

NIGERIAN YOUTH CLIMATE COALITION (NYCC) REPORT



CLIMATE CHANGE: YOUTH PARTICIPATION AND EMPOWERMENT 2010

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INTRODUCTION:

In the past decade, it has been called everything from the “*greatest hoax ever perpetrated on mankind*” to the “*greatest challenge to face man*”. There have been conventions, coalitions, and conferences held in its name. Hundreds of politicians have discussed, debated and even come to agree on possible solutions armed with which we might stand and face its impending challenge. Thousands of scientists have released studies, statements, and reports documenting its harmful and possibly even apocalyptic consequences for all of the world’s biodiversity. Millions of people have individually altered their own lifestyles and together they have walked and run and biked in fierce protest. The issue at hand is **climate change**. (source: tigweb.org).

Climate change is the issue which will define the generation of today’s youth. Youth understand that climate change is not only an environmental issue but also one of social justice, industrial and economic reform, women’s rights, poverty and development, trade and commerce, and indigenous rights.



So what are Nigerian Youth doing? Nigerian Youths have taken actions and will continue to take actions through NYCC. The Nigeria Youth Climate Coalition (NYCC) is an umbrella organization for individuals, groups and organizations working on Youth and Climate Change in Nigeria

NYCC- Yes We Can



NYCC implements its programs through four major arms namely: Media, Policy formulation, education and outreach projects.

Vision: To initiate the processes that promotes climate change, adaptation and mitigates the consequences and effect of climate change in Nigeria and among Nigerians.

Mission: Raise awareness amongst Nigerian youth on the impact, consequences and opportunities arising from climate change and to realize the great potential of Nigerian youths as Young climate actors in their local communities.

Goal: To ensure greater and meaningful involvement of young people at all interventions regarding climate change and environmental issues at all levels in Nigeria.

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WHY In 2010, inspired and empowered, NYCC set out to inform, inspire and involve Nigerian youths on climate change issues within and outside the country through workshops, hands-on projects and high-level advocacy. NYCC believes that Youth participation should not be seen as a burden on decision-makers, but instead as a **wise and necessary choice** for creating quality, durable policy. Youth are the present and future ‘implementers’ of today’s decisions – ignoring youth input today may lead to decisions which youth are unwilling to implement in coming years and decades *“These impacts, including droughts and rising sea levels, are especially alarming for young people who will inherit the world in the years to come”* YVO DE BOER, Former Executive Secretary, UNFCCC

Social Media Network, a Tool

for Advocacy: With the power of social media to reach millions of youth worldwide, NYCC embarked on mobilization and sensitization of Nigerian youths via Facebook, ning.com and Twitter. The social platforms enabled us to reach vast majority of Nigerian Urban youth who have access to facebook and the internet. Raising climate change awareness through this platform enabled NYCC to be regarded as a strong voice for Youths in Nigeria. NYCC has three online blogs to share project stories and information on climate change



NYCC facebook group has over 300 registered youths while the Ning site has over 200 registered members.

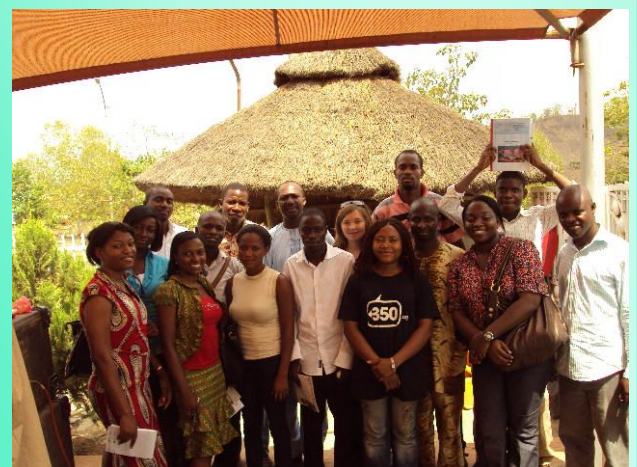
<http://www.facebook.com/#!/group.php?gid=89802174078>

<http://nigycc.wordpress.com/>

<http://nigerianyouthclimatecoalition.blogspot.com/>

BNRCC and YOUTH: Engaging Naija Youth on Climate Change

Project NYCC was contracted to implement an 8-Month Climate Change Youth Communication Project towards building a Youth Response to Climate Change by BNRCC. Building Nigeria’s Response to Climate Change (BNRCC) project aims to help build informed responses to climate change in Nigeria by enhancing capacity at the community, state and national levels to implement effective adaptation strategies, policies and actions. The BNRCC project is funded by the CIDA, and is managed by the consortium of CUSO and Marbek Resource Consultants, both of Ottawa, Canada, in partnership with the Nigeria Environmental Study/Action Team (NEST). NYCC Partnered with Youth Aid Organization for Africa (YAOFA) to implement this project in three Niger Delta States of Nigeria.



