



CSDDevNet

Newsletter

January - March 2026

UNFCCC Observer Organisation | 300+ Member Organisations Across Nigeria

MESSAGE FROM THE LEADERSHIP

Dear Partners, Members, and Stakeholders,

2026 is not simply another year on the calendar. It is a defining chapter for climate action, sustainable development, and the communities we serve. The urgency of the climate crisis demands not only bold commitments, but the courage to translate them into measurable, lasting change.

This first quarter, CSDDevNet has moved with renewed purpose across multiple fronts — engaging policymakers, supporting vulnerable communities, building partnerships, and advancing grassroots interventions that address the realities of land degradation, coal mining legacies, and climate vulnerability in Nigeria's most affected communities.

Our work reflects a core conviction: that transformative climate action is built from the ground up — rooted in communities, informed by science, and sustained by partnerships. From the wetlands of Akwa Ibom to the coal mining communities of Kogi State, our network continues to walk with the people most directly affected by climate change and environmental degradation. As a UNFCCC observer organisation with over 300 member organisations, and with the continued support of partners including PACJA, GEF-SGP, UNICRI, SIDA, the Netherlands Government, and the Gates Foundation, CSDDevNet remains well-positioned to deepen this work in 2026 and beyond.

The possibilities are powerful. We invite you to walk this journey with us.



"We are choosing depth over noise. Intention over routine. Collaboration over isolation. We are not just starting a year, we are shaping a direction for climate action that serves the most vulnerable communities in Nigeria and across the continent." - Steve Abuh Monday, National Network Coordinator, CSDevNet

JOINT PRESS STATEMENT: BBNJ TREATY ENTERS INTO FORCE

On 17 January 2026, a landmark moment in global environmental governance became reality. The Agreement on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) - the High Seas Treaty officially entered into force, bringing binding international protection to the world's shared ocean commons for the first time in history.

This is more than a policy milestone. It is a breakthrough for climate resilience, biodiversity protection, and ocean justice, a demonstration of what multilateral cooperation can achieve when nations align around a shared vision for the planet.

Nigeria stood on the right side of history by signing the treaty in May 2024. CSDevNet recognizes this as an important signal of commitment. However, a signature alone is insufficient. Full ratification by the National Assembly is essential for Nigeria to access the treaty's benefits; including equitable marine resource sharing and participation in global ocean finance and to secure its blue economy for future generations.

"The enforcement of the BBNJ Agreement marks a defining chapter for our planet. Nigeria's full benefits from equitable marine resource sharing to access to global ocean finance depend on ratification.

We call on the National Assembly to act swiftly. Ratifying the BBNJ Treaty secures our blue economy and preserves Nigeria's marine legacy for generations yet unborn." - Steve Abuh Monday, National Network Coordinator, CSDevNet

CSDEVNET AT THE RENEWED HOPE CLIMATE CHANGE AWARENESS TOUR

CSDevNet was honoured to stand alongside the Presidency and key national stakeholders at the launch of the Renewed Hope Climate Change Awareness Tour 2026, held at the State House Banquet Hall, Abuja.

The initiative represents a significant step toward mainstreaming climate awareness into national consciousness from urban centres to the most vulnerable rural communities. CSDevNet's participation reinforced civil society's critical role as a visible, credible, and constructive partner in Nigeria's climate governance architecture.

At the event, CSDevNet emphasised the importance of grassroots engagement, community resilience and the integration of climate considerations into sectoral planning across agriculture, energy, water, and infrastructure. The network reaffirmed its commitment to supporting Nigeria's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and to ensuring that national climate pledges translate into tangible, measurable impact for the communities most at risk.



COMMEMORATING INTERNATIONAL AND WORLD DAYS

CSDevNet and its partners marked several significant international observances in Q1 2026, using each occasion as a platform for awareness, advocacy and community action.

World Wetlands Day 2026 - Emere-oke Kingdom, Eastern Obolo LGA, Akwa Ibom State

In partnership with the BlueGreen Initiative for Sustainable Development Network (BlueGreenISDN), CSDevNet commemorated World Wetlands Day 2026 under the global theme: Wetlands and Traditional Knowledge: Celebrating Cultural Heritage. The commemoration, held in Emere-oke Kingdom, bridged ancestral ecological wisdom with contemporary conservation practice, reinforcing the irreplaceable role of indigenous knowledge in protecting Nigeria's fragile wetland ecosystems.

Young people were placed at the centre of the commemoration, receiving targeted training on integrating traditional knowledge with modern sustainable wetland management. CSDevNet also facilitated the donation of beehives to the Emere-oke community, delivering a dual benefit: enhanced pollination supporting wetland biodiversity, and sustainable honey income managed by trained local youth, directly reducing fishing pressure on the ecosystem. All proceeds are dedicated to women and youth economic empowerment a model that places conservation and livelihoods as mutually reinforcing, not competing, goals.



