



WOMEN ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMME

2017 ANNUAL REPORT AND AUDITED ACCOUNTS



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ABBREVIATIONS/ACCRONYMS

AfDB	-	African Development Bank
AUC	-	African Union Commission
AMAC	-	Abuja Municipal Area Council
AODC	-	Africa Open Data Collaboration Fund
APWLD	-	Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development
ASF	-	Angel Support Foundation
AWDF	-	African Women's Development Fund
BRS	-	Basel, Stockholm and Rotterdam
CEDASJ-	-	Center for Development and Social Justice
CEO	-	Chief Executive Officers
CMA 1	-	First Session of the Conference of the Parties Serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement
CMP 12	-	The Twelfth Session of the Conference of the Parties Serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol
CODE	-	Connected Development
COP23	-	Twenty third session of the Conference of Parties
CSOs	-	Civil Society Organizations
CU	-	Concern Universal
DDT	-	Dichlorodiphenyltrichloroethane
DW	-	Deutsche Welle
ECOSOC	-	United Nations Economic and Social Council
ESMI	-	Environment and Safety Management Institute
FAO	-	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FCT	-	Federal Capital Territory
FJDP	-	Foundation for Justice, Development and Peace
FMWASD	-	Federal Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development

GCERF	-	Global Community Engagement and Resilience Fund
GEF	-	Global Environment Facility
GERI	-	Gender and Environmental Risk Reduction Initiative
GFC	-	Global Forest Coalition
GGCA	-	Global Gender and Climate Alliance
GIVES	-	Growth, Involvement, Visibility, Efficiency and Stability
GM	-	Genetic Modification
GMOs	-	Genetically Modified Organisms
GSF	-	Global Sanitation Fund
GWA	-	Gender and Water Alliance
HBCD	-	Hexabromocyclododecane
HCH	-	Hexachlorocyclohexan
HOMEF	-	Health of Mother Earth Foundation
ICESCR	-	International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR);
INDC	-	Intended Nationally Determined Contributions
IPEN	-	International Pesticide Elimination Network
IUCN	-	International Union for Conservation of Nature
LGA	-	Local Government Area
LGTS	-	Local Government Task Group on Sanitation
MDAs	-	Ministries, Departments and Agencies
NABDA	-	National Biosafety Development Agency
NAPKC	-	Nigerian Army Peace Keeping Center
NESREA	-	National Environmental Standards Regulations and Enforcement Agency
NDCs	-	Nationally Determined Contributions
OKI	-	Open Knowledge International
OPs	-	Organizing Partners
OSSAP	-	Senior Special Assistant to the President

PCB	-	Polychlorinated byphenyl
PFOS	-	Perfluorooctanesulfonat
POPs	-	Persistent Organic Pollutants
PVE	-	Preventing Violent Extremism
RCDA	-	Rural Communities Development Agency
SDGs	-	Sustainable Development Goals
SEA	-	Save Environment Action
SEP	-	Strategic Engagement Plan
STGS	-	State Task Group on Sanitation
SWOT	-	Strength, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats
UNDP	-	United Nations Development Programme
UNEA-3	-	Third United Nations Environment Assembly
UNECA	-	United Nations Economic Commission for Africa
UNDESA	-	United Nations Department for Economic and Social Affairs
UNDP	-	United Nations Development Programme
UNPF	-	United Nations Population Fund
UNEP	-	United Nations Environment Programme
UNFCCC	-	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
WASH	-	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
WECF	-	Women Engage for a Common Future
WED	-	World Environment Day
WEDO	-	Women's Environment and Development Organization
WEP	-	Women Environmental Programme
WMG	-	Women's Major Group
WSSCC	-	Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The year 2017 was a period of transition and progress on many fronts for the Women Environmental Programme. As a way of projecting into the year 2017, WEP organized a two-day retreat for her Staff and Board of Directors to review her projects/activities of the previous year, to share success stories, lessons learned and to plan ahead towards attaining successful implementation of projects and activities and strengthening our global presence. WEP recorded a significant stride in the history of her existence with the celebration of her 20th anniversary tagged “WEP @ 20, celebration of service to humanity.” As at 2017, WEP had reached over 20,000,000 lives globally with her innovative and actionable initiatives.

For brevity’s sake, I am focusing this message on the most significant activities that occurred in 2017. WEP developed a new strategic document which outlines the vision, mission, goals and core values as well as the thematic areas (Environment, Governance, Peace and Security and Climate Change) of the organization that will give direction to her operations and expand her vision to match her interventions with contemporary development issues and reposition her (WEP) on the global scale. WEP’s ten years (2018-2027) strategic document has also changed her organizational structure with the new organogram comprising of the Global Board, Global President, Regional Team, Country Board, Country ED and Country Teams respectively.

Furthermore, WEP also participated in, and carried out impressive activities/projects: WEP and WECF were engaged by the Secretariat of the Basel, Stockholm and Rotterdam (BSR) Conventions to carry out a “Scoping study on gender dimensions of chemicals and wastes policies under the BRS Conventions” in Nigeria, which resulted to production of a 30-minute documentary –What has gender got to do with chemicals?. WEP with support from the Kingdom of Netherlands embarked on a project “Ensuring effective implementation of programmes, policies and legislations that contribute towards achieving gender equality in Nigeria by 2030.” WEP also with the support from Global Community Engagement and Resilience Fund (GCERF) continued implementation of her project “Connecting women and youth in violent extremist prone areas through empowerment and skills acquisition in Benue state” of Nigeria, a project that aims to prevent violent extremism. You will get details of these projects and more as you read through this report.

WEP conspicuously made symbolic impact globally with her active participation at international conferences and organization of some edifying side-events to showcase her works as well as educate and inform her audience on pertinent development issues; WEP participated at the Third African Regional Forum on Sustainable Development (ARFSD), The 23rd Session of the Conference of Parties (COP23) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Third Session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA3) etc.

I want to acknowledge our development partners, networks, and the Government who at different capacities incredibly supported us in the course of 2017. My appreciation equally extends to each member of WEP’s team. It is profoundly the team’s dedication and hard work that facilitated our attainment of this pinnacle. We hope to continue this way and inspire others around the world to work together for the cause of Women, Children and the Environment.



Priscilla M Achakpa PhD



THIS IS HOW WE STARTED YEAR 2017

To commence the year 2017, WEP organized a two-day retreat for her Staff and Board of Directors, from the 4th to 5th of January 2017, at Sawalino Hotel in Keffi, Nassarawa State, Nigeria.

During the retreat, WEP reviewed her projects/activities of the previous year (i.e.2016), and planned ahead for the successful implementation of projects and activities in the year 2017.

ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS/ACTIVITIES

1. Scoping study on gender dimensions of chemicals and wastes policies under the BRS Conventions in Nigeria

Women Engage for a Common Future (WECF) and Women Environmental Programme (WEP) were engaged by the Secretariat of the Basel, Stockholm and Rotterdam (BSR) Conventions under the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP) to conduct a scoping study in Nigeria and Indonesia to identify the initiatives and success stories related to gender mainstreaming in hazardous chemicals and waste management as addressed by the three conventions. The study included: surveys, consultations, discussions with key Civil Servants,



Participants at the one-day stakeholders' consultation held at Ajuji Greenwich Hotel, Abuja, as part of scoping study on gender dimensions of chemicals and wastes policies under the BRS Conventions in Nigeria

Experts, Local Authorities, Intergovernmental Organizations, International Organizations, Women & Environmental Civil Society Organisations, mapping of actors and waste sector, and visits of sites.

The scoping study aimed to understand:

- How are women and men differently impacted in their health by Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs), hazardous chemicals and waste?
- How do women and men's occupations and their roles at home and at work influence exposure to POPs, hazardous chemicals and waste?
- What best practices with women and men's leadership exist to substitute and eliminate POPs, hazardous chemicals and waste?

The scoping study started in Nigeria where WECF and WEP held discussions with several stakeholders in Abuja and Lagos to gather relevant information for this study. On 12th January, 2017, at Ajuji Greenwich Hotel, Abuja, WECF and WEP organized a one-day stakeholders' consultation which drew stakeholders from Ministries, Departments and Agencies of Government, Professional bodies, International and Intergovernmental Organizations, Civil Society and the media. This was closely followed by site visits in Abuja, Lagos and environs.

Findings from the scoping study showed that there was high level of exposure to POPs and other hazardous chemicals whose major sources are from imported electrical and electronics equipment, pesticides, burning of municipal and plastic wastes and informal recycling. The study found that the human breast milk samples obtained from volunteer-mothers at Maitama Hospital showed high levels of chlordane, dieldrin, DDT, toxaphene, PCBs, hexabromocyclododecane (HBCD), hexachlorocyclohexane (HCH), and

perfluorooctanesulfonate (PFOS). Another shocking finding from the study was that, PCB oil (Polychlorinated biphenyls), a liquid used in electrical transformers as a coolant was found to be used as cooking oil by some women. These are found to be the causes of genetic disorders, delayed pregnancy, birth defects, male infertility and other deleterious health conditions.

The scoping study resulted in the production of a 30-minute documentary entitled – *“What has gender got to do with chemicals,”* and a [narrative report](#), that enlighten about the dangers of hazardous chemicals and wastes on women, children and men, and proffer solutions towards addressing exposure to hazardous chemicals.

