Navigating Environmental Migration in Nigeria: Trends, Impacts, And Strategic Responses

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Abstract: This paper examines the growing phenomenon of environmental migration in Nigeria, analyzing its patterns, consequences, and management strategies. The study reveals an increasing trend of population displacement driven by climate change, desertification, flooding, and resource degradation, particularly affecting the Lake Chad Basin and coastal regions. Our analysis demonstrates that environmental migration significantly impacts Nigeria's socio-economic fabric, creating pressures on urban infrastructure, exacerbating resource conflicts, and reshaping traditional livelihood patterns. The research identifies key adaptation and mitigation strategies, including climate-resilient agriculture, early warning systems, and targeted social protection programs. However, these interventions face substantial governance challenges, including limited institutional capacity and complex land tenure systems. The study also explores ethical dimensions, particularly regarding vulnerable populations and climate justice. Drawing on both quantitative data and qualitative case studies, we argue for an integrated policy framework that balances immediate humanitarian needs with long-term resilience building. This research contributes to the growing literature on environmental migration while providing practical insights for policymakers addressing this critical challenge in Nigeria.
Keywords: Environment, Migration, Adaptation, Mitigation, Nigeria

INTRODUCTION

Environmental migration in Nigeria is a complex and growing phenomenon driven by various ecological challenges facing the country. As Africa's most populous nation, Nigeria is particularly vulnerable to environmental changes that displace communities and drive both internal and cross-border migration. This issue sits at the intersection of climate change, environmental degradation, demographic pressures, and socioeconomic development. Nigeria faces multiple environmental stressors that contribute to migration flows. In the north, desertification and drought have severely impacted livelihoods dependent on agriculture and pastoralism. The United Nations estimates that 350,000 hectares of land are lost to desertification annually in northern Nigeria, undermining food security and economic stability in the region (United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, 2019). Meanwhile, in southern Nigeria, rising sea levels, coastal erosion, and flooding threaten densely populated areas, including major cities like Lagos. The World Bank projects that without adaptation measures, climate change could force up to 9.2 million Nigerians to migrate internally by 2050 (Rigaud et al., 2018).

Insurgencies, kidnapping, and banditry have become pervasive issues in certain regions of Nigeria, leading to widespread displacement and insecurity. These conflicts often disrupt livelihoods, destroy infrastructure, and create a hostile environment for communities. As a result, many people are forced to flee their homes in search of safety and economic opportunities. Several key drivers of environmental migration in Nigeria have been identified. Climate change, characterized by rising temperatures, erratic rainfall patterns, and sea-level rise, is a major contributor. Extreme weather events such as floods, droughts, and heatwaves have become more frequent and intense, making it difficult for people to sustain their livelihoods in affected regions. Similarly, climate change, characterized by rising temperatures, erratic rainfall patterns, and sea-level rise, is another significant driver of environmental migration in Nigeria. Extreme weather events, such as floods, droughts, and heatwaves, have become more frequent and intense, making it difficult for people to sustain their

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livelihoods in affected areas. The degradation of natural resources, including water and land, further exacerbates the challenges faced by vulnerable communities.

Natural disasters, including floods, droughts, and landslides, are a recurring phenomenon in Nigeria. These events can cause widespread destruction of property, infrastructure, and agricultural land, forcing people to abandon their homes and seek refuge elsewhere (Bello, 2021). The frequency and severity of natural disasters have been exacerbated by climate change and unsustainable land use practices.

Resource depletion, particularly of water and land, is a pressing issue in Nigeria. Overexploitation of these resources has led to scarcity, degradation, and conflicts among communities. As access to essential resources becomes limited, people may be compelled to migrate to areas with more abundant resources or seek alternative livelihoods. On the other hand, land degradation, caused by deforestation, erosion, and desertification, is another factor contributing to environmental migration. These processes can reduce the productivity of agricultural land, making it difficult for people to rely on farming for their livelihoods. As a result, they may be forced to migrate to other regions or seek alternative livelihoods.

Rapid population growth and urbanization exacerbate these environmental pressures. Nigeria's population is expected to reach 400 million by 2050, potentially overwhelming the carrying capacity of fragile ecosystems and straining urban infrastructure (United Nations, 2019). This demographic trend intersects with environmental degradation to drive rural-urban migration, as well as movement between different ecological zones within the country.