2010 EARTH DAY & 350 CLIMATE MEET UP



On April 3rd 2010, NYCC and Partners gathered to celebrated **Earth Day 2010** and **350ClimateMeetUp**. An event that attracted over 20 Youths from various youth organizations across the country as well as BBC World Service Trust-Nigeria to create awareness on issues of environmental sustainability and climate change while inspiring actions around local communities. Some of the participants traveled as far as from Bayelsa State (Niger Delta) and Sokoto State (North West) to participate. The Activity included a mini workshop on climate change and youth action, facilitated by Ilona Makinen, from Finland.



At the end, participants took time to sensitize the road users to observe pedestrian pathways

ADVOCACY VISIT TO NASPA



NYCC team paid an Advocacy visit to the Head, NASPA, Dr Austin to sensitize him on the need to include young people and to understand their perspective in terms of climate change adaption. The Team also used the Opportunity to brief the NSAPA Team on it currents projects. The National Climate Change Adaptation Strategy and Plan of Action (NASPA) Project was developed on the achievement of an earlier initiative called the Canada-Nigeria Climate Change Capacity Development Project (C-NCCCDP), implemented with funding from the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), 2001-2004 and implemented by the Nigeria Environmental Study/Action Team (NEST). (<http://www.naspanigeria.org>)



July 2010. NEWS: World Bank Nigeria Country office to established a Working Group on Climate Change and Youth in Nigeria:

NYCC Founder and members participated at the 1st World Bank Youth Forum. With the mandate to promote youth participation in environmental issues in Nigeria, NYCC founder, Esther Agbarakwe advocated for Youth inclusion into the World Bank Nigeria's Work on climate change during the forum. The Bank Head Onno Ruhl, responded by promising to create a working group on Youth and climate change within the World Bank country office. The World Bank Youth Forum is an immediate outcome from the Video Conference on the World Bank Africa Action Plan. Consequent upon the need to deepen youth involvement in the Africa Action Plan development process, the World Bank Nigeria Country office decided to dedicate the Video Conference in Nigeria to providing space for the opinions of young people to be captured in the process.

INTERNATIONAL YOUTH DAY 2010:

“ Our environment, Our year, Our Voice ” was the theme of 2010 first Climate Change youth forum held on August 16th 2010 at Shehu Musa Yaradua Center in Abuja to celebrate the International Year of Youth, which runs August 2010-2011



The aim of the forum was to create awareness and increase knowledge of young people on issues that affect the environment, especially climate change and biodiversity. The event was also an opportunity for young people to share experiences and dialogue with leaders of today, in order to raise leaders of tomorrow while moving from Awareness to Action. The morning session included the launch of the **“One House One Tree Campaign”** with over 200 trees donated by the Abuja Green Society were planted.

The event was organized by the Nigerian Youth Climate Coalition (NYCC)/ Youth Aid Organization for Africa (YAOFA) and VSO Nigeria (Volunteer Service Oversea) in collaboration with Global Xchange Returned Volunteers Forum, Abuja Green Society (AGS), Women Environmental Programme (WEP) and funded by BNRCC (Building Nigeria's Response to Climate Change) as part of its Engaging Naija Youth on Climate Change Project



The event was a wonderful occasion for participants to learn and inspire each other. A special feature was a **“Live Talk Show”** where guest speakers were invited to share their leadership experiences with the **“live studio audience”**. One of the guests included **Adewole Taiwo**, a participant of President Barack Obama's Young African Leaders Forum which was held at the White House in Washington DC recently.



Agenda 21, UN Earth Summit Programme of Action from Rio 1992

Item 25.2: "It is imperative that youth from all parts of the world participate actively in all relevant levels of decision-making processes because it affects their lives today and has implications for their futures. In addition to their intellectual contribution and their ability to mobilise support, they bring unique perspectives that need to be taken into account."

