

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT
OPPOSITE GOVERNMENT HOUSE, LOKOJA

SCOPE

The Ministry of Environment has the statutory responsibility of ensuring sustainable use of the environment through continuous management of all environmental challenges such as; pollution, flood, erosion, deforestation and general land degradation. The core objective of this administration on environmental sustainability is to reduce refuse dump and gully erosion by 15% annually, enhance climate change mitigation through regulated forest activities, improve and restore the green-cover by 10% annually.

ACTIVITIES OF THE MINISTRY

- A Formulates and implement policies on Sustainable Environment, Sanitation and good practices in the utilization of Natural Resources.
- b. Undertake appropriate measures to protect river courses against erosion, pollution and aquatic weeds.
- c. Carry out Environmental impact assessment of development projects.
- d. Work with the MDAs, Federal Government, Local Government as well as Communities on Ecological Projects.
- e. Liaise with relevant agencies to preserve and protect the ecosystem and promote eco-tourism.
- F. Establish, nurture and maintain parks and gardens.
- g. Formulate and implement policies for the effective development and management of the state natural resources including Forest, Parks, Water and wild Life Resources.
- h. Collect, collate and store data on forest resources, wildlife and forest products in the state.
- i. Undertake reforestation programme.
- j. Control illegal tree felling activities
- k. Provide incentives for private afforestation
- l. Promote good land use and soil conservation
- m. Liaise with appropriate MDAs, national and international agencies for achieving best practices in natural resources management.n. Evolve policy to ensure clean, healthy, decent and flood-free hygiene environment.

ACHIEVEMENTS

- I. Effective cleaning of public places was improved upon continuously through buy-in by Local community ownership, stakeholder's participation, religious, community and youth groups e.t.c with cost effectiveness.
- II. Public sensitization, stakeholder engagements and community participation is continuously being strengthen for sustainability
- III. Training of 100 forest guards was handled by FRIN (Forest Management) and the National Park Service (internship in existing national parks- Kainji & Old Oyo) being a first comprehensive approach to capacity building for new employees.
- IV. Recovery of 28 Forest Gazette documents: The State has recovered 27 out of 36 gazetted Forest Reserve documents from national archives and other locations with support from FRIN.
- V. Construction of Lokoja Beach Embankment (on-going)
- VI. Construction of 5 prototype Modern Public Toilets in the three Senatorial Districts of the State namely: Anyingba (ongoing), Ogugu (completed), Okene (ongoing), Lokoja (completed) and Isanlu (completed).
- VII. Distribution of National Clean Cooking Stove to mitigate carbon emission to all the 21 Local Governments in the state.
- VIII. Establishment of Task Force on Sanitation.
- IX. Evacuation of age-long heaps of waste across the State as well as desilting of the drainages.
- X. Construction of a drainage and canal at SerikiNnoma by NEWMAP to checkmate flooding of the area.
- XI. State wide assessment of ecological challenges was conducted which has provided a baseline data for addressing ecological challenges- 206 gullies confirmed.

The Ministry through Kogi NEWMAP has completed the following

Studies-

- 1) **M & E Baseline Studies;** this has been concluded for eight (8) Priority Sites, and five (5) emergency sites, and they have all been approved by the Bank for Implementation.
- 2) **GIS Studies;** this has been concluded for our Sites
- 3) **Engineering Designs;** the Engineering Designs for the entire eight (8) priority sites, as well as five (5) emergency sites have been concluded the **SEDF**. While the Engineering Designs for Adumu Road, Agassa, Ozuri, Ogane-Aji, Ankpa, Etahi, Omigbo Channelization Idah and Greater Lokoja Water Works have been cleared by the Bank, others like - Ugwolawo, , Federal University, Lokoja (FUL), Afor Gam-Gam, and Idozumi/Utovesa, are currently being reviewed by the Bank and Pool of Experts at the Federal Project Management Unit (FPMU) and the Federal Quality Control Engineering Design Firm (FQCEDF).
- 4) **R.A.P;** this is an innovation of the World Bank, which objective is the **COMPULSORY** compensation/resettlement of involuntarily affected persons by Civil Works; The Bank's standard is that people who are affected by Civil Works **MUST** be compensated before the commencement of the said Civil Works.
 - The RAP Report for Agassa, Adum Road, Ozuri and Ogane-aji have been approved by the World Bank for implementation. A total of 690 PAPs have been compensated across the three (3) intervention sites.
- 5) **ESMP;** *the ESMP Reports for all priority and emergency sites have been cleared by the World Bank.*
- 6) **L.N.A;** this is compendium of the existing living standards in communities of intervention; the Study aims at bringing to the fore the needs of the people, and suggesting possible ways of tackling teething livelihood needs. The report of the Livelihood Needs Assessment (LNA) has been approved by the World Bank for implementation in all the 8 Priority Sites in the State. The content of the report was used in the formation of the Community Interest Groups (CIGs), which are currently awaiting sub-grants. Also, the LNA for (3) emergency sites in the State - Afor Gam-Gam, Idah and Idozumi/Utovesa have been equally cleared

