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Sub-National Budgeting for Climate Action and Green Accountability in Nigeria



About BudgIT

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Country Director: Gabriel Okeowo

Research Team: Enebi Opaluwa, Alice Adedayo Arogbonlo, Kofoworola Awotoye

Data Visualisation / Creative Development: Michael Pabiekun

Editor: Nancy Odimegwu

Contact: info@budgit.org +234-803-727-6668, +234-908- 333-1633 **Address:** 55, Moleye Street, Sabo, Yaba, Lagos, Nigeria.

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- Sustaining increased incomes for the poorest.
- Transforming attitudes about women's roles and rights.
- Increasing active citizenship and the accountability and transparency of the public and private sector.

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Executive Summary



This report analyses climate budgeting practices and green accountability in Nigeria's sub-nationals: Akwa Ibom, Rivers, and Delta. It highlights the current state of climate finance, identifies challenges, and proposes actionable recommendations for improving climate resilience and accountability at the local level.

Although Delta, Rivers, and Akwa Ibom have progressive climate policies, inconsistent funding and enforcement limit their impact. Aligning budgets with long-term goals and reducing oil dependency are critical for resilience.

Key findings from the report indicate that Nigeria faces a significant climate finance gap, receiving only 4% of the estimated \$17.7 billion needed annually to address climate-related disasters.¹ This shortfall is exacerbated by a heavy reliance on loans, which accounted for 75% of the total climate finance received between 2015 and 2021, contributing to the country's rising debt burden.² The report emphasises that sub-nationals are disproportionately affected by inadequate climate financing, underscoring the need for effective tracking and mapping of climate budgets to ensure that funds reach those most in need.³

Furthermore, the report calls for immediate reforms in Nigeria's climate finance strategy, advocating for increased grants for climate action, establishing a Climate Finance Hub, and empowering local governments to access and manage climate funds⁴ independently. These recommendations aim to foster greater transparency and community involvement in climate resilience initiatives.

1.https://nigeria.oxfam.org/latest/press-release/climate-crisis-meets-debt-crisis-nigeria-faces-unmanageable-burden-climate#:--%20Nigeria's%20climate,Country%20Director%20%20Xdam%20lin%20Nigeria. 2.https://novation-entrepreneurship.springeropen.com/arti-cles/10.1186/s13731-024-00416-1#:--txat=The%20climate%20crisis%20has%20increasingly,2020;%20Freshil%2C%202020) :text=New%20report%20uncovers



https://www.iied.org/climate-finance-not-reaching-local-level
 Federal Government of Nigeria. (2021). Climate Change Act. https://climatechange.gov.ng

1.0 Introduction

1.1 Climate Budgeting

Climate budgeting refers to the systematic allocation of financial resources to address climate change and its impacts. This process involves integrating climate considerations into public financial management, ensuring that budgets reflect the priorities and needs for climate action. It encompasses tracking expenditures related to climate initiatives, assessing their effectiveness, and promoting transparency and accountability in how funds are utilised⁵.

Importance of Climate Budgeting and Green Accountability

Climate budgeting and green accountability are vital for ensuring that financial resources are used effectively to address climate challenges, promote sustainable development, and engage communities in meaningful ways for climate action.

Climate budgeting and green accountability are crucial for several reasons:

 Effective climate budgeting ensures financial resources are allocated to priority areas that address climate change impacts. This is essential for implementing strategies that enhance resilience, reduce vulnerability, and promote sustainable development.

- Green accountability fosters transparency in how climate funds are used. It helps stakeholders, including local communities, understand where resources are directed, ensuring that funds are not misappropriated and are used effectively to combat climate issues.
- Focusing on climate budgeting can help governments better prepare for and respond to climate-related disasters. This proactive approach supports the development of infrastructure and services that protect communities from the adverse effects of climate change.
- Involving local communities in the budgeting process enhances their participation in climate action. When empowered to influence budget decisions, communities can advocate for their specific needs and ensure that initiatives are tailored to local contexts.
- Transparent and accountable climate budgeting attracts domestic and international investments. Investors are more likely to support projects demonstrating a clear commitment to sustainable practices and effective fund management.

5. See OECD Green Budgeting. https://www.oecd.org/en/topics/sub-issues/green-budgeting.html



- Climate budgeting aligns national and local efforts with international climate agreements. By demonstrating accountability in climate finance, countries can fulfill their commitments and potentially access additional funding from global climate funds.
- Establishing clear metrics for climate spending allows for better monitoring and evaluation of outcomes. This helps identify successful initiatives and areas needing improvement. leading to more effective climate strategies over time.

