

# ASSESSING COMPLIANCE WITH NIGERIA'S CLIMATE CHANGE ACT 2021: SECTORAL CHALLENGES, INSTITUTIONAL BARRIERS AND POLICY REFORM OPPORTUNITIES.

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## ABSTRACT

Climate change poses a significant global challenge, impacting environmental and socio-economic conditions worldwide. In this context, Nigeria is acutely affected, experiencing rising temperatures, biodiversity loss, coastal erosion, desertification, and saltwater intrusion into freshwater sources at alarming rates. To combat these issues, the Nigerian government has implemented various policies and laws, notably the Climate Change Act of 2021, aimed at enhancing adaptation and mitigation strategies. This landmark legislation reflects Nigeria's commitment to address the complexities of climate change. However, questions arise regarding the effectiveness of these laws. Are the established policies truly impactful, or do they merely serve as symbolic gestures? This paper aims to assess the Climate Change Act's provisions to determine compliance with its objectives. It will provide an overview of the Act and examine sector-specific challenges and institutional barriers that hinder implementation. Additionally, the paper will propose reforms to strengthen adherence and efficacy of the existing frameworks. Despite Nigeria's progress, significant challenges hinder effectiveness, including insufficient funding mechanisms, low public awareness of individual impacts on climate, and a lack of political will, leading to weak enforcement and fragmented institutional support. The paper recommends actionable measures to enhance Nigeria's climate change policies and stresses the importance of compliance with the Climate Change Act for environmental sustainability and socio-economic development. It advocates for effective enforcement to combat issues like desertification and biodiversity loss, which threaten health and ecosystems. Transitioning to a sustainable economy could also promote growth through job creation, energy security, and innovation, ultimately reducing reliance on fossil fuels. The discourse emphasizes the Climate Change Act's potential while highlighting necessary reforms.

## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

Nigeria, one of Africa's largest economies, faces significant challenges heightened by climate change. These include severe weather events, such as heavy rainfall and prolonged droughts, which disrupt livelihoods and threaten food security. Additionally, shifting climate patterns adversely affect agricultural productivity and traditional farming methods and other sectors in Nigeria. In response to these challenges, the Nigerian government enacted the Climate Change Act of 2021, establishing a framework to mitigate climate impacts, promote sustainable development, and fulfill international climate commitments.

The Act adopts a multidimensional approach, emphasizing coordinated efforts across sectors such as energy, agriculture, transportation, and forestry, each critical to addressing climate change. However, its implementation faces substantial obstacles. These include reliance on fossil fuels within the energy sector, vulnerabilities in agriculture due to climate variability, and inadequate transportation infrastructure. Institutional barriers such as fragmented governance, limited execution capacity, and weak enforcement mechanisms further hinder compliance and progress.

This assessment aims to evaluate compliance with the Climate Change Act, identifying challenges that impede implementation. It will examine sectoral issues, including fossil fuel dependence, agricultural vulnerabilities, and transportation inadequacies, health hazards accompanied with climate change, degradation and deforestation associated to forestry, while scrutinizing the fragmented governance framework. Highlighting these issues is vital for identifying areas requiring reform. Therefore, addressing these challenges presents an opportunity for policy reform to facilitate compliance with the Act. Strategies could include enhancing renewable energy adoption, improving inter-agency collaboration, and increasing public awareness. By outlining a roadmap for stakeholders, including government, private sector, and civil society, this analysis aims to support Nigeria's climate objectives.

## II. OVERVIEW OF THE CLIMATE CHANGE ACT 2021

The global campaign to reduce heavy releases of carbon dioxide, hydrocarbons and GHG into the environment has become more and more concerted. These global efforts have been championed in global palaces of power by way of municipal laws and treaties. For instance, the Paris Climate Accords of 2015 (“Paris Convention”) aims to strengthen the global response to the threat of climate change in the context of sustainable development by (a) limiting the global average temperature rise to below 2oC above pre-industrial levels initially and eventually limit it to 1.5oC, and (b) increasing countries’ ability to adapt to the adverse impact of climate change, foster climate resilience and low GHG development, in a manner that does not threaten food production.<sup>1</sup>

Desiring not to be left behind in the global fight against climate change and in line with Nigeria’s treaty obligations under the Paris Convention and other Conventions such as the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change<sup>2</sup> and the Kyoto Protocol, the Nigerian National Assembly has passed the Climate Change Act 2021 into law.

