

The Politics of Global Warming and Climate Change In Nigeria

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ABSTRACT

The issue of global warming has become a recurrent decimal and controversial in the study of global environmental politics. This research examined the politics of global warming and climate change in Nigeria. The study adopted historical research design. The researcher used primary and secondary types of data. The primary source of data was Focus group discussion on selected areas like Rivers, Lagos and Akwa Ibom state whereas secondary data was gathered from text books, internet prints, journals, newspapers, and libraries, Delta State University library, University of Ibadan Library and National Library Ogun State. Qualitative method of data analysis was adopted. The research adopted the regime theory propounded by Krasner and Oral Young, as a framework to unfold the politics of Global Warming and Climate Change in Nigeria. The research affirms, that the idea of international climate conferences to reduce greenhouse gas by 2 degree level, are political against developing countries. This is to perpetuate her hegemony, neocolonialism and to dictate development strands for Nigeria and other developing countries. The research therefore recommends that there should be mainstreaming climate change into economic frameworks and policies in order to ensure integrated adaptation responses.

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I. Introduction

According to inter-governmental panel on climate change, global warming occurs when greenhouse gases (primarily carbon dioxide, nitrogen dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, hydrofluorocarbons, perfluorocarbons, and sulfur hexafluoride) are released into the atmosphere. These gases continue to increase in concentration in our atmosphere creating a “greenhouse-like” effect by trapping in heat from the sun, resulting in an increase in Earth’s average temperature (IPCC, 2007).

Global warming and climate change, according to Mayer (2018), also presents challenges such as political instability. A increasing corpus of study encompassing economics, political science, and ancient and modern history has claimed that it can and will happen in the last half-decade. Historians have linked changes in temperature or rainfall to the fall of Rome and the various 17th-century wars (Mayer, 2018). A group of economists from UC Berkeley and Stanford University has gone even farther, claiming that an empirical link between violence and climate change has existed for over 12,000 years (Robinson, 2018). As a result, scientists in the hard sciences, social sciences, and even global policymakers have given this issue substantial consideration (Motavalli, 2003).

There were, and in some cases still are, critics and skeptics in both politics and science who simply did not believe global warming was taking place on such a massive scale. Mainly due to lack of scientific evidence, their conclusion on this subject was that global warming was a natural process which takes place on Earth in cycles over a number of years. Today, global warming is an issue that does not involve much controversy in terms of its existence (Inter governmental Panel on Climate Change, 2005). However, the argument over the causes, impact, and responsibility of global warming is still a hot topic. This research will attempt to answer the question, “What are the primary causes contributing to global warming, and what measures are necessary to reduce global warming in the future?”

According to Motavalli, 2003; Global warming is a phenomenon which has been occurring over the past 15,000 years on Earth (IPCC, 2007). It can be described as a struggle between human progress (in the form of industrialization, population increase, and economic growth) and nature. If left unchecked, the build-up of greenhouse gases could permanently alter the Earth’s ecological systems. This would have drastic consequences for the planet’s biodiversity, including the human race. Current studies from the Intergovernmental Panel on

Climate Change (IPCC) indicate that Earth's surface temperatures could rise by 3.8 to 11.2 degrees Fahrenheit over the next 50 years, based on current greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions (Motavalli, 2003).

Nigeria is a signatory to many international conventions and Protocols targeted towards addressing the various issues associated with climate change such as the need to mitigate and or adapt to climate change. The country is for example a signatory to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The convention establishes "policy guidance" for the various countries of the world to access the implication of the increasing greenhouse gases (GHGS) in the atmosphere and to take steps in stabilizing or reducing them to endanger environmentally sustainable economic and political development. The first Conference of Parties; (COP-1) held in Berlin in 1995, the parties to the 1992 United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) recognized that in light of further scientific evidence (most prominently the Second Assessment Report released by the Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change), the commitments in the Conventions were "not adequate" to achieve its goal. The outcome of this COP provided a strong political mandate "the Berlin Mandate" for strengthening the commitments in the convention, which led to the adoption of the text of the first Protocol to the Convention at the third COP (COP-3) in Kyoto, December 1997.

