

THE CHALLENGES OF ENACTING CLIMATE CHANGE LAWS IN NIGERIA*

Abstract

Climate change is change in the environmental conditions of the earth due to natural and anthropogenic factors. It is a global challenge that demands rapid and decisive response from every nation. Various international conventions, protocols, agreements and treaties exist on combating climate change and many countries of the world have taken bold steps to domesticate these said conventions and treaties. The major problem envisaged in this work is the absence of climate change laws in Nigeria. This work assesses the various challenges with enacting these laws in Nigeria. Major findings include that poverty, limited availability of reliable and useful information, ignorance, government's lack of interest, and irresponsible judiciary, among others, contribute immensely to the absence of climate change laws in Nigeria. Recommendations include the immediate enactment of climate change laws and climate friendly policies for companies and individuals.

Keywords: Climate Change, Laws, Enactment, Challenges, Nigeria

1. Introduction

Climate change is a major threat to humanity. It is a pressing modern environmental issue spawning connections to social and political processes all over the world. Like Covid 19 pandemic, both developed and developing countries are in for dire consequences. In recent years, we have seen record breaking wildfires, hurricanes, heat waves and floods rip across countries with alarming frequency. In 2020 alone, Australia and China witnessed devastating wildfires and massive flooding respectively, the worst recorded ever in the history of both countries¹. There are various international conventions, agreements, treaties and protocols aimed at combating climate change. Luckily, Nigeria participated and is signatory to most of these conventions and agreements. But at home, there is yet to be any laws on climate change. The Federal Executive Council merely approved a Policy on climate change in 2015, ahead of the Paris Agreement. This work therefore critically assesses the many challenges hindering the enactment of climate change laws in Nigeria. Appropriate recommendations will be made towards ensuring that these problems are solved.

2. The Concept of Climate Change

The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change defines climate change as change attributed directly or indirectly to human activity that alters the composition of the global atmosphere and which is in addition to natural climate variability, observed over comparable time periods. Amaokaye² defines the concept as the response of the earth's climate system to altered concentration of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. Today, climate change has become one of the greatest environmental, social and economic threats, a growing concern throughout the world: a silent catastrophe. Al Gore, in his Climate Change Reality Project³ states: 'The warnings about global warming and its resultant climate changes have been extremely clear for a longtime. We are facing a global climate crisis. It is deepening. We are entering a period of consequences'. Ban Ki-moon, the former Secretary General of the United Nations (UN)⁴ posits: 'Few global issues are more important than the environment and climate changeissues of energy and climate change can have implications for peace and security of the world'. For Taiwo in his articles 'Taking Environmental Danger seriously: Time To Break New Grounds',⁵ 'this crisis is a global one. It does not recognize the North-South Polarization neither does it know the East-West divide. It is boundary-neutral. No country can opt out of the crisis'.

It is correct to say that a good percentage of the population in Nigeria is yet to understand this global dilemma of climate change as well as its attendant consequences. Therefore, we are neither aware of our individual and collective contributions towards it, nor equipped mentally, physically or psychologically to properly respond to this impending disaster. Eheazu⁶ in his work maintains that many (both rural and urban based), literate and illiterate alike agree that there are changes in the climate but are unaware of what brought about

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¹See generally Australia Fire, www.bbc.com/news/world and Flooding in China, www.cnn.com., accessed (online) on 3 March, 2020 and 7 March, 2020 respectively.

²Amokaye, G.O., *Environmental Law and Practice in Nigeria*, Akoka, University of Lagos Press, 2004, 405.

³www.changingthepresent.org., accessed (online) on 23 March, 2020.

⁴UN's Ban Ki-moon Warns of Climate Change Dangers, <http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment>, accessed (online) on 23 November, 2012.

⁵Taiwo, A., [2000], *Lagos State University (LASU) Law Journal*, 88.

⁶Eheazu, B.A., 'Global Warming and Climate Change: A Sustainability Alert to Ndigbo,' A Lecture delivered at the 2011 Ahiajioku Lecture Festival at Owerri, Imo State, Nigeria on 25 November, 2011, 12

these recent devastations. A good number of farmers in Igbo communities met in the course of his research work attribute the current vagaries of climate to punishment from the gods in response to criminal acts of the present generation which they listed to include armed robbery, kidnapping etc. Christians on their part see these changes as the beginning of the end of times- The Biblical Armageddon. For the Holy Bible records: ‘When ye shall hear of wars and commotions, be not terrified: For these things must first come to pass; but the end is not yet come ... And great earthquakes shall be in diverse places and famines and pestilences, and fearful sights and great signs shall be from heaven ...’ But for scientists, it is as a result of many human activities carried out without regards to the environment which has led to the accumulation of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere, which is gradually warming the earth surface beyond normal temperature(global warming) and in turn producing various undesired changes in our environment.

