

GREEN POLICIES AND CITIZENSHIP: THE ROUTE TO NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Gold Leton Kpurunee

*Department of Corporate Entrepreneurship
Rivers State University, Port Harcourt, Nigeria.*

leton.kpurunee@ust.edu.ng

Lekue B.M. Nwikebeh

*Department of Business Administration & Management,
School of Management Sciences,
Kenule Beeson Saro-Wiwa Polytechnic, Bori, Rivers State, Nigeria.*

meneleksb@gmail.com

&

Adesina Osho

*Department of Management
Rivers State University, Port Harcourt, Nigeria.*

Osho.adesina2017@gmail.com

Abstract

In an era characterized by growing environmental concerns and the pursuit of sustainable development, the relationship between green policies and citizenship has become increasingly important as a crucial means to promote national progress. This research explores green policies and the role of citizens in driving a nation's development. Green policies refer to a variety of strategies and actions that aim to tackle environmental degradation, promote the efficient utilization of resources, and foster sustainable practices across different sectors. These policies acknowledge the significance of striking a balance between economic growth and environmental conservation. They aim to achieve sustainable development that equally prioritizes the well-being of both present and future generations. Hence, the active participation of citizens in the policymaking process has the potential to result in the formulation of more well-informed and effective policies. Ultimately, the study concluded that a comprehensive and well-implemented set of green policies has the potential to effectively address a variety of challenges to the environment, economy, and society. Therefore, it is recommended that Nigerian leaders implement and strengthen environmental measures to safeguard natural resources, biodiversity, and

ecosystems. They should establish rules that restrict pollution, promote energy conservation, and support the use of renewable energy sources. Additionally, policymakers should ensure that everyone is included and has equal access to resources. They should also involve the public in decision-making processes, promote community development initiatives, and encourage the adoption of sustainable practices in everyday life.

Introduction

Green policies are critical as the human population increases exponentially. Nations are increasingly aware of the impact on the planet, and these impacts of human activity have been significant and far-reaching, resulting in significant environmental challenges. In centuries, human activities have accelerated, resulting in significant impacts such as climate change (Portillo Juan, Negro Valdecantos, & del Campo, 2022), biodiversity loss, depletion of natural resources, threats to water resources, deforestation, and pollution (Fang & Zhang, 2022; Xu, Zhang, Hernandez-Clemente, Lu, & Manzanedo, 2022). As a result, countries are facing the challenge of balancing economic growth with environmental protection and social welfare. These impacts pose significant threats to the ecological equilibrium of the planet, as well as

to the social fabric and economic stability of nations. Consequently, the concept of sustainable development has become a focal point on the agendas of nations worldwide (Sustainable Development Goal, 2017). The Nigerian government now faces the crucial task of formulating, managing, and coordinating policies and actions in a way that promotes economic development and prosperity, while also safeguarding the environment and ensuring the well-being and quality of life for its population.

Green policies are a collection of government initiatives, regulations, and strategies aimed at promoting environmental sustainability and mitigating the adverse effects of human activities on the planet. They are designed to protect the environment, mitigate climate change, enhance resource management, and help reduce energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions. These efforts transition towards a green economy that fosters the development of new industries, leading to job creation and economic growth, as stipulated in the post-2015 Development Agenda (Wikipedia, 2023). Renewable energy sectors, green infrastructure projects, and sustainable businesses generate employment opportunities and stimulate economic activity. Thus, the primary objective of implementing these policies in Nigeria should be to enhance the quality of community life through inclusivity and participatory decision-making processes, while also safeguarding the environment. Active citizenship can play a pivotal role in achieving successful and lasting outcomes for policies aimed at addressing pressing global challenges and fostering long-term sustainability. In a bid for sustainability, citizens can advocate for eco-

friendly policies, support conservation efforts, and take action to reduce their environmental footprint. These actions can lead to a more sustainable and resilient nation.