. According to Okali (2005) Nigeria is exposed to a number of resources-consuming stressors (ranging from HIV corruption, mediocrity against meritocracy, militancy and Bokoharam to permanent crises and conflicts. Seeing the climate change as an external shock to the eminent cost by the externalization of cost of a third party, payment and assistance can be considered to be a reasonable way to compensate Nigeria for the negative climate effect.

Politics of global climate change and the role of Fossil Fuel Industry's in Hindering Climate Change Action: Lobbying and Disinformation Against Science and Scientists: On March 31, 2014, Working Group II of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, backed by 193 governments, released its landmark report warning that climate change has already caused impacts on natural and human systems on all continents and threatens "severe, pervasive, and irreversible" future consequences, (International Energy Agency, 2012). The International Energy Agency forecasts that to limit global warming to less than the 2 °C guardrail agreed to by nearly every country on Earth, we must cease construction of all fossil fuel infrastructure within three years (by 2017). In 2015, the United Nations Climate Change Conference met in Paris with the aim of establishing, for the first time in over 20 years, a binding and universal climate change agreement (International Energy Agency, 2012). However, Climate change negotiation and politics is the biggest negotiation in history of global environmental politics and it constitutes lengthy process as well. Nearly every country is participating in these negotiations. Each country has contributed to the negotiation process. Though the negotiation process is complicated, it has its own dynamic character. States are co-operating with each other; they have much disagreement on many issues, even within the same group of super powers and developing countries. Climate negotiation and politics is full of diversity of interest and state strategies, their behaviour, statements, and bargaining process in the negotiation which are unique; examples clarifying the intricacies of global politics. Climate negotiation brings change to the normative power structure and provides us a scope with which to examine new players on the turf of international politics.

The fossil fuel industry spends hundreds of millions of dollars lobbying and donating in Washington, D.C. against legislation for climate change action. Many fossil fuel companies are responsible for funding and orchestrating targeted anti-science disinformation campaigns that confuse the public, sabotage science, and slander scientists (Field, 2014). The fossil fuel industry continues to lobby against climate change legislation on a scale that dwarfs even that of Big Tobacco industries (e.g. British America tobacco, Imperial brands, China tobacco, Japan tobacco and Philip Morris international) at its peak (Field, 2014). In 2012 alone, individuals and political action committees associated with the oil and gas sector donated \$70 million to US candidates and political parties, in addition to funding over 800 lobbyists at a cost of more than \$149 million. The coal-mining sector spent another \$13 million in donations and \$18 million in lobbying. The fossil fuel industry spends an order of magnitude more than those advocating alternative energy sources, which spent \$2.5 million on donations and \$28 million on lobbying in 2012. This spending disparity appears to have profoundly impacted the climate change debate in Washington, as discussed below. However, it is impossible to demonstrate that lobbying necessarily promotes rhetoric or voting to counter climate change action; this is nevertheless evidenced prima facie by the exceedingly strong correlation between politicians' stances towards climate change and the size of contributions they receive from the fossil fuel industry.

Statement of problem

One of the difficulties confronting Nigeria is global warming and climate change, which has had the greatest impact on Nigeria and other developing countries. Nigeria is currently struggling with issues such as fast flooding, water scarcity (mostly in the north, east, and west), natural resource depletion (including wild life depletion), deforestation, rising sea levels, illnesses, and rising food costs. Because food production is inherently

risky due to weather dependent, the production of grains and other essential staples in Nigeria is frequently unable to fulfill the demands of the country's huge population, owing to environmental damage wrought by global warming. Despite all of these issues, one would wonder if nothing could have been done.

Nigeria lacks domestic policy ideas, capacity to act, and effective and aggressive action that might account for more than just signing international treaties, where democracies have an advantage. The value of geopolitical zones as a solution for coping with Nigeria's multiple difficulties caused by global warming and climate change has not been completely realized. Many other analysts argue that Nigeria is operating a unitary form of governance under the garb of federalism, based on its practice of federalism and intergovernmental interactions. Others argue that because of the overconcentration of power at the center and real-a politic, many federally controlled programs such as road development, environmental control, climate change, and wealth distribution are not providing the needed services.