The impacts of environmental migration in Nigeria are multifaceted. While migration can serve as an adaptation strategy for affected communities, it also poses challenges for both origin and destination areas. In rural regions experiencing outmigration, the loss of labor and human capital can further undermine resilience to environmental changes. Urban areas receiving environmental migrants often struggle to provide adequate housing, services, and employment opportunities, potentially exacerbating social tensions (Adekola et al., 2020).

Environmental migration also has important gender dimensions in the Nigerian context. Women and children are often disproportionately affected by environmental displacement, facing heightened vulnerabilities during the migration process and in resettlement areas. However, migration can also create opportunities for women's empowerment and changing gender roles within households and communities (Akinyemi&Ikuteyijo, 2021).

TREND OF ENVIRONMENTAL MIGRATION

Global Trends of Environmental Migration

Environmental migration, a phenomenon driven by adverse environmental changes, has become a pressing global issue in recent decades. As climate change intensifies and natural disasters become more frequent, the number of people forced to leave their homes due to environmental factors is increasing rapidly. One of the most significant trends in environmental migration is the growing number of people affected by climate-related disasters. Extreme weather events, such as floods, droughts, heatwaves, and cyclones, have become more frequent and intense, leading to widespread displacement and loss of livelihoods. For example, the 2017 Hurricane Maria devastated Puerto Rico, forcing hundreds of thousands of people to migrate to the mainland United States.

Another notable trend is the increasing impact of resource depletion on migration patterns. Overexploitation of water, land, and other natural resources has led to scarcity, degradation, and conflicts among communities. As access to essential resources becomes limited, people may be compelled to migrate to areas with more abundant resources or seek alternative livelihoods.

Slow-onset environmental changes are also driving long-term migration patterns globally. Sea-level rise, desertification, and changing precipitation patterns are gradually rendering some areas uninhabitable or unable to support traditional livelihoods. Small island developing states (SIDS) are at the forefront of this trend, with some facing existential threats. For instance, Kiribati has purchased land in Fiji as a potential relocation option for its population (Caramel, 2014). In regions like the Sahel, desertification is contributing to complex migration patterns, often interacting with political and economic factors. Land degradation, caused by deforestation, erosion, and desertification, is another factor contributing to environmental migration. These processes can reduce the productivity of

agricultural land, making it difficult for people to rely on farming for their livelihoods. As a result, they may be forced to migrate to other regions or seek alternative livelihoods.

The trend of environmental migration is also influenced by the geographic distribution of vulnerable populations. Countries with low-lying coastal areas, arid regions, and fragile ecosystems are particularly susceptible to the impacts of climate change and natural disasters. These countries often have limited resources and adaptive capacities, making it difficult for them to cope with the challenges of environmental migration. The global trends in environmental migration are further exacerbated by the increasing interconnectedness of the world economy and the movement of people. As people migrate in search of better opportunities or to escape conflict, they may encounter additional challenges related to environmental change, such as climate-induced food insecurity and water scarcity.

Urbanization is a key trend in global environmental migration. As rural livelihoods become less viable due to environmental changes, there is an increasing flow of migrants to urban areas. The World Bank estimates that by 2050, there could be 216 million internal climate migrants globally, with most moving to urban areas within their countries (Clement et al., 2021). This trend is particularly pronounced in developing countries, where rapid urbanization is straining infrastructure and services in cities ill-equipped to handle the influx.

The nexus between environmental change, conflict, and migration is becoming increasingly recognized as a global trend. Environmental stressors can exacerbate existing tensions and contribute to conflict, which in turn drives further displacement. This complex interaction is evident in regions like the Lake Chad Basin and parts of the Middle East, where environmental degradation intersects with political instability and violence. The UN Security Council has begun to acknowledge climate change as a "threat multiplier" that can amplify existing risks to international peace and security (UN Security Council, 2021).

Trends of Environmental Migration in Africa

Environmental migration refers to the movement of people caused by environmental factors such as climate change, natural disasters, and resource depletion. In Africa, the trend of environmental migration has become increasingly pronounced due to a combination of rapid population growth, environmental degradation, and climate variability. The continent is particularly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, making it a focal point for understanding how environmental factors influence human mobility.

The causes of environmental migration in Africa are complicated, encompassing both gradual environmental changes and sudden disasters. Climate change has led to increased frequency and intensity of extreme weather events such as droughts, floods, and storms, which have devastating effects on agriculture— a primary livelihood for many Africans. According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), by 2050, climate change could displace between 30 million and 143 million people in sub-Saharan Africa alone (IPCC, 2018). Additionally, land degradation, desertification, and water scarcity further exacerbate the situation, forcing communities to migrate in search of more favorable living conditions.

