

Climate Change, Environment and Conflicts in Nigeria

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Abstract

Recent events have emphatically demonstrated our growing vulnerability to climate change, and may be a threat to human development and survival. Socially, politically and economically, these might leads to competition for scarce resources, which enhances and creates socio-environmental conflicts. The paper observes that socio-environmental conflict happens when two or more interdependent actors disagree as to the distribution of certain material or symbolic elements related to the control use of, and access to natural resources and act on the basis of these inconsistencies. It argues for the need to develop appropriate strategies in mitigating the impacts of these vulnerability to climate change on Nigeria environmental conflicts, The paper therefore Conclude that appropriate development policies are critical priority in most developing countries to reduce the effect of climate change on the environment and conflict.

Keywords; *Climate change, Environmental-Conflicts, Adaptability, Vulnerability, GHGs*

Introduction

Recently, and especially over the past three or four decades, the issue of global climate change due to the greenhouse effects, including global warming and sea level rise have been a subject of scientific discussions and public debate. Climate changes concern remains one of the major focuses of national and international contemporary scholarship and the trend is bound to persist far into the future. This is as a result of interrelationship between Man, Climate change and Environment as well as the connection between environment and conflict in developed and developing countries all over the world.

The Intergovernmental panel on climate change (IPCC,2007) opines that human activity, (primarily related to fossil fuel consumption) is largely responsible .While climate change will affect everyone; it is expected to have a disproportionate effect on those living in poverty in developing countries.

Nigeria like other developing countries contribute insignificantly to the greenhouse emissions but no matter the level of contribution, climate change and rise in sea level will have significant impacts locally regionally and globally, creating problems for sustainable development and resources management. Indeed climate change and sea level rise would compound the serious problems of sustainability of the environment and management of resources, as well as the currently serious problems in population consumption patterns and characteristics in many parts of Africa and other developing countries.

In man's relationship with his environment, Dansereau (1960) remarked in his Ecological Law of the Optimum, that no species encounters in any given habitat(environment)the optimum conditions for all its functions. Man therefore tends to modify his environment to satisfy his needs and desires .The process of doing this implies an encroachment on the constituents of the ecological balance and in most cases breeds conflict rather than peace (Phil-Eze,2009) .

Conflicts between people and their environment are known as socio-environmental conflicts, and they have increased considerably in recent decades across the globe including in Nigeria. A socio-environmental conflict happens when two or more interdependent actors disagree as to the distribution of certain material or symbolic elements related to the control, use of, and access to natural resources and act on the basis of these inconsistencies.

In Nigeria, issue of the environment and its associated component parts have become a front burner from the policy makers, through the academia, the local communities to the general public .One common features of the issues relating to the environment in Nigeria is that it is fast becoming unfriendly, unsustainable. and engenders conflicts (Phil-Eze, 2009). These conflicts are social events, and due to the impacts they cause in the public arena they contains not only social and environmental aspects, but also economic ,cultural and political dimensions. There are multiple factors contributing either directly or indirectly to the emergency of the situations, such as the overexploitation of resources, disproportionate of consumption, population explosion, the inequality distribution of natural resources, inconsistency's in policies and lack of appropriate public policies. The climate changes that lead to rising sea levels, flooding or droughts might force people to move temporarily or permanently to another safer place where there is access to shelter, water and food. These population shifts mean that there are more people seeking access to food or land. These can be seen as competition over resources- Land, food and water. which can engender conflicts.Changes in climate have different impacts all over the world, some positive and some negative; rising sea levels can flood farmlands and disrupts or harm fish populations. Severe or extreme weather events can also disrupt or harm agricultural land.

