



Wilton Park

Provisional programme

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

Friday 19 February 2021 | WP1885V2

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 adaptation, 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 join from across Nigeria from a number of sectors including government, business, academia, NGOs and civil society, development partners and representatives from the UK Government.

## Friday 19 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

#### Sean Melbourne

Head of Climate Change & Energy, West Africa, British High Commission, Abuja

#### Zac Goldsmith (video)

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

(To introduce welcome 3.4 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.)

**Dr Muhtari Aminu-Kano**

Director-General, Nigerian Conservation Foundation

**Working together for nature**

**Liana Vetch**

Development Manager, World Wide Fund for Nature International

**Keynote from African Minister of Environment presenting successful case study**

**Prof Lee White**

Minister of Water, Forests, the Sea and Environment, in charge of Climate Planning and Land-use Plan, Gabon

1120-1220

**1. Why choose nature-based solutions?**

How to increase resilience (in food and water systems, business, etc.) with nature-based solutions? What is the role of academia?

*Short introductions by speakers (3 minutes each) followed by facilitated discussion.*

**Rasak Adekola**

Director, Federal Department of Forestry, Ministry of Environment

**Engr. Shehu Bello**

Director, Director of Agricultural Land and Climate Change Management Services, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development

**Mukaia Babarinde**

Head of Climate Change Unit, Federal Ministry of Water Resources

**Haruna Zakari**

GM Agromet, Nigerian Meteorological Agency (NiMet)

**Leye Kupoluyi**

Lagos Chamber of Commerce and Industry  
Representative from 'Nature Means Business' Coalition

**Richard Nzekwu**

International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD-Nigeria)

**Muyiwa Odele**

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

**Olumide Ojo**

Program Manager, Resilience and Private Sector Engagement, Oxfam Nigeria

**Samuel Ogallah**

Solidaridad Network

**David Terungwa**

Executive Director, Global Initiative for Food Security and Ecosystem Preservation (GIFSEP)

**Dr Rabi Abdulsalam**

Federal College of Land Resources, Jos

**Dr Ibrahim Choji**

National Institute for Policy and Strategic Studies, Jos

1220-1225

Break

1225-1310

## 2. Putting nature first

Innovation for scaling up nature-based solutions for adaptation and building resilience: linking advocacy and action.

*Short introductions by speakers (5 minutes each) followed by facilitated discussion.*

### **Prof Bala Dogo**

Care and Action Research (CARE)

### **Alade Adeleke**

Environmental Management and Development Trust (EMADET)

### **Tine Agernor**

Eunice Spring of Life Foundation (ESLF)

### **Gloria Bulus**

Bridge That Gap - Hope for Africa

### **'How will nature-based solutions be funded?'**

How can the sustainability of financial initiatives for nature be ensured? How can the Government of Nigeria, NGOs increase access to international climate finance to implement nature-based solutions?

### **Steven Gray**

Regional Head – West Africa, UK Export Finance, British High Commission

### **Ina Porras**

Economics, Climate and Environment Adviser, Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office

1310-1350

## 3. How can we work together?

Discussion in smaller groups to focus on local solutions and explore opportunities for partnership.

(1310-1335)

Facilitators for discussion groups are:

### **Evelyn Ugbe**

Head of Partnerships and Grants, Women Environmental Programme (WEP)

### **Xavier Eyamba**

Director, Stratus Consult Limited

### **Eugene Itua**

Chief Executive Office, Natural Eco Capital

### **David Terungwa**

Executive Director, Global Initiative for Food Security and Ecosystem Preservation (GIFSEP)

Feedback to include 3 highlights from each group.

(1335-1350)

### **Reflections on the discussion (3 highlights per group); and taking forward action points during the meeting**

Moderated by: **Robin Hart**

Senior Programme Director, Wilton Park

1350-1400

## 4. Closing reflections

Opportunity for final 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)

### **Rabiu Abdulsalam**

Abdulsalam, Rabiu Anate holds a Bachelor of Technology degree in Crop Production before obtaining Doctor of Philosophy in Agronomy. He works with the Federal Ministry of Agriculture & Rural Development at the Agricultural Land & Climate Change Management Services Department of the Ministry. He is currently a Chief Lecturer/Deputy Provost at the Federal College of Land Resources Technology, Kuru-Jos, the training arm of the Department.

