PRINT: ISSN 0970-9274 ONLINE: 2456-6608
J Hum Ecol, 31(2): 135-143 (2010)
DOI: 10.31901/24566608.2010/31.02.09

An Overview of Urban Poverty and Environmental Problems in Nigeria

Y. Y. Babanyara[1], H. A. Usman[2] and U. F. Saleh[3]

[1]Urban and Regional Planning Program, [2]Architecture Program,[3]Urban and Regional Planning Programs, Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University, P.M.B 0248, Bauchi, Nigeria
E-mail: yybabanyara@yahoo.com; yybabanyara@gmail.com

KEYWORDS Urban Poor. Urbanization. Urban Decay. Deforestation. Desertification. Pollution

ABSTRACT This paper discusses the linkages between population growth and environmental problems in Nigeria. Issues related to urban poverty, urbanization, deforestation, desertification, water pollution, solid waste management, flooding, erosion, sanitation and health were also highlighted. The study relies mainly on secondary data relating to urban poverty and environmental problems in Nigeria. Data were collected from both published and unpublished sources. Non-statistical and statistical methods were applied in analysing poverty and environmental problems in Nigeria. The paper also analyzes weaknesses affecting environmental management, such as inconsistencies of government policies, neglect of indigenous knowledge, inappropriate technology, inadequate funding, and inadequate awareness. The paper concluded by recommending a way forward

INTRODUCTION

Mankind's activities on the environment in his quest for development have resulted in a continuous and serious degradation of the ecosystem, thus posing a threat to both his present and future living. Human beings use the environment in three basic ways: as a *resource bank*- the environment supplies them with raw materials needed to maintain their existence, and their social and technological structures; as a *habitat* – people require more space per individual than any other species and as *sink* for *wastes*- human beings produce more waste than other species (Ndahlahwa 2005). Rapid population growth and urbanization is of great concern to the sustainability of cities, the more people are there on the earth, the greater the impact on the environment and pressures on resources. As such, the unwise use of the natural environment due to ignorance, poverty, overpopulation and greed amongst others has led to the degradation of the environment. Additionally, there has been explosive growth in global urban populations in recent decades. Africa is currently experiencing the highest rate of urbanisation, with a four-fold increase in urban dwellers anticipated between 1990 and 2020, to reach 500 million people. In tandem with this massive shift has come what Tipping and others call "the rapid urbanisation of poverty and ill-health" and the growth and densification of slums. In developing countries, 40% to 60% of urban dwellers have inadequate sanitation (Tipping et al. 2005), and slum-dwellers (urban poor) are the most vulnerable to sanitation-related diseases because they are the most exposed to unmanaged human excreta and waste (Paterson et al. 2007).

In Nigeria, the picture is not different; Nigeria had a population of over 140 million people by the 2006 census. About 45% live in the urban areas. The significant trend has been the spectacular rate of the country's urbanization, which average 5.5% yearly. This is about the highest urbanization rate in the world. Thus, Nigerian cities of today face numerous problems these include urbanization, deteriorating environment, urban decay, un-cleared refuse, flooding, erosion and pollution. This paper discusses the resultant effects of these problems that manifested due to man's interaction with his environment in Nigeria, with a view of suggesting ways of minimizing their impacts.

METHODOLOGY

The study relies on secondary data relating to urban poverty and environmental problems in Nigeria. Data were collected from both published and unpublished sources. Non-statistical and statistical methods were applied in analysing poverty and environmental problems in Nigeria.

OBSERVATIONS AND DISCUSSION

Urbanization

Nigeria is the most populous country in Africa with a population of over 140 million (2006 Census). With a population growth rate of 2.8% a year, it is estimated that there will be 182 million Nigerian's by 2015, with 87million (48%) of them living in the urban areas (Fig. 1). With the same population growth rate, by 2030 it is estimated that there will be 275 million Nigerians with 182 million (66%) of them living in the urban areas (Nigerian National Planning Commission 2004). In addition, 'more than seven cities have population that exceeds 1 million' while the population of Lagos and Kano is currently over 9 million (2006 Census). Currently, the urbanization rate in Nigeria is 5.5% with an urban unemployment rate estimated to be 10.8% (Nigerian National Planning Commission 2004). Furthermore, the proportion of the population living in the urban centres has risen from 15% in 1960 to 43.3% in 2000 and is projected to rise to 60% by 2015. Total area taken up by urbanization in Nigeria during the same period increased by 131% from 2,083 sq. km in 1976 to 5,444 with an average rate of urbanization estimated to be 3.7% per year (National Population Commission 2004). The number of urban centres i.e. settlements with population of 20,000 or more increased from 56 in 1953 to 359 in 1991 and 450 in 2000. The drivers of urbanization in Nigeria include (a) high population growth rate (b) concentration of development activities in urban centres (c) rapid growth of formal education and (d) rural-urban wage differentials.