According to research of the US Institute of Peace (1999) Nigeria's climate is likely to see growing shifts in temperature, rainfall, storms, and sea levels throughout the 21st century. Poor adaptive responses to the shifts could help fuel violent conflicts in some area of the country. The report stated that casual mechanism links climate change with violence in Nigeria. Under it, poor responses to climatic shifts create shortage of resources such as land and water, and are followed by negative secondary impacts, such as more health problems hunger, and joblessness. Poor responses to these, in turn, open the door to conflicts. Migration is also something of wild card among the climate change-induced conflict risks. Nigerian could move in anticipation of

climate-related crises or flee trouble once it land. Results again could be mixed: relocating might lessen the resources shortages or deepen them, both in the spots migrants leave and the places they moves. An attempt is made in this paper to establish the relationship between climate change, environment and conflict in Nigeria .The study examines the fact that climate change can lead to poverty, poor health; increased migration .and could possibly occurrence of conflicts

Conceptual and Theoretical Framework

Climate change is a pattern of change affecting global or regional climate as measured by such things as average temperature and rainfall, or an alteration in frequency of extreme weather conditions. This variation may be caused by both natural processes and human activity. Climate change has been blamed upon human activities which result in increased release of green house gases and widespread deforestation both of which alter the balance of atmospheric gases in favors of the green house gases (GHGs).These greenhouse gases are carbon dioxide, carbon monoxide (CFCS) (Fawehinmi,2007). In addition, stated that methane nitrous oxide, chloro-fluorocarbons (CFCs) added to these gases increases these GHGs leading to the progressive depletion of the ozone layer in the stratosphere (Goldberg1994).The ozone layer is the shield that absorbs about 90% of the harmful dectro-magnetic energy emitted by the sun on the earth. The abundance of greenhouse gases result in phenomenon of greenhouse effect, the greenhouse gases allowed shortwave energy to get to lower atmosphere but held back long wave radiation from escaping thus regulating the earth's heat budget.

Blaiki et al (1994) defines vulnerability as "the characteristics of a person or group in terms of their capacity to anticipate, cope with, resist and recover from the impact of a natural hazard. The same authors argue that vulnerability is a measure of a person or group's exposure to the effect of a natural hazard, including the degree to which they can recover from the impact of that event. Blaiki et al (1994) argues that households that have access to resources and social networks are less vulnerable. Although they may experience greater losses (in absolute terms) than the poor, it can be argued that resources-rich households are more resilient in that they recover more quickly from a stress, stimulus.

A common theme in the climatic change vulnerability literature is the idea that countries, regions, economic sectors and social group differ in their degrees of vulnerability to climate change. This is due partly to the fact that changes in temperature and precipitation will occur unevenly and that climate change impacts will be unevenly distributed around the globe. This in turn is due to the fact that resources and wealth are distributed unevenly. Though vulnerability differs substantially across regions, it is also recognized that even within regions, vulnerability will vary (IPCC, 2001). While the word adaptation has been defined by different people in different ways, these numerous definitions are as a result of variation in the perception of the word by different people .Adaptation to climate has been defined as the process through which people reduce the adverse effect of climate on their health and well-being ,take advantage of the opportunity that their climatic environments provides (Burton,1972 quoted in Smit et. Al 2000).

Mitigation concepts of climate change refers to taking actions to reduce green house emissions as well as enhancing "sinks" so as to reduce the extent of global warming. In other words, mitigation of climate change involves measures aimed at reducing GHGS emissions through improved efficiency of energy use, reduced deforestation, a switch to non-fossil fuels, and / or capture of GHGS emissions underground and in oceans, vegetation and soils. Many elements of the environment and human society are sensitive to climate change variability and climate sensitive system are ecosystem,agriculture, water needs and supply, food production among others. Some observed changes may includes fierce weather increased frequency and intensity of storms, floods hurricanes and droughts. It is important to state that the socio-political problem associated to these are poverty,health and civil unrest and conflicts caused by scarcity of agricultural land and mining.(Adeniji, 2010) A conflict on its own is disagreement between individuals or groups of people over ideas or interests and it is a normal part of life. It is neither good nor bad, it is how it is managed that is important. Wilmot and Hocket (1998) assert that conflict is an expressed struggle between at least two interdependent parties who perceived incompatible goals. Scarce resources and interference from other in achieving their goals .According to them,

conflict can be destructive and constructive. Whatever form conflict takes, it is likely to have several impacts, which may include physical harm to humans and natural resource base, impact on productivity levels and economic development more generally.