He joined an Environmental protection group and he single handedly established a mixture of trees orchard at the College. After his training in Integrated Pest Management at the Egyptian International Centre for Agriculture (EICA), Doki-Cairo (2009), he is very passionate about how to mitigate the impact of climate change on the environment and sustainable food supply to meet the growing world population particularly in Africa and the world at large.

### **Tine Agernor**

Tine AGERNOR is a development and humanitarian aid practitioner with 10 years experience at management level. Currently, he is the Programme Manager at Eunice Spring of Life Foundation (ESLF), a non-profit organization working to address the climate crisis through nature based solutions among other innovations. Prior to his current role, Tine worked as Senior Programmes Officer with Gender and Environmental Risk Reduction Initiative (GERI), a local non-profit where he coordinated the implementation of a Global Environmental Facility, Small Grants Programme (GEF-SGP) intervention which activities promoted energy efficiency and alternative energy in Daudu community, Guma LGA, Benue State, Nigeria. In the course of his work, Tine has managed portfolio projects cutting across governance, human rights, security, peace building, education, water, sanitation, hygiene, health, agriculture, environment, economic empowerment and policy influencing. Concerned about the impact of energy use on the climate crisis, Tine is increasingly propagating and sharing experience on tested nature based energy solutions which hold the potential to address the crisis. A holder of the degree of Master of Education, Tine works with children, Adolescents and Young People (AYP), youth, women, men and Persons With Disabilities (PwDs).

### **Muhtari Aminu-Kano**

Chief Executive Officer of national not-for-profit environment organisation which is the WWF Affiliate and BirdLife International Partner in Nigeria. We are engaged in campaigning, policy advocacy, schools programmes and implementing field projects with communities, Governments and companies throughout the country. I hold a PhD in Agricultural Ecology and have worked in academia, Government departments and not-for-profits in Nigeria. Also worked as Senior Policy Advisor at the BirdLife International Secretariat in Cambridge, UK and as Senior Climate Change Advisor at the headquarters of a humanitarian charity also in the UK.

### **Mukaila Babarinde**

BABARINDE Segun Mukaila is a trained agro-climatologist and a Geo-hydrologist. Worked previously for 15 years as hydrologist and presently the Head of Climate Change Unit, Federal Ministry of Water Resources, Abuja, Nigeria, with the mandate of mainstreaming climate change into the water sector.

With specific focus on the River Basing Development Authorities, have conducted many sensitization/training workshops across the country (Nigeria) on impact of climate change

on water resources management.

BABARINDE for the last 8 years is an active member of the Inter-Ministerial Committee on Climate Change and a member of the National Delegation to the UNFCCC, COP meetings.

Participated in the development of the Nigerian NDC in 2015 and now playing prominent role in the NDC review mechanism with specific focus on water.

Passionate about the green economy and presently, promoting deployment of renewable in the water sector.

A lover of nature and natural processes with great interest in area of ecosystem restoration for future generations.

### **Shehu Bello**

I am Engr. Shehu Tijjani Bello, Director, Agricultural Lands, and Climate Change Management Services Department, Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development. I was born on 26th November 1962. I am an Agricultural Engineer by training. I joined the services of FMARD on 26th October 1987, about 33 years ago. I rose through the ranks to become a Director in the Ministry. Throughout my career, I have been involved in policy formulation as it involves Food production, processing, and storage to enhance food security. I recent got involved in the issue of Environment and Climate change Management when I was transferred to the Dept of Agricultural Land and Climate change management services. We are focusing on issues of continuous management of Nigeria Agricultural Land Resources and climate change adaptation and Mitigation for smallholder farmers on the basis of sustainability and enhanced productivity.

### **Ibrahim Choji**

I am Senior Fellow at Nigeria's apex think tank, The National Institute for Policy and Strategic Studies, Kuru. My area of interest is in the environment. I obtained my PhD and BSc in Geography from the University of Ibadan in 1998 and 1979 respectively, and an MA in Environmental Planning from the University of Nottingham, UK in 1982. I have taught Geography and Planning at the University of Jos for about 16 years; taught Urban and Regional Planning, as well as Environmental Management at the Abubakar Tafawa Balewa Bauchi for about 10 years before my present appointment. I am Chairman of the Board Trustees of Climate and Sustainable Development Network - an NGO consisting of a conglomerate of over 300 organisations.