3. Causes and Consequences of Climate Change

Causes

Scientifically, Climate change is caused by both natural and anthropogenic (man-made) factors. The natural causes include: volcanic eruptions, ocean currents, earth’s orbital changes, solar variations and natural changes in greenhouses gas concentration etc. However, this work is concerned with the human causes of climate change which include burning of fossil fuels, deforestation, industrial development, mining and other inappropriate agricultural activities, continuous increase in world population, lack of environmental awareness etc. In Nigeria, the man-made causes include: deforestation, bush burning and fuel wood extraction especially in the rural areas: Nigeria as at 2008 had the world highest deforestation rate of primary forest and Africa’s highest rate of total forest loss⁷; gas flaring in the Niger-delta area and the resultant problems of ecosystem destabilization, heat stress, acid rain and their effects on fresh water and aquatic lives; mining without adequate land reclamation; overgrazing especially in the northern areas; unregulated dumping of toxic and comparable waste materials; inappropriate agricultural practices; power generation from generators, coal and other plants as well as traffic emissions especially from the use of old ‘second-hand’ or ‘tokunbo’ vehicles which have been grouped as super emitters; continuous increase in population; and finally, the fact that Nigeria has not yet established a legal framework aimed at combating climate change.

Consequences

Change in climate and weather patterns: Extreme weather conditions, unpredictable rainfall patterns, prolonged heat waves, changes in precipitation levels leading to increased drought, desertification and flooding, changes in storm pattern, landslides and severe cycloids which may result in hurricanes and typhoons are all evidence of this phenomenon. In 2016, Cape Verde experienced her first hurricane ripples, the first in Africa ever⁸. This year alone, by February 28, 2020, the devastating wild fires in Australia had ravaged over 350, 000 hectares of land and nearly 3 million animals, making it the biggest forest fire in Australia⁹. In June 2020, flooding in China had displaced 744,000 people across 26 provinces with over 81 people missing or dead, the worst ever in Chinese history¹⁰, etc.

Rise in sea level and ocean temperatures: Many parts of the world are low-lying and are likely to be submerged if these changes continue.

Agricultural and forestry loss: Agricultural production in Latin America and Africa are declining leading to food shortages for many impoverished countries.

Desert and desertification: Deserts are likely to become extremely hot, with few exceptions. They are projected to become hotter but not significantly wetter. Temperature increase could be a threat to animals and organisms that exist near their heat tolerance limits hence the farmer-herder clash in some parts of the country.

Animal Extinction: Climate change most often results in migration patterns. With climate change, most critically endangered species are likely to go into extinction.

Melting ice and disappearing glaciers: Climate change will witness rising global temperatures which will speed the melting of glaciers and ice caps, causing early ice thaw on rivers and lakes. Research predicts that if the current rate of global warming continues, the Arctic could be ice free in the summer by 2040¹¹

⁷Ayua, P.M., ‘Emerging Issues In Environmental Law’, [2009], *National Judicial Institute Law Journal*,(Vol.2),11

⁸ Hurricane in Cape Verde, *africatimes.com*, accessed (online) on 12 March, 2019.

⁹ Australia Fires, *www.bbc.com>news>world*, accessed (online) on 3 March, 2020.

¹⁰ Flooding in China, *www.cnn.com*, accessed (online) on 7 September, 2020.

¹¹ Consequences of Global Warming and Climate Change by National Academy of Science, America, *www.nrdc.org/global warming*, accessed(online) on 12 June, 2018.

Public health implication: Climate change is likely to have wide ranging impact on human health with significant loss of life. Such effects include illnesses due to increase in heat waves such as strokes and protracted increase in vector borne infections such as malaria, yellow fever, dengue fever etc. This September, the United States experienced stifling hot temperatures that have set all time record¹². It has not been confirmed by researchers that the *Corona Virus* is a health implication of climate change.

