LEGAL PERSPECTIVES IN ADDRESSING CLIMATE CHANGE IN NIGERIA

By

Abbiba P. Lilly-Tariah*
Etheldred E. Woha**[1]

Abstract
Acknowledging climate change as a pressing worldwide concern with especially dire consequences for Nigeria, the government has implemented many legislative and regulatory initiatives to tackle this problem. Nigeria has demonstrated a commitment to sustainability and resilience through its comprehensive approach to combating climate change. Nigeria's multifaceted approach to addressing climate change demonstrates a commitment to sustainable development. While initiatives show promise, several challenges persist, including securing adequate funding, streamlining bureaucratic processes, overcoming political obstacles, the country's heavy dependence on oil and promoting a just transition to a low-carbon economy remain formidable tasks. The article highlights the prevailing challenges that can hinder the effective implementation of laws and regulations, leading to potential issues and inconsistencies. It concludes with initiatives to increase renewable energy, as well as access to affordable renewable energy in remote areas to reduce the reliance on fossil fuels, leading to lower greenhouse gas emissions.

Keywords: *Climate Change, Legal, Nigeria, Perspectives*

1.0 Introduction

The Nigerian government has made great strides in putting measures in place to lessen the effects of and prepare for climate change. The National Climate Change Policy and Response Strategy (NCCPRS), which describes methods for cutting emissions, advancing renewable energy, improving climate resilience, and incorporating climate change into development planning, is one of these initiatives.[2] In order to coordinate efforts related to climate change, the government formed the Federal Ministry of Environment. It also established specialized organizations like the Nigerian Climate Change Commission and the National Environmental Standards and Regulations Enforcement Agency.[3]

The National Climate Change Policy and Response Strategy (NCCPRS), which offers a thorough framework for climate change action, is one of the most important policy tools. The NCCPRS describes methods for mainstreaming climate change into development planning, boosting renewable energy, cutting greenhouse gas emissions, and improving climate resilience.[4]

* PhD (RSU), LL.M (R.G.U. Aberdeen), BL (Abuja), LL. B (RSU), Lecturer, Department of Public Law, Faculty of Law, Rivers State University, Port Harcourt, Nigeria. Email: abbiba.lilly-tariah@ust.edu.ng.
**PhD (RSU), LL.M (RSU), BL (Abuja), LLB (ABU Zaria), Lecturer, Department of Private and Property Law, Faculty of Law, Rivers State University, Port Harcourt. Email: etheldred.woha1@ust.edu.ng.
[2] U Afinotan, 'How serious is Nigeria about climate change mitigation through gas flaring regulation in the Niger Delta?' https://journals.sagepub.com/ accessed 2023.
[3] M A Bekhechi, *The Legal and Regulatory Framework for Environmental Impact Assessments* (World Bank publishers 2002) 143
[4] *ibid*

The government has appointed the Federal Ministry of Environment as the primary organization in responsibility of coordinating climate change-related initiatives to ensure the effective implementation of policy.[5] In addition, a number of specialized departments and agencies have been established to supervise particular facets of climate change, including the National Environmental Standards and Regulations Enforcement Agency and the Nigerian Climate Change Commission.

Notwithstanding these initiatives, there are still obstacles to guaranteeing compliance, such as stakeholders' ignorance of and lack of comprehension of climate change-related concerns. To achieve universal compliance, awareness efforts and enforcement strategies must be strengthened. Obtaining financial and technical support also requires international cooperation, as Nigeria's participation in global climate change agreements demonstrates.[6]

In addition, attaining compliance with climate change legislation and standards depends on their enforcement. A variety of enforcement tools are available under the Nigerian legal system, such as criminal penalties, civil liabilities, and administrative fines. However, agency-to-agency cooperation and institutional capacity must be enhanced in order to implement climate change regulations in an efficient manner.[7]

It will take international cooperation and teamwork to address these issues. Nigeria has accepted important international agreements, including the Paris Agreement and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), and has actively participated in international climate change debates. These promises offer a framework for financial support, technology transfer, and international cooperation to help developing nations with their efforts to combat climate change.[8]

The Nigerian government's commitment to combating climate change is seen in the framework of laws and policies in place. To achieve noticeable benefits, compliance and efficient implementation are still essential. To guarantee widespread compliance, the government must give priority to capacity-building programmes, awareness campaigns, and enforcement measures. Furthermore, maintaining cooperation with foreign partners will be crucial for obtaining funding and technical assistance for initiatives aimed at mitigating and adapting to climate change. Nigeria may substantially advance towards a sustainable and climate-resilient future by fortifying the legal and legislative framework and encouraging a compliance culture.

