CLIMATE CHANGE GOVERNANCE, CORRUPTION AND INSTITUTUTIONAL FAILURE IN THE NIGER DELTA REGION OF NIGERIA

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Abstract

The phenomenon of climate change has grown to become one of the greatest challenges of mankind in contemporary times. Consequently, different countries have adopted different local strategies to mitigate and adapt to its impacts. Nigeria responded by establishing institutions and adopting policies geared towards mitigating and adapting to the impacts of climate change. In order to assess the performance of the institutions with respect to climate change governance, the study adopted Structural-Functionalism as its theoretical framework, with methodology that involved Time-Series research design. Data was gathered basically from secondary sources with focus on the Niger Delta Region (NDR) due to its peculiar characteristics and susceptibility to the impacts of climate change. The study found performance failures a result of corruption. Funds meant to ameliorate the impact of climate change in the region are often diverted into private purse. The study therefore, recommended, among others, strict supervision of funds meant for climate change in the NDR, and that those involved in corrupt practices in climate change governance should be adequately punished.

Keywords: Corruption, Climate change governance, Institutional failure, Environment.

GOUVERNANCE SUR LES CHANGEMENTS CLIMATIQUES, CORRUPTION ET DÉFAUTS INSTITUTIONNELS DANS LA RÉGION DU NIGER DELTA AU NIGÉRIA

Abstrait

Le phénomène du changement climatique est devenu l'un des plus grands défis de l'humanité à l'époque contemporaine. En conséquence, différents pays ont adopté différentes stratégies locales pour atténuer ses impacts et s'y adapter. Le Nigéria a réagi en créant des institutions et

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en adoptant des politiques visant à atténuer les effets du changement climatique et à s'y adapter. Afin d'évaluer la performance des institutions en ce qui concerne la gouvernance en matière de changement climatique, l'étude a adopté le fonctionnalisme structurel comme cadre théorique, avec une méthodologie faisant appel à une conception de recherche en séries chronologiques. Les données ont été collectées essentiellement à partir de sources secondaires, en mettant l'accent sur la région du delta du Niger (NDR) en raison de ses caractéristiques particulières et de sa sensibilité aux impacts du changement climatique. L'étude a révélé que les défaillances de performances résultaient de la corruption. Les fonds destinés à atténuer les effets du changement climatique dans la région sont souvent détournés dans des fonds privés. Par conséquent, l'étude a recommandé, entre autres, une stricte supervision des fonds destinés au changement climatique dans le cadre du rapport de non-respect des droits de l'homme et que les personnes impliquées dans des pratiques de corruption dans la gouvernance du changement climatique soient punies de manière adéquate.

Mots-clés: corruption, défaillance institutionnelle, gouvernance en matière de changement climatique, environnement.

Introduction

It is a truism that the environment sustains human existence on planet earth, as such; the health of the environment is tantamount to the health of humanity (Adewusi, 2011; Ambasht & Ambasht, 2005). However, the strange paradox of human existential struggle for development couched on industrialization and enhanced economic activism has led to the phenomenon of climate change on one hand and the need to preserve the environment for the continuous existence of the human race on the other (Angalapu & Bila, 2018). There is no doubt that, man is the greatest and chief pollutant of the environment as his struggle to better his economic condition causes a great harm to the normal flora and fauna of the planet (Adjugo, 2010). Man's efforts to improve upon his material condition are inextricably tied to the environment (Ambasht & Ambasht, 2005; Tyokumbur, 2010). This recognition is acknowledged all over the world, especially the positive relationship between the health of the environment and the health of man. In the context of the above, a study of the environment and its sustainability becomes very germane to Nigeria's quest for sustainable development.