Overview of Nigeria's Climate Challenges

Nigeria faces severe climate challenges threatening its environmental sustainability. economic stability, and social well-being. One of the most pressing issues is the projected rise in average temperatures, which is expected to increase by 1.1°C to 2.5°C by 2060, particularly impacting the northern regions and affecting agriculture. This sector employs about 36% of the labor force.⁶ This temperature rise is closely linked to erratic rainfall patterns, which have become increasingly unpredictable; projections indicate a decrease of 3.5 mm per month per decade, leading to crop failures and

adversely affecting the livelihoods of millions.7

Furthermore, flooding has become more frequent and severe, exemplified by the catastrophic 2012 floods that affected over 7 million people and caused approximately \$17.3 billion in damages, equivalent to 1.4% of the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP).⁸ Adding to these challenges is the issue of desertification, particularly in northern Nigeria, where about 35% of the land is at risk, resulting in the loss of about 350,000 hectares of arable land annually.⁹ These environmental impacts have exacerbated food insecurity, with an estimated 19 million Nigerians facing acute food shortages as of 2021.¹⁰

Vulnerable communities are disproportionately affected, with climate-induced displacement affecting approximately 2.5 million people at the end of 2020.11 Compounding these challenges, efforts to address climate impacts are hindered by inadequate climate finance. Nigeria received about \$704 million in 2019, far below the estimated \$17.7 billion needed annually.¹² Consequently, urgent and coordinated responses-including enhanced climate budgeting and increased international support-are essential to mitigate these impacts and safeguard Nigeria's future.

6. See Haider, H. (2019). Climate change in Nigeria: Impacts and responses. K4D Helpdesk Report 675. Brighton, UK: Institute of Development Studies.

- 7. https://www.epa.gov/climate-indicators/weather-climate#:~:tex-t=Rising%20global%20average%20temperature%20is,with%20human%2Dinduced%20climate%20change.
- Federal Government of Nigeria. "Nigeria Post-Disaster Needs Assessment–2012 Floods." (2013).
 https://www.researchgate.net/publication/354423993_Desertification_in_Northern_Nigeria_Causes_and_Consequences
- 10. Dauda, Risikat. "Climate change and food security in Nigeria." Economic and Policy Review 21.2 (2023): 17-23.
- 11. https://www.internal-displacement.org/policy-brief/loss-and-damage-governance-must-account-for-displacement/ 12. https://nigeria.oxfam.org/latest/press-release/climate-cri-

sis-meets-debt-crisis-nigeria-faces-unmanageable-burden-climate#:~:text=New%20report%20uncovers%20Nigeria's%20climate,climate%20solutions%20on%20the%20ground.%E2%80%9D

1.2 Significance of Focusing on Akwa Ibom, Rivers, and Delta States

Delta, Rivers, and Akwa-Ibom states are critical to Nigeria's economy, contributing 65% of oil production. However, these states face severe climate risks. Their heavy reliance on volatile oil revenues (via FAAC allocations) undermines economic resilience, with 70% to 92% of state revenues tied to oil.

Oil exploration dependence exacerbates climate vulnerabilities in host communities, impacting the local climate. By decoupling the states' total and climate budgets from excessive reliance on FAAC and adopting green financing, these states can build resilience while sustaining their economic role.

This report analyses fiscal dependencies, recent climate disasters, and actionable strategies to decouple climate budgets from oil volatility.¹³



Furthermore, flooding has become more frequent and severe, exemplified by the catastrophic 2012 floods that affected over 7 million people and caused approximately \$17.3 billion in damages, equivalent to 1.4% of the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP). Adding to these challenges is the issue of desertification, particularly in northern Nigeria, where about 35% of the land is at risk, resulting in the loss of about 350,000 hectares of arable land annually. These environmental impacts have exacerbated food insecurity, with an estimated 19 million Nigerians facing acute food shortages as of 2021.

13. BudgIT (2024): State of States Report



1.3 Methodology

The capital budgets of Rivers, Delta, and Akwa-Ibom States were extracted and analysed to determine what projects qualified as climate action. Based on project descriptions, projects identified as climate-related were categorised into mitigation, adaptation, education, research, and other climate projects. Analysis reveals the level of financial commitment the states give to climate actions while examining their fiscal sustainability.

This report emphasises the need for subnationals, particularly oil-producing states, to allocate funds to climate actions, considering that oil revenues may be threatened due to the energy transition.