4. Visible Impact of Climate Change in Nigeria

Nigeria is already experiencing the negative impacts of climate change. According to the research conducted by the Building Nigeria Response to Climate Change (BNRCC) Project and the Nigerian Environmental Study Action Team (NEST)¹³, millions of people in Nigeria are already experiencing extreme weather events. In the coastal regions of the South, flooding has become a menace to human habitation and progress. In the year 2012, over 25 states out of the 36 states of the Federation witnessed an excessive downpour of rainfall with schools and industries closed for several weeks. This year, Lagos, Ogun, Kogi and the Niger Delta Region have experienced massive flooding. The Nigeria Hydrological Services Agency (NIHSA) further warns that more than 28 states in the country will experience massive flooding this year¹⁴. In the North, increasing temperature and decreasing rainfall in the semi-arid regions of Sokoto, Katsina, Kano and Maiduguri have resulted in drought and desertification. Lake Chad, once estimated to cover 400,000 square Kilometers in 2006 has decreased by more than 90%¹⁵. In terms of agriculture, farmers complain of heavier than normal rainfall patterns which wash away crops and entire farmlands. They say it is becoming difficult to predict the two seasons (rainy and dry). Erosions have also destroyed many farmlands. The National Erosion and Flood Control Policy in 2005 estimated over 10 percent of the country's farmland with severe erosion problems and more than 50 percent of the affected areas in the South-east¹⁶. Health wise, Okonkwo¹⁷ insists that the Southern part which is prone to flooding will experience direct water borne diseases like typhoid fever, cholera, pneumonia, diarrhea and malaria while areas with high temperature and humidity will experience diseases like meningitis, measles, chicken pox and dehydration in pregnancy.

5. International Legal Framework on Climate Change

There are various international agreements, treaties and conventions aimed at protecting the environment from climate change. *Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer* (1985) and *The Montreal Protocol on Substances That Deplete the Ozone Layer* (1987) are the major international legal instrument put in place to protect the ozone layer from harmful gases. These same gases contribute to climate change as well. Nigeria accented to it on 31 October, 1988. There is *United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change* (UNFCCC), which ultimate objective of the UNFCCC is to stabilize greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system. Nigeria ratified the UNFCCC on 29 August, 1994. There is the *Kyoto Protocol to The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change* which is fallout of the third Conference of the Parties (COP-3) to the UNFCCC. The Protocol unlike the UNFCCC introduced targets and timeline for industrialized parties to reduce their net emissions of greenhouse gases within the period of 2008 – 2012. There are also *Bonn Agreements* and the *Marrakesh Accords*. The *Copenhagen Accord* did not seal the deal' because it failed to secure a second commitment period (after Kyoto's 2008-2012). There is the *Paris Agreement* which required all parties to put forward their best efforts at reducing greenhouse gases through 'Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC). Nigeria committed herself to 20 – 45% reduction of greenhouse gases by the year 2030. In the 2015 Global Climate Legislation Study¹⁸, over 66 countries of the world have gone ahead to turn their international commitments into domestic laws by enacting laws/legislations to monitor greenhouse gases in their countries. As at 2017, over 1200 climate change relevant laws were put in place worldwide¹⁹

¹² Summer 2020- hottest on record for U.S, www.noaa.gov/news/summer-2020, accessed online on 10 September, 2020.

¹³ Conducted between 2007-2011.

¹⁴ Annual Flood Outlook 2020, nihsa.gov.ng, accessed online on 7 September, 2020.

¹⁵ Information from World Lake Database. See also *Lake Chad Shrinking!*, www.researchgate.net/publication

¹⁶ Nzeh, E.C. and Eboh, O.R., 'Technological Challenges of Climate Change Adaptation in Nigeria: Insights from Enugu State', A Paper presented in Nairobi-Kenya published by the African Technology Policy Studies Network, 2011, 5.

¹⁷ Okonkwo, M.O., 'Public Health Significance of Climate Change', A Paper delivered at a Lecture for the Association of Medical Laboratory Scientists in Nigeria, held at Akure, Ondo State, 1-2 March, 2012.

¹⁸ Nachmany, M. and others, 'The 2015 Global Climate Legislation Study: A Review of Climate Change Legislation in 99 countries', a Joint Study of the Grantham Research Institute on Climate Change and the Environment, <http://www.se.ac.uk/grantham>; GlobeLegislators Organisation, <http://globelegislators.org/a>

¹⁹ Nachmany, M. and others, 'Global Trends in Climate Change Legislation and Litigation, www.ise.ac.uk/publications, accessed (online) on 2 April, 2019.