2.0 Challenges in the Legal Framework

The need to keep up with technological advancements, handle cross-border complexities, improve access to justice, align with changing societal values, improve enforcement mechanisms, expedite legislative

[5] Eduweb, 'Nigeria Ministry of Environment Agencies' https://www.eduweb.com.ng/nigeria-ministry-of-environment-agencies/ accessed December, 2023.
[6] N Echefu and E Akpofure, Environmental impact assessment In Nigeria: regulatory background and procedural framework (UNEP EIA press 2011)
[7] The Cable, 'Climate change: Situating Nigeria in the net zero agenda' <https://www.thecable.ng/climate-change-situating-nigeria-in-the-net-zero-agenda/amp> accessed December 2023.
[8] *ibid*

processes, encourage legal literacy, simplify legal language, and address emerging areas of law are just a few of the gaps and challenges that the legal framework must overcome. It will take ongoing updates, global collaboration, improved access to legal aid, and public awareness efforts.[9] These difficulties may make it more difficult for rules and regulations to be implemented effectively, which could result in problems and discrepancies.

2.1 Technical Developments: In emerging nations, the creation of relevant rules and regulations frequently lags behind the quick speed of technical innovations. This leaves a space where new problems like cybercrime, data privacy, and artificial intelligence might not be sufficiently covered by current legislation. To close this gap, the legal system must be updated and modified on a regular basis to reflect advances in technology.[10]

2.2 Globalisation and Cross-Border Complexities: with global growth, interconnected, cross-border issues need to be addressed by legal frameworks. Harmonising laws between jurisdictions and resolving legal disputes can be challenging and time-consuming processes. Global cooperation, uniform law enforcement, and the development of dispute resolution processes are all necessary.[11]
Access to Justice: Disparities in access to justice seriously impair the functioning of the legal system. Protracted legal proceedings, excessive costs, and limited access to legal counsel can make it difficult for people and marginalised communities to effectively assert their legal rights. To improve the availability of legal assistance, expedite court procedures, and encourage alternative dispute resolution techniques, efforts to bridge these gaps have to be made.[12]

2.3 Changing social norms and values: Social norms and values are subject to change throughout time, and the legal system must adapt to reflect these changes. Nonetheless, a gap might exist between current legislation and changing public expectations. This could lead to ambiguous legal language and uneven application of the law. Laws must be routinely examined and updated to reflect shifting public opinion.[13]

2.4 Enforcement and implementation: Even with well-established laws, there may be challenges in their effective enforcement and implementation. Inadequate resources, ignorance, and corruption can all undermine the effectiveness of the legal system. To encourage enforcement and implementation, law enforcement organisations must be strengthened, transparency must be promoted, and public awareness of legal rights and obligations must rise.

[9] Norton Rose, 'Climate change and sustainability disputes: The international legal framework' <https://www.nortonrosefulbright.com/en/knowledge/publications/aec10a3b/climate-change-and-sustainability-disputes-the-international-legal-framework> accessed December 2023.
[10] IUCN, A Review of Nigeria's 2021 Climate Change Act: Potential for Increased Climate Litigation <https://www.iucn.org/news/commission-environmental-economic-and-social-policy/202203/a-review-nigerias-2021-climate-change-act-potential-increased-climate-litigation> accessed April, 2023.
[11] H M Butu and C U Okeke, 'Climate Change Adaptation in Nigeria: Strategies, Initiatives, and Practices' https://afripoli.org/climate-change-adaptation-in-nigeria-strategies-initiatives-and-practices accessed 2023.
[12] Butu (n 12)
[13] *ibid*

