

Legal & Policy Response to Climate Change in Nigeria: The Role of International & Domestic Laws

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Background:

As an agrarian society, Nigeria is vulnerable to climate change because approximately 70% of its citizens are peasant farmers that rely on annual rainfall. Some of the major drivers of climate change in Nigeria are gas flaring, burning of fossil fuels, over grazing, deforestation, and loss of biodiversity. The significant impact of climate change in Nigeria includes drought and desertification in the North, flash floods in the centre and coastal erosion in the South. Others are farmer - herder crisis, internal and external migration, heatwaves and other extreme weather conditions.

Rational for the Research:

Although science is a major player in the conversations on climate change, law, policy and regulations play a significant role in the international, regional and national efforts of mitigation and adaptation. From the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), Kyoto Protocol, Paris Agreement to the various national climate change Acts, law and policy continue serve as a pillar upon which to build the study on.

Research Questions:

1. Are the existing Nigerian legal, policy, regulatory and institutional frameworks effective in addressing the threat posed by climate change?
2. Do the Nigerian 'initiatives' address the local circumstances and legal realities of stakeholders?
3. How can the Nigerian framework be improved in regulatory and implementation terms?

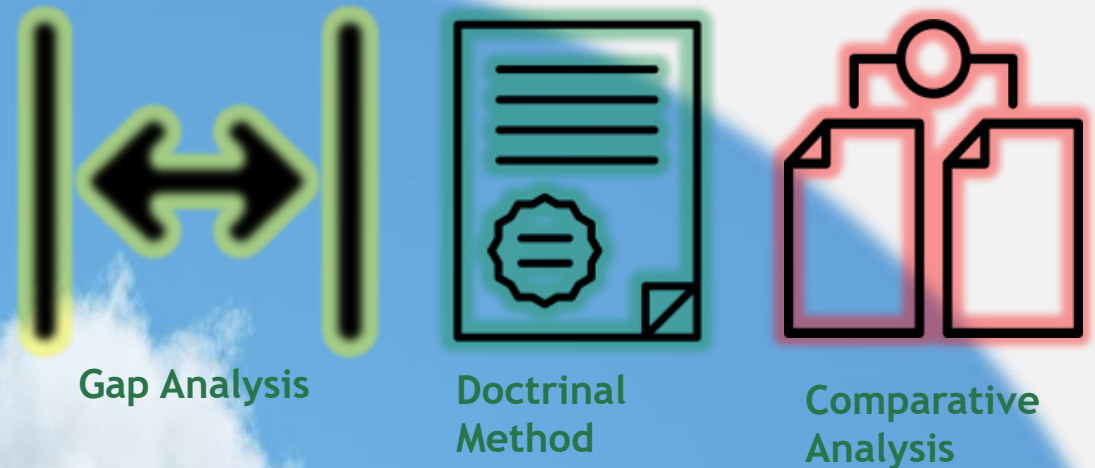
Objectives to be pursued:

- Explore the existing legal and regulatory response to climate change in Nigeria.
- Investigate how the existing climate change laws and regulations have been able to address the local circumstances and legal realities of all stakeholders.
- Establish ways in which international opportunities on climate change can contribute to the Nigerian domestic climate change strategy.
- Develop an enhanced context-based multi-stakeholder legal framework for counteracting climate change in Nigeria.

Abbreviations:

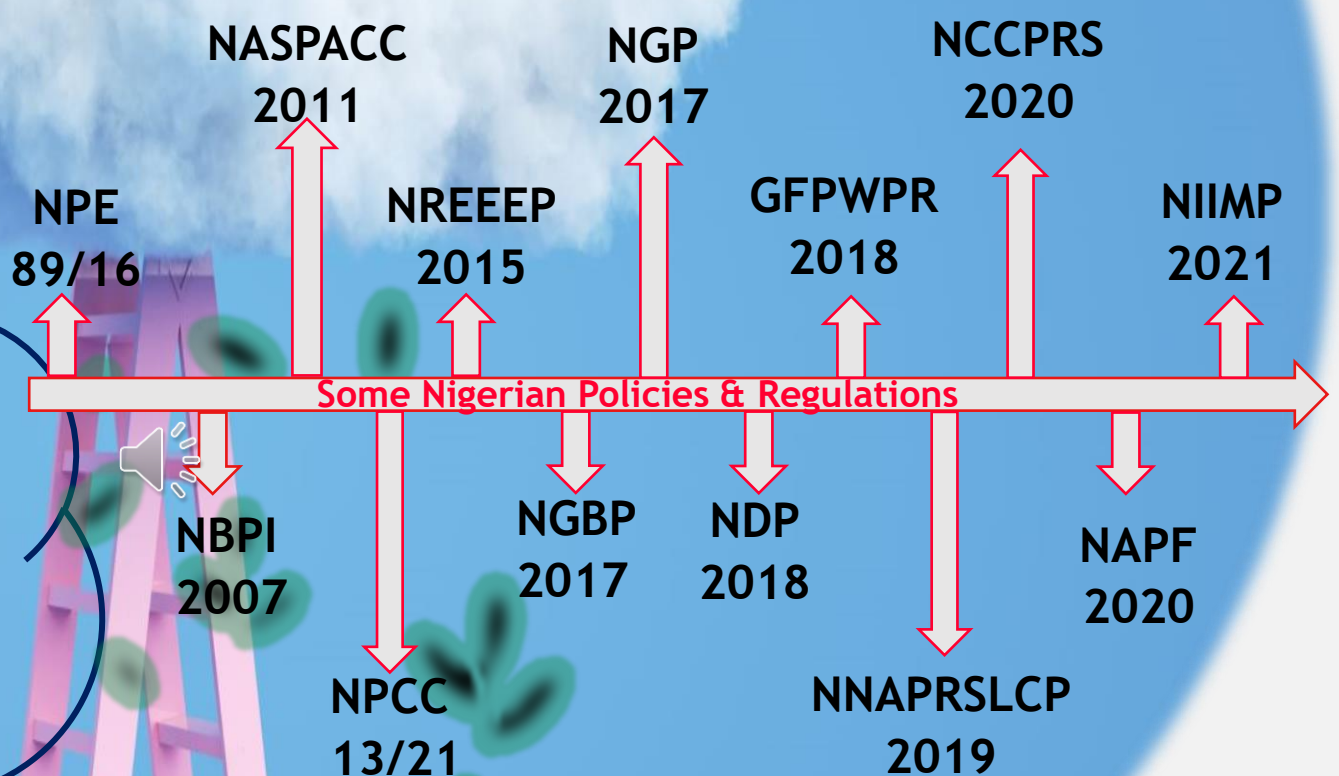
UNFCCC - United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change NESREA - National Environmental Standard & Regulations Agency DCC - Department of Climate Change IMCCC - Inter-Ministerial Committee on Climate Change NPE - National Policy on Environment 1989, amended 2016 NBPI - Nigerian Biofuel Policy & Incentive 2007 NASPACC - National Adaptation Strategy & Plan of Action on Climate Change 2011 NPCC - National Policy on Climate Change and Climate Change Policy Response and Strategy 2013, amended 2021 NREEEP - National Renewable Energy & Energy Efficiency Policy 2015 NGBP - Nigeria's Green Bonds Programme 2017 NGP - National Gas Policy 2017 NDP - Nigeria's Drought Plan 2018 GFPWPR - Gas Flare (Prevention of Waste & Pollution) Regulations 2018 NNAPRSLCP - Nigeria's National Action Plan to Reduce Short-Lived Climate Pollutants 2019 NCCPRS - Nigeria Climate Change Policy Response & Strategy 2020 NAPF - National Adaptation Plan Framework 2020 & NIIMP - National Integrated Infrastructure Master Plan 2021 EEP - Energising Education Program

Methodology:



International & Domestic Laws on CC:

- UNFCCC, Paris Agreement and Kyoto Protocol
- NESREA Act 2007 and Nigeria Climate Change Act 2021



Nigeria's Initiatives in Counteracting Climate Change:

- a. Establishment of DCC and IMCC
- b. Clean Energy Initiative such as CETS, NCCS, REAP, RUWES, REMU & EEP
- c. Sovereign Green Bond
- d. Great Green Wall Initiative and Afforestation Programs
- e. Ogoni Land Clean-up
- f. National Forestry Trust Fund

Conclusion:

The research will examine Nigerian existing laws & regulations in line with the need to provide a comprehensive framework for addressing the challenges of climate change. It will compare Nigeria with other countries with the aim of adding to knowledge and contributing to the debate on law and impact of climate change in Nigeria & globally.