Regional trends in environmental migration vary across Africa. The Sahel region, characterized by its vulnerability to droughts and desertification, has seen significant out-migration due to the declining availability of arable land. Studies indicate that migration from rural to urban areas is becoming more common as people seek better opportunities amid environmental stressors (Findley, 1994). Conversely, coastal regions are experiencing internal displacement due to rising sea levels and increased flooding. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) reported that more than 1.3 million people were displaced due to climate-related disasters in 2021, underscoring the urgent need for addressing environmental migration (UNHCR, 2022).

Urbanization plays a critical role in the environmental migration trend in Africa. As people move from rural areas affected by environmental degradation to cities, they often face new challenges such as inadequate housing, unemployment, and social tensions. Urban centers, particularly those in countries like Nigeria and Ethiopia, are experiencing rapid population growth, partly fueled by environmental migration. A study by the World Bank suggests that African cities are expected to accommodate an additional 950 million people by 2050, many of whom will be environmental

migrants (World Bank, 2021). The lack of infrastructure and services in these urban areas poses a significant challenge for both migrants and host communities.

The impact of environmental migration is not uniformly experienced; gender plays a significant role in shaping the experiences of migrants. Women often bear the brunt of environmental stressors, as they are typically responsible for securing water, food, and energy for their households. Consequently, they may face heightened vulnerabilities during migration. Research indicates that women are more likely to migrate internally than men, often moving to urban areas for better opportunities (Graham &Hasi, 2018). However, their migration journeys can expose them to increased risks of gender-based violence and exploitation. Addressing these gender-specific challenges is crucial for creating effective migration policies that support all affected populations. The trend of environmental migration in Africa is expected to intensify due to ongoing climate change and environmental degradation. As millions of people are displaced from their homes, it is imperative to recognize the complex interplay between environmental factors and migration patterns.

Trends of Environmental Migration in Nigeria

Environmental migration in Nigeria has been on an upward route in recent decades, driven by a complex interplay of climatic, environmental, and socio-economic factors. This trend is characterized by both internal displacement and cross-border movement, with significant implications for Nigeria's development and regional stability. One of the most prominent trends is the increasing scale of internal displacement due to environmental factors. According to the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC), Nigeria has consistently ranked among the countries with the highest number of new displacements caused by disasters in recent years. In 2020 alone, approximately 279,000 new displacements were recorded due to floods and other environmental hazards (IDMC, 2021). This trend is particularly evident in the coastal regions and the Niger Delta, where rising sea levels and more frequent flooding events are forcing communities to relocate.

In northern Nigeria, a long-term trend of environmental migration is linked to desertification and drought. The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) estimates that Nigeria loses about 351,000 hectares of land to desertification annually, primarily in the northern states (UNEP, 2018). This has led to a sustained southward migration of pastoralists and farmers, contributing to increased competition over resources and, in some cases, exacerbating inter-communal conflicts. However, the rural-urban migration pattern has intensified as a result of environmental pressures. Nigeria's urban population is projected to more than double between 2018 and 2050, reaching 295 million (UN DESA, 2018). While this urbanization trend is driven by multiple factors, environmental degradation in rural areas plays a significant role. Cities like Lagos, Kano, and Port Harcourt are experiencing rapid population growth partly due to the influx of environmental migrants, straining urban infrastructure and services.

The trend of environmental migration in Nigeria is also influenced by the country's vulnerability to natural disasters. Nigeria is located in a region prone to floods, droughts, and other climate-related events. The country's geographic location and socio-economic conditions make it particularly susceptible to the impacts of environmental change. In addition to these environmental factors, security threats, such as insurgencies, kidnapping, and banditry, have also contributed to environmental migration in certain regions of Nigeria. These conflicts can disrupt livelihoods, destroy infrastructure, and create a hostile environment for communities, forcing people to flee their homes.

Gender dynamics in environmental migration are evolving. While women and children continue to be disproportionately affected by environmental displacement, there is a growing trend of women-led migration as an adaptation strategy. This is particularly evident in rural areas where male out-migration has led to an increase in female-headed households. However, this trend also highlights the need for gender-sensitive policies and interventions in both origin and destination areas (Akinyemi&Ikuteyijo, 2021).

THE IMPACTS OF ENVIRONMENTAL MIGRATION IN NIGERIA

Social Impacts of Environmental Migration in Nigeria

According to Surajo *et al* (2020) environmental migration in Nigeria has significant social impacts, including displacement, forced migration, and increased vulnerability for affected

populations. As climate change intensifies and natural disasters become more frequent, the number of Nigerians forced to leave their homes due to environmental factors is increasing, leading to a range of social challenges.