The documentary was shown during the Conference of Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm(BRS) Conventions in Geneva on 3rd May, 2017, during a side event on “Lessons and best practices integrating gender in the implementation of BRS Conventions,” co-organized by WECF, WEP, BRS Conventions, Balifokus and International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). It was also shown at the 3rd session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA



Mr. John Baaki of WEP (left) and Sascha Gabizon of WECF (2nd from left) and other partners in a group photograph after the side event on “Lessons and best practices integrating gender in the implementation of BRS Conventions,” in Geneva, Switzerland.

3) in Nairobi, Kenya, on 5th December, 2017, at a side event co-organized by WECF, WEP, Balifokus, International Pesticide Elimination Network (IPEN), and BRS Conventions.

Watch the full documentary on this link - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YugG5jZ8Vvw>

2. WEP at the Third African Regional Forum on Sustainable Development (ARFSD)

The United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), in collaboration with the African Union Commission (AUC), the African Development Bank (AfDB), the United Nations Department for Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Population Fund (UNPF), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, convened the third session of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 17 to 19 May 2017, in preparation for the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development 2017, to be held in New York from 10 to 19 July 2017. The theme for the Regional Forum was **“Ensuring inclusive and sustainable growth and prosperity for all”**. This theme was well aligned with that of the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development 2017: **“Eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity in a changing world”**.

Since 2015, the Africa Regional Forum has been convened on an annual basis in Africa to undertake follow-up to and review of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063. The Forum promotes coordination and coherence, learning and sharing of best practices. It therefore serves as an important mechanism,



From left: Priscilla Achakpa (WEP's ED), Damaris Uja (WEP's Programme Officer) and Caroline Usikpedo-Omoniye (National President of Niger Delta Women's Movement for Peace and Development) at ARFSD

not only for tracking progress in implementation, but also for keeping all the stakeholders in Africa mobilized and engaged to strengthen their commitment to concerted action, and to garner international support for efforts to translate the Sustainable Development Goals and aspiration of Agenda 2063 into measurable and shared prosperity that benefits the planet and its people.

The third session of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development undertook in-depth review of the implementation of the cluster of Sustainable Development Goals for the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development 2017, under the following corresponding sub-themes:

- i. Eradicating all forms of poverty in Africa
- ii. Ending hunger and achieving food security in Africa
- iii. Ensuring healthy lives and promoting well-being for all
- iv. Promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls
- v. Building resilient infrastructure and promoting inclusive and sustainable industrialization and innovation
- vi. Conservation and sustainable use of the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development

Women Environmental Programme (WEP) as the Organizing Partner (OP) for Women’s Major Group for Africa, coordinated the



From Left: Isabela Cunah of UNDESA, Priscilla Achakpa of WEP, Fatima Denton of UNECA and some participants at the ARFSD

participation of African women and women’s Civil Society Organizations at this forum. The African Women’s Major Group called for strategic action by Member States on the following:

- Adoption and implementation of gender responsive legal and policy frameworks
- Financing for gender equality and women and girls empowerment
- Gender disaggregated data
- Structural and systematic inequalities experienced by women and girls

Read the full statement by the African Women’s Major Group on this link –

http://www.womenmajorgroup.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/AWMGstatementatARFSD_Shortversion.pdf

3. Commemoration of 2017 Menstrual Hygiene Management Day

Menstruation is every woman and every woman is menstruation. It is a normal biological process and a key sign of reproduction. Yet in some cultures women are made to see menstruation as dirty and shameful; to the extent that young girls sometimes miss school due to the myth around menstruation.

The continuous silence around menstruation coupled with limited access to information at

home and schools have not helped young girls and women who in most cases have to tackle the emotions and hygiene issues around menstruation all by themselves. This has left many of them with little or no knowledge of what happens to their bodies during menstruation.

Studies carried out by Water Supply and Sanitation Collaboration Council (WSSCC) through its members in some States in Nigeria in 2016 showed some women who believed menstruation myths as some kind of sickness and blood flows from the stomach and not uterus. Faced with challenges such as taboos, limited access to affordable hygienic sanitation materials, disposable options as well as rejection by spouses and society during menstruation; women and girls may not be able to manage their period safely. These challenges are further exacerbated by insufficient access to safe and private toilets as well as lack of clean water and soap especially in the communities.

Effective management of menstruation starts with education, which was central to the 2017 Menstrual Hygiene Management Day's theme: **“Education about Menstruation Changes Everything.”**

It was based on the above background that Water Supply and Sanitation Collaboration Council (WSSCC) in collaboration with Women Environmental Programme (WEP)



Students of Government Junior Secondary School, Apo Legislative Quarters, Abuja, listened attentively to awareness messages on menstruation



Some students of Government Junior Secondary School, Apo Legislative Quarters, Abuja, displaying printed messages about menstruation, to commemorate Menstrual Hygiene Management Day 2017

carried out awareness campaign on Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM) and enlightened the students of Government Junior Secondary School Apo Legislative Quarters to mark the 2017 Menstrual Hygiene Management Day.

WEP and WSSCC also called on government and policy makers to:

- Promote women's right to economic and productive resources by supporting the share of free sanitary pads in the same spirit they support sharing of condoms.
- Provide education on menstrual hygiene so that women and girls feel confident and are empowered to make informed decisions about how to manage their menstruation.
- Integrate menstrual hygiene education into national school curriculum, policies and programmes for adolescents.
- Provide water and sanitation facilities in schools, public and work places so that women and girls can manage their menstrual flow hygienically.

4. Peaceful protest against GMOs

Women Environmental Programme joined Health of Mother Earth Foundation (HOMEF) and other Civil Society Organizations to stage a peaceful protest against Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) to the National Assembly on 7th June, 2017.

GMOs are products of genetic engineering also known as genetic modification (GM). Genetic engineering or modern biotechnology is a technology that allows scientists to create plants, animals and micro-organisms by manipulating genes in a way that is not possible via traditional or natural processes. GM technology is not simply an extension of conventional agriculture as it is radically different from traditional plant and animal breeding.

What informed this peaceful protest were the two permits issued to Mosanto Agriculture Nigeria Limited, a biotechnology company, by National Biosafety Development Agency (NABDA) for the commercial release and placing on the market of genetically modified cotton, and the confined field trial of maize in Nigeria. These permits were issued despite objections and concerns about safety raised by activists and environmentalists.

Several researches carried out from different parts of the world have proved that GMOs have negative effects on human



Nnimmo Bassey, the Executive Director of Health of Mother Earth Foundation (HOMEF) leading protesters to the National Assembly.

health and the environmental, hence the concern expressed by the Civil Society about the permits issued to Mosanto Agriculture Nigeria Limited.

The peaceful protest kicked off at the Unity Fountain, near Transcorp Hilton Hotel, where protesters marched to the National Assembly, led by Nnimmo Bassey of HOMEF, and presented their objections to the permits granted Mosanto Agriculture Nigeria Limited and demanded for their revocation.

5. Commemoration of 2017 World Environment Day (WED)



The Global Director of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals Action Campaign, Mitchell Toomey (right), and the Host of The Osasu Show, Osasu Igbinedion (left) during the event to mark 2017 WED

World Environment Day (WED) which falls on June 5 of every year was established by the United Nations General Assembly in 1972. It is a day set aside by the international community to celebrate nature. WED has since served as a global platform to raise awareness on environmental issues with plans to mitigate these issues.

To commemorate the 2017 WED, the United Nations SDG Action Campaign in collaboration with The Osasu Show and Women Environmental Programme (WEP) in line with the 2017 WED theme, ***‘Connecting People to Nature’***, put together an event at the Millennium Park, Abuja, to assess the current state of the environment and its impact on human development, link environmental actions to the achievement of the SDGs, and proffer policy, legal and institutional interventions necessary for preserving and protecting the environment for future generations.

Thereafter the conversation moved to the National Assembly where the Senate and House Committees on SDGs deliberated on best practices that will aide Nigeria in achieving the SDGs by 2030.

6. WEP at the African Youth Conference on Climate Change (AfriYoCCC)

Towards the 23rd session of the Conference of Parties (COP23) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), scheduled to hold in Bonn, Germany in November 2017, Women Environmental Programme organized an event to assess how far Nigeria had implemented her strategy to reduce greenhouse gases emission.



A participant asking question at the side event – The Climate Smart Woman – organized by WEP during the African Youth Conference on Climate Change that held in Abuja, Nigeria, from 25-27 October, 2017

The event themed: *'The Climate Smart Woman'* held on 26th October, 2017 at the Conference Hall of National Commission of Colleges of Education, Central Area, Abuja, Nigeria, during the 3rd African Youth Conference on Climate Change that held from 25-27 October, 2017. The side event which brought together women and youth, civil society, farmers, government officials and the media, raised awareness on best practices regarding climate change mitigation and adaptation and assessed Nigeria's policies and programmes against its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).

Nigeria in its NDCs submitted to UNFCCC has pledged to reduce greenhouse gas emission by 20% unconditionally (without external financial aid) and by 45% conditionally (with external financial aid) through: reforestation, climate smart agriculture, ending gas flaring, clean transportation system, provision of off-grid solar energy and energy efficiency.



Cross section of participants at the side event-The Climate Smart Woman- organized by WEP during the African Youth Conference on Climate Change in Abuja

Assessment of Nigeria's policies and programmes in two years of coming into force of the Paris Agreement on climate change showed that some of these policies and programmes were in contradiction of the NDCs.