Nigeria's Climate Change Act of 2021 is an exemplary piece of legislation that fundamentally underscores the nation’s unwavering dedication to addressing the growing and increasingly critical challenges linked to climate change. The Act aims to guide Nigeria in her decarbonisation efforts as it sets for years 2050-2070, for the attainment of a net-zero GHG emission in Nigeria.<sup>3</sup> In light of how the global climate crisis poses severe threats to not only environment but also socio-economic development and public health, this Act epitomizes a pivotal aspect of Nigeria’s extensive and holistic response strategy.

The primary goal of the Climate Change Act is to establish a comprehensive legal framework that directs Nigeria’s diverse and multifaceted initiatives to mitigate the adverse effects associated with climate change. Central to the Act’s vision is the commitment to develop a coordinated approach that encompasses two main

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<sup>1</sup> Paris Convention, art. 2.

<sup>2</sup> United Nations General Assembly. (2015). The united nations framework convention on climate change/adopted at the COP 21 in Paris. *France, 12 December 2015 FC/CP/ 2015/L.9/Rev.1.* . (Accessed 7 September 2023).

<sup>3</sup> Section 1 of the Act.

facets: mitigation and adaptation. On the one hand, mitigation refers to efforts aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions in order to combat the escalating impacts of climate change. On the other, adaptation involves implementing necessary adjustments in ecological and policy practices to effectively manage and cope with the consequences of shifting climate patterns. Together, these strategies not only aim to address immediate climate-related challenges but also seek to proactively equip Nigeria for the future uncertainties that climate change entails. A cornerstone of the Act is the establishment of the National Climate Change Council,<sup>4</sup> (the council) an authoritative body that is tasked with:

- a. overseeing the execution of comprehensive climate policies and strategies across the country,
- b. overseeing the implementation of the Action Plan;
- c. Administering climate change fund established under the Act; ensuring mainstreaming of climate change into national development plans,
- d. Mobilising financial resources to support climate change actions; developing a mechanism for carbon tax in Nigeria, as well as developing and implementing a mechanism for carbon emission trading;<sup>5</sup>
- e. Coordinating the implementation of sectoral targets and guidelines for the regulation of the GHG emissions and other anthropogenic causes of climate change.

This Council is envisioned to play a vital role in orchestrating the collaboration of a multitude of stakeholders, including but not limited to governmental agencies, civil society organizations, and representatives from the private sector. The intent is to ensure coherent and unified action in the realm of climate initiatives. Furthermore, the Council is expected to facilitate ongoing dialogue and collaboration across various levels of government, thereby stratifying roles and responsibilities in the collective battle against climate change.

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<sup>4</sup> Section 3 of the Act.

<sup>5</sup> For this, the council will collaborate with the federal Inland Revenue Service,(FiRS), the Federal Ministry of Environment and Federal Ministry of Trade.

The Climate Change Act also mandates for a detailed Climate Change Action Plan. This strategic document is designed to delineate explicit actions, methodologies, and timelines aimed at comprehensively mitigating greenhouse gas emissions. The Action Plan will outline specific strategies that different sectors—such as energy, transportation, agriculture, and industry can implement to both minimize emissions and adeptly adapt to the myriad climate-related impacts. This proactive measure is geared toward energizing targeted initiatives and fostering progress through informed decision-making processes rooted in scientific evidence and socio-economic realities.

There exists within the framework a clear establishment of concrete emission reduction targets. These targets are intricately aligned with Nigeria's international commitments, particularly its obligations under the Paris Agreement. By doing so, the Act not only reflects Nigeria's commitment to playing a deliberate and responsible role in the global climate change battles but also serves as a structured means for evaluating progress over time. By setting measurable and achievable targets, the Act inherently encourages accountability among various stakeholders, fostering transparency and trust in the processes of climate governance.

