



Sahara
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Observatory



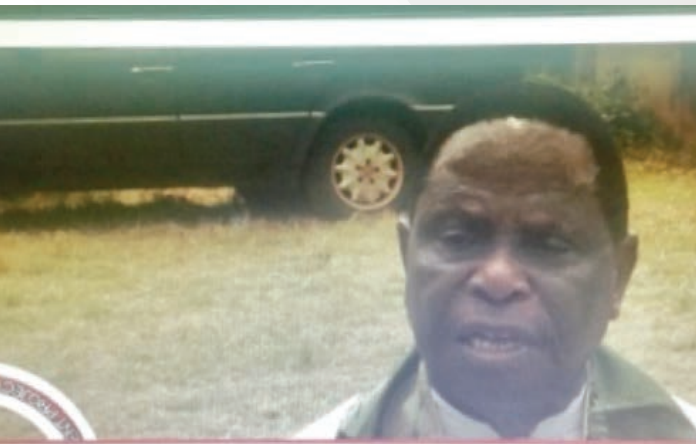
BRICKS | Building Resilience through Innovation,
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SAWAP | Sahel and West Africa Program

NIGERIA

REDUCING VULNERABILITY

TO **SOIL EROSION IN TARGETED
SUB-WATERSHEDS** IN 19 NIGERIA STATES



REV. FR. RICHARD OFERE

(PARISH PRIEST, ST. AGUINAS CATHOLIC CHURCH, BENIN CITY, EDO STATE)

SEVERE IMPACTS OF THE QUEEN EDE GULLY

Queen Ede gully site is one of the 19 sites representing the intervention of the project. It is located in Ikpoba Okha Local Government Area of Benin City, Edo State, with a population of about 200, 000 inhabitants' residents in Pogah, Edebor, Agbonlahor and Ignore streets across the road as well as Aroko estate and Ogbeson village. The gully started as a result of abrupt termination of the outlet drain from the Benin-Agbor highway. There were severe impacts of flood water along the highway, and several streets across the road. Many houses and two public schools were destroyed as a result of the gully that formed abrupt termination of the outlet drain from the Benin-Agbor highway.

“... Recently, with the intervention, the massive filling that they did, those two roads are now being used. Old Agbor road is alive. The road linking the church to the new Agbor road is also passable now. I am a beneficiary cause my church is been protected. NEWMAP is doing very well I can say that”.

Richard Ofere



WORLD BANK GROUP



INTERVENTIONS OF NEWMAP TO STOP FLOODS

The intervention in order to stop the floods and gully formation: The project designed and developed a comprehensive flood drain system as well as a comprehensive land reclamation/bioremediation. An estimated gully length of 960 m, depth of about 25 m, average top and base width of about 56 m and 40 m, respectively was reclaimed with ample road networks restored.

As a category A project by the World Bank going by the challenges it addresses, the project ensures best practices in its entire operations. The intervention starts with Environmental impact Assessment/Safeguards and Management Plan (ESMP) in all the project sites to ensure proper disaster risk management. The project also implemented resettlement Action Plan (RAP), where necessary, to compensate all project affected persons before commencement of civil works. Site designs are carried out with combination of flexible structures and bioremediation as well as livelihood components. All procurements are done in accordance with procurement guidelines and of best practices. All these mixed with community participation to ensure ownership and sustainability.

PROPERTIES AND INFRASTRUCTURES SAVED

36 houses, a church and a public secondary school building were saved, while interlink roads between the communities was restored. NEWMAP intervention is considered as "a Miracle" by many including Governor Oshiomole of Edo State.

CHALLENGES

It is estimated that over 90% of the total land area of Nigeria is under severe sheet, rill and gully erosion with the severest gully erosion accounting for 80% of Nigeria's total land area. Sheet erosion leads to impoverishment of the soil as nutrients are washed away, loss of livelihood as farmlands become wasteland thus increasing the menace of rural-urban migration and pollution and siltation of available sources of drinking water. Human lives and properties especially buildings are endangered as they collapse into gullies. There are currently over 2,000 active gully erosion sites spread around the country.