"Our goal is to transform community members from mere observers of conservation into active beneficiaries who thrive from it." - Ndunobong Edionsenyene Executive Director, BlueGreenISDN

World Wildlife Day 2026 - Boki LGA, Cross River State

CSDDevNet marked World Wildlife Day with meaningful multi-stakeholder engagement in Boki Local Government Area. A courtesy visit to HRH Otu Fredaline Enka Akando, Paramount Ruler of Boki LGA, was followed by intergenerational dialogues where community elders shared traditional knowledge on wildlife protection, forest conservation, and sustainable land use with younger community members.

A strategic advocacy engagement with the Nigeria National Park Service further strengthened the collaboration between government institutions and civil society in safeguarding Nigeria's rich biodiversity. CSDDevNet reaffirmed that protecting wildlife is inseparable from climate resilience, food security, and sustainable development.

International Women's Day 2026 - Rights. Justice. Action. For All Women and Girls.

International Women's Day 2026 was an occasion for CSDDevNet to honour the women leading climate and sustainable development action across Nigeria: practitioners, advocates and community changemakers who translate global frameworks into local reality.

From climate-smart agriculture and renewable energy to community resilience and national policy advocacy, women have been central to every CSDDevNet programme. The network has provided platforms for women leaders, strengthened their advocacy capacity, and created pathways for women to influence policy at local, national, and international levels. CSDDevNet remains firmly committed to gender-responsive climate action because when women lead, communities thrive and the planet benefits.

Forest Day 2026 - Forests and Food

On World Forest Day 2026, CSDDevNet amplified the global theme Forests and Food, reinforcing that healthy forests are not only carbon sinks and biodiversity reserves but the foundational infrastructure of food systems and sustainable livelihoods. The network engaged communities, young people, and policymakers on the interdependence of forest protection, food security, and climate stability, while advocating for stronger forest governance at state and federal levels.

World Water Day 2026

Access to clean and safe water is both a fundamental human right and a prerequisite for sustainable development. On World Water Day 2026, CSDevNet joined the global call to protect water resources and improve water governance in Nigeria, where climate-induced water stress is increasingly affecting agriculture, health and livelihoods, particularly in the north and in degraded mining communities like those in Enjema District, where the GEF-SGP project's solar-powered borehole represents a direct, community-level response to water insecurity. CSDevNet advocated for integrated water resource management as an essential pillar of community climate resilience.

GEF SMALL GRANTS PROGRAMME: FROM INFRASTRUCTURE TO COMMUNITY ACTION

PROJECT: *Addressing Land Degradation and Climate Change Through Sustainable and Climate-Smart Agriculture in Coal Mining Communities in Enjema District, Ankpa LGA, Kogi State*

Project No: NGA/SGP/OP7/Y4/STAR/LD/24/28 | **Start Date:** October 23, 2025

Grant Value: USD 45,000 | **Supported by:** GEF Small Grants Programme (UNDP)

Location: Enjema District, Ankpa Local Government Area, Kogi State

Project Background: Coal Mining Communities at a Crossroads

Communities in Enjema District of Ankpa LGA live at the intersection of multiple compounding crises: land degraded by decades of coal mining, climate variability that disrupts agricultural seasons, and deep financial exclusion that leaves smallholder farmers with few tools to adapt or recover. Women and youth bear the heaviest burden, with limited access to income, inputs, or institutional support. With USD 45,000 in GEF-SGP funding, CSDevNet is implementing a comprehensive, community-centred response combining solar-powered water infrastructure, a climate-smart demonstration farm, sustainable aquaculture, financial inclusion through VSLAs, and institutional advocacy to create a durable platform for environmental restoration and livelihood resilience.

Community Partnership: Land Donated, Trust Established

The project commenced with a courtesy visit to the Ona of Enjema, where the project team reintroduced the GEF-SGP initiative and its vision for the community. The traditional ruler and his council responded with a gesture that set the tone for everything that followed: they donated five hectares of land for the installation of the solar-powered borehole and the establishment of the climate-smart demonstration

"When they came to us and explained what the project would do for our land and our people, we did not hesitate. The land is our contribution. This project belongs to Enjema." - Ona of Enjema

Inception Workshop and Baseline Survey - October 23, 2025

The Inception Workshop at Enjema Community Square drew over 180 participants including traditional leaders, women and youth groups, farmers, media representatives and CBOs, a strong opening signal of community mobilization and broad stakeholder enthusiasm.