Displacement is a common consequence of environmental migration in Nigeria. When people are forced to leave their homes due to environmental changes, such as floods, droughts, or land degradation, they may be displaced within their communities or forced to migrate to other regions. This displacement can disrupt social networks, disrupt livelihoods, and lead to a sense of loss and uncertainty (Olagunju*et al.,* 2021; Ahmad ,et.al,2001). On the other hand, forced migration is another significant social impact of environmental migration in Nigeria. In some cases, people may be forced to leave their homes due to conflict or security threats exacerbated by environmental changes. This can lead to large-scale displacements and refugee crises, further compounding the social challenges faced by affected populations (Osayemwenre*et al.,* 2023).

Another issue is vulnerability which is a key concern for people affected by environmental migration in Nigeria. Displacement and forced migration can increase vulnerability to a range of social and economic risks, including poverty, food insecurity, and limited access to essential services(Okon, 2018). Vulnerable populations, such as women, children, and the elderly, may be particularly at risk of experiencing negative social impacts. However, the social impacts of environmental migration in Nigeria can also have broader implications for the country as a whole (Ekhator, 2020). Displacement and forced migration can lead to social unrest, conflict, and instability. Also the loss of human capital and economic productivity can hinder development efforts and exacerbate existing inequalities (Hammerstad, 2019).

Economic Impacts of Environmental Migration in Nigeria

Nigeria, as a resource-rich nation, has experienced significant economic growth in recent years. However, the distribution of this wealth has been uneven, leading to persistent poverty and challenges in livelihood security (Dauda, 2019). Ichime*et al* (2024) opined that the oil and gas industry has been a major driver of Nigeria's economy, contributing significantly to its GDP. However, the dependence on this sector has also created economic vulnerabilities. Fluctuations in global oil prices can have a profound impact on the country's revenue, leading to instability in government spending and economic growth. This reliance on a single commodity has hindered diversification and limited the development of other sectors, such as agriculture and manufacturing.

According to Amoke*et al* (2022) the uneven distribution of wealth in Nigeria has exacerbated poverty, particularly in rural areas. The majority of the population, living in rural communities, relies on agriculture for their livelihoods. However, lack of access to land, inadequate infrastructure, and limited market opportunities have constrained their ability to generate sufficient income. This has led to a vicious cycle of poverty, where low income prevents investment in productive assets, further limiting economic opportunities.

The economic impacts on livelihoods in Nigeria have also been compounded by the challenges of unemployment and underemployment. The rapid urbanization of the country has led to a large influx of people seeking employment in cities, but the availability of formal sector jobs has not kept pace. This has resulted in high rates of unemployment, particularly among young people, and forced many to resort to informal and precarious work (Abubakar&Dano, 2018).The economic challenges faced by Nigeria have also had a significant impact on its economic development. The country's potential for growth has been hampered by infrastructure bottlenecks, corruption, and political instability. These factors have discouraged investment, limited productivity, and hindered the development of a diversified economy (Ukamaka*et al.,* 2023).

Political Impacts of Environmental Migration in Nigeria

Environmental migration in Nigeria has emerged as a critical challenge that intersects with governance, security, and political stability. The phenomenon has been particularly pronounced in recent decades, driven by climate change, environmental degradation, and resource scarcity (Olarinde, 2021). These environmental pressures have triggered significant population movements, creating complex political dynamics that affect Nigeria's governance structures and security landscape.

The impact on governance has been particularly severe in Nigeria's northern regions, where environmental degradation has led to massive population displacements. According to Ogunkan

(2022), local governance structures have struggled to cope with the influx of environmental migrants, leading to increased pressure on public services and infrastructure. This strain has exposed existing weaknesses in Nigeria's federal system, where resource allocation and policy implementation often fail to address the unique challenges posed by environmental migration. The situation has been further complicated by the limited capacity of state and local governments to develop and implement effective adaptation strategies.

The relationship between environmental migration and conflict in Nigeria is notably evident in the farmer-herder conflicts that have intensified over the past decade. Research by Bello, I., &Kazibwe (2023) demonstrates how environmental changes, particularly desertification in the Sahel region, have pushed pastoral communities southward, leading to increased competition over land and water resources with farming communities. These conflicts have taken on ethnic and religious dimensions, challenging Nigeria's political stability and inter-communal relations. Brzoska&Fröhlich (2016) reports that these environmentally induced conflicts have resulted in thousands of deaths and displaced hundreds of thousands of people, creating a cycle of secondary migration and political instability.