The backlog of bills and laws that are pending approval or change is known as the legislative backlog. This backlog may make it more difficult for the legal system to adapt to new concerns and postpone the adoption of critical reforms. It will need a streamlined legislative procedure, adequate funding, and prioritisation of important legislative measures to close this gap. [14]

2.5 Deficient legal literacy: The general public's low level of legal literacy might make it difficult for them to comprehend and use the legal system in an efficient manner. People may become oblivious to their rights and obligations as a result, leaving them open to abuse and injustice. Initiatives to improve legal education, support public awareness campaigns, and provide easily accessible legal information are necessary.[15] People may find it difficult to comprehend and abide by the law when legal frameworks are unclear or contain complicated language. This intricacy may cause misunderstandings, inconsistent application, and confusion. To improve legal clarity, it may be helpful to simplify legal terminology, provide clear guidelines, and support legal education.[16]

2.6 Emerging Trends: New legal fields arise as society changes, some of which may not be sufficiently covered by the current legal system. Emerging technologies like genetic engineering, blockchain, and cryptocurrency are a few examples. To properly address these new areas, bridging this gap will require proactive steps like study, expert engagement, and the development of specialised laws.

2.7 Lack of internationally recognised legal standards: There may be no internationally recognised legal standards in a given domain. This could cause problems with how international problems like human rights violations, cross-border crimes, and climate change are handled. International cooperation, agreements, and the development of international legal frameworks are necessary for effectively resolving these global issues. To guarantee a fair and just society, it is critical to acknowledge and resolve these issues and shortcomings in the legal system. Through consistent assessment and enhancement of the legal structure, we may move towards a framework that preserves the rule of law, safeguards individual liberties, and advances social equity. Legislators, legal experts, politicians, and the general public must work together to address these issues and weaknesses in the legal system. We may move towards a more substantial and equitable legal system that preserves justice and defends the rights of people and communities by acknowledging and resolving these issues.

3.0 Perspectives on International Best Practices

Transitioning to sustainable energy sources is one of the main global best practices. Successful adoption of renewable energy has allowed nations like Denmark and Germany to become less dependent on fossil fuels.[17]

[14] E G Orie, 'Climate Change Adaptation Mechanism for Sustainable Development Goal 1 in Nigeria: Legal Imperative <https://link.springer.com/referenceworkentry/10.1007/978-3-030-45106-6_81> accessed February 2023.
[15] *ibid*
[16] B A. Garner, *Legal writing in plain English: A text with exercises*. (University of Chicago Press, 2023).
[17] O A Fasina, 'Environmental Impact Assessment for Oil and Gas Projects: A Comparative Evaluation of Canadian and Nigerian Laws' <https://ir.lib.uwo.ca/etd/4333/> 2022.

Nigeria may benefit from worldwide best practices in areas including developing resilience to the consequences of climate change, public awareness and capacity building, access to climate finance and technology transfer, comprehensive climate policy, and sustainable energy transition. Nigeria can benefit from adopting successful models from nations such as Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Germany, and the United Kingdom when creating climate legislation and regulations.

To combat climate change, a number of nations have put in place robust governance frameworks and comprehensive climate policies. Instances are; the Climate Change Act in the United Kingdom establishes legally binding goals for cutting greenhouse gas emissions.[18] The Nigerian government can adopt these policies as a model to create its own frameworks, rules, and laws related to climate change. Coordination between pertinent ministries, agencies, and stakeholders would be made easier by an efficient governance framework, guaranteeing the execution and oversight of climate efforts.

Implementing climate change initiatives depends critically on having access to technology transfer and climate money. Funds have been established by governments like Sweden and Norway to aid developing countries in their attempts to combat climate change. Nigeria might go into joint ventures and ask developed nations and international organisations for financial and technological support. The creation of a national climate fund can also draw investments and aid in the implementation of cutting-edge climate solutions in the nation.

