

# ENVIRONMENTAL ADVOCACY & VOLUNTEERISM AN APPROACH TO CHECKMATE FLOODING IN NIGERIA

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## Outline of the Presentation

- The presentation acknowledges our environment is changing due to the impacts of climate change driven by two events – anthropogenic and the weather and goes on to briefly describe how the two contribute to the change
- The presentation then looks at how the impacts of the two events singly and/or combined, result in the phenomenon under discussion – **flooding**, and suggests some measures that could be used to control flooding

## Outline of the Presentation

- The presentation then proposed the development of a Flood Support Framework (FSF) that will provide the fulcrum around which all activities to checkmate flooding will revolve, including **advocacy and volunteerism**
- The presentation then suggests which agencies and stakeholders will have a role in the operationalization of the Framework, sources of funding the activities of the Framework, advocacy products available for the Framework and the dissemination strategy of the products.
- Finally, the presentation suggests a review and an evaluation of the performance of the Framework during every flood cycle.

## A short poem as background

- Once a upon a time, rivers flowed within their courses, with clean waters filled of fishes coming from creeks of the mountains.
- In the mountains, trees grew sky high where birds flew, and over the forest's floor, wild animals roamed freely and safely.
- Our forefathers who once ruled these hinterlands were contented with this abundance.
- But that was once upon a time – i.e., not anymore, **unfortunately!**

# Changing Environment

- Previous slide suggests our environment is changing.
- This change is due, mainly, to the phenomenon of **climate change** that is driven by two events:
  - i. Anthropogenic activities.
  - ii. Natural changes in the weather and its patterns

# Changing Environment

- Interestingly, these are interconnected and, singly or together cause havoc to the environment that result in loss of property and lives, through the manifestation of **extreme events** such as
  - droughts that result in serious loss of fauna and flora and biodiversity causing food and water shortages that lead to malnutrition, migration and death
  - heat waves, storms and intense fires
  - floods that result in environmental damage and loss of property and lives**
- This presentation will attempt to explain the two events and the types of advocacy and special efforts required to raise awareness on the ways to address whatever challenges these events will result to.

**Human activities** *due to exponential rise in population and the associated demand for food and energy, cause*

- ❑ changes in land use and land cover such as deforestation and for housing and infrastructure;
- ❑ De-vegetation as a result of overgrazing
- ❑ rapid expansion of farming to produce more food;
- ❑ urbanization and industrial activities and associated combustion of fossil fuels;

*all release carbon dioxide and other chemicals resulting in increased concentrations of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere and contributing to changing the balance of the climate system, causing the temperature of the earth's atmosphere, oceans, and land surfaces to increase.*

# Changes in weather and its patterns - examples

- ❖ Average **global temperatures** have risen since 1901, with an **increased rate of warming** over the past 30 years. Top 10 **warmest** years on record worldwide have occurred since 1998.
- ❖ Many **extreme temperature** conditions are becoming more common. Since the 1970s, unusually **hot summer days (highs)** have become more common over the last few decades across the globe. Unusually **hot summer nights (lows)** have become more common at an even faster rate. This trend indicates less **“cooling off”** at night.



## Changes in weather and its patterns - examples

- ❖ Global **annual precipitation** has increased over land areas worldwide.
- ❖ Since 1901, **precipitation has increased** at an average rate of 0.08 inches (2.04mm) per decade over land areas worldwide.
- ❖ The prevalence of **extreme single-day precipitation** events remained fairly steady between 1910 and the 1980s **but has risen substantially** since then
- ❖ The occurrence of **abnormally high annual precipitation totals** has also increased.

# Types of flood and how these events cause flood

In our climes,

- flood occurs when there is an overflow of water that submerges land that is usually dry
- In rivers, a flood occurs when the flow rate exceeds the capacity of the river channel, particularly at bends or meanders in the waterway.
- In coastal areas, floods occur as a result of sea level rises or high winds that generate high tides

thus, types of flood can be categorized as: *flash floods; urban floods; river (or fluvial) and ponding (or pluvial) floods; coastal floods;* in accordance with where they occur.

# How human activities cause flooding

## Unregulated land use practices

- Lack of proper design of layouts
- Weak development control
- Indiscriminate use of spaces for refuse and waste disposal
- Inadequate capacity of flood control structures
- Lack of maintenance of flood control structures

# How Weather and its changing patterns cause flooding

- Intense precipitation over short-time
- extreme single-day precipitation events
- Storm surges occasioned by extreme winds in coastal areas

# Some methods of flood control

- > planting vegetation and use of grassing in urban towns instead of stone/cement paving to retain extra water and slow down gradient flow
- > construction of floodways (culverts and drainages)
- > construction of dams, barrages, levees and other water detention structures to limit free flow of water downstream
- > deployment of scientific early warning mechanisms to enable flood managers get prepared in advance of forecasted floods

# Environmental Advocacy And Volunteerism In Checkmating Flood

- ❑ To be able to carry out an effective advocacy to checkmate flooding, this presentation suggests a well articulated flood support framework (FSF) be developed which will be structured around the flood cycle, i.e., before, during, and after
- ❑ The FSF should be designed in such a way as to harness resources and be able to deliver on services in an effective manner

# Environmental Advocacy And Volunteerism In Checkmating Flood

- ❑ Governments at the 3-tiers must be at the center to pool resources and develop capacity of flood managers to deliver needed services, throughout the flood cycle, to vulnerable and/or affected communities. This, the 3-tiers of Government can do by utilizing the Ecological Fund to support the activities identified by the Framework.
- ❑ The framework must have a good communication linkage between the communities, volunteers, policy makers and other stakeholders, like relief providers that may want to reach affected communities directly

# Attributes of the FSF

1. Flood expertise, and the ability to harness expertise, involvement of all agencies that have one expertise or the other within the flood cycle
2. A well defined and structured linkage with all stakeholders, the governments, communities, non-governmental organizations (NGOs); for interventions facilitation and for getting feedbacks from beneficiary communities to the policy makers and other enablers
3. Capacity to provide hands-on advice, expertise and training to volunteers and managers within the flood cycle
4. Be all inclusive taking into account the gender needs of the vulnerable stakeholders



**FSF composition (suggested)**

**NiMet; NHSA; NEMA; NESREA;  
NEWMAP**

**State Governments; Local  
Governments; Private sector; NGOs;  
Volunteers**

## ADVOCACY PRODUCTS AVAILABLE

- NMet's SRP and associated monthly flood bulletins
- NMet's daily public weather forecasts and fortnightly NWP bulletin
- NHSA's Annual Flood Outlook and periodic updates
- NEMA's Annual Disaster Risk Management and Implementation Plan

# ADVOCACY PRODUCTS DISSEMINATION STRATEGY

- Downscale of the products to all identified vulnerable communities across the nation, within a reasonable time
- Identification of flood champions and volunteers in all vulnerable communities across the nation
- Organizing the champions and volunteers into an **ADVOCATES GROUP** and training them on the use of the advocacy products
- Development of IEC materials around the products and around the occurrence and managing the floods when they come

## Review and Evaluation of the FSF on the Year's Activities

- What was the level of interaction/integration between the various actors identified within the Framework?
- What was the level of success from the point of view of affected communities and individuals (preparation, risk reduction, recovery, increased resilience)?
- What was the level of community involvement?

## Review and Evaluation of the FSF on the Year's Activities

- How effective was communication with relevant agencies and other stakeholders?
- Was there specialist support provided to communities?
- How many individuals benefited from the support provided?
- Any noticeable improvement in flooding outcomes over time especially regarding ownership of the Framework?

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**Thank you**