Security implications of environmental migration in Nigeria manifest in multiple ways. Owonikoko&Momodu (2020) highlight how environmental migrants, particularly in urban areas, often face marginalization and limited access to resources, creating conditions that can be exploited by criminal networks and extremist groups. The situation is particularly acute in the Lake Chad region, where environmental degradation has contributed to the rise of insurgent groups like Boko Haram, which exploit local grievances and environmental vulnerabilities to recruit members.

The political response to environmental migration has been characterized by policy inconsistencies and implementation challenges. Amuda-Kannike*et al* (2023) argue that while Nigeria has developed various policies addressing climate change and migration, the political will and institutional capacity to implement these policies effectively remain limited. This gap between policy formulation and implementation has contributed to the perpetuation of environmental migration challenges and their associated political impacts.

The intersection of environmental migration with Nigeria's federal structure has created unique challenges for political stability. Research by Olagunju*et al* (2021) shows how environmental migration has exacerbated existing tensions between states and ethnic groups, challenging the delicate political balance in Nigeria's federal system. The movement of environmental migrants across state boundaries has led to disputes over resource allocation, political representation, and citizenship rights, testing the resilience of Nigeria's federal arrangements.

Impacts of Environmental Migration in Nigeria: Resource Management, Ecosystem Degradation, and Resilience

Nigeria's environmental landscape faces significant challenges related to resource management, ecosystem degradation, and resilience capacity. According to Aroh (2019), the country's environmental challenges are intensified by rapid population growth, urbanization, and industrial development, which have placed unprecedented pressure on natural resources and ecosystems. These pressures have manifested in various forms of environmental degradation, affecting both rural and urban areas across the country's diverse ecological zones.

Resource management in Nigeria has been particularly problematic in the oil-rich Niger Delta region. Research by Agbonifo (2016) reveals that decades of oil exploitation have led to severe environmental degradation, including oil spills, gas flaring, and the destruction of mangrove ecosystems. The Nigerian Environmental Standards and Regulations Enforcement Agency (NESREA) reports that approximately 1.89 million barrels of oil were spilled into the Niger Delta between 2019 and 2022, causing extensive damage to water resources, agricultural lands, and biodiversity. This situation is compounded by weak enforcement of environmental regulations and inadequate compensation mechanisms for affected communities.

Ecosystem degradation in Nigeria manifests through multiple interconnected challenges. According to Ahmed & Olaitan (2024), deforestation rates in Nigeria are among the highest in Africa, with the country losing approximately 350,000 hectares of forest cover annually. This rapid deforestation has led to soil erosion, loss of biodiversity, and disruption of ecosystem services. Olajuyigbe (2018) reports that Nigeria's forest cover has decreased from 15% to less than 7% of total

land area over the past three decades, primarily due to agricultural expansion, logging, and urban development.

Water resource management presents another critical environmental challenge. Olagunju*et al* (2021); Nura, et.al, (2022) expalin how water pollution, watershed degradation, and irregular rainfall patterns have significantly impacted Nigeria's water resources. The study reveals that approximately 60% of Nigeria's surface water bodies are severely polluted, affecting both aquatic ecosystems and human communities that depend on these resources. The situation is particularly severe in urban areas, where inadequate waste management systems and industrial pollution have contaminated many water sources.

The impact on agricultural systems has been equally significant. Research by Amoke *et al* (2022) demonstrates how soil degradation, desertification, and changing rainfall patterns have affected agricultural productivity across Nigeria. The study indicates that soil fertility has declined by up to 30% in many agricultural regions, leading to reduced crop yields and increased food insecurity. This situation is particularly acute in the northern regions, where desertification advances at an estimated rate of 0.6 kilometers per year.

ADAPTATION AND MITIGATION STRATEGIES FOR ENVIRONMENTAL MIGRATION IN NIGERIA

Nigeria's approach to managing environmental migration encompasses both adaptation and mitigation strategies, reflecting the complex nature of environmental displacement in the country. According to Aronson*et al* (2020) these strategies have evolved significantly over the past decade, incorporating both traditional knowledge and modern technological solutions. The Nigerian government, in collaboration with international organizations and local communities, has developed a multi-faceted approach to address both the immediate and long-term challenges posed by environmental migration.

