

FLOOD DISASTERS IN NIGERIA: AN IMPERATIVE OF ENVIRONMENTAL GOVERNANCE

By:

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Theme: Flood Disasters In Nigeria: An Imperative of Environmental Governance.

INTRODUCTION

- Flooding is a seasonal water-related disaster, which is the most recurrent and serious environmental problem in Nigeria.
- The rainy season which is supposed to be a period of blessing has annually become a catastrophe. Flood is usually a disastrous overflow from a lake or other body of water due to excessive rainfall or other input of water. Flood is an end result of both natural and man-made causes.

OBJECTIVES

- ***This presentation seeks to:-***
- Underscore the fact that flooding in Nigeria is caused by a variety of factors (natural and man-made)
- Explain when flooding is a disaster, and why flood disaster is an imperative for Environmental Governance;
- Explore the paradigm shift from flood control to integrated flood management, that seeks to effectively address the perennial flooding and its devastating effects on the people, economy and the natural environment.

CASUAL FACTORS OF FLOODING IN NIGERIA

- Natural Causes of Flooding include:-
- Heavy or consistent rainfalls
- Storms or high tides; and
- Climate change effects.
- Complemented by Man-Made Causes:
- Deforestation of the forest belt near the rivers can cause flooding
- Poorly constructed or mismanaged dam;
- Poor or non-existent drainage systems;
- Poor waste management system;
- Weak implementation of urban planning laws and policies and corruption.

WHEN IS FLOODING A DISASTER?

- It has been discovered by scholars that nature benefits more from natural floods than from NOT having them at all. Because floods are known to renew wetland areas which in turn host a wide range of flora and fauna. Preventing flood waters from entering such wetland areas will create imbalance to the natural state of things resulting to destruction of natural habitats and even extinction of various species of animals and plants.
- (b) However, flooding is considered a DISASTER whenever it:
- Affects humanity and the natural environment, especially when flood waters occur in areas populated by human being (people) and in areas of significant human development;
- Results in loss of precious human lives and source of livelihood, damage to property and socio-economic infrastructure of a community or nation, and are common end results of perennial flooding witnessed across the country (especially in 2010, 2012 and 2020 flood disasters);
- Exacerbates the living conditions of the already poor and poses a threat to Nigeria's capacity to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (1-17) especially Goals 1 (on eradicating poverty) 2 (on Zero hunger) 3 (on good health and well-being) 4 (on Quality education) 6 (on clean water and sanitation), 8 (on decent work and economic growth), 11 (on sustainable cities and communities; 14 (on life on water, and 15 (on life on the land).

SDGss	Targets	Nigerian Constitution	Environmental Law and Policies	Climate Change Law and Policy	Other Policies and Laws
<p>I. No Poverty</p>	<p>End poverty in all its forms everywhere Targets include eradicating extreme poverty; implementing social protection measures; and ensuring equal access of men and women to economic resources.</p>	<p>Sections 14(2)(b); 15(5); 16; 17(2)(b), 17(3)(a) and 34 on the right to human dignity</p>	<p>Poverty is a cross cutting issue in Environmental Law and Policy for Sustainable Development . The 2016/2017 Revised National policy on the Environment-items 3.2-3.3(x) and item 7.6(poverty).</p>	<p>Poverty is a cross cutting issue in Environmental Law and Policy for Sustainable Development. The 2016/2017 Revised National policy on the Environment-items 3.2-3.3(x) and item 7.6(poverty)</p>	<p>* National Poverty Eradication Programme (NAPEP) 2001 * Nigeria Economic Recovery and Growth Plan, 2017-2022</p>

<p>2. Zero Hunger</p>	<p>End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture Targets include ending hunger and malnutrition; improving agricultural production, sustainable and resilient food production; correcting trade distortions, and ensuring functioning food commodity markets.</p>	<p>Sections 16(2)(a) – (d) esp. (d) and 34.</p>	<p>National Policy on Environment, 2017, items 4 and 6.5.</p>	<p>National Climate Change Policy items 3.1.2 and 4.1 (pillar 2).</p>	<p>* National Policy on Agriculture, 2016, items 4.3.4 and 4.3.6 (APP) * National Policy on Gender in Agriculture (2019).</p>

