

HIGHPOINT ON ENVIRONMENT

Sokoto State is one of States in Northern Nigeria that is affected by erosion and desert encroachment. The State has two eco-systems. One is Sahel region from Sokoto Central to Northern parts while the Southern from Central to Kebbe Local Government is Sudan Savannah.

2. The desert travels at two kilometers per annum.
3. These two major problems have posed serious menace to the lives of our people in terms of eroding farmlands and creating housing problems.
4. No doubt erosion and desert encroachment have continued to affect agricultural production and town planning efforts due to the large expanse of land that is lost to these environmental problems.
5. Conceited efforts have continued to be made by successive administration to reclaim lost hectares of land and also control the debilitating effects of desert encroachment on the environment.
6. Part of the measures being adopted include tree planting exercise, erecting shelter belts and enforcement of legislation on felling of trees.
7. Some of these shelter belts can be found around Wamakko, Illela, Gwadabawa, Bissalam, Gudu, Gada among others. These areas are more prone to desert and in-fact there is some Villages that are nearly being covered by sand dunes.

8. In demonstration of our Government's commitment to check the degrading of our environment, we decided to create a new Ministry of Environment. The Ministry ensures environmental health and pollution, erosion and flood management and forestry protection.

9. We also have Sokoto State Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA) and the State A forestation Programme.

10. We recognized the hazards of environmental problems of erosion, flood and desert encroachment. Each of these phenomena has its own adverse effect on the environment. Such effects include outright loss of soil and decrease in soil's nutrient capacity, moisture retention, organic matter content with attendant negative effects on crop and livestock production, residential buildings and infrastructure.

11. In a bid to further check this menace, we are dealing with the problems through general eco-systems by embarking on structural and non structural measures such as:

- Massive construction of drainages
- Public enlightenment campaigns against unwarranted, unplanned and willful bush burning, indiscriminate felling of trees.
- Application of environment impact assessment (E.I.A.) on both public and private projects and,
- Ensuring the enforcement of environmental laws and ethics.

12. The State has four zonal offices of forestry and wildlife in an attempt to actualize the forestry and wildlife policies in the state. They are situated in:

- a. Gwadabawa
- b. Sokoto
- c. Isa
- d. Tambuwal

At present, we have 25 gazetted forest reserves with about 6,000 square kilo metres.

13. 300 hectares of Gum Arabic plantation has been established in the state. One hundred hectares have been planted in each senatorial district ie Marnona – Benide in Wurno Local Government, Gidan Malam in Tangaza and Kambaza in Shagari Local Government.

14. It is note worthy, that the State is establishing Jatropha Plantations in forest reserve areas in order to provide Bio-fuel, check desert encroachment and replenish the soil.

EROSION OF FLOOD MANAGEMENT

15. The Sokoto State Government has made some giant strides in the area of erosion and flood control. Presently, a flood control work is ongoing in Gidan Bahure town in Wamakko Local Government. The work was awarded at N18,000,000.00 and will soon be completed.

16. The government will also embark on erosion control work at Tudun Wada and Gangaren Illela Garage. Similarly, flood control measures will be implemented in Gwadabawa. These works are in the pipeline and they will cost N50,000,000.00 and N38,000,000.00 respectively.

17. This administration will address the recurrent flood problems in Sokoto South, Sokoto North, Tangaza and Shagari

Local Governments as well as erosion problems in Wurno, Sabon Birni, Wamakko, Coronyo, Tambuwal and Kebbe Local Government Areas.

SOKOTO STATE AFFORESTATION PROGRAMME

SEEDLING PRODUCTION

18. 1,000,000 tree seedlings of different species were raised in the year 2008 in four functional nurseries namely:

1. Kainuwa in Kware Local Governemnt Area -	200,000
2. Gidan Kaura in Gada Local Government Area -	200,000
3. Sokoto Zamfara Road	- 300,000
4. Bodinga in Bodinga Local Government Area	-300,000
Total	<u>1,000,000</u>

19. Out of this number 500,000 was distributed to individuals, local government areas, Ngo's, ministries and departments in the State free of charge. N6.3m naira was expended by the State Government for maintenance of the remaining 500,000 left over seedlings

SHELTER BELT

20. Previously 80 Kilometres of conventional shelter belt was established in addition to random planting of Eucalyptus tree Species plantation for sand dune fixation and desertification control at Gidan Kaura Village in Gada Local Government Area. Also about 250 kilometres of shelter belt were established across the 23 Local Government areas in the state.