Although in the NDCs, Nigeria pledge to adopt better soil management practices to achieve safer and healthy environmental quality, the Presidential Initiative on Fertilizer was distributing chemical fertilizer to farmers and aimed to distribute 4million bags before the end of 2017. Chemical fertilizer is a source of greenhouse gases and contamination of ground water and contributes to emission rather than reducing emission which is the target of the NDCs.

Similarly, the Anchor Borrowers programme of the government was giving farm inputs such as chemical fertilizers and herbicides to farmers. All these are sources of greenhouse gases.

The Nigeria's coal power project which aimed to generate about 30% of the country's electricity from coal was found to be another contradiction to the NDCs as emissions from coal fuels global warming.



Linda Akpami, one of the Resource Persons at the side event making a presentation

WEP made the following recommendations:

- That it was time Nigeria invested in organic fertilizer processing plants and organic pesticides and move away from chemical fertilizers and pesticides.
- Nigeria should aggressively pursue solar and hydro energy as sources of providing decentralized sustainable electricity to its populations.
- That the government of Nigeria re-examine its policies and programmes and ensure they are in tune with the NDCs and contribute to social/economic development and environmental sustainability.

This activity was part of WEP's advocacy and awareness raising activities under the [Women2030](#) project whose objective is to monitor implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Climate Agreements.

7. International Day of Climate Action

On Saturday, 21st October, 2017, WEP joined Ecolife Conservation Initiative and other partners to mark the year's International Day of Climate Action with the theme 'Walk to take Action'. The event was marked by a walk from the Abuja Millennium Park towards the Transcorp Junction through the Federal Secretariat and back to the Millennium Park where there were presentations from the Executive Director of WEP Dr. Priscilla M Achakpa, the Executive Director of Ecolife Conservation Initiative and the Chairman House of Representatives Committee on Environment and Climate Change on the need for all stakeholders to take action towards combating the impact of Climate Change.



Participants jog to the rhythm of NSCDC's band to commemorate International Day of Climate Action (Jogging far right is the ED of WEP, Dr Priscilla Achakpa)

8. WEP at COP23

Women Environmental Programme (WEP) participated in the 23rd session of the Conference of Parties (COP23) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) that held from 6-17 November, 2017, in Bonn, Germany.

At COP23, WEP joined the Women and Gender Constituency of the UNFCCC and advocated for a gender responsive outcome of COP23. Our Executive Director, Dr. Priscilla Achakpa served as one of the Negotiators on Gender for Nigeria. The advocacies from women's group led to the adoption of the Gender Action Plan at COP23 which was the first Gender Action Plan under the UNFCCC.

WEP also participated at several other events at the COP23 including exhibition at the Gender Day Event Market Place and Women2030 coordination meeting.



Sascha Gabizon of WECF (left) and Zenabou Segda of WEP Burkina Faso posed with a journalist for a photo



Zenabou Segda of WEP Burkina Faso being interviewed by a journalist at COP23



Zenabou Segda of WEP Burkina Faso attending to guests who came to WEP's booth at COP 23 to make enquiries



WEP and some members of the Nigerian Delegation to COP 23

9. WEP at UNEA3, co-hosted side event on gender and chemicals

Women Environmental Programme was in Nairobi, Kenya ahead of the [3rd session of the United Nations Environment Assembly \(UNEA 3\)](#), the highest global decision making body on the environment.

WEP participated in the Global Major Groups and Stakeholders Forum which was organized ahead of (UNEA 3) scheduled to hold from 4-6 December, 2017 in Nairobi, Kenya. Open to representatives of Major Groups organizations accredited to United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), non-accredited organizations, member states and representatives of international organizations, the Global Major Groups and Stakeholders Forum provides a crucial opportunity for civil society organizations and major groups to collectively engage on the agenda and influence the outcome of the UN Environment Assembly. The 2-day Global Major Groups and Stakeholders Forum discussed environmental issues revolving around the theme of UNEA 3: *“Towards a Pollution-Free Planet”* – ranging from land and soil pollution, marine pollution, air pollution, noise pollution, freshwater pollution, chemicals and wastes. The forum came up with concrete recommendations that it wanted to form part of the outcomes or resolutions of the 3rd Environment Assembly. One of the strongest recommendations that came out of this forum was a call for a global treaty on plastic pollution.



Members of Women’s Major Group during the Global Major Groups and Stakeholders Forum organized ahead of UNEA 3 in Nairobi, Kenya



Nigeria’s Minister of State for Environment (Middle), Ibrahim Usman Jibril at the side event organized by WECF, WEP, Bolifokus Foundation, WMG, IPEN and BRS at UNEA 3 in Nairobi, Kenya

At UNEA 3 WEP co-hosted a side event on gender and chemicals. The side event titled: “What has gender got to do with chemicals,” was organized by Women Engage for a Common Future (WECF), in collaboration with Women Environmental Programme (WEP), Balifokus Foundation, Women’s Major Group and International Pesticide Elimination Network (IPEN), with support from the Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm (BRS) Conventions.

The side event premiered a [film](#) based on the [scoping study on gender dimensions of chemicals and wastes policies under the BRS Conventions](#) in Nigeria and Indonesia.

The scoping study aimed to understand:

- How are women and men differently impacted in their health by Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs), hazardous chemicals and waste?

- How do women and men’s occupations and their roles at home and at work influence exposure to POPs, hazardous chemicals and waste?
- What best practices with women and men’s leadership exist to substitute and eliminate POPs, hazardous chemicals and waste?

The side event was graced by the Nigeria’s Minister of State for Environment, Honourable Ibrahim Usman Jibril. Speaking at the event, Honourable Ibrahim Jibril applauded the scoping study and stated the readiness of the Ministry to discuss with relevant stakeholders to ensure that the recommendations of the study are implemented to address the findings in the report. The Ministry, he said, will make gender issues a priority in designing and implementing chemicals and waste management projects and programmes.



Some Nigerian participants at UNEA 3 posed with the Minister of State for Environment, Ibrahim Usman Jibril for a photograph, shortly after the side event “What has gender got to do with chemicals?”

He stated that he learnt so much from the former Minister of Environment, Amina J. Mohammed who inculcated in him the consciousness about gender. According to him, the former Minister of Environment would always say that gender issues could be likened to a bird that cannot fly on one wing, unless it uses two wings. And so development cannot be sustainable unless different categories of people are involved and their needs taken into consideration in the planning and implementation of programmes.



WEP and other members of the Women’s Major Group held a tribute ceremony in honour of slain women human rights and environmental defenders at UNEA 3. This tribute was witnessed by John Knox, the Special Rapporteur on Human Rights and the Environment to the UN. 2017 was adjudged the “... deadliest year for women human rights and environmental defenders, protecting their indigenous land and resources as they face increased crackdowns, violence, threats, intimidation and murder by state and non-state actors.”

10. National Strategic Stakeholders Discussion on Flood Prevention and Management



Stakeholders in a group photograph after a strategic discussion on flood prevention and management in Nigeria at National Universities Commission, Abuja

Environment and Safety Management Institute (ESMI) in collaboration with Women Environmental Programme (WEP), organized National Strategic Stakeholders Discussion on Flood Prevention and Management at the National Universities Commission’s Auditorium, Maitama, Abuja, on 12th December, 2017.

The Strategic Stakeholders Discussion brought together relevant stakeholders from Ministries and Agencies of government at the federal and state levels, academic and research institutions, private sector, civil society and the media.

Declaring the event open, the Senior Special Assistant to the Benue State Governor on Emergency Matters, Hon. Princess Henrietta Akaaka, expressed her hopefulness for “a useful outcome that will effectively prevent further damaging effects of flood on our economy,” as she charged stakeholders to come out with practical ways of preventing the flood menace. She recalled the flood incidents that hit several states of the federation so hard on two different occasions in 2012 and early 2017 and stated that the National Strategic Stakeholders Discussion on Flood Prevention and Management was timely.

According to Hon. Henrietta, “Benue was one of the states that was severely hit by flood this year where over 110,000 people were displaced in 24 communities in the state, and over 1000 households submerged.”

Speaking earlier, the Director General, ESMI, Benedict Utile, who was represented by Professor Peter Ortese, and the Executive Director, WEP, Dr. Priscilla Achakpa, in their separate messages noted the damaging effects of flood on agriculture and other sectors of the country’s economy, and its impacts on vulnerable populations like women and children, and called on all concerned stakeholders to act in order to prevent a repeat of the ugly incidents of flood in the country.

Three Discussants laid the background for deliberations to begin. The Keynote Speaker, Professor Nasiru Idris, Head of Geography Department, Nasarawa State University Keffi, who was represented by Dr. Ahmad Halilu Abba, Deputy Dean of Faculty of Environmental Sciences, Nasarawa State University, spoke on “practical ways of handling flood disaster in Nigeria.” Mr. Mage Johnson of Benue State University Makurdi spoke on

“Nigeria flood menace in a warming climate; a workable solution,” while Mrs. Comfort Kanshio of WEP spoke on the “vulnerabilities imposed on women by flood.”

The Discussants highlighted the causes of flood, its impacts and strategies of preventing or managing flood disaster.