Instead of relying heavily on industrialized countries for abatement technologies, the Nigerian government as a sovereign country need proactive domestic and international laws and political decisions that would free her from the grip of global warming. Given Nigeria's peculiar geopolitical structure, where effective political power and authority have often been concentrated in the hands of a few leaders from the country's majority zones, the North-West and North-East, the South-West and North Central, it has been impossible to address the negative consequences of the burden imposed on the country by global warming and climate change squarely and broadly. Petroleum and natural gas' finite nature will become a growing challenge for Nigeria, other developing countries, and the global economy in the long run. As a result of global warming and climate change, the globe is now shifting from an era of food abundance to one of food scarcity. The right to food, on the other hand, is not only one of the most frequently stated in international human rights declarations, but it is also one of the most regularly infringed. Despite long-standing legislation forbidding gas flaring dating back to 1984 and Nigeria's commitment to international climate conferences, the Nigerian government has been delaying the practice's cessation.

Individual elite interests have clearly interfered in the distribution of foreign aid and donations received for the aim of fighting the impacts of climate change in Nigeria. The politics of global warming and climate change in Nigeria have been strongly influenced by this. As a result, a critical examination of the politics of global warming and climate change in Nigeria became necessary.

Objective of the Study

The main objective of this study is to assess the political impact of global warming and climate change on Nigeria. The specific objectives are to:

- i. unfold the politics of global warming and climate change in Nigeria
- ii. unfold multiple links between global warming, climate change and political stability in Nigeria.
- iii. explore the regime theory to explain the possibilities and constraints confronting Nigeria and other developing countries and leading powers, in finding a global climate change regime and the need for adaptation policy framework.

Research Questions

- i. What are the effects of government policies on global warming and climate change in Nigeria?
- ii. What are the nexus between global warming and political stability in Nigeria
- iii. How does regime theory facilitate the collaboration amongst governments (Nigeria, and other developing countries and big powers) to minimise the effects of hierarchy and hegemony orchestrated on global political system and climate negotiation and the need for adaptation policy framework for Nigeria?

II. Methodology

The research design adopted for this work is historical design. This study utilized primary and secondary data that are gathered from text books, journals, seminar papers, internet print, and newspapers, amongst others, from few university libraries for instance Delta State University library, university of Ife, and National Library Ogun State Nigeria. Primary data include FGD 2018. Secondary and primary data were collected. For secondary data the researcher visited national library Ogun, University of Ife Library, and Delta State University Abraka Library. The primary data was collected through a process of (FGD) focus group discussion in selected areas. The researcher visited these states and the various local governments where the respondent hails from. Eight (8) persons were selected from each of these three states, a farmer, two politicians; a traditional ruler, a business man, two civil servants and a university student. The researcher employed the use of a discussion guide in each of the groups. The various citizens that make up these groups in each state were so chosen to represent the most viable works of lives in Nigeria. The group was limited to these numbers because the FGD was only conducted in this work, to complement the secondary data which is the main trust of this study. However, these states were the most affected by global warming and climate change in recent time,

especially in 2011, 2012, 2013 and 2018. The analysis was done through the qualitative analysis of secondary data.

III. Results

What changes have Nigerian citizens experienced in their climate and environment over time? And how can they explain Federal and State Government's commitment or policies to reduction and controlling of global climate impacts?

Throughout their lives, most Nigerians have observed changes in their weather and environment. They say that the regular pattern of seasons has shifted. But honestly are yet to feel government impacts or policies on climate change. For example, Mr. Solomon Duo a traditional leader from meaning community in Ikotodufia local government area, Mr. Daniel Akpan from Esene in Ikotabaisa local government area but resides in Ikotodufia, Mr. Emmanuel Chiko from Aba Town but also residing in Ikotodufia, Mr. Emanuel Udoh from Ikotodufia and Mrs. Imoh Aret Asuquo all residence of Ikotodufia in Akwa Ibom State, in a group discussion agreed that the rainy season now comes at a different time:

We know the rainy season starts around March and ends by August," they say, "but as of last year even on 23 or 24 December the rain was still falling. However, we thought Nigerian government should find a way to assist those affected by the flooding through their policies. But honestly I must say that our problem in Nigeria is high politics of selfish interest, if not government should be able to utilize her geo political structure and fiscal federalism to solve these climate problem by sharing resources to vulnerable people. But corruption and political interest will not permit this (FGD, 2017).