In order to support expected future growth, it is important to act now and make cities sustainable.

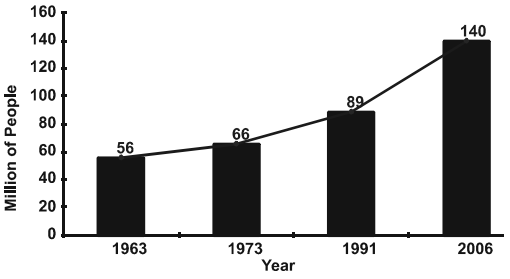

Fig. 1. Nigeria: Population growth 1963-2006
Source: National Population Commission Population and the Quality of life in Nigeria

Urban Poverty in Nigeria

Poverty is multi-dimensional and has no geographical boundary. It is characterized by lack of purchasing power, exposure to risk, malnutrition, high mortality rate, low life expectancy, insufficient access to social and economic services and few opportunities for income generation (Morenike 2008). In the same vein, Oluwemimo (2007) stated that poverty includes exposure to contaminated environments, being at risk of criminal victimization, diseases and health risk in urban centres. Statistics from Nigerian government show the proportion of poor people in Nigeria according to geopolitical zones, sector (urban or rural), household size, gender of head of household and education. (Nigerian National Population Commission 2004).For instance, from the first row in table 1, one observes that the overall population of the poor has increased to more than 28% in 1980, to nearly 66% in 1996. In addition, most of the other percentages representing the poor population in the table has either increased or fluctuates over this time scale (1980-1996). Furthermore, table 1 emphasizes that proportion of the poor differs based on the regions of the country, household size, level of education, gender and sector (rural or urban). One can conclude from table 1 that as of 1996, rural dwellers, female headed households, large households and individuals without adequate education, were worse off compared to urban dwellers, male headed households, single households and individuals with education.

Also, it has been established that, Nigeria ranks 158th of 177 countries measured in the United Nations Human Development Index (UNDP 2008). While the share of Nigeria's population living below the poverty line has fallen from 70 percent in 1999 to 54 percent in 2005, over half the population lives on less than US$1 per day (IMF 2007). This translates into approximately 80 million Nigerians living in poverty. Only china and India have larger populations of poor people (DFID 2004).

Nigeria's poor are more likely to live in the north and are predominantly rural, female, very young or old, and dependent on renewable natural resources for their livelihoods. Sixty-four percent of those living in rural areas are poor, compared with 35 percent in towns and cities (World Bank/ DFID 2005). Poverty among women is likely related to their under-representation in the

Table 1: Incidence of poverty in Nigeria. Adapted from NNPC (2004)

	Percentage of poor people in population			
Factor	*1980*	*1985*	*1992*	*1996*
National	28.10	46.30	42.70	65.60
Geopolitical Zones				
North East	35.60	54.90	54.00	70.10
North West	37.70	52.10	36.50	77.20
North Central	32.20	50.80	46.00	64.30
South East	12.90	30.40	41.00	53.50
South West	13.40	38.60	43.10	60.90
South Central	13.20	45.70	40.80	58.20
Sector				
Urban	17.20	37.80	37.50	58.20
Rural	28.30	51.40	46.00	69.30
Gender of Head Household				
Male	29.20	47.30	45.10	66.40
Female	26.90	38.60	39.90	58.50
Size of Household				
1 Person	2.00	7.00	29.00	13.10
2-4 people	8.80	19.30	19.30	59.30
5-9 people	30.00	50.50	51.50	74.80
10-20 people	51.00	71.30	66.10	88.50
More than 20 people	80.90	74.90	93.30	93.60
Education of Household				
None	30.20	51.30	46.40	72.60
Primary	21.30	40.60	43.30	54.40
Secondary	7.60	27.20	30.30	52.00
Post secondary	24.30	24.20	25.80	49.20

workplace: while more than 87% of adult males participate in the labour force, the proportion among females is nearly 50% (UNFPA 2005). In the non-agricultural sector, only 21 percent of the workforce is female, while only 7 percent of members of parliament are women (World Bank 2008). Women who are employed work for longer hours on average than men, both in agricultural and non-agricultural activities (Rahman 2008).

