



LOW-EMISSION RURAL DEVELOPMENT (LED-R) AT A GLANCE

- 1st African sub-national jurisdiction to implement a jurisdictional approach to REDD+ & serves as an example for Nigeria to develop, refine, & scale up REDD+/LED-R
- Biodiversity-rich forests constitute ~50% of Nigeria's remaining tropical forest; state aims to become the "greenest" state (forest cover & sustainable development) via 30-year green growth plan
- Cross River (CR) National Park covers ~20% of state & protects critically endangered gorilla habitat
- Main livelihood is subsistence & cash crop farming; most migrants employed as plantation labor; ~65% of communities use fuelwood as primary energy source
- Complex history of colonial forest reserve management with maintenance of customary access, followed by loss of customary rights, over-exploitation of timber & boom-bust of industrial plantations after independence
- Lost oil revenues due to Nigeria-Cameroon dispute in 2008 (an important source of state budget for conservation & agricultural development), increasing pressure for privatization & private sector investment in state (e.g. palm oil companies)

DRIVERS OF DEFORESTATION

- Large-scale agriculture
- Small-scale agriculture
- Large-scale illegal timber harvest

AVERAGE ANNUAL EMISSIONS FROM DEFORESTATION

2.55 Mt CO₂ (2010-2016)
Includes above-ground biomass & below-ground biomass

AREA 20,156 km²

POPULATION 3,340,000 (2017)

HDI No information

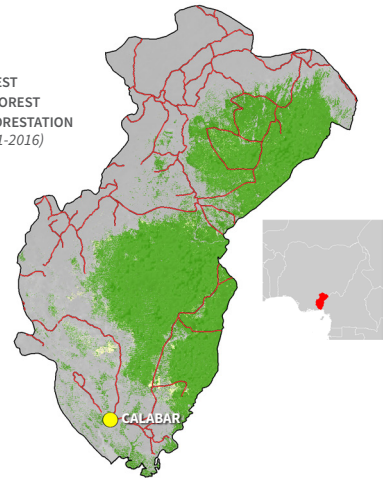
GDP USD 9.29 billion (2010)

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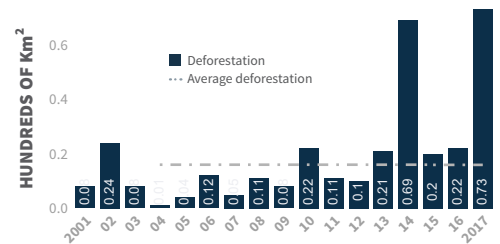
MAIN ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES

- Agriculture
- Trade
- Forestry

RURAL/URBAN POPULATION 55%/45%



Data sources:
Socio-economic: UNDP
Deforestation: National Bureau of Statistics

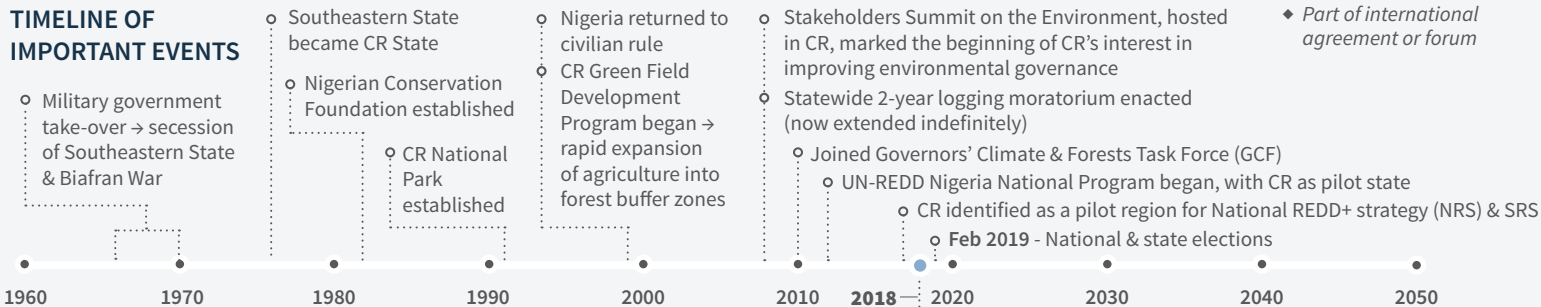


SPOTLIGHT ON INNOVATION

Cross River is one of three pilot states for the **Sustainable Fuelwood Management (SFM) project** to mitigate causes and effects of fuelwood dependency for local livelihoods. Fuelwood in CR is the primary energy source for cooking, cassava & palm oil processing, etc.; however, it is inefficient, contributes to deforestation, & emits short-lived climate pollutants. Funded by Global Environment Facility (GEF) and United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and implemented by the Energy Commission of Nigeria (ECN), the project focuses on establishing fast-growing, sustainable fuelwood plantations, and supporting the transition to cleaner/efficient cook stoves. In-kind support from the

CR government, along with enabling legislation and collaboration between national and state agencies, helped in moving the project to implementation. Expected results include increased engagement in sustainable forestry by supply chain stakeholders, LC, & decision makers; reduction in destructive fuelwood extraction & related pollutants; improved health & living standards; & provision of alternative livelihoods through establishment of sustainable plantations & cookstove manufacturing. By connecting economic prosperity with climate protection, the project aligns with CR's vision of sustainable forest management within a low-carbon economy by 2020.