Similarly, Mrs. Adeola Adetoye from Bariga community, in Kosefe local government area, Mrs. Tola Olayemi from Aja community in Ibeju-Lekki local government area who resides in Bariga community, Mr. Daniel Dele Amodu, Mrs. Amina Dantini from Jigawa but resides in Barigalagos, Mr. Abdul Amed, and Mrs. Aderonke all in Lagos state explains that the harmattan (a dry, cold, inland wind) no longer arrives when expected: and that the persistency in rain fall irregularly have destroyed properties and rendered families homeless. and we are yet to get support from our government.

Interestingly, some Nigerians notice changes in the seasons in relation to ramadan. As a woman from Jigawa Mrs. Dantini Amina who also resides in Barigalagos puts it:

When I was a child, the fasting normally come in a summer season but now the nature has changed and the fasting comes in a winter season (Amina, 2017).

This is interesting, because the time of ramadan shifts from year to year. Other people talk not about shifting seasons but about the loss of distinct seasons, particularly rainy seasons. These women from Lagos are typical in their observation of changes:

The rain used to have seasons then but now it rains anytime it wants," they said (Amina, 2017).

There is no consensus on whether overall rainfall is less or more than it used to be but this is partially due to different climatic characteristics across the country: some areas have experienced more flooding while others have experienced drought and desert encroachment. Many people have also noticed higher temperatures:

The weather is becoming hotter than it was during 1990s and 1980s," however, I expect federal government to make laws that could help abate these problems, Honourable (Amadi, 2017).

Newton Amadi from Igwuruta community in Ikwere local Government area. Honourable Smiths Azunda also from Ikwere speaking in the group of 5 comprising Honourable. Chibueze Azunda who recently lost his mother on the 19th December 2017 at the time this discussion was going on, says:

the interval of rain fall this time around and inconsistent weather prediction is too alarming unlike what we are used to, most of our roads are bad, our lands are taking over by water and agricultural produce are deteriorating by the day as the price food has skyrocketed. That is why we pray by the day that this burning issue of resource control should come into existed so that our dear state can have enough resources to handle this problems caused by climate change. Because the money giving to the state is not sufficient to harness our problems. (Azunda, 2017)

Honourable. Bs. Buniface says "All I know is that the sun is becoming hotter." Changes in temperature are often attributed to the sun or overpopulation because heat from the sun's rays and overcrowding are immediate sources of heat. However, I used to also think that there is an international rule and regulations guiding the conducts of developed countries as per what limit they can go, utilizing/consuming our global commons. since this usage tends to affect the whole world especially the poor developing countries like our dear Nigeria. but from all indications, I feel these international regimes/laws are just there to favor the industrialized nations and to create a dependency for less developed countries like Nigeria. I asked isn't this politics?

Nowadays there is too much sun, the heat is terrible. Hence there is need for government to establish sustainable development strategies that can guide industrial production and human consumption of natural resources to avoid future tragedy or the Nigeria government should rather grant political autonomy to the local governments, through the state governments where the immediate receivers of these climate actions reside and also oil industries are situated. So they will have the power to take proactive decisions on prevailing issues, probably by a way of establishing a direct relationship with the international community, and also deal directly with these oil multi nationals whose activities are orchestrating global warming. And also to manage the funds benefited from international community's directly. what We experience today is a total difference unlike what we were used to," says the men from Akwaibom State.(Udoh & Akpan, 2017).

In northern Nigeria, many people have noticed a reduction in agricultural output due to drought and desert encroachment:

Years back, we use to have... trees and we use to grow groundnuts and local beans (Dantini, 2017)

Mrs. Dantini remembers:

But there was this strong approach of drought that took over, and since then we don't grow them anymore. The lack of trees gave way for the desert to come in (Dantini, 2017)

Farmers in particular feel the effects:

In those days you could farm and harvest food that would last for a whole year, but these days your harvest can't last up to six months," says Dantini. "If you had 10 cows you wouldn't be worried because they could go around and they fed well because there was grass, but now even if you have two cows you will be worried because there is no grass for them to eat. (Dantini, 2017)

Clearly, farmers are worried by the change in their circumstances.

Similarly, food scarcity is a concern in parts of Nigeria:

In the 1990s, people used to come to this town to collect food like Garri which is popularly known as (IkwereGarri). But this time around we go elsewhere to buy (food) and look for all the things people used to come here and buy (Amadi, 2017)

Urban Nigerians tend to express different concerns, including lack of space and overpopulation.