Moreover, recognizing the tremendous financial resources required for effective climate action, the Climate Change Act actively champions the promotion of investment in technologies and methodologies that are environmentally sustainable. It provides a foundational framework for attracting climate finance from a variety of sources, both domestic and international. This strategic endeavor aims to enhance Nigeria's capacity to execute climate-smart projects effectively. By offering incentives for green investments, the Act aspires to transition the economy towards more sustainable practices while simultaneously creating economic opportunities for local communities and businesses, thereby generating a win-win scenario for the environment and the populace.

Another critical aspect embedded within the Climate Change Act is its profound emphasis on public engagement and the active involvement of citizens in the climate agenda. The Climate Change Act acknowledges the importance of public participation and mandates MDAs, and Civil Society Organizations under sections 22, 23 and 25 of the Act in their efforts to adopt some form of mitigation policy. By promoting community participation in decision-making processes, the Act seeks to amplify the voices of local populations, especially those who are most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. This inclusive approach ensures that the formulation and implementation of climate policies carry the legitimacy derived from participatory governance. It empowers communities to take ownership of their climate futures and contributes actively to the collective effort of fostering resilience against climate threats.

In summary, Nigeria's Climate Change Act of 2021 stands not only as a legislative milestone but also as a testament to the nation's proactive stance in the global struggle against climate change. Through its comprehensive framework, the Act seeks to unite various sectors of society under a common purpose, transforming challenges into opportunities while safeguarding the environment for current and future generations.

### **1.2. Institutional Framework for Enforcing Nigeria's Climate Change Act 2021**

The institutional framework for enforcing Nigeria's Climate Change Act of 2021 is multifaceted, composed of essential components such as designated governmental agencies, regulatory bodies, and various mechanisms designed for monitoring and ensuring compliance.

Key Institutional Bodies are:

1. **National Council on Climate Change:** A significant provision of the Act is the creation of the National Climate Change Council (the "Council"),<sup>6</sup> a corporate entity endowed with the authority to formulate policies and

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<sup>6</sup> Section 3 of the Act.

render decisions regarding all climate-related matters in Nigeria. This Council is charged with coordinating the implementation of sector-specific targets, regulating greenhouse gas emissions, and overseeing the National Climate Action Plan.<sup>7</sup> It holds the responsibility for managing the Climate Fund, facilitating financial resources towards climate initiatives. The Council's core objective is to ensure the formulation and execution of the initial five-year cycle and subsequent iterations of the National Climate Change Action Plan (the "Action Plan"). Furthermore, the Director-General of the Council is required to present a meticulous report on the nation's climate change status to both the Council and the National Assembly Committee on Climate Change. This report encompasses a comprehensive analysis of climate impacts on the populace and stipulates potential penalties for non-compliance with the Act.

2. **Federal Ministry of Environment:** The Federal Ministry of Environment plays a pivotal role in the execution of the Climate Change Act, overseeing the coordination of climate policies and ensuring Nigeria's adherence to international climate agreements. Within this ministry, the Climate Change Department has been established specifically to manage the implementation of climate-related policies and programs. This department is tasked with coordinating the National Policy on Climate Change alongside the National Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan, ensuring a cohesive and efficient approach. Under the provisions of the Act, the Federal Ministries of Environment and National Planning is saddled with the responsibility of setting up a "carbon budget" for Nigeria.<sup>8</sup> aimed at capping the global temperature increase to 2 °C, while simultaneously striving to maintain it at 1.5 °C above pre-industrial levels.<sup>9</sup> This is in line with Nigeria's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and with a view to complying with Nigeria's international treaty obligations.<sup>10</sup> The act defines

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<sup>7</sup> Section 4 of the Act

<sup>8</sup> Section. 19(1) of the Climate Change Act.