2.0 Context and Background

2.1 Overview of the Economic and Environmental Landscape of Akwa Ibom, Rivers, and Delta States

Akwa Ibom

- Economic Landscape: Akwa Ibom is one of Nigeria's oil-rich states, contributing significantly to the national economy. Its economy relies heavily on oil and gas, but agriculture and fisheries also play vital roles, especially for local communities.
- Environmental Challenges: The state faces challenges such as oil spills, coastal erosion, and flooding, which threathens its natural resources and the livelihoods of local communities.

Rivers

- Economic Landscape: Rivers State is a major oil and gas industry hub, hosting numerous multinational corporations. This economic activity drives significant revenue but also puts pressure on the environment.
- Environmental Challenges: The state suffers from severe pollution due to oil exploration and production, flooding, and erosion, which impact local agriculture and fisheries.

Delta

- Economic Landscape: Delta State is another key oil-producing area, with a diverse economy that includes agriculture, trade, and manufacturing. However, the dependence on oil has led to economic vulnerabilities.
- Environmental Challenges: Delta State faces similar ecological issues, including the degradation of wetlands, oil spills, and rising sea levels, which threaten both the ecosystem and the livelihoods of its inhabitants.

These states illustrate the complex interplay between economic development and environmental sustainability, underscoring the need for effective climate budgeting to address the urgent challenges of climate change.







2.2 Fiscal Context: FAAC Dependence & Oil Revenue Risks

State	FAAC Contribution to Revenue (NGN' bn)	Share of FAAC Contribution to Revenue %	IGR Contribution to Revenue (NGN' bn)	Share of IGR Contribution to Revenue %
Delta	580.60	85.31%	99.98	14.69%
Rivers	339.53	62.52%	203.56	37.48%
Akwa-Ibom	417.20	90.58%	43.38	9.42%

FAAC Allocation Dependency (2023)

Data from BudgIT's 2024 State of States Report¹⁴



tied to oil sector performance.

The three states' internally generated revenue is insufficient to cover capital expenditures. This implies that without FAAC allocations, capital budget performance, including climate projects, remains vulnerable to fiscal risks and oil sector performance.

14. BudgIT (2024): State of States Report.



2.3 Climate Change Impact in Nigeria

Nigeria is one of the countries most affected by climate change, experiencing a range of adverse impacts. Key effects include:

- Increased Temperatures: Average temperatures in Nigeria have been rising steadily, leading to heat waves that affect agriculture, water supply, and public health.
- Erratic Rainfall Patterns: Changes in rainfall distribution have resulted in prolonged droughts in some regions and severe flooding in others,

disrupting farming activities and displacing communities.

- **Food Insecurity:** The agricultural sector, which employs a significant portion of the population, is heavily impacted by climate variability, leading to decreased crop yields and heightened food insecurity.
 - Ecosystem Degradation: Climate change exacerbates deforestation, desertification, and biodiversity loss, critical for maintaining ecological balance and supporting livelihoods.



2.4 Climate-Related Disasters: Subnational Case Studies

Delta State

2022 Floods:

- Impact: Submerged 300 communities, displaced 500,000 people, destroyed N50 billion in crops.¹⁵
- Response: Only N3.2 billion allocated to flood control in 2023-37% less than needed.¹⁶

Gas Flaring:

Delta contributes 40% of Nigeria's gas flaring, emitting 15 million tons of CO₂/year and causing acid rain that degrades farmland.¹⁷

Rivers State

Mangrove Loss:

30% decline since 2000, reducing carbon sinks and exposing Port Harcourt to storm surges.¹⁸

Akwa-Ibom State

2023 Coastal Erosion (Ibeno LGA):

- Impact: 500 homes lost to sea encroachment, displacing 3,000 residents.
- Economic loss: N7 billion¹⁹.
- Response: N1.2 billion allocated for erosion control, 60% short of estimated needs.

- 15. Delta State Post-Disaster Needs Assessment, 2023
- 16. Delta State Post-Disaster Report
- 17. https://www.researchgate.net/publication/352689840_IMPACT_OF_-GAS_FLARING_ON_CLIMATE_CHANGE_A_CASE_STUDY_OF_NIGER_DELTA_REGION_OF_NIGERIA
- https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2352485523003444
 Akwa-Ibom Erosion Report, 2023









3.0 Current Climate Budgeting Practices



Current Climate Budgeting Practices



Trend: Akwa-Ibom allocates more funds to climate projects than Rivers and Delta States, reflecting a stronger prioritisation of climate resilience.



