

NAME OF PROJECT: Community Based Capacity Building on Climate Change and REDD+ in Cross River State, Nigeria.

SCOPE OF PROJECT: [West Africa] [SCOPE: NIGERIA/CROSS RIVER STATE/ETUNG, OBUBRA AND YAKURR LGAS]

PROJECT PERIOD: [February 2, 2017] – [February 1, 2018]

DATE OF SUBMISSION: [28/06/2018]

PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT

1. INTRODUCTION

The “Community Based Capacity Building on Climate Change and REDD+ in Cross River State, Nigeria” project by the Wise Administration of Terrestrial Environment and Resources (WATER) commenced on 2nd February 2017 and ended on 1st February, 2018. The project worked in the targeted 5 indigenous communities namely Agoi Ekpo, Agoi Ibami, Etara, Ekuri Eyeyeng and Okokori as well as expanded to Ekom Agoi and Odonget communities due to increased demand for the benefits of the project.

The project used participatory interaction, capacity building training and mind mapping approaches in engaging with the indigenous peoples on climate change and REDD+. All approved activities as per the Work Plan have been successfully. Activities include awareness raising training on climate change, mitigation, REDD+, the multiple benefits from forests, strategic school outreach programs as well as engagement of the media to cover the activities and publicize accordingly.

WATER has completed financial audit of the project accounts with audit reports declared to MPIDO and the communities.

2. PROGRESS ACHIEVEMENTS MADE UNDER PROJECT SCOPE

The followings were achieved the project:

- Awareness raising and capacity building on climate change, REDD+ and multiple benefits were implemented in 7 indigenous communities.
- 27 community meetings were held in 7 indigenous communities on their role as climate change guardians
- 10 indigenous people attended national capacity building workshop on REDD+.
- 2 Consultative meetings to foster Collaboration between WATER, the indigenous beneficiary communities and the national REDD+ Secretariat in Abuja.
- Active participation of Representative of national REDD+ Secretariat in the inception capacity building workshop on REDD+.
- Two school outreach programs in (insert names of schools) creating awareness to the pupil and teachers on the project activities, climate change and REDD+ in Nigeria
- Three peace Mediation meetings on the conflicts in Etara community that indirectly will foster support for the project.
- Building working partnership with Waneledon, a women led CBO in Calabar focusing of mainstreaming women in the project and REDD+ processes in Cross River State.

- 7 media publications of the project through national and international newspapers and news websites include The Guardian Nigeria
- 5 meetings with the beneficiary communities to update them with progress

3. ANY INCOMPLETE ACTIVITIES UNDER PROJECT SCOPE

All the activities under the project scope have been completed within time schedule.

4. KEY OUTCOMES REALIZED

- In 2017, the 5 engaged communities accepted the Realization that climate change is a man-made phenomenon and their unflinching resolve to mitigate it.
- In Dec 2017, The Forest Management Committees (FMCs) that marooned 10 years ago were reawakened in the 5 communities to sustain the critical roles of forest watchman to check deforestation and forest degradation.
- In 2017, intensive agriculture and the practice of farm fallowing system was adopted and practiced in the 5 targeted communities, realizing a reduction in size of lands cleared for farming in the forests.
- In Oct 2017, over 1,000 Tropical forest seedlings or wildlings were cultivated in deforested areas.
- In Dec 2017, communal laws enacted against scramble for forest lands for farming and for family inheritance.
- In Sept 2017, the benefiting communities entered into Resolution to commence adoption of cash crops (bush mango, pear, kola nut, oil palm etc.) on deforested areas to restore such lands.
- In Nov 2017, the community of Agoi Ekpo Enactment of communal laws on inclusive forest governance resulting in the re activation of Forest Management Committees (FMCs)

5. KEY SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTIONS TO IPs PARTICIPATION IN REDD+

The following constitute key significant contributions to IPs participation in REDD+:

- The project has promoted efficient use of land through integrated land use planning and management.
- The project has realized the restoration of Deforested areas through reforestation and planting of suitable indigenous tree species including fruits and medicinal plants.
- Establishment of fuel woodlots of fast-growing exotic and/or indigenous tree species on farm, community wastelands, and support to the management of existing home-garden and homestead trees is a critical factor in the climate change mitigation and adaptation.
- REDD+ is a relatively new phenomenon to the indigenous communities in Cross River State, hence there is need to sustain the raising of awareness among local communities, civil society, private sector, policy makers and the media on the concept and benefits of REDD+.