For nations like Nigeria, which are vulnerable to a variety of climate hazards like droughts, flooding, and desertification, developing resilience to the effects of climate change is essential.[19]Successful strategies for protecting coastlines, managing water resources, and sustaining agriculture in the face of climatic variability are demonstrated by examples from Bangladesh and the Netherlands.[20]Nigeria can take a cue from these experiences and give adaptation techniques top priority in areas like infrastructure, water management, and agriculture. Resilience can be increased and climate-related vulnerabilities reduced by investing in climate-proof infrastructure.[21]

Building capacity and raising public awareness are crucial for climate change programmes to succeed. Comprehensive public engagement and education efforts are revealed through a comparative examination of global best practices. Nations like Sweden and Canada have done a great job of informing their people about the seriousness and effects of climate change and enabling them to participate actively in adaptation and mitigation measures. To establish an educated, climate-literate society, Nigeria can create similar

[18] *ibid*
[19]H Haider, 'Climate Change in Nigeria: Impacts and Responses' [2019] K4D Helpdesk Report 675 Brighton, UK: Institute of Development Studies. <https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/version/3/> accessed 12 May 2022.
[20] Faruque, Hossain ShahidMozaddad, and Md Liakath Ali. "Climate change and water resources management in Bangladesh." *Climate Change and Water Resources in South Asia, Balkema Press (Taylor and Francis group), Leiden* (2005): 231-254.
[21] Fankhauser, Samuel, and Guido Schmidt-Traub. "From adaptation to climate-resilient development: the costs of climate-proofing the Millennium Development Goals in Africa." *Climate and development* [2011] (3)(2): 94-113.

awareness initiatives and include climate change education into training programmes, media campaigns, and school curriculum.

It is essential to take note of global best practices in order to tackle Nigeria's urgent climate change concerns. Nigeria can greatly improve its response to climate change by adopting a sustainable energy transition, putting comprehensive climate policies into action, gaining access to climate funding and technology transfer, enhancing resilience, and raising public awareness. In order to guarantee a robust and sustainable future for Nigeria and its people, cooperation between the government, corporate sector, and civil society is imperative.

4.0 Nigeria's Initiatives on Climate Change

To address the global issue of climate change and lessen its effects, the entire citizenry should be involved. Nigeria, the most populous country in Africa and one of the biggest economies in the continent, is faced with a number of climate-related challenges. It has, however, also made considerable efforts to counter this threat with a variety of programmes and regulations. This article has examined some of Nigeria's most important climate change projects and their effects on the environment and the society.

In 2021, the Ministry of Environment in Nigeria, through its Department of Climate Change, unveiled the National Climate Change Policy (NCCP) for the period 2021 to 2030.[22] The NCCP established Nigeria's climate change policy direction, focusing on the necessary conditions to achieve Nigeria's goal of becoming a climate-resilient economy.[23]
These endeavours led to the passing of the Climate Change Act.[24] Demonstrating dedication to fulfilling its treaty obligation under the Paris Agreement on Climate Change and the Constitutional requirements imposed on the Nigerian State by Section 20.

Nigeria is promoting renewable energy sources as one of its main answers to climate change. The nation's numerous solar and wind resources have been utilised in a variety of initiatives. For example, the Nigerian Solar Power Project seeks to enhance the capacity of solar energy output. Nigeria lessens its reliance on fossil fuels, which lowers greenhouse gas emissions and air pollution, by switching to clean energy sources.

Furthermore, Nigeria has long seen severe forest degradation. Deforestation is a major contributor to climate change.[25] As a result, the Nigerian government has started afforestation and replanting initiatives to increase and restore the country's forest cover. The Great Green Wall project, backed by the UN, aims to stop desertification and build a wall to stop the Sahara Desert from moving further south.[26]

[22] Abdulkareem Mojeed, Climate Change: FG to Unveil Carbon Tax System for Nigeria February 13, 2023. *Premium Times.*
[23] E. E. Woha and C. T. Brown, An Evaluative Discourse on the Prospects of Nigeria Achieving the Net-Zero Carbon Emissions: A Focus on the Climate Change Act, 2021. African Journal of Law & Criminology (AJLC) Vol. 13 No. 1 (2023) pp. 254 – 268.
[24] Climate Change Act, 2021.
[25] LV Gatti and others, "Amazonia as a carbon source linked to deforestation and climate change." [2021] *Nature* 388-393.
[26] Mbow, Cheikh. "The great green wall in the Sahel." *Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Climate Science*. 2017.