The concern for the environment has been in focus since the early sixties (Adewusi, 2011). However, this was brought to the front burner of international discourse and indeed given impetus in 1972 when the world community resolved at the United Nations Conference on Human Environment, held in July 1972 at Stockholm, Sweden. The Conference decided on the need to protect the environment and mitigate the ravaging impact of climate change (Elliot, 2007; Nwosu, 2006; Etekpe, 2015). After the Conference, a flurry of regional and international conferences that followed placed emphasis on the protection of the environment, thus leading to the concept of sustainable development. In this context, climate change becomes a subject of global concern. Accordingly, in many countries today, even in those where policies on climate change do not exist, there is a tacit agreement with science that the climate is no longer very friendly (Allen, 2014). The goal of climate policy, therefore, is to ensure that greenhouse gases in the atmosphere are reduced to a safe level. In this context, three related policy actions are required to tackle climate change, namely: stabilization, adaption, and mitigation. All three actions and their various options are expensive to undertake. They include mitigation strategies of fossil fuel shift towards alternative renewable

energy (Kumar, 2009). In this regard, developed capitalist nations have not been unable to reach a binding agreement on substantial emissions reductions (Angalapu, 2018).

Developing countries are increasingly becoming frustrated with the big polluting countries' unwillingness to tackle the problem of climate change. In the face of these frustrations, some countries have started to develop local strategies to deal with the effects of climate change (Angalapu & Bila, 2018). Scholars have also suggested the integration of climate change science into formal and non-formal education (Amatari, 2015). In Nigeria, the National Adaptation Strategy and Plan of Action on Climate Change (NASPA-CCN) and the National Mitigation Action (NAMA) have been developed. The goal NASPA-CCN is to take action to adapt to climate change by reducing vulnerability to climate change impacts and increasing the resilience and sustainable well being of all Nigerians. NASPA-CCN has elaborate policy framework with full sets policy programmes and strategies for agriculture (crops and livestock), fresh water resources, coastal water resources and fisheries, forest and biodiversity. In an earlier work done by Nwosu (2006), and the recent one by Amobi and Onyishi (2015), very little positive impact is realized from the climate change policy in the country. Thus, this work seeks to locate the causes of the failure of climate change policies and institutions in the Niger Delta. Due to the pervasive nature of corruption in Nigeria, the study is guided by one research question: Has corruption contributed to the poor performance of institutions responsible for managing climate change in the Niger Delta?

Conceptual Explanation and Literature

Here, an attempt has been made to explore the literature on the subject matter under study and therefore, presents a representative synopsis of what is already known in the literature. This review examines what the literature already holds on the major concepts of this study such as; climate change, climate change governance, corruption and institutional failure. More so, it attempts to bring to the fore, some topical issues recorded in the literature on the impacts of climate change and the challenges facing efforts to curb the climate change menace in the Niger Delta region.

Climate Change

Climate change is the variation in the Earth's global or regional climate overtime as a result of natural variability or anthropogenic factors caused by increasing concentrations of greenhouse gases (Arugu, 2015). The production and consumption patterns of different regions and countries have resulted in the "emission of high volumes of gaseous materials such as carbon dioxide (CO_2), methane (CH_4) and Chlorofluorocarbons (CFC) into the atmosphere, leading to the absorption of the earth's radiation, warming of the earth's surface, and altering of the world's climate" (Efe, 2010, p.43). The burning of fossil fuels (oils, natural gas and coal); burning of wood, wood products, and solid wastes; raising of livestock and the decomposition of organic wastes ion solid wastes landfills; combustion of solid wastes and fossil fuels in industrial and agricultural activities; bush burning; and deforestation are the primary sources of GHGs that have resulted in global warming (Idowu, Ayoola, Opele, & Ikenweiwe, 2011).

Climate Change Governance

Climate change governance refers to the whole process of managing the phenomenon of climate change. It begins from the enactment of policies on climate change, the establishment of institutional frameworks to undertake the implementation of the policies enacted, the supervision, staff training and funding of state agencies and non-governmental organizations

to carry out various programs on climate change. Climate Change governance basically involves actions aimed at stabilization, adaptation and mitigation of climate change (Allen, 2015). The goal of climate change governance is to ensure that greenhouse gases in the atmosphere are reduced to a safe level and the effects of climate change on man and the environment are adequately managed.