Francis (2006) conceives conflicts as an intrinsic and inevitable part of human existence. Hence, he defined Conflict as the pursuit of incompatible interests and goals by different groups. Igwe (2002) also sees conflicts as a universal and permanent attribute of nature, life and society, necessary and unavoidable, when in terms of dialectics they serve to advance the positive evolution of phenomena, and unnecessary and avoidable, when irresoluble and their consequences are negative for society and man. The definition above according to Aloysius-Michaels (2009) practically demonstrate interlia that conflicts are largely the expressing of opposing interests

Conflict can be defined as manifestation of hostile attitude in the face of conflicting interests between individual, groups or states. These conflicting interests can be over resources, identity, power, status or values (Onu, 2009). It has been generally seen as a situation in which two or more parties strive to acquire the same scarce resources at the same time (Wallenstein, 2002). Conflict would generally incorporate perceived differences in issue positions between two or more parties at the same moment. Conflict stems from the basic fact of human interdependence for individuals to meet even their basic needs, they depend on the active participation of other individuals (Foltz 1991; 367-70). Conflict arises from the interaction of individuals who have partly incompatible ends, in which the ability of one actor to gain his ends depends on an important degree on the choices or decision another actor will take.

Conflict can also be described as a situation of incompatibility, struggle or unhealthy competition or rivalry between individuals or groups in a condition where there is a strong desire on the part of one party to carry out the means or achieve the ends, or the distribution and allocation of collectively owned resources which are, or appear to be incompatible with others. (Phil-Eze, 2009:311). Conflict is thus a manifestation of a struggle to resist or overcome opposing forces or powers in a condition of opposition, antagonism or discord. It is instructive to note that a number of violent conflicts have erupted in many parts of the world over struggle and control of environmental resources. For instance, in several African nations, lucrative minerals resources-oil and other strategically important minerals have fuelled ongoing conflicts. Many countries have been devastated by war due primarily to predatory governing elites who use their control over the resources to enrich themselves and equip the armies to maintain their command (environmental literacy council, 2008, Madu, and Ayogu, 2009:419)

Another concept central to this study is environment. Environment refers to the totality of extreme condition affecting the life and development of organisms whether on land, air or water. It is the total surrounding of man, including air water, land, natural resources, humans etc as well as their interaction. Sada (1988) defines environment as a system within which living organism interact with the physical elements. The definition of environment should be human focused and human centered because the condition of the environment is derived from human perception and human surrounding. Such definition should be all embracing to capture all aspects of human surrounding that affect the survival at a comfortable level of existence. It is only within this purview that one can understand that any attempt to violate the environment will always generate conflict (Phil-Eze, 2009).

Environmental conflict has been a major concern of the world bodies such as the United Nations (UN) because of its rapid escalation across the globe. The connection between environment and conflict is rooted in the scarcity or abundance of natural resources within and between states as well as the unequal access to these resources. The UN secretary General Ban Ki-Moon in a statement on Darfur, referred to climate change as one of the main causes of violence and conflicts taking place in the Sudanese province threatened by drought and desertification Vos quoted in Adeniyi (2010) observes that climate change and political problem reinforce each other. Potential conflicts will arise where people leave their habitants and migrate to other places. Some would say that the Darfur crisis was caused by climate change. Although this is hard to prove, it remains a truism that countries with underlying political and social risk factors will be more vulnerable to climate change. The effects

of climate change in Africa may have direct impact on security in industrialized nations because more droughts in Africa will bring more Africans to Europe with its accompanying societal issues. Then, where people move, there will be conflicts. Thus, there is need for strategic, holistic and collective response to the complexities of climate change (Adeniji, 2010). Climate change may also contribute to social disruptions, economic decline, political violence and displacement of population in certain regions due to effects on agricultural production, already-scarce water resources and extreme weather events (Schwartz and Randell, 2000).

Thus, the quests for natural resources have increased the rate of occurrence of conflicts in different cities, states or nation states to the point the intervention of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) was required in some cases. An example is the dispute between Nigeria and Cameroun over the oil-rich Bakassi Peninsula.