6. Legal Framework on Climate Change in Nigeria

Provisions of section 20, chapter II of the *1999 Constitution* of Nigeria: This section reads: ‘The state shall protect and improve the environment and safeguard the water, air and land, forest and wildlife of Nigeria’. This provision is however non-justiciable as provided by Section 6(6) (c) of the same constitution. The *National Environmental Standard and Regulation Enforcement Agency (NESREA) Act*: Section 7 of this Act on climate change mandates the Agency to enforce compliance with the provisions of International agreements, protocols, conventions and treaties on the environment including climate change. This provision is however caught up by See 12(1) of the 1999 Constitution which makes it clear that no treaty between the Federation and any other country shall have the force of law except it is enacted into law by the National Assembly. *National Policy on Climate Change* was finally approved by the Federal Executive Council and launched in 2015, ahead of the Paris Agreement. The question then is, why does the Nigerian government sign these international instruments without domesticating them? The writer aligns herself with Omoyemen in her work *Assessing Women’s Rights in Nigeria*²⁰ wherein she queries

... Why did the Nigerian government sign the protocol? Did the government sign as a mere formality knowing that the Protocol could be frustrated by non-domestication by virtue of Section 12 of the Constitution? Or is there a divorce between the arm of government that signs International Instruments and the arm of government that domesticates these agreement? Or do we align our thinking with Richard Falk who says: ‘for various reasons associated with pride, governments are quite ready to endorse even formerly, standards of human rights despite their unwillingness to hold these standards in practice.

7. Challenges of Enacting Climate Change Laws in Nigeria

Ignorance/illiteracy: Ignorance and gross illiteracy in the country have played a huge role in the absence of climate change laws in Nigeria. Odjugo²¹ maintains that the level of awareness on climate change depends on the level of development of a country. In his research, Odjugo found that 22 percent of respondents in Nigeria have knowledge of climate change and only 9 percent of them are from the rural areas. Erugo²² maintains that illiteracy rate is high and poverty pervasive in Nigeria when it comes to environmental matters as data on toxics means nothing to an illiterate person.

Limited availability of reliable, useful and useable climate information: There is lack of accurate and timely weather and climate information in Nigeria. And where there is any information at all, they are not tailored for end-users. There is also lack of capacity and resources to track meteorological patterns, forecast impacts and assess risks in order to develop policies that can reduce vulnerability²³.

Poverty: The National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) Report of 2019 highlights that over 40 percent of the total population of Nigerians live below the country’s poverty line of N137, 430²⁴. The simple meaning is that the country is at the moment struggling to secure immediate basic requirements such as food, infrastructure, health, security etc. for her citizenry and cannot afford to channel her strength to some impending danger as climate change. a poor constitute the bulk of our population and even where the government may introduce programmes to check bush burning, hunting and tree felling which are some of the root causes of climate change, they do not make sense to the common man for he is hungry and there is no alternative to his survival.

Impact on the Economy: Most countries believe that monitoring greenhouse gas emissions from companies, industries and Plants will stultify economic growth. It is on record that as China’s economy improved, she surpassed the United States of America as the single largest producer of greenhouse gas emissions²⁵. Opponents of climate change further perceive climate change information and strategies as one way developed countries may want to pull the ladder up behind them after thoroughly industrializing their nations²⁶.

²⁰Omoyemen, O.E., *Assessing Women Rights in Nigeria*, <http://www.pambazuka.org>, accessed(online) on 31 May,2019

²¹Odjugo, U.O., *Analysis of climate change awareness in Nigeria*, *Scientific Research and Essays*, www.researchgate.net, assessed (online) on 12 May, 2019.

²²Erugo, S., ‘Environmental Justice: FOI Act in Nigeria- Case Study, A Paper presented at the 3rd UNITAR-YALE Conference on Environmental Governance and Democracy, New Haven, USA, 5-7 September, 2014,5-6.

²³Fagbohun, O. and Nlerum,F.,”Implementing an Effective Regulating Scheme for Climate Change in Nigeria: The Role of Law”[2011]NIALS Journal of Environmental Law(Vol.1), 276

²⁴ www.worldbank.org, assessed (online) on 12 May, 2019.

