



Concept Note for the Inauguration of the Natural Resource Governance Group.

Introduction

Nigeria faces significant environmental challenges that transcend national boundaries, impacting millions of lives and ecosystems across the west African region. Natural resource mismanagement and the escalating effects of climate change have led to severe socio-economic and environmental consequences. The Natural Resource Governance Group (NRGG) has been established to address these pressing issues through regional collaboration and collective action.

The group's formation is driven by the recognition that environmental issues such as flooding, drought, deforestation, and resource conflicts are not confined by geographic borders. For instance, the annual release of water from dams in Cameroon results in devastating floods in Nigeria, destroying homes, livelihoods, and lives in states like Kogi and Benue. Similarly, the persistent drought in Chad intensifies the farmer-herder conflicts in northern Nigeria, further straining resources and social cohesion. These examples underscore the urgent need for a coordinated regional response to environmental governance.

The launch of NRGG represents a crucial step towards creating a unified platform for civil society organizations (CSOs), activists, academics, and rights groups to address the complex environmental challenges facing the region.

Objectives

The objectives of the group are to:

1. Mobilize civil society actors across Nigeria to exert pressure on their governments to enact and implement effective climate change and natural resource management policies.
2. Foster agency among rural communities to defend their natural environment and ensure equitable benefits from natural resource extraction.

3. Promote collaboration among CSOs, activists, academics, and rights groups within West Africa to tackle cross-border environmental issues.

Governance Structure

1. Steering Committee:

Composition: Will be composed of the 6 zonal coordinators from the 6 geopolitical zones, and representative of the national secretariat.

Responsibilities:

- Setting strategic direction and priorities for the group at the national level.
- Overseeing the implementation of initiatives and projects.
- Facilitating communication and coordination among regional chapters.
- Representing the group in external engagements and partnerships.

2. Zonal Coordinators:

Composition: One regional coordinator designated for each geopolitical zone.

Responsibilities:

- Serving as a focal point for NREG activities within their respective geopolitical zone.
- Mobilizing and engaging civil society organizations, activists, and stakeholders at the geopolitical zones.
- Coordinating state-level advocacy, campaigns, and projects aligned with the group's objectives.
- Liaising with the steering committee and secretariat to ensure coherence and alignment with national strategies.

3. Working Groups

Thematic Working Groups:

- a) Climate Justice and Energy transition
- b) Oil and Gas

c) Solid minerals

Composition: Open to all members interested in contributing to the respective themes, including regional coordinators.

Responsibilities:

Actively participating in and contributing to working group activities.

4. Secretariat:

Provide administrative support and facilitate day-to-day operations at both the national and regional levels.

The Africa Centre for Leadership, Strategy & Development (Centre LSD), headquartered in Abuja, will serve as the secretariat for the NRRG.

5. General Assembly:

The general assembly will hold annually and will be a hybrid meeting composing of all member organizations and individuals.

6. Membership:

Membership is open to:

- Civil Society Organizations (CSOs)
- Activists
- Academia
- Rights Groups
- Professional associations
- Individuals and organizations from other parts of the world with an interest in West Africa's natural resource and environmental governance.

Admission Process: Approval process will ensure standard and adherence to the group's objectives. There will be an application form accessible online via the group's website centrelsd.org/nrpg.

Contact

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Conclusion:

The launch of the Natural Resource Governance Group marks a significant step towards regional cooperation in addressing environmental challenges. By bringing together diverse stakeholders, the group will work towards sustainable solutions that benefit both the environment and the communities that depend on it.