<p>3. Good Health and Well-Being</p>	<p>Ensure healthy lives and promote well – being for all at all ages Targets include reducing maternal mortality; ending preventable child deaths; ending or reducing AIDS other diseases; universal health coverage, affordable essential medicines, sexual and reproductive health care; vaccine research, and access to medicines</p>	<p>Section 33 (right to life), Sections 16(2)(d), 17(3)(c) – (d).</p>	<p>* National Environmental Standards and Regulations Enforcement Agency (NESREA) Act, 2007, Sections 7(c) and (d). * National Environmental (Sanitation and Wastes Control) Regulations, 2009. * National Policy on Environment, items 3.2 and 7</p>	<p>Climate Change Policy items 3.1.7 and 4.1 (pillar 2).</p>	<p>* National Health Act 2014. * National Health Policy, (2016). * Child Rights Act, 2003, Section 13. * National Health Insurance Scheme Act, 1999.</p>

4. Quality Education	<p>Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote life-long learning opportunities for all</p> <p>Targets include universal access to free, quality preprimary, primary and secondary education; improving Vocational skills; equal access to education; expanding education facilities, scholarships, and training of teachers.</p>	Section 18	National Policy on Environment 2017, items 7.9	-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Universal Basic Education Commission (UBEC) Act, 2004. * National Policy on Education, 2004. * Section 15, CRA, 2003. * National Policy on Gender in Basic Education.

<p>5. Clean Water and Sanitation</p>	<p>Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all Targets include ensuring universal and equitable access to safe, affordable drinking water; sanitation and hygiene for all; reducing pollution; increasing water-use efficiency; and promoting participatory management of water and sanitation services.</p>	<p>Section 20</p>	<p>* NESREA Act, Sections 7(c), (d), (h) and 8(k). * National Policy on Environment, items 4.2,5 and 7.</p>	<p>Items 3.1.3 and 3.1.7</p>	<p>* National Water Sector Roadmap, 2016/ Strategies and Plans 2017 to 2030 * National Water Sanitation Policy 2004. * Water Resources Act. * River Basins Development Authorities Act. * Oil in Navigable Water Act. Etc.</p>

6. Decent Work and Economic Growth	<p>Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all</p> <p>Targets include promoting sustained economic growth; improving resource efficiency in production and consumption; full and productive employment and decent work for all; eradicating forced and child labour and trafficking; protecting labour rights including those of migrant workers; and increasing access to financial services.</p>	<p>Section 16(2)(a) – (d), 17(2)(c), and 17(3)(a) – (h)</p>	<p>National Policy on Environment, items 7.</p>	<p>Item 2.2 para 1.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * National Policy on Employment * Nigerian Labour Act, * Trade Union Act, * Pension Reform Act 2014, * National Minimum Wage Act, * Nigerians with Disability Act, * Factories Act * Child Rights Act, 2003, sections 28 – 34 * Anti-human Trafficking (NAPTIP) Act 2015 * National Child Policy, 2008 * National Policy on Child labour, 2013 * National Policy on Migration 2014/15

7. Sustainable Cities and Communities	<p>Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable</p> <p>Targets include ensuring access to housing, basic services and public transport for all; participatory planning of human settlements; safeguarding cultural and natural heritage; and strengthening resilience to disasters.</p>	<p>Section 21 and 17(3)(b)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * National Environmental (Vehicular Emmission etc) Regulations 2011 * National Environmental (Air Quality Control) Regulation 2014 * National Environmental (Energy Sector) Regulation 2014 * National Policy on Environment 1999, items 7.1 – 7.9 and 6. 	<p>Items 3.1.6, 3.1.8, 3.1.10 and 4.1 pillar 3</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * National Policy on Housing, Transport, and Aviation * National Emergency Management Agency Act, 1999, * National Disaster Management Framework 2010 etc.

8. Life Below Water	<p>Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development</p> <p>Targets include reducing marine pollution; conserving coastal ecosystems, coastal marine areas and fish stock; securing market access for small scale fishers; protection of marine biodiversity.</p>	Section 20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * NESREA Act, Sections 7(c), (e), (h) and 8(k) * National Environmental (Coastal and Marine Areas Protection) Regulations, 2011 * National Environmental (Wetlands, River Banks and Lake Shores) Regulations, 2009 * National Policy on Environment, items 4 and 6.2. 	Items 3.1.2.2 and 3.1.4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Oil in Navigable Waters Act * Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency Act, 2007 * Harmful Waste (Criminal Provisions) Act * Sea Fisheries Act * Coastal and Inland Shipping (Cabotage) Act, 2003, etc.