A structured baseline survey of 170 community members provided the evidence base for implementation. Key findings:

- 100 participants primarily engaged in crop farming; 50 in business/trading; 30 in other labour and handicrafts
- Most households have 5-9 members with landholdings of 1-3 hectares under cassava cultivation
- The majority had never received training or advisory services on sustainable or climate-smart farming practices
- Key challenges: poor input access, high fertiliser costs, low rainfall, mining-related soil erosion and land degradation
- Strong expressed demand for credit and loan access, directly affirming the VSLA component as a community priority

"Before this project, no one had ever come to teach us how to farm differently. We only knew what our fathers taught us. Now we are learning new ways to protect our soil and our water." - Woman Farmer, Enjema District

Physical Infrastructure: Progress Report

By end of Q1 2026, the following infrastructure had been established at the demonstration site:

- 1 borehole drilled to provide reliable water for aquaculture and irrigation
- 8 x 600-watt solar panels purchased and delivered for the solar-powered pumping system
- 3 x 2,000-litre overhead water tanks delivered and installed; tank stands constructed
- 20 tarpaulin fish ponds fully installed, completing the physical aquaculture structure
- 200 bags of fish feed and 5,000 fish juveniles procured and awaiting delivery
- Integrated demonstration farm: land cleared, laid out, and under preparation for climate-smart crop demonstrations

"The solar borehole will change everything. Before, we walked far for water. Now it will come to our farm. Our fish, our crops, everything will benefit."

- Youth Farmer,
Enjema District

Q1 Activity: VSLAs/Cooperatives Formation Training & Capacity Building on Sustainable Aquaculture

DATE :

30TH MARCH 2026

LOCATION :

Enjema District, Ankpa LGA, Kogi State

BENEFICIARIES :

200+ community members (minimum 60% women)

On 30 March 2026, over 200 community members gathered for the formal establishment of farmer-led Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs) and cooperatives, alongside the first structured round of training on sustainable aquaculture and climate-smart agricultural practices.

Financial Inclusion Through Community-Managed Savings

The baseline data confirmed what community members already knew: formal financial services are inaccessible, and informal lending is often exploitative. VSLAs provide a proven, community-owned alternative, enabling members to pool savings, access small productive loans, and build collective financial resilience without dependence on external institutions.

Community sensitization sessions introduced the VSLA model and its benefits. Members were registered with deliberate outreach to women and youth, interim leadership structures were elected, and governance



"I never thought I could be part of a savings group. Now I am the secretary of our VSLA. For the first time, I can save money and borrow for my farm without fear." Women's VSLA Member, Enjema District

Sustainable Aquaculture and Climate-Smart Farming

Hands-on training covered the full aquaculture management cycle; pond preparation, water management, fish stocking, feeding schedules and disease prevention directly linked to the project's 20 operational tarpaulin ponds and the solar borehole. Participants also received practical training in agroecology, composting, sack farming, home gardening, mulching, and soil restoration through demonstrations at the project's demonstration farm.

"They showed us how to grow vegetables in sacks using our own compost. I have already started doing it at home. My children now eat fresh vegetables every week." - Participant, Enjema District



KEY OUTCOMES — VSLA & AQUACULTURE TRAINING

VSLAs and cooperatives formally established with elected leadership and governance structures

200+ community members trained in savings culture, cooperative governance, and financial literacy

Practical aquaculture training delivered linked to 20 operational tarpaulin ponds and solar borehole

Climate-smart agriculture demonstrated at community farm: composting, sack farming, agroecology

Minimum 60% women participation achieved — strengthening gender equity in livelihood structures

Self-sustaining financial infrastructure established to support productive investment beyond project period

Q1 Activity: Advocacy on Coal Phase-Down & Initiation of Community Green Action Plan (CoGAP)

DATE: 31st March 2026

LOCATION: Ankpa Local Government Area, Kogi State

ENGAGED: Ankpa LGA Chairman; Onu of Ankpa Palace

On 31 March 2026, the CSDevNet project team conducted a strategic advocacy visit to the Ankpa LGA Chairman and the Onu of Ankpa Palace to open substantive dialogue on the environmental and socio-economic impacts of coal mining in Enjema District, and to initiate the development of a Community Green Action Plan (CoGAP).

Evidence-Based Dialogue on Coal and the Environment

Discussions drew on the project's baseline findings and infrastructure progress to ground the advocacy in community-level evidence. The team presented the compounding pressures facing Enjema communities; declining soil fertility, pollution risks, reduced agricultural productivity and foregrounded the urgent need for sustainable livelihood pathways capable of supporting families through a responsible, just coal transition.



Initiating the Community Green Action Plan

The visit initiated consultations for the CoGAP, a locally developed, community-owned framework for environmental protection, sustainable agriculture, and climate resilience in Enjema District. By securing institutional buy-in from both the LGA Chairman and the traditional palace at this early stage, CSDevNet is anchoring the plan in legitimate governance structures and ensuring it reflects the communities' own priorities and voices.