Allocation by Category

3.1 Examination of Existing Climate Budgeting Frameworks in the Three States

In Akwa Ibom, Rivers, and Delta States, climate budgeting practices are still evolving, with varying degrees of integration into public financial management. Each state has developed policies to address climate change, but the effectiveness of these frameworks in guiding budget allocations varies. Key policy frameworks include:

Delta State

Delta State Climate Action Plan (2022)²⁰

- Enacted: 2022 (2 years in operation).
- Objectives: Flood control, afforestation, and renewable energy adoption.
- Gaps: No dedicated funding for renewable energy projects despite policy goals.

Rivers State

Rivers State Mangrove Restoration Policy (2021)

- Enacted: 2021 (3 years in operation).
- Objective: Restore 5,000 hectares of mangroves by 2025.
- Success: 3,200 hectares restored since 2021.²¹

Akwa Ibom State

Akwa Ibom Climate Change Act (2020)

- Enacted: 2020 (4 years in operation).
- Objective: Mainstream climate action into sectoral budgets.

Renewable Energy Framework (2023)

- Enacted: 2023 (1 year in operation).
- Objective: Achieve 20% renewable energy by 2030.
- Progress: Solar mini-grid projects are funded at N2.1B, but rural electrification remains at 35%.²²

20. /https://ng.boell.org/sites/default/files/2022-09/delta-state-renewable-energy-policy-roadmap-2023-2028.pdf 21. https://www.researchgate.net/publication/373419991_Towards_a_framework_for_mangrove_restoration_and_conservation_in_Nigeria/citation/download 22. https://budgit.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/Climate-Analysis-.pdf







Summary of Policies Legal Framework

State	Policy	Years Active	Strengths	Weaknesses
Delta	Climate Action Plan (2022)	2	Focused flood management	Neglects renewable energy
Rivers	Mangrove Policy (2021)	3	Exceeds mangrove target	No oil spill clean up funds.
Akwa-Ibom	Climate Change Act (2020)	4	Integrated sectoral targeting	Underfunds coastal erosion



According to a December 2024 Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) and National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) flood situation report on Rivers state, 39 locations in Rivers State were impacted by floods or received internally displaced persons (IDPs) due to the flooding. These included 628,424 individuals in 104,839 households.

3.2 Challenges in Policy Implementation

FAAC Dependency

Delta: The state is 85.31% FAAC reliant, hence excessive exposure to external risks and limited fiscal flexibility to fund climate projects from Internally Generated Revenue (IGR).

Akwa Ibom: 90.58% FAAC ties leave capital budgets vulnerable to oil price volatility, including allocations to climate action.

Weak Enforcement

For instance, Rivers' pollution laws lack penalties for non-compliance.

Stakeholder Engagement

Broader community involvement in budgeting is important to foster transparency and accountability.

3.3 Analysis of Funding Sources

Funding for climate-related activities in these states primarily comes from:

State Budgets

A portion of state budgets is allocated to climate-related initiatives, but these allocations are often insufficient and inconsistent across years.

Donor Funding

External funding from international and non-governmental

organisations supports climate initiatives. However, reliance on donor funding can lead to long-term planning and sustainability uncertainties.

Climate Finance Mechanisms

Access to global climate funds (e.g., the Green Climate Fund) is limited, and states often cannot develop compelling funding proposals.

3.4 Review of Budget Allocations Related to Climate Actions



Total Climate Budget



Climate action accounted for 0.1% of the total allocation to capital expenditure in 2024. This is suggestively insufficient, given the challenges experienced in the state, including the loss of mangroves and environmental pollution, among others. Increased precipitation, coupled with poor infrastructure, worsens the impacts of flood incidents in the state. In 2024, over 200 families were displaced due to flooding.²³

Climate Budget Allocation Trends

Total Approved Budget (2024):

N431.86 billion (capital expenditure), with climate-specific allocations fragmented across sectors.

Climate Change General:

- 2023: N4 million (original and revised budgets), 0% execution (Jan–June 2023).
- 2024: Proposed and approved budgets increased to N26 million, reflecting a 550% nominal increase but still minimal relative to total capital expenditure (<0.01%).

Mitigation Projects:

 Solar energy projects dominate, e.g., N100 million for solar street lights (unchanged in 2023–2024, suggestive of poor budget performance) and N40 million for hybrid solar systems (new in 2024).