Institutional Failure

Institutions are organizational frameworks established to execute specific tasks. They play the role of principal instruments which direct, organize and execute the essential tasks necessary for living in a community or society. The survival of any society depends on how effective and efficient institutions of that society are able to execute the specific tasks they were established for (Ikporukpo, 2016). It is pertinent to note that, what is termed as institutional failure refers to a scenario in which institutions set up to undertake certain tasks are unable to perform them or perform them rather poorly. In other words, institutional failure refers to a dysfunction or malfunction of an institution in society.

The purpose of this study is to examine institutions that undertake the functions of mitigating and adapting to climate change in Nigeria. Consequently, by institutional failure, this study refers to the inefficient and ineffective performance of the institutions that are responsible for managing the effects of climate change in Nigeria such as the Federal and State Ministries of Environment, National Emergency Response Agency (NEMA), State agencies set up to mitigate the effects of climate change, among other functions.

Corruption

Corruption has been defined differently by scholars and laymen alike depending on the circumstances and the ideological orientation of the person concerned. For the purpose of this study, corruption is conceptualized as the abuse of public office for private gains. By the abuse of public office for private gains this study means the misappropriation of public funds to serve private ends. Consequently, the study focuses on the misappropriation of public funds meant for climate change governance to serve private ends.

The Impact of Climate Change in the Niger Delta

The Niger Delta is vulnerable to environmental degradation (Etekpe, 2009). As such, the changes in the earth's climate have had and are still having very devastating effects on the natural flora and fauna of the Niger Delta. Over the past 102 years, the Niger Delta has experienced a temperature rise of 3^0C (Efe, 2010). This indicates that the Niger Delta is now 3^0C warmer than the last one hundred and two years. This impact is becoming multi-dimensional (Ibaba, 2012; 2014). It has gone beyond changes often observed on the land and water bodies to the atmosphere of the Niger Delta. It has also led to infrastructural decay (Arugu, 2015). Worse still, climate change has now manifested itself and contributed remarkably in the transformation of the economy and culture of the Niger Delta (Zibima, 2014; Etekpe, 2014; Ibaba, 2015; Okoye, 2015; Sibiri, 2015, Akigbe & Ikporukpo, 2015).

The Niger Delta makes up a considerable proportion of the Nigerian coastal system. Consequently, increasing coastal erosion, higher storm surge, flooding, extensive coastal inundation, changes in the surface water quality and ground water characteristics (Efe, 2010) are being experienced as a result of climate change. The multiplier effect of these consequences has several devastating impacts. However, what have dominated the literature have been the–inhibitions to primary production processes in the region caused by climate

change. No doubt, climate change has continuing damaging effect on agriculture and aquaculture through the decline in soil and water quality as summarized in table 1, but there are much more damages experienced by the people of the NDR as a result of climate change.

Table 1: Damage to Agricultural Crops in Niger Delta (Orashi Province) linked to Climate Change effects

Agro Crops	**Area Damaged (000ha)**	**Yield Loss (tons/ha)**	**Projected Production Loss (hundred tons)**	**Projected Loss in Monetary Terms (USD)**
Cassava	3.7	25.1	4.1	105,000.00
Yam	2.0	12.4	2.5	74,217.00
Plantain	1.5	19.1	3.7	102,000.00
Banana	1.1	14.9	1.4	53,000.00
Cocoyam	0.5	X	0.7	5,000.00
Potatoes	1.5	5.7	0.9	7,000.00

Source: Adapted from Mmom & Aifesehi, (2013, p.223) cited in Ibaba (2012)

The impact of climate change in the region goes beyond agriculture and aquaculture. Climate change has further resulted to an increased loss of properties and coastal habitats, loss of lives, loss of tourism and recreation, and transportation functions. Table 2 (about here) shows the multi-faceted effects of climate change in the Niger Delta. Among the effects of climate change in the NDR, sea level rise and change in rainfall fall pattern seem to have caused greater harm to the environment than others owing to the fact that the Niger Delta is located along the coast. It has been noted that 42.6 % of the Niger Delta is highly vulnerable to sea level rise, due to low slopes, low topography, high mean wave heights, and unconfined aquifers (Musa, Popescu & Mynett, 2014). Table 3 outlines the effect of sea level rise and changes rainfall pattern on the Niger Delta environment.