PLAN FOR THE YEAR 2009

21. 30 hectares of eucalyptus plantations is planned to be established in the year 2009 (10 hectares in each senatorial district) for poles, fuel wood, protection against desert encroachment and research. Also 14 kilometres of shelter belts was planned to be established in the seven front line Local Government Areas namely Isa, Sabon Birni, Gada, Goronyo, Illela, Tangaza and Gudu. In addition to this, 10 kilometres of shelter belt was also planned to be established for sand dunes fixation and desertification control at Gidan Gado in Gada Local Government Area. 1,000,000 tree seedlings was also planned to be raised by the programme for different models of plantations in the State.

22. About 10 kilometre shelter belts are to be established across the State.

STATE DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY

ROAD SIDE PLANTATION

23. One kilometre of road side plantation was established each along Kalamain – Wamakko and Jaredi – Dandin Mahe Road in which N4.7m was expended for the project .

GUM ARABIC PLANTATION

24. Maintenance of Gum Arabic plantations of 300 hectares has been carried out at the cost of N1.9m in the year 2008.

INTEGRATED ECOSYSTEM MANAGEMENT PROJECT (I.E.M)

25. As part of State counter part funding for the Federal Government I.E.M. project, drilling of 2 boreholes at Tajaye in Gwadabawa Local Government Area and Gidan Gado of Gada Local Government area for the provision of water and establishment of forest nurseries as well as forest plantations at the cost of over N20m has been carried out for the year 2008.

AMENITY PLANTATION

26. Maintenance of amenity plantation at Gado Nasko Road at the cost of N350,000.00 has also been carried out for the year 2008.

SEEDLING PRODUCTION

27. In order to provide the needed tree seedlings for planting for the year 2008, a total of 1.2 million assorted tree seedlings were produced and distributed for the State and Local Governments annual tree planting campaigns as well as to individuals, NGO's and Communities

PLAN FOR THE YEAR 2009

28. This year we planned to produce a total of 1.5 million assorted tree seedlings including Jatropha Species for biofuel. Equally, this year we planned to establish 345 kilo metres of shelter belts along the border Local Government areas together with 20 hectres of Jatropha plantations for biofuel development and rehabilitation of degraded lands.

29. We also planned to re demarcate and enrich degraded forest reserves covering an area of 100 hectares in order to provide fuel wood.

30. The Government has also set up a neem tree development committee in order to effectively utilize the resource in production of pesticides, organic fertilizer, neem oil etc.

31. There are plans to establish a new model recreational parks and gardens as part of efforts to provide amusement and leisure.

32. As part of plans to provide alternative source of energy, the Government intends to purchase improve stoves and other alternative sources of energy in order to reduce pressure on the forest.

SANITATION

33. Environmental health department and Sokoto Environmental Protection Agency is expending over N2 million on sanitation monthly in Sokoto Metropolis and other towns in the State. This is in addition to the last Saturday of the month sanitation exercise. There is gigantic plan for waste management disposal in the State. These include polythene bags eradications, cleaning of street by street and other strategic areas in the metropolis.

34. This year, we have a plan to provide skips and other solid and liquid waste handling within the State.

35. In order to ensure healthy environment we planned to have aerial and ground sprays and purchase of other pesticides and insect protective wares. Similarly, Environmental impact assessment (EIA) will be given more attention as a measure to check further ecological problems in the State.

* The problem of farmers / Fulani conflict, have been well taken care off. Recently it have been resolved in Sangina Forest Res. successfully.