

# Project Proposal: Plant 50,000 Trees & Restore 250 Hectares to Fight Climate Change in Nigeria

Organization: Empower Future Initiative (EFI)

Location: Southeastern Nigeria

Budget: \$65,000

Duration: 24 months

Target Beneficiaries: 120 smallholder farmers, 50 youth climate volunteers, 1,250 community members (direct and indirect)

## 1. Executive Summary

Climate change is worsening floods, heatwaves, and food insecurity in rural Nigeria. Deforestation, soil erosion, and unsustainable farming practices increase vulnerability for smallholder farmers and threaten biodiversity.

This project will restore 250 hectares of degraded land and plant 50,000 indigenous trees, while training 120 smallholder farmers and engaging 50 youth climate volunteers in climate-smart agriculture and ecosystem monitoring. By empowering communities at the frontlines of climate change, this project strengthens climate resilience, reduces carbon emissions, protects biodiversity, and improves livelihoods for 1,250 people.

## 2. Problem Statement

- Rural communities in southeastern Nigeria face frequent floods, soil erosion, and crop losses due to climate change.
- Deforestation and land degradation accelerate carbon emissions and biodiversity loss.
- Smallholder farmers, who depend on agriculture for their livelihoods, are particularly vulnerable to environmental shocks.
- Without immediate intervention, ecosystems and community resilience will continue to deteriorate, threatening food security and sustainable livelihoods.

## 3. Project Goal and Objectives

Goal: Restore degraded land, reduce carbon emissions, and strengthen climate resilience in rural Nigeria.

Objectives:

1. Restore 250 hectares of degraded land.
2. Plant 50,000 indigenous trees to sequester carbon and protect biodiversity.

3. Train 120 smallholder farmers in climate-smart agriculture and soil conservation.
4. Engage 50 youth climate volunteers in ecosystem monitoring and community awareness campaigns.
5. Empower 1,250 community members directly and indirectly through education and participation.

#### **4. Project Activities**

Tree Planting & Reforestation: Plant 50,000 indigenous trees across 250 hectares (12 months)

Climate-Smart Agriculture Training: Train 120 farmers on sustainable practices, crop rotation, soil conservation (6 months)

Youth Volunteer Engagement: Recruit 50 youth volunteers for monitoring and awareness (24 months)

Community Nurseries & Soil Restoration: Establish 5 community nurseries and repair erosion sites (12 months)

Environmental Awareness Campaigns: Conduct workshops and community sensitization on climate adaptation (12 months)

Monitoring & Evaluation: Track tree survival, land restored, carbon sequestration, and farmer adoption of practices (24 months)

#### **5. Project Budget - \$65,000**

Tree seedlings & planting: \$18,000 (50,000 trees, tools, transport)

Farmer training: \$8,500 (materials, facilitation, field visits)

Youth volunteer engagement: \$6,000 (allowances, workshops, monitoring)

Community nurseries & soil restoration: \$12,000 (materials, labor, soil conservation tools)

Community awareness campaigns: \$5,500 (workshops, outreach, logistics)

Monitoring & evaluation: \$5,000 (GIS mapping, data collection, reporting)

Administration & communications: \$10,000 (staff salaries, reporting, communications)

Total: \$65,000

#### **6. Expected Outcomes & Impact**

- 250 hectares of degraded land restored
- 50,000 trees planted
- 120 farmers trained in climate-smart agriculture
- 50 youth volunteers actively engaged in climate action
- 1,250 community members benefit directly and indirectly
- Carbon sequestration and biodiversity protection enhanced
- Replicable model for community-led climate resilience in Nigeria

#### **7. Monitoring & Evaluation**

- Tree survival rate  $\geq 80\%$  after planting
- Hectares of land restored verified through GPS mapping
- Farmer adoption of sustainable agriculture practices
- Youth volunteer participation and impact assessment
- Carbon sequestration estimation per hectare
- Community awareness workshop attendance and feedback

## **8. Sustainability**

- Local community ownership ensures continued maintenance of restored land.
- Trained farmers adopt sustainable agriculture practices, protecting ecosystems long-term.
- Youth volunteers continue environmental monitoring, education, and advocacy.
- Community nurseries provide ongoing tree seedlings for future reforestation.

## **9. Why Support This Project**

- Community-led climate action: Frontline communities take ownership of restoration and adaptation.
- High-impact, measurable outcomes: 50,000 trees, 250 hectares restored, 1,250 people empowered.
- Biodiversity protection & carbon reduction: Combats climate change locally and globally.
- Capacity building: Farmers and youth equipped with skills for long-term climate resilience.
- Scalable model: Can be replicated in other vulnerable regions of Nigeria.