Table 3: Environmental Problems linked to Climate Change in the Niger Delta Region

Climate Change Effect	**Type of Environmental Problem**	**Impact on Environment**
Sea Level Rise	(a) Coastal/river bank erosion	(i) Loss of coastal vegetation (ii) Destruction of settlements and economic infrastructure such as oil pipelines. (iii) Destroys farmlands, crops, and economic trees. (iv) removes top soil
	(b) Coastal Flooding	(a) Enhances the intrusion of sea water into fresh water sources. (b) Increases the salinity of surface and underground water. (c) Worsens erosion. (d) Removes top soil. (e) Destroys settlements, farmland, infrastructure and crops
Change in Rainfall Pattern	Makes the dry and rainy season unpredictable.	Disrupts agricultural activities and reduces crop yield

Source: Adapted from Uyigue & Agoh (2007, pp:8-12); Efe, (2010, pp:2-3); Onuoha & Gerald, (2010, pp:11-19) cited in Ibaba, (2012)

From table 3, it could be seen that sea level rise and changes in the pattern of rainfall have had serious implications on the socio-cultural, economy and demography of the Niger Delta. Table 4 is even more incisive as it reveals the impact of the changes in the pattern of rainfall on selected communities in the NDR.

Table 4: Effects of Rainfall on Inhabitants of the Niger Delta Region

Affected Towns	Properties Affected	Estimated Cost (NGN)
Warri	Over 197 houses, 28 commercial shops, 67 workshops, 5 schools and several farmlands/fish ponds.	1,825,962
Forcados	Several houses and commercial shops, workshops and several farmlands/fish ponds.	1,679,234
Benin City	Over 192 houses, 118 commercial shops, 124 workshops, 11 schools and farm lands.	2,002,376
Yenagoa	186 houses, 27 stores, 34 workshops, 12 schools and several fish ponds.	2,015,309
Port Harcourt	Over 201 houses, 16 commercial shops, 89 workshops, 12 schools and several farm lands/fish ponds	2,023,543
Uyo	Over 93 houses, 18 commercial shops, 7 workshops, 3 schools and several farm lands.	1,345,789
IkotEkpene	Over 76 houses, 26 commercial shops, 10 workshops, 2 schools and several farm lands.	1,674,980
Calabar	Over 14 houses, 8 commercial shops, 5 workshops and several farm lands.	1,000,123
Ondo	Over 56 houses, 14 commercial shops, 8 workshops, 2 schools and farmlands.	1,543,863
Total		**15,110,179**

Source: Adapted from Efe, 2010:56

The implications of climate change on poverty have also been documented. Climate change makes it difficult for farmers in the NDR to produce and reproduce their means of subsistence. The resultant food scarcity, limited availability or restricted access to natural resources constitutes threats to the survival of man (Adeoye, 2017; Marietu & Olarewaju, 2009; Odoh & Chilaka, 2012; Olaniyi, Ojunkunle & Amujo, 2013). Table 5 (about here) captures the climate change-poverty nexus.

Theoretical Framework

The analysis of this paper is located in the context of the Structural-Functional theory. This theory holds that every political system is made up of political structures and different political structures perform different political functions in the society (Gauba, 2003). The stability of a political system is as a result of the effective and efficient performance of different functions by different structures within the political system.