Despite the growing awareness and adoption of sustainability policies, the effectiveness of these initiatives and their impact on national development can be uncertain due to various challenges and complexities. Transitioning to a greener economy often relies on advancements in technology and infrastructure, and Nigeria lacks access to these technologies. Balancing environmental objectives with economic development is a tedious and delicate task for any nation to handle. While green policies aim to promote environmental sustainability and mitigate the impacts of climate change, their success in contributing to overall national development may vary due to various factors. These factors include implementation challenges, cultural and social factors, economic considerations, dependency on global efforts, trade-offs, unintended consequences, political instability, and policy reversals. Changes in government or shifts in political priorities create uncertainty and inconsistency in sustainability efforts. The Nigerian leaders are saddled with the responsibility of ensuring a healthy environment that prioritizes the well-being of all citizens by implementing appropriate economic, social, and environmental policies tailored to their needs. To fulfill this responsibility, there must be policies in place to guide the judicious use of national resources. Therefore, this paper seeks to explore the potential of environmental, economic, and social policies, as well as active citizen participation, in driving national development.

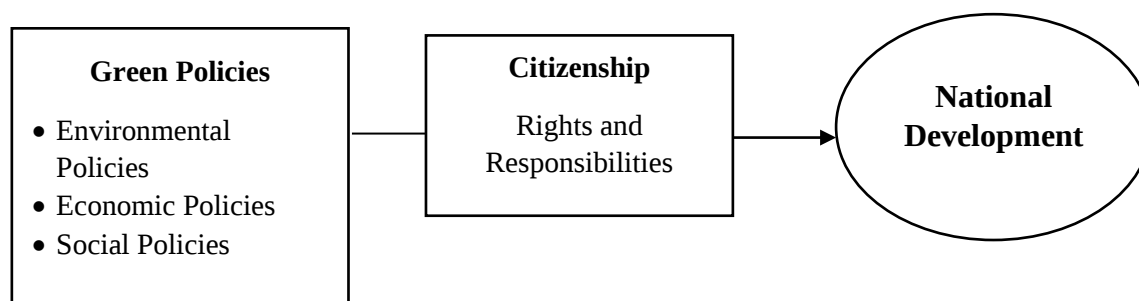


Figure 1: Operational Conceptual Framework of Green Policies, Citizenship and Nation Development.
Source: Researchers (2023).

The conceptual framework presented in Figure 1 above illustrates the relationship between green policies, citizenship, and national development. The framework shows that green policies are

measured through environmental, economic, and social policies. These concepts relate to citizenship, which encompasses both rights and responsibilities. The interdependence between

green policies and citizenship serves as a pathway to national development.

Theoretical Foundation and Review of Literature

This work is grounded in sustainable development theory, and Lele, Mebratu, Zhang, and others have made valuable contributions to the theory (Shi, Han, Yang & Gao, 2019). The concept of Sustainable Development has deep roots in China, originating from the core principle of Chinese classical philosophy—"天人合一" (Harmony between Heaven and Humanity), which has influenced Chinese thoughts and practices over millennia (Wu, Guo, Yang, Qian, Niu, Liang, Zhang, Li, 2014). As early as the Western Zhou Dynasty (1100–771 B.C.), emperors understood the significance of aligning human activities with natural laws to avoid the overexploitation of mountains, forests, and rivers. As a result, they took various steps to safeguard natural resources. These measures included setting up specialized management departments, implementing state monopolies, imposing taxes on mountains and gardens, and enacting bans (Zhou, 2009). Subsequently, ancient Egyptian, Mesopotamian, Greek, and Roman civilizations also examined the causes of environmental degradation, such as agriculture, logging, and mining (Du Pisani, 2006), and various measures including mining control, logging regulations, and agricultural practices were recommended.

Sustainable development theory was developed in response to growing concerns about the long-term impacts of industrialization and economic growth on the planet and society. The concept of sustainable development gained significant prominence with the publication of the report "*Our Common Future*" by the World Commission on Environment and Development (WCED) in 1987, also known as the Brundtland Report. It defined the concept as "development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs" (United Nations General Assembly, 1987: 43). This definition brought global attention to the need for integrating environmental and developmental goals. The United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, also known as the Earth Summit, further solidified the concept of sustainable development which resulted in key documents like Agenda 21, the Rio Declaration, and the establishment of the

Commission on Sustainable Development. Hence, sustainable development rests on ensuring economic growth and stability without depleting resources or harming the environment; promoting social equity, justice, and well-being for all individuals and communities; and protecting and managing natural resources and ecosystems to maintain their viability for future generations.