Item 25.4: "Each country should, in consultation with its youth communities, establish a process to promote dialogue between the youth community and Government at all levels and to establish mechanisms that permit youth access to information and provide them with the opportunity to present their perspectives on government decisions."

LAUNCH OF CLIMATE CHANGE SCHOOL CLUBS, NIGER DELTA

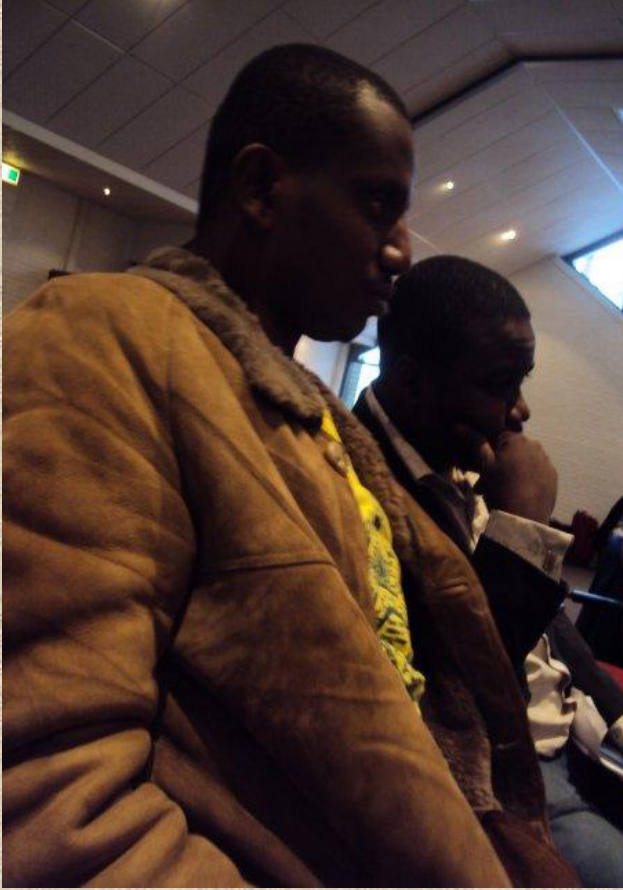
With the funding from BNRCC, NYCC/YAOFAs trained over 80 students in Warri LGA of Delta State, Orlu and Nkwerre LGAs of Imo State, and Akure LGA of Ondo state. The 3-day training was the 1st ever youth-led initiatives on climate change in the states using peer-education model. The training was organized to empower young people to become active citizens and environmental leaders to fight against climate change. During the training, the student had the opportunity to know:

- How human activities are contributing to climate change
- How climate change and other environmental issues are interconnected
- Foster a sense of person and collective responsibility for the Earth
- Become more informed about climate change in local, national and international level
- Communicate and collaborate with classroom with the community and states to learn about climate change together, and explore opportunity for joint action



CONFERENCE & WORKSHOPS

Global Call for Climate Action (GCCA) Meeting, Amsterdam, Feb 2010



NYCC Participated at Global Call for Climate Action (GCCA) meeting in Amsterdam. The Global Campaign for Climate Action strengthens global civil society action to prevent catastrophic climate change. Oyelakin Taiwo of NYCC represented Youth climate advocates in Africa. He was one of the two representatives from the continent (Kenneth Nana, Ghana). The forum was aimed at planning for the 2010 focus of GCCA.