A survey of 230 women in Kaduna State found that only 42 percent of women were involved in farming decisions, with the rate in the north of the state at 26 percent (Rahman 2008). Furthermore, only 11 percent of women had access to resources such as credit, land, equipment and other agricultural inputs including fertilizer, seeds, and transport and storage facilities. Men also controlled decision making in the selling and consumption of produce. Lower rates of female literacy (relative to male literacy) may also influence women's employment options and decision making power. Poverty may reinforce established inequalities by influencing health and healthcare. A 2009 study of 333 adults in Anyigba, a town in Kogi State, found that, when first seeking treatment for an illness, a significantly higher proportion of low-income respondents (as compared to high-income respondents) sought medical treatment from drug sellers, while a significantly higher proportion of high-income respondents (as compared to low-income respondents) sought treatment from private health facilities (Tanimola and Owoyemi 2009). The use of distinct sources of treatment by those with different incomes may generate class differentials in health outcomes, or reinforce those already present. Given regional differences in income, this might play a role in furthering regional inequities as well. Poverty rates vary widely by region. In the Niger Delta, for example, a 1996 survey found the highest poverty rates in the country as well as high unemployment rates and extremely low rates of literacy, access to health services, and access to safe water (Ross 2003). In 2004 the official unemployment rate according to the Federal Office of Statistics was 11.8 percent, down from 18.1 percent in 2000 (Olusakin 2006). However, the World Bank (2008) estimates that the actual rate was 41 percent. In "key urban centres and amongst new graduates," unemployment was as high as 50 percent (World Bank/DFID 2005).

Causes of Urban Poverty in Nigeria

The problems confronting Nigerian cities have resulted largely because urbanization has not been matched by the growth of resources to tackle these problems or think ahead of them. This mismatched between rate of urbanization and growth of resources is the root cause of the numerous problems facing Nigerian cities today. The problem of inadequate resources to manage the cities is complicated by the problem of:

- Declining economic fortunes which results from external and internal economic crises. Nigeria like most third world is a debtor nation and in terms of macroeconomic stability is very weak, urban areas are most affected by economic slowdown which in turn, left residents with little infrastructure and poorly maintained public services;
- Poor economic policies that employ a trickle down development strategy which concentrated development at the urban centres at the expense of the rural areas, thus forcing a mass exodus of people from rural areas to urban centres;
- Political instability and lack of capacity in governance that did not enable the leaders to make long term visionary plans that could have harnessed and energized the potentials of cities;
- Lack of transparency and accountability in governance that has promoted large scale corruption that dissipates the little resources that could have been used to manage the cities.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS IN NIGERIA

The Environmental problems experienced in Nigeria are very diverse. They include soil degradation, rapid deforestation, urban air and water pollution, desertification, loss of arable land, pollution of water, air, and soil from oil spills. Each of these has notable costs for both individuals and entire economic sectors due to their implications for industries and agricultural productivity. As a number of environmental problems stem from industrial endeavours, both their causes and effects are relevant to Nigeria's economy.

Deforestation

Deforestation is a process whereby trees are felled for several purposes, but without replanting to replace the one felled. The continuous removal or destruction of significant areas of forest cover results in a highly degraded environment with attendant reduction in biodiversity. It also causes soil erosion and in marginal lands, can lead to desertification. Nigeria probably has the world's highest deforestation rate of primary forests today (Fig. 2), having lost more than half of its primary forests in the last five years.