The theory focuses on how green policies can lead to the sustainable use of natural resources, strengthen community bonds, and enhance social networks. It emphasizes the environmental, economic, and social transformation of society, asserting that environmental issues and sustainable practices should be promoted to protect and preserve natural resources and ecosystems (Zeb-Obipi & Kpurunee, 2022). It also underscores the importance of innovation, cleaner production technologies, and eco-friendly practices in achieving sustainable development. The efficient use of resources through recycling, reuse, and waste reduction can result in economic benefits and sustainable development. Therefore, by integrating green policies and promoting environmental citizenship, nations can achieve sustainable development goals. Economic growth can be pursued in an environmentally friendly manner, ensuring long-term prosperity and stability. Social inclusion is enhanced through community engagement and equitable access to resources, thus supporting overall national development. Thus, citizens have a crucial role to play in supporting and implementing green policies.

Green Policies

Green policies encompass strategies and measures aimed at mitigating environmental degradation, promoting resource efficiency, and fostering sustainable practices across all sectors. These policies recognize the need to balance economic growth with environmental preservation, leading to sustainable development that ensures the well-being of present and future generations (Henderson & Loreau, 2023; Fay, 2012). Green policies are explicitly designed to ensure sustainable economic growth, a thriving environment, and inclusive social development (OECD, 2001). Policies that promote eco-friendly infrastructure, energy-efficient practices, and technologies, as well as encourage investments in eco-friendly infrastructure projects, such as public transportation systems, renewable energy facilities, and waste management systems, can

stimulate economic activity, thereby leading to national development. Measures of green policies are discussed in the following paragraphs.

Environmental Policies

Environmental policies are a collection of regulations, laws, guidelines, and actions implemented by governments, organizations, or institutions to tackle environmental issues and encourage sustainable practices. These policies are designed to protect and preserve natural resources and ecosystems, reduce pollution, and address the challenges posed by climate change and other environmental threats (National Research Council, 1999; Benson & Jordan, 2015). An example of such a policy in Nigeria is the National Environmental Standards and Regulations Enforcement Agency (NESREA) Act, established by the NESREA Act of 2007. The agency is responsible for enforcing environmental laws, regulations, and standards in Nigeria. It addresses various environmental challenges by ensuring waste management, air quality, water quality, biodiversity conservation, environmental impact assessment, and climate change mitigation. However, the agency often faces challenges in effectively enforcing environmental regulations due to limited resources, including funding and manpower. Thus, ensuring adequate funding and resource allocation for NESREA's activities is necessary. It will help in conducting inspections, monitoring compliance, and carrying out public awareness campaigns effectively, and mitigate the negative impact on our environment.

Nigeria, as a country, faces unique environmental challenges, which include oil spills and gas flaring, erosion and flooding, vulnerability to climate change, inadequate waste management, deforestation, and biodiversity loss (Zabbey, Giadom & Babatunde, 2019). Nigeria has experienced extensive deforestation due to agricultural expansion and urbanization. This loss of forest cover has a negative impact on biodiversity and can lead to soil erosion and reduced water availability. More so, the country is a significant oil-producing nation, and as a result, there have been frequent oil spills, particularly in the Niger Delta region. These spills harm the ecosystem, pollute water sources, and damage local communities' livelihoods. Additionally, gas flaring during oil extraction releases greenhouse gases and other pollutants into the atmosphere. Therefore, the government must ensure adequate

