warning systems to safeguard the communities from adverse impacts of impending floods.

Council's Decision: *Stepped Down to be pursued through Approval on 6.20.*

6.35 **FMENV/10TH/NCE/State/PEH/20/ Information/ Action Memorandum on Assistance of Imo in Tackling some Serious Ecological Problems**

Prayer:

Council to Urge:

The Imo State Government to approach the Ecological Office to urgently come to the aid of the State in order to tackle these problems.

Council's Decision: *Stepped Down to be pursued through Bilateral Consultations.*

6.36 **FMENV/10TH/NCE/State/PEH/21 Information/ Action Memorandum on gully Erosion and the need for Intervention**

Prayer:

Council to Urge:

The Imo State Government to approach the Ecological Office to urgently come to the aid of the State in order to tackle these problems.

Council's Decision: *Stepped Down to be pursued through Bilateral Consultations.*

6.37 **FMENV/10TH/NCE/State/PEH/22 Information/ Action Memorandum on Flood Mitigation And Typha Grass Reduction In Jigawa State (Hadejia River)**

Prayer:

Council to Urge:

The Jigawa State Government to approach the Ecological Fund Office to support and address the menace of floods threatening its Communities.

Council's Decision: *Stepped Down to be pursued through Bilateral Consultations.*

6.38 **FMENV/10TH/NCE/STATE/PEH/24 Information/ Action Memorandum Environmental Challenges as a result of Natural and Human Factors: Effects and Way Forward**

Prayer:

Council to Urge:

Relevant MDAs, including the Federal Ministry of Environment to work with Kaduna State Government on the identified challenges and problems.

Council's Decision: *Stepped Down to be pursued through Bilateral Consultations.*

6.39 **FMENV/10TH/NCE/STATE/EFCZM/24 INFORMATION/ ACTION MEMORANDUM ON GULLY EROSION MENACE IN ASUKPUKWU IN IGBO-ETCHE LGA IN RIVERS STATE**

Prayer:

Council to Urge:

The Rivers State Government to approach the Ecological Fund Office to fund the gully erosion control project.

Council's Decision: *Stepped Down to be pursued through Bilateral Consultations.*

6.40 **FMENV/10TH/NCE/STATE/EFCZM/26 INFORMATION/ ACTION MEMORANDUM ON DESILTING AND CONCRETING OF NTAWOGBA CREEK IN RIVERS STATE**

Prayer:

Council to Urge:

The Rivers State Government to approach the Ecological Fund Office to

facilitate the completion of the Ntawogba creek desilting and concrete lining project.

Council's Decision: *Stepped Down to be pursued through Bilateral Consultations.*

6.41 **FMENV/10TH/NCE/FED/EA&R/04 Action Memorandum on the Need to Standardise the Operations of All Environmental Laboratories In Nigeria**

Prayer:

Council is invited to Urge:

- i. All environmental laboratories in Nigeria to get accredited and operate under a unified standard to ensure that reliable and reproducible data are generated for effective decision making that will eventually guarantee sustainable development.
- ii. All States Ministries of Environment to accord Federal Ministry of Environment the maximum cooperation needed to make this course a success.

Council's Decision: *Stepped Down to be pursued through Bilateral Consultations.*

6.42 **FMENV/10TH/NCE/FED/EA&R/05 Action Memorandum On Rehabilitation And Remediation Of Abandoned Mines, Quarries And Burrow Pits Nationwide**

Prayer:

Council is invited to direct the Federal Ministry of Environment to source funding from Ecological Funds for the implementation of rehabilitation programme of the mining areas nationwide.

Council's Decision: *Stepped Down. Federal Ministry of Environment is already acting.*

6.43 **FMENV/10TH/NCE/FED/EA&R/07 Action Memorandum On The Need For An Immediate Implementation Of The Eco-Labeling Scheme At The Federal And State Levels In Nigeria**

Prayer:

Council is invited to direct:

- i. That the Federal Ministry of Environment in conjunction with the

State Ministries of Environment should commence immediate implementation of National Requirements and Guideline on Registration of Environment Friendly Products and Eco-labelling.

- ii. That all Manufacturing Companies in Nigeria should be encouraged to buy-in into the eco-labelling scheme and obtain the eco-labelling certification of their products from the Federal Ministry of Environment.