TIMELINE OF IMPORTANT EVENTS

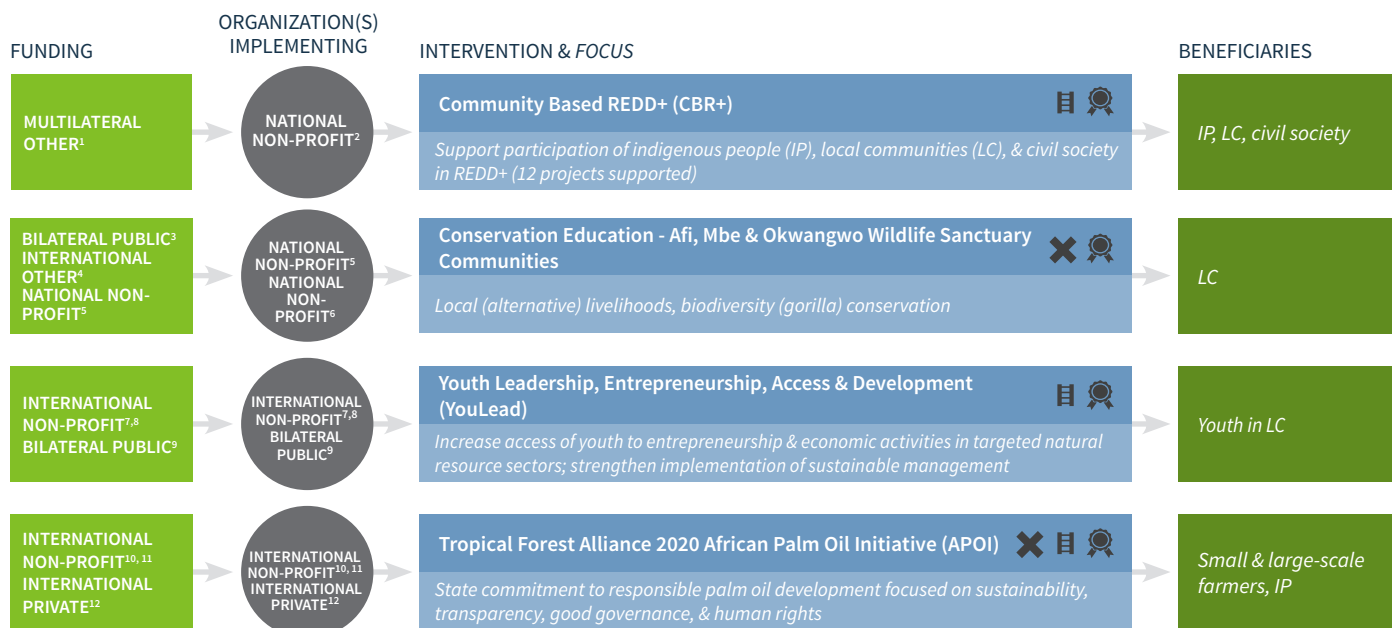


PLEDGES & COMMITMENTS



KEY INTERVENTIONS

✘ DISINCENTIVES 📋 ENABLING MEASURES 🏆 INCENTIVES



1 Global Environmental Facility (GEF). 2 Centre for Healthworks, Development and Research (CHEDRES), Green Planet Initiative International, Development Concern (DEVCON), Ekuri Initiative, Waneledon, Conservation Association of Mbe Mountains (CAMM), African Research Association (managing Development in Nigeria) (ARADIN). 3 US Fish & Wildlife Service. 4 Arcus Foundation. 5 WCS Nigeria. 6 CAMM. 7 CUSO International. 8 Mennonite Economic Development Associates (MEDA). 9 The Institute of Public Administration of Canada (IPAC). 10 Proforest. 11 Wildlife Conservation Society. 12 Wilmar International.

PROGRESS TO JURISDICTIONAL SUSTAINABILITY

○ EARLY ◐ INTERMEDIATE ● ADVANCED

Integrated LED-R Strategy	●	SRS ready for implementation, includes short to long-term goals for improving governance, spatial planning, emission reduction, & forest maintenance
Spatial plan	○	Absence of spatial plan reconciling customary & modern land use laws, & secures rights for smallholder populations
Performance targets	◐	Statewide deforestation & emission reduction targets established through international agreements & SRS SRS target aligned with NRS & NDC emission reduction targets
Monitoring, reporting & verification (MRV)	○	National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS) Action Plan with institutional arrangements at national & state levels clearly defined & developed Interim sub-national FREL calculated as basis for national FREL, including underlying data & methods
Policies & incentives	○	Incipient policy & incentive framework (SRS & NRS), with weak alignment between them Lack of alignment between national & state policies, regulations & laws & within state agencies in the land use sector
Multi-stakeholder governance	◐	Environmental & Social Safeguards Working Group (ESSWG) involves key stakeholders (NGOs, IP, LC, private sector) in revising land use policies using consensus decision making Ongoing REDD+ Stakeholder Forum for validation & dialogue on REDD+ programs
Sustainable agriculture	○	To date, legally required Environmental & Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) only completed by one company (Wilmar, due to RSPO requirements) during plantation acquisition Committed to APOI for sustainable & transparent palm oil cultivation
Indigenous peoples & local communities	○	Increasing involvement of LC in LED-R due to REDD+ & CBR+ Reforms addressing land tenure security (incl. customary rights & migrants), LC participation in state level dialogue, & benefit sharing mechanisms needed
LED-R finance	○	Limited funding from national & state governments to support/build local capacity & provide counterpart funding in donor funded projects

CHALLENGES & OPPORTUNITIES

CHALLENGES

- Mixed support from LC & civil society organizations for LED-R, due to uncertainty regarding compensation for lost rights/access
- High levels of elite capture & other corruption undermine law enforcement & community negotiations for benefit-sharing
- Insufficient governmental LED-R funding, increasing dependence on private sector
- Weak institutions & inadequate technical capacity
- Plantation development & recent privatization associated with displacement of smallholder production systems & loss of customary access/rights

OPPORTUNITIES

- Considerable political will over successive administrations to advance LED-R
- High remaining forest cover positions CR to receive investments
- Broad involvement of CR stakeholders in the National ESSWG to revise land use policies
- Potential to grow eco-tourism industry: currently 6% of state GDP
- REDD+ readiness process has increased interest in inter-agency collaboration and policy alignment at national and sub-national levels

CITATION | D. Solano, S. Peteru, C. Stickler, O. David. 2018. "Cross River State, Nigeria" in C. Stickler et al. (Eds.), *The State of Jurisdictional Sustainability*. San Francisco, CA: EII; Bogor, Indonesia: CIFOR; Boulder, CO: GCF-TF.

COMPLETE REFERENCES & DATA SOURCES PROVIDED AT www.earthinnovation.org/state-of-jurisdictional-sustainability 2018/11/8

TECHNICAL TEAM



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based on a decision of the German Bundestag