After intense deliberations, stakeholders resolved as follows:

- That the country should develop a holistic flood prevention and management plan with timelines, with different government institutions, private sector and the civil society working together.
- States should identify flood-prone areas and come up with costed action plans to relocate and resettle the populations living in vulnerable areas.
- States should take seriously rainfall predictions released annually by Nigeria Meteorological Agency and take all the necessary preventive steps where necessary to prevent occurrence of flood. States Emergency Management Agency should mobilize and coordinate stakeholders in the states to work more to prevent flood than allow it to occur before embarking on post disaster management.
- Rivers Niger and Benue should be rechanneled at their upper course in the north to serve the drought prone areas of the north with water for agriculture and domestic purposes. More drainage channels should be created in states that experience regular flood incidents, while Rivers Benue and Niger be dredged to accommodate high water volume and to effectively serve as inland waterways.
- States agencies responsible for town planning and management should avoid approving building plans on water ways
- States should adopt effective solid waste management strategies to rid their environment of waste, and turn waste management into a business that transforms waste to wealth as this will place the states on the path to green economy.
- Citizens needs to change their attitudes regarding indiscriminate disposal of wastes in drainage channels which is the cause of urban flood and adapt environmentally conscious lifestyle
- Agencies responsible for enforcing compliance to environmental regulations should wake up to their responsibilities and ensure environmental standards are maintained.
- States should make environmental management and specifically flood prevention a priority and appropriately fund implementation of environmental policies and programmes from states budgets. Where the cost of projects are higher than can be funded by the states, states can come up with concrete proposals to access grants or loans or receive assistance from Ecological Fund of the federation.

11. Increasing Access to Water and Sanitation

Dr. Priscilla Achakpa, the Executive Director of WEP also serves as the National Coordinator for Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council (WSSCC) in Nigeria, all to ensuring that there is increase access to water and sanitation for all.

In line with WSSCC's mandate of ensuring strategic engagement of WSSCC at country level, in a way that adds value to the WASH sector, makes use of the available programmatic components of WSSCC's strategy and structure, and contributes to the achievement of WSSCC's mission, goal, outcomes and outputs, Dr. Achakpa led WSSCC Nigeria to implement the following activities:

Advocacy for WASH sector funding

During the course of 2017 WSSCC engaged in several advocacies towards getting the Governments of Benue and Cross River state to pay counterpart funding to upscale the Rural Sanitation and Hygiene Promotion in Nigeria (RUSHPIN) project towards getting more Local Governments Areas in both states open defecation free. Series of advocacies were conducted and eventually Benue State Government responded by making



High level meeting on Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) funding in Nigeria, organized by WSSCC and Federal Ministry of Water Resources at Sheraton Hotel, Abuja, on 31st October, 2017.

part payment of their counterpart funding. United Purpose the Executing Agency for RUSHPIN is currently upscaling RUSHPIN in Ado, Gwer and Gboko LGAs of Benue State.

As part of advocacies to increase WASH sector funding, on 31st October, 2017 at Sheraton Hotel Abuja, Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council (WSSCC) in collaboration with the Federal Ministry of Water Resources, organized a high level meeting on Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) funding in Nigeria. In attendance were the Governors of Benue, Sokoto and Ondo States and other critical stakeholders in the WASH sector. This meeting got funding commitments to the WASH sector from the State Governors. It was at this meeting that the Benue State Government paid part of its counterpart funding for the RUSHPIN project.

Capacity Building of Civil Society Network on Water and Sanitation in Nigeria (NEWSAN)

As a CSO network coordinating activities on WASH, NEWSAN has had her capacity built by WSSCC on NGO Coordination, Advocacy and Communication. This was aimed at ensuring NEWSAN lead other CSOs to strategically revamp action-based engagement towards addressing WASH issues in the country.

Working to create a single National Policy on Sanitation

Towards creating a seamless and coordinating operational structure on WASH, WSSCC supported the National Task Group on Sanitation (NTGS) to hold a meeting with the Ministries of Environment, Health, Education, Women Affairs and Social Development, Finance and Budget and National Planning, to chart a way towards having a single National Policy on Sanitation to be driven by the Ministry of Budget and National Planning.

Research and publication on menstrual hygiene management

Menstrual hygiene management has being a problem for women in Nigeria due to lack of facilities in public places such as schools, markets, offices and motor parks. To bring their challenges to the fore, WSSCC in 2017 conducted a survey on Menstrual Hygiene Management among Disabled and Marginalised Women and Adolescent Girls in 11 states in Nigeria. The report is used to conduct more advocacies for improved facilities that are disability friendly. If Nigeria addresses this we would be on the way to achieve SDG 6.2 “achieve access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all and end open defecation paying special attention to the needs of women and girls and those in vulnerable situations”.

Accountability Mechanism on WASH

Towards reporting on SDG 6 at the forth coming High Level Political Forum, WSSCC, End Water Poverty and UNICEF carried out a 3 phase research to find out more about Nigeria’s accountability mechanism and how best CSOs and development partners can engage with the mechanism for a more strategic and coherent achievement of SDG 6. (The report will be shared once it is finalized).

GOVERNANCE PROJECTS/ACTIVITIES

1. Feminist Leaders and Governance Coaching Project.

In the last quarter of 2016, Women Environmental Programme (WEP) benefitted from the African Women Development Fund's ([AWDF](#)) Feminist Leaders and Governance Coaching Project.

The 9-month coaching project on leadership and governance was aimed at strengthening the leadership capacity and governance frameworks of women organizations in Africa for transformational change for women and girls.

Kick-starting the coaching project, AWDF organized a

Chief Executive Officers (CEO) forum which took place from 15 - 17 November 2016 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Nairobi, Kenya, for orientation, skills sharing, strategy development and networking for participating leaders, coaches and AWDF. WEP was represented in this training by Ms Evelyne Ugbe and Juliana Agema. The participants to this training were assigned coaches by AWDF for continuous interaction via phone calls, emails, Skype and where necessary in-person meetings.

In the first quarter of 2017, precisely on 8th March, based on AWDF's Feminist Leaders and Governance Coaching Project goal to strengthen governance frameworks of participating organizations, a one day workshop for organizational strengthening was organized for WEP's Board of Directors and Management Staff. The interactive workshop which was facilitated by AWDF's Coach, Dr. Yene Asigidi, had the objective to inspire strategic thinking among the Board of Directors and Management Staff towards a better governance of the organization.

The envisioning exercise during the workshop made all the participants to see WEP beyond what WEP was at the moment. There were different visions about WEP ranging from: a global organization, grant making organization, advisor on national and global environment and sustainable development issues amongst others.



Dr Yene (middle), AWDF's consultant, in training with staff and board members of WEP



Dr Yene in training with staff and board members of WEP

The outcome of this workshop was the review of WEP's governance structure, mission and vision.

Resource Mobilization Boot Camp

In the year under review, African Women Development Fund (AWDF) also organized a Resource Mobilization Boot Camp for 19 Civil Society Organisations from Nigeria, Ghana, Kenya, Zambia, Uganda and Zimbabwe, from 27th – 30th August, 2017 at Tomerik Hotel in Accra, Ghana. The boot camp was organized to build capacities of organizations on resource mobilization as well as develop a strategy to guide resource mobilization activities. The Resource Mobilization Boot Camp complimented the on-going review of WEP's governance systems aimed at providing strategic direction to fund raising.



Participants at the Resource Mobilization Boot Camp, organized by AWDF in Accra, Ghana

Due to the shrinking funding space, organizations were advised to broaden their funding base to reflect a variety of revenue streams that include funding from donors, corporate sponsors, public sector subsidies, charitable contributions, personal investments and other funding or investment mechanisms. This will allow for a diversification of funding sources so as not to threaten the effective implementation of critical programs that improve the lives of their beneficiaries.

The contextual situation of CSOs environment was assessed using the strength, weaknesses, opportunities and threats (SWOT) analysis. Using the Growth, Involvement, Visibility, Efficiency and Stability (GIVES) model, participants identified the most suitable approach to fund raising.

At the end of the training, each participant developed a zero draft Resource Mobilization Strategy for the period of 5 years to provide strategic direction for their organizations having been equipped with the technical skills to support Resource Mobilization in their organizations.



Ms Evelyn Ugbe of WEP (2nd from right) with other participants at the Resource Mobilization Boot Camp, organized by AWDF in Accra, Ghana

2. WEP's Executive Director elected as Organizing Partner (OP) of Women's Major Group for African Region



Priscilla Achakpa, WEP's Executive Director was elected as the Organizing Partner (OP) of the Women's Major Group (WMG) representing the Africa Region in the online election that was conducted in February, 2017.

Priscilla Achakpa was elected alongside 6 other Regional OPs and 2 Global OPs representing Global South and Global North. The OPs' tenure was from 2017-2019.

Announcing the result of the elections, Lean Deleon, Post-2015 Program Associate of Women's Major Group and Women's Environment and Development Organization (WEDO), stated as follows:

"From our advocacy listserv, we had 189 eligible voters. There was a 47.62% voter turnout. I am pleased to announce the Organizing Partners for the Women's Major Group 2017-2019:

Asia Regional OP: Kate Lappin / Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development

Middle East & North Africa Regional OP: Shaima Aly / Kenana Association for Sustainable Development and women empowerment

Europe & Central Asia Regional OP: Sascha Gabizon / Women Engage for a Common Future

North America Regional OP: NONE. IWHC failed to secure the 20% threshold of votes

Pacific Small Island States Regional OP: Noelene Nabulivou / Diva 4 Equality

Latin America & Caribbean Regional OP: Emilia Reyes / Equidad de Género: Ciudadanía, Trabajo y Familia

Africa Regional OP: Priscilla Achakpa / Women Environmental Programme

Global OPs: Eleanor Blomstrom / Women's Environment and Development organization & Rachel Jacobson / International Women's Health Coalition"

Lean stated the roles of the OPs as follows: "These past years the WMG was successful in influencing multiple spaces and mechanisms, primarily the 2030 Agenda. Despite the shrinking of civil society space and defunding of women rights and feminist organizations, the WMG was able to facilitate powerful statements, responses and in-person engagement. To continue to be more democratic, transparent and inclusive, we want to create opportunity for more balance across regions and themes, and to have continuity as well as a space for newcomers. Due to limited funding, such as not receiving any funding from the UN for coordination, the new set of OP's will need to provide the basic needs of our group, facilitate engagement, monitor and influence what is happening at the national level, and secure more resources for our advocacy."