The logic is that, if a particular function is not performed effectively, the structure responsible for the performance of such function is dysfunctional. Hence, one can trace the ills of society to the inefficient and ineffective structures in the society which have led to a poor performance of their functions in the political system. Following from this, it can be explained that the widespread corruption in Nigeria is traceable to the lack of capacity of the structures (all state institutions and agencies) responsible for making and enforcing laws on corrupt practices. Similarly, the inability to deal with the impacts of climate change is traceable to the structures (the ministry of environment and all its sub-units and institutional frameworks) set to protect the environment.

Methodology

The methodology adopted for this study involved the Time-Series as research design. This design is appropriate due to the presence of periodic measurement process in the phenomenon observed. Consequently, the purview of this study covers from 2012- 2018. The justification for this time-frame is due to the fact that within this period, the Niger Delta has been affected by two disastrous episodes of flooding which has resulted to several interventions by government at all levels and non-governmental organizations. Similarly, the study employed the methods of Documentary Observation anchored on the use of secondary data, argumentation and personal reflections as a participant observer of some of the effects of corruption and institutional failure on climate change governance in the Niger Delta. As regards data analysis for the study, the Descriptive Statistical Method was employed. The study focused on the Niger Delta due to its peculiar characteristics and susceptibility to the impacts of climate.

Corruption and Institutional Failure in Climate Change Governance in the Niger Delta Region

Corruption in Nigeria appears to be ubiquitous and takes many forms: from massive contract fraud to petty bribery; from straight-up embezzlement to complicated money laundering schemes. There is a "general conclusion that everyone in Nigeria is corrupt in varying degrees and that corruption in Nigeria has become a way of life" (Iheanacho, 2014, p.1). It is even more worrisome that even the institutions and state actors, who are supposed to make and enforce the laws against corrupt practices are themselves corrupt (Ikporukpo 2016; Iheanacho 2014). It was thought that the corrupt nature of the Nigerian state was rooted in the authoritarian rule of the military (Iyaniwura, 2014; Majid & McDonald, 2007). However, the return to democracy and the birth of the Nigerian fourth republic has not only ridiculed Nigeria as a country with poor development but also presented the country as a classic case of celebrated leadership unaccountability and widespread corruption (Egharevba & Chiazor, 2012). Consequently, all administrations in Nigeria's fourth republic have been entangled in one case of corruption or the other (Mohammed, 2013). Evidence of pervasive corruption in Nigeria have made the promise of fighting corruption a fundamental component embedded in party manifestoes of all political parties that have had a hold on political power in the country. Former President, Goodluck Jonathan (2018, p.107) alluded to the high level of corruption in Nigeria thus:

> Corruption is as old as Nigeria itself. If not so, the excerpts from the first coup speech in Nigeria excerpted above would not have come. Every successive administration in the country has fought corruption one way or the other but the scourge remains.

Corruption is a clog in the wheel of progress in Nigeria. As such, corruption has affected every facet of the Nigerian society. Consequently, the environmental governance has not also been spared from the devastative impact of corruption. The destructive impacts of corruption on the environmental governance are even more acute in the Niger Delta region. This point has been noted has been noted by the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (2007, p.1) thus;

> As corruption spreads, foreign investment dries up or is driven away, poverty deepens, and public discontent grows. As a result, society becomes even more vulnerable to corruption, crime, bad governance, and poverty. There is even the

risk of violence and serious damage to the environment -look no further than the Niger Delta

It is a fundamental fact that "climate change is a global phenomenon, but its effects are localized, impacting on communities without regard to who contributed to it" (Ibaba, 2012, p.6). Since the effects of climate change are localized, different countries have also evolved local strategies to ameliorate and adapt to the devastative impact of climate change on the environment. However, the case of Nigeria has been worrisome as corruption has led to the failure of institutional frameworks that are responsible for responding to the challenges of climate change in the country in general and the Niger Delta Region in particular.