C.M.P; the CMP is expected to develop an implementable roadmap for the proper management of affected communities in the sub-watersheds. The CMP for the eight (8) priority sites Agassa Ankpa, Etahi, Omigbo channelization, Ogane-Aji, Ozuri, Ugwolawo and Adumu have been concluded, and the World Bank's clearance obtained.

Other Activities of the Project: -

- 7) **Focal NGO (FoNGO):** - The State FoNGO has continued with its core mandate of continuous community sensitization and resolution of grievances as they arise. They have also conducted sensitization campaigns on necessary safety measures against the COVID-19 Pandemic.
- 8) Furthermore, the FoNGO has prepared the Community Action Plans (CAPs) for the Community Interest Groups (CIGs) in all our Priority Sites. The CAPs are currently undergoing the World Bank's Review, and would be subsequently cleared for implementation.
- 9) **Strategic Communications:** - The SPMU is improving public enlightenment through social media platforms and regular interface with media houses. Linkages include utilizing NTA as well as radio sessions (*Kogi NEWMAP in Focus call-in programme*) on Radio Kogi.
- 10) **Preventive Management works: maintenance, desilting, clearing and reconstruction of drainage channels:** - As a way of supporting the Ministry of Environment in tackling the menace of flooding in some communities, the SPMU embarked on the Desilting, Rehabilitation and Construction of blocked and damaged drains in Lokoja at New Layout (SUBEB), *Sarkin-Noma*, Second 200 Housing Units Estate, Ganaja Junction, *Okene, and Alacha Road in Ogugu*. This is in addition to other drainage maintenance and waste management activities of the SPMU.
- 11) **Distribution of Giant Waste Receptacles:** - As a way of forestalling indiscriminate waste disposal, the SPMU provided communal bins for proper waste disposal in parts of the State, and Lokoja, the State Capital. So far, a total number of **14 waste receptacles** have been donated to the State Ministry of Environment, Okene Local Government, Alacha Community in Ogugu, as well as the above listed communities in Lokoja.

12. REFORESTATION: - In a bid to tackle the challenge of deforestation in the State, the SPMU embarked on a reforestation exercise of selected degraded Forest Reserves in the three (3) Senatorial Districts of the State; the exercise is expected to reclaim about **40Ha** of degraded land in the selected areas namely - **20Ha** in *Okura Forest Reserve* in the Eastern Senatorial district; **10Ha** in *Osara Forest Reserve*, in the Central Senatorial district, as well as the **10Ha** in *Oinyin Forest Reserve*, in the Western Senatorial district. **They have all been completed and handed over to the State Ministry of Environment.**

1. LIST OF ONGOING PROJECTS & STAGES OF COMPLETION: -

As earlier mentioned, Kogi NEWMAP has 8 Priority Sites and 5 Emergency Sites; Civil Works is currently ongoing at five (5) of our Sites; below is a breakdown:

- **ADUMU GULLY EROSION SITE;** We have attained **89% completion on Civil Works in this Site;**
- **AGASSA GULLY EROSION SITE;** We have also attained **90% completion on Civil Works in Agassa Gully Erosion Site**
- **OZURI GULLY EROSION SITE;** We have equally attained **100% completion on Civil Works in Ozuri Gully Erosion**
- **GREATER LOKOJA WATER WORKS:** - We have attained **95% completion on Civil Works on this Site.**
- **OGANE-AJI EROSION SITE:** - We have attained **10% completion on Civil Works on this Site.**

List of other ongoing projects:

❖ CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION

- In line with the State Government's desire to light up communities, and also provide potable water using SOLAR, as a way of reducing carbon emission, Kogi NEWMAP has provided **Solar Powered Street Light and Boreholes** to selected communities that had no light at all. It is estimated that over 485 households will benefit from this landmark project.

❖ **HYDROMET**

- In a bid to tackle the menace of Global Warming, the SPMU is in the process of installing early warning systems, which will go a long way in helping the State Government monitor flood patterns and flooding, even before they occur. A Contractor has been engaged, while installation of Hydromet and Telemetry Equipment, as well as training of relevant officers, has commenced and attained 95% of completion.