6. SELF SELECTION FOR NATIONAL REPRESENTATION

The 5 indigenous peoples of beneficiary communities in Nigeria through community meetings self-selected two members each to represent them and participate with national and subnational REDD+ structures and engage directly with the regional REDD+ Secretariat

The re-activation of Forest Management Committees (FMCs) in all the communities targeted by the project formed structures for future engagement by all stakeholders with the communities. The FMCs form representation with engagement between the elected FMC officials sustained to in future form an FMC structure for all the forest areas.

7. GENDER ASPECT

The promotion of active participation of women in project design, implementation, activities, monitoring and evaluation has been achieved through participatory selection of gender focal point in each beneficiary community that looks at gender considerations and partnership with gender organization.

The partnership with Waneledon (a women led CBO) furthermore improved the meaningful participation of women.

The initial challenge faced was low participation of women against the men in project activities and this was overcome by the above: how gender mainstreaming was achieved.

8. KEY ACTIONS TAKEN UNDER THE FEEDBACK GRIEVANCE AND REDRESS MECHANISM (FGRM)

During meetings with the IPs beneficiary communities, they expressed wariness that the REDD+ will disenfranchise them use of their forests, mainstay of the local economy, and some youths' fears that the carbon credit scheme is a ruse considering the long time they heard about it and hitherto, no payments to forest dependent communities. They questioned the rationale behind the delay and expressly declared disdain for REDD+. WATER team addressed these fears and informed them that the Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) and safeguards enables IPs secure rights to their lands, and, enumerated the stages of REDD+: REDD Readiness Phase, Investment Phase and Performance Based Payments Phase before the expected carbon credit are paid. WATER team sued for patience and understanding on the part of the IPs and to continue to engage with REDD+ officials, NGOs and the private sector on REDD+. This explanation was accepted by the IPs thus contributing to positive impact of the project.

9. LESSONS LEARN ON THE PROJECT

- The beneficiary communities of Agoi Ibami, Agoi Ekpo, Etara, Ekuri Eyeyeng and Okokori in Cross River State, a sub-national hosting the first REDD+ site in Nigeria, have low knowledge on this program as exemplified by responses from participants prior to the training by use of participatory method.

- This training opened their eyes on what climate change and REDD+ is all about, inspired and solicited their commitments and thus impacted positively the onwards implementation of the project.
- The intervention in intra-communal by WATER team in Etara community cultivated trust building between the community and the proponent organization which impacted positively on the project.
- The engagement of the IPs in the capacity building activities in the evening inspired reasonable turn out and participation against morning or afternoon hours when they are busy in their farms' works.
- The sensitization and engagement of leaders of the various social groups (chiefs, men, women, youth and age-grade) in the beneficiary communities at the initial stage of the project implementation, catalyzed mobilization of the IPs towards onward successful project implementation.
- The beneficiary IPs motivated by the knowledge gained in this project, have demonstrated willingness and commitments for the continuation of this project beyond this cycle.
- There has been continuous surge and requests from nearby and non-beneficiary IPs communities to intervene in their communities as to gain knowledge, slow rate of deforestation and degradation, and, contribute to climate change mitigation.

10. PUBLICATIONS, REPORT PRODUCED FOR THE PROJECT

In the course of the implementation of the project,

- Quarterly narrative and SOE reports
- flex banners were produced and used as well as
- posters,
- Community training manuals,
- Project flyers and
- Project branded T-shirts.

Media reports and articles made by the project in print media were 7 in number, all in national newspapers which also had online version thus reaching a good number of stakeholders outside Cross River State and Nigeria.

Below is the list the title of the article, newspaper, author and date of publication of each article.

Enhancing Indigenous Peoples' capacities on climate change. <https://indigenouspeoples-sdg.org/index.php/spanish/all-national-and-regional-news-2/171-workshop-on-climate-change>

Communities seek support to conserve Cross River forests

<http://thenationonlineng.net/communitiesseek-support-conserve-cross-river-forests/>

Nicholas Kalu (The Nation) May 26, 2017

Group trains 550 on climate change in Cross River State <https://guardian.ng/property/group-trains-550-on-climate-change-in-cross-river-state/> Anietie Akpan (The Guardian), 24 April, 2017

Cross River forest communities protest alleged neglect by government, others. <https://guardian.ng/news/cross-river-forest-communities-protest-alleged-neglect-by-governments-others/> Anietie Akpan (The Guardian), 16 May, 2018.