In Nigeria environmental conflict is mostly climate induced most especially through exploitation of mineral resources and its indirect effects. Most of these conflicts come about over the ownership of land (farming, fishing, oil deposit, solid mineral deposits etc). Oyefusi (2007) observed that Nigeria has not been spared the agony of recurring violent conflicts associated with the management of her oil resource in the South-South geo-political zone of the country. Nyong (2007) also asserted that the major source of conflict in most of the Northern states in Nigeria are ecological degradation induced by climate change and degradation. Similarly in the South West and South East political zone of the country, environmental conflict arise mostly over the direct use of land, water, wild life and forestry resources which are caused by physical scarcity when local demand exceed supply (Phil Eze, 2009). It is therefore appropriate to observe that there is no part of Nigeria that is not prone to environmental conflict. For the purpose of our analysis in this paper, the theory of social conflict and cosmo-climatology theories are considered appropriate. According Vold (1958) social conflict represents a universal form of interaction in which groups are naturally in conflict as their purposes and interest/goals overlap, encroach on each other and often tend to be competitive. Therefore, the competitive achievement oriented nature of modern society makes social conflict part and parcel of the dynamics of society (Anugwom, 2009).

Basically, the social conflict theories are theoretical viewpoints anchored on the inevitability of change in human society. Although, these theories differ on the nature of change envisaged and processes leading to such change, there is a general agreement on the assumption that change is the only route to development or progress in any human society. Thus, the social conflict theories are theories which place emphasis on conflict in human society.

Karl Marx dominates the social class theory of conflict, which can be replicated and applied to this study. This approach does not only see conflict as inherent in social formation but also sees it as a historical driving force for social change. The basic principle of conflict theory is that the natural evolution of societies is described as a series of clashes between conflicting ideas and forces that at the end of each clash, a new and improved set of idea emerges, that change needs conflict in order to be facilitated. This is known as the dialectical process.

Marx sub-divided the social system basically into two classes of people: the ruling class or owners of the productive means, and the ruled class or working class/ labour. The ruling class also exercises political dominance. Both classes, according to Marx would be in perpetual conflict until the accompanying struggle results in victory for the ruled class and gives birth to the classless society (Varma, 1975).

Karl Marx argued that it is the inequality in the distribution of economic resources between capital and labour that often lead to insatiable conflict. The defining characteristic of any society from conflict perspective is inequality. Marxists, for example argue that economic inequality is at the heart of all societies. Thus, in basic terms, some people will have more than their fair share of society's economic resources and other will consequently have less than their fair share. It is instructive to note that the Marx's theory has been widely criticized for its mono-causality in the face of complex factors that constitute sources of conflicts (Imhanlahimi, 2001).

Another important theory that explains conflict is the general theory which is concerned with other theories such as power and resource allocation. Two leading scholars that have made significant contributions to

the resource allocation theories are Lasswell (1936) and Easton (1960). While Lasswell focused on the use of power and authority in the determination of “who gets what, when and how,” Easton concentrated on the authoritative allocation of values in the society. Both power and resource allocation are theories concerned with the use of power which has some elements of arbitrariness, oppression, disequilibrium which can engender conflict. It is within the above theories of conflict that our discourse is situated. It is instructive to note however that no one theory is adequate to explain the complexities inherent in conflict and because all conflicts are either inherent or contingent. In addition all conflicts include rationality element of “madness”

The study also adopts Svensmark’s cosmo-climatology theory of climate change. In 1995, Henrik Svensmark discovered a startling connection between the cosmic ray fluxes from space and cloud cover. He was able to discover that the sun is more active, more sunspots, a stronger magnetic field, larger auroras, stronger solar winds etc. Fewer cosmic rays strike the earth and cloud cover is reduced, resulting in warmer temperature (Adeniyi, 2010). Svensmark proposed that global warming we have experienced in the past 150 years is a direct result of an increase in solar activity and its attendant warming. He explained the mechanism by which cosmic rays create more clouds through his experiment on Cloud Condensation Nuclei (CCN). He demonstrated that cosmic rays produced more cloud nuclei on which cloud droplets can form. The results of this experiment which confirmed his theory that cosmic rays increase the number of Cloud Condensation Nuclei (CCN) was published in 2007 (Svensmark 2007).

Impact of Climate Change on Environment and Conflicts In Nigeria.

It is now widely recognized that climate change is having significant impacts on social economic and ecological systems and processes as socio-economic inequalities widen locally as well as globally. Thomas (2007) states that an examination of climate change needs to include the relationships between global process (including emissions effects and international convections), national responses and local outcomes, and particularly the effects of national decisions and policies on local opportunities and abilities to adapt. Thus, aspects relating to environmental conflicts are important to consider.