 Tree planting: Only N2 million allocated annually (2023–2024). Rivers state has suffered significantly from air pollution due to oil exploration activities. Challenges include soot, gas flaring, and CO2 emission. Consequently, interventions such as tree planting, which can mitigate the effects of oil extraction, may deserve increased attention and funding.

Climate Education/Research:

The state's budget analysis suggests that climate education and awareness/research urgently need increased attention. While no program targeted at climate awareness could be found, the capital budget includes a project suggestive of research (Solar, Wind, and Tide Studies) estimated at 5,000,000 Naira.

Adaptation & Research Underfunded

Adaptation: Erosion control was budgeted at 3,848,756 and 4,000,000 (new), which is likely insufficient to address the flood challenges in the state. According to a December 2024 Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) and

23. https://punchng.com/flood-displaces-200-families-in-rivers-community/



National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) flood situation report on Rivers state,²⁴ 39 locations in Rivers State were impacted by floods or received internally displaced persons (IDPs) due to the flooding. These included 628,424 individuals in 104,839 households. The state has requested assistance from the Federal Government to tackle its flood problem.²⁵ Notwithstanding, given the severity of the challenge, the state should be able to allocate more funds to address its flooding and erosion problems.

Accountability Issues

Poor tracking: There is no performance data for 2023 (e.g., the 2023 Performance January to June column is empty for most climate items). This implies that climate action receives delayed funding, further hindering the successful implementation of the few climate projects in the budget.

Systemic Accountability Gaps

Poor Tracking Mechanisms:

The 2023 Performance for the first two quarters in the year column shows no data for most climate line items, implying that funds were not disbursed for climate action or reporting was poor. Lack of Participatory Monitoring: The Distribution of capital projects is overwhelmingly skewed in favour of urban areas, leaving out rural communities, many of which are impacted by

climate disasters (e.g., flood-affected Ogoni regions). The UNDP's (2023) guidelines for inclusive climate governance encourage the adequate inclusion of affected communities in the governance process to address climate-related needs.

Structural Inequities in Climate Spending.

Urban Focus: 95.7% of mitigation funds (e.g., Port Harcourt Metro solar lights) target urban areas, neglecting rural communities where 60% of the population faces annual flooding.

As Nigeria's second-largest oil producer, a greater proportion of Rivers state's capital budget goes to infrastructure development (e.g., road projects) over climate projects. While infrastructure is necessary, it is equally important for Rivers to prioritise financing climate projects and integrate climate-relevant requirements in infrastructure development to combat the effects of climate change.

24, https://dtm.iom.int/es/node/46296 25. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kjSMisIC_OQ



3.4.2 Key Insights from Delta State's Climate Budget



Total Expenditure

Total Climate Budget





Climate Budget Allocation: Mitigation Dominance

Solar Energy:

Over N3.5 billion allocated to solar streetlights and hybrid systems in 2024 (e.g., N116 million for solar lights at Delta State Teaching Hospital). While critical for energy access, these projects lack clear links to emission reduction targets or energy poverty metrics.

Adaptation Underfunded:

Agriculture Support: Only N460 million (0.1% of the total capital expenditure) was allocated to climate-resilient farming (seed yams, irrigation). This aligns with Nigeria's National Adaptation Plan (2020) but remains insufficient given Delta's vulnerability to flooding (ranked second in Niger Delta by NEMA in 2023).

Zero Allocation for Education & Research:

No funds for climate literacy programs or localised research (e.g., flood modeling), undermining long-term resilience.

Systemic Execution and Accountability Issues

Poor Budget Performance:

- 2023 Execution Gaps: Most climate projects (e.g., N20 million for the "Climate Change Strategic Action Plan") show no disbursement (January–June 2023). This implies delayed funding or a reporting gap that should be corrected.
- Inconsistent Allocations: The "Ogbe-Isongban Solar Water Project" surged from 10 million (2023) to N270 million (2024) without justification.

Structural Inequities and Missed Opportunities

Solar Water Schemes: The 2024 budget incorporates projects addressing access to clean water. One example is the N5 million solar-powered water project in rural Ethiope West LGA. Given the need for increased access to clean water in the state, which the state government has publicly acknowledged,²⁶ more allocation should be given to such projects. The existing efforts by the state government to expand access to clean water are rightly placed. Solar-powered water projects would provide access to clean water and help the state reduce emissions by deploying renewable energy solutions.

Strategic Recommendations for Delta State

Allocate Funds to Adaptation:

Explore collaborations with agencies like the Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC) to fund climate adaptation and mitigation projects such as flood barriers, mangrove restoration, and early-warning systems in vulnerable LGAs (e.g., Bomadi, Burutu).