- Therefore the magnitude of Environmental Degradation Nationwide has led to increasing demand for NEWMAP intervention. In this regard, this has caused;
- Expansion of NEWMAP to 19 states as against 11 intended, and hence the need for additional funding;
- Release of Counterpart funds;
- Managing high expectations from communities, authorizing Environment and the general public;
- Overall, project implementation has greatly advanced despite operational challenges.

Overall, project implementation has greatly advanced despite operational challenges



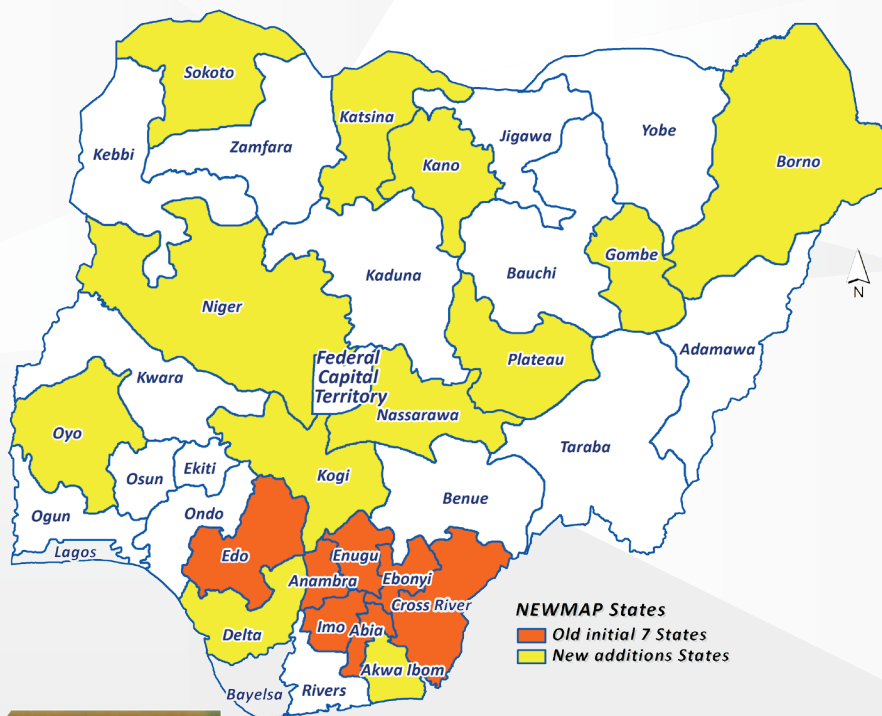
Before



After

Queen Ede Gully Edo State

INTERVENTION OF THE PROJECT IN A TOTAL OF 19 STATES



MRS FLORENCE NKEMAKONAM

ONE OF THE TESTIMONIES AND WHAT THEY THINK ABOUT NEWMAP INTERVENTION

“...you can imagine, where you are living comfortably, gradually you are losing the land, every rain you lose a portion of your land. We started crying and when God stepped in, NEWMAP then came, World Bank came, attention came and work started. I feel very happy; I feel very glad. I appreciate God, I appreciate World Bank, I appreciate NEWMAP...”

PROJECT BENEFICIARIES/AUDIENCE

- Total number of 106 support staff recruited project-wide to compliment seconded key professionals.
- With resettlement, to date 1,715 Project Affected People (PAPs) have been identified and approved, and 57 percent have received their agreed payments.
- 2841 beneficiaries (1640 female/1201 male) under the livelihood enhancement activities.

EXPECTED PROJECT IMPACT

- Reduced loss of infrastructure including roads, houses, markets, etc.
- Reduced loss of agricultural land and productivity from soil loss caused by surface erosion
- Reduced siltation in rivers leading to flooding particularly in urban areas and the preservation of some of the water systems for improved access to domestic water supply.
- Progressively restored vegetative cover, improved environmental conditions and more humid local microclimates. This results in increased vegetation cover for wildlife and carbon sequestration.

TO REDUCE VULNERABILITY TO SOIL EROSION

This success story is drawn from the SAWAP / Nigeria “Nigeria Erosion and Watershed Management Project” being implemented by the Federal Ministry of the Environment of Nigeria, which started in September 2013. The estimated closing date is 30 June 2020.

Its objective is to reduce vulnerability to soil erosion in targeted sub-watersheds

