

CONCEPT NOTE

# Addressing the Impact of Climate Change on Farmer-Herder Clashes in Nigeria

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
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NIGERIA.



## 1. Introduction

Climate change is a critical issue globally, with far-reaching impacts that extend beyond environmental degradation to socio-economic and political realms. In Nigeria, one of the most severe consequences of climate change is the intensification of farmer-herder conflicts, particularly in the Middle-belt region.

This concept note seeks to explore the nexus between climate change and these conflicts, presenting an intervention strategy aimed at mitigating the adverse effects and promoting peaceful coexistence. We seek funding from international donor agencies to implement comprehensive solutions that include the resettlement of displaced individuals into green homes, fostering sustainable living, and reducing conflict over dwindling resources.

## 2. Problem Statement

Northern Nigeria, predominantly occupied by pastoralist communities, has experienced significant climatic changes over the past few decades. Increased temperatures, prolonged droughts, and erratic rainfall patterns have degraded grazing lands, leading to the southward migration of herders in search of pasture and water. This migration has brought herders into direct conflict with farmers in the Middle Belt region, where crop farming activities are predominant.

The competition over land and water resources has resulted in violent clashes, loss of lives, destruction of property, and displacement of communities. These conflicts have further exacerbated food insecurity, disrupted local economies, and strained social cohesion. Urgent and strategic interventions are required to address the root causes of these conflicts and promote sustainable development.

To underscore this point, we produced a compelling documentary titled “Behind the Valley,” which powerfully captures how climate change drives the southward migration of herders from the arid North into the verdant savannahs of the Middle Belt, intensifying conflict in the region. The documentary has garnered widespread acclaim from stakeholders in Nigeria and beyond and has become an essential resource in the ongoing quest for a lasting resolution to this crisis.

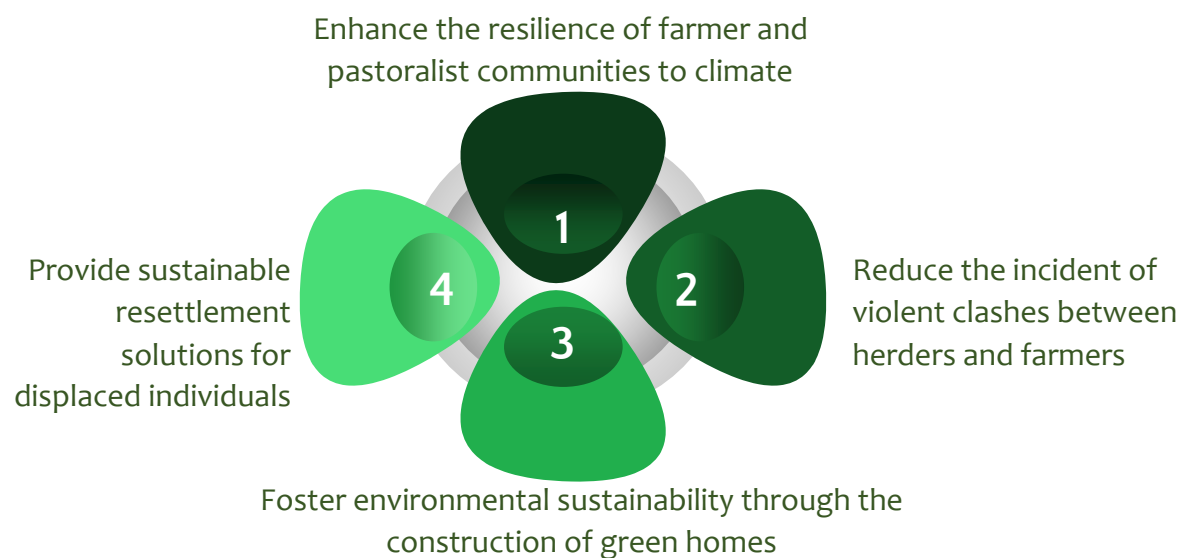
The documentary is also being planned for screening as part of Nigeria’s presentation at the United Nations General Assembly in New York and at Conference of Parties 29 (COP29) in Azerbaijan later this year (2024).

You can watch the full documentary on [www.behindthevalley.com](http://www.behindthevalley.com) or YouTube @BehindTheValley.