The history of corruption and how it has led to the environmental degradation in the Niger Delta is a long and sad one. The most glaring account of environmental degradation occasioned by corruption in the Niger Delta was the Koko waste issue. On July 24, 1987 the Niger Delta in particular and Nigerians in general woke up to the news of toxic wastes dumped in the little town of Koko in the Niger Delta region, all the way from Italy. The hazardous waste contained in 18,000 drums was filled with not only Polychlorinated Biphenyls but also asbestos fiber and dioxin (Ehwarieme & Cocodia, 2010). The waste led to a massive pollution of the entire Koko Town. Investigation revealed that prior to its exposure; there was a conspiracy between S.I ECMAR (Italy), its Nigerian agent (Raffaelli) and most shockingly, the Nigerian Pharmaceutical Board which issues licenses to facilitate the importation of the toxic waste into Nigeria. Inspectors at the port were also part of the conspiracy because they benefited from the money that exchanged hand (Ehwarieme & Cocodia, 2010).

In recent times, the new face of corruption in the region is the mismanagement and diversion of funds meant to mitigate the impact of climate change. For instance, Ibiono Ibom Local Government Area of Akwa-Ibom is erosion prone. Its undulating landscape leaves the area vulnerable to corrosive gully erosion. Construction companies in the area build erosion works into their road contract procurements but these palliatives have become new triggers for worse gullies (Anayochukwu, 2016). In 2011, the government awarded a N6.1 billion contract to United Dominion Company Limited under the supervision of the Niger Delta Development Commission, NDDC, for erosion control in the local government. The contract was to be completed in 104 weeks; that is two years, which suggested a 2013 date line. However till date, nothing much has been done. Also, Nduetong in Oku Clan of Uyo Local Government Area, Akwa-Ibom State have been reported to be cut off from neighbouring communities by gully erosion for three decades (Onuegbu, 2018).

Similarly, in 2012 the then President Goodluck Jonathan announced in a nationwide broadcast that he has released the sum of 17.6 billion Naira as direct financial assistance to flood affected states and some Federal Government agencies responsible for disaster management . In addition to the release, several Ministries and Agencies of government were also allocated funds for intervention activities. They include, Ministry of Works, N2.6 billion; National Emergency Management Agency, NEMA, N1.1 billion; Ministry of Environment, N350 million; National Commission for Refugees, N150 million; and technical committee on flood's impact assessment, N100 million (Agande, 2012).

However, the fund released did not seem to have made much impact on the communities that were ravaged by the flood. Several communities affected by flood have denied receiving relief materials from the government or its agencies, while some who received said only very little of the fund was used to give them relief materials. In Delta State

for example, hundreds of hunger-torn flood victims, denied of basic relief materials resorted to eating corn seedlings, which unknown to them were already treated with pesticides (Adebayo, 2016). The massive food poisoning that ensued resulted in several deaths in Delta State. Women, children and the elderly were the worst hit as the food poisoning was initially mistaken by local health officials for an outbreak of epidemic. In communities like Ossissa, Isele-Egwu, Olor and Onu-Aboh, Health officers reported victims appearing gaunted with bloated tummies and sunken eyes.

In 2012, Delta State received N500 million intervention funds from the Federal Government to assist flood victims in the state. This was in addition to internal funds already set aside by the oil-rich state for the same purpose (Adebayo, 2016). In one of his numerous speeches during the crisis period, the then governor of the state, Emmanuel Uduaghan, announced the allocation of 49 trucks of food items to internally-displaced people in the state (Adebayo, 2016). However, it didn't appear that those eating pesticide-treated corn seedlings saw any of the food trucks. A cash relief of N5,000 to adults and N3,000 to youths was equally announced but the monies instead went into private pockets (Adebayo, 2016). Alexander Nwanji, a victim, stated that although he lost his farm and cassava mill, his name didn't appear on the official list of farmers to receive post disaster assistance. He also did not get the N5,000 meant for adult IDPs. He further stated that politicians and government officials populated the list with ghost beneficiaries, adding that the 11,810 IDPs at the Oleh camp alone were robbed of about N59 million. Due to the pervasiveness of corruption, people were skeptical about the usage of the funds for the benefit of the flood victims even before it was actually stolen. Dr. David Oyedepo stated thus; "the only sector working today is politics. People see political office as chance to make money from the top to bottom, even money for the flood victims could be diverted*''* (Edukugho, 2012).