Nigeria is more vulnerable to climate-related hazards, such as droughts, unpredictable weather patterns, and flooding, as we have recently witnessed in areas like Bayelsa state and some areas of Rivers State.[27] The government has created climate resilience and adaptation plans to deal with these issues. This entails putting early warning systems in place to notify populations of approaching disasters, encouraging climate-smart agricultural practices, and bolstering infrastructure to resist extreme weather occurrences.

The Nigerian government has also implemented laws and rules to incorporate climate change into its plan for growth. For tackling climate-related concerns, a thorough framework is offered by the National Climate Change Policy and Response Strategy. Nigeria has also committed to global accords such as the Paris Agreement, which establishes goals for lowering greenhouse gas emissions. Creating public support and participation with climate change requires increasing awareness of the issue. Nigeria has started outreach initiatives and educational campaigns to educate the public about climate change, its effects, and how each person can contribute to adaptation and mitigation measures. The goal of these programmes is to give local communities the tools they need to start grassroots climate action.

Nigeria has addressed climate change admirably, while problems still exist. Policy and project implementation might be impeded by insufficient money, administrative roadblocks, and low technical capability. The country's continued reliance on crude oil also poses a serious problem because it runs counter to attempts to cut emissions.

Case Study 1: Encouraging Sustainable Urban Mobility with the Lagos BRT System
Air pollution and traffic congestion are two of the many climate-related issues Lagos, Nigeria, must deal with. Lagos introduced the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) system in order to solve these problems and lower greenhouse gas emissions. The objective of this effort is to decrease the dependence on personal vehicles by offering accessible and eco-friendly public transport choices.

The BRT system has well-designed terminals, new buses that run on compressed natural gas (CNG), and designated bus lanes. The BRT system deters people from driving private automobiles by providing a quicker and more dependable option. This lowers carbon emissions and traffic congestion. Furthermore, using CNG buses lowers air pollution, which enhances the city's air quality.[28]

Case Study 2: Environmental Restoration and Social Justice in the Ogoni Cleanup Project
An important environmental and socioeconomic project in Nigeria, namely in Rivers State's Niger Delta, is the Ogoni Cleanup Project. Ogoni in Rivers state is primarily made up of the local government areas of Eleme, Tai, Gokana, and Kana. Numerous years of oil spills and pollution resulting from oil extraction operations have had a catastrophic impact on the ecosystem and the Ogoni people's way of life. The

[27] Elum, Zelda Anne, and Mieke Snijder. "Climate change perception and adaptation among farmers in coastal communities of Bayelsa State, Nigeria: a photovoice study." *International Journal of Climate Change Strategies and Management* (15)(5) (2023): 745-767.
[28] P Nicolas, 'Lagos' Bus Rapid Transit System: Decongesting and Depolluting Mega-Cities' <https://blogs.worldbank.org/transport/lagos-bus-rapid-transit-system-decongesting-and-depolluting-mega-cities-0> accessed November 2023.

Nigerian government launched the cleanup initiative in response to these problems in coordination with foreign partners.[29]

It might be argued by some that the cleanup effort has not done much to return Ogoni to its former state. The remediation and restoration of Ogoni's contaminated land and water bodies is the main objective of the project. This include clearing oil-contaminated land and water, repairing mangrove ecosystems, and making sure hazardous trash is disposed of safely. The project also has a strong emphasis on community involvement, with a particular emphasis on giving locals jobs and skill development opportunities.