### 3. Objectives

The primary objective of this initiative is to mitigate the impact of climate change on farmer-herder conflicts in Nigeria by implementing sustainable solutions that address resource scarcity, promote peaceful coexistence, and support displaced populations. Specifically, the project aims to:


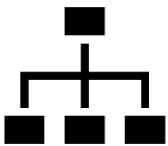


**Figure 1.** The objectives of the study


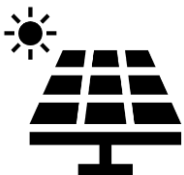
## 4. Proposed Interventions

To achieve the above objectives, we propose the following interventions:

### 4.1. Climate-Smart Agriculture and Pastoralism


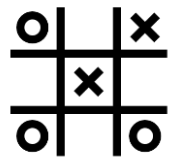
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Training and Capacity Building:</b> Conduct training programmes for farmers and herders on climate-smart agricultural practices and sustainable farming and pastoralism. This includes techniques for efficient water use, soil conservation, and alternative livelihoods.</li></ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Resource Management:</b> Establish community-based resource management committees to oversee the equitable distribution of water resources, reducing competition and conflict.</li></ul>

### 4.2. Construction of Green Homes

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Green Resettlement Housing:</b> Build environmentally friendly homes for displaced families using sustainable materials and energy-efficient technologies. These green homes will provide safe and resilient shelter, reducing the vulnerability of displaced populations to climate impacts.</li></ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Renewable Energy:</b> Integrate renewable energy sources, such as solar panels, into the housing projects to ensure reliable and sustainable energy access.</li></ul>



### 4.3. Conflict Resolution and Peacebuilding

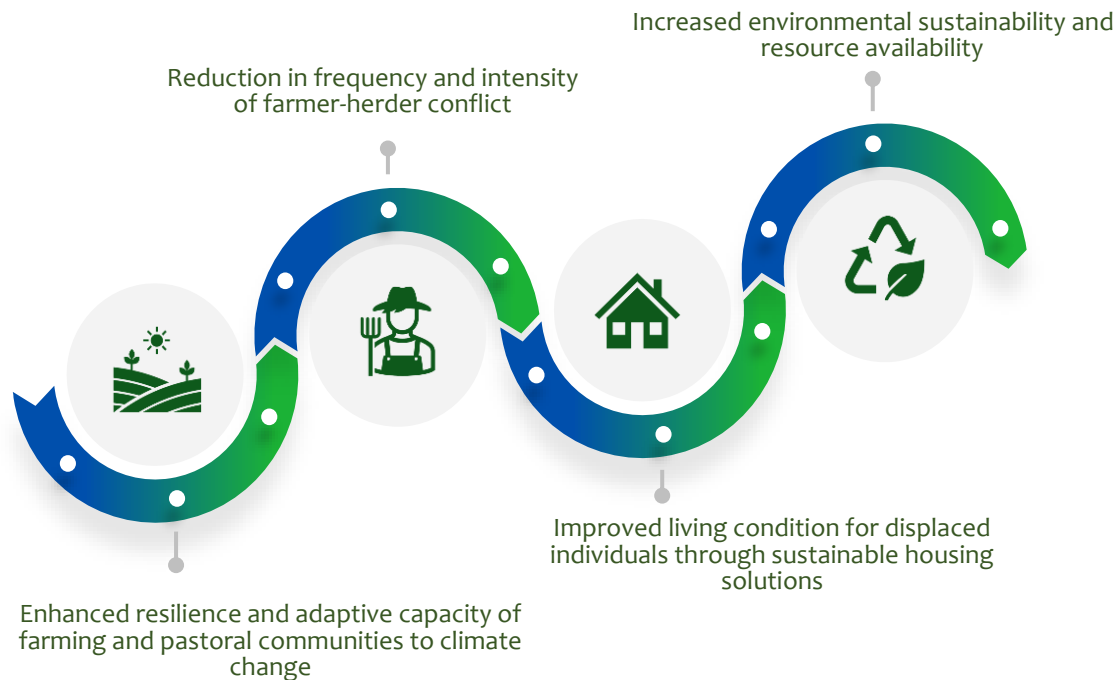
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Dialogue and Mediation:</b> Facilitate dialogue sessions between herders and farmers to address grievances, build trust, and develop mutually beneficial agreements on resource use.</li></ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Early Warning Systems:</b> Implement early warning systems and conflict monitoring mechanisms to prevent and respond to potential clashes promptly.</li></ul>

### 4.4. Environmental Restoration

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Reforestation and Land Rehabilitation:</b> Initiate reforestation projects and rehabilitate degraded lands to restore ecosystems and improve the availability of grazing and farming resources.</li></ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Water Management:</b> Develop and maintain water infrastructure, such as boreholes and small dams, to ensure a stable water supply for both agricultural and pastoral needs.</li></ul>