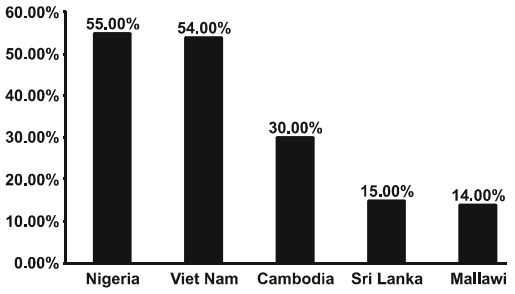

Fig. 2. Worst deforestation rate of natural forests, 2000-2005

UNEP in 2006 estimated that annual deforestation in Nigeria covers 663,000ha with an annual national deforestation rate of 0.76%. Deforestation rate in Nigeria's southwest geopolitical zone is as high as 1.36% which is double the national average. Data on vegetation and land use changes between 1976 and 1995 reveals that the area covered by undisturbed forests in Nigeria decreased by 53.5% from 25,951sqkm in 1976 to just 12,114sq km in 1991 (Olusegun 2009) see Figure 3.

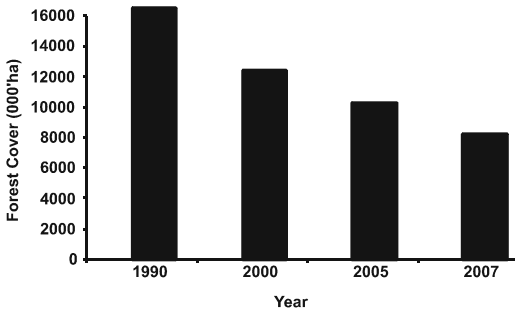

Fig. 3. Nigeria changes in forest cover between 1990 and 2007

The major driving factor for deforestation in Nigeria today is the rapidly growing population with attendant higher demand for agricultural land,

livestock production and fuel wood. Unfortunately, these demands will continue to increase with the population if nothing drastic is done. The persistence of the age-old practice of shifting cultivation ("slash-and-burn") will also continue to drive this threat as farmers will continue to move, plundering our forests as the soil fertility in the farms decline. The dependence on fuel wood for cooking by rural and urban dwellers further aggravates deforestation. Additionally, uncontrolled and indiscriminate fire by farmers and hunters has also consumed much of Nigeria's forest cover. With the increasing global demand for tropical hardwoods, many hardwood species are being recklessly exploited from large areas of natural forests and sold in both local and international markets leading to an uncontrolled decimation of our forest resources. In Ondo State for example, more than 44 percent of the 3,075sqklm forest reserve has been lost in the last 30 years due to a combination of activities mentioned above (Olusegun 2009).

Desertification

Desertification refers to land degradation in arid, semi- arid regions and dry sub-humid areas resulting from climatic variations (UN 2004). In Nigeria, especially in the northern part of the country, between 50% and 75% of Bauchi, Borno, Gombe, Kano, Jigawa, Katsina, Kebbi, Sokoto, Zamfara and Yobe States are under threats of desertification. These ten states, with a population of about 27 million people, account for about 38% of the country's total land area. In these areas, population pressure, resulting in overgrazing, over exploitation for fuel wood of marginal lands and aggravated drought due to global warming has accelerated the rate of desertification. Nigeria is currently loosing 350,000 sq km of its land mass to desert condition. This process is advancing at the rate of 0.6 km a year (NAP 2000). If this is not checkmated it will spell doom to the country.

Flooding and Erosion

Most of Nigeria's 853km coastline is prone to coastal erosion (Table 2). This is of grave ecological concern because a large part of Nigeria's population and economic activities are located within the coastal zone. Nigeria has an estimated population of over 25 million located in its coastal areas with economic activities which include oil and gas exploitation, agriculture, fishing, aquaculture, shipping, industries, and tourism. Over fifty highly vulnerable sites have been identified along the Nigerian coastline and all the eight coastal states are affected by erosion problems.

Table 2: Erosion rate along the Nigerian coastal area

S. No.	*Coastal area*	*Erosion rate per annum*
1	Lagos Bar beach	20 - 30m
2	Awoye/ Molume	13.2m
3	Ugborodo/Escravos	18 -14m
4	Forcados South Beach	20 - 22m
5	Brass Beach	16 - 19m
6	Bony Beach	20 - 24m
7	Kulama Beach	15 - 20m
8	Pobo River Entrance	10 - 1314m

Source: Ibe 1988, cited in Olusegun 2009

Many coastal communities in estuaries along the coast have had to move upland regularly to escape being washed away by the encroaching sea. The driving force of coastal erosion include (a) low-lying, relatively flat coastal topography which restrains proper drainage (b) climate change leading to rise in sea level (c) reckless cutting down of mangroves which exposes the shoreline to increased energy and reduce sediment stability and (d) sand mining and dredging around beaches which deplete sand volume. The degradation caused by erosion in Nigeria is occurring at an increasing and alarming rate, aggravated by such factors as increased agricultural activities, civil construction works, deforestation, bush burning, over grazing, drainage blockage, poor water management, urbanization and increased population pressure.