Adaptation strategies in Nigeria primarily focus on strengthening community resilience and improving resource management. Research by Prince*et al* (2023) highlights how the National Adaptation Plan (NAP) has implemented various initiatives, including the development of climate-smart agriculture, water conservation techniques, and early warning systems for environmental disasters. These programs have shown particular success in northern Nigeria, where the Great Green Wall initiative has helped stabilize communities through improved agricultural practices and land restoration, reducing the pressure for environmental migration by approximately 25% in participating communities.

Local governance structures play a crucial role in implementing adaptation strategies. Research by Okon (2018) demonstrates how local governments have developed specialized environmental migration management units that coordinate with traditional institutions to implement community-based adaptation programs. These initiatives include the establishment of grazing reserves, water harvesting projects, and alternative livelihood programs. The study indicates that communities with strong local governance structures have shown 30% better resilience to environmental pressures compared to those without such structures.

International collaboration has significantly enhanced Nigeria's capacity for managing environmental migration. Ekhator (2020) documents how partnerships with international organizations have facilitated the transfer of knowledge, technology, and resources. These collaborations have led to the implementation of successful projects such as the Climate Change Adaptation and Agribusiness Support Programme, which has benefited over 100,000 households in seven northern states by providing climate-resilient agricultural support and alternative income sources.

The role of technological innovation in mitigation strategies has become increasingly prominent. According to Ichime*et al* (2024) Nigeria has invested significantly in climate monitoring systems and sustainable agricultural technologies. Their study reveals that the implementation of drought-resistant crop varieties and modern irrigation systems has helped reduce agricultural vulnerability in affected regions by up to 40%. The Nigerian Meteorological Agency (NIMET) has also enhanced its capacity to provide accurate climate forecasts, enabling better preparation for extreme weather events and reducing forced displacement.

ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS AND GOVERNANCE CHALLENGES OF ENVIRONMENTAL MIGRATION

Environmental migration presents complex ethical and governance challenges that intersect with human rights, international law, climate justice, and migration management. According to Ukamaka*et al*(2023), the increasing frequency and scale of environmental displacement have highlighted significant gaps in existing legal and institutional frameworks for protecting environmental migrants. Their research emphasizes how traditional refugee protection mechanisms often fail to adequately address the unique circumstances of those displaced by environmental factors, creating what they term a "protection vacuum" in international law.

On the other hand, human rights considerations in environmental migration contexts have become increasingly prominent. Research by Bello & Kazibwe (2023) examines how environmental displacement often results in multiple human rights violations, including the right to adequate housing, health, water, and livelihood. The United Nations Human Rights Council (2023) reports that environmental migrants frequently face discrimination, limited access to basic services, and inadequate legal protection in host communities. This situation is particularly acute in developing countries like Nigeria, where resource constraints and institutional limitations often compromise the ability to protect migrants' rights effectively.

The governance of migration flows requires careful balance between sovereign rights and humanitarian obligations. According to Aroh (2019), effective governance of environmental migration necessitates coordination across multiple scales - local, national, regional, and international. Their analysis shows how fragmented governance approaches often result in inadequate responses to environmental displacement. The World Bank's Climate Migration Report (2023) emphasizes the need for integrated governance frameworks that address both immediate humanitarian needs and long-term resilience building.

Climate justice considerations have become increasingly central to discussions of environmental migration. Research by Ahmed &Olaitan (2024) examines how historical patterns of development and resource exploitation have created uneven vulnerabilities to environmental displacement. Their work highlights how colonial legacies and contemporary global economic structures continue to influence both the causes and consequences of environmental migration, creating what they term "climate injustice cascades."

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, environmental migration in Nigeria is a complex issue driven by a range of socio-economic and environmental factors as discussed in the article. These environmental stressors have forced numerous communities to relocate, creating pressures on urban centers and host communities that struggle with limited infrastructure and resources. This migration has profound implications for socio-economic stability, security, and sustainable development within the country. As rural populations migrate, agriculture-based livelihoods suffer, leading to food insecurity and competition for resources, which can heighten local conflicts and strain social cohesion.

To navigate these challenges, Nigeria must implement strategic, multi-level responses that integrate environmental management, sustainable rural development, and climate adaptation strategies. Investing in land restoration and sustainable agricultural practices could help mitigate migration drivers while enhancing resilience in vulnerable communities. Additionally, developing early-warning systems for climate-induced disasters and strengthening policy frameworks around internal migration can help protect and support migrating populations and host communities alike. By addressing both the root causes and consequences of environmental migration, Nigeria has the potential to create a more sustainable and equitable pathway forward, reducing forced displacement and promoting resilience in the face of environmental change.

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