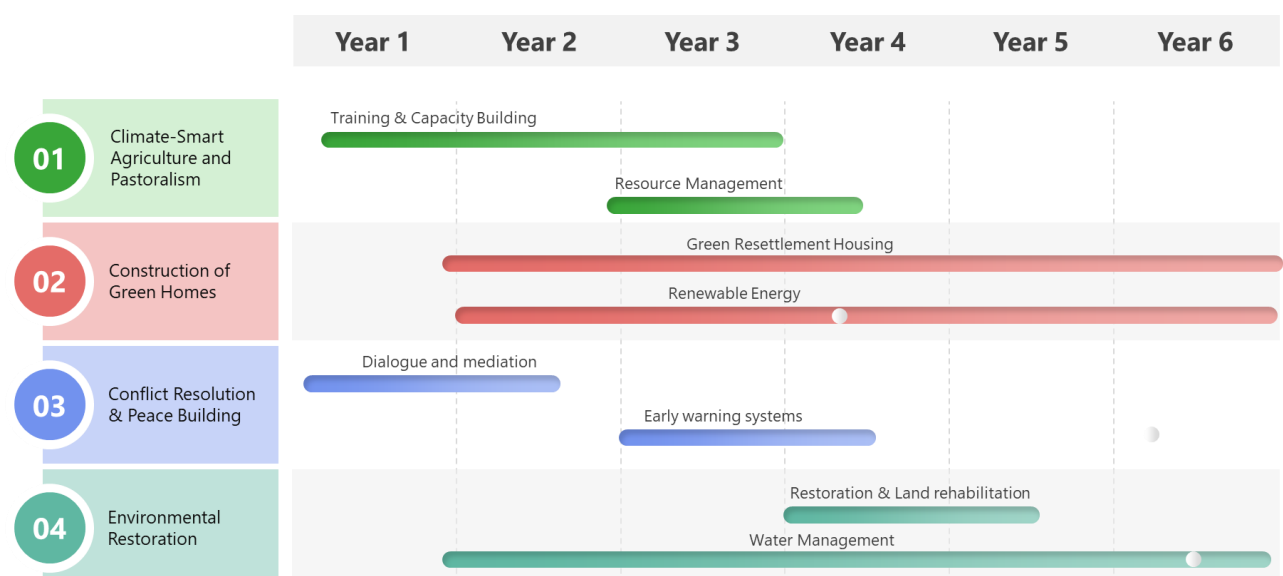
## 5. Expected Outcomes

The implementation of these interventions is expected to yield the following outcomes:



**Figure 2.** Expected outcomes for the programme

## 6. Timeline



## 7. Budget and Funding Requirements

To effectively implement this initiative, we seek funding from key international donors and funding partners to cover the costs of training programmes, construction of green homes, conflict resolution activities, and environmental restoration projects.

A detailed budget breakdown is provided in the attached appendix.

## 8. Team Structure

The successful execution of this initiative requires a multidisciplinary team and collaboration among various stakeholders.

Below is a proposed team structure:

### 8.1. Project Management Team

- **Project Director:** Honourable Member for Kwande/Ushongo Constituency (he will oversee overall project implementation, coordination, and management).
- **Project Manager:** Representative from Nigeria's Council on Climate Change (NCCC) (will manage day-to-day operations, timelines, and deliverables).
- **Finance Manager:** To be appointed (Will handle budgeting, financial reporting, and compliance)
- **Monitoring and Evaluation Officer:** To be appointed (Ensures project activities are tracked, evaluated, and reported).

### 8.2. Technical Team

- **Climate Change Specialists:** These will provide expertise on climate-smart agriculture, pastoralism, and environmental restoration.
- **Conflict Resolution Experts:** They will facilitate dialogue, mediation, and peacebuilding initiatives.
- **Sustainable Housing Engineers:** Design and oversee the construction of green homes.
- **Renewable Energy Specialists:** Integrate renewable energy solutions into resettlement housing.
- **Water Resource Engineers:** Develop and maintain water infrastructure.



### 8.3. Key Stakeholders and Partners

- **National Council on Climate Change (NCCC), Nigeria:** Provides policy guidance and ensures alignment with national climate strategies.
- **Ministry of Environment:** Supports environmental restoration efforts and climate resilience initiatives.
- **Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs:** Coordinates humanitarian assistance, resettlement, and support for displaced populations.
- **African Energy Council:** Advises on renewable energy integration and sustainable energy solutions.
- **Civil Society Organizations (CSOs):** Engage in advocacy, community mobilization, and capacity building.
  - Women Environment Programme (WEP) for Community Engagement
- **State Governments in the Middle Belt:** Collaborate on local implementation, resource allocation, and conflict resolution.
- **Local Community Members:** Participate in decision-making, resource management, and monitoring activities.
- **Representatives from Local Chiefdoms:** Ensure cultural sensitivity, local knowledge integration, and community buy-in.