In addition to addressing environmental deterioration, the Ogoni Cleanup Project works to provide social justice to the impacted people. It recognizes the local residents' rights to a healthy environment and an equitable portion of the advantages derived from oil extraction operations. In order to address climate change and the related environmental concerns, this case study highlights the significance of striking a balance between social and economic development and environmental restoration. As a result, these case studies highlight Nigeria's diverse strategy for combating climate change, which includes social justice, environmental restoration, and transportation. These programmes show the nation's dedication to mitigating climate change's effects while advancing resilient development and sustainable growth in the face of environmental difficulties.[30]

Nigeria's efforts to combat climate change are an essential first step in lessening the effects of the current global catastrophe. The government demonstrates its commitment to combating climate change through the development of renewable energy, reforestation activities, climate resilience measures, and policy frameworks. However, attaining long-term sustainability and resilience in the face of climate change requires persistent efforts, additional funding, and international cooperation. Nigeria's path towards a more environmentally friendly and climate-resilient future offers other countries with comparable issues a useful model.

4.0 Clean Technology and Renewable Energy Perspectives

Nigeria can successfully reduce the effects of climate change, improve energy availability, and support sustainable farming practices by making the switch to renewable energy and clean technologies. It is essential to involve local people in these projects in order to promote sustainability and ownership. Participation and engagement from the community can guarantee the success of renewable energy projects and develop a society that is aware of and able to handle climate change.[31]

[29] SPDC, 'THE UNEP ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT OF OGONILAND' https://www.shell.com.ng/sustainability/environment/unep-environmental-assessmen-of-ogoniland.html accessed 2023.
[30] Daily Trust, 'Ogoni Cleanup: Concerns Over Transparency, Accountability as Project Relaunches' <https://dailytrust.com/ogoni-cleanup-concerns-over-transparency-accountability-as-project-relaunches/> accessed July 2023.
[31] S Ajala, 'On Nigeria's Clean Energy Plans and Improved Energy Access by 2030' <https://www.google.com/amp/s/www.dataphyte.com/latest-reports/climate/on-nigerias-clean-energy-plans-and-improved-energy-access-by-2030/%3famp_markup=1>

A large fraction of Nigeria's population lacks access to consistent electricity, making the country an energy poor country. Involving local populations in renewable energy initiatives can aid in closing the energy gap. Micro networks that run on solar or wind energy are one initiative that can improve the quality of life and lessen the dependency on fossil fuels for energy generation by supplying remote and underserved areas with inexpensive, clean electricity.[32]

A crucial industry in Nigeria, agriculture is impacted by climate change. Involving local populations in the adoption of clean technologies for agriculture, like solar-powered irrigation systems or environmentally friendly farming methods, can increase agricultural output while lowering the carbon footprint of the industry. Participating in these programmes makes farmers stewards of sustainable agriculture, bolstering resilience against climate change.

5.0 Public Participation and Engagement

In order to increase awareness and propel the success of renewable energy initiatives, community engagement is essential. Communities that are involved in the planning and execution process are more likely to support and defend these efforts. Access to funding, establishing community capacity, and distributing benefits fairly are essential for long-term project operation and maintenance. Nigeria must promote a more resilient and sustainable future by enabling communities to actively engage in the shift to renewable energy.

Engaging the community is a great way to spread the word about clean technology and climate change. Communities may empower people by providing them with information on the advantages of clean technology and renewable energy for the environment through workshops and educational programmes. This knowledge can help people make wise decisions and adopt actions that lower carbon emissions and encourage sustainable development.[33]

Community involvement is important, but there are a few issues that need to be resolved. These include securing funding for initiatives led by the community, making sure that benefits are distributed fairly, and negotiating social and cultural issues that could have an impact on project acceptability. Sufficient instruction and community capacity building are necessary to guarantee the effective use and upkeep of clean technology.[34]

Participation in clean technology and renewable energy projects by the community is essential to Nigeria's attempts to tackle climate change. Local community involvement makes these programmes more powerful, socially acceptable, and sustainable. Beyond lowering emissions, there are additional advantages like as reduced poverty, better livelihoods, and increased climate resilience. One of the most important steps

[32] U N Habitat, 'Youths in Nigeria trained in renewable energy technologies and green entrepreneurship' <https://www.un.org/africarenewal/news/youths-nigeria-trained-renewable-energy-technologies-and-green-entrepreneurship> accessed 2023.