"We are the custodians of this land. When CSDevNet brought this issue of coal and the land to us at the palace, we knew we had a responsibility to act. We welcome this plan and we will support it." - Onu of Ankpa Palace

KEY OUTCOMES — ADVOCACY & CoGAP INITIATION

High-level advocacy engagement with Ankpa LGA Chairman and Onu of Ankpa Palace

Institutional awareness raised on environmental and livelihood impacts of coal mining in Enjema

Dialogue opened on coal phase-down strategies and pathways to sustainable community livelihoods

Initial stakeholder inputs gathered toward drafting the Community Green Action Plan (CoGAP)

Cross-institutional partnerships strengthened across government, traditional leadership, and civil society

Q1 2026 AT A GLANCE

350+

Community Members Engaged

100+

Women Participants

\$45K

GEF-SGP Grant in Action

20

Tarpaulin Fish Ponds Installed

5 Ha

Community Land Donated

300+

CSDevNet Member Organisations

LOOKING AHEAD: Q2 2026

Building on the momentum of Q1, CSDevNet enters Q2 2026 with continued project implementation in Enjema District and the launch of a significant new initiative addressing the climate-security nexus in North-East Nigeria

NEW PROJECT LAUNCH - Q2 2026

Building Climate-Resilient Communities to Counter Illicit Economies and Terrorism in the Lake Chad Basin

Partner: United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI)

Grant: USD 17,000 | **Duration:** 9 months | **States:** Borno, Adamawa, Yobe

Inception Workshop: 9 April 2026 - Yola, Adamawa State

The Climate-Security Nexus in North-East Nigeria

Communities in Adamawa, Borno, and Yobe States face a compounding crisis in which climate change and environmental degradation directly amplify insecurity. Declining agricultural productivity, water scarcity, and livelihood collapse are increasing economic vulnerability particularly among youth and women, creating enabling conditions for illicit economies, trafficking, and violent extremist recruitment. Limited community resilience and low awareness of these risk pathways further compound the challenge.

CSDevNet's UNICRI-supported project responds with an integrated approach combining awareness creation on climate-livelihood-security linkages, capacity building on Prevention of Violent Extremism (PVE) and community-based mediation, and structured multi-stakeholder dialogue across government, traditional institutions, civil society, and security agencies

The Inception Workshop - Yola, 9 April 2026

The Inception Workshop will simultaneously launch the project, deliver foundational awareness outcomes, build stakeholder capacity on PVE and mediation concepts, and collect baseline data to guide subsequent interventions across the nine-month implementation period.

Approximately 50 participants from all three states - government ministries, security institutions, traditional and community leaders, civil society, youth and women's groups, and media will engage through technical sessions, panel discussions, and scenario-based exercises.

WHAT TO EXPECT IN Q2 2026

UNICRI project launched: Inception Workshop, Yola, 9 April 2026 — Borno, Adamawa & Yobe States

Multi-stakeholder dialogue platform established across three North-East states

GEF-SGP: fish pond stocking with 5,000 juveniles and full activation of solar-powered water system

GEF-SGP: demonstration farm fully operational with first climate-smart crop plantings

Community Green Action Plan (CoGAP) drafting process underway in Enjema District

Agricultural input distribution (cassava stems, maize seeds, organic fertilisers) to cooperatives

Climate sensitisation workshops and economic tree planting aligned with planting season

TEAM MILESTONES

CSDevNet pauses to recognise the team members whose dedication and commitment drive the network's mission forward every day.

- Prof. Ibrahim Choji MNI, Board Chairman -- Birthday, 4 February
- Mr. Steve Abuh Monday, National Network Coordinator -- Birthday, 28 February
- Mr. Umoru Amen, Finance and Administration Officer -- Birthday, 4 March

STAY CONNECTED WITH CSDEVNET

CSDevNet's work is powered by partnership. We invite international donors, bilateral organisations, government agencies, development partners, CSOs, and CBOs to engage with the network share our resources, amplify community voices, and explore opportunities for collaboration on climate action, sustainable development, and environmental governance across Nigeria and Africa.

Subscribe to Our Newsletter

Stay informed on CSDDevNet programmes, climate advocacy updates, and community impact stories from across Nigeria and the continent.

info@csdevnet.org

Partner With Us

CSDDevNet welcomes partnerships with organisations committed to climate action, sustainable agriculture, environmental governance, and community resilience in Nigeria and across Africa.

www.csdevnet.org



Climate and Sustainable Development Network

**Plot 1A Woods and Bricks Estate
Lugbe, Abuja-Nigeria**

+2349161947443, +2348070723100

info@csdevnet.org, www.csdevnet.org



@CSDDevNet1

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