<sup>9</sup> section 19 of the Act

<sup>10</sup> Section 19(1) Climate Change Act 2021. The Paris Agreement 2015 requires countries which are signatories to it, such as Nigeria, to limit the global average

carbon budget to mean the approved quantity of GHG emission that is accepted over the time. The ministries are also empowered to periodically revise the carbon budget in line with Nigeria's NDCs.<sup>11</sup>

### **1.3. Institution Barriers**

Institutional barriers to enforcing Nigeria's Climate Change Act 2021 can significantly hinder effective implementation and compliance. These barriers often stem from structural, operational, and resource-related challenges within the institutions responsible for climate governance. The efforts to implement pivotal initiatives like the Climate Change Act encounter formidable challenges, primarily rooted in institutional limitations, workforce shortages, and regulatory overlap. The associated Secretariat, endowed with the authority to request crucial data, conduct investigations, and impose penalties for non-compliance, operates within this complex framework. With several Federal Ministers within the governing body of the Council, the effectiveness or impartiality with which the Council will sanction government ministries, departments and agencies deserves a critical look.

The review the Climate Change Act in September 2022, about a year after it was passed, underscores the practical difficulties faced in its implementation/compliance. Section 11 of the Act, mandating the appointment of state directors and the establishment of zonal offices, introduces bureaucratic complexities without clear transitional provisions. Despite its significant features, including the Carbon budget and Action Plan outlined in sections 19 and 20 respectively, the anticipated milestones, which were due in November 2022, exhibit no tangible signs of materializing. This temporal gap raises concerns about the overall efficacy of the Act in achieving its intended climate accountability objectives.

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temperature rise to below 2°C above pre-industrial levels and to aim for 1.5°C in the long run. <https://www.reuters.com/business/cop/whats-difference-between-15c-2c-global-warming-2021-11-07/> accessed June 2, 2022.

<sup>11</sup> Section 35 of the Act.



Beyond bureaucratic challenges, political considerations further complicate the efficiency of the National Council. Section 11(5) mandates rotational appointments for Zonal Coordinators and State Directors,<sup>12</sup> a measure aligned with Nigeria's diverse ethnic makeup. However, concerns about meritocracy arise, especially when appointments are based on state of origin rather than qualifications. Additionally, the Act's potential impact on existing environmental agencies and regulatory bodies sparks questions of regulatory overlap. The Council's expansive powers may inadvertently infringe on the mandates of other government entities, raising legal uncertainties and the possibility of inter-agency conflicts.

**Other key Institutional Barriers includes:**

- I. **Governance and Coordination Issues:** The existence of multiple agencies with overlapping mandates can create confusion and inefficiencies. Also, lack of effective inter-Agency collaboration between sectors can hinder cohesive climate action plans necessary for meeting targets. This fragmentation often leads to a lack of clear accountability, making it difficult to coordinate climate actions effectively. The National Council of Climate Change, entrusted with the coordination of sectoral targets and regulatory guidelines, grapples with several issues arising from its expansive functions and the diverse composition of its membership. The Council includes high-ranking officials such as the President, Vice President, Federal Ministers, and representatives from various sectors, presenting challenges in streamlined decision-making and operational efficiency.
- II. **Capacity Constraint:** Many institutions involved in climate governance may not have necessary technical expertise or financial resources. This limitation affects their ability to implement policies, conduct research, and monitor compliance effectively. There is need to boost sufficiency in human

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<sup>12</sup> Section 11 of the Act.

and technical resources. A shortage of trained personnel and expertise in climate issues diminishes the capacity for effective implementation. More so, the need for training and capacity building of stakeholders at all levels must be adequately catered for to maintain accountability and employ best practices in climate actions.

