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Climate Change and Spatial Planning Concerns in Nigeria: Remedial Measures for More Effective Response

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ABSTRACT Global warming and the consequent change in climate have posed and are posing threat to existence of life. Many nations including Nigeria lack the necessary coping capability required for coping with the impact of climate change. It has become necessary to integrate climate change concerns into spatial planning. This paper contributes to the dialogue on the linkage between changes in climate and the planning of man's space. It examines the following specific issues; the incidence of change in climate in Nigeria, the vulnerability of Nigeria as a nation to climate change, and the consequences of climate change on spatial planning in Nigeria. The discussion provided the following insights: first, that the incidence of climate change in Nigeria is a reality; second, that Nigeria is vulnerable because it is less endowed with resources and technology to combat the problem and its economy is based largely on natural resources – dependent sectors that are climate sensitive, and lastly it called for considerable planning before spaces are allotted to different uses as a result of the consequences of climate change in Nigeria. Thus, it is easy to envisage a process by which rural or urban planning and management ensures planned adaptation with developments and investments in and around each rural or urban area reducing risks for inhabitants, enterprises and infrastructure to climate change related impacts. Suitable measures are recommended in the study.