

Worsening Pattern of Man-environment Interface in Nigeria: Poverty as Cause and Consequence

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KEYWORDS Environment. Survival-needs. Poverty. Policy-instruments. Nigeria

ABSTRACT There exists a system of complex interaction between the constituents of the environment. Within such interaction lies man-environment interaction. The humans have always interacted with nature in order to meet their needs. In a society where poverty grows with the human population; the environment is left at the mercy of human attitudes. Nigeria, with its enormous growth potentials, paradoxically wallows in poverty. Since independence till date, successive government has made efforts at addressing this poverty situation with several intervention instruments. However, studies have shown that these policy instruments failed to meet their objectives for several reasons. Consequently, because of the unfavourable conditions of living, the poor are compelled to over exploit-environmental resources for their daily survival needs. Ironically, this survival attitude towards the environment further impoverishes them, thus making their survival even more uncertain and difficult. Therefore, to have a sustainable environmental management requires a holistic approach that would address the issues of environmental awareness and poverty. Above all, government must gather enough political will to act in this direction.