9. Life on Land	<p>Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss</p> <p>Targets include the sustainable management of freshwater, mountain ecosystems and forests; combating desertification; halting biodiversity loss; combating poaching and trafficking of protected species.</p>	Section 20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * NESREA Act, Sections 7 (c and e), 8(k) * National Environmental (Soil Erosion and Flood Control) Regulations 2011 * National Environmental (Desertification Control and Drought Mitigation) Regulations 2011 * National Environmental (Control of Bush/Forest Fire and Open Burning) Regulations 2011 * National Environmental (Surface and Groundwater Quality Control) Regulations 2011 * National Policy on Environment, items 4 and 5. 	Items 3.1.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * National Forestry Policy 2006 * National Policy Drought and Desertification 2007 * National Policy on Erosion and Flood Control 2005 etc

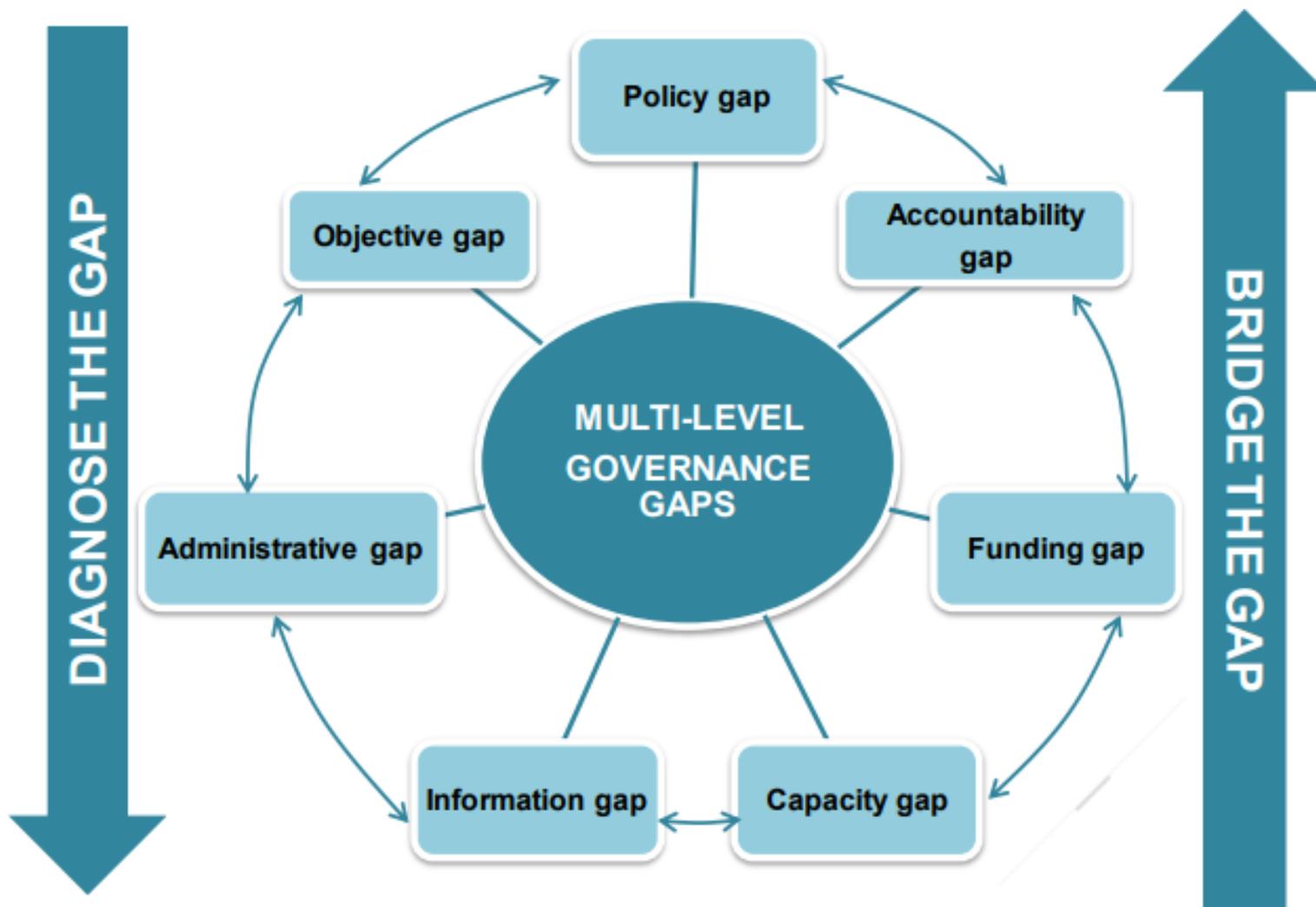
WHY IS FLOOD DISASTER AN IMPERATIVE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL GOVERNANCE?