Barnet and Adger (2007) observes that climate change is increasingly being called a security problem because there is concern that climate change may increase the risk of violent conflict. The underlying proposition is that climate change is likely to undermine human security by reducing the natural resource base and limiting access to existing natural resources which are central to sustainable livelihoods, especially in developing countries.

The impacts of climate change on socio-political systems are many, thus Davis (2001) cited in (Barnet and Adger 2007) shows how the El Nino events and famines of 19th century triggered by droughts resulted in political and economic colonization that deprived local people of their entitlements to natural resources, and another example is the issue of Bakkasi- Peninsular conflicts between Nigeria and Cameroon in which some local people have been deprived of their right.

Nordas and Gleditsch (2007) state that conflict-inducing effects of climate change have emerged in the literature and although several casual chains and/or paths to these conflicts have been suggested. While fundamental environmental factors for environmental migration are land degradation, droughts, deforestation, water scarcity, floods, storms and famines linked to food insecurity (Reuveny, (2007). Environmental migration can also result from development. This point is shown in Omolo’s (2010) who opines that, in the light of increased droughts and given that livestock forms the foundation for food security in Kenya, competition over grazing land and water has increased, leading to violence. While the author reports that people have adopted a number of coping strategies to deal with climate variability, such as diversification into Agriculture, vulnerability is intensified because of an increase in militarized cattle rearing, attributed in part to economic decline in the Horn of Africa

Reuveny (2007) opines that climate change-induced migration, which is likely to be more frequent given the extreme weather events, can create and intensify violent conflicts. This is particularly frequent in developing countries where because of limited options to adapt to or mitigate climate change, people migrate

from the affected regions. Changes in climate are expected to have major negative consequences in certain parts of the world. In developing country like Nigeria we are likely to see significant drops in food production, with increased temperatures possibly accelerating grain sterility, shifts in rainfall patterns accelerating erosion and desertification and rendering land infertile, sea-level increases and flows inundating farmlands and disrupting fish populations, and extreme weather events disturbing agricultural processes. Water scarcity also may increase with shifts in rainfall, while disease may spread with increased temperatures.

Thomas and Twyman (2005) identify the implications of climate change for equity and justice among vulnerable groups at local and sub-national levels. Equity and justice, they assert, are important to consider because the poorest and most vulnerable groups (especially in developing countries where the natural resource dependency is high) will disproportionately experience the negative effects of climate change.

There is unsurprising consensus that climate change will have disproportionately harmful socio-economic effects on developing countries, (i.e. Nigeria) even though they have contributed to it least. Another leading report in this area is the ‘ ‘ Stern Review’ ’, prepared for the British government by economist Sir Nicholas Stern who argues that developing countries are particularly vulnerable because of their topical geography; their high population growth, heavy dependence on agriculture and rapid urbanization; and their weak infrastructures and lack of resources. It also discusses a broad range of effects that countries or regions may experience.

The Stern report and other studies have suggested that climate-induced scarcities – of food, water and health – will increase poverty, affect migration patterns and potentially lead to or exacerbate deadly conflict. To better understand this climate-conflict link, it is important to consider the complex factors that determine the degree to which societies will experience climate effects and those that determine whether deadly conflict will commence and/or persist.

The degree to which societies will experience the negative environmental and socio-economic effects of climate change depends in large part on their vulnerability to it. This vulnerability can be measured by looking at

- ✗ The extent to which societies are dependent on natural resources and ecosystem services,
- ✗ The extent to which the resources and services that societies do rely on are sensitive to changes in climate.
- ✗ The capacity of societies to adapt to changes in these resources and services "adaptive capacity"

Nigeria's economy today remains mono-cultural and heavily dependent on the oil sector, which accounts for about 80% of government revenues, 90-95% of export revenues, and over 90% of foreign exchange earnings. Despite attempts to diversify her economy, Nigeria's economy stands to remain dependent on fossil fuels. This is particularly worrying because fossil fuels are the chief culprit implicated in the socio-environmental conflict of climate change and adaptation.