Adopt Climate Budget Tagging:

Use Climate Finance Code (NCCC, 2023) to classify projects as adaptation, mitigation, or cross-cutting. Example:

- Adaptation: Erosion/Flood Control
- Mitigation: Solar streetlights linked to emission audits.

Rural Climate Fund: Prioritise funding climate projects for flood-prone LGAs, enforced through the Delta State House of Assembly.

While solar investments are commendable, the neglect of adaptation, rural equity, and accountability risks exacerbating climate-induced poverty. Closing the gap requires reallocating oil revenues, promoting participatory budgeting, and adopting global best practices in climate finance and green budgeting.

Insights into Akwa Ibom State's Climate Budget

Akwa Ibom, a coastal state in Nigeria's Niger Delta, faces severe climate risks, including coastal erosion, flooding, and oil pollution. As a major oil producer, its economy is tied to fossil fuels, yet climate change disproportionately affects its communities. This examines the state's 2024 climate budget to determine if spending aligns with its vulnerabilities and sustainable development goals.

Analytical Framework

- Mitigation: Projects reducing emissions (e.g., renewables, afforestation).
- Adaptation: Projects addressing climate impacts (e.g., seawalls, flood barriers).
- Education/Research: Awareness programs and studies informing policy.

26. https://newmedia.deltastate.gov.ng/2025/03/03/oborevwori-transforming-lives-through-potable-water-supply-in-delta/

3.4.3 Key Insights from Akwa-Ibom State's Climate Budget



Dominance of Reactive Adaptation

- 60.1% of funds target short-term adaptation, reflecting urgent threats but neglecting long-term mitigation.
- Example: Mangrove restoration (N0.5 billion) is categorised as adaptation but also serves mitigation (carbon sequestration).

Underfunded Mitigation

Mitigation projects are 29.7% of the total climate budget.

Neglect of Education/Research

- Climate literacy programs exclude high-risk groups (farmers, fishers).
- The lack of long-term climate modeling undermines evidence-based policymaking.

Recommendations for Akwa-Ibom

Improve allocation to other aspects of climate action

- Boost funding for education, research, and training.
- Increase mitigation funding by

scaling solar energy and implementing sustainable solutions that remove CO2 emissions from the atmosphere, for example, protecting forest and water resources and planting trees.

Improve Transparency

- Improve clarity of descriptions of projects in the budget to promote monitoring and accountability.
- Publish location-specific metrics to promote tracking, monitoring and transparency.

"

Akwa Ibom's climate budget prioritises immediate threats over long-term solutions. Strategic rebalancing, transparent reporting, and integrated project design are essential to align spending with sustainable development goals.



3.5 Climate Budgeting Challenges

Although Delta, Rivers, and Akwa Ibom have progressive climate policies, inconsistent funding and enforcement limit impact. Aligning budgets with long-term goals and reducing oil dependency are critical for resilience. Challenges include:

Lack of Transparency and Accountability

Poor tracking mechanisms and ambiguous project classifications enable "greenwashing."²⁷ For example, Rivers State labeled N16 million for an archaeology training program as "climate spending," despite lacking climate relevance.

Climate Funds Disproportionately Benefit Urban Areas

In Delta State, N700 million was allocated for solar lights in Asaba,

while rural Bomadi ravaged by annual floods²⁸ was allocated N58 million. This bias leaves vulnerable populations exposed to worsening disasters. With this in mind, it calls for an urgent need to end the energy inequality gap.

Chronic Underfunding

Most governments face a severe climate finance gap. For instance, Nigeria receives only 4% of the estimated \$17.7 billion needed annually to address climate impacts.

\$17.7 billion For instance, Nigeria receives only 4% of the estimated \$17.7 billion needed annually to address climate impacts.

Green Washing is a practice where sustainability-related statements, declarations, actions, or communications do not clearly and fairly reflect the underlying sustainability profile of an entity. Simply put-misleading sustainability statements.
 https://www.nigeriacatholicnetwork.com/flood-and-its-devastating-effects-on-people-of-bomadi-diocese/



4.0 Green Accountability



4.1 Definition and Importance of Green Accountability

Green accountability refers to the processes and practices that ensure transparency, responsibility, and responsiveness in managing environmental resources and climate finance. It involves holding governments and institutions accountable for their commitments to climate action and sustainable development.²⁹ The importance of green accountability includes:

Transparency: Ensures that budget allocations and expenditures related to climate actions are open to scrutiny, fostering trust among stakeholders. **Responsiveness:** Enables

governments to respond effectively to the needs of communities impacted by climate change, ensuring that resources are directed where they are most needed.