[33] Centre for public impact, 'Engaging the Public on Climate Change: What We've Learned' <https://www.centreforpublicimpact.org/insights/engaging-the-public-on-climate-change-what-we-ve-learned> accessed 2023.

[34] Alshuwaikhat, Habib M., and Ismaila Abubakar, 'An integrated approach to achieving campus sustainability: assessment of the current campus environmental management practices.' *Journal of cleaner production* (16)(16) (2008): 1777-1785.

Nigeria can take towards a more sustainable and climate-resilient future is empowering communities to actively participate in the switch to renewable energy.

6.0 Conclusion

To conclude, Nigeria must make the switch to renewable energy sources if it hopes to cut carbon emissions and secure a sustainable energy supply in the future. For instance, solar panels are being installed all over Nigeria as part of the Nigerian Solar Power Project. By reducing the dependency on fossil fuels, this project lowers greenhouse gas emissions while simultaneously improving access to energy in remote places. In addition, wind energy initiatives such as the Lekki Wind Farm foster environmental sustainability and energy security by contributing to a varied energy mix.

Fighting deforestation and desertification is made possible, largely, by Nigeria's dedication to afforestation and reforestation. As part of the Great Green Wall project, a 15-kilometer-wide strip of trees and other vegetation will be planted throughout the nation's northern area. This project improves Nigeria's ability to sequester carbon while also restoring degraded land. Additionally, it offers local populations economic opportunity by utilising agroforestry and sustainable land use methods.

Nigeria’s approach must be to prioritise resilience and adaptation due to its susceptibility to climate-related calamities. In flood-prone areas, the government has made investments to improve infrastructure, including resilient housing and flood defences. Furthermore, in the face of shifting climatic patterns, climate-smart agricultural techniques—such as drought-resistant crop types and effective water management—improve food security. Another essential element is the development of early warning systems, which assist communities in anticipating and responding to extreme weather occurrences and lessen the number of fatalities and property damage.

Nigeria's efforts to combat climate change are based primarily on education and public awareness campaigns. The government educates people about the effects of climate change and its remedies through awareness initiatives that are carried out in communities, schools, and media sources. With the help of this grassroots strategy, people and communities can embrace sustainable habits, lessen their carbon footprints, and get involved in regional conservation initiatives.

Nigeria's experience with climate change provides an example of a developing country pursuing economic development while being proactive in reducing the effects of climate change. A greener, more sustainable future for Nigeria and its people will require sustained efforts, cooperation with foreign partners, and creative solutions. It is important to create specialized funding channels for climate change projects that draw from both local and foreign funding sources. Incentives, tax exemptions, and public-private partnerships should all be used to promote private sector investment in climate-resilient projects.

Nigeria’s elimination of climate change issues will also require the elimination of red-tapism by streamlining and accelerating the approval process for climate-related projects: The approval process must to be made simpler and quicker for anyone wishing to carry out a project that will improve the climate. To guarantee a unified approach to climate governance, it is also important to set up explicit channels for

cooperation between government entities, and encourage local communities to participate in decision-making processes for community-based climate adaption programmes. The encouragement of locally developed solutions to climate issues, if at all possible, will stimulate participation from people in our local communities and generate new ideas from the rural areas. This can be encouraged by giving communities the tools and knowledge they need to adopt sustainable agriculture and climate-resilient practices.

The launch of comprehensive public awareness campaigns to educate citizens about climate change impacts and solutions, incorporation of climate education into school curricula, ensuring that future generations are well-informed about climate issues is another means to sustainable development via climate change.

Finally, Investments in early warning systems and disaster preparedness infrastructure to reduce the human and economic toll of climate-related disasters, the development and implementation of climate-resilient building codes and standards, and ensuring that climate policies and strategies align with Nigeria's national development goals as well as international commitments, such as the Paris Agreement, as well as the regularly review and update policies to reflect evolving climate science and changing circumstances will aid in Nigeria's combat against climate change.