The population was not like these five years ago, claims MrsTolaOlayemi from Lagos, but now the population is such that the traffic will stand still till midnight... the population is too much.(Olayemi, 2017)

Traffic along with people building houses too close together and in inappropriate places, is seen as the results of overpopulation.

There is a general sense that the environment has been degraded. People mention several problems when they discuss environmental change, as Mr. Chiko from Aba but residing in Ikotodufia says:

What I have to say about the natural environment around here is that it is rough, he says. Things are very expensive, though in Aba things are very cheap despite the bad roads that are also not motorable. Farming here is also not too good. (Chiko, 2017)

Mr. Abdul Amed residing in Lagos says:

A decade ago, Nigeria was blessed with natural, good vegetation and conservation... but now, because of pollution, industrial pollution... the ozone would be distressed. (Amed, 2017)

This quote signifies a sense that ozone destruction is sometimes part of the general environmental degradation that constitutes climate change in the minds of many. While Nigerians are clearly experiencing environmental and climatic changes, they do not necessarily link them to global climate change.

What do Nigerians know and understand about global climate change?

Despite articulating local challenges and recognizing differences in nature, weather, and the surrounding environment, people rarely link such changes to the global phenomenon of climate change. Not only does climate change terminology not resonate with people, they also generally do not have a clear and accurate understanding of climate change concepts. In this context, *Nigeria Talks Climate* explores how people make sense of climate change terminology and react to information about climate change. It emerges that four key themes are shaping people's understanding of climate change, and affecting the way in which they explain its effects.

Terminology

Despite recognizing the impacts of their changing weather, people have a low awareness of climate change, as both a term and a concept. Most people think the term refers to seasonal changes or immediate changes in the weather.

Climate change means the season has changed," says Mr. Emmanuel Chiko. "The raining season and the dry season... has changed (Chiko, 2017)

Recognition of the term global warming is also low among the public. Those who do recognize the term understand it as a human-induced increase in global temperatures, but most understand it as a localized and sometimes seasonal increase in temperature. Mrs. Aderonke in Lagos explains:

To my understanding, I think it is when the weather is hot, that is what global warming is. (Aderonke, 2017)

Despite low awareness of climate change and global warming, a small number of people do mention the “greenhouse effect”. But there is no consensus on what it is, although a few people give an explanation of it and some know that it is connected to global warming but are unclear how the connection works. Several people conflate it with prior knowledge of ozone depletion. The following quote from Mrs. Adeola in Lagos illustrates the confusion that surrounds these terms and concepts, and their connection to one another:

Pollution from here perforates the ozone, which is a thin sheet. So when it is being perforated, the ultraviolet rays of the sun can easily heat the earth directly. That is why it is getting hotter. There are what we call greenhouse gases...that is carbon monoxide, which is sulphur oxide also. Those ones are going to cause another layer, so when the sun’s rays penetrate, those ones would also block it and the sun would bounce back... so that is what changes the climate over a long period. It is a continuous process (Adeola, 2017)

While she knows about ozone depletion and can give a general explanation of the greenhouse effect, she mixes the two together, a common mistake. While some people have a good visual conception of what the ozone layer is, they are unclear about its connection to climate change and global warming. Another example Mr. Abdul from Lagos who explains how he thinks global warming can be addressed:

My Dad uses a car, so it releases carbon monoxide, which destroys the ozone layer... if he did not drive his car, there wouldn’t be global warming; he emphasizes reducing carbon emissions in relation to ozone depletion (Abdul, 2017).

The terms and concepts of climate change and global warming revealed four important themes that influence participants’ understanding:

- i. emphasis on trees
- ii. The will of god
- iii. ozone confusion
- iv. Localized heat and smoke
- v. Irresponsible Government

Such pre-existing concepts are often referred to as “frames of reference”. These are critical, because they shape people’s understanding of, and reactions to new information. When exposed to new information, people often use existing beliefs, knowledge, and values to help them process it. The likelihood that people accept or reject new information depends heavily on what they already know and believe.

Crucially, people are more likely to reject new facts and information than they are to dismiss their own existing frames of reference. If new information contradicts a person’s beliefs, it is likely to be rejected. However, if that information is delivered in a way that complements people’s knowledge and values, people are more likely to accept it.