Performance Assessment:

Facilitates the evaluation of the effectiveness of climate initiatives, allowing for adjustments and improvements based on evidence and feedback.



29. https://budgit.org/post_publications/effective-and-efficient-climate-budgeting-for-green-accountability/



4.2 Evaluation of Current Accountability Mechanisms in Each State

4.2.1 Akwa Ibom

Existing Mechanisms: The state has established an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to oversee environmental policies. However, mechanisms for public engagement and feedback on climate budgeting are limited.

Challenges: Insufficient data collection and reporting practices hinder effective monitoring of climate finance utilisation.

4.2.2 Rivers

Existing Mechanisms: Rivers State has implemented some accountability measures through public hearings and stakeholder meetings, allowing for community input on environmental projects.

Challenges: Despite these efforts, there is often a disconnect between community needs and government responses, limiting the effectiveness of accountability measures.

4.2.3 Delta

Existing Mechanisms: Delta State has introduced frameworks for environmental governance and public participation, such as the Delta State Climate Change Policy (Draft). However, the enforcement of these mechanisms is inconsistent.

Challenges: Corruption and lack of political will can undermine accountability efforts, leading to the mismanagement of climate funds.









4.3 Insights Across Niger Delta States

Indicator	Rivers State	Delta State	Akwa Ibom State
Mitigation Focus	Solar streetlights (N140m)	Solar streetlights (N3.5bn)	Mixed (Solar Street lights, tree planting and solar boreholes) N9.08bn
Adaptation Allocation	N7.85m	N525.7m	N18.3bn

4.4 Case Studies or Examples of Successful Practices

Community Monitoring Initiatives

In some areas, local communities have taken the initiative to monitor environmental projects and report inconsistencies in fund utilisation. For example, community-based organisations in Rivers State have successfully documented instances of oil spills and demanded action from local authorities.³⁰

Public Expenditure Tracking Surveys (PETS)

In Delta State, NGOs have partnered with the government to conduct public expenditure tracking surveys focused on climate-related expenditures. These surveys help track how much is allocated to climate initiatives and assess whether funds are being used effectively.

Participatory Budgeting

Akwa Ibom State has experimented with participatory budgeting processes involving citizens in climate-related expenditure decision-making. This approach has increased community engagement and improved resource allocation.

30. UNEP. (2011). Environmental Assessment of Ogoniland. United Nations Environment Programme.





5.0 Challenges and Barriers

5.1 Identification of Key Challenges in Climate Budgeting and Accountability

Insufficient Funding

Many states, including Akwa Ibom, Rivers, and Delta, face significant budget constraints, limiting the resources available for climate initiatives.

Lack of Integrated Frameworks

Climate budgeting often operates in silos, with limited integration across different sectors, hindering a holistic approach to climate action.

Limited Data Availability

Inadequate data collection and analysis make it difficult to assess the effectiveness of climate spending and monitor environmental impacts.

Weak Institutional Capacity

Many government agencies lack the skills, training, and resources to manage climate budgets and effectively ensure accountability.

5.2 Barriers to Effective Implementation and Oversights

Fragmented Stakeholder Engagement

Inconsistent Policy Enforcement

Limited involvement of local communities and stakeholders in the budgeting process reduces accountability and responsiveness to the needs of affected populations.

Existing environmental regulations and accountability frameworks may not be consistently enforced, leading to gaps in implementation.

6.0 Opportunities for Improvement



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While climate budgeting faces significant challenges, these obstacles also present opportunities for transformative reforms. Subnational governments like Akwa Ibom, Rivers, and Delta can bridge gaps and build resilience by leveraging existing frameworks, innovative financing, and community-driven approaches.

6.1 Recommendations for Enhancing Climate Budgeting Processes

Increase Budget Allocations

Governments in Akwa Ibom, Rivers, and Delta should prioritise climate-related expenditures within their budgets, ensuring adequate funding for climate initiatives.

Integrate Climate Considerations

Develop comprehensive frameworks integrating climate considerations into all sectors, including agriculture, infrastructure, and health, promoting a holistic approach to climate action.

Strengthen Data Collection

Establish robust data collection and reporting systems to monitor climate spending and impacts. This should include regular assessments and public reporting to enhance transparency.