### 8.4. Proposed Team Composition

Role	Organization/Stakeholder	Responsibility
Project Director (Hon. Terseer Ugbor)	Project Management Team	Overall project oversight and leadership
Project Manager	Project Management Team	Daily operations and implementation
Finance Manager	Project Management Team	Budgeting and financial management
Monitoring and Evaluation Officer	Project Management Team	Monitoring, evaluation, and reporting





Role	Organization/Stakeholder	Responsibility
Climate Change Specialists	Nigerian Council on Climate Change, Department of Climate Change, Federal Ministry of Environment	Climate-smart interventions
Conflict Resolution Experts	CSOs, Local Chiefdoms	Dialogue, mediation, peacebuilding
Sustainable Housing Engineers	African Energy Council	Green home construction
Renewable Energy Specialists	African Energy Council	Renewable energy integration
Water Resource Engineers	Ministry of Environment	Water infrastructure development
Community Representatives	Local Community Members, Local Chiefdoms	Local engagement and participation
CSO Representatives	Women Environment Programme	Advocacy, community mobilization
State Government Representatives	Middle Belt States	Local coordination and support

## 9. Conclusions

Climate change is a significant driver of farmer-herder conflicts in Nigeria, and addressing this challenge requires a multifaceted approach that combines sustainable development, conflict resolution, and humanitarian assistance. By supporting this initiative, international donors can play a crucial role in promoting peace, stability, and resilience in one of Nigeria's most vulnerable regions. We urge donor agencies to partner with us in this vital endeavor to create a more sustainable and harmonious future for all affected communities.



## Appendix: Detailed Budget Breakdown

To effectively implement this initiative, a total of \$151.5 million USD is sought/required. The budget will cover the costs associated with training programmes, construction of green homes, conflict resolution activities, and environmental restoration projects.

Below is a detailed budget breakdown:



Cost Category	Subcategory	Description	Amount (USD)
Climate-Smart Agriculture and Pastoralism	Training and Capacity Building Programmes	Development and distribution of training materials	\$500,000
		Conducting workshops and training sessions for farmers and herders	\$1,500,000
		Follow-up and monitoring	\$300,000
	Resource Management Initiatives	Establishment of community-based resource management committees	\$1,000,000
		Development of water management infrastructure (boreholes)	\$15,000,000
		Maintenance and monitoring of resource management systems	\$500,000
		<b>Total Climate-Smart Agriculture and Pastoralism</b>	<b>\$18,800,000</b>
Construction of Green Homes	Green Resettlement Housing for 50,000 People	Construction of 10,000 green homes using sustainable materials	\$80,000,000
		Integration of renewable energy sources (solar panels, energy-efficient tech)	\$20,000,000
		Development of community centers, schools, and health facilities	\$8,800,000

	Infrastructure and Community Facilities	Provision of clean water and sanitation facilities	\$7,000,000
		<b>Total Construction of Green Homes</b>	<b>\$115,800,000</b>
Conflict Resolution and Peacebuilding	Dialogue and Mediation Programmes	Facilitation of dialogue sessions between herders and farmers	\$1,800,000
		Training of local mediators and conflict resolution specialists	\$1,500,000
		Monitoring and evaluation of peacebuilding activities	\$500,000
	Early Warning Systems	Development and implementation of early warning systems for conflict prevention	\$2,000,000
		Training communities on the use of early warning systems	\$1,000,000
		Maintenance and monitoring of early warning systems	\$500,000
		<b>Total Conflict Resolution and Peacebuilding</b>	<b>\$7,300,000</b>
Environmental Restoration	Reforestation Projects	Planting of trees and vegetation in degraded areas	\$1,500,000
		Maintenance and monitoring of reforestation efforts	\$600,000
		Soil conservation and erosion control projects	\$1,800,000
		Development of sustainable farming practices	\$800,000

	Land Rehabilitation Initiatives	Monitoring and evaluation of land rehabilitation efforts	\$500,000
		<b>Total Environmental Restoration</b>	<b>\$5,200,000</b>
Project Management and Administration	Project Coordination and Management	Salaries and operational costs for project management team	\$2,500,000
		Administrative expenses	\$1,000,000
	Monitoring and Evaluation	Regular monitoring and evaluation of project activities	\$500,000
		Reporting and documentation	\$400,000
		<b>Total Project Management and Administration</b>	<b>\$4,400,000</b>
	<b>Total Budget</b>		<b>\$151,500,000</b>

This concept note outlines a strategic plan to address the impact of climate change on farmer-herder clashes in Nigeria through sustainable interventions. We look forward to collaborating with international donor agencies to achieve these critical objectives.





## CONTACT DETAILS

**Hon. Terseer Ugbor**

Member, House of Representatives

Kwande/Ushongo Federal Constituency, Benue State

Deputy Chairman: House Committee on Environment

Chairman: Ad-hoc Committee on Students Loans in Nigeria

Member: House Standing Committees on Aviation, Petroleum Midstream, Ecological Funds, Public Procurement, Steel Development, Public Service Matters, and Poverty Alleviation

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