In Anambra State for example, it affects more than 70% of the State's land in form of sheet and gully erosion. Indeed, over 550 gullies have been mapped in Anambra State alone, with enormous soil loss and severe threat to agricultural production, homes and other civil structures (Olusegun 2009).

Pollution

Environmental pollution is rapidly increasing in Nigeria. The major causes of the increase include poor sanitation, inadequate solid waste disposal, effluent discharge, rapid and unplanned urbanization, mining, and increasing use of chemical fertilizers and insecticides. Surface runoffs collect all types of excreta and these are moved into the rivers, dams and sometimes into wells.

Sanitation

Sanitary facilities like sewers, sewage treatment facilities, septic tanks and toilets for home are known to be grossly inadequate in Nigeria and have worsened over the years due to rapid rate of urbanization in the country. Indeed, disposal of waste is perhaps the most serious environmental problem in Nigerian cities. The increasing accumulation of refuse in cities forms breeding grounds for various diseases. The health hazards posed by rain water mixing with waste and percolating through porous soil are enormous, ultimately contaminating ground water which forms the prime source of drinking water for most cities. Table 3 shows how solid waste in selected Nigerian cities has increased over the past decade.

Table 3: Estimated and projected volume of solid waste generation in some Nigerian cities (Tonne per year)

Cities	*1990*	*2000*
Lagos	786079	998081
Ibadan	440956	559882
Kano	402133	535186
Kaduna	324084	431314
Onitsha	304477	386593
Port-Harcourt	265129	352853
Oshogbo	173720	253841
Aba	169719	236703
Jos	135272	197660
Warri	91396	133531
Gusau	57243	79835
Potiskum	19399	28347
Uyo	15721	20923
Suleija	13311	21336
New Bussa	7152	9518

Source: Oluwemimo 2007

In Nigeria, during the military regime; the military instituted the end-of-month sanitation day as a way of getting people to attend to the sanitation needs of their immediate surroundings. Whilst the institution encouraged individual households to pay attention to maintaining the environmental quality of their premises, it exposed the inadequacies and inefficiencies of local government both to collect and dispose of the wastes so generated. The result was the phenomenon of huge litters of uncollected refuse that obstructed roads, created physical eyesores, constituted real health hazards and increased the threat of epidemics in most Nigerian cities. Industrial wastes represent a special category of urban environmental problems. Textile plants, breweries, slaughterhouses, sugar refineries, pulp and paper plants and petroleum industries discharge raw, untreated and often toxic liquid effluents into open drains, channels, streams and lagoons. Such toxic and non-toxic wastes from industrial and other sources degrade the land and render most surface and underground waters around urban areas unsafe for human, agricultural or recreational use.

Atmospheric Pollution

This is also gradually becoming a serious menace in Nigerian cities. Especially in the metropolitan areas, inefficient energy combustion in the transportation system generated high levels of localized air pollution. The recent increase in the importation of second-hand cars and the widespread adoption of the single-engine, "okada" motor-cycles for ferrying passengers all over most Nigerian cities have accentuated the general level of air pollution. Heavy reliance on biomass materials as the main energy source for domestic needs, especially by the poor has also been identified, among other things, as partly responsible for a variety of health problems particularly amongst women. Industrial energy use contributes to the overall level of air pollution. In this regard, the gas flaring in the oil-producing regions of the country represent perhaps the most pernicious of atmospheric pollution in the country. In particular, they have heightened the level of airborne emissions of such pollutants as sulphur dioxide, carbon monoxide and nitrogen oxides, all of which pose serious health hazards in urban areas. Indeed, it is claimed that Nigeria's carbon dioxide emissions from industrial processes, estimated at 96513 million metric tons in 1992, was the highest in sub-Saharan Africa, excluding the Republic of South Africa. Also, between 1976 and 1997, more than 2,676 separate oil pipeline spill incidents were reported in the country. Equipment malfunctioning, corrosion of aged pipelines, sabotage of oil installations by militants and oil thieves are the major drivers of this phenomenon. Perhaps the most intractable of the petroleum industry related pollution is gas flaring, the stoppage of which has continued to remain elusive despite numerous attempts at regulation (Dublin et al. 1997). The emission from flared gas alone accounted for more than one half of this figure. Air pollution related to Nigeria's oil production is likely to have both regional and