The consequence for the Nigerian people is a geographical pincer threat from desertification in the north and coastal erosion in the south. Through a combination of overgrazing abuse of woodland for fuel and increasingly unreliable rainfall, the Sahara is advancing at an estimated rate of 600metres per annum .Over 55,million people in 10 northern states were affected. The situation across the northern Nigeria especially Jos and Kaduna is linked/blame on climate change, resulting in conflicts that have led to death of hundreds of people in Jos and Kaduna.It is instructive to note that most of these conflicts are not religions.Ethnicity and Religion are just triggers because they are major sources of identity for most Nigerians. The key issue is the fight for economic and political control between the indigenes and settlers and the tussle began.

By contrast, rising sea levels threaten Nigeria's coastal regions. The Niger Delta may be the source of oil wealth but its low-lying terrain criss-crossed with waterways makes it extremely vulnerable to flooding and salinization. The protective mangroves of this coastlines have been largely lost to human intervention: half of the 15 million population of the city of Lagos lives less than six feet above sea level, especially, Victoria Island are in the front line, along mushrooming slum settlements.

An eco-regional approach is essential when considering the way in which climate change affects the existing social-environmental conflicts or leads to new types of conflicts. An eco-region is a re-occurring pattern of ecosystems associated with specific combinations of soil and natural resources that characterize the region. In Nigeria, the Niger Delta areas comprises of (Bayelsa, Akwam Ibom, Delta, Edo, Rivers Cross River), they are often referred to as **Core areas**, the core areas rich oil region with variety of environmental goods and services that the whole country depends on. Multiple jurisdictional entities claim responsibility over the development of the areas.

Nigeria stands to suffer income losses when the global community begins to substitute renewable energy alternatives for fossil fuels. Given the exclusive reliance on fossil fuels for foreign exchange and the predominant focus on further expansion of this sector of the economy by the Nigerian government, the impact of the global shift away from fossil fuels is bound to cripple the Nigerian economy.

Agriculture is already only marginally possible because of hot climate and little rain in many parts of the world globally (Montgomery, 2006). In Nigeria for example, hot climate and little rain are experienced in the extreme northern States, According to some estimates, fully two- third of Bauchi, Borno, Gombe, Jigawa, Kano, Kaduna, Sokoto, and Yobe could turn to desert or semi-desert in the 21st Century, where desertification is fast encroaching on arable lands, and agriculture is highly dependent on irrigation. It has been established that one of the most significant climatic variations in the north eastern region of Nigeria since the late 1960s, has been the persistent decline in rainfall (Ayoade, 2004) and this has reduced agricultural productivity in this region. Furthermore, increased temperature as a result of climate change is a favourable condition for pests such as grasshoppers that destroy or reduce crop yield to thrive and multiply.

The impact of climate change can put a stress on Nigeria agricultural sector with a feedback on food security and other sectors of the economy. Climate change affects agriculture in a number of ways. Extreme weather events such as thunderstorms, heavy winds, and floods devastate farmlands and can lead to crop failure. Pests and crop diseases migrate in response to climate variations (e.g. the tsetse fly has extended- its range northward) and will potentially pose a threat to livestock farming in the drier northern areas). Changes in climatic and atmospheric composition will also negatively affect Bio-diversity and likely help to diminish Nigeria's forests. The upper limits of the tropical rainforest are already receding. Given the sensitive nature of the forest ecosystems, forest resources have become highly vulnerable to even slight changes in climate systems. Changes in temperature, precipitation and water cycle dynamics, therefore, can lead to remarkable forest-cover loss (Adejuwon, 2006).

Bio-diversity is terribly vulnerable to climate change. Many species of plants and animals are rapidly becoming extinct. Tree density and floristic richness is decreasing. Fish spawning patterns have changed; the extinction of rare and endangered species of plants and animals has increased. The consequence of these on the economy is poor agricultural output which can lead to excessive increases in food price. This in turn can put pressure on economic policy leading to higher interest rates. There is no doubt that the overall effect of this on the economy is likely to engender conflict in the society.

Climate change may also leave Nigeria increasingly short of at least two types of manmade resources. Sea level rise and severe weather could cause significant property loss. Most of the densely-populated regions of the world are found in coastal areas which are the most threatened. Climate change impacts directly on local community especially on vulnerable parts of society, conflict associated with poverty are thus enhanced by climate change impacts, This influences the access to basic resources to meet the needs of housing, security, health and education. All these impacts negatively on the quality of life of this community, Statistics here are scarce, but between 1992 and 2007, wind and rainstorms alone damaged or destroyed at least \$720million in economically productive assets across twelve of Nigeria's thirty-six states. Finally, climate change leave the petroleum-dependent public sector with less oil wealth Today, 80% of all government revenues and 97% of Nigeria foreign exchange come from Niger Delta's oil. Some hydrological modeling says 3 feet of sea level rise could put nearly all the Delta's onshore oil fields under water with it easily flooded network of estuaries, rivers, creeks and stream sits especially low as does Lagos.