- ***There are 5 key reasons to this effect:-***
- The interdependent relationship between flood disaster and the natural environment (in terms of its adverse effects);
- Environmental governance as a key driver for the achievement of sustainable development (in its three dimensions:- social equity, economic growth and development and environmental protection), comprises of the Rules, Policies, practices, institutions and all actors (state and non-state) that shape how humans interact with the environment.
- Because flood disaster impacts negatively on the progressive realization of both the three dimensions of sustainable development and its Goals, an effective environmental governance scheme is needed to address the triggers and devastating effects on people, economy and environment.
- The undivided nature of the environment and its inextricable links with the social and economic dimensions of sustainable development relies on good decision making processes and actions, effective institutions, policies, laws, standards, guidelines and meaningful public engagement (access to environmental information, participation in decision making process effecting people's lives and access to environmental justice).
- The imperative of integrating the environment or environmental concerns in all levels of decision making and action.

THE PARADIGM SHIFT FROM FLOOD CONTROL TO INTEGRATED FLOOD MANAGEMENT.

- Floods can be mitigated by control measures that are structural and non-structural. Structural measures include investment in strategic building of new, or restoration of decrepit dams, reservoirs, retarding liver basins, river channels, drainage works, river embankments and shorelines. Non-structural measures include the formulation of policies, enactment of laws and regulations that help enforce and guarantee maintenance, effective management and functioning of these flood control structures, and the laws that protect the river share lines and embankments.
- The National Environmental Regulations, 2011 (Soil Erosion and Flood Control) is structured into 5 parts, 7 schedules and 21 Regulations, out of which Regulations 14-18 provide for Flood Control, in terms of guidelines, permit, control measures, warning and disclaimer of liability, and inspection and enforcement actions. Regulation 2 provides for general and specific objectives of these Regulations, while regulation 3 focuses on the purpose of adopting these Regulations.

Figure 1. Multi-level Governance Framework: Mind the Gaps, Bridge the Gaps



Source: OECD (2011), *Water Governance in OECD: A Multi-Level Approach*, OECD Publishing, Paris



Institutional and territorial fragmentation of water-related disaster policy across multiple actors and lack of effective policy coherence across sectors (policy gap).

Mismatch across administrative and hydrological boundaries to manage flood and water resources at the relevant scale (administrative gap).

Questionable resource allocation and patchy financial management to carry out flood-related responsibilities (funding gap).