### **Bala Dogo**

Prof. Bala Dogo hails from Kaduna State - Nigeria. He was born in the early 60s. He had his Primary school in Fai then Adduan I LEA School at Kafanchan-1975. He then proceeded to Hope Waddel Training Institute, Calabar-1975 and completed secondary education at Barewa College, Zaria-1981. He proceeded to SBS/ABU Zaria where he read Biology, Chemistry and Geography in IJMB. Then proceeded to University of Jos where he read B.Sc Geography and graduated-1986. Did NYSC at Alvan Ikoku College of Education, Owerri. Went back to Unijos-1988-1989 to obtain his M.Sc in Environmental Resources Planning, specializing in Rural Resource Planning. Was employed as an Assistant Research Fellow/Lecturer and at the same time to continue with PhD in the same Department-1989. Defended PhD in 2001- with specialization in Social Planning and Rural Development. Moved to the Nigerian Defence Academy-1993 as Lecturer I and rose to the rank of an Associate Professor-2004. Was HOD in NDA-2004-2006 then left for the Kaduna State University as a full first Professor in KASU. He was HOD, Geography Department; then Dean, Faculty of Science -2008-2012; Pioneer Dean Post Graduate School -2012 – 2016. He is presently a member of the governing council, KASU, representing the Senate.

## **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.

## **Steven Gray**

Steven, based in Ghana, is an accomplished senior manager, seasoned in 30+ years of demanding multinational roles spanning challenging societal and economic environments across Africa and the Middle East.

More recently, Steven has been representing UK Export Finance (UKEF) across West African and is responsible for originating a pipeline of new opportunities within the ECOWAS sub-region, across a variety of sectors, including mining, real estate, infrastructure, agri-processing and manufacturing.

Mr. Gray has a MBA from Heriot Watt University; and has completed an Executive Leadership Program on Oil, Gas and Mining Governance from the University of Oxford, The Blavatnik School of Government.

## **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](#).

## **Leye Kupoluyi**

Leye Kupoluyi is a Vice-President of Lagos Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI) an Engineer by profession . He is the Managing Director of Universal Power Systems Nig. Ltd, a company that focuses on Alternate Power supply and Renewable Energy.

## **Sean Melbourne**

Sean Melbourne has been a British Government official for over 3 decades.

He began his career in 1988 at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO), London, where he served for 2 years before moving to Maputo, Mozambique for the next 3 years to work as an archivist/information officer.

Since then, Melbourne built extensive experience working across Africa, Asia, Europe and the Middle East, in several senior capacities such as; Head of Parliamentary Team, Europe Directorate with the FCO; Head of Political Section in Baghdad, Iran; Government Relations Adviser on secondment to Shell International; and 2nd Secretary, Economic/ External in Rabat, Morocco.

Melbourne is currently Head of Climate Change & Energy West Africa, at the British High



Commission based in Abuja, since August 2019. Before that he spent 3 years as Deputy Head of Mission to Albania, and another 3 in Lusaka as Deputy High Commissioner to Zambia.

### **Samuel Ogallah**

Dr. Samson Samuel Ogallah is the Senior Climate and Landscape Specialist for Africa at Solidaridad Network. Prior to joining Solidaridad, Ogallah was the Head of Programmes at the Pan African Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA) and rose to the capacity of Acting Secretary General. He previously worked with West Africa Network for Peacebuilding (WANEP) as Zonal Network Coordinator among organizations. Ogallah also lectured at the Catholic University of Eastern Africa and Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University. He has over 19 years of work experience. Ogallah is a Development Expert, a Certified Management Consultant (CMC) and Fellow Institute of Management Consultants (FIMC).

Dr. Ogallah is a seasoned sustainability professional with extensive international experience, and a broad depth of environment, energy, development, and climate systems knowledge. Ogallah has held impressive full time and consulting positions in different countries across Africa.

He has authored and co-authored several publications including articles, technical reports, book chapters, and journals and widely travelled with speaking and presentation roles at international events. He lived and worked in different countries. He co-authored a section on Cross-Sectorial Issues of the Climate Change Adaptation Strategy Technical Report (CCASTR) for Building Nigeria's Response to Climate Change (BNRCC), a technical document that substantially informed the National Adaptation Strategy and Plan of Action on Climate Change for Nigeria (NASPA-CCN) and the Nigeria's Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) to the Paris Climate Agreement. He was part of the team that produced the NASPA-CCN for Nigeria. Ogallah was also part of the interdisciplinary research team for the project on Governing Inclusive Green Growth in Africa (GIGGA) that produced several research products on Green Growth in Africa with the support from DFID/Global Challenges Research Fund, University of Reading, UK.

