

Environmental Governance in Nigeria: Between Policy and Practice

Ibrahim Usman Jibril (Nigeria)

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SUMMARY

This paper addresses Environmental Governance in Nigeria and the gap between policy and practice. Globally various policies regarding the environment and what is obtainable in Nigeria are highlighted. Policies and Practices of the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) are briefly looked into. Two examples of policy issues globally were addressed -how the international community is addressing issues of environmental protection starting with the Ozone layer depletion and the attempt to reverse the trend through an international treaty (The Montreal Protocol)-legally binding on all nations. The second is Climate Change. International community identified through scientific research dangers associated with global warming leading to climate change and its effects on human and the general biodiversity. Series of conferences of the parties [COP] were initiated culminating on COP 21 at Paris, France, and the land mark Paris Agreement of 2015. In Nigeria the challenges of putting policy into practice were looked into. Four examples were looked into. The first- the Nigeria Green Bond - a debt instrument where Capital Market was used to raise funds for climate action- the first in Africa and the proceeds from the bond was used for afforestation program and renewable energy. The second is the Great Green Wall Project- an initiative of the African Union which was designed to address the issues of land degradation in the Sahel and the Sahara. It spanned over a thousand kilometers from the North West to the north east in Nigeria. Challenges of insurgency and banditry impacted negatively on the project. The third is the Nigeria Erosion and Water Shed Management Project - a World Bank financed project addressing land degradation caused by gully erosion in different parts of Nigeria. The fourth one is the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP) - necessitated by oil spill in the Niger Delta Ogoni land. UNEP report of 2011 is the major policy document that is been implemented in the project and remediation is ongoing since 2019. Activities and contributions of Non-Governmental Organizations who help to checkmate negligence/lapses of government and corporate organizations globally and nationally such as The Green Peace, Friends of the Earth and Health of Mother Earth

Foundation were looked into.

Conclusively, a gap exists between policy and practice. Giant stride has been made in Nigeria. Environmental issues are now at the forefront and can no longer be ignored. Renewable energy, climate smart agriculture, climate financing as well as climate technology are taking center stage all over the world now.