funding for agencies (e.g., NESREA) to conduct inspections, monitor compliance, and carry out public awareness campaigns effectively. They must take control measures and implement strategies such as pollution control (regulate pollution from various sources such as industrial emission, vehicle exhaust, agricultural runoff, and waste disposal); natural resource conservation (address the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources); environmental justice (address the unequal distribution of environmental burdens and benefits, ensuring that vulnerable communities are not disproportionately affected by environmental hazards); climate change mitigation and adaptation, waste management and recycling, environmental impact assessments, environmental educational and awareness, and development and deployment of green technologies and innovations. It is also a necessity to collaborate with and efficiently utilize funds received from international organizations: United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Framework Convention on climate change (UNFCCC), etc., to mitigate environmental challenges and meet the objectives of international environmental conventions (Global Environment Facility, 2023). These international organizations provide technical expertise, capacity building, and policy support to developing countries like Nigeria to access and effectively utilize climate finance. They assist countries in preparing project proposals, implementing climate-related initiatives, and monitoring the impact of funded projects.

Economic Policies

These deliberate actions and strategies are implemented by governments to influence and regulate the overall performance of the economy and achieve specific socio-economic objectives. These policies are actions intended to influence or control the behaviour of the economy. They are typically implemented and administered by the government but can also be implemented by private organizations or international institutions. The economic policies are designed to achieve a variety of goals, including economic growth, low unemployment, low inflation, stability of the financial system, sustainability, and fairness in the distribution of income. These goals are stipulated in the 2030 agenda for sustainable development (Sustainable Development Goal Indicators, 2017)

and ultimately contribute to the overall development of the nation. The Economic Recovery and Growth Plan (ERGP) is an example of economic policy in Nigeria. It was launched by the Nigerian government in 2017 as a medium-term plan aimed at guiding the country's economic development for a period of four years (2017-2020), with an extension to 2023. The ERGP addresses various economic goals, including economic growth, low unemployment, low inflation, stability of the financial system, sustainability, fairness in income distribution, and overall development (ERGP, 2017). These goals align with the principles of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. One of the significant criticisms of the ERGP has been its implementation. Some argue that although the plan outlined ambitious goals and strategies, the actual implementation has been slow, uneven, or incomplete in certain areas (Inoykwe, 2018; Ugwueze, 2022). The ERGP did not place enough emphasis on addressing income inequality and reducing poverty. While the plan aimed for economic growth, there were concerns that the benefits of growth were not reaching all segments of the population, exacerbating income disparities.

Economic policies aim to stimulate and sustain economic growth by encouraging investments, boosting productivity, and creating job opportunities. However, a preliminary analysis of Nigerian real GDP suggests that recent economic growth trends have not had a substantial impact on citizens' welfare (Zeb-Obipi & Kpurunee, 2023; Inoykwe, 2018). In the first quarter of 2023, the Nigerian Gross Domestic Product (GDP) experienced a real-term year-on-year growth of 2.31% (National Bureau of Statistics, Nigeria, 2022). This growth rate represents a decline compared to the 3.11% recorded in the first quarter of 2022 and the 3.52% in the fourth quarter of 2022 (National Bureau of Statistics, Nigeria, 2022). The decrease in growth is attributed to the adverse effects of the cash crunch experienced during the quarter. Hence, the government should implement prudent fiscal and monetary policies, as stipulated by the International Monetary Fund (IMF). The Policy Paper (2022) aims to stabilize the economy, promote growth, and encourage diversification away from heavy reliance on oil revenues. Investing in sectors such as agriculture, manufacturing, technology, and services can foster more resilient and sustainable economic

growth. They should focus on improving infrastructure, including transportation, energy, and communication networks, as these can enhance productivity, attract investments, and stimulate economic growth. Additionally, they should prioritize protecting the environment and ensuring that economic growth is inclusive, equitable, and beneficial for every segment of society.