global effects: Each day, up to 2.7 billion cubic feet, about 70 percent of the gas released during oil production, is burnt off in Nigeria. This sends huge volumes of greenhouse gases, carbon dioxide and methane into the atmosphere, while sulphur dioxide emissions mix with moisture in the atmosphere and return to the ground as acid rain. Flaring in the Niger Delta makes up 20 percent of the worldwide total. The U.S. Department of Energy calculated releases of 11 million metric tons of methane from Nigerian flares (Okeagu et al. 2006). According to a 2006 article, Nigeria's domestic demand for natural gas was 300 million cubic feet per day, barely one-tenth the amount burned off daily. From respiratory illness and skin problems to acid rain and crop contamination, the damages attributed to the natural gas industry have particularly high costs, especially for residents of the Niger Delta (Okeagu et al. 2006).

Water Pollution

Cities put a lot of pressure on resources and the ecosystem to supply needed resources. Water supply is an important resource needed in the city but competition for water is high. Cities compete with the agricultural sector for water and at times, the scarcity of water makes it difficult to allocate the correct amount of water for all. This results in a tough debate because the rural areas supply many of the resources needed in the cities such as food. As drinking water is not readily available, the cost of providing and transporting it is very high. Therefore, it is not unusual that most developing countries provide un-purified water to the consumers. The poor quality of water in developing countries affects the livelihood of people in the cities as well as in the rural areas. However, as population density is higher in the cities, the likelihood of diseases and illnesses are also higher. The problems of water pollution are enormous. United Nations Commission on sustainable development (UN 2004) reported that; Nigeria has about 5,000 registered industrial facilities and some 10,000 small scale industries operating illegally within residential premises. In places like Kano, Kaduna, Lagos and Port Harcourt, colored, hot and heavy metal-laden effluents especially from the textile, tannery and paints industries are discharged directly into open drains and water channels, constituting direct dangers to water users and biota downstream. Also disturbing is the practice whereby some industrial facilities bury their expired and hazardous chemical wastes in their backyard threatening the ground water quality.

Water quality standards are not lacking in the country, but despite these, the pollution and degradation of water quality continue unabated due to discharge of untreated effluent from industries, sewers, non protection of water sheds, hydrocarbon contamination of ground water, saline intrusion of ground water and irresponsible mining activities to name a few. This is aggravated by the reckless and unregulated drilling of ground water. The contamination contributes greatly to the spread of infectious diseases. It has been estimated that waterborne pathogens that contribute to typhoid, cholera, amoebic infections, bacillary dysentery, and diarrhea account for 80% of all diseases in developing countries and at least responsible for up to 90% of the 13 million child deaths each year. In terms of water pollution, the World Health Organization (1997) reports quite serious problems in Nigeria, which threaten the health of both rural and urban populations. In rural areas, water pollution occurs mainly because of agricultural activities. In urban and peri urban areas, "many factories are located on river banks and use the rivers as open sewers for their effluents…The petroleum industry represents the greatest threat to water quality."

In the Niger Delta in particular, water pollution associated with the oil industry has resulted in such extensive oxygen depletion in some water bodies that aquatic fauna have died of asphyxiation. Such pollution also threatens the ecosystems of Nigeria's mangrove swamps (Osuji and Uwakwe 2006). These trends have to be arrested to ensure sufficient quality water and high standard of living.

POLICY MEASURES TO ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS IN NIGERIA

Due to the environmental problems existing in Nigeria, laws and acts relating to environmental protection were made. They include: oil and navigable water decree of 1968; the mineral act of 1969, 1973 and 1984; Chad basin Development act of 1973; and association gas injection act of 1969 etc. These laws/acts were promulgated to address specific and identified problems. They were narrow in scope and spatially restricted. But Decree No 58 of 1988 as amended by Decree 59 of

1992, gave birth to the Federal Environmental Protection Agency FEPA (Now Ministry of Environment) it empowers the ministry to have control over all issues relating to Nigerian environment, resources, exploitation and management. But the success recorded by the Ministry is nothing to write home about. Problems of urbanization, desertification, pollution and deforestation continued due to the Government's Top-down approach, inconsistencies of government policies, neglect of indigenous knowledge, and use of inappropriate technology, sectoral approach, inadequate funding, and inadequate awareness.

