



Wilton Park

Provisional programme

## **Reimagining nature-based solutions in Nigeria: working together on successful nature-based solutions in the lead up to COP26**

Thursday 18 February 2021 | WP1885V1

1100-1400 Nigeria time (1000-1300 UK time) (180 minutes)

**To be held virtually**

This dialogue will bring people together from across Nigeria to discuss the relevance of nature-based solutions for building resilience to climate change, debate the major challenges around the implementation, governance and financing of nature-based solutions and how to overcome them, and examine how various stakeholders can work together for successful, sustainable nature-based solutions in Nigeria.

This dialogue is part of a series. It will be interactive with keynote speakers at the start of each day, to reflect on the role of nature-based solutions for climate adaptation and resilience in the lead up to COP26 and beyond (26th UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties), and what it will take to scale them up.

Event objectives:

1. To promote a renewed and scaled-up effort to halt desertification, deforestation and restore ecosystems.
2. To encourage commitments to adopting nature-based solutions in policies and programmes, including those delivering Nigeria's Nationally Determined Contribution.
3. Close the 'silo' gaps, align stakeholders to a common vision and engage stakeholders in ongoing arrangements ahead of and beyond COP26.
4. To increase awareness of COP26 nature campaign in Nigeria.

**Organised in partnership with:**

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British  
High Commission



## Context

Natural systems are on the front-line of the fight against climate change, both because they are impacted by climate change, and because they have high potential for delivering multiple ecosystem services such as carbon sequestration, livelihoods enhancement, regulation of air, soil and water quality, and pollination.

Nigerian ecosystems (such as mangroves in the Niger-Delta and savannahs in the north) are constantly under threat from climate change, impacting the wellbeing and resilience of the millions of citizens whose livelihoods depend on farming and fisheries. This risks undermining economic development, pushing millions further into food insecurity and poverty.

If Nigeria is to meet the Paris Agreement, there needs to be a full-scale transition of its energy systems, and a transition in the way the land and ocean resources are managed. Agriculture, deforestation, and energy are the main contributors to greenhouse gas emissions in Nigeria, but these sectors also have the highest mitigation potential.

The UK recognises that healthy ecosystems underpin global food and nutrition security, and can provide direct livelihoods for millions in Nigeria, including citizens that are highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. In the lead-up to COP26 in November 2021 and beyond, we will seek to ensure that finance, capacity building and co-operation are available to unlock nature's potential to help increase ambition for climate mitigation and adaption, and that this is reflected in an enhanced commitment to implementing nature-based solutions at all levels.

Nigeria has shown leadership on biodiversity and has signed up to the Global Ocean Alliance, Commonwealth Clean Ocean Alliance, High Ambition Coalition for Nature and People, and the Leaders' Pledge for Nature. However, more innovation and cooperation are required in transitioning to sustainable agriculture and land-use, improving ocean resilience and coastal sustainability, and scaling-up of other existing initiatives and mechanisms, recognised under the Paris Agreement.

Through this meeting, we aim to develop and consolidate an effective community of practitioners and actors to promote the design, development and upscaling of nature-based solutions in Nigeria.

Participants will be invited from across Nigeria from a number of sectors including government, business, academia, NGOs and civil society, development partners and representatives from the UK Government.

(^ denotes speakers who are expected to join but Wilton Park awaiting their final confirmation)

## Thursday 18 February 2021

(All times WAT)

1045-1100

Orientation session - technical check ahead of the official start of the meeting

1100-1120

### Welcome and introduction

#### Robin Hart

Senior Programme Director, Wilton Park

#### Catriona Laing

British High Commissioner to Nigeria

#### Zac Goldsmith (video)

Minister of State for Pacific and the Environment, Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office, London

(To introduce welcome 3 minute video message from Lord Goldsmith on the role of nature-based solutions for climate adaptation and resilience in the lead up to COP26 and beyond, and what it will take to scale them.)

## **Natural climate solutions as a critical contribution to climate mitigation in Nigeria**

**Mohammad Mahmood Abubakar** (10 mins)  
Minister of Environment

1120-1245

### **1. Nature-based solutions in Nigeria: What actions are currently being taken?**

Across the range of existing actions that aim to reduce desertification, deforestation and destruction of coastal resources in Nigeria, how have you responded, what has worked well and what are the key lessons you have learnt?