Council's Decision: *Approved.*

6.44 **FMENV/10TH/NCE/FED/EA&R/08 Information/Action Memorandum for the Implementation of the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)**

Prayer:

Council is invited to encourage broad-based participation of all stakeholders including the three tiers of Government, communities, industries and business in the implementation of the EPR programme nationwide

Council's Decision: *Approved*

6.45 **FMENV/10TH/NCE/FED/EA&R/08 Action memorandum on the development of national regulations on the management of spent oil in Nigeria**

Prayer:

Council is invited to urge the Federal Ministry of Environment to develop National Guidelines on the efficient management of spent oil in Nigeria and Pilot schemes in six (6) geo-political zones in Nigeria to convince potential investors of its viability.

Council's Decision: *Approved.*

6.46 **FMENV/10TH/NCE/STATE/EA&R/15 ACTION MEMO ON ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATIONS OF THE ACTIVITIES OF THE MID-STREAM AND DOWNSTREAM SECTORS OF THE OIL AND GAS INDUSTRY IN NIGERIA**

Prayer:

Council is invited to approve strengthened collaboration amongst the Federal Ministry of Environment with her relevant agencies together with the State Ministries of Environment/Environmental Protection Agencies as well as the Physical Planning Authorities.

Council's Decision: *Approved.*

6.47 **FMENV/10TH/NCE/STATE/IG/01 Action Memorandum on the Need For Federal Ministry of Environment To Assist Nasarawa State Ministry Of Environment With Project Vehicles For Monitoring, Identification And Reporting Of Illegal Development Project.**

PRAYER:

Council is invited to urge the state Government to include procurement of field monitoring vehicles for the Nasarawa State Ministry of Environment in its 2017 budget.

Council's Decision: *Stepped Down. Nasarawa State Government is advised to include this in its 2017 Budget.*

6.48 **ACTION/INFORMATION MEMORANDUM ON THE CREATION OF TEN NEW NATIONAL PARKS IN THE COUNTRY**

Prayer:

Council to Urge:

The Federal Ministry of Environment to follow up the Memo on the creation of National Parks that has already been submitted to the Presidency. The Federal Ministry of Environment to make available to all States the criteria for application through the National Parks Service (NPS) for National Park status.

Council's Decision: *Approved.*

6.49 **FMENV/10TH/NCE/STATE/IG/10 Action Memorandum on The Need To Upgrade and Accredite Taraba State Environmental Protection Agency's (TSEPA) Environmental Laboratory.**

PRAYER:

Council is invited to urge the Federal Ministry of Environment to assist States with technical advisory support that would facilitate the accreditation and operation of the laboratories.

Council's Decision: *Approved and should be applicable to all the States and Federal Ministry of Environment is already acting.*

6.50 **Action Memo on the need to Implement previous Councils decisions for effective Environmental Governance.**

PRAYER:

Council to urge:

- i. The affected Federal and State MDA's that have not complied with previous Council decisions to do so without further delay.
- ii. The States and National Assemblies to increase the budgetary allocation in environment Sector.

Council's Decision: *Approved.*

6.51 **FMENV/10TH/NCE/NGO/IG/13 Action Memorandum on the major problems impeding activities of the environmental ethics and safety corps (ESCORP) in Nigeria.**

PRAYER:

Council is invited to note and approve:

- i. The adoption of the program "**Mass Action for Environmental Sustainability Sanitation and Hygiene (MAESSAH)**" by all states ministries of environment for nationwide implementation.
- ii. The facilitation of an enabling Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the FMENV for ESCORP and any other NGOs to partner with several other Agencies at all levels of government nationwide, to assist in waste management (including waste collection, recycling, etc.), youth empowerment as well as revenue generation; through the CAFESSAH and WIRES projects of MAESSAH and
- iii. The active support and participation of all states of the federation and the Federal Capital Territory in the proposed National Summit.

Council's Decision: *Stepped Down for further consultation.*

6.52 **FMENV/10TH/NCE/FED/ADD/CCRE/01 Action Memorandum for ELECTRICITY CONSUMERS COMPLAINT DATA GENERATION FOR STRENGTHENING OF ADVOCACY FOR PATRONAGE FOR RENEWABLE ENERGY AND ENERGY EFFICIENCY PRODUCTS AND SERVICES IN NIGERIA**

PRAYER: the association is requesting the Council to encourage MDAs

to Partner with the association in generating electricity consumers' complaint data in support of private sector renewable energy.