FUNDING

Considering the threats and the extent of degradation to which the Nigerian environment is being subjected, substantial resources are required for control, monitoring and remediation in the sector. In governance, the level and consistency of funding is usually a measure of the political will of successive administration to address a particular problem.

Table 4 gives a summary of the annual appropriation of the Federal Government to the Ministry of Environment over the last decade. Apart from 1999 when funding represented about one percent, funding to the Ministry had averaged less than 0.2 percent of the Federal budget which definitely is too low to make any meaningful impact in the sector. Note in this regard only two percent (2%) of the entire Federation Account is supposed to be spent on intervention programmes in the environment sector (one percent for the Federal and one percent for the state). There is however, very little that is either published or known as to the details of how these resources are allocated or spent. It is our view therefore that more resources need to be allocated to the Ministry of Environment for its activities. In addition, the two percent Special Fund on Environment should be retained but should be managed as an open and transparent *Conditional Grant*. Through this Grant, states can access their share through a matching grant from their own budget. This will surely be a more equitable modality as there is no state in the country that has no environmental problems. The idea of making it an *equitable conditional grant* to be matched by states will challenge and encourage the states to participate, thereby bringing more resources to the sector.

RECOMMENDATION AND CONCLUSION

The Way Forward

The surge of urbanization in Nigeria like most developing nations have come too rapidly and faster than available financial and human resources to manage them. Whereas urbanization in the industrialized countries took many decades, permitting a gradual emergence of economic, social and political institutions to deal with problems of transformation, the process in developing countries is occurring far more rapidly, against a background of higher population growth, lower incomes, and fewer opportunities for international migration. Yet, if the cities are to play their roles of fostering national development, then efforts and resources must be committed to managing them.

Improving the urban environment in Nigeria

Table 4: Budgetary allocation to the Federal Ministry of Environment

Year	*Federal capital appropriation for environment*	*Federal recurrent appropriation for environment*	*Total federal appropriation for environment*	*Total federal budget*	*% of total federal appropriation on to total budget*
	₦, Billion	*₦, Billion*	*₦, Billion*	*₦, Billion*	
1999	2.500	N/A	2.500	299.000	0.840
2000	1.238	0.577	1.815	702.000	0.260
2001	0.761	0.384	1.145	894.000	0.130
2002	N/A	1.180	1.180	1064.000	0.110
2003	N/A	2.024	2.024	1446.000	0.140
2004	0.910	0.631	1.541	1189.000	0.130
2005	3.279	N/A	3.279	1800.000	0.180
2006	2.742	3.313	6.055	1900.000	0.320
2007	1.021	N/A	1.021	2300.000	0.040
Total	12.451	8.109	20.560	11594.200	0.180

Source: Office of the Accountant General of the Federation, Cited in Olusegun 2009

thus clearly constitutes a major challenge for urban authorities on several fronts: resources, management, institutional and technological capacity. This challenge is further heightened by two other factors: the continuing rapid growth of the population of urban areas both from natural increase and from rural-urban migration and the persistence of poverty and a high degree of ignorance and illiteracy amongst the urban population. Whilst no one now advocates that the way to deal with urban environmental problems is to slow down if not arrest the growth of the urban population, the present situation certainly calls to question the capacity of urban authorities to maintain and sustain a reasonable level of environmental quality within their areas of jurisdiction. Ultimately, the capacity of cities to provide quality environmental services in the long run will depend on their ability to govern themselves effectively through the municipalisation of cities, since the current local government structure seems inadequate to cope with the dynamics of urban problems. Such governments must engage in participatory development programs that would involve the civil society, social organizations and the private sector to develop workable ways of funding these services through effective tax administration that is transparent and accountable.

REFERENCES

Census 2006. National Population Commission Report, *NPCR*. Nigeria.

Department for International Development DFID 2004. *Country Assistance Plan for Nigeria, 2004-2008.* London: DFID.