Ogallah holds a Bachelor of Technology (B.Tech) in Biochemistry and Advanced Diploma in Public Administration from Federal University of Technology, Yola; Masters degree in Development Studies from The Catholic University of Eastern Africa and a Doctor of Philosophy degree (PhD) in Climate Change and Adaptation from the University of Nairobi.

### **Olumide Ojo**

Olumide is a result-driven and self-motivated food security and livelihoods professional with over fifteen years' experience across both for-profit and not-for-profit sectors. His expertise includes food security and livelihoods, agricultural productivity, agri-food policy & governance, climate change adaptation, women economic empowerment, gender justice programming, private sector partnership and pro-poor enterprise development programs. He is passionate about working with others to end the injustice of poverty and to help in pulling the extremely poor out of their helpless situations using business-driven solution packages.

Olumide OJO holds a Master Degree in Food Security and International Food Governance as well as a Bachelor degree in Agricultural Economics & Farm Management. He has professional competencies and work experiences in agricultural project management, risk management, operations research, participatory rural development, innovative value chain financing in agribusiness, cluster organization and management, strategic business process optimization, market system analysis, project appraisal, investment facilitation, small and medium enterprises development and conflict analysis. Olumide is also experienced in resilience and agricultural livelihoods programming, agricultural policy analysis, agricultural infrastructural mapping, and project monitoring and evaluation using evidence-based experimental design methods.

## **Ina Porras**

Ina Porras works as Economics, Climate and Environmental adviser for the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office. She's currently involved in promoting the Nature agenda across HMG and through bilateral and multilateral collaboration. Before FCDO she worked for over 20 years with international think-tanks, academia and governments in Latin America, Africa and Asia on the economics of sustainable development, sustainable finance, nature and poverty reduction. She's widely published, and holds a PhD in Economics and Geosciences (UK), an MSc in Quantitative Economics (USA) and a Bachelor of Economics (Costa Rica).

## **David Michael Terungwa**

David Michael Terungwa is the founder and Executive Director of GIFSEP- Global Initiative for Food Security and Ecosystem Preservation and the Africa Regional Coordinator of Citizens Climate International. He is also an Executive Board member of NGO Committee on Sustainable Development New York and a member of the Resilient 40.

Driven from deeply held conviction, with his personal mantra "Thou shall not pollute the Earth", he applies a degree in Agricultural Engineering with a specialization in Soil and Water Management and a post graduate certificate in Renewable energy in helping people, young and old to help themselves, empowering them to build Climate Change Resilience and attain the Sustainable Development Goals. David believes that climate income through Carbon Fee and Dividend policy will end extreme poverty, build resilience and combat climate change.

## **Liana Vetch**

Liana spent her formative years in Kenya and it was there that she developed her passion for nature and our natural environment. She undertook her undergraduate degree in Environmental Management and her Masters in Environment and Development at Kings' College London. Her career was kickstarted in the private sector where she focused on Business Development. A fascination with policy solutions linking to projects on the ground led her to UNEP with a focus on urban mobility, and subsequently with WWF where she supports the global climate network with a wide variety of initiatives.

## **Lee White**

Professor Lee White is Minister of Water, Forests, the Sea and Environment, in charge of Climate Planning and Land-use Plan (Gabon). Prior to becoming Minister, Professor White served as the Director of the Gabonese National Parks Agency for 10 years having previously spent almost 20 years with the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS).

Under his direction, the Gabonese National Parks Agency became a paramilitary force working alongside the army and the police to ensure sound governance of natural resources and to stop all forms of ivory trafficking, illegal fisheries, illegal gold mining and forestry including other forms of trafficking.

Professor White is an Honorary Professor at the University of Stirling. In 2010, he was awarded a CBE for his services to conservation in Central Africa. His career in the West and Central African forest belt spans 35 years.

## **Haruna Zakari**

Haruna Zakari, with a degree in Botany also holds a Masters degree in Forest Management and Economics, Masters in Public Policy and Administration. A Conservator and Climate Leader has worked across Public and Private Institutions with over 20 years of varied experience across the different sectors and now a General Manager (Agrometeorology) with the Nigerian Meteorological Agency. Mostly involved in processing and Analysis weather information to help the Agricultural communities across Nigeria prepare for the season, plan adequately and take early decisions to make them

weather smart in the activities, be resilient in the operations and mitigating the vagaries of the weather.

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