Social Policies

Social policies are a collection of government interventions, strategies, and actions aimed at addressing social issues, promoting social well-being, and ensuring social justice within a society. The National Social Investment Program (NSIP), launched by the Nigerian government in 2016, is a comprehensive social intervention program with several components. It was designed to address social challenges. N-Power is one of the components of the National Social Investment Program (NSIP) that focuses on empowering and employing youth. It provided job opportunities for young graduates and non-graduates through skills acquisition and capacity-building programs (Danladi, Sunday & Atsiya, 2023). Participants received stipends as they gained valuable work experience. The Government Enterprise and Empowerment Programme (GEEP) was designed to provide microloans to small business owners and artisans, with a particular focus on women and youth. The aim was to assist them in expanding their businesses and enhancing their livelihoods. It promotes entrepreneurship and economic empowerment. The Conditional Cash Transfer (CCT) component of NSIP targets vulnerable and extremely poor households. It was designed to provide direct cash transfers to eligible beneficiaries, assisting them in meeting essential needs such as food, healthcare, and education. The program aimed to reduce poverty and improve these families' living standards. However, a common criticism of the NSIPs is that their targeting mechanisms have not always effectively reached the most vulnerable and needy individuals and households. There have been concerns about errors in beneficiary selection and the exclusion of some deserving beneficiaries, as well as allegations of mismanagement and corruption in the implementation of certain NSIP components.

Social policies are designed to enhance the welfare of individuals and groups, particularly those who may be vulnerable or marginalized.

The primary goals of these policies are to alleviate poverty, inequality, and social exclusion, and to establish a safety net for individuals and families experiencing hardship. Ultimately, these policies contribute to the advancement and growth of a nation (United Nations, 2015). These policies include social security, which encompasses programs such as retirement pensions, unemployment benefits, and disability benefits. They also encompass healthcare, which includes public health programs, health insurance coverage, and other initiatives to improve health. Additionally, education policies ensure equitable access to education and promote educational opportunities for all. Welfare and social assistance policies are also included, as well as policies that promote social inclusion and diversity, ensuring inclusivity, dignity, and respect for all, regardless of their background. A practical example of social security was demonstrated in 2022 when flooding hit Bayelsa State, Nigeria. The government intervened by providing relief materials to affected communities, evacuating people from flooded areas, rehabilitating damaged infrastructure, and offering financial assistance to affected businesses (Reliefweb, 2022). These measures were able to partially control the situation, resulting in the rescue of some individuals and properties. Truly, fulfilling the social needs of citizens is one of the primary responsibilities of a government.

Citizenship, and the Role of Citizens in Driving National Development

Citizenship is a legal and social status that grants individuals certain rights, privileges, and responsibilities within a specific nation-state. It is a formal recognition of an individual's membership in a political community and signifies their allegiance and loyalty to that community (Bosniak, 2006).

Citizens play a pivotal role in driving the development of a nation. Active engagement and participation by individuals can have a significant impact on a country's progress and influence the effectiveness of policymaking. One compelling example of citizens playing a crucial role in driving a nation's development in Nigeria is the "Bring Back Our Girls" campaign. This campaign emerged in response to the kidnapping of over 270 schoolgirls by the extremist group Boko Haram in Chibok, Borno State, in April 2014. Concerned citizens, including parents, activists,

and community members, mobilized to raise awareness about the abduction. They utilized social media, organized public demonstrations, and employed the hashtag #BringBackOurGirls to garner global awareness for the issue. The "Bring Back Our Girls" movement exerted significant pressure on the Nigerian government to take action and ensure the release of the kidnapped girls. The campaign demanded transparency, accountability, and urgency in addressing the crisis. The movement received international support and solidarity from individuals, governments, and organizations worldwide. This global attention further pressured the Nigerian government to effectively address the issue.

When citizens come together in a forum, they bring a diverse range of perspectives, experiences, and ideas from different segments of society. This diversity enriches the policymaking process, as policymakers consider various viewpoints and potential solutions to societal challenges. More so, when citizens actively participate in the policymaking process, they feel a stronger sense of ownership in the outcomes. This increased involvement results in policies that are seen as more legitimate and fair, which in turn fosters greater public acceptance and support for the implemented measures. Citizens who are directly affected by policies are often best placed to identify the most pressing issues in their communities or society at large. "The Niger Delta struggles for resource control." The Niger Delta region is rich in oil and natural gas resources, which are the mainstay of Nigeria's economy. However, despite being the source of a significant portion of Nigeria's revenue, the local communities in the Niger Delta have historically not benefited proportionately from these resources (Ikelegba, 2001; Okonkwo & Etemire, 2017). As the people of the region often demand greater control and ownership of the oil and gas reserves found on their land, as well as a more equitable distribution of the wealth generated from their resources, their requests may eventually draw the attention of the government to address the long-standing issues they have experienced. Therefore, citizens' engagement in the policy-making process can lead to more well-informed policies. They can provide valuable insights, data, and feedback that contribute to the development of more evidence-based, effective, and efficient policies.