The Women's Major Group (WMG) was created as one of nine Major Groups after the 1992 UN Conference on Environment & Development held in Rio.

3. Preventing Violent Extremism (PVE) in Benue State



Consortium members of the project – “Connecting Women and Youth in Violent Extremist Prone Areas Through Empowerment and Skills Acquisition in Benue State” – in meeting with Benue State Executive Council.

In the year under review, WEP continued with her interventions aimed at Preventing Violent Extremism (PVE) and helping communities build resilience to violent extremist activities under the project “Connecting Women and Youth in Violent Extremist Prone Areas Through Empowerment and Skills Acquisition in Benue State.” The implementation of this project commenced since December, 2016.

The project which is been piloted in four Local Government Areas of Benue State (Ado, Agatu, Kwande and Logo) continued with series of activities including dialogue sessions between herdsmen and farmers; trainings for communities on community policing; training on preventing the recruitment and radicalization of in-school youth for teachers, women groups, media, traditional and religious leaders; awareness creation through the media about violent extremism; as well as providing livelihood skills to the unskilled out-of-school youth.

Specifically, WEP carried out the following activities under the project in 2017:

- 5 Workshop on preventing radicalization to violent extremism were organized for teachers, religious and traditional leaders, community-based organizations, women and the media in the target Local Governments. These groups are change agents who has a major role to play in preventing violent extremism among youth, and so require information and skills that will help them to do so.

- Eight schools were identified (2 in each LGA) where digital/creative clubs would be established and each equipped with 10 computers and solar energy. The digital clubs is to be established in schools whose students have no opportunity for computer education, information technology and skills training. The aim of the digital/creative clubs is to improve the quality of education children receive from the schools which can support them to be self-reliant after school.
- 4 sensitization rallies were conducted in some higher institutions in Benue state: College of Education Katsina-Ala, University of Mkar, Federal University of Agriculture, Makurdi and the Akperan Orshi College of Agriculture, Yandev, reaching about 10,000 youth with information about violent extremism.
- 268 out-of-school, unemployed and unskilled youth were placed on different vocational training across the target Local Governments.
- Two (2) dialogue sessions were held between herdsmen and farmers in Agatu and Ado Local Governments to chart a way for peaceful co-existence
- Three (3) workshops on community policing conducted in Logo, Agatu and Kwande Local Governments
- Four (4) workshops on advocacy, alternative dispute resolution and prevention of violent extremism: These workshops were aimed at equipping the youth with advocacy skills to engage their local authorities on issues that bother them as well as dispute resolution skills to mediate between warring parties.
- Awareness raising campaigns aimed at preventing violent extremism through radio drama – Stitches – that was produced and aired on major radio stations in the State. You can listen to different episodes of Stitches on this link - <https://drive.google.com/open?id=1UG3Wn0AKT0sUnycmFpH4Yn5qIMjXSRWx>

These interventions saw communities engaged in meaningful and peaceful dialogue with one another, gathered skills that will enable them police their borders, learnt effective methods for engaging themselves peacefully and adopting alternative dispute resolution (ADR) approaches in resolving grievances with the aim of entrenching peace and preventing the spread of violent extremism.

To get the Benue State Government and other stakeholders support the cause of preventing violent extremism in the State, WEP and other members of the Project Consortium made up of Angel Support Foundation (ASF), Centre for Development & Social Justice (CEDASJ), Foundation for Justice, Development & Peace (FJDP) and Gender & Environmental Risk Reduction Initiative (GERI), on 17th of November, 2017 paid an advocacy visit to the Benue State Executive Council.

The visit which took place during the weekly State Executive Council Meeting presided over by the State Governor His



Excellency, Dr. Samuel I. Ortom was aimed at intimating the Council of the project's interventions, the progress made so far and to solicit the support of the council in order for it to succeed. The consortium solicited to the government to scale up the project in other LGAs as well as an inter-ministerial platform to support the implementation of the project in the state.

The Governor lauded the various initiatives under the project and thanked WEP for initiating such a project. He then set up an inter-ministerial committee headed by the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development, with the Special Adviser on Local Government and Chieftaincy Affairs serving as The Deputy. Other members include the Special Advisers on Security, Youth Empowerment, Education and Special Duties.



Sensitization rally on preventing violent extremism at College of Education, Katsina-Ala



Dialogue session between herders and farmers organized in Agatu Local Government by WEP



Mr. Cliff Gai of WEP (sitting and backing in white) in a meeting with leaders of Fulani herdsmen in Ado Local Government Area of Benue State

4. Ensuring Effective Implementation of Programmes, Policies and Legislations that Contribute to the Achievement of Gender Equality in Nigeria by 2030



Participants brainstorming in a group work during a training in Zamfara State

The Kingdom of Netherlands in the year 2016 made a financial contribution to Women Environmental Programme (WEP) for the implementation of the project: “Ensuring Effective Implementation of Programmes, Policies and Legislations, that Contribute Towards Achieving Gender Equality in Nigeria by 2030.”

The objectives of this project include:

1. Advocate for policies and legislations that promote women participation at all levels of decision making, and remove all obstacles (social, political, cultural and economic) hindering women’s empowerment and participation in decision making and infringing on women’s rights.
2. Ensure effective implementation of programmes and projects through capacity building of CSOs, budget monitoring and information sharing.
3. Raise awareness amongst stakeholders on the fundamental rights of women

In the year under review, WEP implemented the following activities under the project:

i. Pre-project advocacy and sensitization in Zamfara State: From 11-14 January, 2017, WEP project team was in Zamfara State where the team met with various stakeholders and solicited support for the project. From Policy Makers to Legislators, Traditional and Religious Leaders to Civil Society Organizations, WEP briefed about this project and received commitment for support.

ii. Training workshop for Legislators, Commissioners and other State Executives and Aides, on SDGs and gender-responsive legislations, policies and programmes: From 6th -7th June 2017 at Benue Hotels and Resort, Makurdi, and 27 – 28th September 2017 at City King Hotels & Towers Gusau, the above trainings were held for Benue and Zamfara States respectively. The workshop provided a platform for the Legislators, Commissioners and other State Executives to clearly understand the concept of gender equality and practical ways of mainstreaming gender in programs, policies and legislations. It became very clear to all at these workshops that gender equality is not a ploy by women to take over from men as it was been thought, but a request for equal opportunities for both men and women to realize their potentials.

In a similar fashion, the training on SDGs and gender-responsive legislations, policies and programmes was replicated for the Aides of the Legislators, Commissioners and other Executives in the two States. The trainings were conducted from the 8th – 9th of June, 2017 for Benue State at Smile View Hotel Makurdi, and 29- 30th September 2017 at City King Hotels & Towers Gusau, Zamfara State. The workshop enhanced the awareness of the legislative aides and staff on SDGs and women’s rights which will support them in their work.

iii. Assessment of State’s policies and legislations: WEP carried out an assessment of existing States’ legislations and policies in Benue and Zamfara states to ascertain how these policies and legislations were contributing to gender equality in the states, how well these policies or legislations have addressed gender issues and how well they will contribute to the actualization of Sustainable Development Goals.

Some of the questions put in mind while assessing the policies and legislations were: does the policy or law prevents or helps to encourage cultural, religious and social practices that discriminate against women?; does the policy or law improves the economic situation of women?; does the policy or law makes easy the burden of domestic work on women?; does the composition of members of State’s Commissions deliberately indicate the number of women that should be on the Commissions’ boards?; does the policy or law takes into consideration the different needs of women, men, the aged and other vulnerable groups?; does the policy or law encourages or prohibits violence against women?; does the policy or law protects women’s rights from been violated by the husband’s family?

After the assessment of these policies and legislations, validation workshops were organized in the states where different stakeholders were brought together to validate the result of the assessment.

The assessment identified gaps in the reviewed legislations and policies in the two states and proffered recommendations.

Here are some of the legislations reviewed and what was found:

- Benue State Agricultural Support Law (CAP.5) Laws of Benue State of Nigeria, 2004. Section 4(2) provides for membership of the Project Implementation Committee. Provision is not however made to ensure the representation of women on the Committee.
- Education Law (CAP.58) Laws of Benue State of Nigeria, 2004. The law is aimed at providing for the management of education in Benue State. Section 4(1) provides for an Advisory Council on Education in

the State. The section provides that “members of the Council shall consist of a Chairman and 16 other members representing each of the following interest in the state...” No mention is however made of women representation in the Council. Again, Section 12(1) (f) provides that four other persons should be appointed from the Community in which the school is situated. There is no indication that any of the 4 persons should be a woman.