- 2. **DATE OF PROJECT EFFECTIVENESS:** - The Project became effective in the State in May 2016. However, the Project was launched on May 5, 2017 by His Excellency, the Governor of Kogi State, Alhaji Yahaya Adoza Bello. Nevertheless, the Project commenced in earnest following the release of Counterpart Funding by His Excellency, Governor Yahaya Adoza Bello in **2018**, as it paved the way for the payment of Compensation to Project Affected Persons in communities of intervention.

- 3. **EXPECTED DATE OF PROJECT CLOSURE:** - **June, 2022**

- 4. **PROJECT DURATION:** - Nine (10) Years for older (1st Tier) States, and 4 years for new (Tier 2) States; Kogi State belongs to the Tier 2 or 2nd Mover States category.

- 5. **L.G.A WHERE PROJECT IS ACTIVE:** -
 - OKENE L.G.A (AGASSA GULLY EROSION SITE)
 - OLAMABORO L.G.A (ADUM ROAD, OGUGU GULLY EROSION SITE)
 - ADAVI L.G.A (OZURI GULLY EROSION SITE)
 - LOKOJA L.G.A (GREATER LOKOA WATER WORKS GULLY EROSION SITE)
 - DEKINA LGA (OGANE-AJI EROSION SITE)

- 6. **SECTORS IMPACTED BY THE PROJECT:** - ECONOMIC SECTOR, SOCIAL, EDUCATIONAL SECTOR, HEALTH, AGRICULTURAL

SECTOR, WORKS AND HOUSING, AND ENVIRONMENTAL SECTOR.

7. **FURTHER ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE PROJECT:** -

The achievements of the SPMU are numerous, some of which have been highlighted thus far. However, below are some specific achievements:

- **SOLAR CASSAVA PROCESSING PLANT;** The SPMU recently **singlehandedly facilitated** the establishment of a Solar Powered Cassava Processing Plant (*under the FPMU*) to Kogi State. Worthy of mention is that the facility is a Grant from the Federal Government of Nigeria. This project, which has reached an advanced stage, will benefit an estimated 40 cassava processing business owners in the area.

- **SOLAR MINI GRID FOR RURAL ELECTRIFICATION;** the SPMU equally **singlehandedly facilitated** The Federal Project Management Unit's (FPMU) decision to situate its **Solar Mini Grid For Rural Electrification** Project in Kogi State; this is in its quest to promote low carbon emission, as well as climate resilience. *It may interest you to know that it has been predicted that this Community may not have had access to power supply in the next 10 years;* however, today, they are proud beneficiaries of the **Solar Mini Grid for Rural Electrification** by the FPMU. It is estimated that a minimum of 100 households are beneficiaries of this laudable project, which is waiting to be commissioned.

- **LIVES AND INFRASTRUCTURE SAVED:** - Before NEWMAP intervention, several families were in danger due to the fact that their houses were situated around the gullies; this is in addition to other critical mega infrastructure, such as the GLWW, which were threatened. However, ***due to Gully Rapid Action and Slope Stabilization, 546 lives have been saved and they are people who lived in close proximity to the gullies. Number of infrastructure saved from collapse is 123 which comprise of residential buildings and other public facilities due to channelization works ongoing in 2 sites (Adum Road and Agassa). In addition, a total***

of 474 jobs were created across all the three (3) sites of intervention where Civil Works is currently ongoing.

- **PROVISION OF POTABLE WATER SUPPLY TO FORESTRY COMMUNITIES:** - the SPMU has positively impacted the communities where Forest Reserves are being resuscitated through the provision of Solar Powered Boreholes for the watering of the plants, as well as providing potable drinking water for the people. This has gone a long way in preventing the outbreak of waterborne diseases in the benefitting communities.
- In The first ever Nigeria Portfolio Performance Award organized by the World Bank and the Federal Ministry of Finance, Kogi State was rated **FIRST** among all World Bank supported projects in the North-Central States
- Additionally, in a recent peer review which was conducted, Kogi NEWMAP emerged **4th overall** in the ranking by the Bank. What this implies is that we are ahead of three 1st mover states, which have been there for a couple of years before our participation in the Project, and we equally emerged **overall 1st** among the 2nd mover States.
- Training of Community Associations around Forest Reserves on Establishment and Management of Nurseries, and the provision of seedlings and working tools, such as wheel-barrow, shovel, rake, watering cans, and sieving basket.
- Distribution of waste bins to Primary and Secondary Schools in selected communities, such as Ankpa, Ozuri, Okene, Kabba, etc.

Hon. Omofaiye Victor Adewale
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