UN-REDD Trains Communities, Seek Forest Protection. <https://guardian.ng/property/un-redd-trains-communities-seeks-forest-protection/> Anietie Akpan (The Guardian), 29 Jan 2018

UN-REDD Trains Communities, Seek Forest Protection (<http://allafrica.com/stories/201801290311.html>) Anietie Akpan (The Guardian), 29/01/2018

11. ENGAGEMENT WITH OTHER REDD+ STAKEHOLDER

- Collaboration with Waneledon, a women CBO to mobilize women for the project actions.
- Active engagement with the National REDD+ Coordinator on project progress and updates
- Sustained Collaboration with national REDD+ Secretariat in Abuja on realizing national visibility of the project to all Climate change stakeholders.
- Participation of REDD+ official in capacity building on REDD+ of this project.
- Participation of IPs in national meeting of REDD+ in Keffi, Nassarawa State

12. FEEDBACK ON MPIDO'S ON THEIR SUPPORT TO THE PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

MPIDO provided crucial supports to the project implementation by making critical comments on narrative and SOE Reports, request regularly updates of project implementation and asked for explanations where there is incomprehension. MPIDO has provided necessary support/visitation to WATER's office in Calabar, met and held meetings with staff on project implementation, achievements, challenges and field trip to a beneficiary community called Okokori. This monitoring and evaluation has been very helpful to implementation of the project.

13. PROJECT RESULTS [FILL IN TABLE BELOW]

PROJECT RESULTS TO-DATE

Project Development Objective (PDO): Strengthen: (i) the knowledge of targeted forest-dependent indigenous peoples of REDD+ Readiness at the national level and (ii) knowledge exchange at the regional level.							
Results Indicators	Core	Unit of Measure	Baseline	Cumulative Target Values		Frequency	PROGRESS MADE TO DATE [NUMBER AND EXPLANATORY TEXT]
				YR1 ¹	YR2 ²		
1. National knowledge exchange products disseminated in appropriate languages	<input type="checkbox"/>	Number	0	8	15	Annually	Number of national knowledge exchange products:
	Name of Knowledge Product (KP)		Language of KP	No. of KPs	Channel of Exchange	Audience Reached.	remarks
	Awareness raising on climate change		English	3	Billboards, banners, workshop, media	550 people (432 men; 118 women)	Original IPs attendant list submitted.
	Capacity building on climate change mitigation		English	3	Banners, workshop, media	435 people (245 men, 190)	Original IPs attendant list submitted.
	Capacity building on REDD+		English	3	Banners, workshop, media	580 (280 men; 270 women)	Original IPs attendant list submitted.
	Capacity building on multiple benefits from the forests		English	3	Banners, workshop, media	435 people (245 men, 190)	Original IPs attendant list submitted.

¹ YR1 is considered the first 12 months of the project from effectiveness.

² YR2 is considered the months from the end of the first year until June 30, 2018 (expected to be about 15 months)

	School outreach program	English	3	Training workshop, drama and media,	969 (545 male; 424 female)	Photos submitted	
	Publicity (media engagement)	English	7	Media	Nationally	News links of media publicity submitted	
	Information, education and communication (IEC) materials	English	4	Poster, flyer, training manual, T-shirt	2,350 (1,235 male; 1,115 female)	Photos submitted.	
2. Meetings held between IP representatives, and between IP representatives and national REDD+ decision making entities	<input type="checkbox"/>	Number	0	4	10	Annually	Number of meetings:
	Meeting	Date	Venue	No. of Participants	Key Agenda	List of Participant	
	Assessment of progress of the project.	28-29 July, 2017	Agoi Ekpo	10	Opening prayer; Remark by WATER Coordinator, Progress; Challenges, Views of IPs communities about the project; Integration of feedback into the project action and Closing.	Akpang Akamo, Doris Iyaya, Henry Nyambi, Mercy Mbeh, Hon. Etim Ayitu, Rebecca Onem, Esther Oyamo, Innocent Ayang, Itam Ekem, Charity Ugbor.	
	Evaluation of the project and the way forward	20-21 April, 2018	Okokori	9	Opening prayer; Remark by WATER Coordinator, Evaluation of results and impact of the project; Way forward, Miscellaneous, Closing.	Hon. Etim Ayitu, Rebecca Onem, Esther Oyamo, Innocent Ayang, Itam Ekem, Akpang Akamo, Doris Iyaya, Henry Nyambi, Mercy Mbeh	