Emphasis on trees

Nigerians’ understanding of the concept of climate change is shaped by the importance they place on trees. They are seen as a means of protection, a barrier against drought, heat, and unusual seasons. People also see trees as protection against extreme weather, as Mrs. Dantini says:

Cutting down trees... allows heavy wind that blows off houses’ roofs... trees are supposed to reduce the penetration of heavy wind into our environment (Dantini, 2017)

Abdul from Lagos says:

I think there should be a law that every house should plant a tree, so that it can absorb the harsh weather conditions (Abdul, 2017)

Although people link trees to changing weather and environmental conditions, there is little understanding of their ability to act as carbon sinks, reducing the greenhouse gas emissions that cause climate change. The exception was in Lagos, where several people mention this: “*We should encourage ourselves to plant trees so that the emissions that are released will be absorbed by the plants and give oxygen,*” (Amodu, 2017).

Some people have a general sense that trees create fresh air.

In Lagos, coastal flooding is a recognized problem. However, people living there do not differentiate between coastal and rain-fed flooding when discussing the impact of flooding on their daily lives. While most discuss how flooding affects their travel and the transportation infrastructure, no-one appears to see coastal flooding as a potentially catastrophic threat to the city. I must mention overpopulation and overbuilding as the primary causes of coastal flooding which they do not connect to changes in climate. Mrs. (Olayemi, 2017)

It is human beings – how can they build houses near the river? Adeola agrees that building in the wrong places causes flooding: “it is this issue of sending the ocean away to build a house very close to it, so when it rains heavily... the ocean may come back.” (Adeola, 2017)

Flooding is seen to be caused entirely by humans. However, several people connect coastal flooding to the effects of global warming. However, several older men and woman discussed global warming correctly as well. Mrs. Aderonke demonstrates her understanding of the global causes of

Flooding:

Rain increases it, but it is that melting of that area... where the Eskimos live, that ice area is melting fast, in fact, it is making the ocean bigger and expanding.” Mrs. AretimohAsuquo says: “The water has been there since before we were born, global warming caused the floods (Asuquo, 2017)

Several people refer to melting ice caps and connect them to rising sea levels. Nigerians from rural outlying areas and lower socio-economic groups discuss how flooding has damaged their homes, personal property and livelihoods – traders who cannot travel to market, for example. People from higher socio-economic groups tend to see the effects of flooding as an inconvenience rather than a grave threat to their livelihoods and property. They mention how flooding decreases their ability to move around, and rarely mention it affecting their own homes or causing widespread property damage.

Most people’s responses to flooding are reactive. There is a sense that this unprecedented change in the local environment cannot be solved by their efforts and all they can do is deal with crises when they occur. The understanding of the causes of the flooding that some people show does not translate into an understanding of how to prevent it.

Some people mention the hand of God. Traditional leader Mr. Solomon Udo from Ikotodufia states:

In the days of Moses, we never heard anything like flooding, but in this our generation we are experiencing flood which is caused by our own carelessness. Then definitely it is only God that can save us (Udo, 2017)

This sense of helplessness and culpability is a common response. Most people just talk about their responses once flooding happens as opposed to any steps they might take to prevent it, Mr. amodu Dele from Lagos says: “*Whenever it rains, we move our things; even our TV is placed above the water level so that it does not get spoilt.*”

Knowledge about climate change appears to be concentrated within the national government and Nongovernmental organizations. Leaders of local associations, traditional leaders, and religious leaders have the lowest levels of understanding. The media, private sector and local leaders are more specific to the individual: some have an advanced understanding of climate change concepts, some do not, and many have a mixed understanding of climate change issues. Media representatives are the least confident talking about climate change and are well aware that they lack this knowledge Local government leaders have mixed levels of understanding. Some are on a par with their peers in the national government and some are closer to traditional leaders. Among traditional or religious leaders and heads of community associations, knowledge of climate change is much lower; for them climate change is generally understood as natural changes in the weather or irregular changes wrought by god. The exception is Rivers, generally has an advanced understanding, described government attitude and proffered possible government solution to ending global warming and climate change, these three groups also tend to conflate climate change with environmental degradation.