²⁵ Peake, S. and Smith, J., *Climate change: From Science to Sustainability*, New York, Oxford University Press, 2009, 176

²⁶ Lazarus, R.J., “Super Wicked Problems And Climate Change: Restraining the Present to Liberate the Future”,[2010] *Cornell Law Review*, (Vol.94), 1173.

Funding: Checking climate change is capital intensive. Lazarus in his work states that climate change legislation is peculiarly vulnerable because of the extent to which it imposes cost on the short term for the realization of benefits many decades and sometimes centuries later. The 2010 Report of the National Environmental Economic and Development Study (NEEDS)²⁷ for energy sector alone requires about US\$874 million to achieve reduction of emissions in that sector by 2020. This is huge cost for the Nigerian government.

Erroneous dependence on environmental laws to tackle climate change: Okpara²⁸ in her work maintains that false belief that environmental laws can tackle climate change is another challenge in enacting these laws. Many believe that Nigeria has enough environmental laws which can curb these climate changes. The truth however is that mere environmental laws no matter their number cannot curb climate change. Climate change is peculiar and requires distinct laws given the physics and chemistry underlying this phenomenon. The said laws must target and monitor greenhouse gases in the environment and the expected base year for such achievement. It must also incorporate mitigation and adaptation measures to address both the present and future challenges that may occur in the environment.²⁹

Government's lack of interest: There is apparent lack of interest on the part of government when it comes to climate change. Nigeria, it must be stated is signatory to most of the International Conferences, Agreements and Protocols which culminated in the International Legal Framework on Climate Change³⁰. But at home, the government is yet to translate these signatures into concrete action. One major reason for this is that most oil and gas companies, who are the largest emitters of greenhouse gases in the Niger Delta area are in joint venture with the federal government³¹. Climate change laws will definitely stifle this corporate-government romance.

Global nature of climate change: Climate change as stated earlier is a global problem. Like the parable of the 'Tragedy of the Commons'³², no one is solely responsible for these changes and not one nation can solve this problem alone. The implication therefore is that even where one nation decreases her emission rate, those efforts may be rendered effeminate by sheer activities occurring within another nation's borders. We must also bear in mind the issues of state supremacy and territorial sovereignty which posits that a state is independent and has the exclusive right to determine the extent and form of its participation in international relations. It is in furtherance of this principle that a country as the United States of America rejected the Kyoto Protocol³³.

Irresponsible Judiciary: Courts have emerged a crucial battle ground in efforts to regulate climate change in developed countries. This is not the case in Nigeria as the issues of jurisdiction and other technicalities will be raised once the suits are filed. In *Urgenda Foundation v State of the Netherlands*³⁴, 899 Dutch citizens sued the Dutch government in 2013 to compel the state to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The Supreme Court held that the state has a duty to protect citizens from climate change and must reduce emissions immediately. In *Demanda Generaciones Futuras as V Minambiente*³⁵, Colombia's Supreme Court ordered the Government to implement protective measures and halt further climate change due to deforestation in the Amazon.

²⁷ Report of the Special Climate Change Unit, Federal Ministry of Environment, Abuja, 2010.

²⁸ Okpara, C.I., *Advancing a Legal Framework for Climate Change in Nigeria*, Jayakumar, R.(ed), Research Trends in Multidisciplinary Research, Vol. 11, New Delhi, AkiNik Publications, 127.

²⁹Fagbohun, O. and Nlerum, F., op. cit.,270.Fagbohun maintains that any law to address climate change must have capacity to address multi-layered environmental problems and factor in such critical components as individual lifestyles, business consensus, public opinion, market opportunities and environmental advocacy.

³⁰ Nigeria ratified the UNFCCC on 29 August, 1994, the Kyoto Protocol on 10 December, 2004, committed herself to 20-45% reduction of greenhouse gases by the year2030 at the 2015 Paris Agreement.

³¹ Presently, the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) holds 55-60% interests in the oil producing companies.

³² Garrett, H., 'The Tragedy Of The Commons', [1968], *Environmental Science Journal*, (Vol.162, No. 3859) 1243-1248.

³³ Peake, S. and Smith, J., op.cit., 113.