Dublin-Green CO, Awobamise A, Ajao EA 1997. *Large Marine Ecosystem Project for the Gulf of Guinea - Coastal Profile of Nigeria.* GEF/UNIDO.

International Monetary Fund (IMF) 2007. Nigeria: Poverty Reduction Strategy. Paper Progress Report. *IMF Country Report,* August.

Morenike B 2008. Causes and effects of Urban decay in Nigeria: Case studies of federal ministry of Environment, Housing and Urban development Intervention in Urban renewal. *Paper presented at the 39th Annual conference of the Nigerian Institute of Town Planners (NITP),* Yola. Nigeria.

NAP 2000. National Action Program Report on Combating Desertification and Mitigate the Effect of Drought. *FMENV, Report.* Abuja. Nigeria.

Ndahlahwa FM 2005. Impacts of Population Pressure and Poverty Alleviation Strategies on Common Property Resource Availability in Rural Tanzania. African Journal of Environmental Assessment and Management. *Ajeam-Ragee,* 10: 26-49.

National Population Commission (Nigeria) 2004. National Policy on Population for Sustainable Development 2004, *NPC Report.* Abuja. Nigeria.

Nigerian National Planning Commission 2004. Meeting Everyone's Needs: National Economic and Empowerment Strategy. [Online] Available from: http://www.nigeriaconsulate-atl.org/needs.pdf (Accessed 28th April, 2009).

Okeagu JE, Okeagu JC, Adegoke AO, Onuoha CN 2006. The environmental and social impact of petroleum and natural gas exploitation in Nigeria. *Journal of Third World Studies,* 23(1): 199-218.

Olusakin AM 2006. Peace in the Niger Delta: Economic development and the politics of dependence on oil. *International Journal on World Peace,* 23: 2-5.

Olusegun KA 2009. Threats to Nigerian environment: A call for positive Action. *Paper presented at the 7th chief S.L EDU Memorial lecture held at Ondo town hall*. August 13, 2009.

Osuji LC, Uwakwe AA 2006. Petroleum Industry Effluents and Other Oxygen Demanding Wastes in Niger Delta, Nigeria. *Chemistry and Biodiversity,* 37: 705-717.

Oluwemimo O 2007. Social Systems, Institutions and Structures: Urbanization, Poverty and Changing Quality of Life. *Paper presented at the training session of the foundation for environmental development and education in Nigeria.*

Paterson C, Mara D, Curtis T 2007. Pro-poor Sanitation Technologies. *Geo-forum. Springer,* 10: 260-275.

Rahman SA 2008. Women's Involvement in Agriculture in Northern and Southern Kaduna State, Nigeria. *Journal of Gender Studies,* 17(1): 17-26.

Ross ML 2003. Nigeria's Oil Sector and the Poor. *Paper prepared for the UK Department of International Development* "Nigeria: Drivers of Change" programme. May, 2003.

Tanimola MA, Owoyemi JO 2009. Health Care-seeking Behaviour in Anyigba, North-Central, Nigeria. *Research Journal of Medical Sciences,* 32: 47-51.

Tipping DC, Adom D, Tibaijuka AC 2005. *UN-Habitat Achieving Healthy Urban Futures in the 21st Century: New Approaches to Financing And Governance of Access to Clean Drinking Water and Basic Sanitation as a Global Public Good*. UN-HABITAT.

UN 2004. Commission on Sustainable Development. *Fifth Session Report,* 7-25, New York: UN.

United Nations Development Programme UNDP 2008. Human Development Report 2007/2008: *Country Fact Sheets: Nigeria.* New York: United Nations.

UNEP 2006. The Marine and Coastal Environment of the West and Central African Region and its State of Pollution, *UNEP RSPS, No 46S*, Nairobi.

UNFPA 2005. Country Profiles for Population and Reproductive Health, Policy Developments and Indicators 2005. *UNFPA and Population Reference Bureau*.

World Bank/DFID 2005. *Country Partnership Strategy for the Federal Republic of Nigeria.* Washington DC: World Bank.

World Bank 2008. *Millennium Development Goals: Nigeria. World Development Indicators Database, World Bank.* Washington DC: World Bank.

World Health Organization 1997. *Water Pollution Control – A Guide to the Use of Water Quality Management Principles: Case Study IV – Nigeria.* Geneva: WHO.