It is pertinent to note that since the introduction of the 13 percent derivation fund in 2000, huge revenues have accrued to governments (states and local governments) in the Niger Delta. For example, between January 2000 and November 2008, the six widely accepted Niger Delta States (Akwa-Ibom, Bayelsa, Cross River, Delta, Edo and River State) received over 2.5 trillion Naira from then Federation Account. From N103, 943,395,947.75 in 2000, the figure rose to N852,112,410,145.40 in 2008 (Ibaba, 2017). In comparison, the Niger Delta States have received more revenue than the other state of the Nigerian federation. In 2008 for example, the Niger Delta States received N852, 112,410,145.40 out of the total sum of N1975, 830,151,342.05 allocated to the 36 States of the federation (Ibaba, 2017). Together, the Niger Delta States in the South-South geo-political zone received over N211.6 billion or 34.3 percent (or more than one third) of the total revenue of N616, 212,843,822.37 that was allocated to the 36 states of the federation and the Federal Capital Territory (Ibaba, 2017). Analysis of the foregoing indicates that the sum received by Akwa-Ibom and Bayelsa States alone was more than that allocated to the South-East geo-political zone made up of five States. Again, the amount allocated to Akwa-Ibom, Bayelsa and Delta States was equally higher than the monies received by the North-West geo-political zone made up of seven States.

It is expected that with this huge revenue inflow into the Niger Delta, there would be an improvement in climate change governance. However, most of the funds that were allocated to the Niger Delta have been diverted into private coffers (Ibaba, 2017). It pertinent to state that one major reason why the Niger Delta is often given a preferential treatment in the scheme of things is due to the regions vulnerability to environmental hazards as a result of

oil exploration activities. Consequently, it is expected that there should have been a massive improvement in the implementation of climate change mitigation and adaptation policies.

More so, The Nigerian Senate revealed that for 15 years, the federal and state governments have diverted about N500 billion ecological funds meant to tackle environmental problems of communities in the country (Ahuruka Isah, 2018). Though the above revelation did not specify how much was diverted from various regions, it is trite to note that the Niger Delta remains one of the cardinal points of the ecological fund due to the susceptibility of the terrain to environmental degradation. Consequently, since there has not been an improvement in climate change governance in the region, it is only logical that the ecological funds meant for the improvement of climate change governance in the Niger Delta have not been put into good use. From the foregoing, there is no doubt that the spate of corruption in Nigeria has serious implication for climate change governance in the Niger Delta.

Conclusion and Recommendations

This work has attempted to identify the nexus between corruption, institutional failure and the impacts of climate change in the Niger Delta Region. The study identified with the observation of other scholars that climate change has grown to become one of the greatest threats to mankind all over the world, and it is having a ravaging impact in the Niger Delta Region in Nigeria. This is in spite of several attempts by government to mitigate the impact through several institutional policies. The study found out that corruption has become a clog in the wheel of these institutions. Funds set aside to ameliorate the impact of climate change in the region is often diverted to private purse and used to pursue selfish and sectional ends.

This study recommends the improvement of the capacity of the anti-graft agencies in charge of fighting corruption in order for them to meet up with the daunting task of fighting corruption in the country. Furthermore, there should be strict supervision of funds meant to mitigate the impact of climate change in the Niger Delta Region as this is a fundamental necessity in improving climate change governance in the region.