- III. **Funding:** This is essential for institutional compliance with the Act, adequate funding enables the institutions to hire qualified personnel, purchase necessary equipment and conduct training programs, funding is required to implement climate change projects, such as renewable energy projects, reforestation all of which are essential for effective compliance with the Climate Change Act.
- IV. **Weak Regulatory Framework:** The enforcement mechanisms provided in the Climate Act may be insufficient. Without strong backing, institutions may struggle to hold stakeholders accountable for non-compliance with the provisions of the Climate Act.
- V. **Inadequate Data and Monitoring Systems:** A lack of reliable data on emissions, climate impacts, and compliance can hinder the ability to assess compliance and track progress towards climate goals. Effective monitoring systems are crucial for tracking compliance with the act. Inadequate climate data collection and analysis hampers proper assessment and planning for climate impacts, making it difficult to monitor compliance. Similarly, the lack of robust monitoring systems means climate actions may not be adequately evaluated thereby affecting its effectiveness.
- VI. **Political Will:** Nigeria possesses a multitude of laws and policies that could be indirectly harnessed to address the pressing issue of climate change. These existing legislations, though not explicitly designed for climate change mitigation and adaptation, contain provisions and measures that could contribute to combating the challenges posed by climate change in the country. However, the critical issue that arises is the lack of political will to enforce these legislations effectively. It is disheartening to observe that many of these laws, which hold immense potential for climate change action, remain mere words on paper, unimplemented and overlooked. The

government's focus appears to be primarily on the creation of new legislation and the formulation of policies, rather than on the crucial task of enforcing the existing ones.<sup>13</sup>

**VII. Public Engagement and Stakeholder Participation:** Low awareness and participation among citizens is a major challenge. The general public may lack awareness of the climate issues and their own role in mitigation and adaptation of strategies. Often, local communities are not adequately engaged in the planning processes, thereby missing out on valuable insights and traditional knowledge. Therefore, the need for engagement with local communities is germane as it will offer the opportunity to garner indigenous knowledge as limited understanding of climate issues among the general public stakeholders can lead to a lack of participation initiatives and support for climate actions. Therefore, engaging communities and raising awareness are essential for fostering support for climate actions.

Addressing these institutional barriers is crucial for the successful enforcement of the Climate Change Act. While strengthening coordination among agencies, enhancing capacity, and fostering public engagement can help overcome these challenges.

#### I.4. SECTORAL CHALLENGES

Climate change is both an international and national concern as the ozone layer begins to deplete. This causes drought and unpredictable changes to the atmosphere thereby affecting the environment for sustainability. Climate change occurs as a result of man's interference with nature. Though sometimes this changes occur naturally beyond man's control, such as volcanic eruptions, and earthquakes. Climate change started with the creation of man because of the need for survival. Man started interfering with nature to meet his insatiable ends and means of survival. This outcome of man's interference with nature affected the

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<sup>13</sup> Oyeibisi, T. O., & Adeleke, A. Q. (2019). The role of existing laws and policies in addressing climate change in Nigeria. *Journal of Environmental Management and Tourism*, 10 (1), 1-13.

ozone layer by reducing the Greenhouse gas. The interference of man with the environment affects the ozone layer in reducing Green House Gases, arising from gas flaring, agricultural activities, transportation, land charges and encroachment into the sea. To effectively evaluate the compliance of the Climate Act, it is essential to analyse specific challenges faced in various sectors:

(a). Agriculture

Agricultural productivity is heavily influenced by climatic conditions. Changes in rainfall patterns, droughts, and flooding can lead to food insecurity. Desertification in the Sahel in the Northern part of Nigeria has led to a consistent loss of farmlands and conflict between Fulani herdsmen and farmers.<sup>14</sup> According to the National Emergency Management Agency, (NEMA) in Nigeria floods have become a perennial challenge with ascending intensity each year, thereby causing economic loss and loss of lives.<sup>15</sup> From 2012 to 2017 Nigeria recorded devastating floods that displaced two million four hundred and forty-two thousand Nigerians and caused more than one thousand deaths and destroyed several properties while in the Southern part of Nigeria in the Niger Delta area, gas flaring by multinational oil companies effects is quite apparent, as they manifest in the rise in temperature, acid rain, retarded crop yield. However, farmers face numerous barriers to adopting more sustainable practices due to a lack of knowledge and access to resources. Hence, adoption of Climate-Smart Agricultural Practices should be encouraged. Limited access to credit and modern agricultural technologies hampers efforts to implement climate-friendly practices. The agriculture sector is highly susceptible to climate change impacts, affecting food security and farmers livelihood. However, lack of knowledge, resources, and incentives for farmers to adopt climate-smart agricultural practices hampers progress.