- Benue State Hospital Management Board Law (CAP.79).Laws of Benue State of Nigeria, 2004. Section 4(1) provides for the composition of the Board to include a part time Chairman, a Secretary, 4 other persons. The law however does not indicate if any of the 4 persons should be a woman.
- Law to Establish Hospital Service Management Board in Zamfara State (ZSLN:3 (2014) VOL 4) Section 4 (1) (g) provides for composition of the board thus: Nine other members representing interest groups to be appointed by the state Governor. There is however no mention as to what percentage of numbers to be appointed should be women or youth.
- Religious Preaching and Establishment of Jumat Mosques Commission Law 2003, Zamfara State (ZSLNO:14 (2003) Vol 4). Section 4 (1) provides for composition of the commission thus; The commission shall compose of the following members to be appointed by the Governor:

- a. Executive chairman
- b. Five permanent members
- c. One Malam from each Local Government to be appointed by the Governor

This law is again silent on the number or percentage of the commission’s members that should be women.

Where a law does not specify the gender composition in a board, it gives room for discretionary decisions that may favor one sex over the other. A law that does not specify gender composition of the board is not gender-responsive and will lead to marginalization of a particular sex. The assessment of current composition of boards in commissions of Benue and Zamfara States showed dominance of males.

The report of the assessment recommended the review of laws and policies to make them gender responsive. Specifically the report recommended that any law that provides for establishment of commissions or boards should be specific about the percentage of male and female that should make up such commissions or boards.

iv. *Training Workshop for Civil Society Organizations on Gender Programming for SDGs and Gender Budget Monitoring:*

CSOs have a key role to play in ensuring women empowerment and gender equality, to achieve this, they need skills and strategies to engage with government and hold them responsible for their actions. The SDGs are relatively new and CSOs at the State level have limited information required to engage policy makers on the SDGs. To build the capacities of CSOs to better engage on the SDGs, WEP convened two-day training of CSOs from Benue and Zamfara States on Gender Responsive Programming, Budgeting and SDGs. The trainings were held at Empire Suites Makurdi from 7th – 8th



WEP’s staff watched as participants did their group work

September 2017 and at Fulbe Villa Hotel Gusau from 22nd- 23rd August 2017 for Benue and Zamfara States respectively. The CSOs came out more informed about gender and SDGs. The workshop also equipped the targeted relevant CSOs with the skills to monitor implementation of budgets in their state for effective delivery of basic facilities and services for the citizens, especially the vulnerable populations, and raised their awareness on monitoring and accountability for implementation of SDGs in line with the objective of the project.



Participants at the workshop on gender programming for SDGs and gender budget monitoring for CSOs in Benue State



Participants at the workshop to validate result of assessment of legislations and policies in Zamfara State

5. Women CSOs Networking to Realize the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)



National training of CSOs on gender and Sustainable Development Goals in Cameroon

Women Environmental Programme (WEP) in collaboration with 4 other global and regional gender and women’s organizations - Women Engage for a Common Future (WECF), Gender and Water Alliance (GWA), Global Forest Coalition (GFC), and Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development (APWLD), in 2016, signed a 5-year strategic framework agreement with European Commission to monitor implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in 52 countries, under the project, “Women CSOs Networking to Realize the Sustainable Development Goals,” also known as Women2030.

The objectives of the Women2030 project are:

- Building capacity of women’s and gender-focused civil society organizations on planning, monitoring and implementation of the SDGs/post 2015 agenda and the climate agreement.
- Creating awareness at all levels of gender-equitable best practices and progress of national post-2015 SDG plans
- Ensuring more gender-responsive SDGs/post 2015 plans with participation of women and women’s organizations.

In the year under review, WEP commenced implementation of the project activities at the country levels, having successfully convened an African regional meeting and Training of Trainers’ workshop on gender and SDGs in Marrakech, Morocco, in 2016. In Nigeria, the national step-down training on gender and SDGs took place from 6-7 March, 2017 in Abuja; 28-29 April, 2017 in Lome, Togo; 4-5 May in Quagadougou, Burkina Faso; 5-6 September, 2017 in Cameroon; 8-9 September, 2017 in Tunisia; and 9-10 October, 2017 in Ghana.

These were followed by further step-down trainings at the local levels. The topics covered in these trainings which were attended by women CSOs, government officials, private sector and community groups were: concept of gender and gender mainstreaming in projects, programmes and legislations, Sustainable Development Goals, policy analysis, monitoring and advocacy related to the SDGs, basic financial management, mentorship and leadership, mainstream and social media campaigns. Over 300 participants acquired new skills on issues relating to gender and SDGs, policy advocacy, mainstream and social media campaigns.

In addition to these trainings, WEP also carried out a gender assessment in 11 states of Nigeria - Lagos, Benue, FCT, Kano,



National training of CSOs on gender and Sustainable Development Goals in Nigeria

Katsina, Delta, Yobe, Anambra, Plateau, Nasarawa and Rivers - to establish baseline information against the selected Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and their targets. This assessment was undertaken to ascertain how issues relating to the selected SDGs affect women, men, youth, the physically challenged, the aged, and the needs that have to be addressed to realize the SDGs. The SDGs that WEP is monitoring under the Women2030 project are Goals 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 13. The assessment revealed amongst other things, low living conditions of majority of the respondents, poor educational facilities characterized by lack of computers, lack of internet facilities and water and sanitation facilities in schools, as well as low representation of women in political offices across the country. These findings have formed the background for SDGs advocacy for WEP in Nigeria.

To raise awareness about SDGs and gender issues, WEP in 2017 launched a radio campaign in Nigeria, tagged “Women2030 Radio” on 99.9 Kiss FM, Abuja, where issues affecting women and the SDGs were discussed. The campaign ran from July to September, 2017. Listen to the radio campaign here.....

Due to our work on the SDGs, the Office of the Senior Special Assistant to the President on SDGs (OSSAP-SDGs) requested the Executive Director of WEP, Priscilla Achakpa, to join Nigeria’s Voluntary National Review (VNR) Technical Committee as a Civil Society representative, as the country prepared its voluntary SDGs’ report to the High Level Political Forum in New York. WEP effectively served as the representative of the Civil Society in the Voluntary National Review process of the SDGs as she got the inputs of the Civil Society into the National Report.

6. WEP's New Strategic Plan (2018-2027)



Board members and staff of WEP who participated in WEP's strategic planning workshop in Abuja, Nigeria

Women Environmental Programme (WEP) in year 2017 developed a new strategic plan of operations that will give direction to the operations of the organization for the next 10 years, 2018-2027. This strategic document was developed with support from the African Women's Development Fund (AWDF), under its Coaching Project aimed at strengthening governance frameworks in women's organizations.

The development of this strategic document was facilitated by AWDF's Consultant, Dr. Yene Assegid, in a four-day workshop at Ajuji Greenwich Hotel, Abuja, Nigeria, from 24-27 July, 2017.

With the new strategic direction, WEP's work is hinged on four pillars: Environment, Governance, Peace and Security, and Climate Change.

Under the Environment pillar, WEP's work revolves around – Natural Resource Management and Biodiversity, Chemicals and Waste Management, Water and Sanitation.

Governance pillar has the following sub-themes – Budget Analysis and Tracking, Policy and Legislative Advocacy, Women and Youth Political Empowerment.

Peace and Security pillar comprises of - Conflict Transformation, Countering Violent Extremism and Psycho-Social Support sub-themes.

While the Climate Change pillar has - Renewable Energy, Climate Justice, Mitigation and Adaptation sub-themes.

The new strategic document has also changed the organizational structure of WEP. In the new organogram, WEP's organizational structure comprises of the Global Board, Global President, Regional Team, Country Board, Country ED and Country Teams.

Download the new strategic plan here - <https://drive.google.com/open?id=1MBj-0YfxcX0TiHQG-8qkuMVJFv5rj7tF>

7. Celebrating 20 Years of Service to Humanity



Staff of WEP held out cardboard sheets displaying WEP@20 years, after a dramatic recitation of a poem composed for WEP's 20th anniversary, at Ajuji Greenwich Hotel, Abuja, Nigeria

It was a fun-filled night at Ajuji Greenwich Hotel, Gudu District, Abuja, Nigeria, on 27th July, 2017, as people from different works of life gathered to celebrate with WEP as she commemorated her 20th Anniversary.

Present at this event were government Ministries, Departments and Agencies, Development Organizations, local and international Civil Society Organizations, WEP's beneficiaries, professionals and private organizations, WEP's Board of Directors, old and current staff of WEP from Nigeria, Togo and Burkina Faso all gathered to witness this occasion.

Women Environmental Programme was formed in 1997 in Kaduna State, Nigeria, by a group of grassroots women to advocate against pollution by industries and its consequent negative effects on humans and the environment.

The organization was first known by the name Save Environment Action (SEA), before it was later changed to Women Environmental Programme (WEP). WEP was one of the earliest Civil Society Organizations in Nigeria and the first in Kaduna, Northern Nigeria, to lead environmental and gender advocacy in the country.

Pictures from WEP's 20th Anniversary Celebration on 27th July, 2017, at Ajuji Greenwich Hotel, Abuja, Nigeria



AWARDS RECEIVED

HOMEF Sustainability Academy Award

Executive Director Priscilla Achakpa was awarded a fellow of the [Health of Mother Earth Foundation Sustainability Academy](#). A fellow of Sustainability Academy is known as an Instigator who instigates discussions on burning sustainable development issues. This award was handed to her during the 10th Re-source Sustainability Academy forum themed: "Climate Change, Pastoralism, Land and Conflicts" at the International Conference Center Abuja on 18th October, 2017.