Capacity Building

Invest in training programs for government officials and relevant stakeholders to improve knowledge and skills related to climate budgeting and accountability.

Adopt Climate Budget Tagging

Use the **Climate Finance Code**³¹ to classify expenditures as adaptation, mitigation, or cross-cutting. For example:

- Adaptation: Allocate funds to mangrove restoration, flood-control and other adaptation projects.
- **Mitigation:** Link solar projects to measurable outcomes (e.g., kWh generated, households connected).
- Create a Climate Budget Dashboard: Publish real-time expenditure data online, modeled after Lagos State's EKO Climate platform, to enhance transparency.
- Prioritise Adaptation and Equity

Launch a Niger Delta Adaptation Fund

Partner with the Niger Delta

Development Commission (NDDC) to pool resources for flood barriers, erosion control, and community-led early-warning systems.

Target Rural Vulnerabilities

Redirect mitigation funds to solar mini-grids in unserved and underserved communities (e.g., Abonnema, Degema), leveraging the World Bank's \$750 million Distributed Access through Renewable Energy Scale-up (DARES) program.

Leverage Oil Revenues for Climate Action

Allocate a significant percentage of Rivers State's monthly oil derivation revenues to a Climate Resilience Trust Fund.

Boost Education/Research

All states should allocate a share of climate budgets to training and innovation in accordance with international best practices. The EU, for example, allocates 5% to 7% to climate education.

Harmonise Data Reporting

Standardise project categorisation for more explicit interstate comparisons.

31. Climate finance code refers to a system or methodology for identifying, classifying, and tracking public expenditures that are relevant to climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts, often through "budget tagging" or similar approaches.



6.2 Strategies for Strengthening Green Accountability Mechanisms

Enhance Transparency

Implement clear guidelines for public access to information about climate budgets, expenditures, and project outcomes. Use digital platforms to disseminate this information widely.

Community Engagement

Foster active participation from local communities in the budgeting process through public consultations, participatory budgeting, and feedback mechanisms, ensuring their voices are heard.

Strengthen Oversight Bodies

Empower independent oversight bodies to monitor climate spending and hold government entities accountable for their commitments. This can include regular audits and evaluations of climate projects.

Promote Whistleblower Protections

Establish protections for whistleblowers who expose mismanagement or corruption in climate financing, encouraging accountability and transparency.

6.3 Potential Partnerships and Collaborations for Effective Implementation

NGO Collaborations

Partner with NGOs and civil society organisations to leverage their expertise in community engagement, monitoring, and advocacy for climate accountability.

Academic Institutions

Collaborate with universities and research institutions to conduct studies on climate impacts, budgeting effectiveness, and accountability mechanisms, using evidence-based approaches to inform policy.

International Organisations

Engage with international climate funds and organisations (e.g., the Green Climate Fund) to access technical assistance and funding for climate initiatives, enhancing the capacity for effective implementation.

Private Sector Engagement

Foster partnerships with the private sector to promote investment in sustainable practices and technologies that align with climate objectives, creating shared value for businesses and communities.

6.4 Summary of Key Points

Climate Challenges

Akwa Ibom, Rivers, and Delta States face significant climate challenges threatening economic stability and environmental sustainability.

Current Practices

Existing climate budgeting frameworks are still being developed, and inadequate funding, limited data, and fragmented stakeholder engagement hinder effective implementation.

Green Accountability

Enhancing green accountability mechanisms to ensure transparency

and responsiveness in climate finance management is urgently needed.

Challenges and Barriers

Key obstacles, including insufficient funding, political will, corruption, and weak institutional capacity, undermine climate action efforts.

Opportunities for Improvement

Recommendations include increasing budget allocations, integrating climate considerations across sectors, strengthening data collection, and fostering community engagement.

6.5 Call to Action for Stakeholders.

To effectively address climate change impacts in Nigeria, all stakeholders must take decisive action:

State Governments

Enhance climate budgeting and commit to transparent, accountable financial management that engages communities in decision-making.

NGOs and Civil Society

Collaborate with local communities to advocate for climate

accountability and ensure that marginalised voices are included in budgeting discussions.

International Organisations

Provide technical assistance and funding to support capacity building and the development of robust climate frameworks.

Private Sector

Invest in sustainable practices and technologies that contribute to climate resilience, creating partnerships that benefit both businesses and communities.

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Greenwashing is a practice where sustainability-related statements, declarations, actions, or communications do not clearly and fairly reflect the underlying sustainability profile of an entity. Simply put- misleading sustainability statements

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