

# **Nigeria Erosion and Watershed Management Project (NEWMAP); an Innovative Way of Solving Gully Erosion and Addressing Land Management Issues In Nigeria**

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## **SUMMARY**

Environmental degradation has for decades continue to be a major issue in Nigeria. Different parts of the country have proved to be vulnerable to gully erosion and this has in turn led to serious land degradation across the entire country with its attendant negative consequences. Many parts of the country continue to suffer from serious environmental challenges. These includes but are not limited to, loss of access to common property, landlessness, homelessness, joblessness, food insecurity, educational loss, increased morbidity and mortality, social displacement, marginalization etc.

It is common knowledge that gully erosion occurs as a result of combination of factors, ranging from the nature of the soil (where the gullies develop), amount or intensity of rainfall as well as harmful land management practices. Loose friable soils are often prone to gully erosion when exposed without any vegetative cover. Therefore when people embark on senseless land clearance for whatever

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y defined roles and responsibilities.

The project started in the year 2016 and would last for eight years. It started with seven states (of the Federation of Nigeria) and eleven more states have been added bringing the total number of participating states to nineteen (out of the thirty six states of the Federation of Nigeria). The raise in the number of the participating states is a direct consequence of the success story of the project thus far.

The midterm report as at September 2016 indicates a remarkable achievement in the area of Erosion and Watershed Management Infrastructure Investments, Erosion and Watershed Management Institutions and Information Services, Climate Change Response and Project Management.

The average physical progress of the seven first wave states is 66% with the highest progress of 98% observed in Enugu state. Approval has been given for 27 new sites as at September 30, 2016. The project has recorded 1640 female and 1201 male resulting to 2841 beneficiaries so far under the livelihood enhancement activities. These beneficiaries were attended to in sub-grants and the amount disbursed to the sub-grants is one-hundred and six million, four hundred and seventy- nine thousand eight hundred and forty-eighty Naira fifty Kobo (N106, 479, 848. 50). In terms of the Project Affected Persons (PAPs) in 6 states (Ebonyi state not included), 984 were fully compensated with eight hundred and twenty-one million, eight hundred and thirty-five thousand seven hundred and ninety-nine Naira (N821, 835,799.00).

Progress has been made under the Hydromet and Automated Flood Early Warning Systems (AFEWS), in which 65 Hydromet stations and 10 AFEWS stations have been procured and site clearing and perimeter fencing are on-going for installation in Anambra, Imo and Cross River states. The Anambra Basin Geological Series Study has been completed; the Mamu River Health Sustainability Framework is under way, and the Imo Basin Geological Series Study is completed. Under Special Climate Change Fund (SCCF) Anambra and Ebonyi have gone far with the Storm Water Management process while Abia has just started the evaluation process.

The restructuring process on Climate Change Response from mitigation to adaptation activities has commenced as recommended during the Mid Term Review (MTR). Presentation and Assessment of Fuel Efficient Cook Stove samples for the first 7 states were made by responsive bidders before FPMU staff. The contract has been signed, and arrangements have been made with Abia SPMU to receive the stoves. The project facilitated meeting of stakeholders on the presentation of draft reports on Grid connected Solar Power Feasibility Studies for work packages 2 and 3, and meeting with stakeholders in Bauchi State for Environmental Scoping has been held.

As part of the project mandate for strategic communication, series of community engagement activities and public awareness on land degradation management and environmental sustainability were carried out. Training for Project Management Staff, Specialists and other staff (Foreign & Local) is ongoing. The total counterpart fund released as at the end of September is N3,844,470,243.60 and the total amount disbursed project-wide is USD141, 185,353.86. Ibrahim Usman Jibril (Nigeria)

The Federal Ministry of Environment (FME) is the lead implementing agency for NEWMAP with Federal and State Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs), local governments, communities, and civil society. On disbursement, the Bank's project portal as at September 30, 2016, indicated total disbursements of USD141 million, or approximately 28 percent against the IDA Credit. Disbursements by the FPMU represent approximately 8.5 percent of total disbursements, while disbursement at state level represents approximately 91.5 percent. The