Table 2: Impacts of Climate Change on Selected Communities in the NDR 1990-2013

COMMUNITIES		IMPACT				
S/No	**Community**	**Livelihood (Local Economy)**	**Health Hazard**	**Security**	**Exacerbated poverty levels**	**Remarks**
1.	Famgbe, Yenagoa, Bayelsa State	-Entire village relocated as old village was submerged by River Nun (Oceanification) -Stress on available land. -Acid rain, -28,540 internally displaced persons IDPs.	-Epidemics in water borne disease- malaria & typhoid, -Physically challenged babies (-High death rate. -Respiratory problem	-Inter/Intra communal crises. -Increased conflicts with community leaders, MNOCs and governments.	-Destroyed farm lands and fishing activities and other local economic activities. -Increased poverty level by 45 percent	No shore protection or concrete measures by the state government control erosion/ mood slide
2.	Otuokpoti; OgbiaBayelsa State	-Shore has been submerged by River Nun (river erosion)	-High incidences of water borne diseases. -Outbreak of skin disease, Respiratory problem	-Inter communal war with Agbura community over land in 1990. -Perennial conflicts with MNOCs	-Destruction of logging, fishing, hunting etc. -Exacerbated poverty level by 39%	-shore protection by MelfordOkilo government in 1982, needs reinforcement
3.	Sagbagreia, Kolokuma/ Opokuma, Bayelsa State.	-Greater part of the village relocated being submerged by River Nun (river erosion) -Undue stress on available land for farming, building and other economic uses. 8450 IDPs -Heavy acid rains	-Increased death rate from acid rain water that caused cancer, skin disease, lung cancer and water borne ailments.	-Communal crises over land and fishing rites. -perennial conflicts with MNOCs.	-ditto- Exacerbated poverty level by 35%.	No shore protection or concrete measures by the state government in place to control erosion/ oceanification
4.	Agbere, Sagbama, Bayelsa State.	-Greater part of the shore has been submerged due to erosion. (River Nun) -Undue stress on available land. -10,540 IDPs -Undue flooding	-ditto-	-ditto-	-ditto- -Exacerbated poverty level by 54%	-ditto-
5.	Patani, Pantani, Delta State.	-ditto-	-ditto- 40,410 IDPs	-ditto-	-ditto- Increased poverty level by 58%	Shore protection by OMPADE in 1995
6.	Ibeno, Ibeno, Akwa Ibom	The shore has been eroded/submerged by Atlantic ocean (oceanification) -Undue flooding and stress on available land, fishing rites, etc. -20,160 IDPs	-ditto-	-ditto- -Increased poverty level by 48%.		No shore protection.
7.	Abonnema, Akuku-Toru, Rivers State.	Greater part of the shore has been eroded, causing undue stress on available land -Occasional acid rain. -12,850 IDPs.	-High incidences of water borne diseases. -outbreak of epidemic diseases. -respiratory problem/	-dotto- -Exacerbated poverty level by 26%	Intra-Inter communal clashes over land and fishing rites. -with Degema Community. -Increased poverty level by 41%	Shore protection by OMPADEC in 2004

Source: Etekpe, 2015

Table 5: The Impacts of Climate Change and Implications for Poverty

Effect of Climate Change	Environmental, Socio-Economic and Health Implications	Impact on Poverty
Increased temperature and changes in precipitation	Reduced agricultural and natural resources	(i)Lowered industrial output and labour productivity, high inequality, impacts on trade, and fiscal and macro-economic burdens lead to reduced economic growth, and poverty reducing effects.
Change in precipitation, runoff and variability.	Greater water stress	(ii) Reduced productivity and security of poor people's livelihood assets, and reduced access for the poor to their livelihood assets.
Increased incidence or intensity of climate related disasters.	Damage to assets and infrastructure.	(iii) Less effective coping strategies among the poor, and increased vulnerability of poor
Temperature, water and vegetation changes	Increased prevalence of diseases	

Source: Adapted from Mitchell & Tanner (2006, pp. 8) cited in Ibaba (2012)

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