Relationship between Green Policies, Citizenship, and National Development

Green policies and citizenship have a significant influence on national development. Embracing green policies enhances a nation's image on the international stage. It can promote environmental sustainability and foster a more resilient and healthier economy and society. Countries that demonstrate commitment to environmental protection, economic growth, and social stability are always regarded as responsible global citizens who promote sustainability and contribute to national development. By incorporating green policies into their national development plans, countries can achieve long-term economic stability. Sustainable resource management, energy efficiency, and investments in technology can reduce resource dependence and vulnerabilities to commodity price fluctuations, benefiting the nation's economic resilience (ZI Group, 2019). Therefore, green policies, citizenship, and national development are intertwined in a symbiotic relationship. Citizens' participation is crucial for the successful implementation of green policies, which in turn promote sustainable national development, ensuring a healthier environment and a prosperous future for the nation and its citizens.

Conclusions and Recommendations

A comprehensive and well-implemented set of green policies can effectively address environmental, economic, and social challenges. It can promote sustainable practices and stimulate economic growth in a nation. More so, by promoting citizen engagement, these policies can empower individuals to develop environmental awareness and responsibility, resulting in a more sustainable and resilient society. Therefore, this paper emphasizes the significance of government commitment and collaboration with diverse stakeholders to ensure the effective implementation and enforcement of green policies. As citizens are encouraged to take an active role in shaping and adhering to these policies, a sense of environmental citizenship emerges, fostering a collective responsibility for the nation's ecological well-being. Additionally, in this paper, we have emphasized the numerous benefits of green policies beyond environmental preservation. From the adoption of renewable energy to the creation of green jobs and the improvement of public health, embracing sustainable practices enhances the nation's overall development and competitiveness on the global

stage. Hence, it is concluded that the path to national development lies in the harmonious integration of green policies and active citizenship. By embracing sustainable practices and nurturing a culture of environmental responsibility, nations can achieve lasting prosperity, protect natural resources, and create a more equitable and thriving society for generations to come. Therefore, the following recommendations were put forth:

1. Nigerian leaders should enforce and enhance environmental policies to safeguard natural resources, biodiversity, and ecosystems. They should develop regulations that limit pollution, encourage energy efficiency, and promote the use of renewable energy sources. Additionally, they should create incentives for businesses and individuals to adopt eco-friendly practices, thereby reducing the overall environmental footprint.
2. Nigerian leaders should adopt sustainable economic policies that incorporate green principles to promote sustainable development. This can be achieved by promoting green investments and businesses, supporting research and development of eco-friendly technologies, and establishing frameworks for measuring and reporting environmental impact. By doing so, economic growth can be achieved while also ensuring environmental sustainability and social inclusiveness.
3. Policymakers should prioritize social inclusivity and equitable access to resources. In addition, it is important to involve the public in decision-making processes, encourage community development initiatives, and promote sustainable practices in daily life. Engaged citizens have a crucial role to play in supporting positive change and environmentally friendly policies.

References

- Benson, D., & Jordan, A. (2015). Environmental policy: Protection and regulation. In *International Encyclopedia of the Social & Behavioral Sciences* (pp. 778-783). Elsevier.
- Bosniak, L. (2006). *The citizen and the alien: Dilemmas of contemporary membership*. Princeton University Press.
- Danladi, E. J., Sunday, J. D., & Atsiya, G. P. (2023). Impact of N-Power Programme on Employment Creation in Nasarawa State,