Climate change is from God, no one can change it. Sometimes when such changes happen, we think it is not right, while it is in fact the right thing from God.” says Mr Solomon Udo the traditional leader (Udo, 2017)

However, he further reiterated that this belief that God is responsible for changes in the weather does not preclude an understanding of human responsibility, or rule out a scientific explanation. This religious leader in Akwa Ibom state is aware that there could be additional reasons for the changes in the environment:

There could be a scientific measure to this which is due to our negligence, due to our disrespect for nature and the environment we reside in. At the same time, we should be open to the fact that God could be making a categorical statement that he is God, the creator of the universe” he says (Azunda, 2017)

Honourable Smiths Azunda also from Ikwere Local Government Area of Rivers state says that the causes of climate change include emissions, deforestation, and forms of environmental degradation such as pollution and gas flaring from shell BP. However, misunderstanding, corruption and government ineptitude remains. According to him, I can clearly say that despite the fact that federal government is demonstrating commitment to climate negotiations and conferences, and have as well benefited from the Paris climate fund which she has disbursed amongst state governments in recent time, for example our State Rivers benefited twice both from the first and second Paris fund which was disbursed by federal government amongst states, each was nothing less than ten billion naira and above. However a sum total of thirty four billion, nine hundred and

twenty five million, three hundred and twenty two thousand, six kobo was given to River state (34, 925, 322, 06) our law makers in the state house assembly rather prefer to fight over who gets the highest percentage instead of strategizing on how to meet the needs of citizens facing challenges orchestrated by global climate change such as flood, drought, food scarcity, and other health and environmental related problems. He further said that there is no significant climate rule and law in rivers state including Nigeria at large for example guiding the utilization of climate funds to the wellbeing of citizens who have been short changed naturally by resource scarce orchestrated by global warming, however this scarce resources including land for agricultural purposes have led to communal crises and incessant robbery amongst the youth within the river line areas of Okrika, Mile 1diob, Gborokiri and Omoku community he says. Before now, most of these boys were farmers but due to water flooding of farm lands and environmental pollution they have all been disengaged and relieved of their self-duties due to climate change.

IV. Conclusion

In general, a system's capacity to cope with existing climate variability can be interpreted as an indication of its ability to adapt to climate change in the future. One of the keys to human adaptation to climate change is minimizing the risks associated with changing climatic conditions, especially the frequency and severity of extreme weather events. Based on the findings of this study, global warming will increase the likelihood of political stability in the future. The more that the climate goes unchecked; the world would begin to experience additional volatility in developing countries.

The Nigerian state must look beyond oil rent and begin to initiate climate change adaptation strategies in the region. To do this requires a whole novel political economy and policies that will transform the region into a new climate friendly zone in the country. The creation of a new series of democratic institutions beginning with the rejuvenation of the now comatose geopolitical zonal structure of the country is needed. These new institutions will then ensure that urgent measures are taken to develop environmental friendly agricultural practices, reduce the exposure of coastal lands to ocean waves and erosion, adjust the operational strategies of foreign transnational oil corporations to reduce deforestation, oil and gas pollution, especially gas flaring. Individuals, groups and communities on one hand, local governments, state governments in the region and even at national level need to bring climate change and its effects into the mainstream of their planning, budgeting and policy implementation and evaluation processes as part of the new political economy.

Recommendations

This research therefore recommends that:

- i. There should be mainstreaming climate change into economic frameworks and sectarian policies in order to ensure integrated adaptation responses
- ii. There should be an assessment of social and economic vulnerabilities to ensure processes for national integration and implementation of strategies, and government programmes
- iii. Diversification of the economy away from oil production and channeling resources to manufacturing and service sectors of the economy including agriculture provides the key to Nigeria's economic stability. This will ensure that the global shift away from fossil fuel energy sources will not create any significant negative impact on the economy and help also to break Nigeria out of the dependency and neo-colonial bonds in the future. Nigeria needs to act fast in this regard
- iv. Increase government participation is crucial in the global climate change deliberation. Nigeria can only be sure that its interest is protected in the emergent global abatement strategy if it increases its level of participation
- v. On the other hand, funding should take care of the following factors; the problems of fragile states; understanding informal governance; the difficulty in effecting social change; changes in aid delivery
- vi. Nigeria government should be more practical in actions to mitigate global climate change impacts domestically (inward looking) to help facilitate a self-reliance economy, which will end all forms of imperialism in Nigeria, rather than just putting signature to international pacts.

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