Council's Decision: *Approved.*

6.53 **FMENV/10TH/NCE/STATE/ADD1/CCRE/03 NEED FOR FORESTRY DEPARTMENT IN MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT HEALTH OFFICERS IN MINISTRY OF HEALTH TO MOVE TO MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT: A REMINDER**

NOTE: Memo has been merged with memo Ref. No: FMENV/10TH/NCE/STATE/IG/11 titled "Information/Action Memorandum on the Relocation of Forestry Departments to States' Ministries of Environment".

Council's Decision: *Noted. Information to be brought to the notice of the respective State Governments where this has not been implemented.*

7.0 **GALA NITE**

7.1 The Nasarawa State Government hosted Delegates to a *Gala Nite* during which the Honourable Minister of Environment, Amina J. Mohammed launched the Eco-Hub which is a dedicated online platform between the Federal Ministry of Environment and the Hon. Commissioners of State Ministries in order to enhance effective communication and to eliminate the existing disconnect and misinformation on the environment amongst stakeholders.

7.2 Addressing Delegates at the *Gala Nite*, His Excellency, Umaru Tanko Al-makura, assured the Honourable Ministers and the State Commissioners of Environment that Nasarawa State Government would provide a Greener Park in Lafia City to beautify the environment. He also informed that he had directed all political appointees in the State to plant ten (10) trees each in their respective premises in support of the Tree Planting Campaign Initiative.

8.0 OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- i. Council observed that some of the memos submitted could be addressed through administrative procedures and bilateral consultations. Council, therefore, unanimously agreed that the memos stepped down for bilateral consultations should be followed up by proponents/authors with the relevant Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs), for appropriate action.
- ii. Council observed that there is communication gap between Federal and State Governments on aspect of environmental governance. Council therefore agreed to commit to better and improved communication amongst the Federal Government and State Commissioners, through the Federal Ministry of Environment's ***Eco-Hub Platform***, which provides up-to-date information on all activities of Federal Government towards improving environmental governance and participation throughout the country.
- iii. Also, in order to enhance effectiveness and efficiency, Council agreed to reduce the duration of the NCE from five (5) days to three (3) days with effect from 2017.
- iv. To ensure the effective implementation of the Federal Ministry of Environment's Clean and Green Campaign, and obtain the buy-in of the States, Council agreed to share the ***Concept Note*** and ***Tool Kit*** prepared through the Federal Ministry of Environment, for States' specific context adaptation. This is to address the menace of open defecation and indiscriminate disposal of plastic and polythene bags.

- v. Following from the outcome of the National Emergency Stakeholders' meeting on afforestation held in June, 2016, exportation of unprocessed wood (log and sawn wood) will no longer be allowed. Export of semi-processed wood will only be allowed for a limited period of two (2) years from now on. After this period, we expect that all wood exporters would have acquired a full complement of processing machines that can turn out fully processed wood products to enhance generation of employment and improvement of livelihood.
- vi. As much as possible, the Federal Ministry of Environment will employ the provisions of the Convention on International Trade on Endangered Species of Flora and Fauna (CITES) to control exportation of wood and wood products from Nigeria.
- vii. Also, priority would be given to those exporters who can show convincing evidence of their commitment to afforestation through establishment of forest plantations.
- viii. The Federal Ministry of Environment will liaise with relevant MDAs to ensure that revenue generation by the Forestry Sector is duly credited to the Sector to facilitate a better understanding of the socio-economic potential of the sector.

8.1 **Next Meeting**

Council confirmed the next stream of hosting States would be agreed after due consultations within one month.

9.0 **CONCLUSION**

The Council meeting made far-reaching decisions that were in sync with the present Administration's vision for the environment sector which included empowering people, taking climate action and protecting the

environment.

9.1 **Adoption of Report**

The motion for the adoption of the Report of the 10th NCE was moved by the Hon. Commissioner of Environment, Kogi State, Mrs. Rosemary O. Osikoya and seconded by the Hon. Commissioner of Environment, Kaduna State, Shehu Balarabe.

Approval: Council approved the report and urged members to implement the decisions here-in.