1130-1155

#### **Focus on: desertification frontline states (25 minutes)**

*Introductory contribution:*

**^Hassan Bukar**  
Director-General, National Agency for the Great Green Wall

*Facilitated discussions and comments from Commissioners of Environment and / or Permanent Secretaries of desertification frontline states*

1155-1220

#### **Focus on: REDD+ states (25 minutes)**

*Introductory contribution:*

**Ama Moses**  
National REDD+ Coordinator

*Facilitated discussions and comments from Commissioners of Environment and / or Permanent Secretaries in REDD+ states*

1220-1245

#### **Focus on: coastal states (25 minutes)**

*Introductory contribution:*

**^Abbas Suleiman**  
Director, Federal Department of Environmental Assessment

*Facilitated discussion and comments Commissioners of Environment and / or Permanent Secretaries in coastal states*

1245-1250

5 minute break

1250-1315

### **2. What can be improved?**

#### **Building healthy ecosystems: reducing deforestation and other critical issues (25 minutes)**

What are your biggest challenges to reducing deforestation and critical issues that need to be addressed to ensure healthy ecosystems?

How can collaborations around nature-based solutions become an opportunity for collective action that promotes peace, enhances adaptation and resilience and delivers benefits to biodiversity?

*Introductory contribution:*

**^Rasak Adekola**  
Acting Director, Federal Department of Forestry

*Followed by facilitated discussion*

1315-1350

### 3. How can we work together?

What are the key areas for cooperation on nature that this dialogue could focus on and what role could more collaboration play?

Introductions by a UK representative on opportunities and programmes available that Nigeria could potentially utilise, followed by facilitated discussion.

#### **Julian Wright**

West Africa Senior Climate Change and Natural Resources Advisor, Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office

1350-1400

### 4. Closing reflections

Opportunity for reflections and comments.

#### **Sir Nicholas Kay**

UK COP26 Regional Ambassador

**This is a preview programme and as such may be subject to change.**

**This is an invitation only conference.**

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## Speaker biographies provided (in their own words) (A-Z by surname)

### **Mohammad Mahmood Abubakar**

Dr. Mohammad Mahmood Abubakar was born on 30<sup>th</sup> December, 1958 in Tudun-Wada, Kaduna South of Kaduna State. He obtained his Bachelor & Masters Degrees in Microbiology and Natural Resources Management respectively from Central Washington University, Ellensburg and Ph.D in Watersheds Management from the University of Arizona, USA. He worked in various organisations as Environmental Health Inspector, Industrial Hygienist and Waste Investigator all in USA.

Apart from belonging to various professional bodies, he was a former Member, Kaduna State House of Assembly, Deputy Director Field operations - APC Presidential Campaign Council, National Chairman Buhari Support Organizations, Chairman Universal Basic Education Board. He is happily married with children.

### **Zac Goldsmith**

The Rt Hon Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park is the Minister for Pacific and the Environment at the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO) and the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra). He was first appointed as a Minister of State in the Foreign & Commonwealth Office, the Department for International Development and Defra on 13 February 2020.

He was previously Minister of State at the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and at the Department for International Development from 10 September 2019 to 13 February 2020 and Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and at the Department for International Development on 27 July 2019 and 10 September 2019.

### **Robin Hart** @RobinHart\_DP

Robin is Senior Programme Director focusing on wide ranging issues including climatic change, education and skills and the climate-health-nutrition-food production / agricultural nexus.

### **Nicholas Kay**

Sir Nicholas Kay KCMG took up his appointment as COP26 Regional Ambassador for Africa in October 2020. Find out [more about COP26](#), the 2021 United Nations Climate Conference.

Follow [Sir Nicholas on Twitter](#).

He has previously served as the NATO Senior Civilian Representative to the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and the UK's Special Envoy to the Horn of Africa.

### **Catriona Laing**

Catriona Wendy Campbell Laing CB, was appointed Her Majesty's High Commissioner to the Federal Republic of Nigeria in November 2018. Prior to this she was the British Ambassador to Zimbabwe from 2014 to 2018.

Catriona has extensive experience representing the UK in many capacities. She joined the FCDO in 2012 as the UK's senior civilian representative to the NATO operation in

southern Afghanistan. Prior to this she was the Director of Human Rights and International at the Ministry of Justice from 2009 to 2012; Head of DFID in Sudan from 2006 to 2009; Head of DFID's International Division Advisory Department from 2005 to 2006 and seconded to the Cabinet Office as Deputy Director of the Prime Minister's strategy unit from 2001 to 2005.

Catriona was awarded The Order of the Bath (CB) in the 2012 New Year Honours.

Find out more about [Catriona Laing](#).

### **Julian Wright**

Dr Julian Wright, Senior Advisor for Climate and Natural Resources for West Africa in the UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office. I coordinate support to countries in the region to achieve their ambitions in tackling climate change and broader environmental degradation.

Wilton Park is grateful to all speakers for providing their biographies.