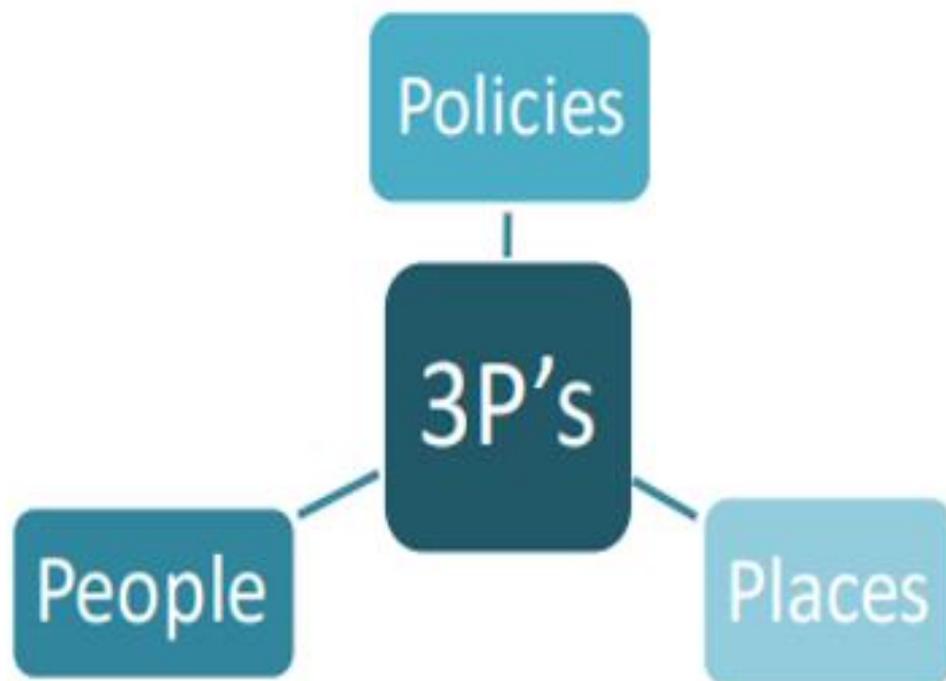
Gaps in scientific, human, technical and infrastructural capabilities to design and implement sustainable, efficient and effective water-related disaster policies and strategies (capacity gap).

Ineffective stakeholder engagement for inclusive and transparent flood-related decision making; lack of or irregular use of monitoring, evaluation and enforcement mechanisms (accountability gap).

Divergent objectives that inhibit synergies and complementarities to manage floods at the right scale (objective gap).

Insufficient or incomplete flood-related data and information systems in support of decision makers (information gap).

Figure 2. The 3P's co-ordination framework



Source: OECD (2016), *Water Governance in Cities*, OECD Publishing, Paris.

Building on the identification of multi-level governance gaps hindering flood policy and the use of the OECD Principles on Water Governance to assess the state of play of flood governance, the present analytical framework also seeks to review responses and instruments to overcome flood management challenges in an effort to showcase best practices and strengthen the resilience of different scales across the world. Particular emphasis is put on the most prominent governance mechanisms that can foster effectiveness, efficiency and inclusiveness of flood governance (OECD, 2015c). They relate to vertical and horizontal coordination across:

Policies: flood governance has consequences for, and can be affected by, a number of intrinsically related policies such as land use, spatial planning, environment, and agriculture, among others.

People: a number of people from public, private and civil society sectors to water users or landowners have a stake or play a role in flood management.

Places: water boundaries cut across places in terms of cities (i.e. when concerning more municipalities in a metropolitan area), hinterland (i.e. the surrounding environment, rural areas and watersheds, which sustain the major bulk of water demand from cities and where the actual sources of water are often located) and even countries.

FROM FLOOD CONTROL TO INTEGRATED FLOOD MANAGEMENT

- Until recently, flood control and protection have been engineering-centred, with little or no consideration being given to the social, cultural and environmental effects of the selected strategy, nor to long-term economic concerns. They have largely relied on structural solutions (e.g. embankments, bypass channels, dams and reservoirs, etc.), which have unfortunately changed flow regimes, fixed river shape or have separated river channels from their flood plains, resulting in loss of habitats, biological diversity and productivity. During the past half century, flood control and protection have slowly moved from an emphasis on structures towards incorporating complementary non-structural measures such as flood forecasting and land use regulations.
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- Over the past couple of decades, increasing environmental concern for sustainable development has facilitated a shift from “flood control” towards “flood management”. It is now recognized that floods are a natural phenomenon, which determine the natural regime of a river; and that any structural interventions have impacts on the natural environment, which can cause environmental degradation and impair services provided by ecosystems.
- The essential elements of IFM are:
 - Adopting a basin approach to flood management;
 - Bringing a multidisciplinary approach in flood management;
 - Reducing vulnerability and risks due to flooding;
 - Enabling community involvement; and
 - Preserving ecosystems.
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- Integrated Flood Management addresses issues concerning human security and sustainable development from the perspective of flood management, within the framework of Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM). As such, it synergizes with Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM), since the lower reaches of a river estuary and coastal zone form an integral part of the river basin.



CONCLUSION

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THANK YOU