(b). Energy

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<sup>14</sup> Igwe, I. (2010). *Gas aring and climate change: Nigeria's efforts towards developing regulatory mechanism* (1st eds). Print Serve Limited, 2010

<sup>15</sup> Ebele, N., & Emodi, N. (2016). Climate change and its impact in Nigerian economy. *Journal of Scienti c Research & Reports*, 10(6), 1–13.

Nigeria's energy sector is predominantly reliant on fossil fuels, this contributes to greenhouse gas emissions, while renewable energy sources remain under developed. posing a barrier to achieving the renewable energy targets outlined in the Climate Act. Insufficient energy infrastructure and a lack of investment in renewables hinder the transition to a sustainable energy future as a large portion of the population lacks access to electricity, this complicates the move towards cleaner energy. Inconsistent regulations and policies can create uncertainty for investors in renewable energy projects.

(c). Forestry

The high rates of deforestation for agriculture and logging exacerbate carbon emissions, while poor land management practices exacerbate carbon release and undermine potential carbon sinks. Therefore, addressing deforestation and degradation, while promoting sustainable forestry practices, and conserving biodiversity are also crucial for climate change mitigation and adaptation

(d). Transportation

Emissions from Transportation poses a significant challenge. The transportation sector is a significant source of greenhouse gas emissions in Nigeria, necessitating urgent reforms. Due to lack of investment in public transportation systems that could reduce reliance on fossil-fuel-powered vehicles, there is need for the development of sustainable transport systems that will not be reliant on fossil-fuel. Importantly, encouraging a shift in public perceptions and behaviours towards more sustainable transport options is very essential.

(f). Water Resources

As climate change affects rainfall patterns, water scarcity becomes an increasing concern for domestic and agricultural use. It therefore becomes necessary to develop strategies to curb climate-induced water scarcity. There is a need also for improved integrated water resources management that incorporates climate considerations. Integration of Climate Policies in Water Management remains pivotal as current policies may not sufficiently integrate climate adaptation, strategies, limiting their effectiveness in addressing future water challenges.

(g). Urban Development

Impact of urbanization on climate resilience cannot be overemphasized. Rapid urban growth leads to increased vulnerabilities, such as flooding and ineffective waste management, which can exacerbate the effects of climate change. Another major challenge with respect to urban development is the infrastructure resilience planning. Urban areas often lack adequate infrastructure resilience strategies to withstand climate impacts including extreme weather events. Similarly, inefficient waste management practices contribute to environmental degradation and hinder climate action efforts.

#### (h). Health

Climate change is linked to increased incidence of diseases and health impacts from heat waves, vector-borne diseases, and food and water security issues. A country's health system preparedness and response to issues resulting from climate change is important: There's a pressing need for health systems to integrate climate considerations into planning and response measures. Again, integration of climate considerations in health policies should be encouraged. Many health policies remain inadequately equipped to address the health risks posed by climate change, requiring urgent reform.

### 1.5. POLICY REFORM OPPORTUNITIES

To enhance compliance with the Climate Change Act, a focused approach towards policy reform is necessary. As the world increasingly turns its attention to sustainability and climate change, green energy has emerged as a pivotal solution. However, the adoption of renewable energy sources such as solar, wind, and hydroelectric power often hinges on supportive government policies. This article explores how various governmental strategies facilitate the transition towards greener energy solutions;

- I. Strengthening Institutional Frameworks: This is achievable by establishing a dedicated climate action agency which can centralize efforts, streamline actions, and coordinate responses to climate issues effectively. There need is to enhance intergovernmental collaborations while

encouraging cooperation between different levels of government will foster more holistic approaches to climate action.