WEP IN THE NEWS

The Nigerian Woman and Stockholm Convention

Punch Newspaper

Throughout my career as an environmentalist and environmental communicator, I have always had a sense of foreboding when I think of the danger our society faces because of the potential quagmire in the environmental pollution subsector. Things are not usually what they seem.

Read more here - <http://punchng.com/nigerian-woman-stockholm-convention-2/>

“Strinkwishism”: How to Build Organizational Capacities around Open Data through Embedded Fellowships

Open Knowledge International Blog

Recognizing that capacity building is central to economic growth, reductions in poverty and equal opportunities, Open Knowledge International with the support of the Open Data for Development (OD4D) Network is expanding its work with civil society organisations (CSOs) through the Embedded Fellowship Programme.

In the last three months, I worked as an embedded fellow, consulting with Women Environmental Programme (WEP), by sharing data skills, and working on a data project with the team in their Nigeria office. Read more here - <https://blog.okfn.org/2017/02/08/strinkwishism-the-act-of-embedding-fellows-in-organizations-to-build-organizational-capacities-around-open-data/>

Women2030: Mainstreaming Gender in the SDGs

Punch Newspaper

This year’s International Women’s Day was marked last week on March 8. One remarkable event that stood this year’s celebrations out was the workshop organised for Nigerian women from March 6 to March 7 in Abuja, by the non-governmental organisation, Women Environmental Programme, under the global campaign hashtag #Women2030. The event titled, National Training of Civil Society Organisations on Gender and Sustainable Development Goals, was under the project, “Women CSOs: Networking to Realise the Sustainable Development Goals (Post-2015), also known as Women 2030 Project”. Read more here - <http://punchng.com/women2030-mainstreaming-gender-in-the-sdgs/>

Benue Women Protest, Demand More Appointments, Elective Positions

Vanguard Newspaper

Benue women on Monday staged a peaceful protest to Government House, Makurdi, to demand for more political appointments and elective positions in the state.

The women held placards some of which read: “Give more political appointments to women”, “Women are tested and proven”, “Gender justice or no votes” and “Women are critical stakeholders too.”

Read more here - <https://www.vanguardngr.com/2017/04/benue-women-protest-demand-appointments-elective-positions/>

Netherland-backed N.G.O. (WEP) Trains Benue Assembly Legislative Aides, Others on SDGs & Gender-Responsive Legislations, Policies & Programmes

jamesokefe.wordpress.com

A Non-Governmental Organisation (N.G.O.) known as Women Environmental Programme (W.E.P.) has advocated that the issue of gender should form the fulcrum of legislations, policies and programmes of government to ensure faster and all-inclusive economic growth and development of states, regions and countries.

WEP officials and facilitators made this known at a two-day workshop in Makurdi which was organised for the Legislative Aides of Benue State House of Assembly lawmakers as well as aides to officials of the Executive Arm of government. Read more here-

https://jamesokefe.wordpress.com/2017/06/10/netherland-backed-n-g-o-wep-trains-benue-assembly-legislative-aides-others-on-sdgs-gender-responsive-legislations-policies-programmes/?_e_pi_=7%2CPAGE_ID10%2C4342576732

CSO Lauds States Participation in SDGs

Daily Trust Newspaper

A civil society activist and leading participant in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Nigeria said greater involvement of state governments is aiding the capacity for success in implementation.

The Representative of Civil Society Strategy Group on SDGs, Mrs Priscilla Achakpa, said this yesterday in Abuja at the National Stakeholders' Validation of the 2017 National Voluntary Report on SDGs Implementation. Read more here - <https://www.dailytrust.com.ng/news/general/cso-lauds-states-participation-in-sdgs/201944.html>

Stakeholders Explore Avenues to Curb Flooding

Environews

Stakeholders have proposed practicable solutions of preventing further occurrence of floods in the country. These solutions were proposed during the National Strategic Stakeholders Discussion on Flood Prevention and Management, organised by the Environment and Safety Management Institute (ESMI) in collaboration with Women Environmental Programme (WEP), in Abuja on Tuesday, December 12, 2017. Read more here - <http://www.environewsnigeria.com/stakeholders-explore-avenues-curb-flooding/>

Nigeria'll Prioritise Gender Issues in Chemicals, Waste Management – Jibril

Environews

Nigeria's Minister of State for Environment, Ibrahim Usman Jibril, has pledged to make gender issues a priority in chemicals and waste management in the country. He made the pledge at a side event on gender, chemicals and waste, held on the second day of the 3rd session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA 3), in Nairobi, Kenya on Tuesday, December 5, 2017. The side event, titled: "What has gender got to do with chemicals?", was organised by Women Engage for a Common Future (WECF) in collaboration with Women Environmental Programme (WEP), Balifokus Foundation, Women's Major Group and International Pesticide Elimination Network (IPEN), with support from the Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm (BRS) Conventions.

Read more - <http://www.vironewsigeria.com/nigeria-prioritise-gender-issues-chemicals-waste-management-jibril/>

Benue CSOs Sensitized on Gender Programming, Budget Monitoring

Environews

In a bid to improve the capacity of Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) in Benue State on gender programming for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and budget monitoring, the Women Environmental Programme (WEP) is holding a two-day forum on Gender Programming for SDGs and Budget Monitoring for CSOs in Makurdi, Benue State.

Read more here - <http://www.vironewsigeria.com/benue-csos-sensitised-gender-programming-budget-monitoring/>

NGO Gets Gender Desk in 3 Ministries to Promote Environment, Women Issues

Sundiatapost.com

Women Environmental Programme (WEP) an NGO, on Monday, said it had established gender desks in three ministries to promote environmental and women issues in the country.

Mrs Priscilla Achakpa, the Executive Director of the organisation made this disclosure in an interview with the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) in Abuja. Read more - <https://sundiatapost.com/2017/07/31/ngo-gets-gender-desk-in-3-ministries-to-promote-environment-women-issues/>

Contradictions in Nigeria's Nationally Determined Contributions

Punch Newspaper

During the recently concluded African Youth Conference on Climate Change, which took place in Abuja from October 25 to 27, the Women Environmental Programme hosted a side event under the break-out group theme, "The Climate Smart Women". The focus group was not only able to beam searchlight on critical issues in the climate change sub-sector, but became the hammer that hit the nail on the singular troubling matter which, I suppose, fundamentally inspired the overall theme of the AfriYOCC. Read more here - <http://punchng.com/contradictions-in-nigerias-nationally-determined-contributions/>

HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

In the year under review, as a way of developing staff's capacities, WEP's staff and volunteers participated in the following capacity building programmes amongst others:

Workshop on Organizational Strengthening for Board Members and Staff of WEP, organized by AWDF on 8th March, 2017

State level review meeting of RUSHPIN program and CHISPIN project, at Benue Hotels & Resort, Makurdi. 20th – 21st April, Host; United Purpose

Third Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development (ARFSD), held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 17 to 19 May 2017

The Thirteenth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention (BC COP-13), the Eighth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention (RC COP-8) and the Eighth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention (SC COP-8), held from 24th April – 5th May, 2017

Civilian Military Coordination Course 14/2017, organized by the Nigerian Army Peacekeeping Centre at Jaji, Kaduna State, from 22nd to 2nd June, 2017

Protection of Civilian Course at Nigeria Army Peace Keeping Center, Jaji, Kaduna State, from 15th – 29th June, 2017

Training Workshop on Low Carbon Budgeting Framework for 2018, held from 3rd – 5th July, 2017 at Royal Tropicana Hotel, Utako Abuja, organized by Centre for Social Justice (CSJ)

Retreat for Programme Coordinating Mechanism (PCM) of the Global Sanitation Fund (GSF), held at Benue Hotels, Makurdi, Benue State from 11th – 14th July, 2017, organized by United Purpose.

Workshop on Delivering Effective Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Training, held from 14th – 19th August, 2017, organized by Foundation for Partnership Initiatives in the Niger Delta (PIND) in Warri, Delta State.

Resource Mobilization Boot Camp for Civil Society Organizations, organized by AWDF in Accra, Ghana, from 27th – 30th August, 2017

National Retreat on Revitalizing the Urban Water Supply and Sanitation in Nigeria, held at Sheraton Hotels & Towers, Abuja from the 28th – 29th September, organized by the Federal Ministry of Water Resources

53rd Global Environment Facility (GEF) Council in Washington DC, United States, from 28th – 30th November, 2017

High Level Political Forum (HLPF) on Sustainable Development, convened under the auspices of Economic and Social Council from 10th – 19th July, 2017 in New York, United States

10th Re-source Sustainability Academy forum themed: "Climate Change, Pastoralism, Land and Conflicts," organized by Health of Mother Earth Foundation (HOMEF), in Abuja, Nigeria, on 18th October, 2017.

Third African Youth Conference on Climate Change held in Abuja, Nigeria, from 25-27 October, 2017, organized by The African Youth Initiative on Climate Change (AYICC)

Twenty Third Session of the Conference of Parties (COP-23) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), held in Bonn, Germany, from 6th -18th November, 2017

Third Session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-3), held in Nairobi, Kenya, from 4th – 6th of December, 2017

ABOUT WEP

Women Environmental Programme (WEP) is a non-governmental, non-profit, non-political, non-religious and voluntary organization formed in April 1997 by a group of women in Kaduna State. WEP envisions a world where the lives of women and youth are positively transformed.