EARTH CHARTER TEN YEARS ANIVESARY (EC+10), HAGUE, NETHERLANDS



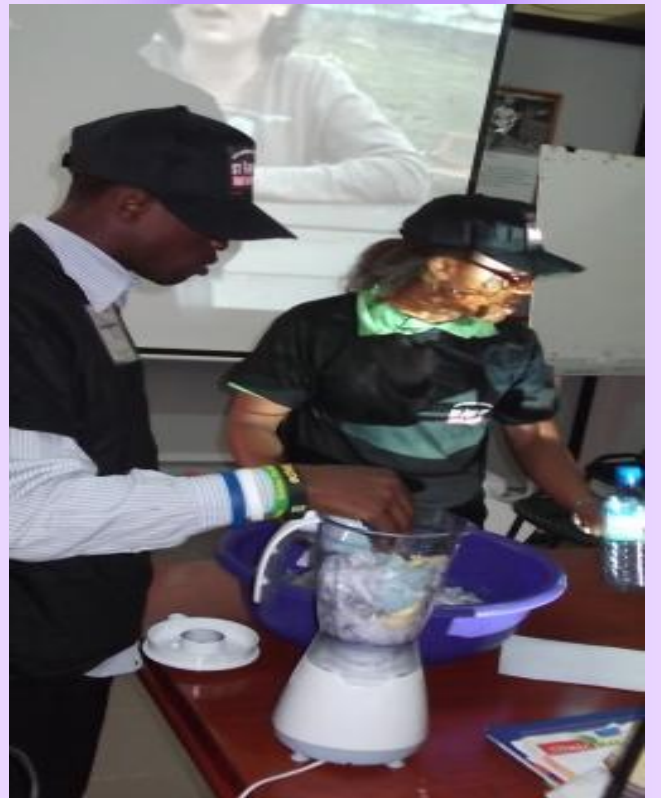
NYCC Founder, Esther Agbarakwe Participated at the Earth Charter event making it 10yrs anniversary at the Peace Palace in the Hague. She had the opportunity to speak as a panelist on a session on “UN and Climate Change” while sharing Experiences from Nigeria. Esther is an active Earth Charter youth activist in Nigeria/Africa



Oyelakin Taiwo facilitating a workshop on climate change in Calabar, Cross River State. The event was organized by NYCC Partner, Youth Aid Organization for Africa with funding from the Federal Ministry of Environment



Esther Agbarakwe and Oyelakin Taiwo joined activists from six Commonwealth countries in London to develop toolkit for advocacy for young Commonwealth citizens to engage in climate change education and advocacy. The event was supported by the Commonwealth Foundation and Commonwealth Youth Exchange Council (CYEC)



Olumide Idowu and Esther Agbarakwe, facilitating the 1st Paper Recycling Workshop for Youths in Abuja. The event brought youth between the ages of 18 - 35 years to learn about the environment and what youth can do to protect our planet. The event was funded by D&F Foundation Geneva and also an opportunity to join GCAP celebrate the "stand-up" global event to make the MDG global campaign with the local theme "Make our Money work for us"

BILATERAL PARTNERSHIPS



Casper Ter Kuile, Founder of United Kingdom Youth Climate Coalition (UKYCC) met with Esther Agbarakwe, Founder of NYCC in London. NYCC emergence was inspired by the UKYCC and Canadian Youth Climate Coalition (CYCC). Casper had provided various technical and moral support to NYCC and still does!



Esther Agbarakwe, delivering the “*Message from the Youth*” at the Opening forum at the Seventh African Development Forum, (ADVII) Addis Ababa on behalf of the African Youths(October 2010). The Theme of the Forum was “Acting on Climate Change and Sustainable Development in Africa” Esther was also a panelist at two of the Pre-ADV11 event on Human Development Cluster. Her Participation was supported by UNICEF HQ



Esther Agbarakwe, Participated at the 2nd World Innovation Summit on Education (WISE2010) in Doha, Qatar. Esther was nominated by TakingITglobal for her work on Climate change Education in the Niger Delta and her participation was supported by Qatar Foundation



AWARDS/RECOGNITION

- 1. NYCC Wins 2010 LEAP Africa Award**
- 2. Esther Agbarakwe was Nominated for the 2011 Future Awards under the Category of “Best Use of Advocacy”**
- 3. Esther Agbarakwe was on May 2010 appointed Country Activator for IUCN Commission on Education and Communication (CEC)**

CONCLUSION:

The Irresistible momentum of the youth Movement

The NYCC activities described in this report demonstrate that youth, through participation in and around climate governance and actions are actively shaping their future. Youth are empowered, influencing their national policies and building their skills, capacities and understanding in a national network. They are also creating a culture of change locally

The youth movement is strong and growing rapidly. NYCC is playing a vital role in consolidating that growth and strategically directing youth energy into effective outcomes both within and outside the country.

This work must be supported; as this rapid growth is not expected to reverse instead it is gaining momentum.

Engaging the NIGERIAN youth movement today will have an immensurable effect in the long term.



APRECIATION

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We also wish to acknowledge the leadership of African Youth Initiative on Climate Change (AYICC) Headquartered in Kenya,

We acknowledge the valuable contributions of our volunteers

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Prepared by Esther Agbarakwe

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