

# STEMMING THE TIDE OF CLIMATE CHANGE-INDUCED MIGRATION ON DEVELOPING ECONOMIES: A CASE STUDY OF NIGERIA IN THE POST 2015 ERA

By

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## **ABSTRACT**

Africa has had a lion share of the impact of migration, thereby resulting into mass movement of its people, particularly, the youth and vibrant work force, some of who are now scattered as irregular migrants in Europe and America in search of *Eldorado*. It is also correct to state that many more Africans have remained within their countries but only migrating from one region to another.

As Nigeria begins her ambitious drive towards 2030, the ultimatum for actualizing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the impact of Climate Change has become overbearing, leading sometimes to frequent communal clashes and forced migration of the people across a few of the nation's geo-political zones. It is against this background that this study attempts to x-ray the impact of Climate Change resulting in the forced movement of people from their original age-long places of abode - A development which negates the Constitutional provision which qualifies every Nigerian to reside in any part of the country they desire to reside.

This study hinges on the hypothesis of a direct and positive correlation between a peaceful environment and the actualization of any development agenda and by extension, the actualization of the new SMART SDGs recently ratified by Heads of States constituting the membership of the United Nations in New York.

While secondary data and environmental assessment report of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) were examined, the study equally considered the various extant laws as well as international instruments relating to environmental protection in Nigeria. Existing

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literature and the researcher's personal observations during visits to some of the climate change prone areas were equally of great advantage to the study.

There were incidences showing strong nexus between climatic change occurrences and unprecedented migration of people, particularly from environmentally densely prone (Northern and Southern) areas currently witnessing increasing desertification and environmental degradation and pollutions.

Although, in response to the (UNEP) 's report on the state of environmental degradation, the Nigerian government has pledged the support of one billion dollars to clean up the pollution in the polluted Ogoni area, there are still many more areas affected by environmental-induced migration that should be considered by the government.

While Nigeria has been used as the case study for this research, the findings may be relevant to some neighbouring countries who share similar challenges with Nigeria.

This research concludes with the assertion that although the nefarious activities of *Boko Haram* has led to forced movement of the people from the Northern region of the Country, the impact of forced migration due to Climate Change can be more endemic and catastrophic if unchecked, and can negatively impact on the security of the nation and thus the potentials of the nation in achieving the SDGs. Perhaps development partners and blessed nations need to join developing economies in addressing their environment-related challenges so that the migration in the euro zone is not worsened by the ever growing desperation to travel to more-friendlier climes.

**KEYWORDS:** Nigeria, Developing Economies, SDGs, Environment, Migration.