Although WEP emerged in response to the environmental pollution by industries in Kaduna State, over the years she has expanded her interventions to conflict transformation, climate change and governance issues.

WEP has United Nations Economic and Social Council of the United Nations (UN) (ECOSOC) special status, Observer Status to the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum, and United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). With the Observer Status, WEP participate as a major group organization in contributing to the intergovernmental decision-making process in the UN-System. WEP is one of the Organizing Partners (OPs) of Women's Major Groups and serves as the National Coordinator for Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council (WSSCC) in Nigeria. WEP is also the Focal Point for Global Environment Facility (GEF) CSOs in West and Central Africa.

Since 1997 WEP has impacted over 20,000,000 lives positively across the globe through her interventions in Environment, Governance, Climate Change, Women and Youth Empowerment, Peace and Conflict Transformation.

Vision

A world where the lives of women and youth around the globe are positively transformed

Mission

Ensuring the rights of women and youth through sustainable environmental, socio-political and economic development

Strategic Objectives

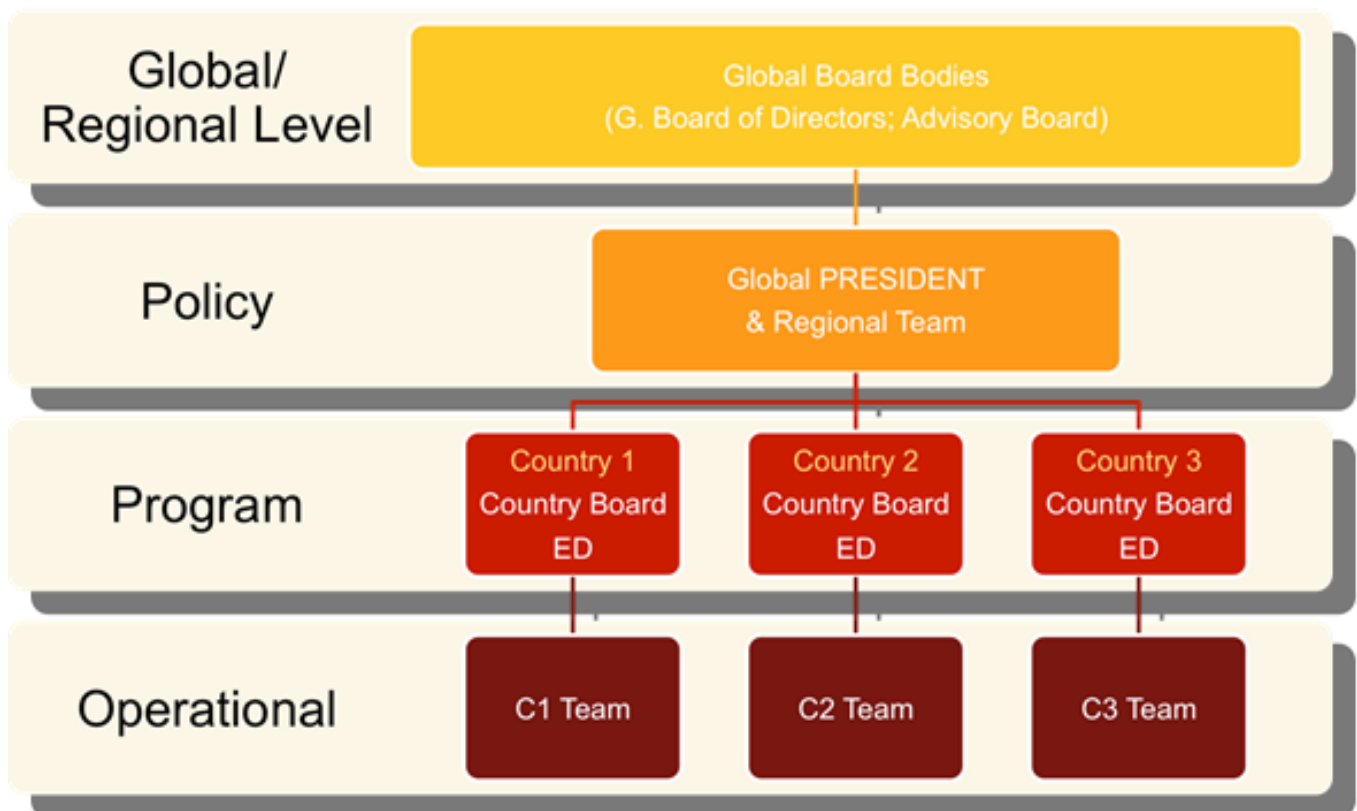
- i. To sensitize and raise awareness of the general public on the impacts of climate change particularly on gender, its mitigation and adaptation;
- ii. To stimulate the management of natural resources within the framework of national and international policies/convention for sustainable development of the environment;

- iii. To build capacity of the relevant stakeholders on the management of the environment, conflict transformation, renewable energy, water and sanitation, violent extremism and organic pollutants;
- iv. To educate women and youths on their civic rights and responsibilities, and on democratic governance.

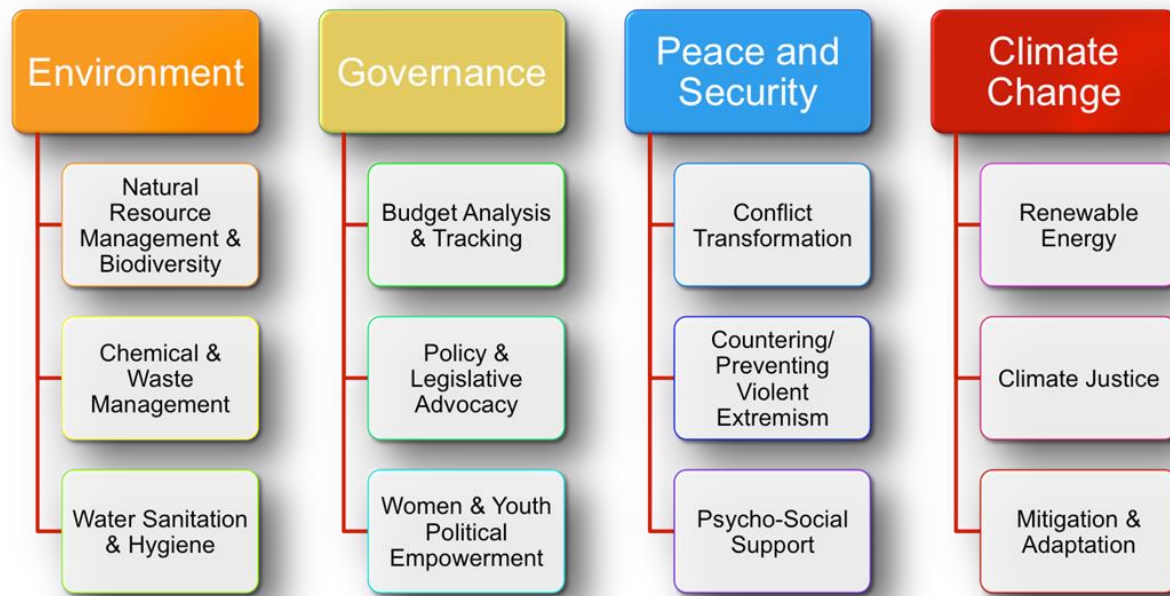
Core Collective Values

- Transparency and Accountability
- Leadership and Excellence
- Equity, Fairness and Inclusiveness
- Self-reliance and Sustainability
- Service and Social Engagement
- Gender Justice
- Team work

Organogram




Strategic Intervention Pillars



Where We Are in Africa



 Countries where WEP is located

Where We Are in Nigeria



● States where WEP is located

PARTNERS AND NETWORKS

Donors

The Kingdom of Netherlands

Delegation of the European Commission to Nigeria

African Women Development Fund (AWDF)

Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council (WSSCC)

Global Greengrants Fund (GGF)

Open Knowledge Foundation (OKF)

Global Environment Facility Small Grants Programme (GEF-SGP)

Global Community Engagement and Resilience Fund (GCERF)

Federal Government of Nigeria

Federal Ministry of Environment

Federal Ministry of Water Resources

Federal Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development

Nigerian Army Peace Keeping Centre (NAPKC)

National Networking Partners

Charles & Doosurgh Abaagu Foundation

Community Emergency Response Initiative (CERI)

Shacks and Slum Dwellers Association of Nigeria

Innovative Initiative for Community Peace Building

Society for Water and Sanitation (NEWSAN)

Climate Change Network of Nigeria (CCNN)

Nigerian CAN

Benue NGOs Network (BENGONET)

UNWOMEN Civil Society Advisory Group

Green Alliance, Nigeria

Regional Working Partners

African Working Group on Gender and Climate Change

West African Network for Peacebuilding (WANEP) Nigeria

Network of African Peace-builders (NAPS)

GEF CSOs Network

Global Networking Partners

Women and Gender Constituency (WGC) of the UNFCCC

Women's Major Group-UN

Gender and Disaster Network

Gender and Climate Change Network

Global Land Tool Network
International Land Coalition (ILC)
Habitat International Coalition
Women for Water Partnership
World Alliance for Citizens Participation (CIVICUS)
Shacks and Slum Dwellers International (SDI)
Women's Environment and Development Organization (WEDO)
Women Engage for a Common Future (WECF)

AUDITED ACCOUNTS

Download our 2017 Audited Accounts on the following link -
https://drive.google.com/open?id=1o3hPKRp4L-p_4MYiGHXDLSg4fMDfZAqE

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