- 2016–2022. *Socialscientia: Journal of Social Sciences and Humanities*, 8(3).
- Du Pisani, J. A. (2006). Sustainable development–historical roots of the concept. *Environmental sciences*, 3(2), 83-96.
- ERGP. (2017). Economic recovery and growth plan 2017-2020. Retrieved from https://nigeriaembassygermany.org/mosaic/_M_userfiles/Economic-Recovery-Growth-Plan-2017-2020.pdf on September 7, 2023.
- Fang, K., & Zhang, H. (2022). Green citizenship: A theoretical framework for exploring the relationship between green consumption and environmental citizenship. *Sustainability*, 14(2), 634.
- Fay, M. (2012). *Inclusive green growth: The pathway to sustainable development*. World Bank Publications.
- Global Environment Facility (GEF). (2023). Projects and operations. Retrieved from <https://www.thegef.org/who-we-are/organization> on July 23, 2023.
- Henderson, K., & Loreau, M. (2023). A model of Sustainable Development Goals: Challenges and opportunities in promoting human well-being and environmental sustainability. *Ecological Modelling*, 475, 110164.
- Ikelegba, A. (2001). The economy of conflict in the oil-rich Niger Delta region of Nigeria. *Nordic Journal of African Studies*, 10(2), 208-234.
- Inoykwe, O. S. (2018). Economic Recovery and Growth Plan and Nation Building in Nigeria: Matters Arising. Retrieved from <http://dx.doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.3225997> on August 3, 2018. SSRN.
- International Monetary Fund (IMF). (2022). Policy paper: Monetary and financial systems. Retrieved from <https://www.imf.org/en/> on July 23, 2023.
- National Research Council. (1999). *Our common journey: A transition toward sustainability*. National Academies Press.
- Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). (2001). *Policies to enhance sustainable development*. OECD Publishing.
- Okonkwo, T. and Etemire, U. (2017) “Oil Injustice” in Nigeria’s Niger Delta Region: A Call for Responsive Governance. *Journal of Environmental Protection*, 8(1), 42-60.
- Portillo Juan, N., Negro Valdecantos, V., & del Campo, J. M. (2022). Review of the impacts of climate change on ports and harbours and their adaptation in Spain. *Sustainability*, 14(12), 7507.
- Reliefweb. (2022). Update on the status of flood relief intervention to Bayelsa State. Retrieved from <https://reliefweb.int/report/nigeria/update-status-flood-relief-intervention-bayelsa-state> on October 30, 2022. Ocha Services.
- Shi, L., Han, L., Yang, F., & Gao, L. (2019). The evolution of sustainable development theory: Types, goals, and research prospects. *Sustainability*, 11(24), 7158.
- Sustainable Development Goal Indicators. (2017). Retrieved from <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/> on February 7, 2017.
- Ugwueze, O. (2022). The Economic Recovery and Growth Plan (ERGP) as a Remedy to Nigeria's Economic Recession: An Introspection. Available at SSRN 4333756.
- Wikipedia, (2023). Post-2015 Development Agenda. Retrieved from https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Post-2015_Development_Agenda on March 3, 2023.
- Wu, J., Guo, X. C., Yang, J., Qian, G. X., Niu, J. M., Liang, C. Z., Zhang, Q., & Li, A. (2014). What is sustainability science? *Chinese Journal of Applied Ecology*, 25(1), 1-11.
- Xu, C., Zhang, X., Hernandez-Clemente, R., Lu, W., & Manzanedo, R. D. (2022). Global forest types based on climatic and vegetation data. *Sustainability*, 14(2), 634.
- United Nations (UN). (2015). *Transforming our world: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*. Retrieved from <https://sdgs.un.org/2030agenda> on July 25, 2023.
- Zabbey, N., Giadom, F. D., & Babatunde, B. B. (2019). Nigerian coastal environments. In *World Seas: An environmental evaluation* (pp. 835-854). Academic Press.

Zeb-Obipi, I., & Kpurunee, G. L. (2022). Exploring means of promoting sustainable development goal 8 (decent work and economic growth) in Nigeria: Human Resource Management perspective. *African*

Journal of Business & Economic Development, 3(2), 1-13.

ZI Group. (2019). *The Global Risks Report 2019*. World Economic Forum.