Climate change is also affecting Nigeria's energy sector profoundly. Conflict over the use of water resources among different economic sector has adversely affected the hydropower plants in Kanji, Jebba and Shiroro which is the key to the security of electricity supply in the country and represent about one-third of the country's total installed electricity generating capacity. These plants have produced significantly lower energy leading to epileptic power supply as a result of excessive drought that lead to evapo-transpiration affecting water volume and the capacity of the power plants to produce optimally. Incessant power outage increases the cost of doing business and hampers the pace of industrialization in the country. Industries that are dependent on climate sensitive resources or conditions e.g. agro businesses, construction, infrastructure, transportation, pollution control are potentially vulnerable to changes in the climate. Conflicts with indigenous people relating to their displacement changes to their natural habitat (deforestation, pollution degradation etc), and influences on their ancestral customs and modes of economic production. Conflicts may also demand greater participation in decisions that affect the population directly.

Climate change is equally a major problem caused by the increase of human activities leading to several direct and indirect impacts on health. Disasters have a direct impact on local infrastructure and indirectly produce social conflicts affecting the access to basic needs of food, housing and health. These climatic changes will have wide-ranging harmful effects including increase in heat-related mortality, dehydration, and spread of infectious diseases, malnutrition, and damage to public health infrastructure.

It is anticipated that the impacts of climate change will lead to an increase in unemployment rates. There are no public policies to prevent climate change impacts on the labour sector. There could be some changes in this sector due to three main factors; Internal and external migration flows will trigger the need for groups of people to adapt both to a new territory and to new labour conditions. Also, as consequences of damaged infrastructure due to recurrence of natural disasters, it is estimated that there will be a period of mass unemployment in those sectors that rely on this infrastructure, until it has been rebuilt.

Concluding Remarks

There is agreement among scholars that the social and economic impacts of climate change on developing countries like Nigeria are greater. The effect of climate change has led to poverty, poor health, increased migration and could possibly increase the occurrence of violent conflicts in these countries including Nigeria. Whether deadly conflict will break out under climate stress is also complicated. Studies suggest that climate effects could contribute to violent conflict in a number of ways, including, long-term environmental deterioration which may lead to scarcity (especially declining access to water or to land and the returns on use of land), increasing competition over those resources and possibly leading to violence.

In addition long-term environmental deterioration may lead to scarcity and contribute to massive migration ("environmental refugees"), potentially destabilizing neighboring areas or Increased climate variability – intense droughts or floods or natural disasters – may cause short-term economic shocks, reducing employment opportunities possibly increasing recruitment to armed groups – and leading to violence. These patterns are cause for concern. Scarcity – particularly of land or water, and whether caused by climate change, mismanagement or other factors – has played an important role in many past and current conflicts. Large population movements present critical security issues under any circumstances. And there is evidence that low income per capita and short-term growth stocks are associated with increased risk of conflict.

But these factors inevitably interact with others – such as governance, political stability and ethnic issues – making it difficult to predict whether and if so how violence will break out in any particular situation. While climate change can certainly play a role in deadly conflicts, it is highly unlikely to be the sole or primary cause. The key therefore is to reduce risks as much as possible and to focus on environment and resource dimensions of actual and potential conflict situation. It is important to state that appropriate development policies are a critical priority in most developing countries to reduce the effect of climate change on the environment and conflict.

In resolving climate and conflict issue, it is necessary to adopt a conflict-sensitive approach while promoting the implementation of collaborative planning methodologies (based on tools which involve dialogue and building up cross-sector consensus) and the use of relevant governance tools. This approach will facilitate efficient, professional, and democratically managed collective decision-making processes required for the sustainable management of these areas .It will merge the technical and scientific standards needed for precise socio-environmental diagnosis, digital, strategic planning with the capacity to promote social consensus on the basis of participatory and conflict-resolution tools.

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