- II. **Incentivizing Sectoral Transition:** Policies to promote renewable energy investments such as tax incentives and funding opportunities for clean energy projects can accelerate the transition away from fossil fuels. Again, subsidies and financial mechanisms for sustainable practices should be encouraged. This can be achieved by facilitating access to financial resources and innovative solutions can motivate sectors like agriculture to adopt climate-friendly practices. Furthermore, government should look towards providing incentives for renewable energy. One of the most effective ways governments promote green energy is through financial incentives. Tax credits, grants, subsidies, and feed-in tariffs are designed to lower the initial investment costs for businesses and homeowners considering renewable energy options. These incentives make it more feasible for individuals to install solar panels or invest in wind turbines.
- III. **Enhancing Public Awareness and Engagement:** There should be an organized National campaigns for climate education and awareness. This is because, public awareness initiatives can empower citizens to engage in climate action actively. Educational institutions can also play a pivotal role in fostering a culture of sustainability from an early age. This can be achieved through the incorporation of climate curricula in educational programs.
- IV. **Investing in Research and Innovation:** There is need to support climate research initiatives. Investment in scientific research can lead to better understanding and innovative solutions to climate challenges. Encouraging technological advancements in climate adaptation can also add great value. Promoting technology transfer and development can facilitate better adaptation strategies across sectors. In addition to financial incentives, robust regulatory frameworks play a vital role in promoting green energy adoption. Governments can establish mandates that require utilities to obtain a certain percentage of their power from

renewable sources through Renewable Portfolio Standards (RPS). These regulations create market demand for clean energy technologies.

- V. **Leveraging International Support and Collaboration:** Partnerships with international organizations and donors must be encouraged even as collaborative frameworks with global entities can enhance resources and knowledge-sharing for climate initiatives. Adopting successful strategies and best practices from other nations can provide valuable insights for local applications. Consequently, international agreements such as the Paris Agreement encourage nations to adopt greener policies collectively. Countries commit to reducing carbon emissions and increasing their use of renewables through collaborative efforts. Such global partnerships not only enhance domestic policies but also foster knowledge sharing among nations striving toward sustainable futures. Evidently, government policies play an indispensable role in promoting green energy adoption across various levels of society. By providing financial support, establishing regulatory frameworks, funding research initiatives, and engaging in international cooperation efforts — governments pave the way towards a cleaner future powered by renewable resources.
- VI. **Developing Robust Monitoring and Evaluation Systems:** Establishing metrics for assessing compliance is the way to go. Clear indicators are necessary to measure progress and adapt strategies accordingly. There is also need for established regular reporting mechanisms for purposes of transparency and accountability. Implementing regular reports on climate action progress will ensure accountability at all levels, facilitating feedback and adjustments to strategies as needed.

## CONCLUSION

This assessment serves to emphasize the paramount importance of adhering to Nigeria's Climate Act of 2021, which stands as a pivotal framework for addressing climate change and fostering sustainable development within the nation. The Act presents a remarkable opportunity for comprehensive climate action; however, it is imperative to identify and address the myriad sectoral challenges and



institutional barriers that currently impede effective implementation. In recent developments, Nigeria has indeed made strides in executing mitigation measures, particularly within the energy sector. The nation has established an ambitious target to generate 30% of its electricity from renewable sources by the year 2030. To facilitate progress toward this goal, the government has initiated several transformative programs, such as the Solar Power Naija initiative, which endeavors to equip 5 million households with solar energy by 2023. Furthermore, there is an ongoing plan to transition from petrol-powered vehicles to electric vehicles (EVs) by the same deadline. Nevertheless, progress in critical sectors like agriculture and waste management remains sluggish. Agriculture, in particular, contributes significantly to greenhouse gas emissions, accounting for approximately 36% of the country's total emissions. Although the government has formulated the National Agricultural Resilience Framework to promote sustainable agricultural practices and mitigate emissions, its implementation has been hindered by insufficient funding and a lack of technical expertise. To meet the ambitious objectives set forth by the Climate Act, a concerted effort from all stakeholders—encompassing government agencies, civil society organizations, the private sector, and local communities—is essential. There is an urgent need for these actors to collaborate effectively, advocate for regulatory reforms, invest in sustainable practices, and ensure that climate considerations remain at the forefront of development planning. Despite the progress made thus far, compliance with Nigeria's Climate Change Act of 2021 is currently below expectations. Substantial improvements are necessary to align with global climate goals and meet the aspirations of the Nigerian populace.