³⁴ Court Ruling on 20 December, 2019. This was the first time in the world in which citizens established that their government has a legal duty to prevent dangerous climate change. See www.researchgate.net > publication, accessed (online) on 4 June 2020

³⁵ Decision of 5 April, 2018

8. Conclusion and Recommendations

Beckett³⁶ rightly pointed out that ‘though no country can solve the problem of climate change on its own, all countries must show what they can achieve by their own actions, which should be consistent with their national circumstances’. Nigeria must do her ‘bit’ in combating climate change. These recommendations will therefore come in tripartite form, targeted at the government, companies and individuals as combating climate change requires the commitment of all citizens. Government: The Federal Government must take urgent steps to ensure that climate change laws are in place. The Federal House of Representatives and Senate should wake up to their duties. It is important to state that very many developing countries – Mexico, Brazil and even Kenya in 2016 have climate change laws in place. As at 2017, over 1200 climate change or climate relevant laws were put in place worldwide³⁷. It is necessary to state that all these countries had various environmental laws operating within their boundaries but took steps to enact specific laws for climate change. This is great lesson for Nigeria. Secondly, massive governmental awareness campaign programmes should be introduced into various communities. Citizens must be made to know that the challenge is real. Topics on climate change should be introduced in primary, secondary and tertiary institutions. Local governments and agencies should carry the message to the rural areas. Policies must be introduced to check bush burning, hunting and tree felling which are some of the root causes of climate change. Thirdly, the government must be willing to deliberately set aside a climate change fund. This will be used in effecting adaptation and mitigation measures required in a low carbon economy as well as funding continuous research for alternatives. A national fund to finance climate change mitigation and adaptation plans was set up in 2009 in Brazil. Mexico and other nations also established climate change funds specifically to tackle these changes. Fourthly, the Nigerian Meteorological Agency (NIMET) must rise up to her duties. Skillful climate forecast remains valuable to any society as the provide knowledge that can be used to cope better with climate variations. These pieces of information must be tailored to suit the end-users and must be in very clear and comprehensible terms. The courts must be involved. The courts have a huge role to play in curbing climate change in the country alongside the legislature. This is the position in developed countries. Lawyers must be willing to take up public interest litigations on climate change in order to preserve our environment. Finally, it is important to state that no country with climate change laws has recorded any decline in the country’s economy. The United Kingdom who enacted her climate change law³⁸ as far back as 2008 reports that the UK’s transition to low carbon economy has put the nation in a stronger position as she has reduced drastically the importation of fossil fuel and relies on on-shore and off-shore wind turbines, wave power and hydro power. The country is also working assiduously on the introduction of electric cars which will phase out all fuel-powered cars by 2030³⁹. The Mexican government on the other hand has established three major wind farms and has recently become one of the world’s fastest growing wind energy producers with over 6,300 MW in 2019. Companies must introduce policies to curb climate change from their end as they contribute in no small way to the greenhouse gas emissions in the environment. There is need to educate workers in the companies on the consequences of these emissions. Strict recycling regulations should be imposed to reduce burning and manage waste materials. Policies and incentives should be put in place to promote the use of low carbon emission technology and energy efficient utilities in companies. In East Germany, emission reduction in the period of 1990 was due the closure of inefficient polluting factories and power stations, and production of electricity from brown coal and ignite⁴⁰. Individuals can do their little ‘bit’ towards reducing greenhouse gases in the environment. We must start by informing friends and family that climate change is real. Practices such as bush burning, and hunting even as a hobby must be reduced to the barest minimum. Environmental friendly practices which conserve energy like using more fuel efficient vehicles, riding bicycles instead of cars and carpooling should be embraced. Recycling used products in the homes, use of energy efficient appliances and light bulbs, switching on appliances and bulbs only when we need them must become our life styles. Continuing on the business-as-usual path will make climate change not just an environmental crisis but a pandemic. These recommendations where adopted will no doubt bring Nigeria into a healthier, cleaner and lower carbon environment ,one fit for her children yet unborn.

³⁶Member of the United Kingdom Parliament, Report of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, www.defra.gov.uk, accessed (online) on 12 January, 2019.

³⁷Nachmany, M. and others, ‘Global Trends in Climate Change Legislation and Litigation, www.ise.ac.uk>publications

³⁸Climate Change Act(C27) of 2008

³⁹ Harrabin, R., Climate change: Electric car target ‘needs to be sooner’, <https://www.bbc.com>>news, accessed [online] on 6 February, 2020.

⁴⁰ Peake, S. and Smith, J., op. cit., 186.